



WCA 2020 Senior Activities

July

- Senior portraits taken, proofs will be available \$200+ (optional)
- College Visits, major searches, online research

August

- Senior year begins
- UC Application opens 8/1
- SAT Exam 8/24

September

- SAT Prep Class at WCA 9/28

October

- College Kick Off Month
- CSU Application opens 10/1
- FAFSA Workshop -TBA
- Register for AP Exams
- SAT 10/5
- School Day SAT 10/10

November

- SAT 11/2
- Winter Formal Dance \$
- UC and CSU Application Deadline 11/30

December

- Senior contract due
- LAST SAT exam for UC and CSU applications
- Deadline for \$20 price for Yearbook Senior Dedication
- Last day to purchase Yearbook for \$50 (or \$40 with PTSA membership)
- Create College Portals - check weekly
- Order official transcripts from MSJC once

January

- Deadline for \$30 price for Yearbook Senior Dedication
- Scholarship Portfolio Due 1/10
- Check WCA Scholarship page regularly
- Purchase Grad night tickets \$
- Check college portals weekly
- Cap and Gown order
- Graduation Announcements can be ordered from Josten's

February

- Deadline for \$40 price for Yearbook Senior Dedication
- FINAL Grad Nite Ticket Purchase Date (\$100)
- Continue to submit scholarship applications



WCA 2020 Senior Activities cont.

March

- FINAL Deadline for Yearbook Senior Dedication (\$50)
- 5-10 Photos of yourself in digital format (from baby to present) due to Mrs. Gutierrez
- Last day to guarantee to receive a Yearbook for \$55 (or \$45 with PTSA membership)
- MORP (\$25-\$40- buy early to save)

April

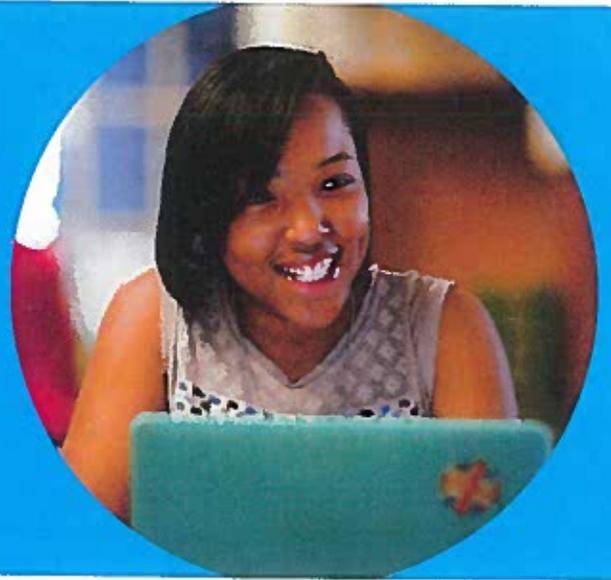
- Yearbook price is \$55 for all students until sold out (first come, first serve)
- Prom (\$60-\$80-buy early to save)
- Watch for information on Graduation Tickets, every person attending must have a ticket and they are limited.

May

- AP Exams
- College Housing Deposits Due
- Final Senior Grades posted
- Request final college and high school transcripts be sent to your college
- Senior Sunset, WCA Piazza
- Senior Awards Night, Hemet USD Board Room 7 pm
- Mandatory Graduation practice, WCA Piazza
- Graduation Ceremony, WCA Piazza 7pm
- Grad Nite, Disney CA Adventure (paid before Feb 8th)
- Diploma Pick Up

PREPARE FOR THE SAT WITH

Official SAT Practice



Get personalized practice recommendations based on your results from the SAT®, PSAT/NMSQT®, PSAT™ 10, and PSAT™ 8/9. **Take these steps to connect your College Board and Khan Academy® accounts:**

1

Go to satpractice.org

Create an account on Khan Academy, or sign into your existing account.

2

Link Your Accounts

When prompted, agree to link your Khan Academy and College Board accounts.

