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# PSAT Results & Early College Planning

— Shannon Lungariello —  
College & Career Counselor

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# How BHS Prepares Students for College & Career

- **Curriculum**

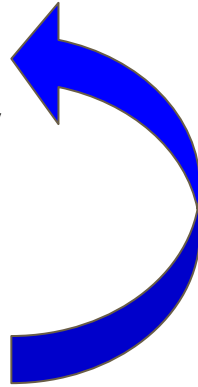
- Connecticut Common Core Standards (CCCS)
- Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)
- State Social Studies frameworks

- **Instruction**

- Gradual Release of Responsibility

- **Assessment**

- Common across courses
- STAR Math and Reading
- PSAT
- SAT



# Comprehensive School Counseling Program

- **9th Grade**

- Transition to High School
- Club Fair
- PSAT
- Freshman Meetings

- **10th Grade**

- Transcript Review and Goal Setting
- Resume Development
- Career Exploration
- PSAT

- **11th Grade**

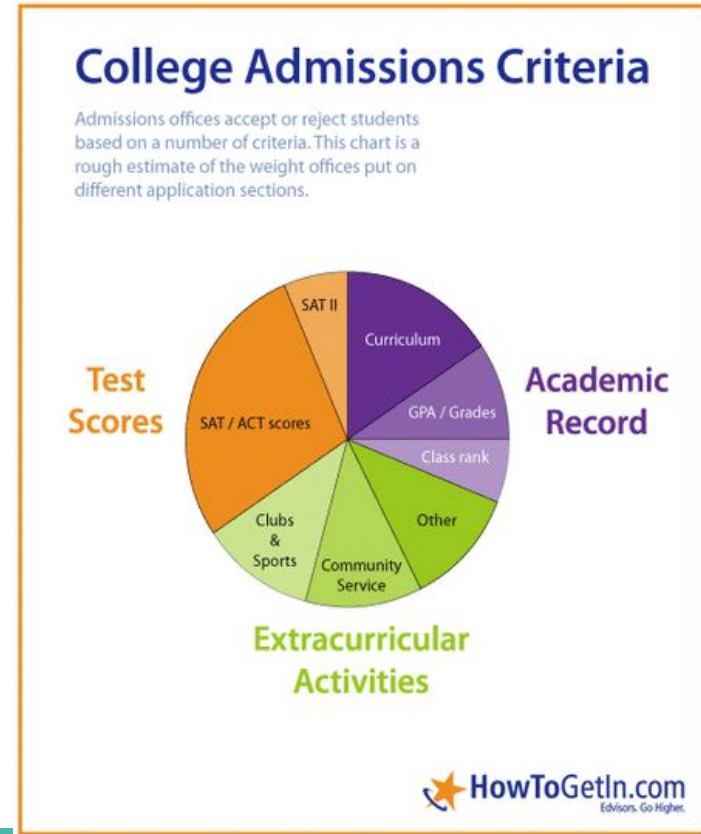
- College & Career Exploration
- College Campus Field Trips
- Alumni Panel Presentation
- Post High School Planning Meetings
- Resume Revision
- College Essay Development
- PSAT & SAT

- **12th Grade**

- Post High School Planning
- College Application Process
- Funding College
- Alumni Panel Presentation
- Transition to Post High School Path

# College Admissions Overview

- Rigor of Curriculum
- Grades
- Admissions Test Scores
- College Essay
- Letters of Recommendation
- Extracurricular Activities & Community Service
- Supplemental Materials (e.g., auditions, portfolios)
- Interview



# Overview of College Admissions Testing

- Most colleges/universities require college admissions testing (SAT or ACT).
- Some of the most selective colleges/universities require SAT Subject Tests (SAT II Tests).
- Some colleges/universities are test optional ([fairtest.org](https://www.fairtest.org)).



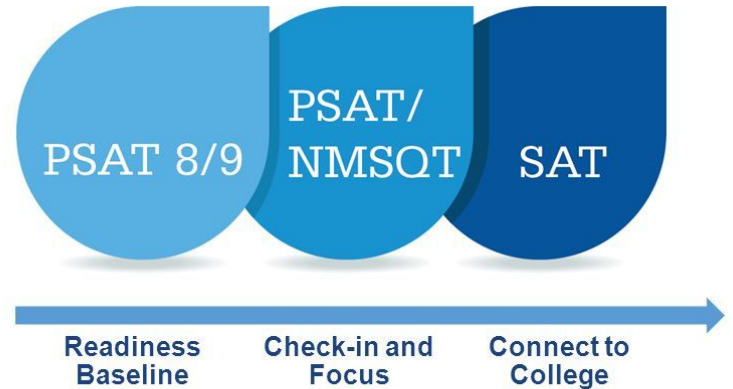
A word cloud of Connecticut Test Optional Schools. The text is arranged in a roughly rectangular shape, with 'CT Test Optional Schools' in the largest, darkest blue font in the center. Other schools listed include Wesleyan, Sacred Heart, Connecticut College, Quinnipiac, Saint Joseph, Mitchell, Fairfield, Trinity, Goodwin, Eastern, Western, and Charter Oak, all in various shades of blue and green.

Wesleyan Sacred Heart  
Connecticut College  
CT Test Optional Schools  
Quinnipiac Saint Joseph Mitchell  
Fairfield Trinity  
Goodwin Eastern Western  
Charter Oak

