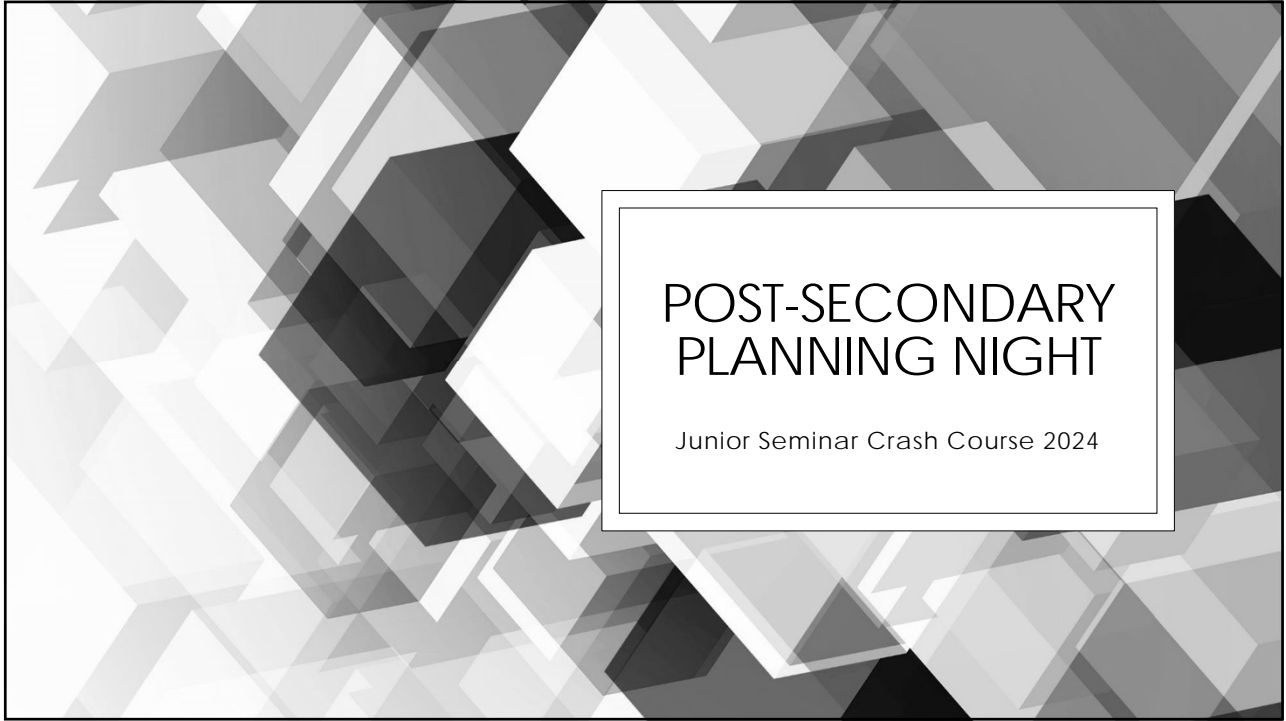
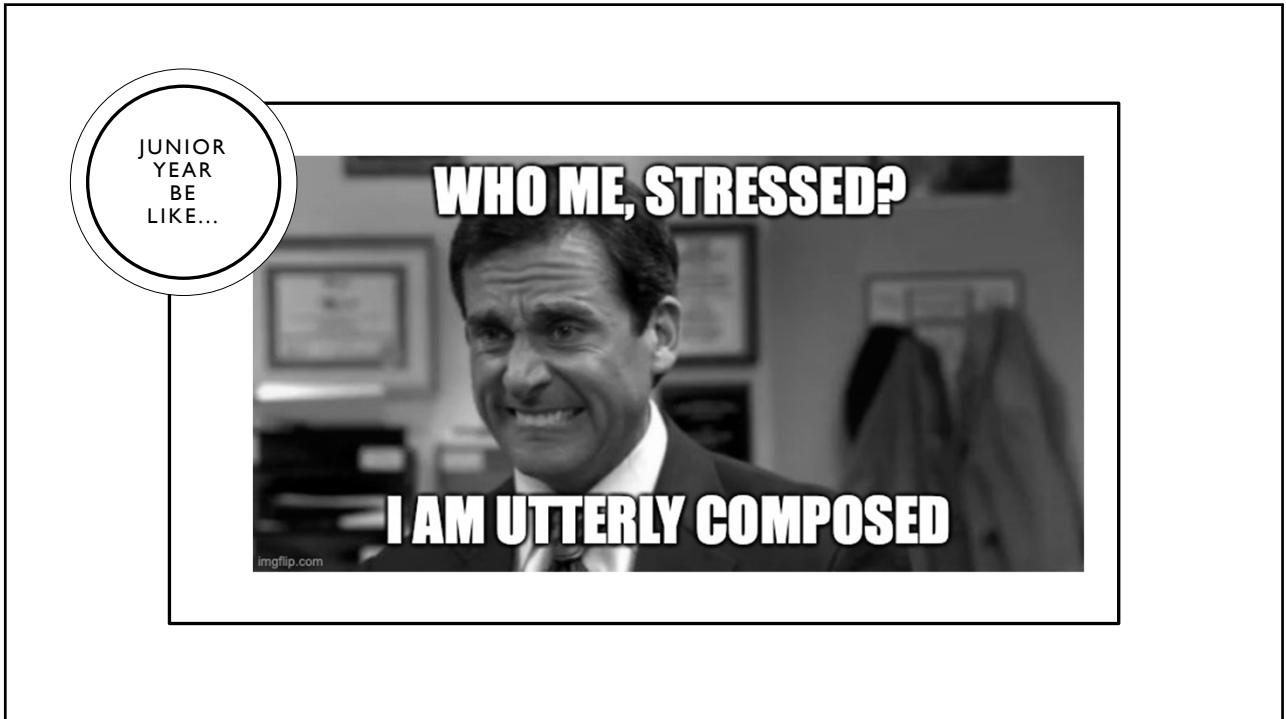




