

# JUNIOR FUTURE PLANNING

What Comes Next After High School...

[Please follow this link to complete one question, while you are waiting for your session to begin...](#)

# Class of 2026

## School Counselor

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28th year in Education  
23rd year in High School Counseling  
Parent of an OSU graduate and  
freshman at KSU

(Underlined and blue text in this presentation indicate hyperlinks to resources)

- Identify steps and your progress in Career Planning and identify current needs
- Identify higher education requirements to pursue my chosen career field
- Understand the difference between: “Enroll, Employ, and Enlist” and which best fits my needs
- Understand the next steps I must take to execute my plan for life after high school
  - ◆ Access resources for career and/or college planning
- If applicable:
  - ◆ Understand ACT/SAT needs
  - ◆ Understand college selection/planning process

## SESSION OBJECTIVES

**Career/Self  
Exploration**

**(Sophomore Year)**



**Higher Education  
What are my needs  
for my career?**

- 2 yr. or 4 yr. college
- military
- apprenticeship
- trade school
- on the job training



**Gather and  
Organize  
Information**

**Use the Resources  
and  
Take Action!**

**Developing  
Your Plan for  
Life After High  
School**

# Career Exploration and Planning

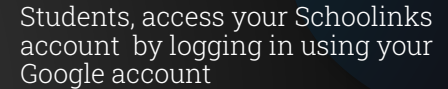
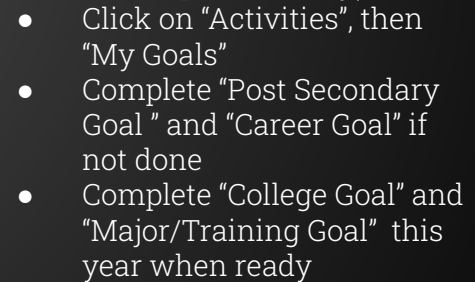
## Step #1

What if I don't know what I  
want to do?



- Find Your Path (done)
- Would You Rather?
- Top Skills
- Find Your Focus

- Set/Update a Goal Career
- Favorite Careers
- Career Center (click on "Careers" on left then Career Center)



HOME

Here's what's happening

Check out this Scholarship!

Chartwells Scholarship

Deadline: January 15, 2025

Angelo State University

Check out this Opportunity!

Operations Internship

Columbus, OH

Phia Concept Salons

Check out this Opportunity!

Social Media/Marketing Intern Description

Columbus, OH

Phia Concept Salons

Check out this Scholarship!

Buster Fickling Memorial Scholarship

Deadline: January 15, 2025

Angelo State University

Check out this Opportunity!

Matriculate High School Fellow Interest Form

Manhattan, NY

SchoolLinks

To Do List

Events

Reminders

My Team

Survey/Forms

Shared Notes

12 Overdue To Dos (30+ Days)

September 2024

20th

Set/update Goal Career

Not Done

20th

Set/Update Post-Secondary Goal

Not Done

20th

Create SMART Goals

Not Done

20th

Favorite Careers

Not Done

20th

Have at least one guardian join SchoolLinks

Not Done

20th

Update Profile and Resume

Not Done

20th

Record Activities

Not Done

27th

Complete the "Find Your Path" Assessment

Not Done

27th

Explore Careers

Not Done

27th

"How to Explore Careers" Learning Unit

Not Done

27th

Complete the "Would You Rather" Assessment

Not Done

27th

Complete the "Top Skills" Assessment

Not Done

# SchoolLinks assessments

Take these assessments to get help navigating the college and career planning process.

Discover your path

Discover suggested career clusters based on your personality.

Use this info to jumpstart your college and career exploration process!

NEVER TAKEN

Start assessment →

Would you rather

Choose your favorite activities to get career suggestions.

Use this info to see which of your favorite careers match your hobbies!

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Top skills

Discover your top skills and areas for improvement.

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Social-Emotional Learning

Respond to statements about yourself using a rating scale.

Use this info to assess your social and emotional skills.

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Learning style

Answer questions about how you prefer to learn and solve problems.

Use this info to set yourself up for more effective learning in the future!

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Start assessment →

Student focus

Discover your motivations for life after high school.

Use this info to analyze the colleges and programs you're interested in!

Last Taken 12:35 pm 05/07/2023

Resume assessment →

Past results

Discover your campus lifestyle

What kind of lifestyle do you want to lead at your college campus?