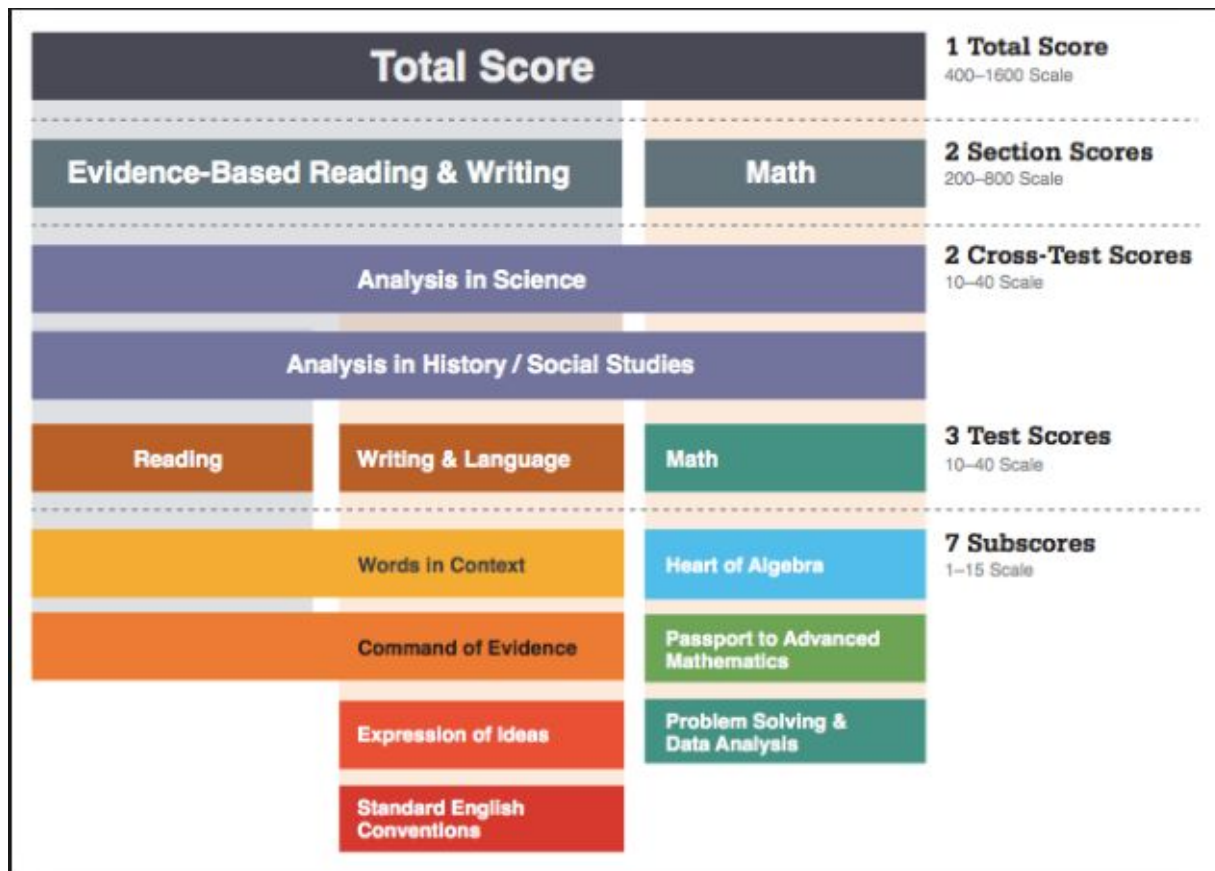
# Introduction to PSAT

- All 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students take in the fall at BHS
- Exposes students to the SAT
- Provides results which can be used as a resource to prepare for the SAT
- Used to determine National Merit Scholarship eligibility for 11th graders

## The SAT® Suite of Assessments



# SAT & PSAT Scores



# PSAT - Scores & What They Mean

Total Score



## YOUR SCORE TODAY

### Your Total Score

**960** | 320 to 1520

You are in the **51<sup>st</sup>** percentile



You scored equal to or higher than 51% of students

### Your Evidence-Based Reading and Writing Score

**430** | 160 to 760

You are in the **31<sup>st</sup>** percentile

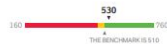


**!** Your score shows that you're almost on track to be ready for college, but you need to keep building your skills.

### Your Math Score

**530** | 160 to 760

You are in the **69<sup>th</sup>** percentile



**✓** Your score shows that you're on track to be ready for college.

### Your Test Scores\*

Reading **23** | 8 to 38

Math **26.5** | 8 to 38

Writing and Language **20** | 8 to 38

\* Additional detailed scores, like test scores, provide students with a deeper understanding of their performance. Test scores are also used to calculate your NMSC Selection Index.

Section Scores



Test Scores



[psat.org/myscore](https://psat.org/myscore)

Go online for your full report

**Ima,**  
this was your score when you took the test; it is not a measure of how far you can grow!

+130 pts



Students with scores like yours increased their performance from the PSAT/NMSQT<sup>®</sup> to the SAT<sup>®</sup> by 130 points after 10 or more hours of

\*Under the total and section scores, you'll see percentiles.

\*Under the section percentiles, you'll see where you fall on the spectrum that measures college readiness:



Need to strengthen skills



Approaching Benchmark



Meet or exceed Benchmark



# PSAT - Scores & What They Mean

This page offers additional information and resources and looks different depending on your grade level.

## YOUR PATH TOMORROW

Here's what else is waiting for you online:

- 1 Course Recommendations**  
Congrats! Your scores show you're ready to succeed in AP<sup>®</sup> courses. Talk to your counselor about signing up.
  - 2 Scholarship Opportunities**  
Learn more about the National Merit<sup>®</sup> Scholarship Program. Also, earn College Board Opportunity Scholarships just by planning for college.
  - 3 Free Khan Academy SAT Prep**  
Create a personalized SAT study plan based on the questions you missed on the PSAT/NMSQT.
- SAT Don't forget!**  
Register to take the SAT ahead of college application deadlines in spring of junior year and fall of senior year.

## NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION

### Your NMSC Selection Index

**139**

NMSC uses a Selection Index score based on PSAT/NMSQT scores as an initial screen of students who enter its scholarship programs. The Selection Index score is double the sum of your Reading, Writing and Language, and Math Test scores.

### Eligibility Information

You meet entry requirements for the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program and your Selection Index score will be considered among 1.6 million program entrants.

If your Selection Index places you among the 50,000 high scorers who qualify for National Merit Scholarship Program recognition, you will be notified next September when qualifying Selection Index scores are made available.

### Entry Requirements

Information you provided on your answer sheet:

High school student: **YES**

Year to complete high school and enroll full time in college: **2021**

Total years to be spent in grades 9–12: **4**

### National Merit Scholarship Corporation

National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) conducts the National Merit<sup>®</sup> Scholarship Program, an academic competition for recognition and college scholarships.

To designate students who qualify for recognition in its 2021 competition, NMSC will consider the 2019 PSAT/NMSQT<sup>®</sup> Selection Index scores of some 1.6 million test takers (usually high school juniors) who meet program entry requirements. For more information, please visit: [www.nationalmerit.org](http://www.nationalmerit.org)

If any of your responses to NMSC's "Entry Requirements" questions are inaccurate or there has been a change in plans that may affect program entry, write immediately to:

**National Merit Scholarship Corporation  
Attn: Scholarship Administration  
1560 Sherman Avenue, Suite 200  
Evanston, IL 60201-4897**

Include your name and home address along with your high school name, address, and six-digit code number.

