

Hunterdon Central Regional High School



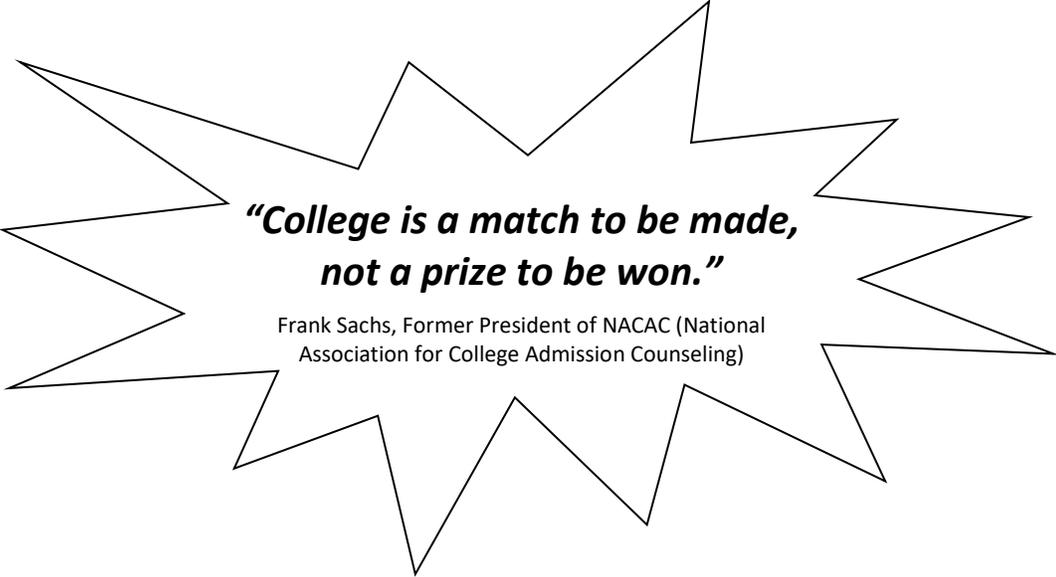
College Planning Packet 11th Grade 2019



These logos represent the most highly attended colleges for the Class of 2018.

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Class of 2018: A Review of College Matriculations	4
Creating Your List	5-8
Majors & Careers	8-9
Standardized Testing <i>SAT, Subject Tests, ACT</i>	9-11
College Visits & Interviews	11
Letters of Recommendation	12
Writing College Essays	12-13
Building a Resume	14
College Athletics	14
Admission Plans	14-15
Community College	15-16
Financial Aid & The FAFSA	16
Resume Example	17



***“College is a match to be made,
not a prize to be won.”***

Frank Sachs, Former President of NACAC (National
Association for College Admission Counseling)

Introduction

Dear Students & Parents of the Class of 2020,

As you reach the halfway point of your junior year, you will begin the important process of planning for college. While some of you may have started brainstorming college lists and making informal visits, others may be brand new to this process and unsure of where to begin. No matter what level of experience you have with the college process, we are here to assist you through the planning and preparation. HCRHS has a strong history of sending students to outstanding colleges, so we are prepared to guide you as you navigate the year ahead. Our ultimate goal is to help you be successful and choose a college that best fits you.

College is a tremendous investment, in terms of money, time, and energy. It is important to keep the lines of communication open between students and parents, and to keep things in perspective. Students and their families have a big decision to make. We ask that you consider all options when searching for colleges and creating your list.

All 11th grade students will participate in a college planning group with their counselor and the College & Career Counselor in January, and parents will be invited to 11th Grade College Planning Night to receive similar information. The next phase will come in September, when the college application process is upon us. You will receive your 12th Grade College Planning Packet at that time which will include tips on narrowing your list, components of the application package, and all necessary forms and procedures created by the HCRHS Counseling Department for the application process. Additionally, all 12th grade students will participate in a college planning group with their counselor and the College & Career Counselor in September, and parents will be invited to 12th Grade College Planning Night at the same time.

Over the course of the college process, you will have plenty of questions and concerns. Please don't hesitate to utilize your resources. We are here to support you.