Take our quiz and find out!

Last Taken 12:32 pm 05/07/2023

Start assessment →

Past results



challenges both

Major/Training Goal



Choose Major

## Create a goal

## Create a SMART Goal



# Career Specialist

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## Deb Monaco

**Career Resource Specialist provided by CVCC, but accessible to ALL Nordonia students K-12**

- Administer additional assessments
  - One-on-one review of results
- Recommend next steps for exploration
  - Create career portfolios
  - Set up mock-interviews
  - Set up job-shadow opportunities
- Assist with job search process and applications
- Liaison for CVCC program advisement; HS and Adult Programs
- Small group for Career Development based on interest

If you would like a meeting with Mrs. Monaco, contact Mrs. Ross and an in-person meeting will be scheduled.

# Additional Career Exploration Resources

## Online Resources

(linked)

- [Ohio Means Jobs](#)
- [College Board, Big Future website \(use explore careers tab at top\)](#)
- [ASVAB Career Exploration](#)
- [Career One Stop; US Dept. of Labor](#)
- [Exploring Program](#)

## In-person Experiences

- Job Shadow
- Internships
- Work Experience
- Summer Programs at colleges/universities
- Check Thursday emails from Mrs. Ross for all current opportunities!
- Career Spotlight Speaker Series - email invites throughout the year

# Education/Training

## Step #2

What type of education do I need  
for my chosen career field?

“Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.”

—**Malcolm X**

## The 3 E's:

**Enrolled** (school)

**Employed** (work)

**Enlisted** (military)

# Which way are you going?

FUTURE



## ENROLLED

Find a school that's right for you and apply. Remember to fill out your FAFSA! Keep up your GPA, and practice for college placement tests.



FUTURE



## EMPLOYED

Earn a career certificate and get to work. Look for apprenticeships or employers who offer tuition reimbursement.



FUTURE



## ENLISTED

Military or government service can be a great start. Look for opportunities to learn advanced skills and earn college tuition.



Share your plan  
online using  
**#MyPathway**

Planning for graduation starts long before senior year.  
Meet with your school counselor and find the road  
that leads to your brightest future.

# EMPLOYED

Education through employment or on-the-job training - college may not be the first stop, or the right stop for everyone

# Employment Options

## Career Center & Credentialed Programs

### CVCC:

Early placement often leads to job placement after graduation. Having an industry recognized credential opens up opportunities for employment.

[Adult Education Programs at CVCC after graduation](#)

### Credential Programs:

Often in fields with high demand for job placement. These career fields often lead to more training and advancement opportunities

## Apprenticeship Programs

Earn while you learn. The demand for skilled workers is high in Ohio, and nationally!

Apprenticeship programs allow you to work, earning a competitive wage, while learning valuable skills for a desired traded.

<http://apprentice.ohio.gov/index.stm>

[Skilled Trades Local Union List](#)

## Employment that Leads to Post-Secondary Training

Many employers are willing to train entry level employees in a trade or skill-set to build their own workforce.