**Post-Secondary
Planning Night
2024**



1



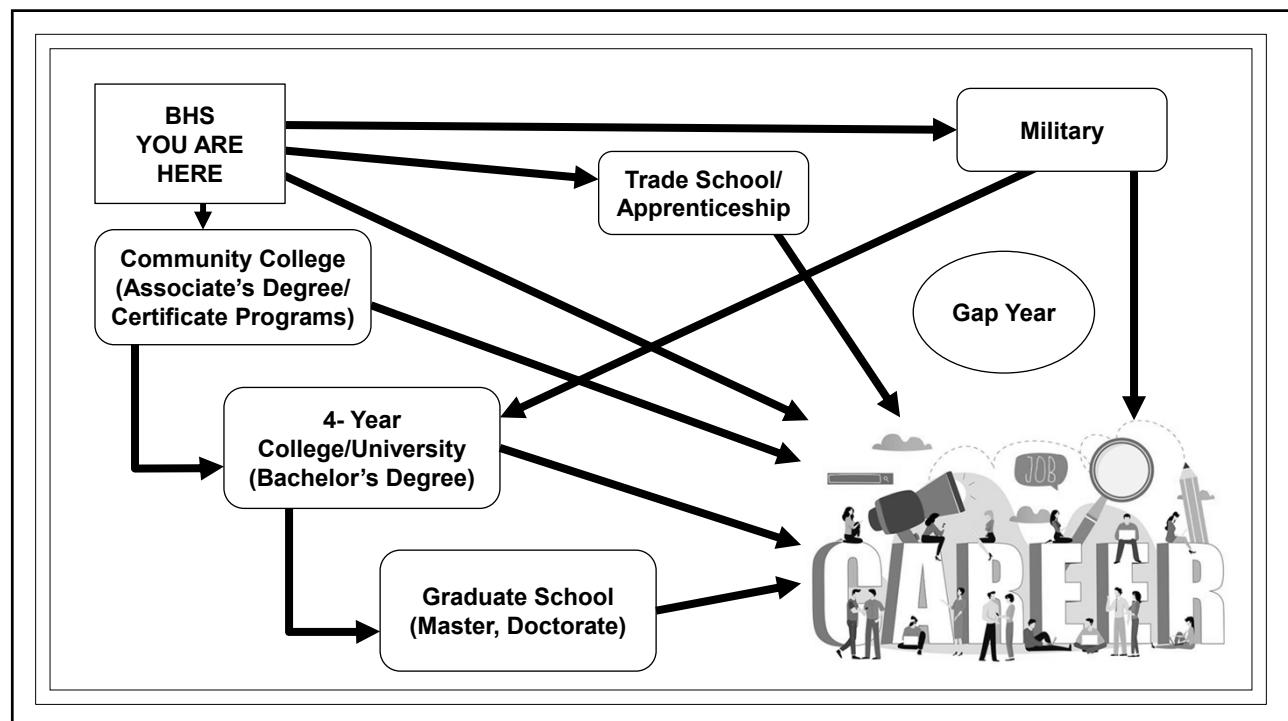
2

WE DON'T
WANT THAT!

- Breathe
- **Everyone's pathway is different from here on out**
- We're here to help you on YOUR pathway
- Take it one step at a time
- Come see us! Schedule an appointment anytime.



3



4

Junior Year Timeline

March

- Research of post-secondary options
- Plan for standardized testing and prep
- Virtual/in-person fairs and college/program visits.

April

- Explore options and schedule visits over break
- Finalize course request changes

May

- AP exams
- Plan for summer college visits, jobs, internships, etc.

June

- NO MORE elective changes- classes are finalized for your fall schedule.
- Regents exams/end of school!

5

Junior Course Selection Meetings

All Juniors met 1:1 with their counselors to review graduation requirements and choose senior year classes.

Each Junior left with a “Junior Packet” including a checklist of things to do this spring and a copy of their most recent transcript

We are recommending that Juniors and families explore Naviance together (log in using Class Link):

- Career searches
- College searches
- **Update their resume**
- **Complete the Junior Survey**

SEE YOUR COUNSELOR OR MRS. STERN FOR SUPPORT

6

NCAA Eligibility Center

Students interested in playing a sport at the collegiate level (Division 1 or 2) will have to qualify through the NCAA Clearinghouse (Junior/Senior year)

****The NCAA permanently removed a requirement that first-year Divisions I and II athletes earn a qualifying SAT or ACT score to participate in sports.**

NCAA requirements are DIFFERENT than NYS Graduation requirements

NOT ALL BHS CLASSES ARE NCAA APPROVED! See program of studies for a list of unapproved classes

DIII – Eligibility Center not required

****Visit NCAA.org for more information****

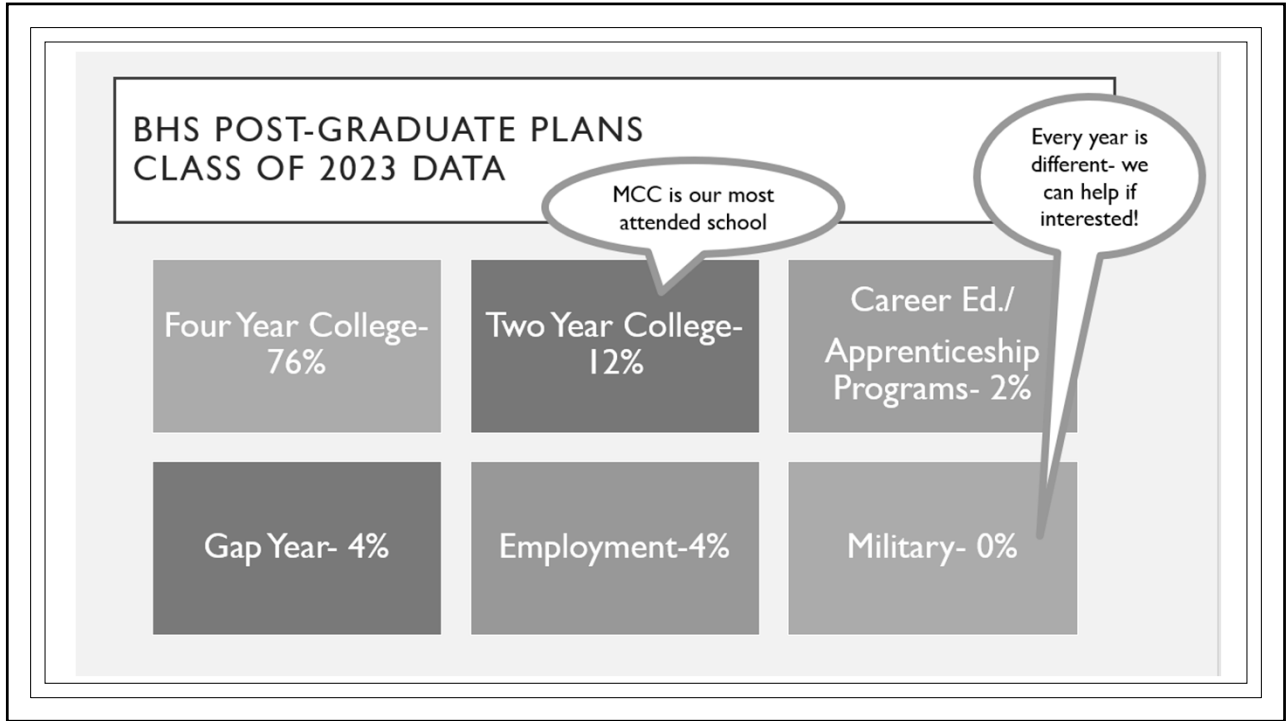
7



POST-SECONDARY OPTIONS

What do you want to do when you grow up and how do you get there?

8



9



10

There are 4,360 degree-granting postsecondary institutions in the United States.

There are many high paying careers that can be attained through apprenticeships or certificate training.

Narrowing your options:


How do you decide which option is best for you?

