



Junior Jumpstart

Class of 2028



COLLEGE COUNSELING

Counselor Assignments

Junior Class of 2028

Mrs. Olsen



Mr. Wright



Mrs. Cottle



Mrs. Trzesniewski



Mrs. Barnes



Mrs. Guemple



Advisor

Blanton
Burns
Fisher
Hicks
Wadia

Advisor

Chugh
Colonna
Gallagher
Liedy
Timberlake

Advisor

Butler
D. Crabbe
Grover
Taylor

Advisor

Cashin
Hambrick
Mangum
Robinson

Advisor

Armfield
Bell
Giannanccini
O'Neill

Advisor

Coe / Norman
Jukic
McClellan
Moore
Williams

What is Fit?

Social + Academic + Financial needs

=

Building your Balanced College List

Remember: This is a process!

It will take time and effort to identify best fit colleges.



Social Fit

What do you want your college experience to include?



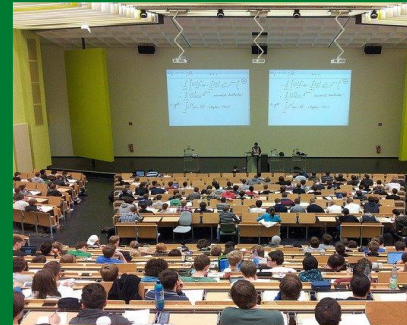
What Do You Enjoy?

Focus on YOU - What is important to you? What do you need and want in order to be successful in college?

Academic Fit

What do you need to be a successful student?

- Size of classes
- Academic support
- Communication with teachers
- Small learning environment vs. large one
- Access to research/internship/career support
- Interests/Majors: Do you have several things you want available as options?



Financial Fit

Talk about it!

- What are your parameters regarding the cost of college?
 - Available Resources to Pay
 - Debt Limit
 - Further Education?
- Tuition Cost Factors
 - Public Institutions
 - Private Institutions
- Sticker vs. Net Price
 - Net Price Calculator on school websites ([Net Price Calculator Center](https://collegecost.ed.gov/net-price) - collegecost.ed.gov/net-price)
 - [Federal Aid Estimator Tool](https://studentaid.gov/aid-estimator) - studentaid.gov/aid-estimator
 - Scholarships - schools that love you



Merit-Based Aid

Talent or Academic Awards regardless of need

Merit Scholarships vary based on institutional funds and priorities

- College Financial Aid and Scholarships Webpages
- Scholarship opportunities vary depending on institution
- If you are 'chasing merit' you need to be open to considering schools you are not familiar with that have significant scholarship opportunities, and/or schools that would be considered a "Likely" admission school (you fall within the top of their academic profile)

External/Community Scholarships are not tied to a specific institution

Searchable scholarship databases include:

- North Carolina Community Foundation
- College Foundation of North Carolina
- FastWeb
- Apply
- The College Board
- Scholarships.com
- + more



College Evaluation Process

How will a college determine if I am a good fit for them?



Remember: FIT is a 2-way street!

There are aspects of this process that are outside of your control

Colleges have institutional goals and priorities that evolve and change every year

College Essay

Letters of Recommendation

Resume/List of Activities

SAT/ACT Test Scores

**Grades and
Strength of Schedule**

MOST IMPORTANT

***Test-Optional vs
Required**

***SAT vs ACT**

Both are accepted

SAT: up to 1600

ACT: up to 36

Superscore

Minor Differences

ACT or SAT ??

ACT

- Paper/pencil or digital - fixed test structure
- 3 Sections: Math, Reading, English, Science (optional - but some schools require or recommend!)
- ~ 2 hours, 5 minutes testing time
- Composite Score 1-36 (avg. of English, Reading & Math)
- Super-Scored Score Report Sent

SAT

- Digital - adaptive
- 2 Sections: Reading/Writing, Math
- ~ 2 hours, 14 minutes testing time (shorter passages, fewer questions)
- Scoring, 400- 1600 (combination of the two sections)
- Score Choice Available to send highest test dates

Which test should I take?

Option A: Stick with the SAT; if the PSAT has gone/goes well.

