**COLLEGE GUIDE FOR JUNIORS**

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***Chanel Rice, School Counselor-***

***James Hillhouse High School***

![C:\Documents and Settings\ckrashen\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\S23JXXSW\MCj04315850000[1].png]()**Junior Student Checklist**

Your junior year is the best time to explore the possibilities ahead of you - whether those possibilities include college, travel, or a career. Now is the time to ask questions about your future, shadow a job, visit colleges, take interest surveys. It's important to maintain good grades. Keep in touch with your guidance office about your grades and course selection.

##

**September-February**

* Be mindful of the courses that you choose to enroll in; be sure that they are aligned with graduation and college requirements.
* Work your hardest and get good grades. Your Junior Year is said to be the most important year!
* Create a log-in/register with [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) and utilize the COLLEGE SEARCH located in the student section. This will allow you to identify schools based on your preferences and which will most likely best suit you. From this list, you should request information from the schools that interest you the most. Remember to take advantage of the FREE SAT Practice Tests on the College Board website.
* Create a Khan Academy account at <https://www.khanacademy.org/sat> and link it with your College Board account. Utilize the tools and practice exams to prepare for upcoming SAT School Day.
* Utilize the College Match tool through your Naviance account. This will also identify colleges/universities/trade schools based off your interests. Also be sure to utilize the other resources on Naviance with regards to schools and financial aid.
* Make sure that you are doing plenty of extra-curricular activities to stand out amongst your peers. Join clubs, play a sport(s), run for a leadership position, and make sure that you are doing community service!
* Be aware of your S.M.A.R.T. goals that you identified and entered into the Naviance system. Make sure that you are working to complete your goals.
* Keep up your tasks in Naviance that must be completed before the end of Junior Year.

## March & April

* Take the district-paid SAT test in-school on Tuesday, April 9, 2019.
* Make a list of five to seven schools that interest you the most and schedule a visit.
* Become involved with extracurricular activities, such as sports or volunteer work. Utilize your opportunities to get involved in summer internships and jobs, such as Youth at Work. **DEADLINE FOR YOUTH AT WORK IS March 29, 2019.**

Be sure to utilize the SAT Prep Course offered at Hillhouse! It is a great opportunity to further your skills for the next time you test!

* Refer to the credit sheet and transcript provided for a junior year credit check. If needed, follow up by scheduling a meeting with your school counselor to review your credits as well as discussing post high school plans.
* Take advantage of study sessions if you are enrolled in AP courses so that you may be prepared for any AP exams that you plan on taking.

## May & June

* Registration deadline for the May 4th SAT test is April 5, 2019. Registration deadline for the June 1st SAT test is May 3, 2019. Register online at <http://sat.collegeboard.com/register/>
* Registration deadline for the April 13th ACT test is March 8, 2019. Registration deadline for the June 8h ACT test is May 3, 2019. Register online at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)
* **YOU NO LONGER NEED TO RETRIEVE A PAPER FEE WAIVER FROM YOUR COUNSELOR FOR THE SATS. IF YOU PARTICIPATE IN SAT SCHOOL DAY, THE COLLEGE BOARD WILL AUTOMATICALLY PROVIDE 2 ADDITIONAL SAT FEE WAIVER BENEFITS FOR 2 ADDITIONAL TEST SITTINGS. THESE FEE WAIVERS ARE EMBEDDED WITHIN YOUR COLLEGE BOARD ACCOUNT AND WILL BE VISIBLE WHILE YOU ARE REGISTERING FOR YOUR SATS/SAT SUBJECT TESTS. PLEASE SEE YOUR SCHOOL COUNSELOR IF YOU QUALIFY FOR A FEE WAIVER FOR THE ACT**.
* Remember that if you are considered fee waiver status, you are eligible for **2 SAT fee waivers and 1 ACT fee waiver** during your high school tenure. (\*SAT School Day does not count as a fee waiver\* so you can register for two more testing dates)
* To register for SAT testing, once you log into your College Board account, click on the link ***MY TEST*** then look for the link ***REGISTER HERE/REGISTER NOW*** to register for a new SAT test.
* Be sure to utilize practice tests to prepare for the test(s). There are also practice tests and study plans located on both websites.
* AP exams will be held from May 6 - May 17, 2019.
* Consider people to ask for recommendations for upcoming college applications—teachers, counselors or employers.
* Create/complete your resume (through Naviance), which you will need when requesting recommendation letters from your counselor and teachers.
* If you travel this summer, consider scheduling a few college visits.
* **Athletes**----Register on <http://eligibilitycenter.org> if you plan to compete in a Division I or Division II sport. Remember there is a $70 processing fee that must be paid in order to submit. However, if you qualified for a fee waiver for the SAT tests, you may also utilize a fee waiver for the NCAA Eligibility Center. Make sure that you are aligned with NCAA Eligibility requirements as well. ((Refer to the **2018-19 Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete** for detailed information-MAKE SURE THAT YOU READ THROUGH THE ENTIRE GUIDE!)) Be sure that you send your SAT to the NCAA Eligibility Center; search by code 9999.

