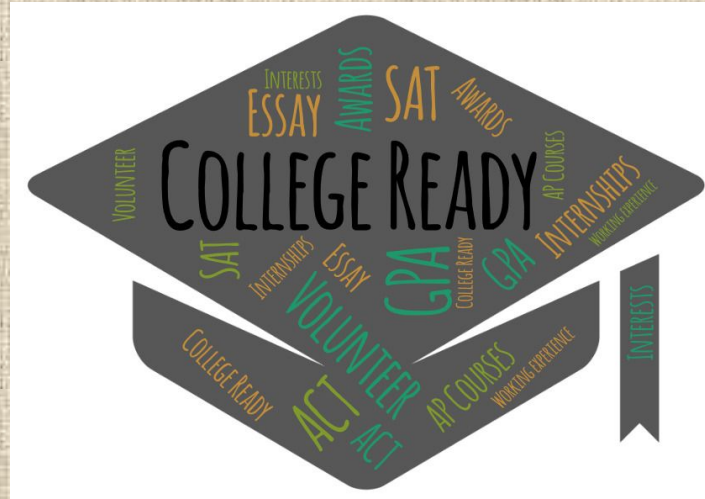


College Planning



**Secaucus High School
Guidance Department**

Class of 2020



POST-SECONDARY OPTIONS

*College

- 2 yr. Associate degree
- 4 yr. Bachelor degree

*Military

*Career/ Technical School

*Employment

Common Myths about College

- Test scores are the most important criterion in college admission
- There is only one perfect college for me
- Wait until you get accepted to visit
- If I'm getting a C in an Honors or AP course, it's ok because colleges will be impressed with my determination
- I need to decide on my career before I can choose a college
- If I haven't heard of a college or university, it can't be very good
- I should attend the most prestigious college that accepts me

About the College Process

- Keep the process in perspective
- Work together as a family
- **Students must take ownership**
- Discuss finances openly
- Start early and meet all deadlines
- Meet often with your counselor

WHERE DO I....

S₁

T₁

A₁

R₁

T₁

?



NAVIANCE

- A. Naviance is an electronic portal that allows all supporting documentation to be submitted to colleges electronically.
- B. Naviance has a college search tool that allows students to enter in criteria to narrow down their college search.
- C. All Juniors will be provided with Naviance logins in December.

The SAT logo consists of the letters "SAT" in white, bold, sans-serif font, set against a solid blue square background.

SAT/ACT Testing

The ACT logo features the letters "ACT" in a dark blue, serif font. A red swoosh underline is positioned beneath the letter "A". A registered trademark symbol (®) is located at the top right of the "T".

ACT

SAT

More Geometry (Math makes up $\frac{1}{4}$ of total score)	More Algebra (Math makes up $\frac{1}{2}$ of the total score)
Emphasizes reading comprehension.	Focuses on evidence-based questions and includes more vocabulary.
Has a Science section that tests skills like logic and analysis, not specific facts.	No Science section, but includes scientific questions in reading section.
Essay focuses on persuasive argument. *Essay Optional*	Essay asks for evidence-based analysis. *Essay Optional*
Gives less time per questions	More “tricky” questions.
www.actstudent.org	www.collegeboard.org

SAT/ACT recommendations

- A. Take an SAT and/or ACT in the spring of Junior year.
- B. Take two tests and consider a third if student is not satisfied with scores.
- C. Be sure to include up to four colleges to send scores to via Collegeboard.org while registering for an SAT.
- D. Most colleges will look at the highest scores in each category to create a “Superscore.”
- E. Utilize fee waivers if eligible for free/reduced lunch.
- F. **Students are responsible for sending official scores from the testing agency to each college!**

Building a List

- First, think about who you are (skills, interests, accomplishments thus far, etc.)
- Think about what you want to do
- Search for schools that fit your wants/needs/aspirations and also align with your academic profile (*campus feel/environment, academics and special programs, social atmosphere, cost, opportunities for the student, outcomes, student profile*)
- Consider any must-haves



Reach School

- School has 35% or less acceptance rate
- Credentials are lower than average of the most recently accepted class

Target School

- School has acceptance rate above 35%, typically close to 50%
- Credentials are within the average of the most recently accepted class

Safety School

- School has an acceptance rate above 50%, typically around 75%
- Credentials are higher than the average of the most recently accepted class



College Visits

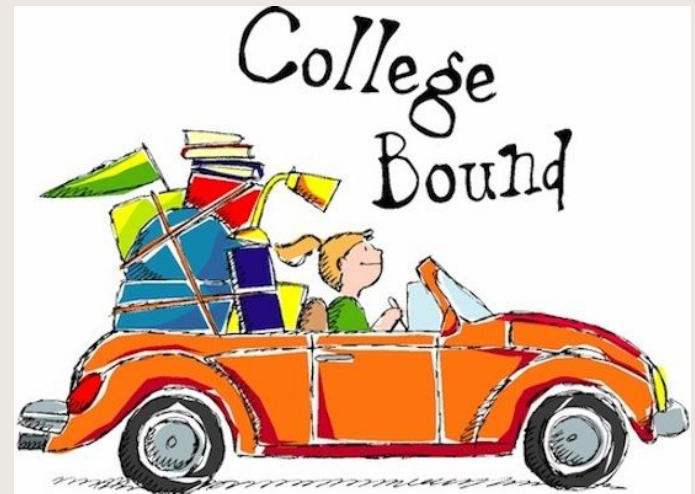


The best way to figure out if a campus is right for you is to physically go there, walk around, and ask questions.

