



Christian
School of
YORK

LEARN - LIVE - SERVE

CAREER & COLLEGE PLANNING GUIDE

COMMIT TO THE LORD WHATEVER YOU DO,
AND HE WILL ESTABLISH YOUR PLANS. PROVERBS 16:3



CSY Guidance and Career Counseling

Introduction

As you move toward the post-upper school phase of your life, you will find a variety of options are available to you. You may decide upon immediate employment, the armed services, trade or technical school, business school, or a four-year college. This decision is an important one, and should involve a great deal of thought. Therefore, we encourage you to begin your career search early. It is important to gain as much information as possible in order to make appropriate and informed decisions.

Career decision-making is a process. It is wise to be proactive and take charge of your own career search. This booklet outlines many resources which are at your disposal. By taking advantage of opportunities and resources, you will increase your awareness of the world of work and your own personal interests and abilities. The process of deciding upon education beyond high school and applying for admissions to institutions of higher learning is another important decision.

This booklet has been prepared for you by the Guidance Team at Christian School of York. It outlines most aspects of the college admissions process. It also includes information for the non-college bound student. Because of the broad range of individual differences among students and colleges, it should be used as a tool along with personal visits with the school's career counselors and careful inspection of occupational and post-secondary school literature. Keep in mind that admissions procedures vary from school to school.

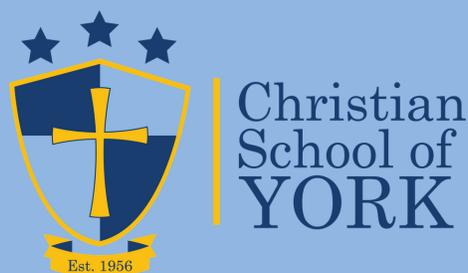


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PLANNING A CAREER

These days, most people work for 40 years or more. A career is simply the sequence of positions held during someone's lifetime. In the past, careers often involved work with the same employer where a person began in an entry level position and slowly took on more responsibility in the same general type of work. Today, career experts say that you are likely to make as many as five to seven changes in career direction during your working years. Below are some steps to take to help you decide upon a career path:

1

Learn about yourself!– Take interest inventories and discuss the results with people that you trust. Think about your interests, abilities, personality, and values. Consider what is important to you.

2

Read about the careers you are interested in– Utilize resources online to gather more in-depth information regarding job outlook, responsibilities, average salary, and education requirements.

3

Talk to people who are working in the field(s) you are interested in– Take the opportunity to observe someone doing their job and talk to them about their work.

4

Participate in volunteer work-- You must do 80 hours of community service in order to meet the graduation requirement.

5

Attend career days and college fairs within the community.

6

Research various higher education institutions– There are so many different community colleges, colleges, universities, and trade and technical schools. Research ones that interest you and fit your personality and needs!

7

Visit with college representatives when they visit CSY during lunch time-- This is a great opportunity to find out what the visiting college has to offer you. Spend time with the representatives and ask questions.

8

Visit college campuses– Once you have researched and learned more information about potential schools that interest you, take the time to visit the school! You may be able to tell just by stepping onto campus and talking to faculty and students whether or not the school is the right place for you.

Career Resources

The following is a list of websites and resources to use in planning for your future. We encourage you to spend time at these sites because they contain a wealth of valuable information on careers and the labor market.

America's Career InfoNet: <http://www.acinet.org/>

Explore career information, view videos, and create a résumé and cover letter, and more!

College Board Majors and Careers: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/majors-careers>

Read profiles of college majors and careers. Information can be searched by categories such as Arts, Business, Health, Science, Social Services, and Trades.

Occupational Outlook Handbook: <http://www.bls.gov/ooh>

This site is the nation's premier source for career information. The profiles featured here cover hundreds of occupations and describe job duties, educational requirements, average salaries, and work environment. Each profile includes employment projections. Also on this site are the following: the Occupational Outlook Quarterly, Bureau's Career Guide to Industries, Employment Projections, and Occupational Employment Statistics.

PA Career Guide: <http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=809063&mode=2>

Download or view this valuable career guide. It contains wage and job outlook information for more than 250 occupations. It also highlights sources of financial aid and information on PA CareerLink Offices and selected state agencies.

PA Workforce Statistics:
<http://www.paworkstats.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/home/19890>

At this site, you will see a snapshot of labor market data from across the state of Pennsylvania. It includes highlights of the workforce. This information is updated monthly.

Is Community College Right for You?

Good Reasons for Choosing a Community College:

- A community college is a good place to start your post-secondary education if your upper school grades and/or SAT scores are only marginal. You can start at a community college to build your academic skills and then transfer to a four year college.
- Community colleges offer technical and specialized training so that students can enter the job market earlier than those who attend four year colleges.
- Students who are undecided about a major can enroll in classes at a community college until they find a field that interests them. It's a good environment to try out some college-level courses.
- Often, the tuition is less expensive at community colleges.
- Community colleges often offer developmental or remedial courses.
- The classes are typically smaller at a community college as opposed to a four year college.

Possible Downsides of Attending a Community College:

- Some credits from a community college may not transfer to some four year colleges.
- Not all community colleges offer housing, so a student may have to commute to and from school. Because of this, there may be fewer opportunities for getting involved in social activities.

How to Choose a Vocational School

There are many career and vocational schools in the United States. When you have decided on a field of study, it is important to start comparing all the schools that offer that training program. You may use the list below to obtain and compare information about prospective schools.

Is the school licensed by your state's post-secondary school licensing bureau? If the school's literature does not tell you this, check with the PA Department of Education.

Accreditation means the school has passed a thorough examination of its educational quality by an accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. This is done to ensure the school meets certain requirements. Be very careful about schools that are not accredited.

Find out whether two or four year colleges accept credits from the school that you are considering. If the credits do not seem to transfer anywhere, it may be a sign that the vocational school is not well-regarded.

Ask detailed questions regarding coursework at the school. Are the courses up-to-date and of high quality?

What types of buildings, classrooms, facilities, and equipment does the school offer? Is the equipment up-to-date?

You will receive a certificate or diploma which confirms that you have completed the course of study. Find out if the certificate or diploma will qualify you to take the state certification examination if there is one in your field.

Does the school offer assistance with finding a job? What percentage of students completes the training at this school? What percentage of graduates find a job related to their studies?

What is total cost of tuition, supplies, and fees? Are there additional costs for uniforms, books, equipment, or other materials?

The best way to learn about a school is to visit the facilities when classes are in session. Ask questions! Talk to students and ask them to evaluate the training they are receiving.

The Armed Forces

In today's world, there are hundreds of occupations from which to choose, and it's important that you spend some time exploring the options available to you. The United States Armed Forces is one alternative you may want to consider.

The United States military has changed dramatically over the past several decades. Today's military is more professional, more technologically advanced, and offers more benefits and rewards than ever. Maintaining a strong national defense includes such diverse activities as commanding a tank, running a hospital, repairing a helicopter, and programming a computer. The military provides full-time and part-time training and work experience for more than 4,100 different jobs, 88% of which have direct civilian counterparts.

In the military, you can learn marketable job skills, make good friends, and develop a positive, winning attitude. The pay scale is competitive with many starting salaries in the private sector, and many allowances paid out by the military are tax-exempt. If a college education is one of your priorities, tuition support programs are one of the ways that the military can help you with the rising cost of post-secondary education.

If you want to go to college before joining the military, consider a Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) program. These college-based, officer-commissioning programs produce 60% of all officers serving in the United States Armed Forces. Serving in the military is really what you choose to make of it. It can simply be a means to an end – money for college or technical training and the development of life skills – or it can be a lifelong career path, giving you a structured environment, a defined purpose, and many opportunities to advance and grow.