11

Ways to explore your options

- **Weekly Junior Newsletter**
- **Naviance**- Interest Inventories, career descriptions, Roadtrip Nation Interviews, college information
- **Job Shadows**- See Mrs. Stern!
- **BHS Alumni**- we can help connect you with recent graduates with similar interests
- **BHS Counseling Website**- information on gap year options, military, apprenticeship programs, etc.
- **Individual college & workplace websites**
- **Virtual Reality Headsets!**
- www.campusreel.org - over 15,000 real videos, tours and experiences from 300+ college campuses, created by current students
- www.Youvisit.com - It's never been easier to check out so many schools in one place. Browse around or use the search to pick a destination. When you find somewhere you like, connect directly with the school from within the tour. Did we mention it's FREE?
- <https://www.careeronestop.org/> - Sponsored by the US Department of Labor- your source for career exploration, training & jobs

12



**SUNY COLLEGE FAIR
AT BROCKPORT
WEDNESDAY APRIL 17TH**

ATTEND WITH FAMILY & FRIENDS

- 6-8PM

13



14

Reach

- Options that might be a little out of "reach"
- Ex- your GPA may be a little below the median, the cost might include personal loans, the location may be out of state, might struggle academically without supports.

Match

- Options that match who you are and what you are looking for
- Ex- your GPA is in median, the cost is affordable for your family, you are just far enough away, offers needed academic/social-emotional supports.

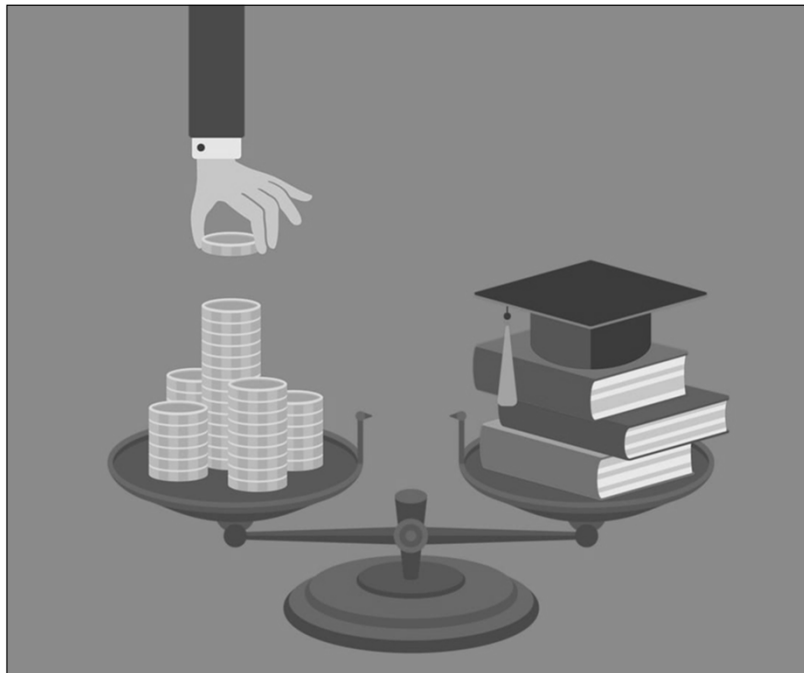
Safety

- Options that exceed what you are looking for, will meet your needs and then some
- Ex- your GPA is above the median, the cost is affordable/offers scholarships, location is a preferable distance from home.

Considering YOUR options

- ✓ Academics
- ✓ Finances
- ✓ Location
- ✓ Circumstances
- ✓ Services & Programs

15



Financial Planning

Family finances are a significant factor in career pathway choices. We encourage you to utilize your resources and have honest family conversations about all options.

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Financial Planning Resources

- o Net Price Calculators- on ALL college websites
 - o Estimates the cost of attendance for that specific college
- o College Score Card- www.collegescorecard.ed.gov
 - o Find out about colleges: their programs, costs, admissions, results, and more.
- o FAFSA - <https://fafsa.ed.gov>
- o BHS Financial Aid Night- October 2024
- o Scholarship Information
 - o BHS Counseling Department Website, Naviance, Individual College Websites

17

APPLICATIONS

No matter your plans (college, trade schools, jobs), they are the key to getting to the next step of your life journey!

18

Individual Job/Apprenticeship/College Apps	<h2>Types of Applications</h2> <p>(commonly used by BHS students)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usually submitted directly on the institution/workplace 	
Common Application	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.commonapp.org • More than 900 colleges 	
Coalition Application	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://coalitionforcollegeaccess.org • 140 colleges 	
SUNY Application	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.suny.edu/student • You can use one application to apply to unlimited SUNY schools • You will need to self-report your transcript 	
Common Black College Application	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://commonblackcollegeapp.com/ • One application for over 66 Historically Black Colleges & Universities 	

19



QUEST BRIDGE

The QuestBridge National College Match is a college and scholarship application process that helps high-achieving, low-income high school seniors gain admission and *full four-year scholarships* to the nation's most selective colleges.

National College Match- SENIORS

- Application opens in the summer (before senior year)
- Research [college partners](#)
- Submit free application and other materials [in late September](#)
- <https://www.questbridge.org/>

See your counselor NOW if you are interested in this opportunity!

20



Early Decision – Applications typically due 11/1, 11/15 or 12/1.

****Students are signing a LEGAL CONTRACT that they will attend that college if admitted****

Early Action- Similar to ED, but students are not obligated to attend

Rolling Admissions - Decisions are based on a rolling date...First in – first out.

Regular Admissions - Deadlines typically from 1/1 thru 3/15. The decision letter will often not come until mid March or April.

Open Admissions – Open acceptance of students

Instant Admissions – Immediate answer after review

21

LESSON TODAY- DEADLINES ARE IMPORTANT!

Once you make decisions on where to apply, talk with your counselor about what admissions plans may be best for you.

We won't let you procrastinate – you must submit applications 15 days prior to the actual deadline!!

****Check out the Registrar Deadlines****

22

WHAT ARE THEY LOOKING FOR?

What employers and admissions reps are looking at in your applications

23

Academic Capabilities

- Transcript
- Standardized test scores (ACT, SAT, AP)
- Strength of curriculum- did you challenge yourself appropriately?
- Portfolio/audition

Your Character

- Personal essay
- Counselor letter of recommendation
- Teacher letter(s) of recommendation
- Resume/extracurricular activities- clubs, employment, internships, etc.
- Interview

Demonstrated Interest- Are you really interested in this job/college?

- Campus/program visits
- In-school rep visits
- Reading emails/connecting with admissions rep

Parts of the application

AKA how employers and admissions reps get to know who you are and what you will bring to the job/college.