National Merit Scholarship Corporation Selection Index ([nationalmerit.org](http://nationalmerit.org))

\*Juniors who scored among the top 50,000 students on the PSAT will be notified in September of senior year.

# PSAT - Scores & What They Mean

Question-Level Feedback by Section indicates:

- correct answer
- student's answer
- level of difficulty

\*This feedback can also indicate if students ran out of time.

## Your Question-Level Feedback

### QUESTIONS OVERVIEW

<b>47</b> Total Questions	<b>21</b> Correct Answers
<b>25</b> Incorrect Answers	<b>1</b> Omitted Answers

### WRITING AND LANGUAGE

<b>44</b> Total Questions	<b>17</b> Correct Answers
<b>26</b> Incorrect Answers	<b>1</b> Omitted Answers

### MATH - CALCULATOR

<b>31</b> Total Questions	<b>15</b> Correct Answers
<b>14</b> Incorrect Answers	<b>2</b> Omitted Answers

### MATH - NO CALCULATOR

<b>17</b> Total Questions	<b>10</b> Correct Answers
<b>7</b> Incorrect Answers	<b>0</b> Omitted Answers

\*Tip: A great way to start improving: check out the easy questions you missed first.

**KEY**

- ✓ Correct
- Omitted
- ⊘ Unselectable
- ✗ Multi-Grid/Incorrect
- Easy Question
- Medium Question
- Hard Question
- Easy Question Missed\*

READING				WRITING AND LANGUAGE				MATH - CALCULATOR				MATH - CALCULATOR			
Question #	Correct	Your Answer	Difficulty	Question #	Correct	Your Answer	Difficulty	Question #	Correct	Your Answer	Difficulty	Question #	Correct	Your Answer	Difficulty
1	A	✓	■	1	D	✓	■	1	B	✓	■	15	C	✓	■
2	B	✗	■	2	B	✓	■	2	A	✓	■	16	B	✗	■
3	B	✓	■	3	C	✗	■	3	B	✓	■	17	D	✓	■
4	B	✗	■	4	C	✗	■	4	D	✓	■	18	B	✗	■
5	C	✓	■	5	B	✗	■	5	B	✓	■	19	C	✓	■
6	D	✓	■	6	B	✗	■	6	A	✓	■	20	B	✗	■
7	B	✓	■	7	A	D	■	7	B	✓	■	21	B	C	■
8	A	✓	■	8	B	C	■	8	C	B	■	22	D	C	■
9	D	✓	■	9	A	B	■	9	A	✓	■	23	D	B	■
10	A	✓	■	10	D	✓	■	10	D	✓	■	24	C	B	■
11	D	C	■	11	D	✓	■	11	D	✓	■	25	B	A	■
12	D	B	■	12	B	✓	■	12	A	✓	■	26	D	A	■
13	D	A	■	13	C	✓	■	13	B	✓	■	27	D	A	■
14	A	✗	■	14	C	B	■	14	C	✓	■				
15	C	B	■	15	D	✓	■								
16	B	C	■	16	B	A	■								
17	D	C	■	17	B	D	■								
18	B	D	■	18	A	✓	■								
19	A	✓	■	19	B	✓	■								
20	C	✓	■	20	C	D	■	28	65			50	■	■	
21	B	D	■	21	A	✓	■	29	0, 12			2	■	■	
22	D	✓	■	22	A	B	■	30	1368			0	■	■	
23	B	D	■	23	C	B	■	31	85			75	■	■	
24	D	✓	■	24	D	C	■								
25	C	✓	■	25	C	D	■								
26	B	A	■	26	A	✓	■								
27	B	C	■	27	A	D	■								
28	A	C	■	28	B	✓	■								
29	D	A	■	29	D	A	■								
30	B	A	■	30	C	B	■								
31	D	✓	■	31	D	✓	■								
32	A	✓	■	32	B	✓	■								
33	C	✓	■	33	D	✓	■								
34	A	B	■	34	D	B	■								
35	A	B	■	35	D	✓	■								
36	C	D	■	36	B	A	■								
37	B	C	■	37	C	D	■								
38	C	D	■	38	A	✓	■								
39	C	✓	■	39	C	✓	■								
40	C	✓	■	40	D	A	■								
41	B	✓	■	41	D	B	■								
42	B	✓	■	42	A	D	■								
43	A	B	■	43	C	B	■								
44	A	✓	■	44	B	C	■								
45	A	C	■												
46	D	A	■												
47	C	B	■												

psat.org/myscore

Go online for your full report

\*Beginning Dec. 9, students can log on to College Board to view their full report, including

- Questions and answers
- Subscores
- Strengths and Weaknesses

# PSAT - What now? Khan Academy

A college readiness partnership  
CollegeBoard + KHANACADEMY

## Official SAT® Practice

Start Practicing

Personalized practice, anytime, anywhere—for FREE.



#### Practice tests and more

6 official full-length practice tests, plus study and test-taking tips



#### A tailored practice plan

We'll import your PSAT/NMSQT results and pinpoint your areas for practice



#### Interactive practice

Thousands of practice questions, video lessons, and hints



#### Instant feedback

Get constant feedback and progress so you know where you stand

Students can link College Board accounts to Khan Academy to begin practicing.

The screenshot shows the CollegeBoard dashboard for a user named Ima. The dashboard displays the user's most recent SAT score: 1010 (Total Score), 490 (Evidence-Based Reading and Writing), and 520 (Math). The score is for the SAT with Essay taken on March 6, 2016, for a 11th Grade student. A green arrow points from the text above to the 'Practice for SAT on Khan Academy' button. Other buttons include 'Register for SAT', 'Make a College Plan', and 'Roadmap to Careers'. A 'View Details' button is also present for the score.

“20 hours of practice is associated with a 115-point average score increase from the PSAT to the SAT, nearly double the average gain of students who do not practice on Official SAT Practice.”