In order to join the service, you must:

- Be 18 (or 17 with permission from your parent or guardian)
- Be a United States citizen or legal immigrant holding permanent residence status
- Have at least a high school diploma (for enlisted personnel)
- Have a Bachelor's or an advanced degree (for officers)

Before You Join

Before you make a decision to join, gather as much information as possible about the branch of the service that interests you; each one differs in specific programs, terms of duty, and enlistment options. For more information visit: www.myfuture.com and www.todaysmilitary.com to learn more about military life and careers. Make certain that your military commitment is based on sound information and realistic expectations.

For more information, contact your nearest recruiter or call one of the following toll free numbers:

Service

Toll-Free Number

Links

U.S. Army	1-800-USA-ARMY	goarmy.com
U.S. Navy	1-800-USA-NAVY	navy.com
U.S. Air Force	1-800-423-USAF	airforce.com
U.S. Marine Corps	1-800-MARINES	marines.com
U.S. Coast Guard	1-877-NOW-USCG	gocoastguard.com
Air National Guard	1-800-TO-GO-ANG	ang.af.mil
Army National Guard	1-800-GO-GUARD	nationalguard.com

College Selection Process

Higher education is expensive and requires a large investment in both time and money. As you decide what you want from college, examine both the way you picture yourself now and the way you see yourself in the future. It is important to give thoughtful and careful consideration to your career goals and the best way to reach them. Your personality, interests, experiences, ambitions, and dreams should be a part of the choices you make.

Compiling a List through Self-Evaluation

Begin by determining your strengths, weaknesses, expectations, and goals. After completing your self-evaluation, consider the characteristics you require in a college and determine their importance to you.

Next, you should research reference materials in the Guidance Office and online. Keep in mind the factors you consider most important in selecting a college. Useful references in determining many of these factors are titled Barron's Guide, Chronicle's Data Book, The College Handbook, The Index of Majors and The College Cost Book. There are also free computer programs and online sites designed to assist you in your college search. Websites include: www.EducationPlanner.org, www.CollegeBoard.org, and www.bridges.com. You should develop a list of schools you would like to research more closely. After establishing your initial list, additional references giving more detailed information on your choices should be used. If you eliminate those institutions which do not meet the criteria you established, you will reduce your list to a size that will be realistic in terms of writing for information, visiting campuses, arranging interviews, and making applications.

Appendix A will help you to determine and evaluate your priorities and expectations. In addition, the chart will permit you to compare colleges you are considering.

College Selection

When selecting colleges, you may wish to divide your choices into three categories: Reaching, Probable, Likely. This will help assure your acceptance while also allowing you to apply at a possibly more competitive school. In dividing the colleges into categories, compare your admission qualities with those expected by the individual schools.

- Reaching:

This college's entrance standards may seem a cut above your qualifications. The colleges mean rank will be in the fifth above yours and the mean SAT scores will be 40 to 100 point higher than yours. Factors other than academic record that may affect chances for admission could include an unusually strong letter of recommendation, your essay or statement of purpose, the high school reputation, a parent who is an alumnus, or extracurricular activities.

- Probable:

This should be a realistic choice of a college, one which has admissions criteria corresponding closely to your credentials. The mean rank and yours should be in the same fifth and your SAT scores should be within 40 points of those given as the mean by the college.

- Likely:

This is a college with an admissions policy clearly making you acceptable with a margin to spare. This college may seem below your potential. Choose the college with care as you might go there; this may include a community and/or junior college.

A student's college choice must be made sincerely and realistically. Examine the advantages and disadvantages of each college. Although you will probably not find a "perfect college", you can determine which colleges have the most characteristics you desire. Weigh the strengths and weaknesses to find the one most likely to meet your needs.

Once you have narrowed the number of colleges, you will be ready to begin the process of applying for admission and financial aid.

College and Military Admission Tests

Students planning to further their education may be required to take college entrance examinations. These tests are used along with the high school record to predict a student's chance of success in college. Generally, the first test taken is the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). Some colleges will require the SAT I of the College Board. Other colleges may prefer the American College Test (ACT). In addition, some colleges request Subject Tests which are used for admission and/or class placement.

Determining which tests are appropriate is each student's responsibility. It is most important that juniors review the college catalog or website for each college they are considering. Particular attention should be paid to the section on "Admissions Requirements."

Students need to create an account and then register online at www.collegeboard.org for the SATs or www.actstudent.org for the ACTs.

PRELIMINARY SCHOLASTIC APTITUDE TEST (PSAT) NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP QUALIFYING TEST (NMSQT)

Purpose:

The PSAT/NMSQT score is used to estimate performance on the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT I). It is a shortened version of the SAT I. In addition to estimating performance, the PSAT/NMSQT is the route of entry to the National Merit Scholarship Program and the National Achievement Scholarship program for Outstanding African American Students.

The PSAT/NMSQT provides information that can assist in planning future education. It gives students and parents an idea of the student's ability to handle college work. The student's performance on the test can be compared with a national group of students planning to enter college.

Another feature of the PSAT/NMSQT is the Student Search of the College Board. Students who participate in the service will receive information from colleges or other post-secondary institutions about education and financial aid opportunities.

Description:

The PSAT/NMSQT is a mostly multiple-choice test that measures developed verbal and mathematical reasoning abilities which are important for academic performance in college. The PSAT/NMSQT consists of two 25 minute critical reading sections, two 25 minute math sections and one 30 minute writing skills section. The test takes a total of two hours and ten minutes. An additional 20 minutes is needed for the completion of student information. Students may use a calculator for the math section.

The PSAT/NMSQT tests an individual's ability to reason with verbal and mathematical facts and concepts rather than to recall and recite them.

Students are advised to obtain a booklet entitled "Student Bulletin" which contains a sample test and information on scoring. The PSAT is given free of charge to all Sophomore and Junior students at Christian School of York.

The SAT

In March 2021, the College Board introduced a new version of the SAT. The change removed the essay portion which was optional, no penalty for guessing and vocabulary that is used in high school classes. There are four parts to the new SAT: Reading, Writing and Language, and Math. The test is 3 hours without the essay. There are now four answer choices per question.

SAT

The SAT consists of three categories: Critical Reading, Mathematics and Writing. Each section is scored 200-800 points.

- The test time is 3.5 hours with three (3) sections in math, three (3) sections in critical reading, one (1) experimental/unscored section and two (2) sections in writing skills.

Critical reading will include passage-based reading and sentence completion.

- Math test questions will include multiple choice and student produced responses.
- Math content encompasses Algebra I and II, basic geometry, numbers and operations, statistics, probability and data analysis.
- The writing section includes multiple choice questions.

SAT Subject Tests

Some colleges may require subject area tests for admission or placement purposes. These are one-hour, multiple-choice tests in specific subjects. Subject tests measure knowledge of a particular subject and ability to apply that knowledge. Therefore, one should try to take a test as soon as the last course in that subject is completed.

