



**11th Grade College & Career
Planning Groups**

Class of 2024

So many options!

- 4-year college
- 2-year college/community college
- Military
- Trade/Technical School
- Polytech
- Employment
- Gap Year

Where are you on this line?

College sounds interesting - where do I start?



I have been using Naviance, researching college websites, and I am planning to take the SAT this spring.



I have no idea what to do after high school. I don't know my options.



I want to go to college, I have a school or two in mind, but I could really use some more direction.



I have a college list, I have made visits, I took the SAT, tell me everything I need to know.



Where do we start?

- How to Research Colleges & Careers
 - Naviance & SCOIR
 - College Board
- Consider criteria like size, location, cost, and more.
- Understand Fit vs. Ranking
 - Fit is academic, financial, and social.

Developing a College List

- Probable, Target, Reach Schools
 - An even balance of these categories makes a healthy college list.
- Build this list in SCOIR.
- Your list can and will change!

How Colleges Review Applications

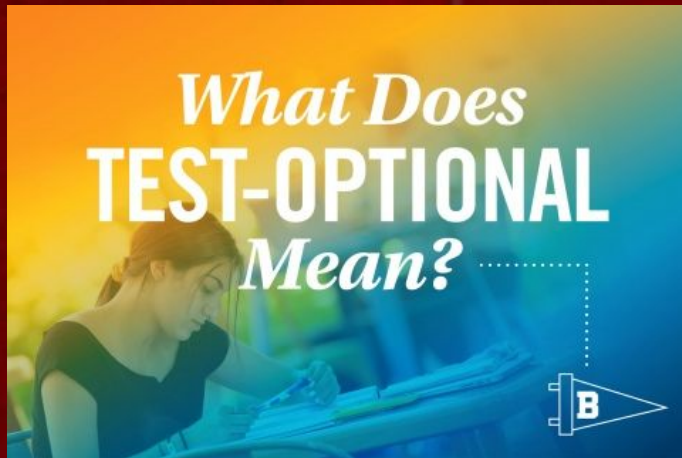
Factors colleges consider in a *holistic* review:

- Level of rigor
- Grades in college-prep courses
- Standardized test scores
- Letters of recommendation
- Essay(s)
- Activities/special talents/level of commitment
- *Maybe*: Demonstration of interest
- *Maybe*: Interview

More Specific Topics for Junior Year

- Standardized Testing
 - Test-optional policies
- Extracurricular Activities
- Visiting Colleges
- Letters of Recommendation

Standardized Testing



- PSAT
- SAT/ACT
- Test-optional policies
 - [FairTest](#)

Extracurricular Activities

- Everything counts - activities both in and out of school.
 - Sports, clubs, volunteer work, part-time work, summer activities, hobbies and interests that take time, etc.
- If it's not on your academic transcript, it may likely be an activity.
- Consider non-traditional activities that fill your time:
 - caring for siblings, helping elderly family members, helping with a family business

Visiting Colleges

- Register for college visits on college website.
- Take advantage of virtual programming if in-person is not an option.
- Go beyond the script and spend extra time on campus.
- (3) excused visit days for juniors and seniors

Letters of Recommendation

- Counselor
 - Holistic letter for every student.
 - [Junior Questionnaire Forms](#) - due May 1st
- Teachers
 - Who do you choose? How many?
 - When do you ask?
 - How do you ask?
- Check each college's recommendation requirements.

Scheduling for Senior Year

- Scheduling is January 31 - February 4 in Aspen.
- Your counselor will meet with you **AFTER** you enter your schedule. Changes can be made.
- Senior year schedule is an important factor in admission decisions.
- Consider rigor in senior year. Prepare yourself for the workload of college.

Future Topics!

(If you've already started researching colleges, taken or registered for standardized tests, made a visit or planned for one, these topics might be your next steps.)

- College Essay
- Majors & Careers
- Creating Standout Applications
- Athletic Recruiting
- Financial Aid & Scholarships
- Admission Plans (*Early Action, Early Decision, etc*)
- Communicating with Admission Reps
- Summer & Fall Timeline

What's Next for Juniors?

- Scheduling meetings w/ your counselor.
- College planning meetings w/ Mrs. Nuechterlein.
- College Fair on Tuesday, March 21
- Admission Panel on Tuesday, April 4
- Spring = another round of student groups.
- Use your resources and ask questions!

Junior Questionnaire: Due Monday, May 1st

- Take your time and complete the Junior Questionnaire.
- Email your counselor the completed questionnaire. Put “JUNIOR QUESTIONNAIRE” in the subject line.