-- The Class of 2020 Counseling Team

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Class of 2018: A Review of College Matriculations

The required Graduation Survey on Naviance was completed by 731 seniors from the Class of 2018. This survey provides a self-reported detailed outcome for each senior, including their final outcome for each college to which they applied, their scholarship offerings from all colleges, and their final choice college and major or post-secondary plan.

HCRHS is pleased to report the following statistics:

- 72% (529) will matriculate to a 4-year college
- 19% (136) will matriculate to a 2-year college
- 9% (66) will enter the workforce, military (6 enlisted), career education program, or take a gap year

The following list represents the most popular 4-year college choices, with matriculation numbers:

- Rutgers University – New Brunswick (58)
- Rowan University (15)
- The College of New Jersey (14)
- University of Pittsburgh (12)
- Virginia Tech (10)
- Ithaca College, West Chester University, University of Delaware, West Virginia University (9 each)
- Kutztown University, Rider University, University of Rhode Island, University of Maryland (8 each)
- Monmouth University, Delaware Valley University, New York University, Ramapo College, James Madison University (7 each)

The following list represents Ivy League matriculation:

- Cornell University (4)
- Columbia University (1)
- Harvard University (1)
- University of Pennsylvania (2)
- Princeton University (2)

The following list is a small representation of matriculation at selective colleges:

- Boston College
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Duke University
- Georgia Tech
- Harvey Mudd College
- University of Michigan
- Northwestern University
- University of Notre Dame
- Stanford University
- University of Virginia
- Wellesley College

The Class of 2018 matriculated to 170 colleges. They were offered over \$17 million in scholarship money. The annual Local Scholarship program provided over \$155,000 of the total offerings.

Creating Your List

Structuring Your List

As a junior, your college list is probably an informal idea of school names crossing your mind, mentioned at home with your family or between chats with friends. It may not be categorized, organized, or even representative of your best fit at this point, but you are probably aware of some schools that sound interesting to you. What do you do with those ideas? We recommend that you begin by structuring your list by level of admission and narrowing your college choices into a list of approximately 10-15 schools of interest.

A well-rounded college list will be representative of three admission categories: probable, target, and reach. Your list should be a healthy balance of these categories, with approximately 2-4 schools representing each category.

- ✓ What is a probable school for me?
 - These are schools where your chances are highly likely or certain for admission. These colleges were formerly called “safety” schools, but let’s face it, nothing is safe in college admissions.
- ✓ What is a target school for me?
 - These are realistic schools or those that match your credentials well. Your GPA and test scores are in line with the averages of those students accepted.
- ✓ What is a reach school for me?
 - These schools are considered long shots. Your profile may not match that of an accepted student; it may be lower. Due to the extreme selectivity of some colleges, it is important to understand that some colleges will be reaches for everyone, regardless of a strong academic profile. However, we encourage all students to apply to 2-4 reach schools. You never know what a college may be looking for, beyond the numbers. You may have “it”, and your reach could become a reality.

When evaluating your list and categorizing your colleges into these three categories, you should reference the statistics on Naviance. These statistics are a good comparison for your chances because you will be evaluated by colleges based on the high school you attend. Naviance is showing you just that – HCRHS students’ college admissions statistics.* (See more about Naviance in the “Search Tools” section of this packet.) We also suggest using the college’s admissions profile, which can usually be found on the admissions section of their website, or shared during an information session hosted by the college. These statistics will represent GPA and test score averages of those students who were accepted from the entire applicant pool.

Why create a list of 10-15 colleges? This number will give you plenty of room for exploration and editing. Typically, juniors will create a long list of colleges now, then revise it over the next several months through further research and visits. The *average* number of colleges to which most HCRHS students will apply is 8-10. By September of your senior year, we hope you have narrowed your list to this range, maybe slightly less or slightly more. This is a healthy number that allows you to have a good balance between probable, target, and reach schools. Just remember to keep your list representative of the three admission categories. You do have to create a list of 15 colleges right now. Even with just a few schools in mind, you can be very successful with the college admission process. Also, your counselors are here to help you create and define your list to best suit you.