The twenty (20) subject tests offered are:

SAT SUBJECT TESTS

Literature	Mathematics, Level 1	Modern Hebrew
US History	Mathematics, Level 2	Italian
World History	Chinese with Listening	Latin
Biology E/M	Japanese with Listening	French
French with Listening	Korean with Listening	Physics
Chemistry	German	German with Listening
Spanish	Spanish with Listening	

THE SAT

VS

THE ACT

- Fewer Geometry Questions
- More Time per Question
- No-calculator Math Section

KEY Differences

- Lots of Geometry
- Faster Paced
- Tough Science Section



Overall Time

TIMING & SCORING

Overall Time



Reading

65m

Writing

35m

Math
(No Calculator)

25m

Math
(Calculator)

55m

200 - 800 points

200 - 800 points

1-36

35m

Reading

1-36

45m

English

1-36

60m

Math

1-36

35m

Science

Total Points

400 - 1600

1 - 36

Total Points

Time per Question

75s

Reading

48s

Writing

83s

Math

Time per Question

53s

Reading

36s

English

60s

Math

Preparing for the SAT and ACT

Being overly anxious could prevent you from performing your best on the SATs or ACTs. Here are some tips to help ease anxiety and make sure that you are prepared:

- Know the instructions and format thoroughly before going in. This helps avoid losing time rereading the instructions when you could be answering the questions or rechecking your answers.
- Take a pretest, either on paper or on a computer, become familiar with both the format and the types of questions that will be asked.
- Take a preparatory course for a fee, or buy or borrow one of the many books focused on SAT or ACT preparation.

These test-prep methods are useful in learning tips and techniques for improving your score.

- Get a good night's sleep the night before the test, and have a healthy breakfast the morning of the test.
- Take a snack to eat during test breaks, preferably something that will give you and energy boost.
- Remember that all questions are weighted equally, so if you can, finish answering the easy questions first.
- You have a limited amount of time for the test. If you get hung up on a particular question, mark it so you can come back to it later, and then move on.
- Be extra careful that you don't accidentally skip a question in the test booklet, and thereby inadvertently begin providing "right answers" to wrong questions all the wayforward. Throughout the exam, vigilantly monitor that the question number you're working on in the booklet matches that found on your answer sheet.
- If time permits after answering all of the questions, go back and check your work.
- Be sure to erase any stray pencil marks on the test sheet or booklet after completing the test.
- To prepare for the SAT, take the PSAT/NMSQT during the fall of your junior year. You can even take it during the fall of your sophomore year for extra practice. Spend time going over sample questions and take sample SAT tests. You should carefully review practice tests and utilize SAT preparation books, which can be located in local libraries and bookstores.
- To prepare for the ACT, you can access materials at your local library or bookstore as well as information online.

Helpful Online Preparation Resources

1. The SAT College Board: <http://sat.collegeboard.org>

This website allows you to view upcoming tests and register to take the exam. In addition to this, you can sign up for the SAT question of the day which is an excellent way to get familiar with the types of questions that you are asked on the actual test. This site also has free full SAT practice tests, an official online SAT course, and an official SAT study guide.

2. The ACT Student website: <http://www.actstudent.org>

The ACT student website is similar to the SAT College Board site, offering students the opportunity to view test dates and register for the exam. An entire test preparation section offers students online test preparation, the official ACT preparation guide (which includes retired ACT tests), the ACT question of the day, a free student preparation booklet, practice test questions, test tips, and test descriptions.

3. The Khan Academy: <https://www.khanacademy.org/sat>

The Khan Academy has partnered with the College Board to offer a free personalized SAT prep program online. They offer interactive problems, video lessons, full-length practice tests, personalized study plan, and instant SAT Essay feedback. Studies have shown that utilizing this program for 20 hours can potentially increase your score by 115 points.

Take advantage of the SAT Prep time offered during the Upper School Flex Period!!!

Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery

ASVAB

<http://official-asvab.com>

What is it?– The ASVAB is an aptitude test designed to measure your potential for training in particular work-related activities in the military. Your scores may be used to help you to identify your career interest and may be used for military enlistment, if you choose. If you are considering applying to any branch of the armed services, you will need to take this test.

When is it administered?– The test is administered throughout the year through local recruiter agencies. If you are interested in taking the ASVAB, please schedule an appointment with your nearest recruiter.

The Test– The ASVAB consists of subtests in the following areas: General Science, Arithmetic Reasoning, Word Knowledge, Paragraph Comprehension, Mathematics Knowledge, Electronics Information, Automobile and Shop Information, Mechanical Comprehension, and Assembling Objects.

Scores on the Word Knowledge, Paragraph Comprehension, Arithmetic Reasoning, and Math Knowledge are used to compute an Armed Forces Qualification Test Score (AFQT). This score is used to determine your eligibility for enlistment. Each branch of the Armed Forces determines a qualifying AFQT score for enlisting in their service. You can visit one of the service-specific websites to find out more about the individual required minimum AFQT score.

Air Force: <http://www.airforce.com>

Army: <http://www.goarmy.com>

Coast Guard: <http://www.uscg.mil>

Marine Corps: <http://www.marines.com>

Navy: <http://www.navy.com>

College Applications and Admissions

Types of Applications

In general, there are two types of application requirements. One is the application cutoff and stated reply date. You have until a certain date to apply. All applications are reviewed at the same time and most students who meet the college's requirements are admitted. All students are then notified of the decision at the same time. The other is the rolling admissions system. In rolling admissions, there is usually a deadline for the application but the applications are processed as they are submitted and the supporting documentation is received. Under this plan, it is advantageous for the student to apply early in the senior year; therefore, at a rolling admissions institution, an application will be processed when the application, the transcript, the SAT or ACT scores, and the recommendations are received. As soon as the application is processed, the students will be notified of the admission decision.

Early decision programs are those in which the student does not want to attend college until after he or she has finished with the twelfth grade but wants a decision on acceptance before January of the senior year. Most early decision programs require a student to complete his or her application procedure by early November. Some require a commitment to attend that school and the student must withdraw all other applications. The student is usually notified by late December.

Completing the Application

Most students should apply for admission during the fall of their senior year although it is very important to verify all deadlines with the college's admissions office.

Application Procedures:

As you prepare to apply to post-secondary schools, you will need some general and detailed information. Please follow the instructions listed below for submitting college or scholarship applications.

Important Points:

1. Applications take approximately 1 - 2 weeks for your counselor to process.
2. Applications are processed in the order they are received.
3. All Official Transcripts must be requested through the Guidance office.
4. The student is responsible for knowing all deadlines.
5. The CEEB code for Christian School of York is: 395-431.
6. Allow teachers, coaches, employers, and etc. two weeks to write letters of recommendation. Include a resume and transcript. Follow up with a thank you note.
7. If a personal essay is required, please consult a teacher for proofing and editing.



Online Applications:

1. Complete the application online at the college website. Application fees can also be submitted online. Fees can range from \$35-\$75.
2. Complete the College Application Contact List found in the counseling office. This informs your upper school counselor of where you applied and the vital contact information.

It is helpful to develop a file for each college to keep your catalogs, applications, letter and records organized and accessible. Also, it is recommended that you put together a log of necessary application steps. Appendix B provides a log sheet to help with your organization.

Teacher Recommendation Letters

1. Give careful consideration to the teachers you will choose to write your letters of recommendation. You do not necessarily have to choose teachers who taught classes where you earned A's. Select the teachers who know you best and who can write about your performance and participation in class.
2. Do not wait until the last minute to ask a teacher to write you a letter of recommendation. Keep in mind that some teachers will get requests from many students. Therefore, you will want to give the teachers ample time to write your letter (at least two weeks). Some teachers may need more time than this. Be considerate of their schedule and time, and be sure to ask far enough in advance of the day you want to mail the applications.
3. If there is a form that the teacher needs to complete, be sure to complete all the information about yourself at the top before giving it to the teacher.
4. It is helpful to provide teachers with a note stating your career goals, where you are applying, the number of letters you will need, etc.
5. If given the option, choose to waive your right to see the letter. Teachers can be more honest this way, and it lets the college admissions staff know that you feel secure in the recommender's opinion of you.
6. Read the guidelines on each application carefully. Some colleges will request a certain number of letters, and others will be less rigid. Always follow the guidelines on the application. Some applications will specify who the recommenders must be.

