Narragansett High School

Guidance & Career Planning Center
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Class of 2020 Handbook

Mr. Steven Pinch – Director of Guidance
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Important Dates

Sep-Dec 2018
Visit colleges and meet with representatives of colleges and career fields that visit our school.

Sep-Dec 2018
Post high school and college planning sessions with guidance counselors.

September 18, 2018
Senior Parent Information Night -7:30 PM - Auditorium

October 1, 2018
Filing begins for Financial Aid Form online at www.fafsa.ed.gov

October 2, 2018
Extended Hours for Seniors 2:30-7:30 pm

October 9, 2018
Extended Hours for Seniors 2:30-7:30 pm

October 10, 2018
PSAT Test during the school day Grades 9, 10 & 11 (7:30 am)
Seniors can opt to visit a college, work on college applications with counselors or senior project/portfolio with PBGR Coordinator, English or Civics teacher.

October 16, 2018
Extended Hours for Seniors 2:30-7:30 pm

October 23, 2018
Extended Hours for Seniors 2:30-7:30 pm

October 30, 2018
Extended Hours for Seniors 2:30-7:30 pm

November 7, 2018
Extended Hours for Seniors 2:30-7:30 pm

November 13, 2018
Extended Hours for Seniors 2:30-7:30 pm

January 15, 2019
Junior Parent Night (College Info. Part 1) 7:00 PM - Media Center

January 22, 2019
8th Grade Parent Night 7:00 PM - Auditorium

February 12, 2019
Graduation Portfolio Night 7:00 pm - Media Center

April 2, 2019
Junior Parent Night (College Info. Part 2) 6:00 pm - Media Center

April 9, 2019
SAT School Day, 7:30 am

April 9, 2019
NHS College Fair 6:30 pm

April 25, 2019
Career Fair - Grade 10 - Cafeteria (Setup is at 6 pm on April 24)

April/May 2019
Honor Society Induction

April/May 2019
College Fair (Providence)

May 6th-17th, 2019
AP EXAMS - Location TBD

May 30, 2019
Junior Book Awards Ceremony 7:30-8:30 am - Media Center

June 7, 2019
Top Ten Reception 8:00-8:45 am - Media Center
College Planning: 11th Grade

Junior year 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 stay on track for college.

**FALL**

- **Start with you:** Make lists of your abilities, social/cultural preferences, and personal qualities. List things you may want to study and do in college.
- **Learn about colleges.** Look at their websites and find colleges at bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search. Talk to friends, family members, teachers, and recent grads of your school now in college. List the college features that interest you.
- **Resource check:** Visit the counseling office and meet the counselors there. Is there a college night for students and families? When will college representatives visit your school? (Put the dates in your calendar.) Examine catalogs and guides.
- **At school,** speak to your counselor about taking the PSAT/NMSQT®, which is given in October. If you plan to ask for testing accommodations (because of a disability), be sure the College Board has approved your eligibility.
- **Make a file to manage your college search, testing, and application data.** If appropriate (for example, if you're interested in drama, music, art, sports, etc.), start to gather material for a portfolio.
- **Estimate your financial aid need.** Financial aid can help you afford college. Use the College Board's Getting Financial Aid and the financial aid calculator at bigfuture.org to estimate how much aid you might receive.

**WINTER**

- **Sign up to take the SAT® in the spring.** You can register online or through your school. SAT fee waivers are available to eligible students. To prepare for the SAT, you can access free, personalized SAT practice tools at satpractice.org, including thousands of interactive questions, video lessons, practice tests, and more.
- **Begin a search for financial aid sources.** National sources include the College Board's Scholarship Search and electronic sources. Don't overlook local and state aid sources. (Ask a counselor for help or check your public library.)
- **With your family, make an appointment with your counselor to discuss ways to improve your college-preparation and selection processes.**
- **Ask a counselor or teacher about taking the SAT Subject Tests® in the spring.** You should take them while course material is still fresh in your mind. You can download The SAT Subject Tests Student Guide, which offers test-prep advice, from satsubjecttests.org.
- **Explore AP®.** The Advanced Placement Program® helps hundreds of thousands of high school students achieve their college dreams each year. Get the facts at apstudent.collegeboard.org/exploreap. If you're in AP classes, register for the AP Exams given in May.
SPRING

☐ Contact your counselor before leaving school for the summer if you are considering military academies or ROTC scholarships. If you want a four-year ROTC scholarship, you should begin the application process the summer before your senior year.

☐ Develop a list of 15 or 20 colleges that are of interest to you. You can find many colleges at which you'll be happy and get a great education. The college search is about exploring who you are and what you want and then finding colleges that will meet your goals.

☐ Stay open to all the possibilities—don't limit your search. To find the best college for you, you should apply to colleges of varying selectivity. Selective colleges admit a portion of students who apply. Some colleges are highly selective while others are less selective. Make sure to apply to public, private, in-state, and out-of-state schools so that you have plenty of options from which to choose.

☐ Take the SAT. The test is typically offered in March, May, and June. Make sure you start preparing for the test several months in advance using the tools available at satpractice.org. And remember, if you're not happy with your scores when you get them, you might want to test again in the fall. Many students take the test a second time as seniors, and they usually do better.

☐ Start to gather documents for financial aid: Be sure to keep a copy of your tax returns handy. You'll use these to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which opens on October 1.

SUMMER

☐ Register with the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Eligibility Center if you are an athlete planning to continue playing a sport in college (eligibilitycenter.org).

☐ Get your FSA ID: Before you can fill out your FAFSA, you need to get a username and password (also known as an FSA ID).

☐ Find a full-time or part-time job, or participate in a summer camp or summer college program.

☐ Visit colleges. When planning your campus visits, make sure to allow time to explore each college. While you're there, talk to as many people as possible. These can include college admission staff, professors, and students. Take campus tours and, at colleges you're serious about, make appointments to have interviews with admission counselors.

☐ Create a résumé—a record of your academic accomplishments, extracurricular activities, and work experiences since you started high school.

☐ Download applications. Go to the website of each college's admission office and either complete the application online or request a paper application from colleges to which you'll apply. Check application dates—large universities may have early dates or rolling admission.

☐ Visit some local colleges—large, small, public, and private. A visit to a college campus can help you decide if that college is right for you. Make a plan ahead of time to get the most from your visit. Attend college fairs, too.

☐ Scan local newspapers to see which civic, cultural, and service organizations in your area award financial aid to graduating seniors. Start a file.
College Planning: 12th Grade

Want to know if you’re on track in the college application process? This checklist shows you what you should be doing, and when.