# Test Prep Options

- Khan Academy
- CollegeBoard.org and ACT.org
- More test prep resources on BHS School Counseling website
- Local test prep companies
  - Group/classroom settings
  - Weekend bootcamps
  - Individual tutoring
- **Use PSAT Results & knowledge of yourself as a learner to choose which test prep method is best for you!**
- **Regardless of the method, we recommend completing prep in the weeks/months leading up to a scheduled test.**

# SAT vs ACT (adapted from collegeboard.org)

Structure and Timing	SAT	ACT
Testing time	3 hours + 50 minute essay (optional)	2 hours 55 minutes + 40 minute essay (optional)
Structure	3 test + optional essay  <b>Reading Test</b> 65 minutes, 52 questions <b>Writing and Language</b> 35 minutes, 44 questions <b>Math Test</b> 80 minutes, 58 questions	4 tests + optional essay  <b>Reading Test</b> 35 minutes, 40 questions <b>English Test</b> 45 minutes, 75 questions <b>Math Test</b> 60 minutes, 60 questions <b>Science Test</b> 35 minutes, 40 questions
Number of questions	154	215
Time per question	1 minute, 10 seconds	49 seconds
Score range	Composite: 400-1600	Composite 1-36

Some key differences

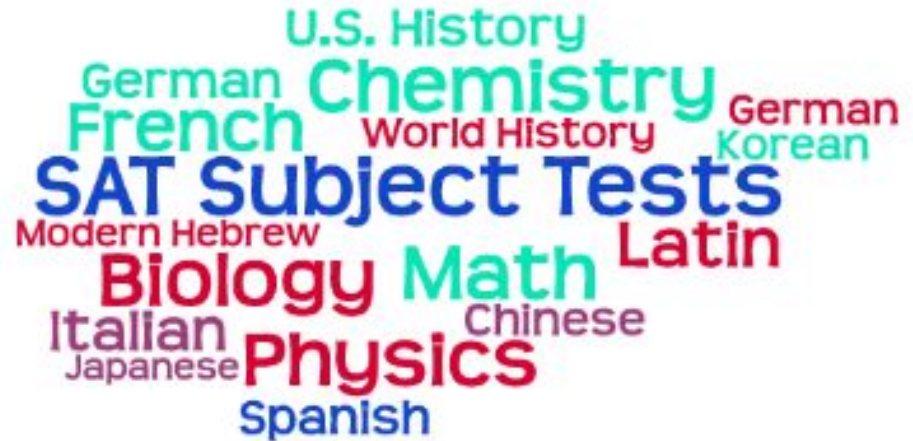
# SAT vs ACT

(adapted from collegeboard.org)

<b>Features</b>	<b>SAT</b>	<b>ACT</b>
<b>Tests the vocabulary you'll use</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>Everyday math formulas provided</b>	Yes	No
<b>Essay is optional</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>Penalty for guessing</b>	No	No

# SAT Subject Tests (SAT II)

- College admission exams on specific subjects
- You choose which tests best showcase your strengths
- 1 hour long (up to 3 tests can be taken on a given date)
- Multiple choice
- **List of colleges that use subject tests**



# Suggested Testing Timeline

<b>Freshman &amp; Sophomore Year</b>	Fall - PSAT Test
<b>Junior Year</b>	Fall - PSAT Test
	Winter/Spring - Use PSAT results to prepare for SAT and prepare for ACT
	March 25 - SAT in School (No registration required)
	December-June - Take ACT
	Spring/Summer - Take SAT/ACT with Writing and SAT Subject Tests (if needed)
<b>Senior Year</b>	Fall - Retest if needed

**\*When determining a testing plan, families should consider which times of the year are busiest for students and when they will have time to complete test preparation prior to a test.**



# Connecticut SAT School Day

- March 25, 2020
- Given in school
- No cost
- School will register students
- Evidence-Based Reading & Writing & Math Sections
- No essay
- Scores can be sent to colleges just like any other SAT test

# How to Register

- See test dates and register for **SAT and SAT Subject Tests** at **CollegeBoard.org**
- See test dates and register for **ACT** at **ACT.org**
- Fee waivers are available to those enrolled in the free/reduced lunch program - **Talk with your school counselor if you are enrolled.** (Counselors don't have access to this information and therefore don't contact families.)

# Frequently Asked Questions

- **Should I take the SAT, ACT, or both?**
  - Colleges will accept either the SAT or ACT.
  - We recommend students take one SAT and ACT and then focus on the test on which they performed better and retest as needed.
- **Should I take a test with an essay?**
  - Some of the more selective colleges require the SAT/ACT with essay.
  - Some students like to have that score just in case a school requires it.
- **How many times should I test?**
  - Simply retesting will not necessarily improve scores.
  - We recommend that students complete some type of targeted test preparation/intervention in order to see score improvement.
  - Scores typically plateau after a student has tested three times.

# Frequently Asked Questions

- **What will colleges see?**

- Most colleges utilize *Score Choice* and will only see the scores you choose to send them. A few competitive colleges require a student to send all scores.

- **What is superscoring?**

- Combining section scores from different test dates to create a new ***superscore***
- Most colleges will superscore the SAT; some will superscore the ACT.

- **How can I compare an SAT score with an ACT score?**

- Concordance tables are available on the College Board website

# Frequently Asked Questions

- **What is a “good” score?**
  - Colleges have different admissions requirements for standardized testing.
- **To determine the scores a college expects, use the following resources:**
  - **College Website/Admissions Office** - View the college’s website or *students* can contact the Admissions Office to get information about recently accepted students in terms of the average SAT/ACT scores.
  - **Naviance** - Use Naviance to view average SAT/ACT scores for BHS students who have been accepted to a particular college and to see notes from college representatives who visited BHS.
  - **College Board** - Use College Board’s tool to compare colleges.

# Naviance - Scattergrams

Step 1:  
Type in the name of a college, or use the college search tool to generate a list of results.

nce | Student

Colleges

MORE COLLEGE SEARCH OPTIONS

Select	College
<input type="checkbox"/>	♥ Community Culinary School of Northwestern Connecticut
<input type="checkbox"/>	♥ * Northwestern Connecticut Community College
<input type="checkbox"/>	♥ * Western Connecticut State University

Step 2:  
Select the college

Great news! Western Connecticut State University is looking for students like you. [♥ Add to colleges I'm thinking about](#) [No Thanks](#)



Western Connecticut State University ♥  
Danbury, CT, United States | [www.wcsu.edu](http://www.wcsu.edu)

Communicate ▾

Apply online

Le

Overview

Studies

Student Life

Admissions

Step 3:  
Click on the Admissions Tab

# Naviance - Scattergrams

Step 4:  
View BHS applicants' admission status based on GPA + test scores & see where you are in the chart.



# Naviance

When you search for a college in Naviance and click on the name, you'll come to the profile page. In the *Overview* tab there is a "Counselor Comments" section. If a representative has visited BHS recently you should see updated admissions information.