Read the directions!

Visiting Colleges

The best way to learn more about a college is to visit the campus before applying. Most visits can now be scheduled on-line at the college website. If possible, plan to visit a college during the academic year, when students are in residence and classes are in session. Many colleges schedule regular campus tours conducted by student representatives. Some colleges will also arrange for you to spend the night in student housing if you write or phone in advance. If you plan to combine your campus visit with an admissions interview, be sure to call or email the admissions office and set up an appointment before you arrive.

During the visit, walk around campus until you have a feeling for its size and atmosphere. Find out about the things that are important to you. You might be interested in how old or new buildings and facilities are, how crowded the classrooms are, how large is the dormitory space, and what recreational facilities exist.

Plan to visit the student center, the cafeteria, and the library. Talk to students wherever you go. Ask about the social life on campus, student life-styles, and anything else that might help you decide if you would be comfortable at the college. Check bulletin boards to find out about student activities and cultural events. Try to attend some classes and meet with students and faculty in the area that interests you. Ask about specific course requirements, program flexibility, average study time, and academic pressures.

Juniors and seniors are allowed up to five (5) days of excused absences for college visitations. At least (1) day prior to a college visit, students should submit a parent note to the attendance secretary with a designated date, time, and college name. The student will then receive a verification letter which can be signed by college personnel. This verification should be presented to the attendance secretary upon return to be designated an excused absence.

Questions to Ask an Admissions Counselor:

- What are the admissions requirements for this school?
- How many years of science, math, and foreign language are required for admission?
- What is the deadline for applying?
- What is the average SAT or ACT score for incoming freshmen?
- What type of admission procedure do you follow?
- Approximately what upper school grade average do you expect an applicant to have? Class rank?
- What is an average class size?
- What score is needed on an AP test in order to obtain college credit?
- What majors are offered?
- Is this school known for a specific program?
- Are most classes taught by professors or teaching assistants?
- Are honors programs available?
- What percentage of students graduate? How long does it take for most students to graduate?
- What percentage of students attend graduate school immediately upon graduation? What percent are accepted by the medical, law, or business school of their choice?
- Given my grades and standardized test scores, what are my chances of getting accepted?
- Are students responsible for finding their own internships?
- Is an interview required for admittance?
- What importance do you give to a student's extracurricular activities, talents, recommendations, etc.?
- Is SAT Subject Test required? If so, which ones?
- Can I double major?
- Can I study abroad?
- Can a student be undecided and for how long?
- Can I have a car on campus?
- What activities and clubs are available?
- Is student housing guaranteed all four years? Will the college assist with finding off campus housing?
- Is tutoring available?



The Interview

Some colleges require or recommend an interview or audition. Whether required or not, it is to your benefit to set up an interview. This interview is your chance to express your background, your interests, and goals, and why you are interested in that specific college. An interview can be very important at private or more competitive institutions. The interview is also your opportunity to assess the college. For this reason, an on-campus interview is best, but most colleges will arrange for you to be interviewed near your home if you live far from the college. Be prepared with your own questions. You can use this opportunity to get the information you need about a college to make your decision.

Questions To Ask a Financial Aid Counselor:

- What is the tuition cost per year to attend this school as a full-time student?
- What is the cost of room and board?
- What financial aid opportunities are there for me?
- Are there forms I should fill out? What are the deadlines?
- Do you offer merit-based scholarships or need-based scholarships?
- Does the school have a work study program?
- If so, how does one take part in it?
- When can I expect a financial aid package to be sent to me?
- Is tutoring available?

Questions To Ask a Professor or Department Representative from Your Program of Interest:

- What are the academic requirements for this major?
- How many students are accepted into this major each year?



The College Interview

You should also be prepared to ask questions about the school which may need further clarification. This would indicate your interest in gaining the information necessary to make a decision about your future. A list of typical questions you may want to ask during the interview would include:

1. What are the academic requirements and your chances for admission?
2. What programs are available for financial aid?
3. When does a student declare a major?
4. What programs are available besides the traditional set of majors offered?
5. What guarantee of housing if given to students after their first year?
6. What percentage of students goes on to graduate and attend professional schools?
7. What programs are available for career planning and job placement?
8. Do students have access to computer terminals twenty-four hours a day?

After the interview, evaluate what you have learned by comparing and contrasting all facets of the college with similar colleges. Write a brief personal thank you note to the person who interviewed you. This will leave the interviewer with a positive impression of you and it could make a difference in your selection as one of the freshmen to be enrolled.

Meeting With College Representatives at Christian School of York

Each fall, many representatives of colleges visit the upper school. The visits are announced via the public address system and emailed out to all upper school students. These are very informal group sessions, lasting approximately 20 minutes. They take place during flex period. You may have many questions or you may choose to simply listen to what the representative has to say about the college. We find these meetings allow you to learn a great deal about many different kinds of colleges and we encourage students to attend.

Preparation:

A college interview is a two-way street. It is an opportunity for the college to get to know the student and for the student to get additional information about the college. Students must be knowledgeable about the school before going to the interview. Some chances for admission have been lost because a student did not familiarize themselves with basic information about the school size, cost, majors, admissions requirements, etc. A thorough review of the catalog should provide this basic information. A few hints in preparation for a visit are:

1. Schedule an appointment well in advance of the date you want to go. Most visitations can now be scheduled on-line at the college's website.
2. When you make the appointment for an interview, indicate if you want a tour of the campus and/or a meeting with the financial aid officer. Indicate if your parents will accompany you. Some colleges also like to interview parents.
3. Dress conservatively and neatly.
4. Maintain eye contact with the interviewer and show sincere interest.
5. Be honest about yourself, your interests, background, information, etc.
6. Admit if you do not know something.
7. Before arriving for the interview, compose some relevant and pertinent questions about the college.
7. Be prepared for both a structured and unstructured type of interview.
8. Smile, relax, show a sense of humor, and be yourself.

Try to not be nervous.



College interviewers are professionals who interview hundreds of applicants like you. Be prepared to give crisp, well-thought-out answers during the interview. A list of typical questions you may be asked would include:

1. Why did you apply to this particular school?
2. How did you hear about this school?
3. What other schools are you applying to?
4. Why did you select your particular major?
5. What were your major activities, interest, etc., in upper school?
6. What contributions can you make to this school?
7. What do you see as your strengths and weaknesses?
8. What books have you read in the past year?

The Cost of Higher Education and Financial Aid

The pursuit of higher education is an increasingly popular decision. For many, it is an increasingly expensive one. Depending on the institution, tuition combined with room and board charges can total anywhere from \$6,000 to more than \$40,000 a year. Because of spiraling costs, most colleges have over 50% of their students on some kind of aid. Much of the financial assistance awarded to those seeking higher education is being granted on the basis of financial need. Competitive scholarships for which you compete with others on the basis of merit, however, continue to be available and counselors can assist students in finding information on such scholarships.

	In-State Tuition	Room & Board
College of Technology	\$ 8,670	\$ 9,650
Community Colleges	\$ 10,782	N/A
Private Colleges and Universities	\$ 31,281	\$ 9,688
Private State-Aided Institutions	\$ 30,002	\$ 9,929
Private Two-Year Colleges	\$ 16,157	\$ 7,849
State-Related Commonwealth Universities	\$ 5,800	\$ 8,946
State Universities	\$ 12,970	\$ 7,967
Theological Seminary	N/A	\$ 7,155

The table shows the average costs of undergraduate education in Pennsylvania at different types of schools. It provides the costs of both in-state tuition and room and board per year (for community colleges, only the cost of tuition is available).

