



# College Planning for Juniors

Preparing for College Admissions

Presented by:

Northwest High School Counseling Department



# Meeting Outcomes

- Discuss college application components
- Review a college planning timeline
- Identify next action steps and additional resources

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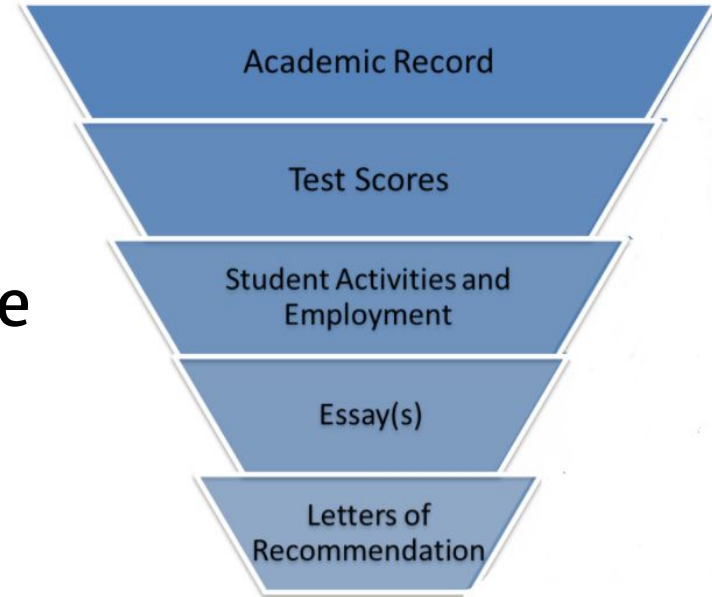
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# Application Components – Admissions Criteria

- GPA, Courses & Grades
- Admission Tests
  - SAT, ACT
- Extracurricular Activities/Service
- Essay
- Letters of Recommendation







# Admissions Tests: SAT vs. ACT

## SAT

- Offered by College Board
- Scores between 400–1600
- Reading, Writing and Language, and Math sections
- No Science section
- Calculator allowed on only a portion of the math test
- 3 hours

## ACT

- Offered by ACT
- Scores between 1–36
- English, Reading, Math & Science sections
- Calculator allowed on all math sections
- 2 hours 55 minutes + optional 40 minute writing test
- Beginning in April 2025, students who choose to take the ACT **online** will see an updated format that's shorter and lets you choose whether to include the science section. **Paper** version of new format begins in September.



# Admissions Tests: SAT and ACT

## Preparation

- College Test Prep class at NW
- Prep book
- Khan Academy
- Paid prep courses or tutoring

## Registration

- Juniors should take a test for the first time in winter/spring of junior year
- Register for Saturday tests on College Board or ACT website
- Students who are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch are eligible for a fee waiver (contact your counselor or Ms. Davis in the College/Career Center)





# Testing Terms

“Test optional”

“Test blind”

“Test flexible”







# Testing Plans for Specific Colleges

College	Testing Plan
University of Maryland-College Park	Test optional
Towson University	Test optional
University of Maryland-Baltimore County	Test optional
Frostburg State University	Test optional
Salisbury University	Test optional
Johns Hopkins University	<b>Test required</b>
The George Washington University	Test optional
Georgetown University	<b>Test required</b>



# Testing Plans for Specific Colleges

<b>College</b>	<b>Testing Plan</b>
Virginia Tech	Test optional
James Madison University	Test optional
University of Virginia–Main Campus	Test optional
George Mason University	Test optional
University of Pittsburgh–Pittsburgh Campus	Test optional
Pennsylvania State University–Penn State Main Campus	Test optional
University of Delaware	Test optional



# Testing Plans for Specific Colleges

College	Testing Plan
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Test required
Harvard University	Test required
Brown University	Test required
Dartmouth College	Test required
Georgia Institute of Technology	Test required
University of Georgia	Test required
New York University	Test flexible
University of California System	Test blind



# Extracurricular Activities/Service

What do you do when you are not in class or studying?