University of Rhode Island

 Applying To

Communicate 

Overview

Studies

Student Life

Admissi



## Counselor Comments

ADMISSIONS COUNSELOR: Romanuel (Ro) Percy; romanuel\_percy@uri.edu




ADMISSIONS DATA: average GPA 3.5, avg SAT 1180; avg ACT 25; middle 50% GPA = 3.1-3.8/4.0; middle 50% SAT = 1110-1280



# Chart Generated using Big Future section of College Board

COLLEGES

ADMISSIONS

 <p><b>Western Connecticut State University</b> Danbury, CT</p> <p><b>Less selective</b> 79% of applicants admitted</p> <p><b>Requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ACT: Consider If Submitted</li><li>• SAT Reasoning Test or ACT: Recommended</li><li>• SAT Reasoning Test and SAT Subject Tests; or ACT: Consider If Submitted</li><li>• SAT Subject Tests: Consider If Submitted</li></ul> <p><b>SAT Scores</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Math: 500-600</li><li>• Evidence Based Reading &amp; Writing: 520-620</li></ul>	 <p><b>University of Connecticut</b> Storrs, CT</p> <p><b>Very selective</b> 49% of applicants admitted</p> <p><b>Requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Essay(s): Required</li><li>• SAT Reasoning Test or ACT: Required</li></ul> <p><b>SAT Scores</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Math: 610-730</li><li>• Evidence Based Reading &amp; Writing: 600-690</li></ul> <p><b>ACT Composite Scores</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 26-31</li></ul>	 <p><b>Yale University</b> New Haven, CT</p> <p><a href="#">+ Add to My College List</a></p> <p><b>Most selective</b> 6% of applicants admitted</p> <p><b>Requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Essay(s): Required</li><li>• SAT Reasoning Test or ACT: Required</li><li>• SAT Reasoning Test and SAT Subject Tests; or ACT: Recommended</li></ul> <p><b>SAT Scores</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Math: 730-790</li><li>• Evidence Based Reading &amp; Writing: 720-770</li></ul> <p><b>ACT Composite Scores</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 33-35</li></ul>
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1020 - 1220

1210 - 1420

1450 - 1560

College Board's website



Find Colleges



Compare Colleges

# Frequently Asked Questions

- **What if I try my best and retest, but I am still not achieving the scores I want?**
  - Many colleges and universities are test optional.
  - We recommend students apply to a range of colleges: safety, target, and reach.
  - ***REMEMBER: This is just one piece of the college application. You are more than a number!***
- **What can I do as a parent to help my student?**
  - Help ease students' anxiety about the tests
  - Help students determine if test prep is needed and the best option

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

# College Admissions Overview

- Rigor of Curriculum
- Grades
- Admissions Test Scores
- College Essay
- Letters of Recommendation
- Extracurricular Activities & Community Service
- Supplemental Materials (e.g., auditions, portfolios)
- Interview

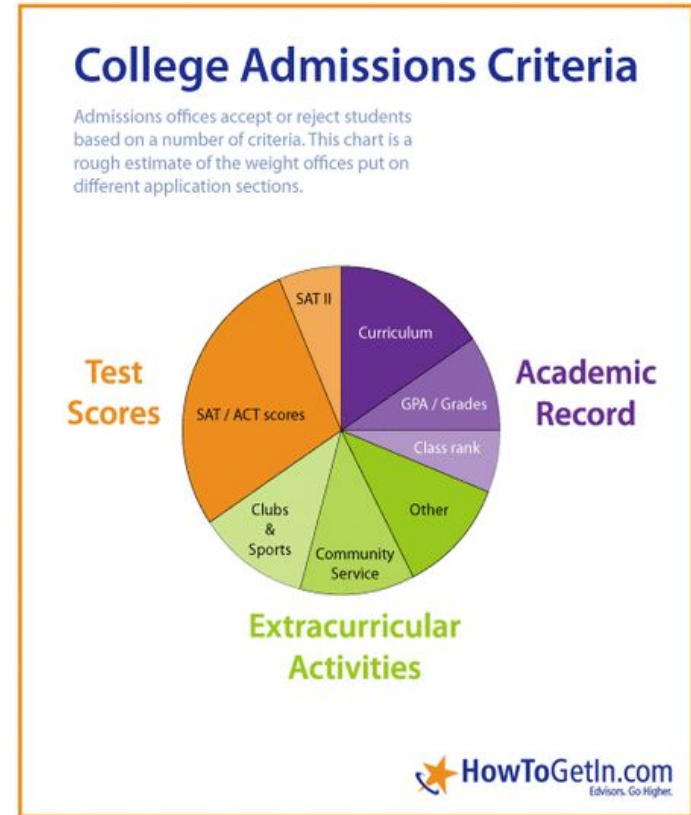


TABLE 7. PERCENTAGE OF COLLEGES ATTRIBUTING DIFFERENT LEVELS OF IMPORTANCE TO FACTORS IN ADMISSION DECISIONS: FIRST-TIME FRESHMEN, FALL 2017

Factor	N	Considerable Importance	Moderate Importance	Limited Importance	No Importance
Grades in All Courses	220	74.5	15.0	5.5	5.0
Grades in College Prep Courses	220	73.2	16.8	5.9	4.1
Strength of Curriculum	219	62.1	21.9	8.7	7.3
Admission Test Scores (SAT, ACT)	221	45.7	37.1	12.2	5.0
Essay or Writing Sample	220	23.2	33.2	24.1	19.5
Student's Demonstrated Interest	218	16.1	23.9	28.0	32.1
Counselor Recommendation	218	15.1	40.4	26.6	17.9
Teacher Recommendation	219	14.2	40.2	26.5	19.2
Class Rank	220	9.1	29.1	34.1	27.7
Extracurricular Activities	219	6.4	42.9	32.0	18.7
Portfolio	219	6.4	11.9	26.9	54.8
Subject Test Scores (AP, IB)	219	5.5	18.3	35.2	41.1
Interview	219	5.5	16.4	28.3	49.8
Work	217	4.1	28.6	36.9	30.4
State Graduation Exam Scores	218	2.3	8.7	18.8	70.2
SAT II Scores	216	1.9	5.6	14.8	77.8

Grades and courses taken are the most important factors for college admission!

SOURCE: NACAC Admission Trends Survey, 2018–19.