## Senior Year C:\Documents and Settings\ckrashen\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\S23JXXSW\MPj04393920000[1].jpg

During the beginning of your senior year, you will finalize your college choice. This year is filled with admission applications, scholarship essays, and financial aid information. Throughout your senior year, continue to build your resume by achieving academic success, as well as participating in extracurricular activities. Colleges are very interested in well-rounded students.

## July-August

* Visit college campuses.
* Narrow your college list to approximately 5-7 colleges. Compare costs of each school that interest you by contacting the colleges by phone or via their websites.
* Mark your calendar with registration, admissions, and financial aid deadlines and fees.
* Register for the ACTs/SATs if necessary by respective deadline dates.

## September

* **Begin preparing your college applications. Follow the instructions, and pay close attention to deadlines!**
* Meet with admissions representatives who are visiting your respective School. Visiting college representatives will be announced daily, as well as posted within your guidance counselor’s office space. Request a college pass (from your school counselor) to be signed by the teacher of the class you will be missing/not attending.
* ACT and SAT test dates for 2019-2020 will be posted on the websites respectively. Do not wait until the last minute to test as your scores should be into the colleges of your choice by the time the application is due! Ensure that your test scores are sent directly through College Board to your respective schools.
* If a letter of recommendation is required by your college, begin to ask teachers, school counselors, and employers for their assistance in person. Give them three-four weeks advance notice.
* Work on admission application essays.
* Update your resume with any summer experiences and provide your school counselor and teachers with a copy, (as they will require it to write a letter of recommendation).

## October & November

* **Continue preparing your college applications and submit a list of schools applying to your counselor. THIS MEANS REQUESTS (THAT YOUR TRANSCRIPTS BE SUBMITTED TO YOU CHOICE SCHOOLS) SHOULD BE PROVIDED TO YOUR COUNSELOR IN WRITING or IN PERSON AS SOON AS YOU KNOW WHERE YOU ARE APPLYING! DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE. All transcript requests should be made at least 3 weeks in advance.**
* **November 1st/15th, Early Decision and Early Action applications are due so be sure to PLAN AHEAD!**
* **Finalize admission applications. Obtain your college application fee waivers that you are entitled to which will be directly uploaded into your College Board account after using a fee waiver for testing. (Note: The SAT taken in school in April does not serve as utilizing a fee waiver so college application fee waivers will not be in your account from that testing date.)**
* Attend local college fairs and utilize your resources.
* Register for the December ACT/SAT only if necessary.
* Visit your top college choices. Talk with students and faculty at these institutions of higher education.
* **Many colleges have December 1st APPLICATION deadlines.** Monitor your time wisely!
* Investigate the scholarship opportunities offered by the specific colleges that you are applying to. Be sure to check the due dates. Note: Most often, you have to be admitted to the college for consideration for scholarship competitions.
* Utilize the scholarship listings located in Naviance under the scholarships and money tab! Ms. Rice will also email any incoming scholarships that are sent to Career High School. Pay attention to requirements and deadlines.
* The financial aid process will begin October 1st. You must first apply for personal identification number (PIN) at [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov). The PIN will be necessary for the FAFSA (Free Application Student Federal Student Aid), your key to the online financial aid application.  Keep pin # in a safe place.
* You must then complete the FAFSA online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).
* Upon completion of your FAFSA application, you will receive your Student Aid Report (SAR). Make sure that you review it for errors and make any corrections as indicated.  If you have not received your Student Aid Report within four weeks after submitting your FAFSA, contact the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-433-3243 or check the status on [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