FALL

☐ Narrow your list of colleges to between 5 and 10.
   Meet with a counselor about your college choices and, if you’ve not yet done so, download college applications and financial aid forms. Plan to visit as many of these colleges as possible.

☐ Create a master list or calendar that includes:
   • Tests you’ll take and their fees, dates, and registration deadlines
   • College application due dates
   • Required financial aid application forms and their deadlines (aid applications may be due before college applications)
   • Other materials you’ll need (recommendations, transcripts, etc.)
   • Your high school’s application processing deadlines

☐ Ask a counselor to help you request a fee waiver if you can’t afford application or test fees.

☐ Take the SAT® one more time: Many seniors retake the SAT in the fall. Additional coursework since your last test could help you boost your performance. Plus you already know what to expect on test day.

☐ Be sure to have your SAT scores sent to the colleges to which you are applying.

☐ Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA): To apply for most financial aid, you’ll need to complete the FAFSA. October 1 is the first day you can file the FAFSA.

☐ Complete the CSS Profile™:
   CSS Profile is an online application used by certain colleges and scholarship programs to determine eligibility for their aid dollars.

☐ Prepare early decision/early action or rolling admission applications as soon as possible. November 1–15: Colleges may require test scores and applications between these dates for early decision admission.

☐ Ask a counselor or teacher for recommendations if you need them. Give each teacher or counselor an outline of your academic record and your extracurricular activities. For each recommendation, provide a stamped, addressed envelope and any college forms required.

☐ Write first drafts and ask teachers and others to read them if you're submitting essays. If you're applying for early decision, finish the essays for that application now.

☐ Complete at least one college application by Thanksgiving.

☐ Ask counselors to send your transcripts to colleges. Give counselors the proper forms at least two weeks before the colleges require them.
WINTER

☐ Keep photocopies as you finish and send your applications and essays.

☐ Give the correct form to your counselor if the college wants to see second-semester grades.

☐ Have your high school send a transcript—it is sent separately by mail to colleges if you apply online to colleges.

SPRING

☐ Keep active in school. If you are waitlisted, the college will want to know what you have accomplished between the time you applied and the time you learned of its decision.

☐ Visit your final college before accepting. You should receive acceptance letters and financial aid offers by mid-April. Notify your counselor of your choice. If you have questions about housing offers, talk to your counselor or call the college.

☐ Inform every college of your acceptance or rejection of the offer of admission and/or financial aid by May 1. Colleges cannot require your deposit or your commitment to attend before May 1. Talk to your counselor or adviser if you have questions.

☐ Send your deposit to one college only.

☐ Take any AP® Exams. Show what you've learned in your AP classes. A successful score could even earn you credit, advanced placement, or both, in college.

☐ Waitlisted by a college? If you intend to enroll if you are accepted, tell the admission director your intent and ask how to strengthen your application. Need financial aid? Ask whether funds will be available if you're accepted.

☐ Work with a counselor to resolve any admission or financial aid problems.

☐ Ask your high school to send a final transcript to your college.

☐ Review your financial aid awards: Not all financial aid awards are the same, so it's important to choose the aid package that's best for you and your family. Be sure to note what you have to do to continue receiving financial aid from year to year, and how your aid might change in future years.
Frequently Used Terms

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TESTING

The following list of definitions and explanations should serve as a handy reference of the many terms and often-used abbreviations in the college admission process. Colleges vary in their emphasis on standardized tests, but surveys regularly reveal that admission officers consider test scores to be an important part of the information YOU submit. Remember that test requirements vary among colleges and it is your responsibility to know what is required at the schools you are applying to.

➢ The College Board
A nonprofit organization governed by college and secondary school members. The College Board is the oversight agency for many tests and services connected with the college admission process, including the SAT Reasoning Test, SAT Subject Tests, Advanced Placement (AP) Courses and Exams, and the CSS Financial Profile.

➢ PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test)
The PSAT/NMSQT is a practice test, designed to prepare students for the SAT. Further, it is used in the selection of the top scholars (in their junior year) from around the country for the National Merit Scholarship Corporation's (NMSC) scholarship programs. PSAT scores are not usually used by colleges as admission criteria.

➢ SAT Reasoning Test
The SAT is a globally recognized college admission test that lets you show colleges what you know and how well you can apply that knowledge. The New SAT format is broken up into two sections (Mathematics and Critical Reading) with an optional third section (Writing). Each section is scored on a scale of 200-800. Most students take the SAT during their junior or senior year of high school, and many colleges and universities use the SAT as an important piece in the admissions decision.

➢ SAT Subject Tests
Often taken throughout high school, SAT Subject Tests are administered in a variety of academic subjects and are designed to test the level of knowledge of a student in particular academic disciplines in relation to other students throughout the country.

➢ AP (Advanced Placement Tests)
Designed for strong students who have completed college work in high school. AP's are given in specific subject areas and are used in determining whether or not a student may gain advanced standing in college.

➢ TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language)
The TOEFL, a computer-based test, is designed for students for whom English is not a native language and whose scores on SAT would obviously be affected by the language difference. Generally, students take TOEFL in addition to other standardized testing such as SAT or ACT.

➢ The American College Testing Program
A nonprofit organization that designs and administers tests for college admission and course placement and provides programs for college searches, online application and financial-aid estimates.

➢ ACT
The ACT includes four curriculum-based tests prepared by the ACT, Inc. ACT scores are used throughout the country by college and university admission offices. The multiple-choice tests measure your skills in English, Mathematics, Reading and Science. Each test is scored on a scale of 1 (low) to 36 (high), and the four tests are also averaged to provide a composite score. The ACT also has an optional writing component.
College Admission Glossary

What’s a transcript? What’s the difference between early action and early decision? When applying to college, you are bound to come across unfamiliar terms. This glossary can help you make sense of all the information you’re sorting through.

ACT
A standardized college admission test that features four main sections: English, math, reading, and science—and an optional essay section.

Admission Tests
Also known as college entrance exams, these tests are designed to measure students' skills and help colleges determine if students are ready for college-level work. The ACT and the College Board's SAT® are two standardized admission tests used in the United States. The word "standardized" means that the test measures the same thing in the same way for everyone who takes it.

Articulation Agreement
An agreement between two-year and four-year colleges that makes it easier to transfer credits between them. It spells out which courses count for degree credit and the grades needed to get credit.

