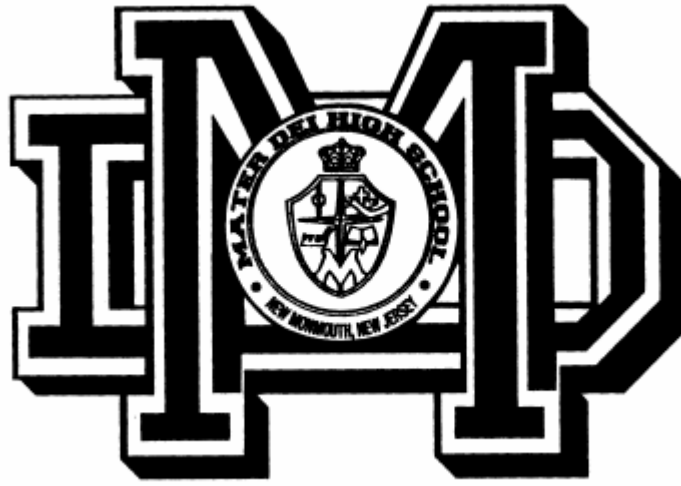


*From Mater Dei to College...  
Planning Your Future*



*Mater Dei High School  
Student Services Office  
538 Church Street  
New Monmouth, NJ 07748  
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## PLANNING FOR EDUCATION AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

There are many factors to consider in deciding whether or not to continue with your education after high school. Formal education is only one process by which we learn. We are constantly being educated by our peers, parents, employers, and through the media. Several factors might lead one to choose further schooling at this point in life. One would be a specific career objective, such as becoming a nurse, auto mechanic, beautician or accountant. Other students are uncertain about a career and feel the need for a more general education. These students select a two- or four-year liberal arts college program and sample a variety of subject areas before making a choice of a major field. Career training may even be deferred until graduate school.

## HOW TO CHOOSE A SCHOOL OR COLLEGE

If you decide to go on to school after high school, there are many kinds of decisions to be made. You might begin by asking yourself the following questions:

1. Program - Do you want a career-oriented or a general liberal arts program? Do you know what you want to major in? Does the school have strong offerings in that area? Does the school represent a wide variety of career interests as in a university or is it geared to one field, i.e., engineering, business, art?
2. Time - Do you want to go to school full or part time, immediately after high school, or in a year or two? How much time are you willing or able to invest in your schooling?
3. Location - Do you plan to commute to school? How far from home will you go? Do you prefer a large city, a suburban area, or a small college town?
4. Student Body - Is the student body varied in ethnic and socio-economic background? Is the student body national or local? Are the students similar to you in interests and abilities?
5. Academic Pressure - Would you be one of the stronger students in the school or one of the weaker? Do you thrive under pressure or do you prefer to work at a more comfortable, less competitive pace?
6. Accreditation - By whom is the school accredited? If you are interested in a career-oriented program, is that program approved by professional organizations in that field? How qualified is the faculty? How large is the library?
7. Social Life - Does the school sponsor many social and cultural events or is it mostly left up to the students to organize their own? What are the rules relating to cars, alcohol, drugs, etc., on campus?

8. Extracurricular Activities - Will you be able to participate in sports you enjoy, take part in musical or theatrical productions, or pursue the hobbies you most enjoy?
9. Living Arrangements - Do most of the students live on campus? Do most leave on weekends? What kinds of dormitories or housing are available? How much supervision is offered in the dorms? Are they co-ed? Single sex? What are visiting hours? How much privacy does a student have?
10. Finances - What are the costs of the school? What percentage of students received financial aid and what is the average amount? What are the opportunities for work on campus or in the local community? Does the school have internships or co-operative education programs?

Some of the aforementioned questions may be important to you and others may not. The more you learn about yourself and what is important to you, the more appropriate choices you will make. Selecting the right school for you takes time and effort but it is probably one of the most significant investments you and your family will make. Your counselor and all of our resources are here to help you.

#### WHAT ARE SCHOOLS LOOKING FOR?

Your overall high school record is the single best predictor of success in an academic program. Test scores (SAT's and Achievements) provide additional indications of your current verbal and mathematical aptitudes, but how you have performed on a day-to-day basis is still the best indicator of how you perform tomorrow. Don't be discouraged by some low grades; schools see them in relation to the total record and also appreciate improvement.