##  December

* Remember if your college application deadline is January 1st or 15th, you need to get your application into Ms. Rice by December 10th due to the upcoming vacation.
* Finalize and submit college admission applications.
* Urge your parents to file their taxes as soon as possible after January 1. This will ease the financial aid process.

## January

* Financial aid seminars will be held at Gateway Community College (most likely) and at respective high schools—check your school calendar provided next year for date and time. (College Goal Saturday/Sunday)
* Apply for outside funding or scholarships. Check your school website for updated scholarships, as well as utilize scholarship listed in Naviance.
* KEEP COPIES OF ALL FORMS YOU SUBMIT.
* Watch your housing deposit deadlines! Many universities fill up quickly!

## February & March

* Still narrowing down your choices for college? Schedule a visit to the campus to finalize your choices.

## April, May, June & July

* Continuously check your email and watch the mail for financial aid packages. Compare the financial aid awards you receive. Compare the amount of grants received to the amount of loans received. Do not just look at the 'bottom line' figure.
* Be sure to provide your school counselor with copies of your college acceptance letters for data tracking purposes.
* Check with your college of choice about the details of signing financial aid award letters.
* Make your final decision and send in a deposit by the deadline. (May 1ST is usually the deadline)
* Watch for important deadlines at your college of choice (housing, financial aid, etc.).
* Take Advanced Placement (AP) examinations. (May 2019 Dates TBD)
* Request your final transcript be sent to the college/university that you commit to.
* Prepare a realistic student budget ([mapping-your-future.org/features/budgetcalc.htm](http://mapping-your-future.org/features/budgetcalc.htm)).
* Follow up with the financial aid office to ensure all paperwork is complete.

***Senior Grades Count!***

***The National Association of College Admissions Counselors’ 2009 State of College Admission annual report states that during the fall of 2008, 21% of colleges revoked offers of admission. The most common reason for rescinding offers was a drop in grades!***

**A Guide to College Testing**

**PSAT/ NMSQT (www.collegeboard.com):** This Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/

National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test is a practice test used to assist students in preparing for the Scholastic Aptitude Test, (the SAT). The PSAT is administered to pre-registered 11th grade students on a nationally-set Saturday test date. Although colleges do not see a student’s PSAT/NMSQT score, a student who does well on this exam and who meets other academic performance criteria may qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Program.

**ACT ( www.actstudent.org):** This is a college admission test published by the American College Testing and is designed to measure a student’s academic achievement through English, Math, Reading, Science Reasoning and Writing subtests. Most colleges will accept either the ACT or the SAT. The ACT is usually taken during the second semester of junior year, although it can also be taken in the fall as well.

**SAT Reasoning Test** (**www.collegeboard.com**)**:** The Scholastic Aptitude Test is a college admission test which measures critical thinking and problem solving in Reading, Math and Writing. Most colleges will accept either the ACT to the SAT. The SAT is usually taken during second semester of junior year, but may also be taken during the first semester of senior year.

**SAT II Subject Tests (www.collegeboard.com):** The SAT Subject tests are achievement tests designed to measure understanding a student has already acquired. They are offered in areas of study including literature, history, math, science, and foreign language. Some highly selective schools require students to take one or more SAT Subject tests when they apply for admission. SAT subject tests may be used for admission or for placement purposes. Students who anticipate the need for Subject tests should take these as they complete the final course in the subject area while it is still fresh in their minds.