Please download and edit the Google sheet below which will allow you to input college costs including tuition, books, estimated work study income, family contribution money, etc. This chart is also included in Appendix B - <http://bit.ly/2QjuHzB>

Types of Financial Aid

Education after upper school can be quite expensive. So, if you haven't been saving for college since birth, how will you pay for it? You'll be glad to know that there are many financial aid options available for postsecondary education. Essentially, there are five options for financial assistance, each differing in terms of repayment and eligibility:

Grants:

Typically, grants are based on financial aid and do not have to be repaid. Financial need scholarships are awarded on the basis of the ability of the family to pay for a student's post-secondary education. Most of the agencies granting such aid request information about the financial needs of each applicant's family. You should complete the appropriate financial aid forms required by colleges considered. These applications are all available online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Most forms cannot be completed prior to January 1st of the senior year, but should be completed as soon as possible after that date.

- **PHEAA – state program, awarded on the basis of financial need**
- **Pell Grant – a federal, need based program**
- **Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (SEOG) – reserved for students with exceptional financial need**
- **Institutional Grants – these funds are provided by the individual colleges. Check with the financial aid office at your college to see if this type of grant is available.**

Scholarships:

Like grants, scholarships do not have to be repaid. They can be awarded to students who demonstrate high achievement in areas such as academics, athletics, music, art, or other fields. Scholarships can also be awarded based on other criteria.

- **As a junior, take the PSAT/NMSQT to compete for the National Merit Scholarships.**
- **Email the financial aid office of each college in which you are interested and ask for information on competitive scholarships.**
- **There are a variety of free internet scholarship search sites in which students can independently search. One example is: www.fastweb.com**
- **Your guidance counselors as well as Mr. Bell will notify you of scholarships we are aware of that may be a perfect fit for you!**
- **Scholarships can be awarded by colleges and employers. Contact the personnel office of parents' employers and ask if scholarships are available.**
- **Contact your pastor for information concerning church-sponsored scholarships.**
- **The Armed Services have ROTC scholarships available. The National Guard also provides funding for college.**

Types of Financial Aid (continued)

Loans:

Loans are a form of aid that must be repaid with interest after leaving school. The most common of these are the Perkins and Stafford loans, although private and alternative loans are also available.

- **Stafford Loan Program**
- **Perkins Loans**
- **Parent Loan for Undergraduate Studies (PLUS)**
- **Private loans**

Work Study:

Based on financial need, work-study program provide employment opportunities to students both on and off campus while attending school.

Military Funding:

Several military branches offer substantial financial aid packages in exchange for varying terms of service.

- **Parents and students must complete the FAFSA starting in January of their senior year.**
- **The CSS Financial Aid Profile is offered by the College Scholarship Service. The profile service is used by approximately 400 colleges in the US. The CSS Profile is used to award non-federal aid. This form can be completed beginning in October of the senior year.**
- **For more information on how to apply for financial aid, visit the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency website at www.pheaa.org.**
- **For additional information about the education benefits available to military veterans, visit the United States government student website at www.students.gov.**

A lack of money should not stop you from attending the school of your choice. Financial assistance is available from many sources. Remember that colleges have financial aid officers whose job it is to help those who want to attend their schools. These officers can furnish information about costs, assistance available, application procedures and deadlines, as well as other related matters.

Financial Aid Resources

College Board Scholarship Search

This is a scholarship search tool on the College Board website.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search> Perkins Loans

CSS Financial Aid Profile

This form is used by some colleges to collect additional financial information from a family in order to award non-federal student aid funds. A list of schools that use the form can be found on this page:

<https://profileonline.collegeboard.com/prf/index.jsp>

FAFSA4caster

FAFSA4caster is an online tool that helps students and parents determine their current eligibility for federal student aid. Families are encouraged to check out this site to learn how much federal aid they may receive if they applied today.

<http://www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov>

Fast Web

Scholarship searches can be conducted on this site.

<http://www.fastweb.com>

Finaid.org

This site provides information on scholarships. It also explains the various types of loans available for college students and families.

<http://www.finaid.org>

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

Students and parents can complete the FAFSA on this site.

<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>

Sallie Mae

Parents can read information about the Pennsylvania 529 Investment Plan.

Student Aid – United States Department of Education

This is the US Department of Education

Three Tiered List

Reach: This is a school that will be tough for the student to get into – a reach, but not completely out of the picture based on the student’s desires, transcript, scores, personal statement, extra curricula’s, and recommendation letters.

Probable: This is a school at which the student has a strong chance of acceptance – it’s a good match based on the student’s desires, transcript, scores, personal statement, extra curricula’s, and recommendation letters.

Likely: This is a school at which the student should have no problem getting into based on the student’s desires, transcript, scores, personal statement, extra curricula’s, and recommendation letters. These used to be called “fallback” schools but there are really no such things lately. In the increasingly tough game of college admissions, there are no guarantees.

HEART-STOPPERS: The three schools that took your breath away, that you **REALLY** want to attend!

1 :	2 :	3 :
Reach:	Probable:	Likely:
1 :	2 :	3 :
<hr/>		
1 :	2 :	3 :
<hr/>		
1 :	2 :	3 :
<hr/>		

Appendix B:

Pathway to College

Student Action Plan: 9th Grade

- Get to know your Guidance Counselors and your Principal. They will be able to talk to you anytime about college, course selection and scheduling, academics, scholarship opportunities, and internships.
- Begin taking “college preparatory” academic subjects. This is what you need to graduate from Christian School of York, and it is a sequence that prepares you for admittance to most colleges.

*Please be sure to check each college’s admissions requirements, as certain programs require certain courses.

- When scheduling your coursework, please keep the CSY Graduation Requirements in mind.
- Consider potential college majors and careers and dedicate time to researching them thoroughly.
- Discuss with parents, counselors, principal, and teachers why you should attend college and potential career paths that would be suitable for you.
- Be aware that your college transcript (what gets sent to colleges you apply to in twelfth grade) begins during your ninth grade year! So perform your best!
- Make the most of your upper school experience. Colleges want to see a well-rounded student! Get involved in a lot of school activities and seek out service and leadership opportunities!
- Keep an activities journal throughout your upper school years at CSY. Keep track of all of your clubs, awards, leadership, service opportunities, and honors so that when application time takes place, you are well-equipped to speak to your qualifications.

Parent Action Plan: 9th Grade

The beginning of upper school is an exciting time. Your child may be adjusting to a new school, making new friends and becoming more independent. But your child still needs your help and involvement.

Here are some things you can do together to succeed this year.

Summer before Upper School

- Visit a college campus together. It's a great way to get your child excited about college. Learn more about how you and your child can prepare for a campus visit.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/know-yourself/6-steps-to-get-the-most-out-of-a-campus-visit>

- Get the facts about what college costs. You may be surprised at how affordable higher education can be. Start by reading Understanding College Costs.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/college-costs/understanding-college-costs>

- Show your child how to explore career ideas. He or she can make a list of interests, talents and favorite activities and start matching them with occupations. Learn more about how your child can complete a career worksheet.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/explore-careers/careers/exploring-careers-step-by-step>

- Come up with fun reading ideas. Look for magazines or newspapers your child may like and talk about the books you loved reading when you were your child's age. If your family makes reading enjoyable, it can become a daily habit.

