



College Planning for Juniors

SPRING 2023

Standardized Testing: SAT & ACT

Register for the SAT: www.CollegeBoard.org

Register for the ACT: www.ACT.org

WFHS CEEB Code: 333068

SAT & ACT Fee Waivers:

If you meet the criteria for free or reduced lunch, see your School Counselor for a fee waiver!

To view test dates, please visit the respective websites

Choosing your College Priorities

Factors to Consider when selecting a college

- ❖ Good Academic Fit
- ❖ Distance from Home
- ❖ Location / Geographic Setting (Rural, Suburban, Urban)
- ❖ College Majors / Programs of Study
- ❖ Size: Small, Medium, Large
- ❖ Type of School: Public, Private, Religious Affiliation etc.
- ❖ Campus Life & Culture: Athletics, Extracurricular Activities, Residential Life etc.
- ❖ Total Cost – Including Aid and Scholarship Opportunities
- ❖ Support Services, Career Services

Note: If you don't have a major, it's OK!!

More than half of new college students say a very important reason for going to college is “to find my purpose in life.”

What Information Do College Admissions Committees Review?

- ❖ Grades / Overall GPA
- ❖ Strength of high school course selections
- ❖ Standardized Test Scores
- ❖ Personal accomplishments & leadership roles
- ❖ College Essay
- ❖ Letters of Recommendation
- ❖ Class rank
- ❖ Student's demonstrated interest



Meet Your Deadlines

Early Decision plans are **binding**. A student who is accepted as an ED applicant **must** attend that college. Deadlines for ED are typically due early Fall.

Early Action plans are *nonbinding*. Students receive an early response to their application but do not have to commit to the college until the normal reply date of May 1. Deadlines for EA are typically due early Fall. Students can typically apply to more than one school Early Action.

Rolling Admissions: Colleges continue to accept students as they receive applications. The deadline for Rolling Admissions is typically late Spring.

The **priority application deadline** is the final date for applicants to submit a complete application to receive the strongest consideration for acceptance to the college.

Regular Decision is when you are applying by a college's Regular Deadline, which is typically in early winter (January or February). Students can apply to more than one college Regular Decision.

***All Colleges/Universities have different deadlines for each type of submission.
Remember to check each College &/or University's requirements to ensure you meet the deadline***

Letters of Recommendation

A Letter of Recommendation is written by someone who can attest to the personal character of a student who wishes to apply for College Admissions, a Job/Career or Scholarships. When applying to a 4 year college, many will request a minimum of 2 Letters of Recommendation. Many Scholarship Applications will also require letters of recommendation.

Helpful Tips when asking for a Letter of Recommendation

Ask **2-3** Academic Teachers - these teachers should be from your Core Academics.

Reach out to teachers who **know you best** and you most **recently** had. Typically, this will be teachers from your Junior or Senior year! These teachers can include specific examples and talk about your participation in their classes!

Ask a full range! Do not use just one subject, select a variety. You can also ask Coaches, Club Leaders, Bosses, Elective teachers in **addition** to your Academic Teachers

When asking a counselor or teacher, you are required to provide your Brag Sheet and Resume. Colleges want to know all the great things about you! (*Access the Brag Sheet and Instructions to Build Your Resume in the Junior Conference Materials section of the Counseling Center webpage*).

Build Your Resume

Extracurricular activities are an integral part of the college application process. Your resume should give admissions committees a brief rundown of your education, extracurricular activities, past jobs, awards, leadership roles, and creative capabilities.

When creating your resume:

- ❖ Be sure to add *everything* you have been a part of **both in and outside of school** since 9th grade.
- ❖ All students who are applying for college and scholarships are required to create a resume.

(View a video that walks you through the steps to create your resume at the end of this PowerPoint. You can also access the instructions in the Junior Conference Materials section of the Counseling Center webpage).



Target, Reach & Safety Schools

As you create your college list, include schools that fall into each of the following three categories: dream, target, and safety. Students who create a balanced list of schools tend to have a less stressful application process than those who apply to dozens. They end up with a list of colleges they're excited about, plenty of which are well within their admission *and* financial reach.

If getting in and paying for college weren't issues, where would you want to attend? A **Reach school (or “dream” school)** is a college where your academic credentials fall in the lower end, or even below, the school's average range of students accepted the previous year. Reach schools might be long shots, but they should still be possible. Don't let the sticker price of a financial reach school scare you off! Financial need, academic strength, and a college's desire to have you on campus can all influence your financial aid award and make the cost of attendance more manageable.

A **target school** is one where your academic credentials fall well within the school's average range for the most recently accepted class. There are no guarantees, but it's not unreasonable to expect to be accepted to several of your target schools.