**Advanced Placement (AP) Examinations:** These exams, administered in May, are designed to test a student’s knowledge in specific subject areas. Many universities grant college credit to students who score a 4 or 5 out of 5. AP exams are usually taken in the spring that a student has completed an Advanced Placement course. AP scores are not used in admission decisions. Colleges have limits to the number of credits they may give to a student from AP exams. Because AP scores are not accepted by all colleges, students should check with their schools of choice before taking the exams.

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**![C:\Documents and Settings\ckrashen\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\FZGO0BYA\MCBD06926_0000[1].wmf]()Choosing a College –Some Things to Consider**

**I. Types of College**

A. Four Year School

A. Universities–institutions made up of several colleges each of which may have different admission and graduation requirements. Universities offer a broad range of majors and degrees.

B. Liberal Arts Colleges–offer degrees in non-technical areas. Usually these schools require more diverse program of study for graduation.

C. Specialized Colleges–schools offering a narrow program of studies usually focused on technical education or fine arts.

B. Two Year Schools

A. Community Colleges or Junior Colleges –offer associate degree programs. Most curriculums are very broad in scope, offering career and non-credit courses as well as courses that are equivalent to the first two years of a four year college.

B. Vocational / Technical Schools–specialized schools that offer specific programs and do not require study in areas outside the program of interest.

**II. College Locations**

A. City–offer accessibility to a broad range of cultural, employment, and recreational opportunities. The city is a feature of the campus.

B. Suburban—suburban schools offer the best of both worlds. They are found within a well-developed town, offering students access to jobs, recreation facilities and more.

C. Small Town Rural –small town schools usually offer a wide variety of out of class activities right on campus. Campus is the central focus.

**III. Admission Selectivity**

* Open –all high school graduates accepted, to limit of capacity
* Liberal –accept many freshman with ~ C+ GPA or higher
* Traditional –accepts freshman with ~ B average GPA or higher
* Selective –majority of accepted freshman with. ~ B+ / A- average GPA
* Highly Selective –majority of accepted freshman with ~A / A+ GPA

\*On average, students who score lower on ACT/SAT may need a higher GPA to meet a school’s particular admission selectivity\*

Typical Test Score Averages Reported by College

|  |
| --- |
| Admission Selectivity SAT Averages (Verbal& Math) ACT Composite Averages |
| * Highly Selective SAT 1400-1600 ACT 30-36
 |
| * Selective SAT 1030-1399 ACT 22-29
 |
| * Traditional SAT 950 -1070 ACT 20-22
 |
| * Liberal SAT 870- 990 ACT 18-21
 |
| * Open SAT – Below 870 ACT Below 18
 |

**IV. Misconceptions about Costs**

**A. Tuition/Room and Board** The cost of a college education varies from about $7,000 to over $50,000 per year. Cost should not be a prime factor in considering colleges but rather should be seen from the view point of out of pocket expense, (i.e. financial aid package). However, cost may be the critical factor when making the final decision to enroll. Find out what the actual cost to you will be before deciding you cannot go to an “expensive” school.

**B. In-State vs. Out-of-State Costs**

Do not be fooled by the “in-state schools are less expensive” syndrome. This is not always true. Private schools charge the same tuition for in state and out-of-state students. Private colleges’ scholarship programs can equal the playing field when it comes to cost.

**C. Transportation Costs**

Yearly, the money spent for trips between home and college often includes more than plane, train, or bus fares. It may include the cost of taking and returning all clothes, books, bikes, furniture and small appliances to and from school. Other expected trips occur on holidays, breaks, family visitation days etc.