Candidates Reply Date Agreement (CRDA)
An agreement many colleges follow that gives applicants until May 1 to accept or decline offers of admission. This agreement gives applicants time to receive responses from most of the colleges to which they have applied before deciding on one.

Class Rank
A measurement of how your academic achievement compares with that of other students in your grade. This number is usually determined by using a weighted GPA that takes into account both your grades and the difficulty of the courses you’ve taken.

Coalition Application
A standard application form accepted by members of the Coalition for Access, Affordability, and Success. You can use this application to apply to any of the more than 90 colleges and universities that are members of the Coalition. For more information, visit: coalitionforcollegeaccess.org

College Application Essay
An essay that a college requires students to write and submit as part of their applications. Some colleges require applicants to answer specific questions, while others simply ask them to write about themselves. Colleges may refer to this as a "personal statement."

College Credit
What you get when you successfully complete a college-level course. You need a certain number of credits to graduate with a degree. Colleges may also grant credit for scores on exams, such as those offered by the College Board's AP Program and CLEP®.

Common Application
A standard application form accepted by all colleges that are members of the Common Application association. You can fill out this application once and submit it to any one—or several—of the nearly 700 colleges that accept it. For more information, visit: commonapp.org

Deferred Admission
Permission from a college that has accepted you to postpone enrolling in the college. The postponement is usually for up to one year.
Early Action (EA)
An option to submit your applications before the regular deadlines. When you apply early action, you get admission decisions from colleges earlier than usual. Early action plans aren’t binding, which means that you don’t have to enroll in a college if you are accepted early action. Some colleges have an early action option called EA II, which has a later application deadline than their regular EA plan.

Early Decision (ED)
An option to submit an application to your first-choice college before the regular deadline. When you apply early decision, you get an admission decision earlier than usual. Early decision plans are binding. You agree to enroll in the college immediately if admitted and offered a financial aid package that meets your needs. Some colleges have an early decision option called ED II, which has a later application deadline than their regular ED plan.

Financial Aid
Money given or loaned to you to help pay for college. Financial aid can come from federal and state governments, colleges, and private organizations.

Grade Point Average (GPA)
A number that shows overall academic performance. It’s computed by assigning a point value to each grade you earn. See also Weighted Grade Point Average.

Legacy Applicant
A college applicant with a relative (usually a parent or grandparent) who graduated from that college. Some colleges give preference to legacy applicants (also called “legacies”).

Need-Blind Admission
A policy of making admission decisions without considering the financial circumstances of applicants. Colleges that use this policy may not offer enough financial aid to meet a student’s full need.

Placement Tests
Tests that measure the academic skills needed for college-level work. These tests cover reading, writing, math, and sometimes other subjects. Placement test results help determine what courses you are ready for and whether you would benefit from remedial classes.

Priority Date or Deadline
The date by which your application—whether it’s for college admission, student housing, or financial aid—must be received to be given the strongest consideration.

Registrar
The college official who registers students. The registrar may also be responsible for keeping permanent records and maintaining your student file.

Rolling Admission
An admission policy of considering each application as soon as all required information (such as high school records and test scores) has been received, rather than setting an application deadline and reviewing applications in a batch. Colleges that use a rolling admission policy usually notify applicants of admission decisions quickly.

SAT
The College Board’s standardized college admission test. It features three main sections: math, reading, and writing, including an optional written essay. For more information, visit: sat.org

SAT Subject Tests
Hour-long, content-based college admission tests that allow you to showcase achievement in specific subject areas: English, history, math, science, and languages. Some colleges use SAT Subject Tests™ to place students into the appropriate courses as well as to make admission decisions. Based on your performance on the test(s), you could potentially fulfill basic requirements or earn credit for introductory-level courses. For more information, visit: satsubjecttests.org

Sophomore Standing
The status of a second-year student. A college may grant sophomore standing to an incoming freshman if they have earned college credits through courses, exams, or other programs.
Transcript
The official record of your coursework at a school or college. Your high school transcript is usually required for college admission and for some financial aid packages.

Transfer Student
A student who enrolls in a college after having attended another college.

Undergraduate
A college student who is working toward an associate or a bachelor's degree.

Universal College Application
A standard application form accepted by all colleges that are Universal College Application members. You can fill out this application once and submit it to any one—or several—of the more than 3,044 colleges that accept it. For more information, visit universalcollegeapp.com

Waitlist
The list of applicants who may be admitted to a college if space becomes available. Colleges wait to hear if all the students they accepted decide to attend. If students don't enroll and there are empty spots, a college may fill them with students who are on the waitlist.

Weighted Grade Point Average (GPA)
A grade point average that's calculated using a system that assigns a higher point value to grades in more difficult classes. For example, some high schools assign the value of 5.0 (instead of the standard 4.0) for an A earned in an AP class.
Test Dates and Policies

You can register for the SAT or Subject Tests at collegeboard.org. According to College Board, students taking the October administration of the SAT will have scores back in time to make early action, early decision, and regular decision deadlines.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2018 Test Dates</th>
<th>Registration</th>
<th>Late Registration</th>
<th>Multiple Choice Score Release††</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 25, 2018</td>
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<th>Late Registration</th>
<th>Multiple Choice Score Release††</th>
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<td>March 9, 2019†</td>
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<td>May 4, 2019</td>
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<th>2018 Test Dates</th>
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<td>Primary: Wednesday, October 10</td>
<td>Test date registration is determined by high school.</td>
<td>Test date registration is determined by high school.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alternate: Wednesday, October 24</td>
<td>Date determined by high school within testing window: February 25–April 26, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<th>PSAT</th>
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<tr>
<td>Test date registration is determined by high school.</td>
<td>Test date registration is determined by high school.</td>
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You can register for the ACT at actstudent.org. No test centers are scheduled in New York for the February and July ACT dates, No test centers are scheduled in California for the July ACT date.

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<th>2018 Test Dates</th>
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<td>August 10, 2018</td>
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<td>October 27, 2018</td>
<td>September 28, 2018</td>
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<td>June 8, 2019</td>
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<td>June 18, 2019</td>
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<td>July 13, 2019 (no CA or NY testing)</td>
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* According to ACT "Scores from the October test are available within 3-8 weeks, due to equating. Equating procedures ensure that scores reported have a constant meaning across test forms."
* No SAT Subject Tests offered in March
**Release date indicates the first day scores may be available. SAT Essay scores are available approximately five days after multiple choice scores are released. ACT Writing scores are available about two weeks after multiple choice scores are released.