The kind of person you are, your enthusiasm for learning, willingness to study, your special talents, working experience, motivation to succeed, and contributions to school and community are also given consideration. A strong contribution in one or two areas is generally preferable to simple membership in many clubs and organizations.

#### WHERE AND HOW TO GET INFORMATION ON SCHOOLS

The Student Services Office is an excellent place to begin. We have already listed some of the reference materials available on two- and four-year colleges, technical, engineering, and business schools, as well as guidebooks for New Jersey schools to college majors and scholarship information. A college application file for New Jersey schools is located in the Student Services Office. All other applications are available on line at the college's website. Our Student Services Resource Center also contains extensive materials on a variety of careers and their education requirements, and a listing of open house and special programs on college campuses. Participate in the College Mini-Fairs. Student Services Counselors are available every day and parents are welcome to call for an appointment.

A great deal of responsibility for information gathering belongs to the students. The counselors and materials available in the Student Services Office are valuable resources for the decision-making process. Use them.

After you have established the traditional answers (cost, admission, standards, etc.), there are some secondary but relevant questions that may be important in making your decision.

How much will "extras" cost me?

Do most students remain on campus on weekends?

From which states do students come?

Do I have a choice of a roommate? Will my dormitory include freshmen only? What can I do if I don't like my roommate? What furniture does the school supply in a room?

Are there religious requirements on campus?

You may be shown some very attractive recreational facilities. What are the hours for their use? What's really "big" on campus? What is in town besides the college?

Do you have fraternities or sororities? Are they residence halls or just eating clubs? If you don't belong to a fraternity or sorority, are you socially "out of it?"

Do you have career counseling? Do you have internships? What companies come to recruit the graduates? How can I get a job on campus?

If I were in academic trouble, what could I do about it? Do I have an academic advisor? Where do I go for help with personal problems?

What percentage of your graduates goes on to graduate school?

What type of jobs do your graduates obtain?

### **Application Deadlines**

There are several practices which colleges follow in establishing application deadlines: Early Decision, Early Action, Priority, Rolling and Regular application deadlines. When the college will notify the student about acceptances may depend on which procedure is being followed. The college establishes deadline dates. It is important to know what the date is!

### **Early Decision (ED)**

ED programs are recommended for students who have completed a thorough college search and find that one school stands above and beyond the others. The advantage to the student is that by submitting an ED application, notification is usually about four to six weeks after the ED deadline. Most ED deadlines are in November or early December. This means that all standardized testing needs to be completed and that all parts of the application are submitted by the deadline.

There are usually fewer applicants considered during ED, but it is usually a highly competitive pool. Some of these students will be accepted, some deferred (to regular admissions) and others will be denied.

ED is a contract between the student and the college. By applying ED, the student is saying that if he/she is accepted, then he/she will attend and withdraw any other applications to other schools. For this reason, a Mater Dei student may submit only ONE EARLY DECISION APPLICATION.

Accepted students usually have three to four weeks to reply to an ED offer. The only reason that this ED agreement can be broken is if the student does not receive enough financial aid to attend. Financial aid packages are usually estimated for the ED student and sent to them around the same time as the acceptance. Not accepting the ED offer for any other reason is a poor reflection on the student's personal integrity and it may affect future Mater Dei students who wish to apply ED to that college.

### **Early Action (EA)**

EA programs are similar to ED in that applications are submitted by November or early December deadlines and with notification four to six weeks later. The biggest difference is that a student does not have to reply to an EA until May 1, the National Response Date for college acceptances.

At some colleges, certain majors (such as physical therapy) might need to apply by the EA deadline or EA may also be the scholarship deadline for that college. Usually, students will apply EA to a college that is high on their list. As with ED, EA schools will accept, defer or deny a student admission. Several EA schools ask that a student not apply to another college under EA (known as Early Action/Single Choice).