**** All students are creating a professional email and Common App account in Seminar.**

24

PERCENTAGE OF COLLEGES ATTRIBUTING DIFFERENT LEVELS OF IMPORTANCE TO FACTORS IN
ADMISSION DECISIONS: FIRST-TIME FRESHMEN, FALL 2023

	N	Considerable Importance	Moderate Importance	Limited Importance	No Importance
High school grades in college prep courses	185	76.8	15.1	4.9	3.2
Total high school grades (all courses)	185	74.1	18.9	5.4	1.6
Strength of high school curriculum	185	63.8	22.7	10.3	3.2
Positive character attributes	184	28.3	37.5	18.5	15.8
Essay or writing sample	185	18.9	37.3	26.5	17.3
Student's interest in attending	185	15.7	27.6	25.4	31.4
Counselor recommendation	185	11.9	40.0	27.6	20.5
Teacher recommendation	185	10.8	40.5	28.1	20.5
Extracurricular activities	185	6.5	44.3	30.8	18.4
High school class rank	183	5.5	22.4	43.2	29.0
Admission test scores (ACT, SAT)	185	4.9	25.4	38.9	30.8
Portfolio	185	4.9	10.8	24.3	60.0
Interview	185	4.3	8.6	32.4	54.6
Work	185	2.2	30.8	40.0	27.0
State graduation exam scores	185	1.6	6.5	18.4	73.5
Subject test scores (AP, IB)	185	1.1	22.2	25.9	50.8

NACAC 2023

State of College
Admission:
Factors in the
Admission
Decision

25

SAT & ACT Exams

Used by college admissions offices as ONE PART of the admissions review.

We recommend taking them in Junior year when you have time to commit to preparing (after sports season, between theater productions, etc.)

Sign up for the exams on their individual websites- collegeboard.org or actstudent.org – AND STUDY! (See test prep opportunities in packet)

Fee waivers are available if you qualify- see Mrs. Ingle if you need a fee waiver.

Admission ticket with uploaded photo required for admission to the exam.

If you receive test accommodations (IEP or 504): College Board is ALL SET! ACT - please email your counselor after you register.

****Although many schools may be test optional, test scores MAY be required for scholarship consideration****

26

SAT & ACT

SAT

- Collegeboard.org
- Test Content
 - Reading, math and optional writing.
- \$60
- \$30 late fee

ACT

- Actstudent.org
- Test Content
 - English, math reading and science reasoning.
- \$63 w/o writing
- \$88 with writing
- \$38 late fee

OFFICIAL scores need to be sent BY THE STUDENT to a college directly from College Board or ACT

27

What are Test Optional Schools?



Test Optional

You can choose to submit your scores if you wish thru ACT or College Board



Test Flexible

The school will use your AP or SAT/ACT in the review process



Some colleges don't require testing at all. For a list of these colleges go to [Fairtest.org](https://www.fairtest.org)

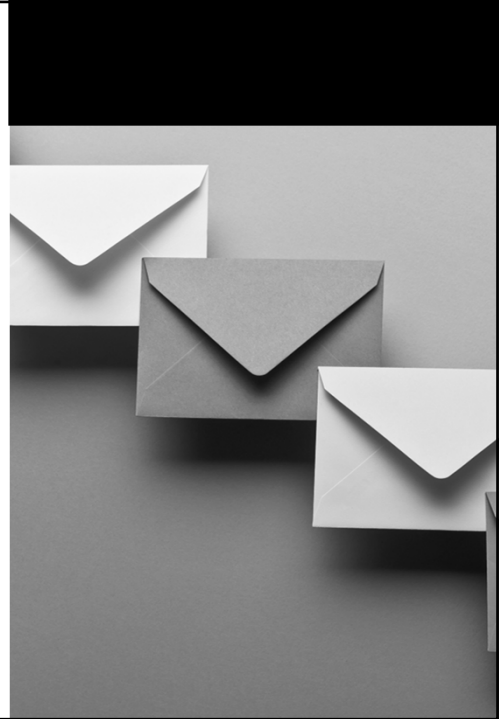


Although a college may be test optional/flexible, they may need official test scores to be considered for scholarships

28

- Your counselor will automatically write you a letter of recommendation focused on the **WHOLE** you!
- Think of 2 teachers who can speak about you as a student and a learner and fill out the **BHS LETTER OF REC REQUEST FORM** for those two teachers
- **Talk to your teacher in person ASAP and give them the request form**
- You will follow up with the teachers in the fall with a request through Naviance

*You can request letters from non-teachers (coaches, advisors, employers, etc.) We will cover this in senior seminar.



29



The Personal Essay

This is a chance to show the college/employer **WHO** you are outside of a classroom.

Check out [CommonApp.org](https://www.commonapp.org) for a list of the essay prompt options.

Brighton Continuing Education will be offering classes over the summer to help you get started and hopefully finish your essay in one week!

30



LOOKING AHEAD

What to do this spring/summer and what's coming in the fall

31

PARENT BRAG SHEETS

WE LOVE YOUR FEEDBACK!

- Please take the time to complete the parent brag sheet:

<https://forms.office.com/r/ZGweeuiGpr>

- The link to the brag sheet will also be included in the Junior Newsletter soon!

32

Tips for Spring/Summer

Begin compiling a list of potential post secondary options

VISIT & RESEARCH

- Talk with family, friends, counselors and teachers
- Schedule guided tours to make the most of your college/employment visit
- Don't be afraid to call colleges/employers!
- Find Alumni in your area
- Use social networking to your advantage (appropriately)
- GOAL: Return in the Fall with 5 to 10 options

33



**AUGUST
20 & 22!**

Summer Office Hours for
seniors with Mrs. Stern, BHS
College & Career Counselor.

9-11am & 12-2pm

- work on applications
- research options
- review essays
- whatever you need!

34

Senior Timeline - FALL

- Read weekly SENIOR NEWSLETTER
- Attend seminar (5 cycles)
- Attend College/Military Rep Visits at BHS (list in Naviance, Hall's Corner, Senior Newsletter)
- Retake SAT/ACT (Sept-Nov)
- Request letters of recommendation through Naviance – IN SEMINAR
 - SAY THANK YOU!!
- Attend Senior Office Hours and Instant Decision Days (September-December)
- **Submit applications & blue sheets 15 school days PRIOR to college deadline**
- Attend Senior Parent Night Series
 - BHS Application Process
 - Financial Aid 101
- File FAFSA
- Have fun but NO SENIORITIS!

35

Registrar deadlines!

On average, we process over 2,000 college applications each year!

We NEED at least 15 school days to process an application to ensure it gets out on time (Breaks and holidays do NOT count)

COLLEGE DEADLINE	REGISTRAR DEADLINE
◦ November 1	◦ October 8 ←
◦ November 15	◦ October 23
◦ December 1	◦ November 4
◦ December 15	◦ November 19
◦ January 1	◦ November 26 ←
◦ January 15	◦ December 11
◦ February 1	◦ January 7
◦ February 15	◦ January 22
◦ March 1	◦ January 31

If thinking about ED/EA- plan to get a lot done this summer (attend Senior Bootcamp!)