SAT Sunday administrations fall on the Sunday immediately after the Saturday administrations. The Sunday administrations are available only for religious reasons. The ACT offers Sunday and Monday testing for religious reasons on a center-by-center basis. More information can be found at actstudent.org.

COMPASS
EDUCATION GROUP
SAT to ACT Concordance

The concordance tables work in either direction. If you have an SAT score, use the table below to determine your concordant ACT score. Note that a perfect score on the ACT of 36 concords to a range of 1570–1600 on the SAT.

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<tr>
<td>1600</td>
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**COMPASS EDUCATION GROUP**
Score Choice and Superscoring

Score Choice

The College Board and ACT have adopted policies, generally referred to as “Score Choice,” designed to give students some control over how SAT, Subject Test, and ACT scores are reported. Colleges, however, have the final say over what scores applicants should submit and how those scores will be used. Students should carefully review the score-reporting policy of each college to which they plan to apply. Unfortunately, these policies are myriad and often confusing, but your college counselor and Compass directors can help you make sense of the idiosyncrasies and provide guidance tailored to your particular situation.

How does Score Choice work?
SAT scores and ACT scores are reported on a test date basis only. You cannot, for example, send your ACT Science and Math scores from one sitting without also including your Reading and English scores from that test date. Although Subject Tests are each only one hour long, they are treated as distinct exams. If, for example, you take Literature, U.S. History, and Math Level 2 on the same day, you do not have to submit the results of all three tests.

Will only my best scores be sent to colleges?
For the SAT, Score Choice is an option; by default, all scores will be sent. You must request the selective score option when sending score reports. For the ACT, you will be asked to specify which test dates you want reported to each school. In either case, it is your responsibility to ensure that the colleges to which you apply are sent the correct scores in a timely manner.

What scores should I send?
If a college considers only your SAT cumulative or ACT composite from a single sitting, you may want to include only the test date with your best overall score. If the college “superscores,” or mixes and matches individual sub-scores from different test dates—the official policy or unofficial practice of many colleges—then you will want to include the test dates that produce your highest “superscore.”

Is it true that some colleges want me to send all of my scores?
Yes. Some colleges prefer to see a student’s entire testing history. We recommend that you discuss the specifics of your situation with your college counselor and with Compass, as score reporting policies vary. For example, Stanford and Yale are among the schools that require students to submit all of their scores, partly to discourage excessive testing. The UCs also mandate that students send all test scores, but their primary concern is to ensure that students do not inadvertently fail to submit any scores that might present them in a more favorable light. Conversely, Harvard and MIT both state that students are free to use Score Choice. Of the 360 colleges we’ve profiled in this guide, less than six percent require that all test scores be submitted, approximately 23% recommend that all scores be submitted, and approximately 94% accept Score Choice.

Do these policies mean that students should test “early and often”?
While the College Board’s and ACT’s score reporting policies should remove some of the anxiety over retesting, they do not change the fact that most students will not peak on the exams until spring of junior year or fall of senior year. Taking an exam no more than two to three times is still the appropriate plan for most students. Most Compass students considering an exam as a “dry run” before February of junior year would be better served by a proctored practice test instead. The feedback our practice tests provide is more immediate and more detailed. Aside from the cost and time involved, unprepared performances can rattle a student’s confidence unnecessarily. Additionally, a student who takes the SAT or ACT numerous times could be forced to reveal this fact if he or she chooses to apply to any of the colleges that require students to submit their entire testing histories.
Superscoring

Many in college admission talk about reading applications holistically and supportively; one way they can do this is by “superscoring” standardized tests. This means that if you take the SAT more than once, the admission office will consider each of your highest section scores and assign you a new, higher total score. For instance, if you scored:

- March Test Day: 650 ERW 670 Math = 1320 Total
- May Test Day: 700 ERW 650 Math = 1350 Total
- Superscore: 700 ERW 670 Math = 1370 Total

For the ACT, this process generally takes the form of taking your highest test scores across test administrations, but may not result in a new Composite score because colleges use test scores individually. You do not need to take the optional essay or writing test to have the other sections from that sitting count toward your SAT or ACT superscore.

The following is a sampling of college superscore and Score Choice policies. For more schools and updates, please visit compassprep.com/superscore-and-score-choice.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Superscore</th>
<th>Score Choice Policy</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amherst College</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boston University</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brown University*</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colorado College</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
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<tr>
<td>Columbia University</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cornell University*</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dartmouth College</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duke University*</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
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<tr>
<td>Georgetown University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harvard University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harvey Mudd College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Johns Hopkins University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lewis &amp; Clark College</td>
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<td>✔</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loyola University Chicago</td>
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<td>✔</td>
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<tr>
<td>Massachusetts Institute of Technology</td>
<td>✔</td>
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</table>

* “Soft Superscore”: schools consider section scores but don’t officially build a new superscore.

† Yale University “considers individual ACT subscores.”

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Superscore</th>
<th>Score Choice Policy</th>
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<td>Middlebury College</td>
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<td>Mills College</td>
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<td>✔</td>
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<tr>
<td>New York University*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northwestern University</td>
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<td>✔</td>
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<tr>
<td>Occidental College*</td>
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<td>✔</td>
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<tr>
<td>Princeton University</td>
<td>✔</td>
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<td>Reed College</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
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<td>San Francisco State University</td>
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<td>✔</td>
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<td>Stanford University</td>
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<td>Tufts University</td>
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<td>University of California system</td>
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<td>University of Notre Dame</td>
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<td>Wellesley College</td>
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<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yale University†</td>
<td>✔</td>
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</table>

Requires all scores

Recommends all scores

Accepts score choice
GET THE MOST OUT OF A CAMPUS VISIT IN 6 STEPS

1 DECIDE WHERE AND HOW
See if your school arranges group trips to colleges or if you could get a group of friends together and visit the campus. A family trip is another option and allows you to involve your family in the process.

2 PREPARE FOR YOUR VISIT
Before you set out, get a map of the college campus and pick out places of interest. Call the college’s admission office to schedule a guided tour of the campus.

3 TAKE YOUR OWN TOUR
Just wandering around the campus on your own or with friends can be the best way to get a feel for what a college is like.

4 EXPLORE THE FACILITIES
Finding the spots on campus where students gather or asking a student where the best place to eat is can give you a feel for the character of the college. Visit the library and check out the gym or theater. Ask an admission officer if you can tour a dorm and a classroom.