**V. College Size**

 A. Large Schools (typically)

a. Enrollment usually over 10,000 students

b. Typically large class sizes for general education classes in first two years

c. More diverse curriculum and more options in specialized study areas

d. More anonymity and privacy

e. Greater variety of extracurricular activities and organizations

B. Mid-Sized Schools (typically)

a. Enrollment is 3,000 to 10,000 students

b. More personalized approach than larger school

c. More options than small schools

C. Small Schools (typically)

a. Enrollment generally below 3,000 students

b. More personal, warm atmosphere

c. Smaller classes throughout the four years of college

d. Greater chance for participation in athletics and leadership positions

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**VI. “Atmosphere”**

It is very important to visit the campus. The student should eat in the cafeteria, tour the resident halls, walk through the campus and get a sense if they could be comfortable at the campus. It will be their home away from home for four years.

**VII. Academic Options**

A. Major Course of Study – Does the college offer programs that will allow you entry into career of your choice? Does the college offer your major or area of concentration?

B. Faculty – Is there opportunity to work with several professors in your area of major, or will you be fortunate (or unfortunate) enough work with only one or two professors during the entire four years? What is the student to faculty ratio? Who teaches freshman and sophomore classes-- professors or graduate assistants? Are the teachers available to see students? Do most instructors have their doctorate?

C. Study Abroad – Will there be the opportunity to visit other countries for credit?

When do a majority of the students attend a study abroad program? Where are the locations of your program? What is the cost of the program to participate? Will they be able to graduate on time if they travel abroad?

D. Internships – Is there an opportunity to explore a career in your major area of interest? Are they typically paid internships or unpaid? Do students typically become employed by the company/ persons with whom they have completed an internship with? Will the professionals act as references for the student in future employment opportunities?

E. Job Placement- Does the university or college assist the student with the resume, interview and job search process? Ask about the percentage of students who have employment six months after graduation.

**![MCj04128060000[1]]()Types of Admission Decisions**

The college admission process has its own language-- rolling admission, early decision, early action and wait listed. Some of the most frequently mentioned practices include the following:

**Early Decision**

This plan allows a student to apply between October and mid-January (generally) for an early determination of admissibility. If accepted, the student is obligated to attend. The student may submit other applications during this period, but only one can be early decision. If accepted through the early decision program, the student must withdraw all other applications.

**Early Action/Notification**

These plans have varying rules. They invite early application but they are non-binding agreements to attend the college. A small number of schools have a plan called “Early Action Single Choice” which is more like an Early Decision plan. Please read your college application carefully to understand the guidelines of Early Action programs.

**Deferred Decision**

The college or university determines that more information is needed to make a final decision about a candidate’s application. Often the decision is delayed until 1st semester senior grades and/or new test scores are received.

**Rolling Admissions**

The college or university will notify the student as soon as the application has been processed (usually in four to six weeks), and the file is complete. It is to the student’s advantage to apply early. A student is not required to respond to an offer of admission until he/she has received a response from all schools that they have applied to, or by May 1, whichever comes first.

**Wait Listed**

This is not an offer of admission to the college. It means that you are admissible provided there is room. The letter that notifies you of that placement should provide a history that describes the number of students on the wait list, the number offered admission, and the availability of financial aid and housing. Colleges may not require a deposit or a written commitment as a condition of remaining on a wait list. They are expected to notify you of the resolution of your wait list status no later than August 1st.

**Deferred Admission**

This plan permits a student, once accepted, to postpone matriculation for one year in order to pursue other plans.**College Application Process**

**Obtaining Applications**

* Many colleges prefer students to complete applications online because the student will have immediate confirmation that the college has receive the application. We encourage students to apply online.
* Please read over the requirements for each college. Many require you to submit a recommendation form. Make special note of the deadlines!

**The Common Application:**  The Common Application is a not-for-profit organization that serves students and member institutions by providing an admission application – online and in print – that students may submit to over 500 colleges.

