

Preparing for College

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As the end of the first semester of this year in high school passes, many upperclassmen begin to prepare to go to college. Many tests must be taken and passed before your search can even begin. Graduation exams, EOCT's, and the SAT are the usual tests students must pass in order to even apply to a college or university. Performance in school academically and behaviorally is a necessity. Also, narrowing down the field of work you would consider employment aids in finding the right college suited to your abilities.

Many students make the mistake of not signing up to take an SAT or ACT before their senior year of high school. Colleges will look at your SAT or ACT scores before they will even consider admitting you. The way colleges score the SAT is they will take the individual highest score of each section (Math, Critical Reading, and Writing) and add them together to get the best possible score, however some colleges require you to send in all the scores for all attempts at the SAT. The best thing to do is to sign up and take these tests, starting as early as the sophomore year to get the highest possible score.

Various colleges will examine your permanent records for behavioral problems before possibly accepting you. Colleges do not want to accept people whom

misbehave and caused problems during their high school career. Universities want students that are responsible and mature, because these types of students are less likely to drop out. When a student quits, that costs the college thousands of dollars, because they lose the yearly income from tuition, room and board, books, meal plans etc. Students in college are expected to be there for learning, not for partying, drinking, skipping class, etc.

Career choices will affect your entire life. Working numerous jobs on and off does not accumulate to a successful life. Choosing a single career field leads to happiness with your work and stability in your home. Attaining the "perfect job" is directly related to the type of college you go to. Most colleges and universities specialized in certain fields and have refined their curriculum to support those chosen fields. Fewer colleges are general schools which give you a small push in one direction, but require transferring to another school for furthered skills training.

Waiting until your last year of high school to begin the college search will add an unbelievable amount of stress to your schedule. Early college registrations, test scores, class grades; the list goes on and on. Taking responsibility of your future begins when you enter high school. With an early start, you will spread the pressure over four years and your chances of being accepted will increase.

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