Factors to Consider

The most important factor to consider in creating your list is FIT. How do you know if a college is a good fit for you? Ask yourself these questions:

- ✓ Does the college offer a program of study that matches my interests and needs?
 - If you know your major, it makes sense to target schools that will accommodate your interests and strengths. It is also wise to look for colleges that may have strength in your desired major, but not necessarily colleges that focus only on your major (what if you change your mind?).
 - At least 60% of college students change their major, so if you're undecided, that is OK! You may want to consider a college that offers a wealth of majors and options. This tends to be available at larger universities, but not always.
 - Will the college allow you to grow and expand your academic abilities?
- ✓ Does the college provide a level of academic rigor that matches my aptitude and preparation?
 - Evaluate your comfort level. Are you OK with just "getting by"? Do you prefer to play it safe in a less-challenging environment? Do you need to work extra hard to get average grades? Do you like to venture out and challenge yourself?
 - HCRHS has prepared you well for what lies ahead (our alumni consistently share this), but you must match the academic environment at the college, without getting in over your head. Look for a challenge, but don't overwhelm yourself.
- ✓ Does the college provide a style of instruction that matches the way I like to learn?
 - Study the curriculum and the way it is delivered at each college on your list.
 - Consider your personal learning style. There is a Learning Style Inventory on Naviance if you need more clarity. Then, consider the college's classroom approach. Do they match?
- ✓ Does the college offer a community that feels like home to you?
 - Maybe you have already visited a campus that feels very comfortable to you, or maybe that is yet to come. You may have an intuitive reaction to a campus, and just know that you've found a good match.
 - Consider the people that will surround you at college, along with the environmental factors. Do these things match your personality and characteristics? Would you have to leave your comfort zone to fit in?
 - Are you looking for a college that will support your voice and allow for creativity and imagination, or are you looking for a college with structure and a plan that you will follow?
- ✓ Does the college value you for what you do well?
 - Consider your contact with admissions prior to being accepted – did you feel valued?
 - Will the college provide the value and investment that you are looking for?
 - Are your talents recognized with scholarships or other academic opportunities?
 - Are your questions answered in a timely manner?
 - Does the college feel genuine to you?

In addition to the above considerations, here is a longer list of factors to consider when creating your list:

- Physical size (small or large campus)
- Public vs. Private
- Cost, Value, & Return on Investment
- Location (urban, rural, near a city, small town)
- Distance from home
- Residential opportunities (dorms, suites, apartments)
- Student body size
- Faculty (% that hold a terminal degree, % of teaching assistants/graduate assistants)

- Diversity (male to female ratio, minority population, religious background, international students)
- Availability of majors, unique academic programs, accelerated degrees
- Athletics, clubs, and activities
- Student support services (for students with disabilities, tutoring, writing center)
- Research opportunities
- % of students accepted to graduate school programs
- % of students who graduate in 4, 5, or 6 years
- % of students who secure a job within 6 months of graduation (research “outcomes”)

Ranking vs. Fit

Considerations like reputation, prestige, and name-brand status may play a part in your college list creation. Many students and families will also resort to rankings in magazines and the Internet. We do not suggest this practice, simply because ranking is not nearly as important as fit.

Keep in mind, most of the rankings you will review are identifying prestige, not necessarily quality. Colleges are always looking for an edge in the rankings and ways to increase their reputation. It is wise to look beyond this to see the real nuts and bolts of the college and its offerings.

Dimensions of Fit

Another way to approach fit is by examining these three elements:

- Academic Fit
 - Determined by the College
 - Do your scores and grades fit the school profile?
 - Does the college offer your major? Are there enough choices if you are undecided?
- Social Fit
 - Determined by the Student
 - Does the school offer extracurricular experiences that interest you?
 - Does the social culture at the school fit your lifestyle?
- Financial Fit
 - Determined by the Family
 - Is the college affordable, even without loans, grants, or scholarships?
 - Is this school a good value? Is the Return on Investment worth it?