Aim to have all applications submitted by Thanksgiving

****Make sure to check college SCHOLARSHIP deadlines- may be different than APPLICATION deadlines**

36

	<p>DO NOT SUBMIT anything over the summer!!</p>	<p>We recognize that colleges are pushing you to submit applications earlier...remember, they are a business!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have a successful process that has been used for many years to ensure that everything is sent correctly and on time- <u>all of which will be taught in SENIOR SEMINAR!</u> • Transcripts are not finalized until the end of August/early September. • BHS School Profile needs to be completed- some data does not come from state until September/October. • Allowing time for senior schedules to be settled. • Teacher letters of recommendation need to be requested CORRECTLY through Naviance. <p style="text-align: center;">You will not be at a disadvantage!</p>
--	--	---

37

<p>For college apps, this means...</p>	
<p><u>YES!!</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ You are encouraged to continue working on your Common App and other applications over the summer. ◦ Continue to search colleges, careers, employment opportunities and look up their requirements- supplemental essays? 	<p><u>No thank you:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Request letters of recommendation via Naviance or Common App. ◦ Request transcripts over the summer. ◦ Submit applications over the summer.

38

Get help planning your life after high school!

September - Thanksgiving

Come for 5 minutes or a whole period!

Great place and time to dedicate to your post-secondary planning.

SENIOR OFFICE HOURS

TUES

11am-3pm

THURS

8am-11:30am

Rm 255

MON & WED

3pm-4:30pm

Career Center

39

Alfred University
Canisius College
Keuka College
FLCC
Golisano Institute
MCC
Niagara University
Roberts Wesleyan U.
St. Bonaventure U.
St. John Fisher U.
SUNY Brockport
SUNY Fredonia
SUNY Geneseo

INSTANT DECISION DAYS!

This is a great way for your application to come to life (literally!) and get to know more about what that institution has to offer you.

Students will meet with an admissions rep, review your application, talk about their goals, and get an admissions decision **THAT DAY** (or within a few days)!

40

“It’s a match to be made, not a prize to be won.”



41

We are here for you!

Senior Bootcamp with Mrs. Stern

August 20 & 22

9-11 & 12-2


No need to sign up,
just show up to work!

Individual Appointments with your Counselor

See Mrs. Ingle or Mrs. Hellman to schedule in-person, 1:1 appointments.

OR

Use your counselor's Booking link to schedule an appointment in person.



Check out our new BHS
Counseling Website!

42

Remember to finish your Resume & Junior Survey in Naviance!

Remember to request teacher letters of rec IN PERSON before you leave for summer!

ATTEND SENIOR PARENT NIGHTS IN SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

Do you have any general questions?

THANK YOU FOR COMING!

DIVISION I ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

To study and compete at a **Division I school**, you must earn 16 NCAA-approved **core-course credits**, earn a minimum 2.3 **core-course GPA** and submit your final transcript with proof of graduation to the Eligibility Center.

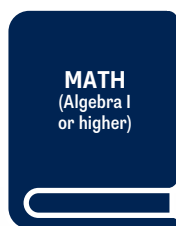
CORE-COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Earn 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits in the following areas:



ENGLISH

4 years



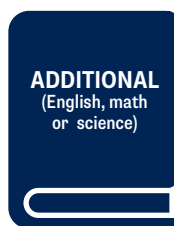
MATH
(Algebra I
or higher)

3 years



SCIENCE
(Including one
year of lab,
if offered)

2 years



ADDITIONAL
(English, math
or science)

1 year



SOCIAL
SCIENCE

2 years



ADDITIONAL
COURSES
(Any area listed
to the left,
world language
or non-doctrinal
religion/philosophy)

4 years

For Division I, 10 of your 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits must be completed before the start of your seventh semester, including seven in English, math or science.

QUALIFIER

As a Division I qualifier, you may practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship during your first year of full-time enrollment at an NCAA Division I school.

- » Earn 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits in the right areas.
 - o Complete 10 of your 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits, including seven in English, math or science, before the start of the seventh semester.
 - o Complete your 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits in eight academic semesters or four consecutive academic years from the start of ninth grade.
- » Earn a minimum 2.3 **core-course GPA**.
- » Submit your final transcript with proof of graduation to the Eligibility Center.

ACADEMIC REDSHIRT

As a Division I academic redshirt, you may practice during your first regular academic term and receive an athletics scholarship during your first year of full-time enrollment but may NOT compete during your first year of enrollment. You must pass either eight quarter or nine semester hours to practice in the next term.

- » Earn 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits in the right areas.
- » Earn a minimum 2.0 core-course GPA.
- » Submit your final transcript with proof of graduation to the Eligibility Center.

* More information regarding the impact of COVID-19 can be found at on.ncaa.com/COVID19_Spring2023.



TEST SCORES

In January 2023, NCAA **Divisions I** and **II** adopted legislation to remove standardized test scores from initial-eligibility requirements. Check with the NCAA school you plan to attend regarding whether standardized test scores are necessary for admission or scholarship requirements.

** More information regarding the impact of COVID-19 can be found at on.ncaa.com/COVID19_Spring2023.*

CORE-COURSE LIST

Find your high school's list of NCAA-approved core courses at eligibilitycenter.org/courselist. No core-course list means courses taken from that high school will not count for NCAA eligibility. If your high school does not have a list, you risk being ineligible to play in college.

NONTRADITIONAL AND ONLINE COURSES

Nontraditional courses are taught online or through distance learning, hybrid/blended, independent study, individualized instruction, correspondence or similar means.

These types of courses may be acceptable for use in the NCAA initial-eligibility certification process; however, it is important to make sure the nontraditional program has been approved and appears on [your school/program's list](#) of NCAA-approved core courses.

BE AHEAD OF THE GAME

- » Plan to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center at eligibilitycenter.org before your freshman year of high school. Visit on.ncaa.com/RegChecklist to help guide you through the registration process.
- » After six semesters of high school, ask your high school counselor from each school you have attended to upload an official transcript to your Eligibility Center account.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- » [DII Academic Requirements flyer](#).
- » [DIII Amateurism flyer](#).
- » [International Initial-Eligibility flyer](#).



Want more information? Visit ncaa.org/playcollegesports.

CONTACT THE NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER

U.S. and Canada (except Quebec): 877-262-1492
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time

[@ncaaec](#) [@playcollegesports](#) [@ncaaec](#)



DIVISION II ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

To study and compete at a **Division II school**, you must earn 16 NCAA-approved **core-course credits**, earn a minimum 2.2 **core-course GPA** and submit your final transcript with proof of graduation to the Eligibility Center.

CORE-COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Earn 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits in the following areas:

ENGLISH	MATH (Algebra I or higher)	SCIENCE (Including one year of lab, if offered)	ADDITIONAL (English, math or science)	SOCIAL SCIENCE	ADDITIONAL COURSES (Any area listed to the left, world language or non-doctrinal religion/philosophy)
3 years	2 years	2 years	3 years	2 years	4 years

QUALIFIER

As a Division II qualifier, you may practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship during your first year of full-time enrollment at an NCAA Division II school.

- » Earn 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits in the right areas.
- » Earn a minimum 2.2 **core-course GPA**.
- » Submit your final transcript with proof of graduation to the Eligibility Center.

PARTIAL QUALIFIER

If you have not met all of the Division II academic standards, you will be deemed a partial qualifier. As a partial qualifier, you may practice and receive an athletics scholarship, but may NOT compete, during your first year of full-time enrollment at an NCAA Division II school.