Parent Action Plan: 9th Grade (continued)

Fall

- Make sure your child meets with the school counselor. Your child should schedule a meeting to talk about college and career options and to choose the most-appropriate classes. Learn more about the high school counselor's role.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/building-a-support-network/working-with-your-high-school-counselor-for-college-success>

- Help your child set goals for the school year. Working toward specific goals helps your child stay motivated and focused.
- Make a plan to check in regularly about schoolwork. If you keep up with your child's tests, papers and homework assignments, you can celebrate successes and head off problems as a team. Get homework tips for your child.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/inside-the-classroom/take-control-of-homework>

- Talk about extracurricular activities. Getting involved in clubs and other groups is a great way for your child to identify interests and feel more engaged in school. Read more about the benefits of extracurricular.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/outside-the-classroom/extracurriculars-matter-to-you-and-to-colleges>

Winter

- Start thinking about financial aid. It's not too early to look into types of aid that could help you cover college costs. Start by reading 7 Things You Need to Know about Financial Aid.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/financial-aid-101/7-things-you-need-to-know-about-financial-aid>

- Discuss next year's classes. Make sure your child is challenging him- or herself — and taking the courses college admission officers expect to see. Learn more about the high school classes that colleges look for.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/your-high-school-record/high-school-classes-colleges-look-for>

Parent Action Plan: 9th Grade (continued)

Spring

- Help your child start a college list. Visit College Search Step-by-Step together to get tips on starting a college search and figuring out what matters most to your child when choosing a college.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/find-colleges/how-to-find-your-college-fit/college-search-step-by-step>

- See how much you need to save for college. Use the College Savings Calculator to get an idea of where you are compared with your savings goal.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/paying-your-share/college-savings-calculator>

- Help your child make summer plans. Summer is a great time to explore interests and learn new skills — and colleges look for students who pursue meaningful summer activities. Find out ways your child can stay motivated this summer.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/outside-the-classroom/5-ways-to-stay-on-track-in-summer>

Taken in part from: (www.bigfuture/collegeboard.org)

Student Action Plan: 10th Grade

- Continue to explore your interests and abilities.
- Talk to and job shadow individuals in careers that interest you!
- Begin to think about college choices. Take the time to go online and look at different colleges, their admission requirements, and specific academic programs.
- Take the PSAT in October and discuss your results with your parents and guidance counselor.
- Keep working hard!

Parent Action Plan: 10th Grade

As your child settles into the upper school experience, it's a great time for him or her to take on new challenges. It's also not too early to explore colleges, college majors and career goals. Use the list below to help make 10th grade count.

Summer

- Visit a college campus together. It's a great way to get your 10th-grader excited about college. Learn more about how you and your child can prepare for a campus visit.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/know-yourself/6-steps-to-get-the-most-out-of-a-campus-visit>

- Get the facts about what college costs. You may be surprised at how affordable higher education can be. Start by reading Understanding College Costs.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/college-costs/understanding-college-costs>

- Help your sophomore explore career ideas. He or she can make a list of interests, talents and favorite activities and start matching them with occupations. Learn how to use exercises like these to make a career worksheet.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/explore-careers/careers/exploring-careers-step-by-step>

- Come up with fun reading ideas. Look for magazines or newspapers your child may like and talk about the books you loved reading when you were your child's age. If your family makes reading enjoyable, it can become a daily habit.

Fall

- Make sure your child meets with the school counselor. Your child should schedule a meeting to talk about college and career options and to choose the most appropriate classes. Learn more about the high school counselor's role.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/building-a-support-network/working-with-your-high-school-counselor-for-college-success>

Parent Action Plan: 10th Grade (continued)

Fall

- Encourage your child to set goals for the school year. Working toward specific goals helps your upper school student stay motivated and focused.
- Make a plan to check in regularly about schoolwork. If you keep up with your child's tests, papers and homework assignments, you can celebrate successes and head off problems as a team. Get homework tips for your sophomore.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/inside-the-classroom/take-control-of-homework>

- Talk about extracurricular activities. Getting involved in clubs and other groups is a great way for your child to identify interests and feel more engaged in school. Read more about the benefits of extracurricular.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/outside-the-classroom/extracurriculars-matter-to-you-and-to-colleges>

- Help your 10th-grader get ready to take the PSAT/NMSQT. Taking the test this fall can help your child prepare for the SAT and get on track for college. Sophomores can also use their score reports to figure out which academic areas they need to work on. Learn more about the PSAT/NMSQT.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/testing/the-psat-nmsqt-and-psat-10>

Winter

- If your child was not offered the PSAT/NMSQT as a 10th-grader, they may be offered the PSAT 10 in February or March. They are the same test, just offered at different times of the year.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/financial-aid-101/7-things-you-need-to-know-about-financial-aid>

- Review PSAT 10 or PSAT/NMSQT results together. Log in to the student score reporting portal with your child to learn what she or he is doing well and which skills your child should work on to get ready for college and career. It will also connect your child to free, personalized SAT study tools; AP courses; and college and career planning resources.

<https://studentscores.collegeboard.org/home>

<https://www.khanacademy.org/sat>

Parent Action Plan: 10th Grade (continued)

Winter

- Start thinking about ways to pay for college. Most families get help paying for college costs. Read *7 Things You Need to Know about Financial Aid* to learn more.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/financial-aid-101/7-things-you-need-to-know-about-financial-aid>

- Encourage your sophomore to consider taking SAT Subject Tests. Many colleges require or recommend taking these tests to get a sense of your child's skills in a certain academic area. In general, it's best to take a Subject Test right after taking the relevant course. Learn more about SAT Subject Tests.

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat-subject-tests>

- Discuss next year's classes. Make sure your child will be challenging him- or herself and taking the courses college admission officers expect to see. Learn more about the high school classes that colleges look for in applicants.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/your-high-school-record/high-school-classes-colleges-look-for>

Spring

- Make a college wish list together. Talk with your 10th-grader about qualities he or she may want in a college in terms of location, size, majors offered and so on. Check out *How to Find a College That Fits You* to learn more about deciding on college must-haves.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/paying-your-share/college-savings-calculator>

- See how much you need to save for college. Use the College Savings Calculator to get an idea of where you are in terms of your savings goal.
- Help your child make summer plans. Summer is a great time to explore interests and learn new skills — and colleges look for students who pursue meaningful summer activities. Find out five ways your upper school student can stay motivated this summer.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/outside-the-classroom/5-ways-to-stay-on-track-in-summer>

Student Action Plan: 11th Grade

- Take the PSAT in October and discuss your results with your parents and guidance counselor.
- Talk to college representatives that visit Christian School of York over your lunch hour.
- Continue to consider careers, college majors, and potential post-secondary options.
- Visit college campuses and take college tours! Make a point to visit schools in which you are interested in attending and speak with students that attend those schools.
- Attend local college fairs. York College holds a large fair every year!
- Begin to research financial aid sources.
- Be aware of the deadlines for scholarships and early admissions to schools (typically very early in the fall of your senior year).
- Know what tests are required by the post-secondary institutions that you are considering (SAT I, SAT II, or ACT).
- Take the SAT I in the spring of your junior year! You may take this test more than once to improve your score. Go to www.collegeboard.com for more information.
- Try to narrow your college choices to five or less institutions and request application materials from those schools online.
- Consider a dual enrollment opportunity! Earn college credit that counts towards upper school AND college at a discounted rate!

Parent Action Plan: 11th Grade

Junior year usually marks a turning point. This is because for most students and families, it's when college planning activities kick into high gear. Here are some things you can do this year to support your child and give him or her the best options.