5 MAKE CONNECTIONS
Talk to current students. Ask the students at the next table or sitting nearby what they like best about the college.

6 TAKE NOTES
During your visit, write down some notes about your experience. What did you see that excited you? Are there aspects of the college that you don’t like? If so, what are they?

Questions to Ask During Your Visit:

ASK TOUR GUIDES/STUDENTS
- What are the best reasons to go to this college?
- What’s it like to go from high school to college?
- What do you do in your free time? On the weekends?
- What do you love about this college?
- What do you wish you could change about this college?
- Why did you choose this college?
- What is it like to live here?
- What does the college do to promote student involvement in campus groups, extracurricular activities, or volunteerism?

ASK PROFESSORS
- What are the best reasons to go to this college?
- Can a student be mentored by professors, graduate students, or upperclassmen?
- How are professors rated by the college? Does the college think mentoring and meetings for project guidance are important?
- How does the college help students have access to professors outside class? Do professors join students for lunch, help with community service groups, or guide student organizations?
- How many students do research or other kinds of projects for a semester or more?

ASK FINANCIAL AID OFFICE
- How much has your total college cost for each student risen in the past year?
- How much do your students usually owe in loans when they graduate?
- What is the average income of graduates who had the same major that interests me?
- Will my costs go up when your tuition goes up, or can we use the same tuition rate I started with so I’ll know the costs for four years? What should I expect in terms of increases in living expenses?
- How many students usually graduate in the major that interests me? How long do these students usually take to get their degrees? In what ways does the college help students graduate in four years?
Campus Visit Checklist

Visiting a college campus helps you get a sense of what a college — and life at that college — is like. This can help you decide whether the college is right for you.

GATHER INFORMATION

Find out what you need to do to apply, and see if the college's class and major offerings are what you want:

☐ Take part in a group information session at the admission office.
☐ Interview with an admission officer.
☐ Pick up financial aid forms.

☐ Sit in on a class that interests you. If classes aren't in session, just see what the classrooms are like.

☐ Meet a professor who teaches a subject that interests you.

☐ Talk to students about what they think of their classes and professors.

☐ Get the names and business cards of the people you meet so you can contact them later if you have questions.

EXPLORE THE CAMPUS

Get a feel for student life, and see if this college is a place where you will do well:

☐ Take a campus tour.

☐ Visit the dining hall, fitness center, library, career center, bookstore, and other campus facilities.

☐ Talk to current students about the college and life on campus.

☐ Check out the freshman dorms, and stay overnight with a student, if possible.

☐ Talk to the coaches of sports that you may want to play.

☐ Walk or drive around the community surrounding the campus.

CHECK OUT CAMPUS MEDIA

Tune in to learn what's happening on campus and what's on students' minds:

☐ Listen to the college radio station.

☐ Read the student newspaper.

☐ Scan bulletin boards to see what daily student life is like.

☐ Go to the career center and learn what services it offers.

☐ Browse the school's website and any campus blogs.

☐ Read other student publications, such as department newsletters, alternative newspapers, and literary reviews.
# College Application Tracker

Use this form to note the dates you've completed each task in the application process. It will help you remember what you've already done and what you still need to do.

## APPLICATION

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<th>Task</th>
<th>College 1</th>
<th>College 2</th>
<th>College 3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Made copies of all application materials</td>
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<tr>
<td>Signed and submitted application (online or paper)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Requested transcript sent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paid application fee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sent additional materials if needed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Confirmed college received all materials</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gave counselor (or school official) midyear school report</td>
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## TEST SCORES

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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Had test scores sent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Had additional required test scores sent (SAT Subject Tests*, AP* Exams, etc.)</td>
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## RECOMMENDATION LETTERS/FORMS

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</thead>
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<td>Gave teacher(s) form for recommendation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provided teacher(s) with helpful information (i.e., résumé, deadlines)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gave counselor (or other school official) secondary school form</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wrote thank-you notes to recommenders</td>
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## ESSAYS

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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Completed first draft of essay</td>
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<tr>
<td>Had two people proofread essay</td>
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<tr>
<td>Revised and submitted essay</td>
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</table>
**CAMPUS VISITS/INTERVIEW**

- Scheduled visit/interview
- Made campus visit
- Completed interview
- Wrote thank-you notes to college representative and interviewer

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**FINANCIAL AID FORMS**

- Completed and submitted FAFSA
- Submitted additional required forms (i.e., CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE®, college form)

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**ADMISSION**

- Reviewed letters of admission decisions
- Reviewed and responded to financial aid offers
- Made enrollment deposit to chosen college (by May 1)
- Notified the colleges you will not attend

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**NOTES**
As you navigate the college admissions process, the US Department of Education provides tools for you and your family that make it easy to compare vital information such as college costs, average student loan debt, and graduation rates across different institutions. To access the tools described here and more, visit the College Affordability and Transparency Center at http://collegecost.ed.gov

THE COLLEGE SCORECARD

http://collegecost.ed.gov/scorecard

The College Scorecard includes essential information about a particular college’s costs, its graduation rates, and the average amount its student’s borrow, all in an easy to read format.

NET PRICE CALCULATOR


The Net Price Calculator provides you with a tool to explore the net price of any given college - that is, the price after subtracting the scholarships and grants you are likely to receive. You can then easily compare estimated net prices across institutions that you are considering.

COLLEGE NAVIGATOR

www.nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator

College Navigator is an interactive website that allows you to explore and compare features of different institutions, including programs and majors, admissions considerations, campus crime statistics and more.

FINANCIAL AID SHOPPING SHEET


College Navigator is an interactive website that allows you to explore and compare features of different institutions, including programs and majors, admissions considerations, campus crime statistics and more.
Tips for Letters of Recommendation

Whether it is required for a college application or a scholarship opportunity, a letter of recommendation plays a crucial role in painting the complete picture of YOU. While grades, entrance exam results, and extracurricular activities all describe the type of student you are, the letter showcases your accomplishments, personal attributes, and skills.

**WHEN TO ASK**

- The earlier you ask, the better!
- Early decision applications might require a recommendation at the start of your senior year.

- One month before your earliest application deadline, especially when asking a teacher or counselor who might be writing many letters of recommendation.