Hospitals: IT, nursing, radiology tech positions, in house programs

Trades & technology: reimbursement for training programs

i.e. Swagelok

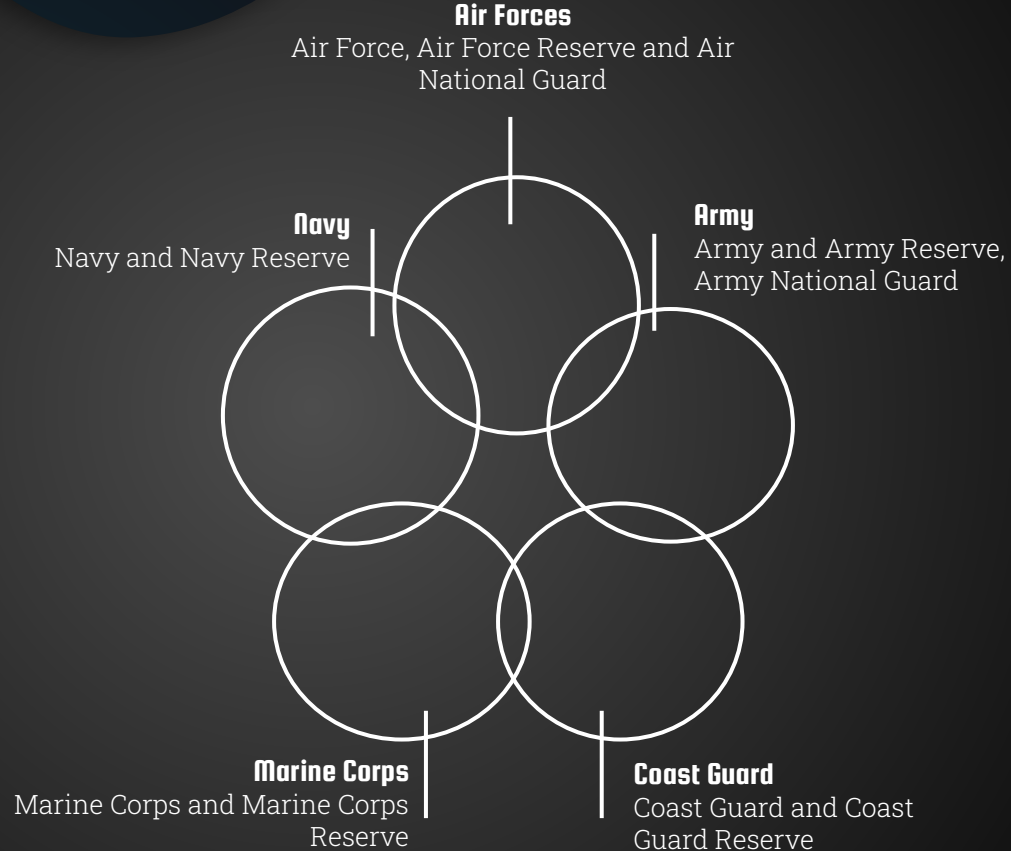
# **Employment done right**

- Thoughtful planning
- Utilize resources and connections
- Attend career/job fairs
- Do your research-know what employers are looking for
- Build your resume
- Develop employability skills
- Be proactive, don't wait until the last minute
- Need training? Make plans before you graduate for training, fin. aid, living expenses etc.

# ENLISTED

Education through “Enlist”ing in the United  
State Military

## 5 Branches of the United States Armed Forces



# Enlistment Options

The 5 branches are made up of active duty and part-time duty options.

## Active Duty

Full-time members of the military, employed domestically & overseas

## Part-Time Duty

Options

1. Reserve
2. National Guard - These service members have civilian careers and train one weekend out of each month at a unit located nearby. Part-time service members participate in an annual two-week program that allows them to utilize all of the training they received throughout the year
3. ROTC-Reserve Officer Training Corps - Go to college and train to become an officer in the military at the same time, in exchange for college tuition (Army, Navy, & Air Force). Graduate from College with a guaranteed career as a military officer in one of the three branches.
4. **5 Military Academies**  
West Point-Military Academy  
US Naval Academy  
US Air Force Academy  
US Merchant Marine Academy  
US Coast Guard Academy  
You need an official nomination to get into the academies (except Coast Guard Academy). Senators, Congressional Reps, Vice Pres and President

## Important Steps When Considering Enlistment

1. Meet with a recruiter ([NHS recruiter contact information](#)).
  2. Prepare for and take the ASVAB to know more about your “career” options in the military
  3. Talk through your options with family/important people in your life.
  4. Understand and ask questions about long term and short term commitments.
- Get started by visiting: <https://todaysmilitary.com/>
  - What to know before you enlist in the military <https://www.military.com/join-armed-forces/top-10-things-you-should-know-before-you-join-the-military.html>

# ENROLLED

Enrollment in a post-secondary institution (any degree granting, certificate or licensure program beyond high school) to continue your education in a career field.

[College Planning  
Checklist: 11th Grade](#)

[Your Path to College:  
11th Grade](#)

# COLLEGE SEARCH PROCESS Junior Year

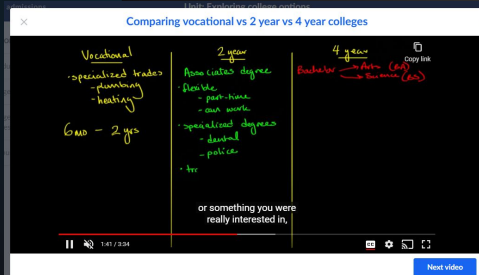
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The school decision is not a competition, but an individual journey: led by the student, supported by parents, counselors, and the institution.