Summer

- Get the facts about what college costs. You may be surprised by how affordable higher education can be. Start by reading Understanding College Costs.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/college-costs/understanding-college-costs>

- Explore financial aid options. These include grants and scholarships, loans, and work-study programs that can help pay for college costs. Find out more about how financial aid can make college affordable.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/financial-aid-101/financial-aid-can-help-you-afford-college>

Fall

- Make sure your child meets with the school counselor. This meeting is especially important this year as your 11th-grader starts to engage in the college application process. Learn more about the counselor's role in applying to college.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/building-a-support-network/working-with-your-high-school-counselor-for-college-success>

- Help your child stay organized. Work with your 11th-grader to make weekly or monthly to-do lists to keep on top of the tasks required to get ready for applying to colleges. For more time-management tips, see 8 Ways to Take Control of Your Time.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/inside-the-classroom/8-ways-to-take-control-of-your-time>

Parent Action Plan: 11th Grade (continued)

Fall

- Help your junior get ready for the PSAT/NMSQT in October. This is a preliminary test that helps students practice for the SAT and assess their academic skills. Juniors who score well on the test are also eligible for scholarship opportunities. Find out more about the PSAT/NMSQT.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/testing/the-psat-nmsqt-and-psat-10>

- Encourage your child to set goals for the school year. Working toward specific goals helps your upper school student stay motivated and focused.

Winter

- Review PSAT/NMSQT results together by logging in to the student score reporting portal. Your child's score report shows what they should work on to get ready for college; lists Advanced Placement courses that might be a good match for them; and connects them to free, personalized SAT practice on Khan Academy based on their results.

<https://studentscores.collegeboard.org/home>

<https://www.khanacademy.org/sat>

- Help your child prepare for the SAT. Many juniors take the SAT in the spring so they can get a head start on planning for college. See which other tests your upper school junior may need to take.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/testing/which-college-admission-tests-do-i-need-to-take>

- Discuss taking challenging courses next year. Taking honors courses or college-level courses like Advanced Placement as a senior can help your child prepare for college work — and these are also the courses that college admission officers like to see. Learn more about advanced classes.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/inside-the-classroom/how-to-take-your-classes-to-the-next-level>

Parent Action Plan: 11th Grade (continued)

Fall

- Help your junior get ready for the PSAT/NMSQT in October. This is a preliminary test that helps students practice for the SAT and assess their academic skills. Juniors who score well on the test are also eligible for scholarship opportunities. Find out more about the PSAT/NMSQT.

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<https://studentscores.collegeboard.org/home>

<https://www.khanacademy.org/sat>

- Help your child prepare for the SAT. Many juniors take the SAT in the spring so they can get a head start on planning for college. See which other tests your upper school junior may need to take.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/testing/which-college-admission-tests-do-i-need-to-take>

- Discuss taking challenging courses next year. Taking honors courses or college-level courses like Advanced Placement as a senior can help your child prepare for college work — and these are also the courses that college admission officers like to see. Learn more about advanced classes.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/inside-the-classroom/how-to-take-your-classes-to-the-next-level>

Parent Action Plan: 11th Grade (continued)

Winter

- Encourage your junior to consider taking SAT Subject Tests. Many colleges require or recommend taking these tests to get a sense of your child's skills in a certain academic area. In general, it's best to take a Subject Test right after taking the relevant course. Learn more about SAT Subject Tests.

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat-subject-tests>

- Encourage your child to take AP Exams. If your junior takes AP or other advanced classes, have him or her talk with teachers now about taking these tests in May. Read more about the AP Program.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/testing/learn-about-the-ap-program>

Spring

- Search together for colleges that meet your child's needs. Once you have an idea of the qualities your child is looking for in a college, help him or her enter those criteria into College Search to create a list of those colleges.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search>

- Attend college fairs and financial aid events. These events allow you to meet with college representatives and get answers to questions. Your child can ask the school counselor how to find events in your area. Check out the College Fair Checklist for more information.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/find-colleges/how-to-find-your-college-fit/college-fair-checklist>

- Help your child make summer plans. Summer is a great time to explore interests and learn new skills — and colleges look for students who pursue meaningful summer activities. Help your upper school student look into summer learning programs or find a job or internship.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/inside-the-classroom/summer-learning-programs-what-why-and-how>

- Visit colleges together. Make plans to check out the campuses of colleges your child is interested in. Use the Campus Visit Checklist to learn how to get the most out of these experiences.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/find-colleges/campus-visit-guide/campus-visit-checklist>

Student Action Plan: 12th Grade

- YOU ARE A SENIOR! Make sure to work hard and finish strong!
- If you are an 18 year old male, you are required by law to register with the Selective Service. A man who fails to register before turning the age 26 could face a fine up to \$250,000 and/or a prison term of up to five years. In addition to fines, male students who do not register will NOT qualify for federal student loans or grant programs. This also will impact individuals interested in working for the federal government.

Please go to <https://www.sss.gov/default.htm>

- Visit the colleges you have decided to apply to. Getting a feel for the campus is important!
- Talk to college representatives from the schools who visit our school during your lunchtime.
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and submit after January 1st.
- Complete and submit your applications. Interviewing and writing a strong essay are key components to getting into the college of your choice.
- Take the SAT I again or the ACT, if necessary. Take the SAT II, if necessary. The colleges that interest you will list the testing requirements on their admissions information webpage!
- Consider a dual enrollment opportunity! Earn college credit that counts towards upper school AND college at a discounted rate!

Parent Action Plan: 12th Grade

Senior year is a whirlwind of activities. This is a big year for your child as he or she balances schoolwork, extracurricular activities and the college application process. Use the suggestions below to help you and your child successfully navigate this important time.

Summer

- Visit colleges together. If you haven't already, make plans to check out the campuses of colleges in which your child is interested. Use the Campus Visit Checklist to learn how to get the most out of these experiences.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/find-colleges/campus-visit-guide/campus-visit-checklist>

- Ask how you can help your senior finalize a college list. You can help him or her choose which colleges to apply to by weighing how well each college meets his or her needs, for example. Find out more about how to finalize a college list.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/applying-101/how-to-finalize-your-college-list-admissions-college-application>

- Find out a college's actual cost. Once your 12th-grader has a list of a few colleges he or she is interested in, use the College Board's Net Price Calculator together to find out the potential for financial aid and the true out-of-pocket cost— or net price—of each college.

<https://professionals.collegeboard.org/guidance/financial-aid/net-price-calculator>

- Encourage your child to get started on applications. He or she can get the easy stuff out of the way now by filling in as much required information on college applications as possible. Read about how to get started on applications.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/applying-101/college-applications-how-to-begin-admissions>

- Help your child decide about applying early. If your senior is set on going to a certain college, he or she should think about whether applying early is a good option. Now is the time to decide because early applications are usually due in November. Read about the pros and cons of applying early.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/applying-101/the-facts-about-applying-early-is-it-right-for-you>

Parent Action Plan: 12th Grade (continued)

Summer (cont'd)

- Gather financial documents: To apply for most financial aid, your child will need to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). You'll need your most recent tax returns and an FSA ID to complete the FAFSA, which opens Oct.

Fall

- Encourage your child to meet with the school counselor. This year, he or she will work with the counselor to complete and submit college applications. Learn more about the counselor's role in applying to college.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/applying-101/applying-to-college-your-counselors-role>

- Create a calendar with your child. This should include application deadlines and other important dates. Your child can find specific colleges' deadlines in College Search. If your child saves colleges to a list there, he or she can get a custom online calendar that shows those colleges' deadlines.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search>

- Help your child prepare for college admission tests. Many seniors retake college admission tests, such as the SAT, in the fall. Learn more about helping your senior prepare for admission tests.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/testing/how-to-prepare-for-admission-tests>

- Help your child find and apply for scholarships. He or she can find out about scholarship opportunities from the school counselor. Your upper school student will need to request and complete scholarship applications and submit them on time. Learn more about scholarships.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/grants-and-scholarships/where-to-find-college-scholarships>

- Offer to look over your senior's college applications. But remember that this is your child's work so remain in the role of adviser and proofreader and respect his or her voice.

