

College Planning & SAT/ACT

Sophomore, Junior
Parent Night

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Overview

- ▶ Year-by-year guide to college planning
- ▶ How teachers and counselors can help and partner

Options After High School

2-year program

Certificate program

Associates degree

Bridge Program or transfer to 4-year school

4-year college or university

Public or Private

Small, Medium, or Large

In-state or Out of State

Majors Offered

Student Life

Distance from Home

Workforce

Military

What Colleges Look For

GPA

Class Rank

SAT & ACT

Leadership & Community

Service

Essay/Personal Statement

Letters of

Recommendation

Requirements for 4 Year Colleges

4 English

4 Math (Alg 1, Geo, Alg 2, +1)

3 Lab Sciences

(Physical Science does not count)

2 Foreign Language (same language)

Clemson, College of Charleston

require (3)

3 Social Studies (Global Studies,

US History, Economics/Government)

PE or ROTC

1 Academic Elective

Grades 9 & 10: Solid Academic Foundation

- ▶ Academic
 - ▶ Establish a solid GPA--Freshman and Sophomore year courses are essential to building a strong GPA
 - ▶ Take most challenging courses possible while maintaining at least 3.0
 - ▶ Take SAT/ACT -Algebra 2
- ▶ Personal/Social
 - ▶ Establish a solid support system
 - ▶ Friends/Peers
 - ▶ Mentors (including friends' parents, teachers, club leaders, employers)

SAT & ACT Quick Facts

- Neither is needed to attend a 2-year school
- The best preparation for the ACT/SAT is to take academically rigorous and challenging courses
- *Fee Waivers are available in Guidance for students on free/reduced lunch*
- Best time to take it is after you've had Alg. 2 or no later than by the end of your junior year

**Take each test and the stronger test a second time
57% of students improve their score on the 2nd attempt**

Grades 9 & 10: Solid Personal Foundation

- ▶ Career Development
 - ▶ Discover values, interests, goals
 - ▶ Take career interest inventories
www. SCOIS.net
 - ▶ Research colleges
 - ▶ Begin building a resume
 - ▶ Character building experiences
 - ▶ Volunteering & part time job=networking
 - ▶ Join clubs, organizations, and athletic teams
 - ▶ Begin a list of **ALL** activities, awards, & volunteering

Teacher-Guidance Collaboration

- ▶ Teachers often identify challenges to counselors—please refer for early intervention
 - ▶ Classroom guidance
 - ▶ Individual counseling
 - ▶ Crisis counseling & ongoing support
 - ▶ Referrals to community agencies
 - ▶ Small group counseling

Teacher-Guidance Collaboration

- ▶ Partner to identify struggling students
 - ▶ Consultation & Referrals
- ▶ Reinforce information & deadlines
 - ▶ Application deadlines
 - ▶ Preparing resumes & recommendation letters

*Classroom guidance (all aspects of college search,
study skills, transition, & applying)*

IGP meeting, scheduling, registration

Grade 11:

▶ Academic

- ▶ Often the toughest year academically & last grades a college will see
- ▶ Take SAT & ACT at least once in spring
- ▶ Practice before taking each test
- ▶ SAT & ACT Prep resources available in Guidance

Check the Hillcrest Guidance webpage
for prep classes, free prep resources

- ▶ Build strong study skills

▶ Personal/Social

- ▶ Move into leadership & role modeling
- ▶ Job Shadowing opportunities rescheduled in March

Grade 11:

▶ Career

- ▶ Primary year for comprehensive career and college search

- ▶ www.collegeboard.org

- ▶ www.act.org

- ▶ SCOIS.net

- ▶ Consider size, location, majors, class size, etc.

- ▶ Don't let cost be a determining factor this early

- ▶ By year end, narrow list down to 5 schools

- ▶ Visit colleges, tour campuses

▶ Resume

- ▶ Take on leadership roles & continue building resume

- ▶ Internship opportunities

Grade 12: Final Countdown

▶ Academic

- ▶ Although 7th semester grades are considered, overall they aren't used as a deciding factor
 - ▶ Grades are expected to be maintained
 - ▶ This isn't the year to repair a poor GPA
- ▶ Finish strong!