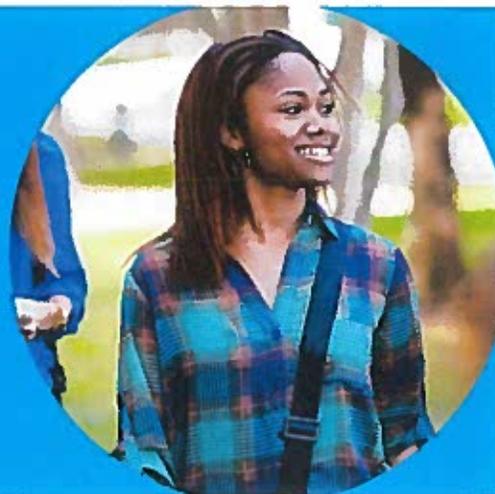
3

Send Your Scores

Sign in to your College Board account, and hit “Send” to get a personalized practice plan.

Sign up. Link up. Get practicing. satpractice.org

Show Up Ready on Test Day.



Official SAT® Practice on Khan Academy® is the best way to prepare for the SAT, and it's free! It's tailored for you, focusing on exactly what you need to practice most. Get started today.



Interactive Problems and Instant Feedback

Get hints, explanations, and constant progress updates to know where you stand.



Video Lessons

Watch easy-to-follow videos that explain problems step by step and give you tips for studying and test day.



Full-Length Practice Tests

Check your progress with our eight official practice tests.



Personalized Study Plan

Connect your College Board and Khan Academy accounts to create a personalized study plan based on your results on the PSAT/NMSQT® and other tests.



Big Results

Students who used these tools saw improvement—20 hours of practice was associated with an average 115-point increase from the PSAT/NMSQT to the SAT.

Sign up for free today at satpractice.org.

Are you an educator? Get tools to help spread the word about the benefits of Official SAT Practice at satpractice.org/k12.

College Exploration Worksheet

Purpose: To develop college research and assessment skills Materials: Computer lab or college information books

Name of College: _____

Location of College: Small town Urban/city
 Suburban Rural
 Other: _____

Type of College: Two-year Four-year
 Public Private

Type of Classroom: Lecture
 Small seminars
 Independent study
 Other: _____

Instructors: Full-time faculty
 Part-time faculty
 Graduate student teaching assistants

Financial assistance (type of financial aid, average financial aid package, average student graduation indebtedness): _____

Size of the college: _____

| | |
|---------------|-------------|
| Undergraduate | Graduate |
| Total | |
| Commuters | Residential |

Benefits of the location (activities, etc.): _____

Student body makeup: _____

Special academic programs: _____

Residential housing: _____

Academic support services: _____

Noteworthy alumni: _____

Special opportunities (internships, study abroad): _____

Why might you recommend this college to a friend?

Career services: _____

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. Visit bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/testing/which-college-admission-tests-do-i-need-to-take.

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." Visit bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/essays.

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[®]. Visit bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/testing/learn-about-the-ap-program.

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. Visit bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/applying-101/the-facts-about-applying-early-is-it-right-for-you.

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. Visit bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/applying-101/the-facts-about-applying-early-is-it-right-for-you.

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. Visit bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/financial-aid-101/financial-aid-can-help-you-afford-college.

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.

Open Admission

A policy of accepting any high school graduate, no matter what their grades are, until all spaces in the incoming class are filled. Almost all two-year community colleges have an open-admission policy. However, a college with a general open-admission policy may have admission requirements for certain programs.

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. Visit bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/inside-the-classroom/get-college-ready-now.

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. Visit bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/making-a-decision/what-to-do-if-youre-wait-listed.

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. Visit pages.collegeboard.org/how-to-convert-gpa-4.0-scale.

Finding Your College Fit Worksheet

It depends on how your SAT or ACT score compares to those of admitted students.

Reach: Your SAT or ACT score is lower than the average score range of admitted students.

Match: Your SAT or ACT score is solidly in the same score range as admitted students.

Safety: Your SAT or ACT score is higher than the average score range of admitted students.