- School clubs
- Sports
- Clubs/organizations outside of school
- Summer or part-time jobs
- Summer academic programs
- Volunteer activities
- Internships
- Hobbies





# Essay

- Common App and Coalition App both offer options for the essay topic
- Supplemental essays
- Suggestions:
  - Share something about you that is not found elsewhere in your application
  - Have 1-2 other people read it to give you feedback
  - Start early!



# Recommendation Letters

- 1 or 2 teacher letters and counselor recommendation
- Teachers from 11th or 12th grade preferred
- Core subject areas preferred
- Ask teachers personally if they will write your letter before you list them in Naviance
- Ask your teacher(s) at the end of spring semester
- Provide thorough answers on your brag sheet (in Naviance under Surveys)
- Supplemental recommendations may be accepted but cannot replace required recommendations
- Thank your recommenders



# Creating your College List

- Look at a minimum of 10 schools seriously
- Discuss with parents/guardians, teachers, counselor, and friends
- Look at websites, college social media accounts, and virtual tours
- Attend virtual or in-person college fairs (NACAC College Fair is April 8)
- Communicate with college reps at admissions presentations or via Naviance
- Speak with current college students
- Visit college campuses
- Include at least one safety school





# NACAC College Fair – April 8

- Permission slips due by **March 28** to Ms. Davis in room 126
- Families can attend Tuesday, April 8 from 6:30 pm until 8 pm

NORTHWEST COLLEGE CAREER FIELD TRIP  
FOR THE CLASS OF 2026

**FREE**



FIELD TRIP DATE: **TUESDAY, APRIL 8**  
CAFETERIA BUS DEPARTURE: 9:45 AM  
DESTINATION: ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE



FIELD TRIP PERMISSION FORM REQUIRED



NACAC COLLEGE FAIR REGISTRATION REQUIRED

RETURN FORMS TO THE

**COLLEGE CAREER INFORMATION CENTER BY MARCH 28**

Forms accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until all seats are filled on reserved buses!

PERMISSION FORM  
<https://bit.ly/4jNsVEr>

NACAC REQUIRED  
<https://bit.ly/414Eikk>



SCAN ME

REGISTRATION



# Naviance

- Help Find Your Fit:
  - Use tools like SuperMatch and Scattergrams to identify your best-fit college.
- Research Colleges:
  - Dig deeper into colleges of interest using tools like Acceptance History
- Develop your Prospective College list
- Resume
- Brag Sheet

The screenshot displays the Naviance Student interface. At the top, there is a teal header with the text 'nce | Student'. Below this, a search bar is labeled 'Colleges' with a placeholder 'Type a college name'. A link for 'MORE COLLEGE SEARCH OPTIONS' is visible. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column, titled 'Find Your Fit', lists several tools: SuperMatch®, College Match, College Events, Scattergrams, Advanced College Search, and College Lookup, with a 'Show less' button at the bottom. The right column, titled 'Research Colleges', lists various research tools: Colleges I'm Thinking About, College Compare, College Resources, Acceptance History, Enrichment Programs, and College Maps, also with a 'Show less' button. At the bottom of the interface, there are two teal buttons: 'Apply to Colleges' and 'Scholarships and Money'.

<https://student.naviance.com/northwest>



# Naviance Scattergrams

## Northwest student admissions for University of Maryland at College Park

University of Maryland-College Park :: College Park, MD :: U.S.