* More information regarding the impact of COVID-19 can be found at on.ncaa.com/COVID19_Spring2023.

 DIVISION II
MAKE IT YOURS



TEST SCORES

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- » After six semesters of high school, ask your high school counselor from each school you have attended to upload an official transcript to your Eligibility Center account.
- » For more information on Division II, visit ncaa.org/D2.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- » [DI Academic Requirements flyer](#).
- » [DIII Amateurism flyer](#).
- » [International Initial-Eligibility flyer](#).

Want more information? Visit
ncaa.org/playcollegesports.



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Reach, target and safety schools: Don't slip when creating a smart college list

The College Solution with Lynn O'Shaughnessy



A critical part of the college search process is creating an excellent list of colleges, which often includes reach, target and safety schools.

Families often slip badly on this extremely important yet tricky task of pulling together a solid college list. If a teenager creates a problematic list, parents can easily pay too much money for college.

One of the key issues when creating a solid college list is to understand the definition of these terms:

- **Reach**
- **Target**
- **Safety**

High school counselors commonly recommend that students apply to all three types of schools. This, however, can be a more costly move in many cases.

First, let's break down what each is.

Reach schools

Definition:

Reach schools represent colleges and universities where students have a low chance of gaining admission.

The most well-known of the reach schools are the elite institutions. These include the most highly ranked research institutions such as the Ivy League members and others in this category that are gathered at the top of U.S. News & World Report's rankings in the national university category. They include such schools as MIT, University of Chicago, Stanford, Caltech, Duke, Georgetown and Emory.

Other schools in this category include the most highly ranked liberal arts colleges. They include institutions such as Williams, Amherst, Bowdoin, Middlebury, Pomona, Claremont McKenna and Swarthmore colleges.

These are institutions where it's nearly impossible to gain admittance without a hook and even then, rejection is the most common outcome. These schools should be considered a reach school by just about everyone. And that includes students who earn perfect SAT or ACT scores and graduate as high school valedictorians.

Other reach schools

Under the right circumstances, most colleges can be reach schools. Students, whose academic statistics put them into the lower 25% of accepted applicants in the most recent completed admission season, would be applying to a reach school.

Example:

Let's say a student has a 1100 SAT and a 3.1 GPA. This student would be applying to a reach school if the middle 50% of accepted students at this institution had an SAT range of 1110 to 1260 or higher. In this example, the top 25% of accepted students would have had an SAT score above 1260.

It's easy to find standardized score figures. I used to recommend heading to the College Board's website to obtain these statistics, but I don't anymore because when the College Board, which is a membership organization for higher-ed institutions, overhauled its college profiles, it stopped sharing some important admission and financial figures.

Now I recommend using CollegeData.com, which, unlike the College Board, doesn't have to placate colleges and universities that would prefer that certain information be withheld from families.

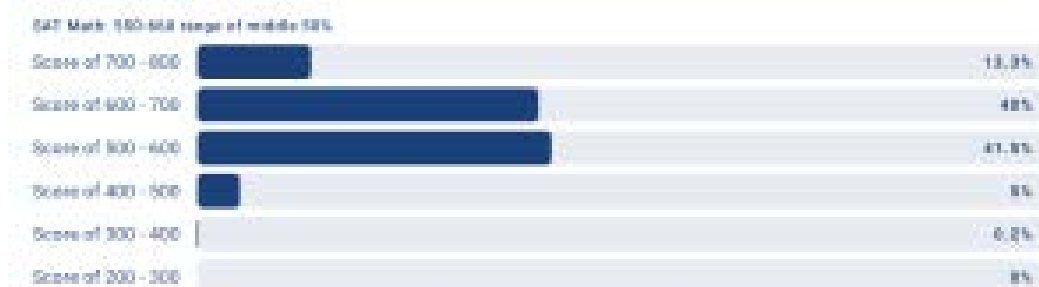
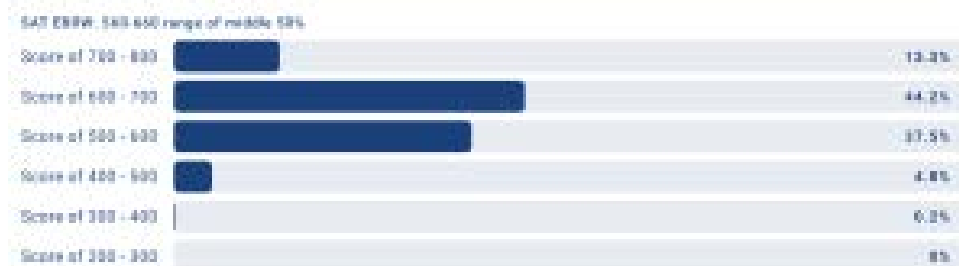
You may have to register (for free) with CollegeData to get full access to the site, but I've never once been contacted by CollegeData in the many years that I've been happily using the site.

On the CollegeData's website, type in the name of a school and once the institution's profile is pulled up, click on the *Admissions* link.

50% Range for SAT and ACT scores

Below is an example of what you will find for an individual school. At the top of each graph, you'll see the middle range of SAT test scores in math and "evidence-based reading and writing" (EBRW) and the 50% range for ACT scores. I didn't include it, but there are also charts for ACT's math and reading scores.

In the graphics, you'll also see a further breakdown in how the students performed with these tests.



ACT SCORES OF ENROLLED FRESHMEN

15-29 range of middle 50%

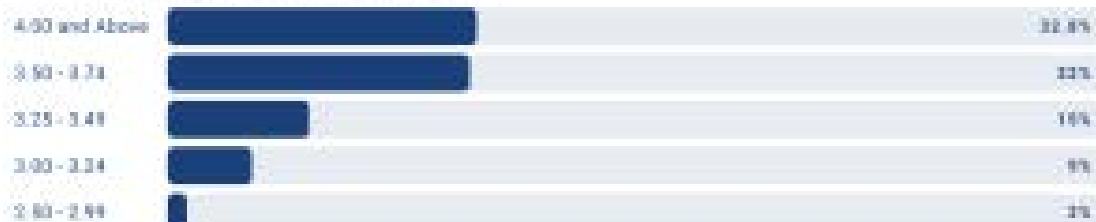


One thing to keep in mind, however, is that most schools became test-optional after the Covid pandemic struck and have remained so. Many students are not submitting test scores so the published scores are going to be artificially higher as a result. After all, teenagers with lousy scores aren't going to want to share them with colleges.

It would be helpful to know what percentage of students submitted test scores at an institution. Go ahead and ask a test-optional school that question. Unless a school is test-blind, which means they will NOT accept anyone's scores, not submitting scores can, in some cases, hurt chances for admission and for merit awards. I suspect it could also hurt need-based chances, but no school would likely ever admit that.

On the CollegeData site, you will also see the breakdown of GPAs below for an individual college:

GRADE POINT AVERAGE OF ENROLLED FRESHMEN (4.0 SCALE)



In this example, the chances of gaining admission without at least a 3.25 GPA is quite low.