### **Early Decision II**

ED II is the same as ED but the deadline for submitting the application is later. For example, a school may have an ED I deadline of November 1 and an ED II deadline of January 1 (with notification in February instead of April for regular applicants). This is a binding program just like ED! It is important to know the college's policy regarding ED or EA applications!

### **Priority Admission**

Some colleges have established priority deadlines (for example, Rutgers is December 1<sup>st</sup>) for applications. Applications received before this deadline are reviewed and responded to faster than applications received later.

### **Rolling Admissions**

Colleges with rolling admissions will review an applicant's file as soon as it is complete and notify a student as soon as a decision has been reached. This process usually takes from four to eight weeks. Often colleges with rolling admissions have application deadlines in the spring. However, if the college has reached its capacity for accepted students prior to that deadline, qualified students may have to be wait-listed.

### **Regular Admissions**

Regular admissions programs usually have an established date for applications (January 1<sup>st</sup> is common) and applicants are all notified at the same time (for instance, April 1).

### **Points of Contact**

Some colleges even track the points of contact with applicants. These might include phone calls, email, saying hi (and filling out a post card) at a college fair, meeting the representative when they visit Mater Dei or interviewing with an alum in our area. Every little bit helps the college in getting to know you and it is also a way to express your continuing interest in that college.

### **Update your application**

Since many applications are submitted in the fall, it is recommended that you update your application file during your senior year. So if you write a letter to the editor of the newspaper or receive academic honors or become involved in a new activity, let the colleges know. They are usually willing to add new information to your application.

### **National Response Date**

May 1<sup>st</sup> is the National Response Date for all college decisions. By May 1<sup>st</sup>, a student is expected to make a deposit at the school where he/she will attend and notify the others that he/she will not be attending. Colleges must keep offers of admission open until May 1<sup>st</sup> and they may NOT require a student to respond before that date. Students should only make a deposit at ONE school and notify the other colleges that you will not be attending.

After May 1<sup>st</sup>, colleges with wait-lists will review the applications of students who have expressed an interest in staying on a wait-list. It is important that if you are wait-listed at a college you would like to attend, you should still accept and send a deposit at another

school by May 1st.

Final transcripts will be sent to the ONE school that the student indicates on the Senior Survey that is completed in May.

### THE INTERVIEW IN GENERAL

Dress so that you feel comfortable (no jeans). Be neat. Review the colleges website before the interview and prepare intelligent questions.

Be on time. Introduce yourself. Shake hands. Sit comfortably; do not slouch. Wait for the interviewer to begin, listen carefully and answer all questions tactfully, firmly, honestly, and to the best of your ability. Don't be afraid to say you do not know the answer. Ask intelligent questions. Be sincere and speak to the point but don't boast or be overly modest. Be prepared to discuss your accomplishments, interests, goals, and financial needs. You may bring a copy of your transcript, report cards, test scores, honor roll certifications, a scrapbook of sports clippings, examples of your artistic talents, etc. Be yourself and help the interviewer know whether their college is appropriate for you. This is your opportunity to sell yourself as a prospective student. The interviewer should distinguish you from other qualified applicants. Send a thank-you note to the person who interviewed you.

### CAMPUS VISITS

Spring, summer and early fall are excellent times to visit schools. Take advantage of our school vacations. Three to six college visits will usually be enough for helpful comparisons.

It is recommended that you visit as many colleges as possible. You should e-mail or call for an appointment at least two or three weeks in advance. Arrange to meet with a sports coach, department chairperson, or financial aid officer if you want additional information.

When you visit a campus:

Take a tour -- check facilities before the interview, if possible.

Have a meal on campus.

Visit a class if possible.

Go to the Student Center and talk to students.

Read the student newspaper and check the bulletin boards.

Ask questions!!!

### PREPARING FOR A COLLEGE VISIT

1. Arrange for a visit in advance. You should call or e-mail for an appointment at least two or three weeks in advance.
2. Allow time for a college visit -- preferably a full day (not less than a half day) at each college.
3. Familiarize yourself with the college website before visiting so that you can ask intelligent questions when you arrive on campus.
4. Inform the college about your areas of interest, curriculum, activities, etc. Indicate whether you have applied for admission.
5. Know facts about your high school before visiting: percentage of graduates going on to college, average test scores, etc.
6. Summarize your personal data (interests, awards, activities, test scores, transcript, etc.) You may not be asked for it, but it is good to have it with you -- just in case.
7. Give careful attention to your appearance, grooming, and conduct. The campus interview facilitates "putting a face" with a name.
8. Try to do the following:

Visit several classes.