**Why use it?** Once completed online, copies of the application can be sent to any number of participating colleges.

**It is treated fairly among the colleges and universities?** YES! Common Application college and university members have worked together over the past 30 years to develop the application. All members fully support its use, and all give equal consideration to the Common Application and the college's own form.  If a college or university is not listed on their website, they are not members of the consortium. For more information, go to [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org). The Common Application requires completion of a Secondary School Report (guidance counselor evaluation) and a Teacher Evaluation form. Supplement essays may also be required.

**Waive my rights?** On the Secondary School Report, Teacher Recommendation form and other recommendation forms, there is a section about a student’s right to view the recommendation form. You have two choices—Yes, I waive my rights….No, I don’t. What does this mean? If you waive your rights –it means your counselor/teacher will complete the recommendation form and you will never see what the counselor wrote. If you check no--- you have the right to go to the college’s admissions office, **after you have been accepted** and you can ask to see your file, and see what the counselor wrote on your application.

### Application fee waivers

The National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) provides a form called the "Request for Application Fee Waiver" to be completed by students with the help of their high school counselor. Make sure you see your school counselors early, as you are eligible for FOUR additional fee waivers (if fee waiver eligible). Remember it is smart to utilize these waivers for the most expensive applications.

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## How many applications are enough?

## Ideally, 5-7---apply to a reach school, a couple target schools, and an academic and financial safety college. It is important to understand the difference between schools with varying degrees of selectivity.

**What is a personal statement and when should I include it?**

 A personal statement is an opportunity to explain anything that is not otherwise addressed in the application. It may be used to explain a fluctuation in grades due to an illness, a life altering experience, or any other significant event that would enhance your application.

**What about my Facebook --- Is it ok for an admission counselor to see my page?**

By [Mary Beth Marklein](http://www.usatoday.com/community/tags/reporter.aspx?id=428), USA TODAY

College admissions officials, keenly aware that their target audience grows more tech-savvy with every passing year, appear to be getting the hang of social media such as Twitter and Facebook. Consider the following, based on surveys of hundreds of colleges by the Center for Marketing Research at the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth: Center director Nora Ganim Barnes says students should think twice about posting damaging material online but adds that none of the colleges said every applicant was checked. More typically, colleges were interested in candidates for scholarships or entry into programs with limited spaces. **"Colleges and universities are not trying to be punitive. They're trying to protect themselves," Barnes says. "No school wants to give out a prestigious scholarship and then find a picture with a (recipient) with a lamp on the head."**

A recent report by the National Association for College Admission Counseling revealed that 25% of US colleges were snooping via Facebook or search engines on applicants. An important privacy feature that is less used is the “Friends List” which allows you to lump together a group of your Facebook friends and limit what they can see.

**What about emailing my admissions counselor?**

### Use standard and proper English: Never, ever, ever use text message abbreviations!

In text messaging, abbreviations are standard. But it's not uncommon to make the disastrous mistake of using the same language in a formal email. Do not send: "hi i am interested in ur school can u send me more info plz." Do not use email addresses like “superhotdancer@aol.com . If necessary create a new email just for college purposes.

**Campus Visits**

**There is no substitute for seeing a college yourself**

Thereare many ways to find out about a college, from online sites, to brochures, to college fairs. But there is no substitute for seeing the campus yourself. Check on college websites for Junior or Senior Visit Days and Open Houses. Individual visits can also be arranged. Make your reservations early. Big 10 schools open houses fill up quickly!

Before you go:

* Call the Admission Office in advance, tell them the date you’d like to visit, and the time of day you expect to arrive.
* Inquire about scheduling an interview, attending an information session, visiting classes, and talking with faculty.
* If you want to stay overnight in a residence hall, ask if they can make arrangements.
* Research the college using the resources in the College Center or on the college’s website.
* Make a list of questions that you want answered.

While you are on campus:

* Talk to as many students as possible.
* Take a tour of the campus.
* Sit in on a class. Are the students prepared for class? Is there time for questions and discussion? Do students participate?
* Visit the athletic facilities. Is the facility open to all students or only to athletes?
* Have a meal in the cafeteria.
* Pick up copies of the college newspaper and magazine.