Search Tools

There are several good search tools on the Internet and in print. We have compiled a list of the most comprehensive, reliable sources for you as you narrow your list:

- Naviance (<http://connection.naviance.com/hcrhs>)
- College Board (<http://www.collegeboard.org>)
- CollegeXpress (<http://www.collegexpress.com>)
- College Navigator (<http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>)
- College Data (<http://www.collegedata.com/>)
- Princeton Review (<http://www.princetonreview.com/>)
- Books by Fiske, Princeton Review, and College Board

Naviance

During your freshman year, you created a Naviance account with your counselor and the College & Career Counselor. If you are not aware of your log-in information (email address and password that you chose) please see your counselor immediately.

Naviance is a popular tool used for college and career planning. It is filled with college admissions data representing past students' admission results. You can compare your GPA and standardized test scores to those of past students to measure your admission probability at hundreds of colleges. Aside from that widely-used feature, Naviance is filled with college information, career tools, interest and strength assessments, and other features to keep your college process organized.

The “**colleges**” section of Naviance houses the most information. You can complete a college search, compare colleges to one another, organize your college list, sign up for college visits, and (for senior year) request your transcripts and letters of recommendation and track your college application progress.

The “**careers**” section of Naviance includes a comprehensive interest inventory (“career interest profiler”). This is a great assessment to help you discover suitable college majors and career paths. Additionally, this section allows you to research any career to find out job outlook, salary, training, and more.

The “**about me**” section is a place to find your current GPA, standardized test scores, and anything you have created in Naviance, such as a college list or resume. You can also manage your account and edit your contact email address in this section.

Naviance will be a **very important** tool for you during the college application process in 12th grade. You will need to consistently access your account to request transcripts and recommendations for colleges, view the status of those requests, and manage your applications. Therefore, if you have any questions about using Naviance, or need a refresher, see your counselor or stop by the College & Career Center.

Majors & Careers

When visiting colleges or completing Internet searches, you may be asked about your college major. While some juniors have a good idea of their course of study, others may be truly undecided. Either way, there are several tools to help you clarify your plans. Keep in mind, though, those plans are bound to change for the majority of students. More than 60% of college students will change their major 2-3 times.

College Board's website has a very comprehensive look at majors and careers. A major and a career are two different things. Your college major may not necessarily indicate your career path. It is important that you understand the difference between, for example, majoring in Psychology, and being a Psychologist. Visit <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/majors-careers> for a full list of major and career profiles. There are hundreds of sub-categories to choose from; it is really one of the best resources for major/career searching. Each major profile includes information about courses to take in high school, college-level courses, similar majors, and colleges that offer that major. The career profiles include thorough descriptions, education needed, compensation, and similar careers.

In sophomore year, counselors led you in a career exploration lesson in your history class. You took one or more career assessments in Naviance and/or Career Cruising (www.careercruising.com – username: Hunterdon, password: Central). Naviance has a wealth of career information in the “careers” tab, including an

interest inventory based on the John Holland Theory of career exploration. The questions will evaluate your interests, then match you with suitable careers. This is a great assessment with practical results. Career Cruising offers several tools to find the right major and/or career, along with education and training options leading to your respective field.

Standardized Testing

Since most colleges and universities still ask for standardized test scores, it is important that students take these tests before applying.

SAT – www.collegeboard.org

You are encouraged to take the SAT at least once during junior year, while many 11th grade students will take it twice or even three times. Some juniors will be done with testing in 11th grade, while others may test into 12th grade. The timeline of test taking is ***different for every student***. In consultation with your counselor, you can best determine when you should take the SAT.

The SAT is scored out of 1600 points (800 points each for evidence-based reading and writing, and math).

SAT Test Dates: 2018 – 2019

Test Date	Normal Deadline	Late Registration*	Online Score Release
August 25, 2018	July 27, 2018	August 15, 2018	September 7, 2018
October 6, 2018	September 7, 2018	September 26, 2018	October 19, 2018
November 3, 2018	October 5, 2018	October 24, 2018	November 16, 2018
December 1, 2018	November 2, 2018	November 20, 2018	December 14, 2018
March 9, 2019**	February 8, 2019	February 27, 2019	March 22, 2019
May 4, 2019	April 5, 2019	April 24, 2019	May 17, 2019
June 1, 2019	May 3, 2019	May 22, 2019	July 10, 2019

**The late registration deadline is about one week earlier if you are registering by mail.*

***Regular SAT only.*

SAT Subject Tests

Some colleges also require SAT Subject Tests. These are hour-long, content-based tests used to showcase your achievement in specific subject areas. There are 20 Subject Tests in five subject areas – listed below. You choose the test(s) you want to take, and you choose if you share those scores with colleges. College Board’s website has plenty of preparation tools and study guides for Subject Tests.