Talk to several college students. Ask them about the academic and social life on campus.

Take your camera and notebook. After you have visited, make some notes while the information gained is fresh in your mind:

- impression of facilities and campus
- impression of faculty and students
- instructional program and regulations
- costs
- names and titles of officials you visited with

Stay overnight in a dorm.

Have lunch in the dining hall.

What to learn about the college/university and what to ask on a campus visit.

### 1. Classes:

- 
- What is the average class size for freshmen?
- 
- Who will teach freshmen courses? Graduate assistants?
- 
- What level of degree does the majority of the faculty hold?
- 
- What are the distribution requirements for a degree required of all students? Does it include a foreign language?
- 
- What is the faculty advisor system? How easy is arranging an appointment with advisors?
- 
- What is the availability of courses in the field of your interest? Flexibility and special opportunities?
- 
- What are the college's top three programs?

### 2. Campus:

- 
- Does the college campus appeal to you? Is it easy to get around? Do the buildings appeal to you?
- 
- How far is it from the local community? Easy access?
- 
- Is pride shown by students in maintaining a clean, well-ordered campus?

### 3. Housing:

- 
- Are freshmen required to live in a dorm?
- 
- How is housing assigned? Is there a separate housing deadline, deposit?
- 
- How many students per room? Are single rooms available?
- 
- How are roommates assigned?
- 
- Are rooms fully furnished or, if not, what do you need to bring?
-

Are the dining facilities satisfactory?

- What percentage of students lives on campus?

#### 4. Religious and Human Development Services:

- Is the chapel required?

- Is there a church of your denomination nearby?

- Do you have trained counselors available, psychologist or psychiatrist?

- Is there a fee?

#### 5. Social and Recreational:

- What do students do on weekends? What percentage remain on campus on weekends?

- Are there fraternities? What percent of students belong? Are there opportunities for independence?

- Does the college have a Student Center?

- What varsity sports are offered? Are there opportunities for participation? Are there intramural? Are the students supporters of the athletic events? Are the facilities available for student use?

- How far is the nearest movie theater?

- Are there museums, concert halls, etc., in the area?

- Weekends - What are facilities on campus?

- Movies - How many shown last year?

- Concerts - How many given last year?

- Do you have dances? How many last year?

- Are your gym facilities open for recreational use?

## 6. Admissions Criteria:

- How will the college/university be evaluating the student? What criteria are used in the process? (Test scores, GPA, rank, quota, area of study, recommendations, activities, other subjective factors)
- Is the Admissions Office fully aware of the type of high school you attend?
- What is the enrollment and composition of the student body?
- What are the application deadlines and procedures?

## 7. College Costs and Financial Aid/Scholarship Opportunities:

- What are the school's basic costs (tuition, room, board, fees)? What other costs are involved in attending (books, personal, etc.)?
- What kinds of financial aid programs are available? What is the procedure for applying? Deadlines? Are work opportunities or loans available?
- Merit or no-need scholarships? Athletic or talent awards?

## 8. Placement and Graduate Statistics:

- How are the students who graduate from the college/university viewed by employers?
- What percentage of graduates continues on with graduate or professional study? Pre-Med? Law?
- What are some of the placement statistics of graduates not pursuing professional study? What employers visit the campus?
- Is there a career-planning program for students?
- What is the average dropout rate? Why do students leave?

## 9. Food:

- Is food catered on campus? Outside caterer?

- How many meals per week?
- Open salad bar?
- Provisions for special diets?