Which is the right place for you?

# POST-SECONDARY OPTIONS

Which do you need  
for your career  
choice?  
...and transitions  
between the 3 options



4 year colleges &  
universities



Bachelor's Degree  
(3-5 yrs.)

Curriculum-flexibility  
and options

Degree flexibility

Options for additional  
programs/activities

Stepping stone to  
med/law/graduate  
degrees

Career flexibility

2 year colleges



Associate's Degrees  
(2 yrs.)

Flexibility  
part-time/full time

Specialized degrees

Test out higher ed.  
- easier transition

Transfer options

Cost effective

career technical  
education/vocational



Specialized Trades,  
Industry  
Credentials

6 mos-2 years

Specific focus

Hands on training

## PRIVATE

Privately owned

Typically smaller

Degrees - less majors, particular focus/specialty

Class sizes small & discussion style

Higher original "sticker price" but...

Well funded, more financial aid options

## UNIVERSITIES

4 yr undergrad. and graduate programs

Broad curriculum

Pre-professional degrees

Large lecture style courses (first 2 years, esp)

Research money and opportunities

Offer wide variety of extra-curricular and athletic programs

## PUBLIC

Generally state run

Larger, typically

Some large lecture style classes

More affordable from the initial price tag

## LIBERAL ARTS

Tend to focus only on undergraduate degrees

More focused curriculum, less major options

Strengths-teach critical thinking and writing skills, prepare for you for the world

Discussion based instruction, small classes

Less likely to have research opportunities

Smaller enrollment and small class size

Offer variety of extra-curriculars, tend to be Div. III Athletics.

# 4 YEAR INSTITUTIONS



# Researching and Choosing a School

While there is no perfect formula to picking the best fit, consider your preferences on the following:

- Location - Urban, Suburban, or Rural Setting
- Admissions Standards (difficulty)
- Academic Offerings (specific major or broad opps)
- Student Services and On-Campus Programming
  - Accessibility Needs and Availability
- Commute or Live On-Campus
- Distance from home
- In-State vs. Out-of-State
- Type of degree/program needed for your career
- Large School or Smaller School (enrollment size)
- Full-time or Part-Time Enrollment
- Cost of Tuition and Financial Aid Options
- Activities (athletics, extra-curricular)
- Security
- Private vs. Public
- Division I, II, or III

[School Search \(tool in Schoolinks, click on "Colleges"\)](#)

Tool to help you get started and create an initial list of schools to research. Students will choose preferences on topics such as those listed above to generate a potential list of schools that match.

Search for a location, school, or program...

List

Split

Map

Filter by

School Type

Campus

Admissions

Acceptance 1

Sports

Degree Type


Other

Sort by


Graduation Rate

- ☐ 4 Year (College/University)
- ☐ 2 Year (Community/Trade/Career)
- ☐ Non-Degree (Certificate Programs)
- ☐ Private
- ☐ Public
- ☐ For Profit
- ☐ Historically Black College or University
- ☐ Hispanic-Serving Institution
- ☐ Gender-Inclusive Housing
- ☐ Has ROTC program
- ☐ First Gen Forward
- ☐ National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics


? What do these mean?




Career Center  
ington, MO |




Cass Career Center  
Harrisonville, MO |




Tricoci University of  
Beauty Culture -  
Libertyville  
Libertyville, IL | For Profit