It is recommended that you take these tests right after you finish the courses that cover the material being tested. Keep in mind, you can't take the SAT and Subject Tests on the same test date. Therefore, plan your test taking schedule appropriately to be sure you meet all application deadlines during your senior year.

You should know which of your colleges require these tests, how many tests you need to take, and which subjects are recommended or required to take. Typically, colleges that are more selective in admission require or recommend Subject Tests, but you should still check the admission requirements of ALL colleges on your list on the official college website.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> German |
| <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. History | <input type="checkbox"/> German with Listening |
| <input type="checkbox"/> World History | <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Math Level 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish with Listening |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Math Level 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Modern Hebrew |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biology/EM | <input type="checkbox"/> Italian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chemistry | <input type="checkbox"/> Latin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Physics | <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese with Listening |
| <input type="checkbox"/> French | <input type="checkbox"/> Japanese with Listening |
| <input type="checkbox"/> French with Listening | <input type="checkbox"/> Korean with Listening |

ACT – www.act.org

Most colleges will accept the ACT or the SAT, so you may consider trying both. If you do take both the ACT and SAT, you can review your scores on a concordance table (example: <https://www.compassprep.com/comparing-act-and-new-sat-scores/>) to determine which score is higher and should be sent to colleges. As always, consult your counselor for further advice. The ACT includes a science component. The sections are also much quicker, but the questions are presented in a more direct format. ACT's writing component is optional, but we STRONGLY RECOMMEND that all students take it.

ACT Test Dates: 2018 – 2019

Test Date	Deadline	Late Deadline	Score Release*
Sept 8, 2018	Aug 3, 2018	Aug 17, 2018	Sept 18; Oct 2, 2018
Oct 27, 2018	Sept 21, 2018	Oct 5, 2018	Nov 6; Nov 20, 2018
Dec 8, 2018	Nov 2, 2018	Nov 16, 2018	Dec 18, 2018; Jan 1, 2019
Feb 9, 2019	Jan 11, 2019	Jan 18, 2019	Feb 20; Mar 5, 2019
Apr 13, 2019	Mar 8, 2019	Mar 22, 2019	Apr 23; May 7, 2019
June 8, 2019	May 3, 2019	May 17, 2019	June 18; July 2, 2019
July 13, 2019	June 14, 2019	June 21, 2019	July 23; August 6, 2019

What about test-optional colleges? If you are interested in applying to colleges where test scores are no longer required, see this list: <http://fairtest.org/university/optional>. It's quite simple; if you chose not to, you don't have to submit standardized test scores. Remember, though, these colleges may put more emphasis on other factors when considering your application.

College Visits & Interviews

Visits

Visiting a college is one of the strongest ways to show demonstration of interest. As a junior, it is recommended that you do most of your visiting this year and this summer. Utilize your breaks from school and don't forget about your (3) excused college visit days. While summer may be a more convenient time to visit colleges, just realize that you may not get the full exposure since campuses will be less populated. Still, any visit is better than no visit. It is recommended that students visit colleges 2-3 times each. After all, the investment you will make in your final choice deserves more than one look before you commit.

The spring months afford many opportunities to visit colleges. You will see many advertisements for spring open houses and visitation days geared toward juniors. These events typically include an admissions presentation and campus tour. While you're at the college, it's acceptable to spend some time looking around on your own, visiting campus spots that may have not been included on the tour, dining on campus, or anything that gives you a good feel for the school. You may compete for individual time during large open house events. Before your visit, contact the representative who works with HCRHS applicants and try to schedule some private time. If this isn't possible, make it a point to meet at least one admissions counselor, make a connection, and ask for the business card to keep in touch.