<http://www.umd.edu/>

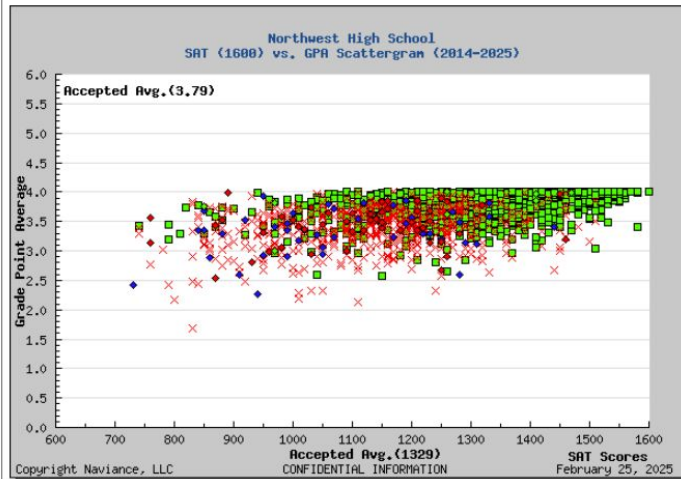
General	Applications	Analysis	Admissions	Academics	Cost & aid	Extracurriculars
graphs	statistics	overlaps				

### Graphs

(mouseover or click on scattergram dots for more information)

Printer-friendly page

Test type:  [change other options](#)



#### Graph Legend

- Accepted
- Denied
- Waitlisted or Deferred
- Waitlisted or Deferred (Accepted)
- Waitlisted or Deferred (Denied)



# Things to Consider

Extracurricular activities and sports?

Cost?

Admissions requirements?

Retention and graduation rate?

Two year or four year?

Diversity?

Weather and climate?

Campus quality/reputation

School with a specific major or school with lots of variety of majors?

Large, medium or small?

Urban, suburban, rural?

Location



# Things To Do: Spring 2025

- Earn the best grades you can this semester to boost your GPA
- Review next year's course selections and email your counselor with any changes by June 1
- Research colleges and narrow down your list
  - Think about what is important to you
  - Complete an online college search
  - Attend NACAC College Fair (April 8)
  - Visit college campuses



# Things To Do: Spring 2025

- Plan for College Admissions tests
  - SAT dates: May 3, June 7 (must register online)
  - ACT dates: April 5, June 14, July 12 (must register online)
- Ask 1–2 teachers to write your college recommendations
- Complete Northwest Brag Sheet in Naviance in Surveys



# Things To Do: Summer 2025

- Start your applications (many are available beginning August 1st)
  - Common App, Coalition App, Black Common App, university-specific application
  - Regular Decision vs. Early Decision vs. Early Action vs. Priority vs. Rolling Admission
  - Common App vs. Coalition App vs. E-docs vs. U.S. Mail
- Develop a system for keeping track of your applications
- Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center if you are planning to play a Division I or II sport





# Things To Do: Summer 2025

- Develop a resume of your work, volunteer, and extracurricular activities
- Write your college essay(s)
- Research scholarship opportunities
  - Northwest HS College & Career Website
  - Scholarships.com
  - FastWeb



# Things To Do: Summer 2025

## Utilize your Northwest & MCPS resources:

- Counselors are available over the summer to support students with the college application process.
- Counselors can assist students in identifying their remaining graduation requirements, discussing post-secondary plans, and reviewing the Brag Sheet.
- Please email your counselor directly with any questions.



# Things To Do: Fall 2025

- Take or retake tests (SAT, ACT)
- Finalize your list of colleges you are applying to in “Colleges I’m Thinking About” section in Naviance
- 6–10 colleges including target, safety, and reach schools
- Complete and submit a release of records form
- Complete and submit a transcript request form for all colleges at least 15 school days before application deadline
- Sign up to attend college rep visits at Northwest on Naviance



# Things To Do: Fall 2025

- List your teacher recommenders in Naviance at least 3 weeks before your deadline
- If using the Common App, match your Common App and Naviance accounts and complete FERPA waiver
- Submit college applications by deadlines
- Submit SAT and/or ACT test scores to colleges via College Board and ACT websites
- Complete FAFSA to apply for federal and state financial aid
- Maintain strong grades in high school courses—colleges will ask for your senior year grades!