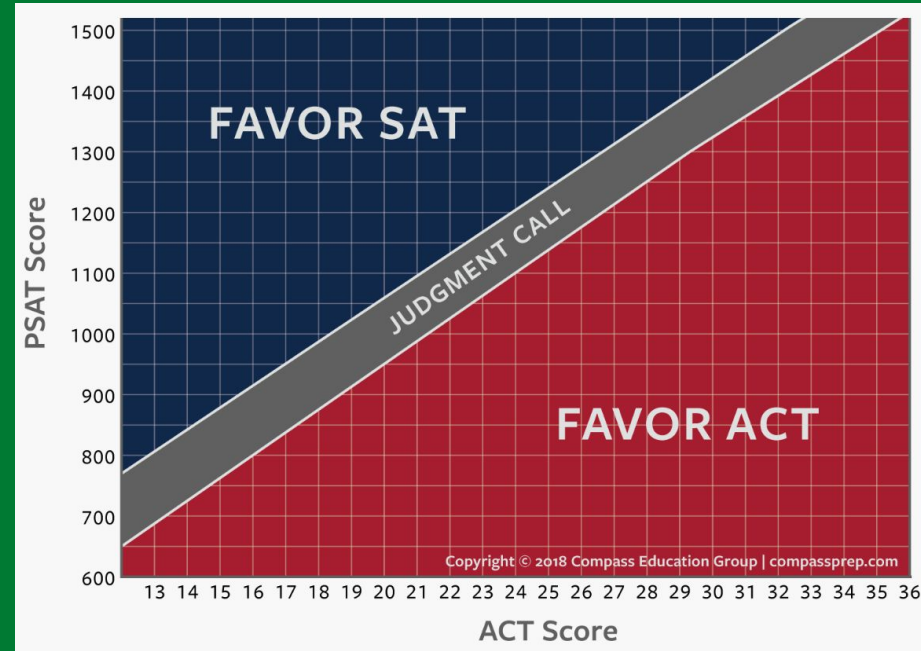
Option B: Take the PSAT in October, take the ACT in December; compare scores and retake the one you score higher on.

Option C: Take an SAT and an ACT; retake the one that you scored higher on.

Option D: Take practice tests of both and focus on the one you score higher on.

Option E: Work with a tutoring company to help determine best fit test.

NOTE: The PSAT is scored out of a 1520 (760 on each section) and the SAT is out of 1600 (800 on each section).



*Consider your level in Math - SAT/ACT Math content goes up to Algebra 2/Math 3 (usually a couple Trig questions as well)

Standardized Testing Dates

SAT

www.collegeboard.org

October 3, 2026

November 7, 2026

December 5, 2026

March 6, 2027

May 1, 2027

June 5, 2027

August 28, 2027 (anticipated)

Sept. 18, 2027 (anticipated)

ACT

www.act.org

October 17, 2026

December 12, 2026

February 27, 2027

April 10, 2027

June 12, 2027

July 10, 2027

Sept. 11, 2027 (anticipated)

Research Your College List

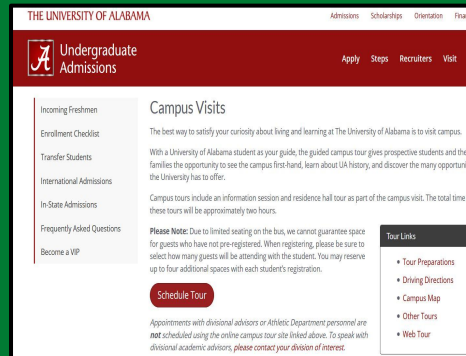
SCOIR (pronounced "score")

- Student's access through LaunchPad
- Parents invited via student
- Search for schools & view profiles
- Save schools to "Following"
- Gibbons stats/scattergrams



Other Research Opportunities

- Rep visits (SCOIR)
- College Websites
- College Fairs
- Virtual Visits
- Campus Visits
- Thecollegetour.com



SCOIR

Steps to Narrowing & Balancing your College List

Likely, Level, or Reach

Narrowing Your List

- Make a tentative list of schools to visit
- Create a list based upon your rankings (remember FIT)
- Use SCOIR, college websites, & other resources to determine if admission is likely, probable (level), or more of a reach