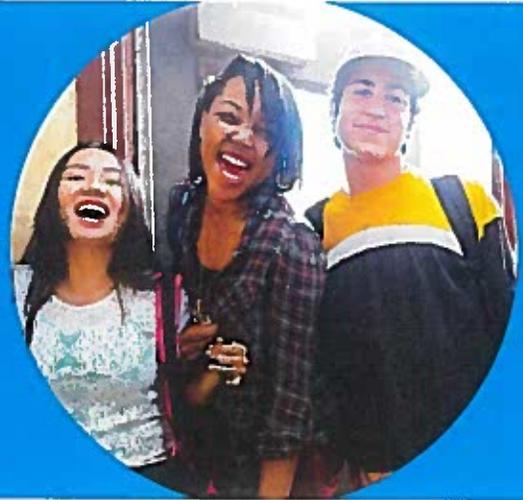
Test scores are important, but they aren't the only factor. Your chances of admission depend on your GPA and your high school achievements, as well as how many students apply and how many students a college admits.

Write your picks below. Take your list to meetings with your school counselor and others who may help you choose where to apply. Need help finding colleges? Visit bigfuture.org to search colleges and save your college list. Complete step four in the College Board Opportunity Scholarships program by saving six schools that meet the criteria in the chart below. You could earn a chance at a \$500 scholarship!

| College | Your Test SAT Score Is ... | Academic Fit Based on Your SAT Score |
|---------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | Below the average score range | Reach |
| | Below the average score range | Reach |
| | Below the average score range | Reach |
| | Within the average score range | Match |
| | Within the average score range | Match |
| | Above the average score range | Safety |

College Board Opportunity Scholarships

A Clearer Path to College



The College Board Opportunity Scholarships guide you through the college planning process and offer you a chance to earn money for college. Complete each action for a chance to earn scholarships:



1. Build Your College List: \$500

Get started by exploring colleges you're interested in.



2. Practice for the SAT: \$1,000

Use Official SAT® Practice on Khan Academy® to get ready for test day.



3. Improve Your Score: \$2,000

Show how practice pays off by improving your SAT score.



4. Strengthen Your College List: \$500

Make sure your college list has a mix of academic safety, match, and reach schools.



5. Complete the FAFSA: \$1,000

Fill out the free government form to apply for financial aid.



6. Apply to Colleges: \$1,000

Apply to the schools you want to attend.



Complete Your Journey: \$40,000

Complete all six scholarship steps to be eligible for a \$40,000 scholarship.

Learn more about your scholarship eligibility at [cb.org/opportunity](https://collegeboard.org/opportunity).

Senior Year Calendar for Students Applying for Financial Aid

SUMMER BEFORE SENIOR YEAR

- ❑ **Research scholarship opportunities for which you might be eligible.** An early start will give you time to meet deadlines and to prepare a competitive application.
- ❑ Create the FSA ID and password for yourself and at least one parent at studentaid.gov/fsaid.

SEPTEMBER

- ❑ **Ask your school counselor about local scholarships** offered by community groups, civic associations, and businesses in your area.
- ❑ Start gathering what you need to complete the FAFSA. Visit FAFSA online at fafsa.gov for a list of required documents.
- ❑ If you're going to apply **Early Decision** to a college, and financial aid is an important part of your decision to attend, review application deadlines and requirements carefully.
- ❑ Use the online **financial aid calculator** on collegeboard.org to estimate your family's expected family contribution (EFC).
- ❑ Complete the Net Price Calculator on the college website. The Net Price Calculator is a tool that students can use to get an early indication of how much and what types of financial aid they might receive.

OCTOBER

- ❑ Find out if there's a **family financial aid night** at your high school or in your area.
- ❑ If you need to fill out the **CSS Profile™**, visit cssprofile.org. The application becomes available Oct. 1.
- ❑ If any **scholarship applications need recommendations**, request them now, or at least four weeks before the deadline.
- ❑ If a college you're applying to has an **early financial aid priority date**, submit your FAFSA as soon as you can. Be sure you have completed any supplemental applications required by the college.
- ❑ **File the FAFSA and other aid forms now.** Remember: Some funds may be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Apply early to ensure you meet deadlines and maximize your aid award.