**WHOM TO ASK**

- Often colleges request letters of recommendation from a teacher, your school counselor, or both. If you're considering a specific major, you might consider getting a recommendation from a teacher of a related subject.
- In some cases, additional recommendations may come from a coach, work supervisor, or community member, but be sure to follow the specific guidelines provided by the college regarding letters of recommendation.
- A counselor's recommendation broadly showcases the student's potential, while a teacher's recommendation provides a more specific focus on academic performance.
- It is recommended to ask a teacher from your junior year or a current teacher if they have known you long enough to form an opinion.
- A counselor's recommendation is broad, while a teacher's recommendation is specific.
- It is recommended to ask a teacher from your junior year or a current teacher if they have known you long enough to form an opinion.
- A teacher who can speak to your potential outside the classroom as well is a great bonus!

- If it can be any teacher, core subject teachers, such as your English, math, science, or social studies teachers, make good candidates.
- A teacher who can speak to your potential outside the classroom as well is a great bonus!

**HOW TO ASK**

- Ask in a way that allows a teacher to decline comfortably if he or she does not have time to do a good job.
- For example: “Do you feel you know me well enough, and have enough time, to write a letter of recommendation for me?”
- On the application form, waive your right to view recommendation letters. This gives more credibility to the recommendations in the eyes of the college.
HOW TO HELP

- Advise teachers and counselors of appropriate deadlines, especially noting any early deadline dates.
- Take some time to speak with them, even if they know you well.
- Make it easy for them to give positive, detailed information about your achievements and your potential by providing them with a résumé or a "brag sheet" to reference.
- Follow up with your recommendation writers a week or so prior to your first deadline to see if they need more information before they mail their letters.
- Answer some of the questions below to provide your recommenders with the information they need to write the best letters for you.

Helpful Questions to Answer for Recommendation Writers:

1. What two adjectives best describe you? Give one example of why one of those words came to mind.
2. Are there any special circumstances, living situations, or relevant family aspects that have had a significant impact on your personal or academic life?
3. What do you consider some of your greatest strengths and how did you come to realize them?
4. What extracurricular activities have you been involved in? What achievements have you accomplished? Describe the ones that are most meaningful to you.
5. Why is a college education important to you? What are some of your long-term academic goals and what do you intend to study?
6. Have you had any experience in a leadership position? If so, what did you learn from the experience?
7. Have you served your community or had any volunteer experience? If so, which of these was the most memorable or meaningful and why?
8. Are there any challenges you have faced and overcome that you would want someone to know? Be sure to include what you learned from the experience.
The College Essay

The college essay is your chance to use your voice to add to your college application. Many colleges require the essay as a way to hear from the student directly and to get a sense of who you are in your own words. It’s a great opportunity to personalize your application beyond the grades, scores, and other information you’ve provided and can make a difference at decision time.

**8 KEY POINTS THAT ADMISSION OFFICERS LOOK FOR:**

- A command of the basics of good writing
- A direct answer to the essay question
- A strong opening paragraph that captures the reader’s interest
- A comprehensive argument or narrative—make your point and stick to it
- A style that is comfortable for you and that is appropriate for the subject matter
- Correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling
- Correct data—check your facts, dates, and names
- Succinctness—pay attention to the recommended length

**WHAT THE ESSAY CAN DO FOR YOUR APPLICATION:**

- Demonstrate your writing ability, a key component of success in college.
- Show that you have thought carefully about where you are applying and why you are a good match for the college, in your own words.
- Explain your commitment to learning and that you are willing and able to be a contributing member to the college community.
- Draw distinctions between you and other applicants, something that selective colleges especially rely on.

An essay will rarely take an applicant out of consideration at a college, but it certainly can elevate an applicant in an admission committee’s eyes.

**MAKE IT PERSONAL:**

- Often you will be asked to write about a personal experience, an achievement, or a person who has been significant to you. Go beyond the what or the who and dig into the how and the why.
- If you write about a trip or event, describe how this experience affected you and is meaningful to you.
- If you are writing about a person in your life, be personal and specific, not just sentimental. Explain how or what this person did for you that is important to you.

**THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND**

**Revise, revise, revise.** Take the time to reread and revise. This process will help you develop a strong opening and a solid direction, and refine what you are trying to express.

**Show, don’t tell.** Give readers such convincing evidence that they will come to the conclusion that you want. Provide detailed examples instead of providing a list of things.

**Be authentic.** Don’t stress trying to write what you think they are looking for—just showcase who you are!

**Just get started!** Writing something meaningful can be a long process, so get started right away to allow for time to draft and revise. Be sure to write your essay long before the deadline.
NCAA Eligibility Center

The NCAA Eligibility Center is responsible for certifying the academic and amateur status of all Division I and II incoming student-athletes. College-bound student-athletes can create an account with the Eligibility Center by visiting eligibilitycenter.org. We recommend that students register during their sophomore year of high school to ensure they have adequate time to confirm they are on track for meeting initial eligibility requirements.

Academic requirements for each college-bound student-athlete are based on the student’s core-course grade point average and their ACT or SAT score.

WHAT IS A CORE COURSE?

Core courses are those that are academic in nature, taught at or above your high school’s regular academic level, receive credit toward high school graduation, and are four-year college preparatory courses. To be used in an academic certification, the courses need to be listed on the student’s transcript with their grades and credits. Core courses must be in one of the following academic areas:

- English
- Math (Algebra 1 or higher)
- Natural/physical science
- Social science
- Foreign language
- Comparative religion or philosophy

DIVISION I ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Graduate from high school.
- Complete 16 core courses in the following areas:
  - English—four years
  - Math (Algebra 1 or higher)—three years
  - Natural/physical science (one year of lab if offered)—two years
  - Additional English, math, or natural/physical science—one year
  - Social science—two years
  - Additional courses (in any of the above subject areas or comparative religion or philosophy)—four years
  - Complete 10 of the 16 core courses prior to the start of the seventh semester, including seven in English, math, or natural/physical science.
  - Complete the 16 NCAA-approved core courses in eight academic semesters or four consecutive academic years from the beginning of ninth grade. If students graduate from high school early, they must still meet core-course requirements.
  - Earn an SAT® combined score or ACT sum score that matches their core-course GPA (minimum 2.300) on the Division I sliding scale.
DIVISION II ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Complete 16 core courses in the following areas:
  - English—three years
  - Math (Algebra 1 or higher)—two years
  - Natural/physical science (one year of lab if offered)—two years
  - Social science—two years
  - Additional English, math, or natural/physical science—three years
  - Additional courses (in any of the above subject areas or comparative religion or philosophy)—four years
  - Graduate from high school.
  - Earn an SAT combined score or ACT sum score matching your core-course GPA on the Division II sliding scale.