# Transcript & Grades

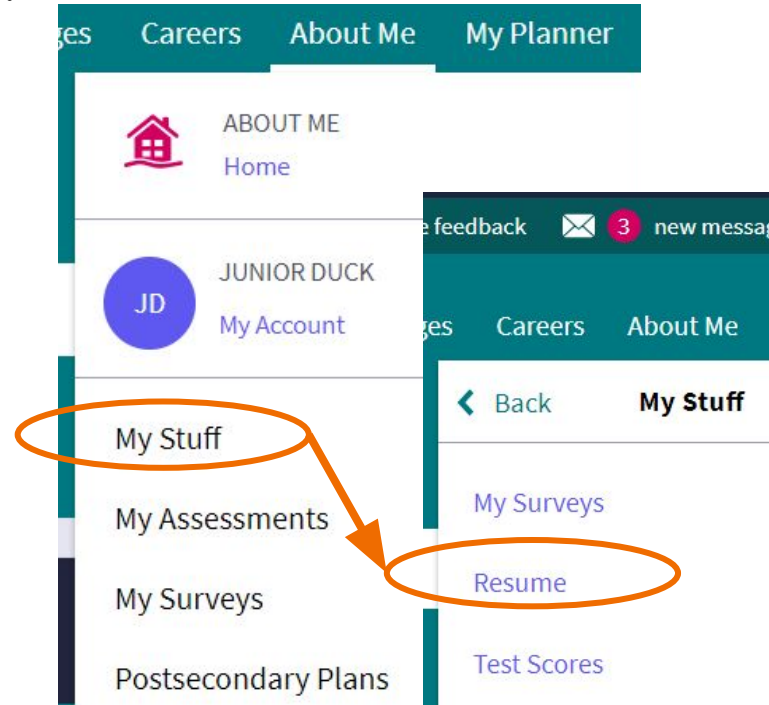
- Seniors applying to college will send transcripts that show
  - 9th, 10th, and 11th grade courses and final grades
  - 9th, 10th, and 11th GPA **AND** Cumulative GPA (weighted)
  - Senior Year Courses
- Colleges don't just look at the GPA; they also consider the rigor of a student's curriculum.
  - Students should challenge themselves appropriately and consider courses related to an anticipated field of study.
  - Senior year courses are also taken into consideration.

# Transcript & Grades

- Senior year matters!
  - Some colleges will want to see first quarter and/or first semester grades.
- The school will also report decile ranking when sending transcripts.
  - Based on cumulative GPA
  - Shows where you rank in class (i.e., top 10%, top 20%, top 30%, etc.)

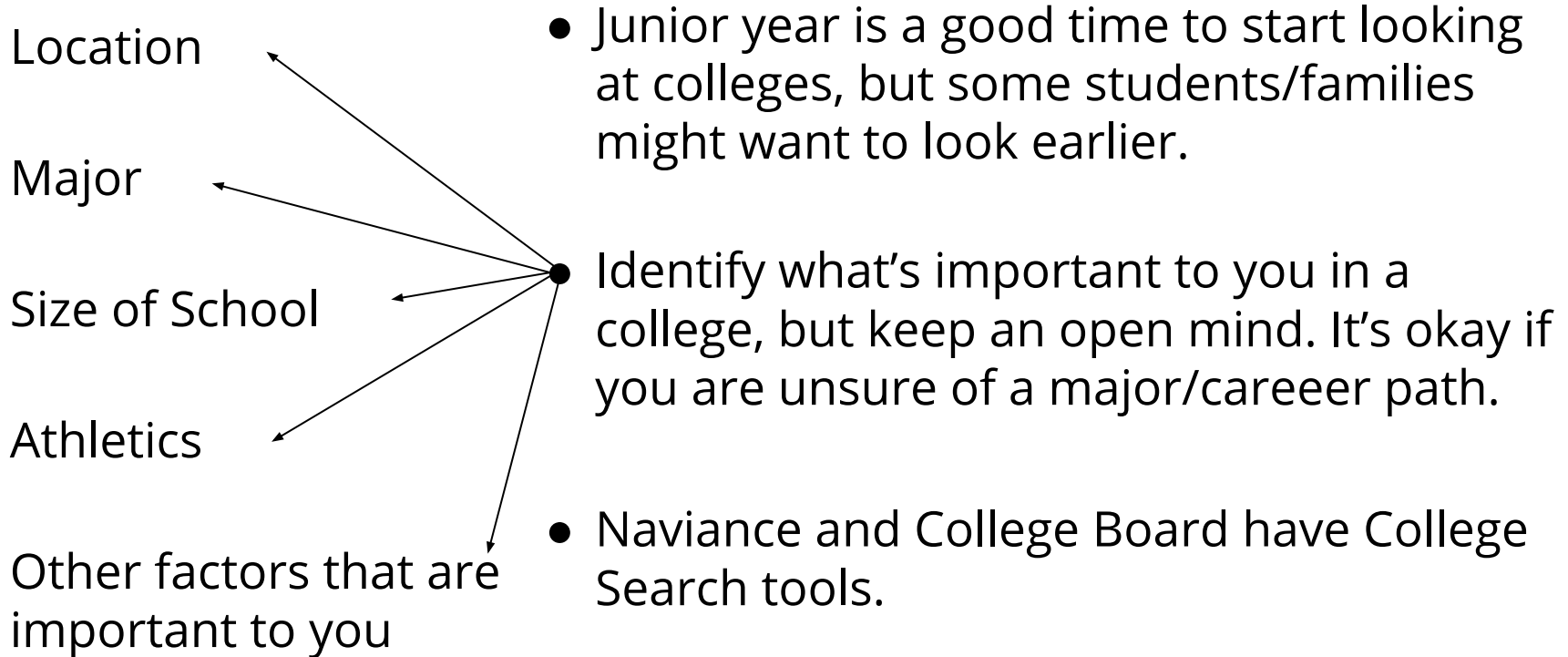
# Extracurricular Involvement

- Colleges want students who will be active, engaged members of the campus community.
- It's about quality, not quantity.
- Students should seek out opportunities for extracurricular involvement and community service that align with their interests. **Check the BHS website for the updated Activities List and the School Counseling website for Student Opportunities.**
- Keep resume updated in Naviance.