A **safety school** is one where your academic credentials exceed the school's range for the average first-year student. You should be reasonably certain that you will be admitted to your safety schools. Like your dream and target schools, these should also be colleges you'd be happy to attend. In addition to admissions criteria, it's a good idea to think about financial aid when creating your list of safety schools—make sure there is at least one school that you know your family can afford on that list.

SUNY and CUNY

One of the ways to begin creating your college list is by viewing the SUNY and CUNY admissions profiles to see where you may fit in! See below to access each profile.

SUNY – State University of New York

CUNY – City University of New York

To view the 2022 CUNY Admission Profile, click [HERE](#)

To view the 2022 SUNY Admission Summary, click [HERE](#)

Note: if the web links do not work, you can access the SUNY & CUNY profiles in the Junior Conference Materials section of the Counseling Center webpage.

Naviance – College & Career Readiness

Naviance is a web-based platform where students can explore their interests, strengths, and begin planning for their futures. Naviance offers a great deal of resources to guide you through the college and career research phase of your journey.

Every WFHS student has their own personal Naviance account. The following slide will walk you through the login process.

Naviance – login info

To access your Naviance account, begin by going to the William Floyd District Website.

- ❖ Click *Students*
- ❖ Select *Additional Student Resources*
- ❖ Select *Naviance - College & Career Readiness*
- ❖ If you are prompted to enter a zip code, enter 11951
- ❖ In the “Email” field, enter your Student ID number (*not* your email address)
- ❖ In the “Password” field, enter: Williamfloyd

Naviance: College Search Tools

Students can locate the schools that best fit their interests, passions, and criteria by using Naviance's *Find your Fit* tools. Students can search for, save, and research colleges of interest!

Once you've narrowed down a group of colleges, multiple tools are available to understand more about each school.

Once logged onto your Naviance account, navigate to the *Colleges-home* page to begin using the Find Your Fit tools.

For detailed instructions on the college search tools, please visit the Junior Conference Materials section of the Counseling Center webpage and view the Naviance College Search Tools information.

College Athletics

Student athletes who are planning on playing a Division I or Division II sport are *required* to register for the NCAA Clearinghouse and meet the NCAA's criteria.

NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse: www.NCAAclearinghouse.net

*Students who plan on playing sports at the college level MUST make an appointment to see their School Counselor ASAP (prior to the end of junior year).



Military

ENLISTING IN THE ARMED FORCES

If you are interested in enlisting, your first step is to speak to a recruiter. You can find a local recruiter by logging onto the respective websites. Once you make the decision to enlist, the Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS) is the place where recruits go to finish the enlistment process. There are MEPS locations all over the country. Recruits officially complete the process of joining the Military once they meet all of the MEPS requirements. This process may take a few days.

All branches of the Armed Forces recommend or require the ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery), an exam that helps determine the careers for which an individual is best suited. Each Service uses a custom combination of ASVAB results to produce scores related to different career fields.

For more information, visit the websites listed below, contact a recruiter, and/or make an appointment with your school counselor.

ARMY: <http://www.goarmy.com>

NAVY: <http://www.navy.com>

COAST GUARD: <http://www.gocoastguard.com>

AIR FORCE: <http://www.airforce.com>

MARINES: <http://www.marines.com>

Technical, Trade and Vocational Schools

Today's job market needs a skilled, educated workforce and there are different avenues to obtain the career of your dreams!

Community colleges provide a general education. Vocational schools offer career training. A **trade school**, sometimes referred to as a **vocational school**, technical **school**, or **vocational** college, is a post-secondary institution that's designed to give students the technical skills to prepare them for a specific occupation.

A **technical school** usually refers to an institution that offers an associate's degree and certain certifications that are necessary to enter technical job fields. These programs can often be completed in just 1-2 years. Students start off learning applied knowledge and skills that directly translate to their chosen career field. Students who go to technical schools *may* still need to complete a training program, apprentice program, or an entry level position before they can work in career positions; while some associate's degrees and technical certifications allow graduates to begin working immediately.

A **trade school** is defined as: "a secondary school teaching the skilled trades." Generally speaking, these schools tend to focus on hands-on careers that require a base level certification or a specific number of on-the-job supervised hours to enter. They can be thought of as more labor-focused industries: auto mechanics, electricians, carpenters, medical assistants etc. Trade schools tend to have much more "hands-on" programs of study.

A **vocational school** can be thought of as an umbrella term for either trade or tech schools. Vocational school programs prepare students for immediate entry into their field or into a stepping-stone position to enter that field within just a year or two. Some four-year undergraduate institutions offer vocational degree programs, such as the ability to become a paralegal, but certain programs like cosmetology may only be taught in vocational school programs.

Get Started Today!

It is important to do your college research between now and the start of your senior year. Students should return to school in the fall with a solid list of schools that they are considering applying to.

Attending open houses and visiting the schools is strongly recommended; students and families may need to participate in these events virtually this year. Be sure to check the college's websites for upcoming events and register for them as needed.