Interviews

While interviews are not required during the college application process, and usually only occur when you are a senior, you may find yourself in position to have an interview during junior year. It is so important to be prepared for this type of meeting. Some basic tips to remember for a college admissions interview:

- Dress appropriately. When in doubt, business casual is recommended – dress shirt/dress pants for the males; professional dress/skirt/blouse/dress pants for the females.
- Shake hands with a firm handshake and be seated when offered.
- Be relaxed, yet poised. Be yourself. Answer all questions fully and frankly, but avoid running on.
- Parents/guardians should wait outside of the interview.
- Be prepared to discuss: your reasons for choosing the college, major/career interests, extracurricular activities, your high school experience.
- Be prepared to know: specific things about the college so you show the interviewer that you are prepared and interested.
- Be prepared with questions of your own.
- Take with you: your transcript, resume/activity sheet, your standardized test scores printed from the testing agency websites, any notes to help you remember important points you want to discuss.

Always send a note of thanks to your interviewer or any admissions counselor(s) you meet while visiting campus.

Letters of Recommendation

Most college applications request 2-3 letters of recommendation from people who know you in and out of the classroom. It is your responsibility to find teachers who will write these letters on your behalf. Your counselor will provide a letter of recommendation that will be sent to all colleges to which you apply, so you already have at least one letter of recommendation. Your counselor will require “brag sheets” or the Student Questionnaire/Activity Sheet forms to write the best possible letter for you. Parents will be asked to complete a similar questionnaire for this process.

Some colleges request that teacher letters of recommendation come from certain academic disciplines, so be sure to read the admission requirements carefully. Otherwise, choose teachers who can speak best to your academic abilities and character. While colleges want a current perspective and prefer that you choose a teacher from junior year, it is fine to ask a teacher from 9th or 10th grade, with whom perhaps you still maintain a good relationship. Additionally, the letter does not have to come from a teacher who taught your grade “A” class. Some of the best letters come from teachers who helped you through difficulties in the classroom, and while the highest grade was not achieved, that teacher can speak well to your strengths and determination. Finally, it is even better to ask a teacher who knows you inside and outside the classroom. Perhaps that teacher you had is also your club advisor, music instructor, coach, or personal tutor.

To be sure that you give your recommendation writers plenty of time, **we require that you verbally ask two teachers before the end of junior year.** You should make this request in person, not via email. If the teacher agrees to write your letter, they may ask you for a resume or answers to a set of questions to assist them with their letter writing. Be prepared to give them this type of document, before junior year concludes. You will follow up with a formal request on Naviance; details about how to do this will be provided in September.

A recommendation waiver form, which will be required by your counselor to write a letter, can be found at the end of this packet. You should complete the form ASAP and return it to your counselor with your questionnaires.

Writing College Essays

You’ve probably heard students who’ve been through the college process tell you – work on your essays early! It’s true – writing college essays takes time, thought, and patience. We recommend brainstorming essay ideas during junior year.

It is important to choose a topic that says something about you. You may have the ultimate freedom to do this through an open-ended essay or personal statement, or you may be given a prompt to guide your response. Either way, you should be using this space to share about YOU. The Common Application, which many students will use to apply to college, has several writing prompts that are typically released in March. To view the writing prompts for 2017-18, and gain a better understanding of the Common App college essay, see below:

2018-2019 Common Application Essay Prompts

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.

2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
4. Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma - anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

In addition, some students may use The Coalition Application as another platform to apply to colleges. Their writing prompts for 2017-2019 are:

- *Tell a story from your life, describing an experience that either demonstrates your character or helped to shape it.*
- *Describe a time when you made a meaningful contribution to others in which the greater good was your focus. Discuss the challenges and rewards of making your contribution.*
- *Has there been a time when you've had a long-cherished or accepted belief challenged? How did you respond? How did the challenge affect your beliefs?*
- *What is the hardest part of being a teenager now? What's the best part? What advice would you give a younger sibling or friend (assuming they would listen to you)?*
- *Submit an essay on a topic of your choice.*

Your essay should display your preferences, values, creativity, and depth of knowledge. Your writing should reflect your organizational abilities, sense of style, and mastery of strong written English, including grammar and punctuation. (Grammar and punctuation mistakes are quite common in college essays, and can be easily avoided with thorough proofing.)