Balancing Your List

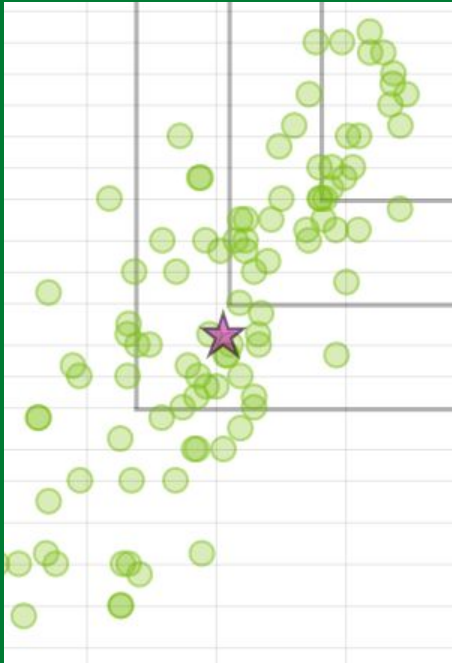
- Make sure you have a diverse list in terms of selectivity (avoid a list full of reaches)
- **Love all the schools on your list**
- Focus on best FIT for you!
- By Labor Day of senior year, have a balanced list of schools you plan to apply to



How do I know if a school is a Likely, Target, or Reach?

Use SCOIR!

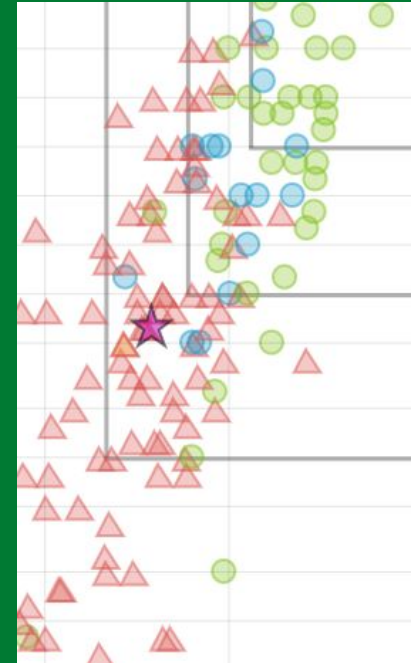
LIKELY



TARGET



REACH



Need help?
Georgia Tech has a great tool you can use!

admission.gatech.edu/prepare-for-college

Junior Year College Application Timeline



Upcoming Events

College Rep Visits

Sept-Nov, Mar-April

NACAC Virtual College Fairs

Sept 20, Oct 18, Nov 8

1:00-6:00 pm

www.nacacattend.org/fairs

CACRAO College Fair

September 20, 1:00-4:00 pm

NC State - McKimmon Center

Financial Aid Webinar

October 21, 6:30-7:30 pm

Gibbons Spring College Fair

TBA (Watch for more info)

Junior Parent Counselor Conversation

September 15, 12:00-1:00 pm

Junior Meetings

Start in mid-January

Junior EOY Virtual Discussion

April 28, 6:30-7:30 pm

www.cghsnc.org/ccevents

Resources

Schoology group: Your counselor will share pertinent information, research tools and resources.

Read:

Where You Go Is Not Who You'll Be by Frank Bruni

The Truth about College Admissions by Brennen Barnard & Rick Clark

Who Gets in and Why: A Year Inside College Admissions by Jeff Selingo

Dream School: Finding the College That's Right For You (2025) by Jeff Selingo

Listen (Podcasts):

The Truth About College Admissions

College Admissions Decoded



To Do

1. **Keep grades strong!**
2. **Make a testing plan** - Make sure to consider travel plans, sports, activities, etc.
3. **Schedule campus tours** - Check schedule and sign up ASAP. Consider using long weekends and breaks for travel.
4. **Talk about** college costs and finance options.
5. **Schedule your Junior Meeting** - Counselors will send an email with a calendar link after Thanksgiving. Meetings start in mid- January.

Q & A

We'd Love Your Feedback!