# Additional Resources

**NORTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL**

HOME | ACADEMICS | ATHLETICS | COLLEGE CAREER | COUNSELING | MEDIA CENTER | PARENTS | STAFF | STUDENTS

**QUICK LINKS**

- About Us
- Administration
- AP Exam Information
- Bell Schedules
- Bus Routes
- Buy Jags Sports Tickets
- Courses/Registration
- Daily Announcements (log TV)
- Drama Program
- Extracurricular Activities
- Health Room
- Internship
- Middle College Program
- Noviance

Welcome to the Northwest High School Counseling Department

The Northwest High School counseling program promotes the development of all students' academic success, socio/emotional well-being, and college/career preparation. Counselors advocate for equity, access, and success for every student. In collaboration with all school stakeholders, our program ensures a positive, safe and welcoming environment for all students. Along with confidence, knowledge and skills gained at Northwest High School, graduates achieve to their fullest potential and make a positive difference in their home, workplace and global community.

Jump to [Transcript Requests](#)

**Counseling Quick Links:**

- Counseling Services: [Department Resources During Distant Learning](#) | [General Information](#) | [MD Department of Transportation \(MDOT\) Learner's Permit Form](#) | [New Student Enrollment](#) | [Work Permits](#) | [Summer School](#)
- College Information: [The Application Process @ NW](#) | [College FAQs](#) | [Montgomery College Information](#) | [Process for Transcript Requests](#) | [Additional College Application Resources](#)

**NORTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL**

HOME | ACADEMICS | ATHLETICS | COLLEGE CAREER | COUNSELING | MEDIA CENTER | PARENTS | STAFF | STUDENTS

**COLLEGE & CAREER QUICK LINKS**

- Home
- College Application Resources
- College Career Exploration Programs (incl. ASVAB)
- College & Career Fairs & Events
- College & Career Testing Information
- Financial Aid & Scholarships
- JAG Events: High School Visit Calendar
- JAG Jobs: Employment Opportunities with Resume Samples & Resources
- MC Dual Enrollment Program Info

Inside the College Career Information Center at Northwest High School

Staffed by Rochelle Davis, College Career Information Coordinator

Got Questions? Need College Career Information? Schedule an appointment! Available on-site and virtually for students, parents & community from 7:15 am to 3 pm!

The College Career Information Center is a post-secondary planning resource resource for all high school students.

**College Career e-NEWS Bulletin:**

The College Career e-NEWS Bulletin contains college career events, the virtual high school visit schedule, Jag JOBS updates, college application resources and information, financial aid and scholarship opportunities. e-NEWS is delivered to the email inbox of our students and parents via Naviance. **Latest publication date: Week ending: 3 March 2023.**

**On-page Quick Links:**

- [New Posts & College Career Alerts](#) | [College Career High School Visits](#)
- [College Application Resources: Including Application Fee Waiver Info, The College Essay, Common App & Coalition and the Maryland College Application Campaign \(MCAC\) college specific fee waivers](#)
- [College Career Resources: including Job Corps Information, Summer Workshop resources and recordings](#)
- [Montgomery College Information](#) | [MCPS College Career Information Center Site](#)
- [Career Readiness Resources, including resumes & cover letters](#) | [Naviance](#) | [Student on the web](#)
- [The Gap Year Information & Resources](#) | [Learn about the HBCU](#)
- [Military Academy Nomination Information](#)
- [2022 College Career Summer Workshop Resources](#)

Resources at your fingertips...  
Counseling → College Career

<https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/northwesths/>

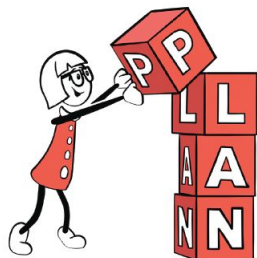


# NWHS Post-Secondary Planning Guide

**NORTHWEST**  **HIGH SCHOOL**

## Post Secondary Planning **GUIDE** for College Career Readiness

*class of 2026*



A Counseling Department & College Career Information Center Publication  
Publication date: 1 March 2025

ALL FOR ONE AND ONE FOR ALL

*Home of the Jaguars*  
Scott E. Smith, Principal

13501 Richter Farm Road, Germantown, MD 20874

View this guide on the college career website @ <https://bit.ly/4gExA9l> to be able to access all linked resources OR scan this QR Code:



SCAN ME



SCAN ME

<https://bit.ly/4ifEzq2>

### Counseling & College Career Resources:

Counseling on the web @ <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/northwests/counseling/>  
The College Career Information Center on the web @ <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/northwests/careercenter/>: Open before school, during lunch & after school with appointments available on request - virtual or in person - Located on the first floor / adjacent to Counseling Office - Room 126 - Available by email to [Rochele\\_Davis@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Rochele_Davis@mcpsmd.org).