The topic you select for your essay can reveal much about who you are. Yale's application suggests: "...write about something that matters to you. Use your own voice. Do not worry about making a special effort to include impressive vocabulary words or overly complex sentences. If you sound like yourself and discuss something you care about, your essay will be more effective."

Allow your essay to be proofread by many people. Consider your family members, close friends, teachers, counselors, trusted adults, boss, coach, and/or someone who you recently met. After you have edited your essay, be sure that you have created a piece that best represents you.

Building a Resume

A high school student's resume may be a requirement or optional piece to the college application. Like the essay, we recommend starting this during junior year. You will need to begin recording all of your high school activities, including clubs, sports, musical/drama productions, academic awards and accomplishments, and leadership positions. Your activities outside of school are just as important – employment experience, involvement with your house of worship, summer programs, and volunteer experience. Do not downplay any of your activities; colleges want to know what you've done to fill your time. If you are unsure about including an activity, talk with your counselor. You should only mention activities from 9th grade and beyond, unless it is an activity with many years of participation (examples: Girl/Boy Scouts, dancing since age 4, soccer since age 6, piano since age 10, etc). Colleges would be interested in your dedication to long-term activities.

The College & Career Center is a great place to start building a resume. Stop by during Unit Lunch to work on resume templates and content with the College & Career Counselor. The presentation of your resume is just as important as content. It should be neat, organized, and pleasant to the eye. Messy resumes with grammar mistakes and awkward formats will be ignored. To keep your resume organized, list the activities of most importance first.

Both Naviance and Career Cruising also have tools to build resumes. To learn more, visit the websites, stop by the College & Career Center, or speak with your counselor.

College Athletics

If you plan to compete at the Division I or II level, you must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center here: www.eligibilitycenter.org. This should be done during junior year, as early as possible. (For the Division III level, see the college's website for eligibility information. It's still not a bad idea to register with NCAA, as you may end up competing at a different level.) It is important that you meet with your counselor to determine your eligibility to compete at the Division I or II level.

On the Eligibility Center website, you will find plenty of resources to get you started on your path to becoming a college athlete. At the end of junior year, you will need to have a transcript sent to the NCAA Eligibility Center. Speak with your counselor to make sure this transcript is sent in the summer after junior year.

Other tasks for college-bound athletes, aside from determining Division I or II eligibility, include: filling out recruitment questionnaires on official college athletic websites, creating video demonstrating your athletic talent, and working with your coaches (both school and club) to determine best fit athletic programs.

Admission Plans

As you explore colleges, you may hear about different types of admission plans, such as early action and early decision. In addition to the regular decision plan, many colleges offer various types of admission to manage enrollments more carefully.

Most of the "early" admission plans operate on earlier deadlines, typically ranging from October 15 – December 1, with many regular decision deadlines between November 30 – February 1.

Regular Decision

The student applies by a specified date and receives a decision within a reasonable and clearly stated timeframe. A student may apply to other colleges without restriction.

Rolling Admission

The application process in which an institution reviews applications as they are completed and renders admission decisions to students throughout the admission cycle. While the deadline date may be “rolling”, a college may fill their seats early, so it’s best not to delay.

Early Action (EA)

Growing very popular, this is a non-binding admission plan. For students who can get their materials in by the earlier deadline, this is a fantastic way to get some results even earlier (possibly before the holidays). You can apply to multiple colleges through EA if you choose.

Early Decision (ED)

Originally an application option for very selective colleges to their best candidates, ED has evolved to become an excellent way for colleges to improve their admission statistics and for students to improve their chances of admission. The odds of ED admission are stronger, but a student must proceed with caution. A big commitment is about to be made. When applying ED, you may only apply to one college through this method. If accepted to that college, you are **committing to attend**. All other college applications must be withdrawn (yes, you should be applying to other colleges while you are filing your one ED application). If deferred, your application will be set aside and reviewed at a later date, most likely with the regular admission pool. You may also be denied. Before choosing to apply ED to a college, multiple visits (including an overnight visit) are recommended. Give yourself time to get a good perspective on the college before making a big commitment. Read all rules and fine print when applying ED, including the application, ED agreement, and college’s official website. Inquire with admission counselors via e-mail when you have questions, so you have answers in writing.