Questions to ask other students on campus:

* What do you like most about this college? Least? If you could change something, what would it be?
* Do many students go home on the weekends?
* Is it possible to study in your dorm?
* Can you have cars on campus?
* Is it hard to find a job on campus?

**The College Interview**

The importance of a campus or alumni interview varies from college to college. The key is to be prepared. Highly competitive schools consider an interview important. The interview is an opportunity for you to both tell them about yourself---information perhaps not covered in your application, and the chance for you to ask questions that you haven’t found the answers in the colleges’ publications. “20 Questions” from Dr. Katherine Cohen, The Today Show.

***1. Why do you want to go to college?***

***2. Why do you want to come to “X” college? (Be sure to answer this question for each school at which you plan to interview.)***

***3. How do you make a difference in your high school community?***

***4. What was your most challenging course in high school?  Why?***

***5. Which authors, books, or articles have had a profound effect on you?***

***6. What would you change about your high school if you had the chance? What do you enjoy about your school?***

***7. How have you changed or grown through high school?***

***8. What things do you do well and find most satisfying? What are your strengths and talents?***

***9. Which weaknesses would you like to improve?***

***10. Are you satisfied with your accomplishments so far?***

***11. How do you respond to academic competition and pressure?***

***12. How would you describe your family? Your community?***

***13. What was the biggest obstacle you have faced so far in your life and how did you get through it?***

***14. What three adjectives would your best friend use to describe you? Why?***

***15. What do you plan to study in college? Why?***

***16. What do you like to do for fun?***

***17. What do you hope to do with your college education after graduation?***

***18. What makes you unique?***

***19. In this week’s news, which issue(s) have you been most concerned about?***

***20. Do you have any heroes or heroines? Who are they and why do you admire them?***

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**College Interview Tips:**

* I got lost—is not an excuse. Be on time for your appointment. Arrive 5-10 minutes ahead of your scheduled interview.
* Even if you are told to dress casual, wear dress pants and a shirt with a collar. Remember, no jeans, t-shirts, skimpy tops or sweatshirts.
* Be well prepared. Research the college prior to your interview. Be prepared to ask questions based on what you read. Examples: How many students will there be in courses I’m likely to take in my first year? Are those courses taught by professors or graduate assistants? What types of computer facilities are available to students?
* Be positive. Answer questions to the best of your knowledge and ability. Do not be afraid to admit you don't know something.
* Be ready to talk about yourself. Know your test scores and latest grades. Offer information on what courses you selected, your participation in extracurricular activities, your goals, your interests, and your career objectives. Avoid one-word responses.
* Don’t stretch the truth. It is always good to be honest about the things you do.
* Be relaxed. Interviews are meant to be informative for both parties.

**\*After the interview…\*![C:\Documents and Settings\ckrashen\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\FZGO0BYA\MCj04414560000[1].png]()![C:\Documents and Settings\ckrashen\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\X4ACI7E6\MCj04260840000[1].wmf]()**

Follow up with an email or handwritten note thanking the interviewer for his or her time. Mention what you enjoyed about your visit.

Accepted

***I GOT INTO COLLEGE!***

* **Complete housing information** and place room deposit sooner rather than later. Housing is limited, and not always guaranteed for freshman. Big 10 schools fill up fast!
* Complete financial aid forms online—go to the website- www.fafsa.edu.gov
* Sign acceptance letter or notify college you will attend. Deadline for most colleges is **May 1**. It is only with the Early Decision option that the May 1st deadline does not apply.
* Send in an enrollment deposit if required.
* Inform all other college and universities of your choice and asked to be removed from their enrollment list.—See sample letters on page 24.
* Inquire about or register for college entrance and placement exams.
* Register for orientation.