COLLEGE-BOUND STUDENT-ATHLETES TIMELINE

GRADE 9: PLAN

- Start planning now! Take the right courses and earn the best grades you can.
- Ask your counselor for a list of your high school's NCAA core courses to make sure you take the right classes. Or, find your high school's list of NCAA core courses at eligibilitycenter.org/courselist.

GRADE 10: REGISTER

- Register for a Certification Account or Profile Page with the NCAA Eligibility Center at eligibilitycenter.org.
- If you fall behind on courses, don't take shortcuts to catch up. Ask your counselor for help with finding approved courses or programs you can take.

GRADE 11: STUDY

- Check with your counselor to make sure you are on track to graduate on time.
- Take the ACT or SAT, and make sure NCAA gets your scores by using code 9999.
- At the end of the year, ask your counselor to upload your official transcript.

GRADE 12: GRADUATE

- Take the SAT or ACT again, if necessary, and make sure NCAA gets your scores by using code 9999.
- Request your final amateurism certification after April 1.
- After you graduate, ask your counselor to upload your final official transcript with proof of graduation.
Create your Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID (username and password). You can do this by the end of your child's junior year. This is an easy step and one of the few that you can complete early in the financial aid application process. For the most up-to-date information, visit the federal student aid website at studentaid.ed.gov.

Attend a financial aid presentation at your local high school or college fair. Learning about the financial aid process as early as possible is very helpful.

Ask financial aid questions when you visit a college campus. Ask the school representative if it's possible to visit the institution's financial aid office (if necessary, call ahead to make an appointment).

Ask financial aid representatives about cost medians instead of only looking at a college's published cost.

Complete the college's supplemental financial aid forms or the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE® if the college to which your son or daughter is applying requires it. Visit css.collegeboard.org to complete your PROFILE. Also, remember that some institutions' financial aid and scholarship forms may have deadlines that are PRIOR to the college application form deadline.

Review forms and deadlines required by each college. Creating a chart or spreadsheet can be very helpful for keeping track of the different requirements and dates.

Fill out helpful worksheets prior to filing the FAFSA at fafsa.gov.

When in doubt, ask a financial aid professional. Call a financial aid office of any college in your area when you have a question, even if your son or daughter does not plan to attend that institution. Financial aid officers can answer many general questions and are happy to help.

Keep all tax records and documents up-to-date and handy when speaking with a financial aid officer. If your financial situation changes (health issues, loss of job, etc.), alert your financial aid officer immediately.

The FAFSA application includes a feature called the Data Retrieval Tool (DRT) that allows you to transfer your tax return information to the FAFSA. Information is available on the FAFSA and IRS websites.

Look out for the Student Aid Report (SAR) that confirms you completed your FAFSA. It will provide your eligibility index for federal and state aid. If there are errors or incorrect information on the SAR, you can make corrections online.

Compare financial aid packages side by side. Using an award letter comparison tool will allow you to get a clearer picture of where your student's financial aid is coming from and will help you make a more informed decision. There is a “Compare Your Aid Awards” tool, along with other free tools, on the BigFuture™ website, bigfuture.collegeboard.org.

Most important: When your child expresses an interest in a college, try to refrain from making your first question, "How much does it cost?" You can check on that later.
WHAT is federal student aid?
Federal student aid comes from the federal government—specifically, the U.S. Department of Education. It's money that helps a student pay for higher education expenses (i.e., college, career school, or graduate school expenses).

Federal student aid covers such expenses as tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, and transportation.

There are three main categories of federal student aid: grants, work-study, and loans. Check with your school's financial aid office to find out which programs the school participates in.

WHO gets federal student aid?
Every student who meets certain eligibility requirements can get some type of federal student aid, regardless of age or family income. Some of the most basic eligibility requirements are that you must

- demonstrate financial need (for most programs—to learn more, visit StudentAid.gov/how-calculated);
- be a U.S. citizen or an eligible noncitizen;
- have a valid Social Security number;
- register (if you haven't already) with Selective Service if you're a male between the ages of 18 and 25;
- maintain satisfactory academic progress in college or career school;
- sign the certification statement on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form stating that
  - you are not in default on a federal student loan and do not owe money on a federal student grant, and
  - you will use federal student aid only for educational purposes; and
- show you're qualified to obtain a college or career school education by
  - having a high school diploma or a General Educational Development (GED) certificate or a state-recognized equivalent; or
  - completing a high school education in a home-school setting approved under state law; or
  - enrolling in an eligible career pathways program.

Find more details about eligibility criteria at StudentAid.gov/eligibility.

HOW do you apply for federal student aid?
1. To apply for federal student aid, you need to complete the FAFSA® form at fafsa.gov. If you plan to attend college from July 1, 2018–June 30, 2019, you'll be able to submit a 2018–19 FAFSA form beginning on Oct. 1, 2017. You'll be required to report income and tax information from 2016. Schools and states often use FAFSA information to award nonfederal aid, but their deadlines vary. Check with the schools that you're interested in for their deadlines, and find state deadlines at fafsagov.

2. Students and parents are required to use an FSA ID, made up of a username and password, to submit their FAFSA form online and to access sensitive information on U.S. Department of Education websites. Your FSA ID is used to confirm your identity and electronically sign your federal student aid documents. Your FSA ID has the same legal status as a written signature. Don't give your FSA ID to anyone or allow anyone to create an FSA ID for you. To create an FSA ID, visit StudentAid.gov/fsaid.

3. After you apply, you'll receive a Student Aid Report, or SAR. Your SAR contains the information reported on your FAFSA and usually includes your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The EFC is a number (not a dollar amount) used to determine your eligibility for federal student aid. Review your SAR information to make sure it's correct. The school(s) you list on your FAFSA will get your SAR data electronically.

4. Contact the school(s) you might attend. Make sure the financial aid office at each school you're interested in has all the information needed to determine your eligibility. If you're eligible, each school's financial aid office will send you an aid offer showing the amount and types of aid (from all sources) the school will offer you. You can compare the aid offers you received and see which school is the most affordable once financial aid is taken into account.

