

College and Career Readiness Senior year

College Readiness

I. ACT vs. SAT

- a. The vast majority of Ohio students take ACT, but colleges will accept either one.
- b. ACT sub scores in Reading, Math, Science, English, and Writing. Writing is Optional and an additional cost.
- c. SAT sub scores in Verbal, Math, and Writing. Writing is not optional.
- d. If you take ACT multiple times (recommended) colleges will always use your best score and some will “super score” and consider your best sub test scores.
- e. Recommendation: Take ACT this fall. ACT.org for test dates and registration
- f. Take ACT until you stop seeing an increase in score. Minimum of twice.
- g. ACT scores are used for determining acceptance into a college, placement in freshman courses, and scholarship eligibility.
- h. Test Optional means that the university is allowing you the option to have them consider your ACT scores for admittance/scholarships or not. If you have a high GPA and a lower ACT score, best to do test optional if offered.

II. Choosing a college based on what you want to study vs. choosing a college you like/ can afford.

- a. Obviously, a college that has what you want to study AND you like/can afford is the ultimate goal.
- b. IF you KNOW what you want to do after college, your search should be to find a college that offers a top notch education in that area AND you are comfortable with it.
- c. IF you aren't sure what you want to study but you KNOW you want to do college, look for a campus that you are comfortable on, can afford, and offers several things you find interesting.
- d. Internet searches are great but get on the campus!

III. Types of Colleges

- a. Associates Degree College- Can be called a community college or a technical college. Focus on just the subject area of the major. Typically takes 4 semesters or two years to complete. Big advantage: CHEAP! You CAN do the first two years of a Bachelors degree at a college like this then transfer. Big savings.
- b. Bachelors Degree College- Broad education that includes studies in your major, but also a “well rounded” education (Liberal Arts). Typically 4 years or more to complete.
- c. Combination- Some colleges offer both associates degrees and Bachelors degrees so pay attention. On-line colleges are often in this category.

IV. College Visits

- a. As a senior, you get two official college visit days. These days are considered non-absences (like a field trip).
- b. Paperwork is in the office and on the guidance webpage and must be filled out and turned into office 3 days before you go.
- c. Student should call admissions office of college to set up the visit.
- d. It is possible to do multiple visits in a day.
- e. When you go on the visit, have a list of question you want answered and facilities you want to see.
- f. IF two days isn't enough, your parents can use their parent call in days to excuse your absence.
- g. **You need to have narrowed your list of colleges to 2 or 3 by November 1 and apply.**

V. Applying to Colleges

- a. By November 1, you need to apply to all colleges you want to consider.
- b. Just because you apply to a school and are accepted, does NOT mean you have to go to that school!

- c. Applications are almost all on-line and many are very similar to each other. So, keep copies of applications as they may help you with the next application.
- d. Most Colleges charge a fee for applying so be prepared for that. Recruited athletes usually have that fee waived.
- e. Once you have applied to a college, email Mr. Wilson and ask that your transcript be sent to the college.
- f. NOTE: Mr. Wilson will send a final transcript to the college or colleges of your choice once the school year is complete. You will also need to request your college transcripts from the CCP institutes you took classes through be sent to your college as well. These come directly from the CCP Institute.

VI. Financial Aid

- a. October 1 is when you can get on the FAFSA site and apply for government financial aid. [Fafsa.ed.gov](https://fafsa.ed.gov) Your parents' income for 2021 as well as your income for 2021 are considered so you will need your parents' 2021 tax returns.
- b. It is free to apply and your results will determine Federal Aid, State Aid, and Local University Aid packages.
- c. Your results will show if you qualify for Grants (free money), Loans (must pay back with interest), and/or Work Study (you work for the college).

VII. Scholarships

- a. The majority of scholarship money will come from the institutes you apply to, so make sure you have applied for all scholarships available at that college. Obviously, if you don't choose to attend a college that is offering a scholarship, you don't get that scholarship.
- b. Scholarship applications will really start to pick up in November but start looking now. Anything that I get, I will post on the guidance web site, email to all seniors, and post on the bulletin board in senior hallway.

VIII. Financial Aid Packages

- a. Colleges will send out their financial aid offers (including scholarships) in February or March. This is when you see what the college will actually cost.
- b. It is at this point that most students make a final decision on what college to attend.

IX. College Athlete

- a. Must register with the NCAA Clearing house if playing Division I or II to be eligible to play as a freshman. [Ncaa.org](https://ncaa.org)
- b. There is also a clearing house for NAIA schools that you must register for in senior year.

Career Readiness

- I. Interest inventories are a great place to start the search for what to do for employment after school is done. [Ohiomeansjobs.com](https://ohiomeansjobs.com)
- II. Ohiomeansjobs.com will also help you determine job opportunities, pay, and skills needed.
- III. Job Shadow! You can get forms from office that will allow you to job shadow for the day!
- IV. ASK Questions! Find someone who is doing the job you are interested in and ask questions!
- V. Part time jobs are a great way to explore and find out what you like and don't like.

DECLARE YOUR FUTURE: When you have made a final decision on the college you plan to attend or company you will be working for or the industry you want to work in, send an email to Mr. Wilson Declaring your intentions. This will be posted on the office window as well as on Facebook, Twitter, and school website. Don't Declare until you are sure and committed.