Restrictive Early Action or Single-Choice Early Action

Colleges with this type of admission program do not allow applicants to apply to other schools during the “early” period, either EA or ED. In most cases, you may still apply to public universities. And, you can still apply to other colleges through Regular Decision. While this option is less common at colleges, it’s still important to read the restrictions on the college’s official website.

Community College

Community college has become a popular choice among high school graduates across the nation. With the competitiveness of 4-year colleges rising, and with escalating costs, attending a community college may be a good choice. Approximately 15% of HCRHS graduates will attend a community college annually. Our local community college – Raritan Valley – is an excellent choice. Some of our graduates have also pursued community colleges in Mercer and Morris counties, along with Northampton Community College in Bethlehem, PA (one of the few community colleges nationwide that offers housing).

Community college is not a repeat of high school, and should never be taken for an easy route in place of attending a 4-year institution. Community colleges pride themselves on a comprehensive education that matches that of 4-year colleges, making the process of transferring possible. If you intend to graduate from a

community college with an Associate's degree, plan to spend 2-3 years at the college. Upon graduation, and with careful planning, you could possibly transfer most of your credits and enter a 4-year college with junior status. Just think, half of your education completed at a lower cost, with the convenience of being near home. This plan works for many people. If you are considering community college following high school, you should complete the application process in winter of your senior year.

Financial Aid & The FAFSA

College costs are drastically rising, but there is assistance available. In fact, each year, there is financial aid money that goes unclaimed. Applying for financial aid takes effort and the process can seem complex at first, but the government has created an easy-to-use application known as the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). The FAFSA will be available to you on October 1st of your senior year – the first time that Prior-Prior year (PPY) goes into effect. You will now be able to use tax information for a FAFSA from two years prior, rather than one year prior. The form requires financial figures from students and parents. The FAFSA website (<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>) has several tools to help you get organized before filing the FAFSA. Our website is filled with information about financial aid: <http://www.hcrhs.org/counseling/college-career-services/financial-aid-information>

We recommend using early planning tools such as the *FAFSA4caster* (<http://studentaid.ed.gov/fafsa/estimate>) or *College Board's* tools and calculators (<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/tools-calculators>). All of these tools allow you to get early estimates of financial aid figures.

Many students and parents believe that they should only apply to public institutions because of the cost factor. However, we encourage students to have both public and private colleges on their list. Private colleges, with a higher price tag, often have more available funds to give students, bringing their cost similar to that of a public college.

Note: Information on this resume may not be factual. It is intended for example purposes only.

Example Student

Your Address Here
City, State Zip Code
(908) 555-1212
student@email.com

Objective	To enroll full-time in a college or university Business Management program.
Education	Name of Your High School, City, State Graduation Date Cumulative GPA: 3.51 weighted AP Courses: English Language, US History Honors Courses: English, Spanish, Biology
Academic Honors & Awards	Honor Roll: 9, 10 Principal's Honor Roll: 11 Spanish Honor Society: 11
Extracurricular Activities	Future Business Leaders of America: 10, 11, 12 (3 hours/week during school year) Vice-President – 12 Class Council: 9, 10, 11, 12 (2 hours/week during school year) Chair, Box City, fundraiser to aid homeless shelter (30 hours of volunteering) Yearbook Club: 10, 11, 12 (8 hours/week during school year) Photographer, Sports Writer
Sports	Field Hockey: 9, 10, 11, 12 (18 hours/week in fall, plus off-season training) 9 – JV, 10-12 – Varsity Co-captain – 12
Work Experience	Polo Factory Outlet, Liberty Village Outlets, Flemington, NJ September 2018 – present (8 hours/week) Sales Associate Polar Cub Ice Cream, Whitehouse Station, NJ June – August, 2016 – 2018 (20 hours/week) Professional Ice Cream Scooper
Volunteer Experience	Hunterdon Medical Center, Flemington, NJ October 2018 – present (3 hours/week) Information Desk & Greeter
Interests	Traveling, Culture, Reading, Writing, Fitness, Photography