- Schedule a personal tour
- Attend Open House Events
- Check websites for upcoming dates
- Make a list of questions/things you want to make sure the campus has or doesn't have.

Preparing for a College Tour

- Contact Admissions Office to set one up a private tour or **REGISTER FOR OPEN HOUSE DATES!!**
- Make a list of questions/things you want to make sure the campus has or doesn't have.
- Check out Social Media.



Possible Questions to Ask...

What do students do during their free time or on weekends?

What do you love about this college?

What is it like to live here ?(on campus and in the city)

What are the most popular programs?

What is the total cost of tuition, room and board and books?

What types of applications do you offer? When are the deadlines?



What Colleges Look For

Important Admissions Factors HOW TO GET IN AND WHAT IS CONSIDERED



Types of Admission and Application Terminology

- Early Decision (**Binding**)
- Early Action (**Non-Binding**)
- Priority Deadline
- Rolling Admission
- Regular Admission
- Deferred
- Waitlisted
- **You must submit your deposit to one school by May 1st!**

Evaluating an Application

- Transcript (most important document) – GPA, Courses & grades (includes grades 9 to 11 and senior courses)
- SAT I or ACT Scores– some schools are test optional
- SAT II Subject Tests (if required) SAT II's are required for some colleges, usually highly competitive schools (check with each school) – Each subject test is an hour – Can take up to three in a sitting
- Essay(s)
- Resume (extracurricular activities)
- Letters of Recommendation
- Supplemental Materials
- Demonstrated Interest





Student Responsibilities

- Create list of schools to apply to
 - Monitor deadlines
 - Write essays
- Submit applications on time
 - Send test scores
- Communicate with counselor and request transcripts in advance.
- Follow through with teacher recommendations
 - Complete FAFSA
 - Complete CSS Profile (if required)
- Make sure social media accounts are appropriate.

Counselor Responsibilities

- Send Secaucus HS School Profile
 - Send Transcript
- Submit Common App. reports
 - Write recommendation
(if requested)
- Support student through process

The Common Application

www.commonapp.org

- Must be completed online and sent electronically to approximately 700 schools
- May be used to save time from having to complete each college's individual application
- There is no disadvantage to using Common App rather than the college's own application
- The Common Application will go live for 2019/2020 on August 1, 2019.

Letters of Recommendation

- Teacher Recommendations – Determine number of recommendations needed – Speak with teachers about recommendations during the fourth marking period of junior year – Then, login to Naviance and request a letter of recommendation from each teacher after speaking to them in person
- Be sure to follow up with teachers in September and update them regarding the application list and deadlines

The College Essay

- The essay portion of a college application can mean the difference between acceptance & rejection
- It provides information about you that test scores, grades & extracurricular activities do not.
- It allows the admissions officer the chance to learn about YOU, as a person, to see your imagination and qualities firsthand.
- Most importantly...
It distinguishes you as an individual!

You will spend an average of 2 weeks working on your essay. Most admissions officers spend an average of **2 minutes** reading your essay

- The best essays tell a story about the applicant. It often helps to think about the impact that past events have had on you.
- Spend a good amount of time on your introduction.
- Do not mention GPA or standardized test scores in your essay.
- Will an admissions officer remember your essay after a day of reading hundreds of them?
- Ask yourself, “What makes this essay memorable?”



- SHS offers dual enrollment credits through St. Peter's College for certain AP courses.
- These college credits are offered at a significant discount.
- Working to expand this program in the near future.

Financial Aid

FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA)

- FAFSA can be submitted beginning October 1st of 2019.

- www.fafsa.ed.gov

Financial Aid Night on
September 24, 2019.

CSS PROFILE

- Not all schools require you to submit this document

- File in early fall of senior year!

- <https://student.collegeboard.org/cssfinancial-aid-profile>

Scholarships

Local Scholarship packets

A compilation of around 40-50 local scholarship applications handed out to each senior around February/March. Awards presented at Senior Awards Night.

Other Scholarships

www.Fastweb.com

www.Scholarships.com

www.collegeboard.org



NCAA



- Athletes applying to Division I or II schools must register with the NCAA.
- Go to www.ncaa.org/wps/portal
- There are eligibility requirements a student must meet to qualify for NCAA .

Guidance Website

- **Links for info regarding:**
 - College Open Houses
 - Financial Aid
 - Important Dates
 - Scholarships
 - Summer Programs
 - Employment Opportunities
 - Parent Info





**KEEP
CALM
AND
ENJOY
JUNIOR YEAR**