NOVEMBER

- ❑ **Check each college's financial aid section of their website** for deadlines and the required forms.

DECEMBER

- ❑ Check the status of your admission and financial aid applications. If any outstanding items are required by your college, ensure you respond by required deadlines. Many colleges provide online resources where you may check the status of your application.

JANUARY

- ❑ If needed, correct or update your **Student Aid Report (SAR)** that follows the FAFSA. Contact the college financial aid office for additional guidance.
- ❑ If you submitted the CSS Profile and you have not received a communication from your college's financial aid office, check in to see if the review of your application is on track.

MARCH

- ❑ Submit any final, outstanding information or documentation that may be required to process your aid award.

APRIL

- ❑ Most admission decisions and financial aid award letters arrive this month. **Carefully compare financial aid award letters** from the colleges that accept you.
- ❑ Contact the colleges if you have any **questions about the financial aid packages** they've offered you. Make sure you understand all terms and conditions.
- ❑ If you didn't get enough aid to be able to attend a particular college, explore other alternatives to cover the cost. Additional options, might include federal loans, such as the Parent Loan to Undergraduate Students (PLUS), which may not have been included in your initial award. If your family's financial circumstances have changed or you have special circumstances that may impact your eligibility, contact your financial aid office to discuss your options.
- ❑ Make a final decision, **accept the aid package, and mail a deposit check** to the college you select before May 1 (the acceptance deadline for most schools).
- ❑ On the **waiting list** at your first-choice college? Don't let being waitlisted jeopardize your aid at another college that has accepted you. Accept that award in case you don't make it off the waiting list.

MAY

- ❑ **Thank everyone** who wrote you recommendations or otherwise helped with your scholarship applications.

JUNE

- ❑ Think about your summer job options. The more money you make, the easier it will be to finance college—and have some fun during the school year.

What You Should Know About FAFSA:

THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID

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 expenses such 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.

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:

- 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; 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 homeschool setting approved under state law; or
 - enrolling in an eligible career pathways program.

Find more details about eligibility requirements at studentaid.gov/eligibility.

STEP 1

Create an FSA ID. Students, parents, and borrowers are required to use an FSA ID, made up of a username and password, to access U.S. Department of Education

websites. Your FSA ID is used to confirm your identity and electronically sign your federal student aid documents. To create an FSA ID, visit studentaid.gov/fsaid.

STEP 2

Collect the documents needed to apply, including income tax returns and W-2 forms (and other records of income). A full list of what you need is at fafsa.gov.

STEP 3

Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at fafsa.gov. The FAFSA is available from Oct. 1, to June 30. But you need to apply as soon as you can! Schools and states often use FAFSA information to award

nonfederal aid, and their deadlines are usually earlier in the year. You can find state deadlines at fafsa.gov. Also check with the schools you're interested in for their deadlines.

STEP 4

If you are eligible to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT), we strongly urge you to use the tool. It's the easiest way to provide your tax data and the best way of being sure that your FAFSA has accurate tax information. The IRS

DRT lets students and parents get the IRS tax return information they need to complete the FAFSA, and to transfer the data directly into their FAFSA from the IRS website.

STEP 5

Review your Student Aid Report. After you apply, you'll receive a Student Aid Report, or SAR. Your SAR has 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.

STEP 6

If you are selected for verification, your school's financial aid office will ask you to submit tax transcripts and other documents, as appropriate. Be sure to meet the school's deadline, or you will not be able to receive federal

student aid. Whether you're selected for verification or not, make sure the financial aid office at the school has all the information they need to determine your eligibility.

STEP 7

Contact the financial aid office if you have any questions about the aid being offered. Review award packages from schools to compare amounts and types of aid being offered. Decide which school to attend based on a combination of (a) how well the school suits your needs, and (b) its affordability after all aid is taken into account.