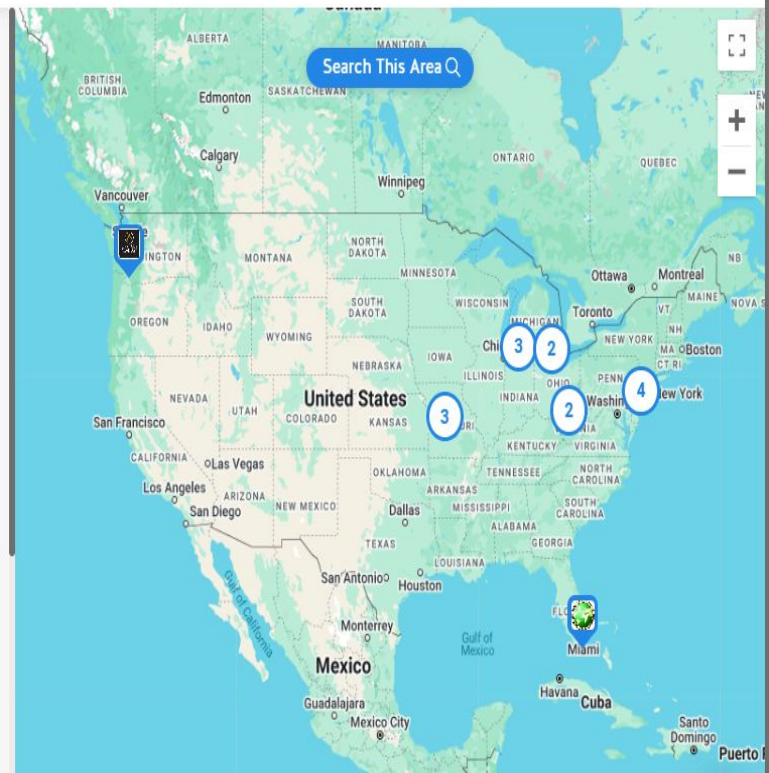
County Career  
ult Technical  
aining  
s, OH | Public



Ultrasound Medical  
Institute  
Royal Palm Beach, FL | For Profit



Summit Salon Academy  
Tacoma, WA | For Profit



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https://app.schoollinks.com/assessments

# Narrow Down Your Options

Compile information from  
several resources

- Campus visits!!!
  - Schedule a visit to schools on your list! No substitute for getting on campus and seeing if it feels like “home”/your place
  - Visit during the school year when students are there!
  - Virtual visits are also available on school websites
- College fairs (virtual fairs as well)
- Speak with admissions reps that come to NHS, check the “School Events” page on your Schoolinks Dashboard for dates/schools
- Determine your must haves for colleges
- Institution Guides ([4 yr. Public](#) and [4 yr. Private](#))
- [Net Price Calculator](#)
  - For help with calculating actual cost
- [Create a chart](#) to compare each school
  - Campus appeal - Do I feel at home?
  - Big name or Best fit?

Use this school year to identify your short list of schools that you will apply to in the Fall of 2025!!

# College Visits

In-person visits: plan early and schedule ahead of time on the college/university website.

Visit when students are on campus!

[Career/College Visitation Form - NHS](#) - Up to 4 Excused Absences for either career or college visits.

[Virtual College Tours](#)

# Admissions Basics

Understand the basic components to college admissions

# Admissions Differences

Admissions work differently at each type of school (4 year and 2 year) and at each institution, depending upon selectivity and competitiveness.

- 2-year institutions:
  - Application and transcript
  - Typically no ACT/SAT required but can be used for course placement. May have to take placement tests at the school if not.
- 4-year institutions
  - Application
  - Transcript
    - GPA and rigor of curriculum (for more selective/competitive)
  - Test Scores (ACT/SAT)
    - May also be used for merit scholarships
    - Check current policies at each school - test optional? How does that affect admission?
    - Need to be sent officially through ACT/SAT account
  - Essay/Personal Statement
  - Recommendation Letters
  - Interview/audition
    - Only for selective schools or majors
  - FAFSA (Financial Aid)
    - Recommended to complete by most starting as soon as it opens senior year
  - School Profile/School Report (sent by NHS)
    - Colleges use to evaluate transcript/ application for rigor, average tests scores, extracurricular options, etc.

# THE APPLICATION

- Direct to the institution
  - Found on the institution's website
- [The CommonApp](#)

## [Types of Applications](#) and [Timelines](#)

- Early Decision
- Early Action
- Regular

- Binding contract
- Generally November 1 deadline, check with school
- Receive response usually by December
- CANNOT APPLY ED to more than ONE school
- Apply to other colleges regular decision
- Send in non-refundable deposit
- If you need Fin Aid, probably not the best option



- Non-Binding
- School accepts applications until the program fills up
- Best not to wait because once enrollment is full, applications are pushed to the next admission term
- May have specific deadlines for highly competitive programs and scholarships

- Non-Binding
- Generally November 1 deadline, check with school
- Receive response usually by December/January
- May have Early Action I/II, Single Choice EA
- Can apply to other schools RD or EA

## APPLICATION DEADLINES

- Non-binding, widely available
- Regular decision deadlines for fall term usually fall in January/February
- Receive a decision by April
- Check individual school for deadlines