# Starting the College Search



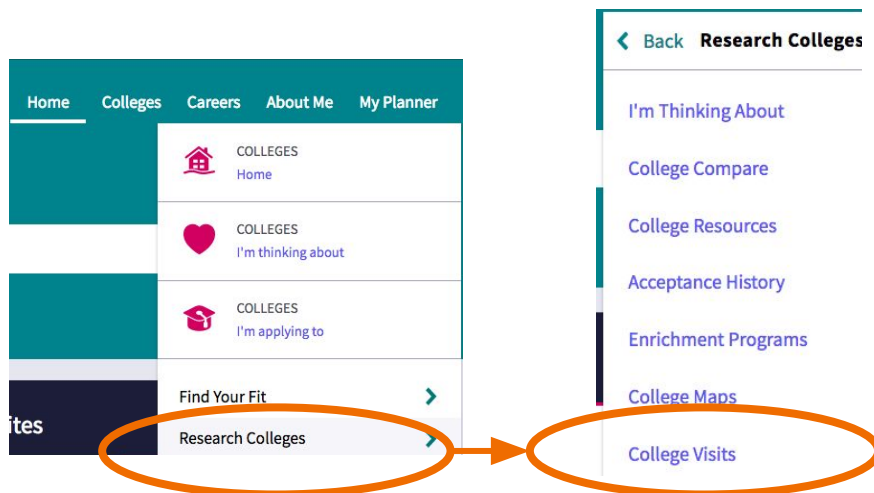
# College Visits

- Start a broad search with an open mind. Look at a wide range of schools.
- Visit different types of schools: small vs. large, public vs. private, urban vs. rural.
- You don't know what will be a good fit until you try it out.  
***"The Goldilocks Search"***
- April vacation is a great time to start looking at schools! Visit colleges' websites for information about tours and open houses.
- Make a list of possible questions, so you're prepared to make the most out of a visit.

# College Fairs & College Rep Visits

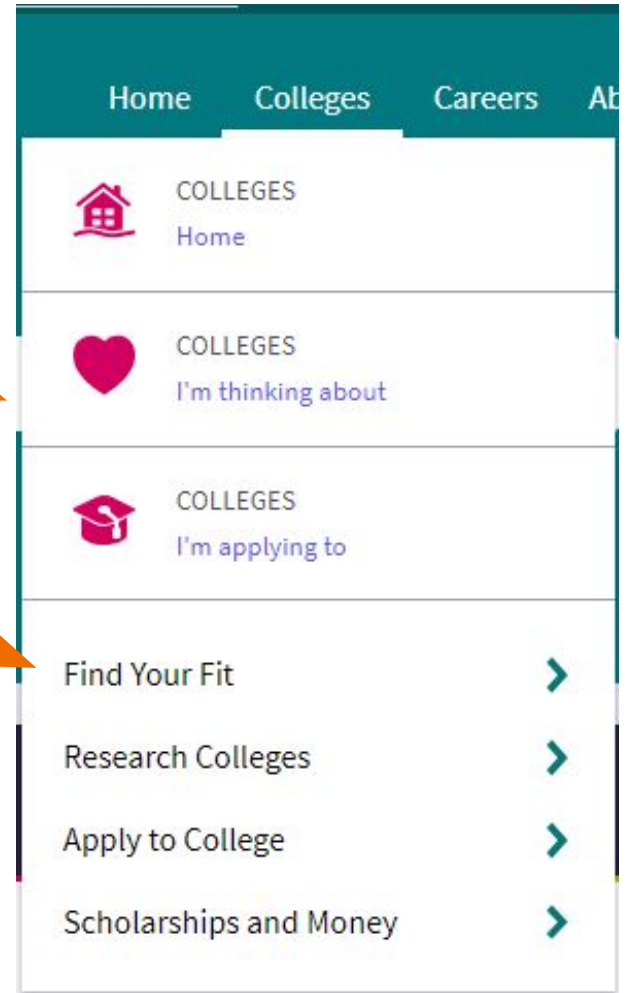
- Local college fairs are great opportunities to speak with representatives from a wide variety of schools. The Danbury Mall usually hosts one in October.
- Brookfield High School/New Milford High School - College & Post Secondary Options Fair - Monday, March 30, 6:30 to 8:00 PM at NMHS**

- In the fall many college representatives will visit BHS. Juniors and seniors can sign up on Naviance to speak with the people who will most likely be reviewing your application.



# Naviance

- In the **Colleges section** you can:
  - Add schools of interest to the “Colleges I’m Thinking About” list
  - Conduct a College Search
  - Examine scattergrams to help determine chances of admissions
  - Search for scholarships and summer/enrichment opportunities (also on Counseling Dept website)



# Additional Resources

- CollegeBoard
  - \*Use the **BigFuture** section to access information on planning for college, finding colleges, exploring majors and careers, getting application advice, and paying for college
  - \*Explore AP test options
- Rugg's list: Ask your counselor for a copy of the best schools for a specific major.
- US News
- Fiske Guide
- Princeton Review
- 350 Best Colleges: Princeton Review

# Transfer Program Benefits

- Save money
- Complete general education courses required at most colleges and universities
- Live at home, commute, and work while going to school
- Can take one or two courses to get a sense of college-level work

# Guaranteed Admission Program (GAP)

- Begin at CT community college
- 3 Areas of Study: Liberal Arts/Sciences; Ag, Health, & Natural Resources; Business
- Complete 2 years (earn Associate's)
- Meet GPA & Course Requirements (3.0-3.3)
- Transfer to University of Connecticut
- Complete 2 more years for Bachelor's
- <https://admissions.uconn.edu/apply/transfer/gap>

# Connecticut Transfer Ticket Program

- Begin at CT community college
- 26 Available Majors
- Complete 2 years (earn Associate's Degree)
- Maintain 2.0 GPA
- Transfer to Western, Southern, Central, or Eastern
- Complete 2 more years to earn Bachelor's Degree
- <http://www.ct.edu/transfer/tickets>

# CSCU College of Technology Pathways

- Begin at CT community college
- Complete 2 years (earn Associate's in Engineering Science or Technology Studies)
- Meet GPA Requirements
- Transfer to Central, Eastern, Southern, Fairfield, Univ. of Bridgeport, Univ. or Hartford, or UConn
- Complete 2 more years to earn Bachelor's
- <http://www.ct.edu/cot>

# New England Regional Tuition Break Program

- **Get comparable in-state tuition at out-of-state schools.** Some majors that are not offered by a CT State College are eligible for a reduced tuition amount at other New England region state schools.
- **Visit [www.nebhe.org](http://www.nebhe.org)** to see a list of participating schools in the New England region, as well as eligible majors for CT residents.
- ***Some of the majors:*** Architecture (BFA), Business Psychology, Cinema Production, Creative Writing (BFA), Dance, Entrepreneurship, Ethnic and Gender Studies, Fashion Design & Retailing, Film Media/Studies, Game Design, Homeland Security, Meteorology, Music Business, Photography