### THE COLLEGE APPLICATION

- Read and re-read all directions before completing the application.
- Make a duplicate copy of your application before beginning to write. This can be used to formulate a rough draft before submitting your final copy.
- Complete college applications promptly. Be aware of deadlines! As you complete each application, **keep a copy for your files** in the event your application is lost in transit to the Admissions Office.
- Review your completed application with Mr. Masterson before mailing or submitting online. Be sure to enclose any required application fee. Your transcript, along with test scores and letters of recommendation, will be sent with your application form.
- On-line applications are becoming more common. Schools like Rutgers are requesting that students apply on-line. In order to facilitate this process, students must complete the on-line registration form and return it to Mr. Masterson.
- The Common Application is a time-saving advantage for students. The *Application for Undergraduate Admission* must be completed **only once**. Photocopies may be sent to any number of participating schools. The same is true of the *School Report, Mid-year Report, and Teacher Evaluation Forms*.

### THE TRANSCRIPT

- Students should review their transcript with Mr. Masterson to check for any errors. It should accurately reflect all courses taken since entering high school.
- Become familiar with the procedure for submitting applications to colleges. Once received, the completed application will be mailed within five school days.
- Be aware that all transcripts submitted to an Admissions Office for evaluation must be official. In order for a transcript to be official, **it must be sent directly from the**

**Student Services Office. There is a \$5.00 fee for each transcript.**

•

If you have completed any college courses while in high school, be sure to request that official transcripts be sent to the colleges to which you are applying.

•

Be sure to request that mid-year grades be sent to all colleges to which you have applied. A final transcript must be sent to the college you will attend.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR AND PERSONAL ACTIVITIES/HONORS AND AWARDS

•

Complete the record of activities, awards, and achievements form beginning with your freshman year for inclusion on your college applications. All students should compose a resume to be sent with all of their applicants (see attachment). If an activity or award is unique to Mater Dei High School, provide a short explanation.

THE ESSAY

•

If an essay is required as a part of the application, read instructions carefully and be sure to respond to the question or topic posed.

•

Be certain that your essay is indicative of your ability, not written by someone else!

•

Be careful that your essay is of appropriate length. Stay focused on the topic. A long essay is not necessarily a better one.

•

Use good vocabulary and proper sentence structure. It is important that your essay be well written.

•

Make sure you ask your English teacher, or Mr. Masterson, to proofread your essay before you submit your final version of the application.

•

Your essay should be neat and easy to read. Always proofread for mistakes and, of course, never use a pencil.

THE RECOMMENDATION LETTER

•

When you receive your application, determine how many recommendations you will need and from whom. Select individuals who know you and your work. Remember, Mr. Masterson will write a letter to go with each of your applications.

•

Some colleges provide a special form that is to be used for submitting a recommendation, such as the Common Application. Others merely request a letter.

•

If recommendations need to be written, make sure you ask for them well in advance of the deadline dates. Communicate these dates to each individual providing a recommendation.

•

Request of each individual writing a recommendation that it be pertinent to all the colleges to which you are applying. This way, you can use the recommendation for every college. Of course, if you are applying to a special program or for a scholarship award, the recommendation may need to be very specific.

•

Write a thank you note to each person who takes the time to write about you. Let them know the final outcome of your application.

•

Complete and submit to all persons writing a letter of recommendation. A Recommendation Request Form (see attached).

### **Student Athletes**

Athletes who would like to play at the varsity level in college must register with the NCAA. These forms are available online at [www.ncaaclearinghouse.net](http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net). Many college websites also have online student-athlete questionnaires to make the coach of a particular sport aware that you are interested in the college as well as a particular sport. In addition, your activities resume might include league, district, or state levels of competition as a team member as well as individual position and statistics. Brief videos of your athletic performance can also be forwarded to coaches.

Although college coaches might be asked to recommend athletes they are recruiting to the admissions' committee, college acceptances are only official when a student has received an acceptance letter from the admissions office!

### **NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse**

The NCAA requires that student-athlete's acquire a minimum grade point average (GPA) and SAT scores in order to be eligible for Division 1 and 2 sports. The GPA is based on sixteen (16) core courses for Division 1 schools and fourteen (14) for core course for Division II. Each year, Mater Dei submits the course selections available at our school to the NCAA.

Student-athletes should register through the Clearinghouse at the end of the junior year. A transcript request form can be submitted to the Student Services Office with a \$10.00 fee. Your transcript will be sent to the Clearinghouse when your junior grades are completed. A final transcript is sent after graduation. The NCAA will only accept SAT or ACT scores that are sent to them directly from College Board. Please be sure to include the

NCAA on your registration for these tests.