Note:

You also might be able to get financial aid from your state government, your school, or a private scholarship. Research nonfederal aid early (ideally, start in the spring of your junior year of high school). Be sure to meet all application deadlines!

College Application Materials Checklist

Use this checklist to keep track of the application forms and materials required by each school to which you're applying.

FORMS

- Requires secondary school report
- Requires midyear school report

College 1 College 2 College 3 College 4

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| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

TEST SCORES

- Requires entrance exam
- Requires test scores be sent from testing agency
- Requires SAT Subject Tests™
- Requires other state test scores

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RECOMMENDATION LETTERS

- Requires teacher letter of recommendation
- Requires counselor (or other school official) letter of recommendation

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ESSAYS/INTERVIEWS

- Requires essays
- Requires interview
- Recommends interview

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FINANCIAL AID FORMS

- Requires FAFSA
- Requires CSS Profile™
- Requires supplemental institutional form
- Requires state form

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Tips for Letters of Recommendation

A strong letter of recommendation from a counselor can be—and often is—the differentiator that will get a student a closer look in the admission process. Both the students and the admission teams truly appreciate it.

SUGGESTIONS

Gather information: Develop a way of obtaining information from your students through questionnaires, one-on-one meetings, or other techniques.

Personalize: Use the information to write an individualized and accurate letter. It should provide a picture of the student that cannot be found in any other part of the application.

Contextualize: Place the student in the context of their class or the school. Help the college understand your caseload and how well you know the student. Explain any unusual circumstances that may have affected the student's performance (within your rights given confidentiality constraints).

Share key attributes: Address attitude/character as well as academic ability. Relate observed characteristics such as leadership, passion, interests, and special talents.

Provide examples: Support your points with stories and details that highlight the student. Address growth if you have known the student over a significant period of time.

Stay honest: Be candid and comprehensive and include negatives if you are comfortable doing so.

Contribute to campus: Describe why you feel the student is a good fit for the campus and how the student can add to the community based on what you know about the college and its students.

Stick to one page: A specific, short letter is preferable to a general, long one.

Send it in: Share your letter with the college along with other forms like the counselor evaluation form. If you're sending a copy of a letter, be sure it is a clear photocopy. Keep a copy for yourself and don't hesitate to call the college if there is additional information you'd prefer to relay via phone.

THINGS TO AVOID

- Listing information that's available on the application
- Paraphrasing others who are writing recommendations
- Using the same language for multiple student recommendations
- Commenting on the student's appearance
- Having typos and grammatical mistakes
- Assuming that high grades are sufficient for selective colleges to admit a student
- Underestimating the impact a compelling letter can have on a student's application

Recommendations— Student Self-Assessment

This form assists your college counselor in writing your recommendation. The more specific details you give, the more thorough your college recommendation will be. This form will also help you with the entire college application process, especially in preparing for interviews and writing admission essays. Type your responses in a computer or use a separate sheet of paper.

Name: _____

Date: _____

- 1 School activities: List the activities in which you have participated, the number of years and the amount of time per week you spent, and what you have learned from each activity. Consider artistic, athletic, literary, community service, and leadership positions.
- 2 Which activity was the most important to you? Why?
- 3 What do you consider your most important activities outside of school? List paid or voluntary jobs, religious activities, hobbies, travel, music, art, and drama. Include the number of years of your involvement and the amount of time you spent weekly on the activity and explain why this activity was significant to you.
- 4 In or out of school, which awards and honors have you received? Which elected offices have you held?
- 5 What book(s) have had the greatest impact on you? Why?
- 6 Describe the academic accomplishment (major paper, science experiment, and/or artistic project) you are the most proud of and explain why you take pride in it.
- 7 What kind of learner are you? Which academic setting or assignments make you thrive? What interests you?
- 8 List your three most distinguishing or most admirable qualities. Explain each in several sentences.
- 9 What do you hope to accomplish in college and after college? Consider your career goals and your broader goals.