Reach school implications

Here is why applying to a reach school can be a poor move.

Students in the reach pool will likely be gapped. When gapping occurs, the school accepts the student, but the financial aid award is so low that the applicant will usually go to a different school or take on scary debt to attend.

In some cases, the gap between what a family can afford and what the school offers can be tens of thousands of dollars. In other cases, the student may receive no financial assistance.

Obviously, it would represent a huge financial hardship for a student who needs financial assistance to get gapped by a reach school. That's why reach schools can be especially hazardous for applicants who need a lot of financial aid.

Meanwhile, students, who get accepted to a reach school and don't qualify for need-based aid, are far more likely to receive a smaller merit scholarship or none at all.

Appreciating this reality, my son didn't apply to any reach schools. He applied to liberal arts colleges where he was in the upper range of applicants. Not surprisingly then, Ben received good merit scholarships from the eight schools where he applied. Consequently, Ben enjoyed the luxury of picking the college that he really wanted to attend, which was Beloit College in Wisconsin.

There is also a hazard to applying to elite schools, which as I've suggested represents a reach for 99.99% of teenagers. High-income students who beat the odds and do get into one of these schools will almost never get a merit scholarship.

So high-income students, who aim for the most elite schools (a growing trend is to call them highly rejective colleges), will pay full price. For some parents, paying \$325,000 for a bachelor's degree won't matter. To them, the bragging rights and the perceived career advantage are worth every penny.

Plenty of high-income families, however, would balk at paying this exorbitant amount or simply don't have the cash. This would be especially true if there are two or more children in the household or children have aspirations of going to graduate/medical/law school and having mom and dad pay.

Target schools

Definition:

These schools represent institutions where the applicant's test scores and GPA are within that middle 50% range that I discussed above. In other words, many students on the campus had academic profiles as high schoolers that were similar to today's applicant.

Target school implications

It is possible for a school, if it is test optional, to be a target for a student even if the applicant's SAT or ACT score is lower than the published 50% range. This is true for reach schools too. Test-optional schools don't require students to submit standardized test scores, but once again families need to make sure that withholding test scores won't jeopardize a chance for an institutional merit scholarship.

If applying to a target school without submitting scores, the student's grade point average should be in the 50% range or preferably higher. If the GPA isn't high enough then the school would drop to a reach.

Keep in mind that target schools typically aren't going to be as generous to accepted students who sit in the 50% range. When money is an issue, this should be an important factor.

Colleges routinely give their best packages to student who are in the top 25% of applicants or higher. Most students, however, don't pay full price.

Safety schools

Definition:

With safety schools, the applicant is in the top 25% applicants. Remember that at highly selective schools there is no guarantee that an applicant will get accepted. Students shouldn't assume a school is a safety if the institution has a high rejection rate.

Luckily, most schools accept the vast majority of their applicants. Because of this reality, a student doesn't have to be in the top 25% of applicants for a school to be considered a safety choice. In fact, every year UCLA oversees a survey of freshmen at four-year public and private colleges across the country and every year, roughly 75% of students say they got into their first choice school.

Safety schools also include open enrollment state colleges which accept just about everyone.

It's not hard to get into most colleges, what is usually harder is paying for it!

Safety school implications

Safety schools are going to be the most likely to provide the best merit scholarships because institutions crave students who have the highest academic credentials in their pool of applicants.

What it takes to qualify as a safety, will depend upon the school. At a competitive college, a student with a 3.4 and a 1240 could be a great applicant. At another school, to be a top candidate would require a 1450 SAT and a 3.8 unweighted GPA.

A safety school should not only be an institution where the student has an excellent chance to be admitted, but it should also be a financial safety where the price is

reasonable or the child has an excellent chance of getting a price discount from the college.

Bottom line on selecting reach, target and safety colleges

1. You can't assume that just because a student has great academic credentials, that they will receive a top award. As a general rule, that is true, but you also have to look at the school.

Brand-name schools on the East and West coasts, for instance, don't have to give as many scholarships nor as many generous ones, because they get plenty of wealthy applicants who will pay full price.

To illustrate, let's look at Villanova University, a popular East Coast Catholic school in Philadelphia that educates a low percentage of low-income students but a high percentage of wealthy students. At Villanova, just 63 (3.7%) of freshmen received a merit scholarship and the average amount was \$18,712. That won't dent the price much when you consider that Villanova's cost of attendance is nearly \$76,000.

In contrast, schools located in less desirable parts of the country (ie. not East or West Coast cities) will typically give better awards and to more applicants.

2. Because financial aid and merit awards are tied to what kind of schools a student is applying to (reach, target, safety), it is critical that a parents use each [college's net price calculator](#) to get a head-up on what the net price of the institution would be.

By doing so, parents could limit a child's expectation before he or she applies to individual schools.

3. Finally, when money is an issue, it's critical to look at the financial implications of applying to reach, target and safety schools.

<https://thecollegesolution.com/reach-target-and-safety-schools-dont-slip-when-creating-a-smart-college-list/>

Rookie parent mistakes on campus visits

By Lee Shulman Bierer



If this spring break is going to be your first stroll on a college campus since your own graduation day, here are four tips to avoid some rookie-parent campus visit mistakes.

Remember, this is about your kids, not you. Your priorities for safety, class size, spacious dormitories and nutritious food may not be exactly aligned with those of your child.

Tip #1: Keep quiet. As hard as that may be, the less you say, the more your child is likely to create their own impressions, ask their own questions and make their own judgments. This trip is not about you reliving your college experience, it's about identifying colleges that represent a great fit for your child. Empower your student to take control of the visit.

Tip #2: Encourage your child to be proactive. Gently suggest that your child ask questions during the Information Session and Tour. Additionally, encourage them to initiate conversations with current students in the dining hall or in the Student Center. I always recommend that my students walk up to a group of students and ask them for five minutes of their time. There is no question this is a tough task for many high school students, but the return on the investment is well worth the effort. College students love to talk about their school; the good, the bad and the ugly. Your student will receive some honest feedback on what current students like and what they don't like about their school. If the chat reveals that everyone is in the midst of transfer applications because the academics have been disappointing; well then, you've learned an awful lot that you would never have heard from anyone in the admissions office.

Remember that you need to take all the information you receive with a grain of salt. It is the admissions office's mission is to make you want to apply; consequently they are only going to share their accolades and their strengths and yes, the tour guides are really college cheerleaders in disguise.

Tip # 3: Get lost. Get off the beaten path. Try and visit a dorm room that wasn't on the tour. Say "hi" to students passing by to see how friendly the campus is. Ask for directions. Check out different facilities on campus: the theatre, recreation center, science laboratories, dining halls, etc.

Don't forget to tour the surrounding area. How far do you need to travel for that late night pizza or that missing shower cap? What's within walking distance and how accessible are movie theatres, restaurants and cultural opportunities?

Tip # 4: Have everybody jot down their thoughts. This task is especially helpful if you plan to see multiple colleges over several days. It's very hard to remember which one had the gorgeous fountains or the brand new dorms. But, even more importantly, ask your child to record their impressions of how well they think they'd fit in at each school, both academically and socially. Can they visualize themselves on that campus? That's key.