▶ Personal/Social

- ▶ Transition year
- ▶ Challenge why students choose a school (i.e., friends)
- ▶ Advocate for self (be involved in decision making)
- ▶ Be proactive!

Grade 12: Final Countdown

▶ Career

- ▶ Many students believe this is the beginning of the college search—it's actually the end!
 - ▶ This is a “paperwork” year
- ▶ Applications—colleges & scholarships
 - ▶ Transcript Request
 - ▶ Letters of Recommendation

College Application Process

- ▶ Applications can be found online
- ▶ Secondary Report/High School Form
- ▶ Completed Applications should include
 - ▶ Application (if paper)
 - ▶ Teacher Recommendations
 - ▶ Official Transcript
 - ▶ Secondary Form
 - ▶ Application Fee or Fee Waiver
- ▶ You **MUST** hand your transcript request form and Secondary Report to the Senior Counselor
- ▶ Allow ~3 school days to complete
- ▶ \$2.00 fee per transcript request
(First 3 are free!)

Scholarship Process

- ▶ Scholarships are posted on the Senior website
- ▶ Paper applications can be found in Guidance Office
- ▶ Allow ~3 days for the counselor to complete

How Are You Going to Pay for College?

Presenters: Becky and Bill Blanchard

Pathways

Educational Consultants, LLC

becky@pathwayseduconsulting.com

702-371-1072

bill@pathwayseduconsulting.com

702-239-7703

Merit-Based Aid (Scholarships)

- ▶ Finding Scholarship Aid
 - ▶ Colleges or Universities at the time of admission
 - ▶ National websites
 - ▶ Including www.fastweb.com, www.gocollege.com, or www.scholaraid.com
 - ▶ Be cautious of scams!
 - ▶ ***Weekly Bulletin posted on Hillcrest's senior counselor website***
 - ▶ Education Lottery Scholarships

Merit-Based Aid (Lottery)

- ▶ Palmetto Fellows Scholarship
 - ▶ 1200 SAT or 27 ACT, 3.5 GPA, top 6% of class (end of sophomore or junior, or senior year)
 - ▶ Alternate—1400 SAT or 32 ACT, 4.0 GPA
 - ▶ Enrollment in a 4-year institution fall of next year for 8 consecutive terms
 - ▶ Award of \$6,700 for freshman year and \$7,500 every year after

Merit-Based Aid (Lottery)

▶ Life Scholarship

- ▶ 2-year institution
 - ▶ 3.0 GPA
 - ▶ 4 terms of eligibility
 - ▶ Up to the cost of tuition +\$300 book voucher.
- ▶ 4-year institution
 - ▶ 3.0 GPA UGP, 1100 SAT or 24 ACT, and top 30% (must meet 2 of these 3)
 - ▶ 8 terms of eligibility
- ▶ The recipient does not have to go directly to school and can earn LIFE while in college (\$5,000 a year for 4-year and up to the cost of attending for 2-year).

Merit-Based Aid (Lottery)

▶ Hope Scholarship

- ▶ Requirements: Attend a 4-yr school, 3.0 GPA
- ▶ Initial college enrollment
- ▶ 2 terms/semesters
- ▶ \$2,800 total

Need-Based Aid

- ▶ FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
 - ▶ Nearly all colleges use this form to determine aid
 - ▶ Based on income, household size, etc.
- ▶ EFC (Estimated Family Contribution)

Resources

SCOIS.net Password: *hillcresths*

Username: *rams*

College Board—SAT website & college search

- ▶ Collegeboard.org

ACT

- ▶ Actstudent.org
- ▶ Act.org

FAFSA

- ▶ Fafsa.ed.gov
- ▶ *Additional links are posted on the Hillcrest Guidance webpage*

How Can Parents Help?

- ❑ Encourage students to check their student emails and announcements regularly.
- ❑ Get your Parent Portal Information to monitor student progress.
- ❑ Speak with teachers and counselors when needed.
- ❑ Record important dates such as when Progress Reports and Report Cards are due home.

The SAT vs. The ACT PSAT Information

Jonathan Darrall

Community Relationship Director

Kaplan Test Prep and Admissions

Jonathan.darrall@kaplan.com

765-702-7350

THANK YOU FOR COMING!!!

- ▶ If you have additional questions, us after the meeting.

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