5. Completing and submitting the FAFSA form is free and quick, and it gives you access to the largest sources of financial aid to pay for college or career school—federal, state, and school sources. If you need a paper FAFSA form, request one at edpubs.gov or call toll free at 1-877-433-7827.
### FEDERAL STUDENT AID AT A GLANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program and Type of Aid</th>
<th>Program Information</th>
<th>Annual Award Amount (subject to change)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal Pell Grant</td>
<td>Grant: does not have to be repaid. For undergraduates with financial need who have not earned bachelor's or professional degrees; in some cases, a student enrolled in a postbaccalaureate teacher certification program may also receive a Federal Pell Grant. A student can receive a Federal Pell Grant for no more than 12 semesters or the equivalent (roughly six years).</td>
<td>Amounts can change annually. For 2018-19 (July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2019), the award amount is up to $6,095. Visit StudentAid.gov/pell-grant for more information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)</td>
<td>Grant: does not have to be repaid. For undergraduates with exceptional financial need; Federal Pell Grant recipients take priority; funds depend on availability at school.</td>
<td>Up to $4,000. Visit StudentAid.gov/fgseog for more information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant</td>
<td>Grant: does not have to be repaid unless converted to a Direct Unsubsidized Loan for failure to carry out teaching service obligation as promised.</td>
<td>Up to $4,000. Visit StudentAid.gov/teach for more information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant</td>
<td>Grant: does not have to be repaid. For students who are not Pell-eligible only because they have less financial need than is required to receive Pell funds. A student’s parent or guardian must have died as a result of military service in Iraq or Afghanistan after the events of 9/11. A student can receive an Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant for no more than 12 semesters or the equivalent (roughly six years).</td>
<td>The grant award can be equal to the maximum Federal Pell Grant amount (see above), but cannot exceed your cost of attending school. Visit StudentAid.gov/iraq-afghanistan for more information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Work-Study</td>
<td>Work-Study: money is earned, does not have to be repaid. For undergraduate and graduate students; part-time jobs can be on campus or off campus. Money is earned while attending school.</td>
<td>No annual minimum or maximum amounts. Visit StudentAid.gov/workstudy for more information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct Subsidized Loan</td>
<td>Loan: must be repaid with interest. For undergraduate students who have financial need; U.S. Department of Education generally pays interest while the student is in school and during certain other periods; a student must be enrolled at least half-time. Interest rate is 4.45% for loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2017, and before July 1, 2018, and fixed for the life of the loan. Visit StudentAid.gov/interest for more information.</td>
<td>Up to $5,500 depending on grade level and dependency status. Visit StudentAid.gov/sub-unsub for more information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct Unsubsidized Loan</td>
<td>Loan: must be repaid with interest. For undergraduate and graduate or professional students; the borrower is responsible for interest during all periods; a student must be enrolled at least half-time; financial need is not required. Interest rate is 4.45% (undergraduate) and 6% (graduate or professional) for loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2017, and before July 1, 2018, and fixed for the life of the loan. Visit StudentAid.gov/interest for more information.</td>
<td>Up to $20,500 (less any unsubsidized amounts received for same period), depending on grade level and dependency status. Visit StudentAid.gov/sub-unsub for more information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct PLUS Loan</td>
<td>Loan: must be repaid with interest. For parents of dependent undergraduate students and for graduate or professional students; the borrower is responsible for interest during all periods; a student must be enrolled at least half-time; financial need is not required; the borrower must have an adverse credit history. The interest rate is 7% for loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2017, and before July 1, 2018, and fixed for the life of the loan. Visit StudentAid.gov/interest for more information.</td>
<td>Maximum amount is the cost of attendance minus any other financial aid received. Visit StudentAid.gov/plus for more information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Perkins Loan</td>
<td>Loan: must be repaid with interest. For undergraduate and graduate students with exceptional financial need. Eligibility depends on the student's financial need and availability of funds at the school. For questions on Perkins Loan eligibility, students must contact the school’s financial aid office. The interest rate is 5% and fixed for the life of the loan. Undergraduate students: up to $5,500; graduate and professional students: up to $8,000. Visit StudentAid.gov/perkins for more information.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Information was compiled in spring 2017; Federal Pell Grant amount updated April 2018. For updates or additional information, visit StudentAid.gov.

### LOOKING FOR MORE SOURCES FOR FREE MONEY?

Try StudentAid.gov/scholarships for tips on where to look and for a link to a free online scholarship search.
2019-20 CSS Profile Student Guide

This guide provides the basic information you need to complete your CSS Profile application at cssprofile.org starting Oct. 1, 2018.

WHAT is the CSS Profile?
The CSS Profile is an online application that collects information used by nearly 400 colleges and scholarship programs to award non-federal aid. (For federal aid you must complete the FAFSA, available Oct. 1 at fafsa.ed.gov.) Some colleges may require the CSS Profile from both biological/adoptive parents in cases of divorce or separation.

WHEN do I complete the CSS Profile?
You may complete the CSS Profile as early as Oct. 1, 2018. You should submit no later than two weeks before the EARLIEST priority filing date specified by your colleges.

WHO must complete the CSS Profile?
Check your colleges' information to determine whether they require the CSS Profile. A list of participating colleges is also found on the CSS Profile Homepage.

HOW do I complete the CSS Profile?
You submit the CSS Profile at cssprofile.org. Once you sign-in, you will find a list of useful documents, such as your federal tax returns and other financial information that you'll need to have at hand to complete the application. Help is provided within the application and additional help is available by chat, phone, or email by clicking “Contact Us” in the application.

WHAT does the CSS Profile Cost?
The fee for the initial application is $25. Additional reports are $16. Payment may be made via credit or debit card. First-time domestic college applicants may receive CSS Profile fee waivers if the student qualified for an SAT fee waiver, or if the student is an orphan or ward of the court under the age of 24 or based on parental income and family size (e.g., family of 4 would qualify with income of $45,000 or less).

The Process
1. Sign-in – Use your College Board username and password or sign up for a new account. If you created an account for the SAT or to view your PSAT or AP scores, you should use the same user name and password for your CSS Profile application.

2. Complete the Application – As you answer questions, the system builds an application tailored to your family's situation. The application provides online help and edits to guide you. You do not need to complete the application in one sitting; save your application and return to complete it at any time.

3. Submit the Application – The date and time you submit your completed application will be recorded based on Eastern Time and your application will be sent to the colleges you selected.

4. Review Your Dashboard – Once you submit your application, your dashboard will include your payment receipt and any next steps, such as submitting documents to the Institutional Documentation Services (IDOC).

You may add a college at any time. Sign in to the CSS Profile and click Add a College or Program on your Dashboard. You will be charged $16 for each college you add. Any unused fee waivers will be automatically applied to your charges.

Questions? Customer Service Representatives are available via email, online chat, and phone. Visit collegeboard.org/contact-us/css for more details.

Visit cssprofile.org