## THE ESSAY

- Not required for all applications, sometimes optional
- CommonApp has required Essay Prompt
  - completed in 12th grade English at NHS
- Colleges DO read these, important part of the application especially for selective/competitive schools
- Self-reflective, looking for insight into who are
- Opportunity to explain unique situation or experience to set you apart

# THE TRANSCRIPT

Academic record which consists of:

- High School Courses
  - Completed and In-Progress
- Final Grades ONLY
- GPA (weighted and unweighted)
  - Admissions asks for GPA on applications - use weighted
- Students can view an unofficial transcript in Schoolinks!
  - "School", "Record Requests", "View unofficial transcript"
- NO test scores are listed on your transcript

# THE RECOMMENDATION LETTER

- Not required by all colleges, sometimes optional, not permitted, or required depending upon school
- Looking for insight into type of individual you are, character, what makes you stand out? A personalized glimpse into you.
- Choose people that know you well
- Colleges that ask for letters DO read these!
- CommonApp
  - Some schools limit number of letters allowed and cannot submit outside of allotment

**ACT February 27th  
at NHS!**

**\*All current juniors  
\*State Funded  
\*No registration  
required for  
families**

# TEST SCORES

## ACT & SAT

- Most schools accept either test score, check your schools to be sure
- Test scores are NOT reported on your NHS transcript
  - Colleges evaluate based on your highest score and some SUPERScore (take the highest score from each section no matter the test date)
  - Always smart to send all of your scores, you will not be penalized
- Take both tests once (to see which is the best fit/higher score)
  - Test more than once if you need a minimum score for admission or for merit scholarships
  - If these reasons apply to you, you may want to start taking them before our February ACT date!
- Do any of your schools require the optional Writing portion?
- Test-optional policies at colleges/universities
  - Some schools continue with test-optional policies for admission for the Class of 2026. Some are going back to requiring a test score. There are also many colleges that do not require test scores. Check with each school for current policies and what this means for you.

# ACT

<http://www.act.org> – register, choose location, pay, access resources, and info. online  
(except for February 27th ACT at NHS)

## TEST DATES

United States, US Territories, and Puerto Rico

The **ACT**

2024 | 2025

Test Dates	Regular Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline	Photo Upload and Standby Deadline
<b>September 14, 2024</b>	<b>August 9</b>	August 25	September 6
<b>October 26, 2024</b>	<b>September 20</b>	October 7	October 18
<b>December 14, 2024</b>	<b>November 8</b>	November 22	December 6
<b>February 8, 2025</b>	<b>January 3</b>	January 20	January 31
<b>April 5, 2025</b>	<b>February 28</b>	March 16	March 28
<b>June 14, 2025</b>	<b>May 9</b>	May 26	June 6
<b>July 12, 2025*</b>	<b>June 6</b>	June 20	July 4

### Current ACT Fees and Services

\*Fee Waivers available for free/reduced lunch qualifying students. See Mrs. Ross

#### ACT (no writing)

\$69.00

#### ACT with writing

\$94.00

February 27 -State Funded ACT at NHS. NO FEES or registration required.

**Changes occur April 2025 for  
online and September 2025 for  
paper-pencil**

# ACT Changes – Fall 2025

[Click to view video updates](#)

## What We've Heard From You

"The test is too long. I need more time!"

"The science section scares me."

"I want to show off my science and math skills for my major."

"I don't want to test on a computer. I still want paper!"

## How the ACT Test Is Improving

We're glad you asked:  
*\*deep breath\**

We've reduced the number of questions overall (44 fewer questions to be exact).

We've reduced the test length from 195 minutes to 125 minutes.

You get more time per question.

We've reduced the number of math question answer choices from 5 to 4.

You can now choose to take the ACT with or without science.

Your score report will include a science score and a STEM score if you choose to take the science section.

The choice is still yours! The ACT is available via paper/pencil or online.

## What Does This Mean for Your Testing Experience?

A test that's more manageable and less stressful so you can shine, while also maintaining the integrity and rigor of the ACT that colleges rely on and trust to aid in the admissions process and place you into the right courses.

You get more choice and more flexibility, allowing you to tailor your experience to fit your needs. This gives you more control over your testing experience.

If you're planning to major in science or STEM, or take science courses in college, you still have the option of taking the ACT with science to showcase your skills and work towards your future goals.

You can test the way you feel most comfortable and show off your best performance.