Bierer is an independent college adviser based in Charlotte. Send questions to: lee@collegeadmissionsstrategies.com; www.collegeadmissionsstrategies.com



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FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

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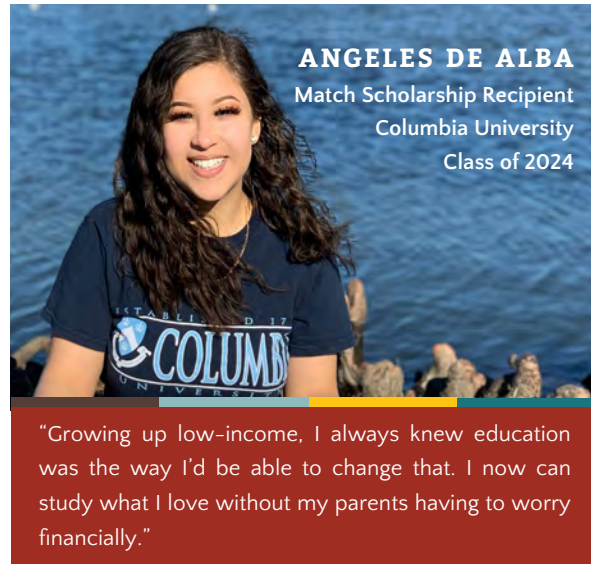
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QuestBridge believes that you deserve to **reach your full academic potential**, regardless of your financial background. Through the National College Match, you could be admitted early to a top college with a **guaranteed full four-year scholarship**.

HOW IS IT POSSIBLE? QuestBridge college partners are actively seeking students who have excelled academically despite financial hardship, and **they partner with QuestBridge to find students like you**. They cover 100% of students' demonstrated financial need, so attending one of our 50 college partners can be very affordable. If admitted, you could attend a top college for free, with no loans.



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Match Scholarship Recipient
Columbia University
Class of 2024

"Growing up low-income, I always knew education was the way I'd be able to change that. I now can study what I love without my parents having to worry financially."

HOW DOES IT WORK? The National College Match is a college and scholarship application process that connects students to early admission and **full four-year Match Scholarships** at top colleges. These generous financial aid packages are **loan-free with a \$0 parental contribution**. Finalists are selected by QuestBridge and will be considered by multiple college partners of their choice for the opportunity to be "matched" — admitted early with a Match Scholarship from the college. Finalists who are not matched have additional admission opportunities through QuestBridge and can receive financial aid packages that are often as generous as a full scholarship.

WHO SHOULD APPLY:

The National College Match is open to high school seniors who demonstrate:

- > **Academic Achievement:** Earn primarily A's in the most challenging courses available and display intellectual curiosity and strong writing ability.
- > **Financial Need:** Come from households earning less than \$65,000 annually (for a typical household of four) with minimal assets.
- > **Strength in Character:** Have resilience, integrity, and motivation to succeed.

MOST FINALISTS:

- > Rank in the top 5-10% of their class.
- > Score >1290 on the SAT or >27 on the ACT (if reported).
- > Qualify for free or reduced-price school meals.
- > Make meaningful contributions to activities at home, school, or in the community.
- > Are among the first generation in their family to attend a four-year college.

THE APPLICATION INCLUDES:

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ACT/SAT Comparison

	ACT	SAT
Fee	\$68.00 (no essay) \$93.00 (with essay) \$36.00 Late fee	\$60 Subject tests and essay have been discontinued \$30 Late fee
Test Purpose	Designed to measure academic achievement in the areas of English, mathematics, reading and science	Designed to measure critical reading, writing, and mathematical reasoning skills
Test Content	English Mathematics Reading Science Writing—optional	Evidence based Reading & Writing Mathematics
Scoring Method	Scores based on # of right answers, no penalty for guessing	Scores based on # of right answers, no penalty for guessing
Score Scale	English: 1-36 Reading: 1-36 Math: 1-36 Science: 1-36 Composite: 1-36 (average of 4 scores— NOT writing) English & Writing: 1-36	Evidence Based Reading & Writing: 200-800 Math: 200-800 SAT Total: 200-1600

SAT 2023-2024

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Fee Registration
Aug. 26, 2023	July 28, 2023	Aug. 15, 2023
Oct. 7, 2023	Sept. 8, 2023	Sept. 26, 2023
Nov. 4, 2023	Oct. 6, 2023	Oct. 24, 2023
Dec. 2, 2023	Nov. 3, 2023	Nov. 21, 2023
March 9, 2024*	Feb. 23, 2024	TBD
May 4, 2024*	April 19, 2024	TBD
June 1, 2024*	May 17, 2024	TBD

Register online at www.collegeboard.org
* Digital exam

ACT 2023-2024

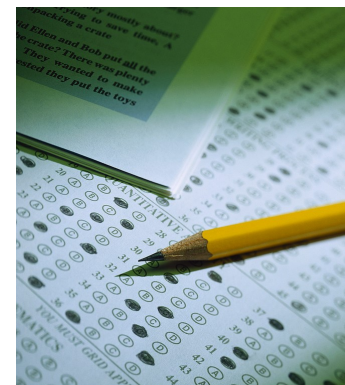
Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Fee Registration
Sept. 9, 2023	Aug. 4, 2023	Aug. 18, 2023
Oct. 28, 2023	Sept. 22, 2023	Oct. 6, 2023
Dec. 9, 2023	Nov. 3, 2023	Nov. 17, 2023
Feb. 10, 2024	Jan. 5, 2024	Jan. 19, 2024
April 13, 2024	Mar. 8, 2024	Mar 22, 2024
June 8, 2024	May 3, 2024	May 17, 2024

Register online at www.actstudent.org

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2023- 2024

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Prep Programs

ATLAS Test Prep

(716) 299-TEST
www.atlastestprep.com

Brighton Continuing Education

Bcsd.org (Community– Brighton
Community Education)
(585) 242-5200 x5595

Chariot Learning

Mike Bergin
www.chariotlearning.com
(585) 466-4022

Huntington Learning Center

3050 Monroe Ave.
Rochester, NY 14618
www.huntingtonhelps.com/center/
pittsford
(585) 310-3050



Powerscore

(800) 545-1750
www.powerscore.com

Straight A Learning

(585) 683-2536
Straightalearning.com

Sylvan Learning Center

3300 Monroe Ave.
Rochester, NY 14618
(585) 643-5226
www.sylvanlearning.com



Websites providing on-line test prep

SAT (Scholastic Assessment Test)
www.sat.collegeboard.org

ACT Student (American College Test)
www.actstudent.org/testprep

Khan Academy– FREE SAT Prep
In partnership with Collegeboard
www.khanacademy.org/sat

Brightstorm's Online Learning *
www.brightstorm.com

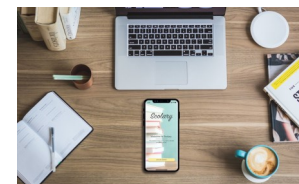
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