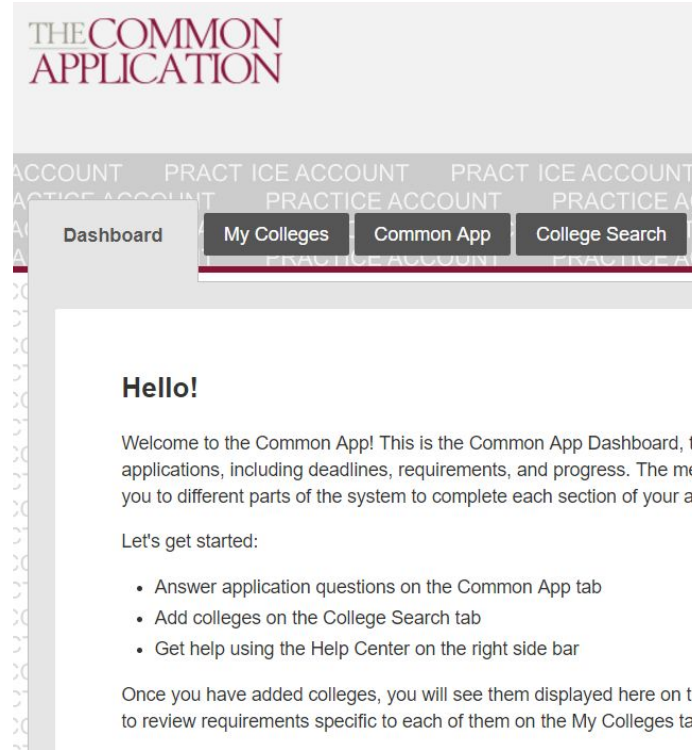


# Financial Aid

- We host a **Financial Aid Night** in the fall with more detailed information.
- **FAFSA** – [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
  - an application required to be considered for grants, loans and work study
  - Use the **FAFSA4caster** to estimate your eligibility for federal student aid.
- **CSS Profile** – [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)
  - an application required by some private schools to help them determine eligibility for financial aid
- **Scholarships**
  - Research scholarships using the School Counseling website, websites of the colleges you are considering, and Naviance.

# Common App

- One standardized online application (with supplemental requirements for each school)
- Accepted by over 600 colleges/universities
  - Naviance will note if a school is a Common App school.
- Rising seniors can begin filling out the application in August before senior year.
- Essay component - Students will draft an essay in their junior English class.



# Student Athletes

- 8 million high school athletes
  - 6% will compete in NCAA sports in college
  - 2% will receive athletic scholarships
  - 0.1% will play professional sports
- If you're interested in playing sports in college, there IS a place for you: Division I, Division II, Division III, Club, Intramurals
- High school and club coaches can be a great resource as they know the student's athletic ability.
- Consider reaching out to coaches beginning sophomore year. *Students* should be the ones to reach out with an appropriate personal email address.

# Student Athletes

- When visiting colleges, consider reaching out to coaches to set up a meeting and possibly sit-in on a practice. (*\*Coaches have specific times of the year when they are able to respond.*)
- In order to be eligible for DI and DII athletics AND to go on official visits, you must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center - [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org).
  - Because Division I and II colleges can give athletic scholarships, the eligibility center is their way to ensure that a student is academically qualified.
- Students can have a maximum of 5 **official** visits (paid for by college).
- By the end of Grade 11
  - Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center. Once you've registered, Mrs. Hopcroft will be notified to send your transcript.
  - Submit SAT/ACT scores to the NCAA using code 9999.

# Other Tips for the College Search Process

- **Create an appropriate personal e-mail address** that can be used to receive and organize information from colleges. Create folders within your email account to file emails and stay organized.
- **Be mindful of social media posts.** Some colleges review applicants' social media accounts as part of the admissions process.
- **Students should take the lead on their college search process, and parents should support students' taking responsibility and accountability.** *Students* should reach out to college representatives, ask questions during their tours, and complete their own applications. Counselors are here to support students through this process.

# Next Steps for Freshmen and Sophomores

## 9th Graders

- \*Link PSAT scores to Khan Academy to prepare for 10th grade PSAT
- \*Get involved in extracurriculars
- \*Develop strong study skills and seek out extra help if needed
- \*Work with teachers & counselor to develop 10th grade schedule
- \*Meet with counselor during second semester to review the year and plan for next year
- \*Attend the BHS/NMHS College Fair on March 30

## 10th Graders

- \*Review PSAT results & use Khan to prepare for 11th grade PSAT
- \*Continue extracurricular involvement and consider new opportunities
- \*Develop resume with counselors and keep updated
- \*Work with teachers & counselor to develop 11th grade schedule
- \*Attend the BHS/NMHS College Fair on March 30

# Next Steps for Juniors

<b>First Semester</b>	<b>Second Semester</b>	<b>Summer</b>	<b>Fall of Senior Year</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>*Access PSAT Results on College Board account and review results</li><li>*Determine test prep for actual SAT</li><li>*Conduct college searches (Naviance &amp; College Board)</li><li>*Attend Alumni Panel during school on December 18</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>*Meet with Mrs. Lungariello for post high school planning (Parents welcome!)</li><li>*Take SAT in school on March 25th</li><li>*Attend the BHS/NMHS College Fair on March 30</li><li>*Visit colleges</li><li>*Compose college essay in English class</li><li>*Think of 1-2 teachers to ask for letters of rec</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>*Continue visiting colleges</li><li>*Begin finalizing list of colleges to which you will apply (balanced list of safety, target, reach)</li><li>*Revise essay and resume</li><li>*Determine if additional testing is needed</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>*Complete any additional testing</li><li>*Complete and submit college applications<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Early Deadlines = Nov- Dec</li><li>Regular Deadlines = Jan - Feb</li></ul></li><li>*Complete and submit financial aid applications</li><li>*Apply for scholarships</li></ul>

# Thank you for attending!

Refer to the Counseling Department website for updated information about [scholarships](#) and [student opportunities](#).

Follow us on Twitter [@CounselorBobcat](#) for info and tips about the college application process and scholarships.

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**BHS Counseling**  
@CounselorBobcat  
Joined September 2016

Tweets 164 Following 129 Followers 60 Likes 14 Following

Tweets Tweets & replies Media

**BHS Counseling** @CounselorBobcat · Sep 6  
Seniors & Parents - Mark your calendars for our Senior Night on Wednesday, September 13, at 7:00 in the Auditorium. 📅 📍 See you there!

Who to follow · Refresh · View all  
**Felicia Liebler** @LieblerBHS  
Follow

We are here to help!

## **BHS Counseling Department**

Jennifer Gioglio - A - Di

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Shannon Lungariello - College/Career

Rosa Hopcroft - Secretary