*Note: If you choose to test online, these enhancements will be made available beginning with the April 2025 ACT test. These enhancements to the test will take effect, regardless of testing mode, beginning with the September 2025 ACT test.*

# SAT

<http://www.collegeboard.org> - register, choose location, pay, access resources, and info. online

## SAT Test Dates 2024-2025

SAT Test Date*	Registration Deadline	Deadline for Changes, Regular Cancellation, and Late Registration**
Aug 24, 2024	Aug 9, 2024	Aug 13, 2024
Oct 5, 2024	Sept 20, 2024	Sept 24, 2024
Nov 2, 2024	Oct 18, 2024	Oct 22, 2024
Dec 7, 2024	Nov 22, 2024 <a href="#">Register</a>	Nov 26, 2024
Mar 8, 2025	Feb 21, 2025 <a href="#">Register</a>	Feb 25, 2025
May 3, 2025	Apr 18, 2025 <a href="#">Register</a>	April 22, 2025
June 7, 2025	May 22, 2025 <a href="#">Register</a>	May 27, 2025

### SAT Registration Fees

\*Fee Waivers available to free/reduced lunch qualifying students. See Mrs. Ross

SAT

\$68.00

Start with a Baseline

- Sit for a test or a practice test (free on test sites)

### Test Prep Resources

- Purchase a program(s) to complete independently
- Pay for a private tutor
- Pay for a day workshop or extended program
- Watch email for options offered at NHS
  - Please complete this survey if you are interested in participating in a test-prep course at NHS in December and/or February (for a fee)

### Recommendations

- Take both the ACT and SAT (which is better fit)
- Take more than once
- Don't wait until the last minute to retake
- When registering, select colleges you know you will apply to have your scores sent to
  - Scores are not included on your transcript
  - Extra cost to send from ACT/SAT after you have taken the test

## TEST PREP OPTIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

**For the student that needs to maximize  
test scores**

# FINANCIAL AID

U.S. Department of Education: <http://www.ed.gov>  
Federal Student Aid <http://studentaid.ed.gov>  
College Board <http://www.collegeboard.org>  
FastWeb <http://www.fastweb.com>  
CSS Profile: <https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/>

Program fall of senior year with specifics,  
more details to come next year

- FAFSA APPLICATION-October 1 or December 1
  - Federal aid
  - Institutional aid
- CSS PROFILE (College Board website)
- SCHOLARSHIPS
  - institutional-need based, academic, alumni etc
  - merit based by school
  - private
  - local
  - RESEARCH! - Start Now

03

- Federal Aid can be used at 4 year, 2 year, career-tech & certification programs.
- Scholarships and Grants
- Loans
- Work Study Programs
- Completing the FAFSA does not impact enrollment or scholarship options, it can actually open up opportunities.
- You do not have to accept all or any of the aid offered.

# Searching for scholarships

Director of College Counseling  
Eastside College Preparatory School



Khan Academy

## Scholarship Search



### **ONLINE RESOURCES**

The internet is a great research tool. Many different apps available. Know how to identify legitimate resources!



### **IN PERSON HELP**

In person assistance is available, call or email to set up an appointment with me. Individual meetings will be held with all juniors over the course of this year.



### **EXPERIENCE**

There is no better way to determine what is right for you than in person! Experience options first hand!...as soon as you are able.

## **UTILIZE ALL YOUR RESOURCES**

# Next Steps

## Junior Year

- Make sure you are on track to graduate
- Check school emails, check Progress Book, check Google Classroom daily
- Schedule your senior classes to reflect your career and/or college goals - do your research and gather information about courses before the class begins
- Begin researching and creating your path - take your time, find the best match
- Get organized - use the tools in this presentation
- Stop, relax, take a breath and enjoy life every-so-often! This process can be stressful, yet exciting!
- Stay tuned for a late Spring presentation with more specifics related to the application process
- The more you complete by the end of this year, the less stressful senior year will be!
- Parents, support, while your students “do”. Encourage students to access resources and drive the search.

**“Employed” student focus:** Create your resume', research apprenticeships, meet with Mrs. Monaco as needed

**“Enlisted” student focus:** Research your options, talk to a recruiter, talk to a college ROTC representative

**“Enrolled” student focus:** Prioritize college preferences, create a list of schools meeting preferences, research these schools, create a chart to compare, and narrow down your list

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