To see the eligibility requirements and a list of the Mater Dei courses that are approved by the NCAA as Core Courses, you can visit the website at [www.ncaaclearinghouse.net](http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net).

### **Financial Aid and Scholarships**

The cost of a college education is continually rising. The cost might range anywhere from \$3,000 a year at a community college to more than \$45,000 a year for tuition, room and board at a private institution. Some families will be expected to pay the entire cost of the college education while others will receive financial aid.

Funding a college education is a family decision that needs to be discussed before and during a student's senior year. You may need to look at your list of schools based on how much it will cost your family for you to attend. You may find that some schools might be a "financial reach" even if you are admitted. Be sure to include "financial safety schools" on your list.

### **Scholarships**

There are several ways in which you might receive money for college. One way is through merit scholarships. Many colleges offer money based on your academic achievement. This varies from college to college so you have to ask what the criteria might be for scholarships and if there is a separate application and deadline for scholarships.

Not all scholarships are based on academic merit. Colleges often award scholarships for leadership, community service, talent, underrepresented minorities, and athletics (NCAA Division I and II). Scholarships can also come from private sources. There are several websites listed in this booklet where you can check these out. Mater Dei receives notification about a number of scholarships. For students interested in the military service, ROTC scholarships are a great option to consider. Senior Scholarship Newsletter will be mailed home several times throughout senior year. **Financial Aid**

Everyone should apply for financial aid.

Colleges all have need-based financial aid programs that include grant money (which does not need to be paid back) and loans (that must be repaid). In order to be considered for need-based aid, students must file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). It cannot be filed until after January 1<sup>st</sup> but the financial aid deadline will vary.

**Every student should complete and file the FAFSA form even if you are not eligible for financial aid. If there were to be an unexpected emergency in the future, your information will be on file with the federal government preventing an interruption in your education.**

The FAFSA for 2009-2010, can be found online in the late Summer or early Fall. Some private colleges also require the CSS PROFILE. It is similar to the FAFSA, but there is additional financial information on this form that the college considers in allocating the institutional funds through financial aid. You can see a list of CSS PROFILE schools at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

### **FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIP WEBSITES**

[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)  
[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)  
[www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)  
[www.hessaa.org](http://www.hessaa.org)  
[www.pheaa.org](http://www.pheaa.org)

Here are some of the types of financial aid that might be awarded:

#### **Pell Grants**

These are federally funded grants that are usually awarded to students with very low or zero expected family contributions.

#### **Institutional Grants**

This is need-based money that is funded by the college itself for students demonstrating financial need. Generally, the greater the need, the more likely that grant money will be awarded.

#### **Perkins Loan**

This is a federally funded student-loan program that is administered by the college. The interest rate is about 5% and while the student is enrolled in school, the government pays the interest. The student begins repaying the loan 6 to 12 months after graduating or leaving school.

#### **Stafford Loans**

There are two types of Stafford loans: subsidized and unsubsidized. The government pays subsidized loan interest while the student is in school and unsubsidized loan interest accrues. The interest rate is no higher than 8% and there is about a six to twelve month grace period following graduation. Stafford Loans may be obtained through the college financial aid office or through private lenders. Almost every college will include a Stafford Loan as part of a financial aid package. As a freshman, \$2625 can be borrowed; \$3500 in the second year; and \$5500 in both the junior and senior years. Stafford loans may also be requested through your local bank.

#### **State Grants**

The states of New Jersey and Pennsylvania have state grant programs. The FAFSA application is also your application for state grant money. The maximum amount of money may depend on whether you attend college in or out of state. In Pennsylvania, for example, qualified families might receive up to \$3200 if attending an institution in Pennsylvania. Out of state grant money is capped at \$600. NJ only awards grants for students attending colleges in state. Each state has its own application deadline.

### **Work-study**

Students with Work-Study have the opportunity to hold a job on campus usually at minimum wage. The money earned is typically paid weekly or bi-weekly during the semester.