**Financial Aid**

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**FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)**

In order to determine eligibility for financial aid, a family must complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). Before beginning the FAFSA, you should apply for a Federal Student Aid personal identification number (PIN) at [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov). The PIN will allow you to complete your FAFSA. The FAFSA cannot be filed prior to January 1 of a student’s senior year. If you have any questions call 1-800-4-FED-AID. Apply online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

**CSS Profile (College Board College Scholarship Service)**

Several hundred private institutions utilized the CSS. The CSS uses the institutional methodology which differs from the calculation performed by the federal government. The CSS collects data and sends it directly to the college. Website-- <https://profileonline.collegeboard.com/>

**Types of Financial Aid**

* **Grants** are typically based on financial need and don’t need to be repaid
* **Scholarships** may be awarded based on academics, special achievements or involvement in school or community activities. Financial need is sometimes a factor. It is known as gift aid, and does not need to be repaid.
* **Loans** are a significant part of most aid packages. The loan must be repaid, most often not until after graduation. Interest rates are usually lower than other types of loans. The repayment period varies from two to three years up to 30 years.
* **Work-study** refers to part-time jobs on campus. Funding is provided through the federal work-study program or institutional funds.

 **Financial Aid Terms**

* **Financial aid package**: The combination of scholarships, grants, loans and work-study that a student receives.
* **Need analysis**: Using information provided on the FAFSA form from both parents and the student. Many variables that affect a family’s financial situation are considered, such as the number of people in the household, children in college, age of parents, and types of assets and savings.
* **Expected family contributions (EFC)**: The amount the family and the student could reasonably be expected to contribute toward the cost of a college education. This is determined by the need analysis.
* **Need-based aid**: Financial aid award on the basis of the financial need shown by a family, determined by need analysis.
* **Merit-based aid:** Financial aid awarded on the basis of factors other than financial need. This usually consists of scholarships awarded for academic performance or for special talents.
* **Comprehensive fee**: The total cost of tuition, room, board, and student fees charged by a college or university. In addition, other expenses such as transportation and books are added to the comprehensive fee to determine the cost of attendance at a college.

**Helpful Websites**

Application

Common Application -- [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)

Athletics

**NCAA Clearinghouse** -- [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org)

# College Search

Colleges That Change Lives -- [www.ctcl.com](http://www.ctcl.com)

College ranking, college profiles, and much more -- [www.stateuniversity.com](http://www.stateuniversity.com)

College View -- [www.collegeview.com](http://www.collegeview.com)

Student/parents forum on admissions/scholarships -- [www.collegeconfidential.com](http://www.collegeconfidential.com)

Historically Black Colleges -- [www.blackhighereducation.com](http://www.blackhighereducation.com)

Peterson’s Guide -- [www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com)

Princeton Review -- [www.princetonreview.com](http://www.princetonreview.com)

School profiles and applications -- [www.collegenet.com](http://www.collegenet.com)

U.S. News & World Report -- [www.usnews.com](http://www.usnews.com)

Virtual Tours -- [www.campustours.com](http://www.campustours.com)

# College Testing

SAT/College Board -- [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

ACT -- [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)

# New Haven Scholarships

New Haven Promise -- <http://newhavenpromise.org/>

New Haven Scholarship -- <http://www.newhavenscholarshipfund.org/>

# Links to Financial Aid and Scholarships

CSS Profile -- [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

FAFSA on the web -- [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

Fast Web Student Resource Network -- [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

The Financial Aid Information Page -- [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)

Student loan information -- [www.salliemae.com](http://www.salliemae.com)

# Minority Scholarship Websites

200 Free minority scholarships -- [www.blackexcel.org](http://www.blackexcel.org)

Hispanic Scholarship Fund -- [www.hsf.net](http://www.hsf.net)

Scholarship Search for African American students -- [www.blackcollegedollwars.org](http://www.blackcollegedollwars.org)

Hispanic Scholarships -- [www.latinocollegedollars.org](http://www.latinocollegedollars.org)

National Urban League -- [www.nul.org/scholarships.html](http://www.nul.org/scholarships.html)