The Maryland Higher Education Commission @ <https://mhec.maryland.gov/>



Did you know about the Academic Common Market as a way to save on tuition? What is The Academic Common Market (ACM)? The Academic Common Market (ACM) is a tuition-savings program that operates on the premise that if *public* institutions (not including private institutions) in a student's home state do not offer a degree program major (undergraduate or graduate) that a student intends on pursuing, then s/he may attend a *participating* ACM out-of-state institution offering the degree of interest *through* the ACM and be granted a waiver of out-of-state tuition charges. Visit the MHEC website and select the link for Academic Common Market.

Financial Aid Tip for Maryland post-secondary applicants: Be prepared to accept Maryland state financial aid and apply for state scholarships in the fall of senior year. Learn about the Maryland College Aid Processing System MDCAPS and Maryland state scholarships at the Maryland Higher Education Commission website.

### Internet Resources:

- Scholarships support @ Northwest: *Jag Scholarships 'Apply Now' Bulletin* and the *Jag Scholarships 'Apply Later' Forecast Bulletin* available to download online
- Apprenticeship Programs: <https://www.dllr.state.md.us/employment/apps/>
- The Military: <http://www.asvabprogram.com> or [usmilitary.about.com](http://www.usmilitary.about.com)
- The Federal Government Employment: [www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov)
- Federal Government Internships: [www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov) ▶ Search 'internships'
- Early Action vs. Early Decision: [www.admissionsconsultants.com/college/earlydecision.asp](http://www.admissionsconsultants.com/college/earlydecision.asp)
- MCPS College Career Information @ <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/careercenter/>
- Scholarship Search Engine @ [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
- Hispanic Scholarship Fund @ <https://www.hsf.net/scholarship> (scholarship opportunities specific to Hispanic students)
- Scholarship Matching Tool: <https://www.scholarships.com/> (profile required to create)
- Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund: [www.maldef.org](http://www.maldef.org) ▶ Select 'Resources' link and click on 'Scholarship Resources' for the latest publication of the *Scholarship Resource Guide* that contains a list of opportunities for Latino students who may have immigration related concerns)

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) @ <https://studentaid.gov> used to determine federal student aid eligibility.

CSS Profile @ <https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org> used by specific colleges and scholarship programs to award institutional aid. Deadline to complete is determined by each specific college. A list of institutions requiring the CSS profile is available using the CSS Profile link.

County-wide Financial Aid Seminars @ <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/careercenter/>



# Resources

Naviance: <https://student.naviance.com/northwest>

College Board/SAT: [www.sat.collegeboard.org](http://www.sat.collegeboard.org)

ACT: [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)

Accuplacer: <https://www.accuplacer.org/>

ASVAB: [www.asvabprogram.com](http://www.asvabprogram.com)

Khan Academy: <https://www.khanacademy.org/>





# Resources

NACAC College Fairs: <https://www.nacacnet.org/nacac-college-fairs/>

Common Application: <http://www.commonapp.org>

Coalition Application: <http://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org>

Black Common Application: <https://commonblackcollegeapp.com/>

Montgomery College: <http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/>

NCAA Eligibility Center: <https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/>



# Resources

SSL Information:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/ssl/>

NW College Career [e-NEWS Bulletin](#)

Scholarship Information

- [Northwest HS Financial Aid & Scholarships](#)
- [Scholarships.com](#)
- [Fastweb](#)

Financial Aid – FAFSA: <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>

Northwest HS Jag Jobs Bulletin: <https://bit.ly/3L8uMot>



Class of 2026

**Thanks for coming!**