### **Parent Loans**

Parent loans are available through a federal program (PLUS) as well as through private sources. The interest rate varies according to the current prime rate. Payment for parent loans begins immediately, but the repayment period can be over ten years.

### **Fee Waivers**

Families with limited incomes can ask the Mr. Masterson about fee waivers for SAT testing and college applications. More details are available in the Student Services Office.

### **Scholarship Scams**

Students and parents should be alert to scholarship scams that often offer to do scholarship searches for a fee. A good rule of thumb is that you should not have to pay (even a \$1) to apply for a scholarship. Be a good consumer!

**TERMINOLOGY OF COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TESTS AND TESTING**  
(Remember that test requirements vary among colleges)

CEEB College Entrance Examination Board - the overseeing agency for many tests and services connected with college admission.

ETS Educational Testing Service - the agency that produces the tests for the CEEB.

310994 Your CEEB High School Number.

PSAT/ Preliminary Scholastic aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying NMSQT Test.

SAT Scholastic Aptitude Test (alias the college board) - taken in junior and senior year and required for admission to most colleges.

SAT Subject Achievement Tests - taken at end of junior year or in senior year.  
Tests Remember, test requirements vary with each college. The more competitive colleges require three tests: English, math, and language or science.  
Achievement tests are used by the colleges for placement rather than as an instrument for admission.

AP Advanced Placement Tests - given in specific subjects for students who are taking AP courses. May be given college credits for scores of 3, 4, or 5. Colleges vary in credits given.

CLEP College Level Examination Process - given in specific subjects for college credit.

TOEFL Test of English as a Foreign Language - for students whose native language is not English.

ACT American College Testing Company - often required by schools in the Mid-West and South, covers four categories (English, social sciences, math, and natural sciences). Test applications are available in the Student Services Office.

### COLLEGE RESOURCES

The list of college resources listed is good for gathering data and answering many of your questions. They are an excellent starting point. The most important thing about college placement is fit. Does the school reflect the qualities that you consider important? Harvard can be good for some students but not for all.

A campus visit is important. This especially becomes useful if you talk to a variety of students. Staying overnight and sitting in on classes can give you an even better picture of the school.

The college placement process requires a great deal of exploration. Your counselor can help you and your parents go through that process. The decision of what school you go

to is yours but a professional can help make that process easier.

The WEB sites listed below are very good. You may find others. They are a good way to start gathering data.

#### WEB SITES

[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

[www.campustours.com](http://www.campustours.com)

[www.njpin.state.nj.us](http://www.njpin.state.nj.us)

[www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com)

[www.collegeview.com](http://www.collegeview.com)

[www.embark.com](http://www.embark.com)

[www.state.nj.us/highereducation/schools.htm](http://www.state.nj.us/highereducation/schools.htm)

[www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)

[www.xap.com](http://www.xap.com)

[www.review.com](http://www.review.com)

#### RESOURCES (BOOKS)

The College Handbook - College Board

Peterson's Guide to Four Year Colleges- Peterson

Four-Year College Admission Index of Majors & Sports - Publisher: Orchard House

These do not include all references. It is a list that will allow you to get started. They can be purchased at any major bookstore.

#### RESOURCES - RANKING

Rugg's Recommendations - Frederic Rugg

The Gourman Report - Jack Gourman

Peterson's Competitive College - Peterson

US News & World Report Annual Issue of Ranking Colleges

You have to be careful with ranking. It is good for determining which schools are ranking the same tier.

#### SAT & ACT PREPARATION PROGRAMS

Research seems to indicate that a SAT/ACT preparation class may not be helpful. The best preparation is doing well in school K - 12. Some parents and students consider preparation classes important. They say it is a good review, builds confidence, and improves test-taking skills.

Listed below are some of the major preparation programs in book format. They also offer a class format.

Cracking The System - Princeton Review

ACT, The Classic Course - Sourcebooks/Bantam Books

Kaplan SAT Classic Course - Bantam Books

SAT Test Date: June 7

Regular Registration: May 6

SAT tests dates for next school year will be available in the late Spring or early Summer at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) in the early summer.

SAT Test Date:	June 7
Regular Registration:	May 6