Parent Action Plan: 12th Grade (continued)

Fall (cont'd)

- Fill out the FAFSA to apply for aid beginning Oct. 1. The government and many colleges use the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to award aid. Now it's easier than ever to fill out this form because you can automatically transfer your tax information online from the IRS to the FAFSA. Read *How to Complete the FAFSA* to learn more.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/financial-aid-101/how-to-complete-the-fafsa>

- Complete the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE®, if required. If your child needs to submit the PROFILE to a college or scholarship program, be sure to find out the priority deadline and submit it by that date. Read *How to Complete the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE*.
- Encourage your child to set up college interviews. An interview is a great way for your child to learn more about a college and for a college to learn more about your child. Get an overview of the interview process.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/interviews/college-interviews-the-basics>

Winter

- Work together to apply for financial aid. Have your child contact the financial aid offices at the colleges in which he or she is interested to find out what forms students must submit to apply for aid. Make sure he or she applies for aid by or before any stated deadlines. Funds are limited, so the earlier you apply, the better.
- Learn about college loan options together. Borrowing money for college can be a smart choice — especially if your upper school student gets a low-interest federal loan. Learn more about the parent's role in borrowing money.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/loans/borrowing-the-parents-role-college-financial-aid>

Parent Action Plan: 12th Grade (continued)

Winter (cont'd)

- Encourage your senior to take SAT Subject Tests. These tests can showcase your child's interests and achievements — and many colleges require or recommend that applicants take one or more Subject Tests. Read more about SAT Subject Tests.

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat-subject-tests>

- Encourage your child to take AP Exams. If your 12th-grader takes AP or other advanced classes, have him or her talk with teachers now about taking these tests in May. Read more about the AP Program.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/testing/learn-about-the-ap-program>

Spring

- Help your child process college responses. Once your child starts hearing back from colleges about admission and financial aid, he or she will need your support to decide what to do. Read about how to choose a college.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/making-a-decision/you-got-accepted-now-what>

- Review financial aid offers together. Your senior will need your help to read through financial aid award letters and figure out which package works best. Be sure your child pays attention to and meets any deadlines for acceptance. Get more information on financial aid awards.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/financial-aid-awards/your-financial-aid-award-explained>

- Help your child complete the paperwork to accept a college's offer of admittance. Once your child has decided which college to attend, he or she will need to review the offer, accept a college's offer, mail a tuition deposit and submit other required paperwork. Learn more about your upper school senior's next steps.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/making-a-decision/you-made-your-college-choice-whats-next>

Appendix C:

Glossary

Many books contain glossaries of commonly used terms. These terms vary from college to college. Specific college catalogs are your best source of information. Following are some commonly used terms:

ACCREDITATION: Recognition by an accrediting organization or agency that a college meets certain acceptable standards in its educational programs, services, and facilities. Regional accreditation applies to a college as a whole and not to any particular programs or courses of study.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT: Admission or assignment of a freshman to an advanced course in a certain subject on the basis of evidence that the student has already completed the equivalent of the college's freshman course in that subject.

ASSOCIATE DEGREE: A degree granted by a college or university usually after the satisfactory completion of a two-year, full-time program of study, or its part-time equivalent.

BACCALAUREATE or BACHELOR'S DEGREE: A degree received after the satisfactory completion of a four-year, full-time program of study (or its part-time equivalent) at a college or university.

AMERICAN COLLEGE TESTING PROGRAM ASSESSMENT (ACT): Test battery of the American College Testing Program, given at test centers in the United States and other countries on specified dates throughout the year. It includes tests in English, mathematics, reading, and natural sciences reasoning. The composite score referred to in some colleges' descriptions is the average of a student's scores on these four tests.

CANDIDATES REPLY DATE AGREEMENT (CRDA): A college subscribing to this agreement will not require any applicants offered admission as freshmen to notify the college of their decision to attend (or to accept an offer of financial aid) before May 1 of the year the applicant applies. The purpose of the agreement is to give applicants time to hear from all the colleges to which they have applied before having to make a commitment to any one of them.

Glossary (cont'd.)

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP SERVICE (CSS): A service of the College Board that assists post-secondary institutions, the federal government, state scholarship programs, and other organizations in the equitable distribution of student financial aid funds. By measuring a family's financial strength and analyzing its ability to contribute to college costs, CSS need analysis services offer a standardized method of determining a student's need.

CSS/FINANCIAL AID PROFILE: PROFILE is a program of the College Scholarship Service. Many colleges and scholarship programs use the information collected on PROFILE to help them award non-federal student aid funds. Applications are available on-line at www.profileonline.collegeboard.com

DEFERRED ADMISSION: The practice of permitting students to postpone enrollment for one year after acceptance to the college.

EARLY ADMISSION: The practice of some colleges of admitting certain students who have not completed high school - usually students of exceptional ability who have completed their junior year. These students are enrolled full-time in college.

EARLY DECISION: Early decision plans are offered to applicants who are sure of the college they want to attend and are likely to be accepted by that college. An early decision application is initiated by the student, who is then notified of the college's decision earlier than usual - generally by December 15 of the senior year.

FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA): A financial information collection document of the College Scholarship Service used by parents of dependent students or independent students to supply information about their income, assets, expenses, and liabilities. The CSS uses this information in estimating how much money a family is able to contribute to a student's college expenses. This can be used to apply for a Pell Grant.

GUARANTEED STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM (GSL): A federal program that lets a student borrow money for educational expenses directly from the banks and other lending institutions (sometimes the colleges themselves).

Glossary (cont'd.)

NCAA INITIAL-ELIGIBILITY: Standards were developed in response to a disturbing number of college athletes who were not succeeding academically in college. Established by the President's Academic Reform Movement of 1982, the overall goal of Initial Eligibility was to expand the focus beyond athletes to student-athletes. The NCAA recognized that the freshman year is especially challenging. In addition to new studies and a new environment, student-athletes spend time and energy in competition. Starting in 1986, before a student could participate in athletics his or her freshman year at an NCAA Division I or II institution, minimum academic requirements would have to be met. It should be noted that these Initial-Eligibility Standards relate to athletics only. They have no bearing on admission to college. Extensive research showed that the best predictor for academic preparedness - and success - was a combination of test scores and grade-point average in core courses. It was determined that these core courses would be academic in nature and prepare the student for collegiate academic challenges. (See Appendix D)

NEED ANALYSIS FORM: A financial information collection document used by parents of dependent students to supply information about their income, assets, expenses, and liabilities. Independent students file these forms for themselves. The information is then used to estimate how much money a family or student is able to contribute to a student's college expenses. In many cases a single analysis form is the only document that students need to submit to be considered for all types of institutional, state, and federal financial aid.

PELL (BASIC) GRANT PROGRAM: A federally sponsored and administered program that provides grants based on need to undergraduate students. Congress annually sets the dollar range. A Pell Grant cannot exceed \$1,800 per year, but Congress can set a lower ceiling. Students apply directly to the federal government; the FAFSA can be used to apply for a Pell Grant, formerly the Basic Educational Opportunity Grant Program (BEOG). Pending legislation could affect this program.

PENNSYLVANIA HIGHER EDUCATION ASSISTANCE AGENCY DOCUMENT (PHEAA): A need analysis form used by Pennsylvania residents to establish eligibility for state aid. It is sometimes used to award institutional and campus-based federal aid and can be used to apply for a Pell Grant.