

Syllabus for College Planning Groups

- q Overview of what to expect from college planning sessions
- q College Vocabulary: What do all those words mean?
- q High School Courses & What Colleges Require
- q Criteria Admissions Counselors Consider
- q Transcript: the clearest indicator to be able to do college work
- q GPA/Ranking/Courses Taken/Senior Year Course Load
- q Dual enrollment/taking college courses while in high school
- q How to Select a Major
- q How to Select the Best College for YOU (also known as college “fit”)
- q How to Research Colleges
- q College Visits
- q College Interviews
- q SAT/ACT/SAT Subject Tests/AP examinations
- q How to Best Utilize “My Road™”
- q NCAA information for student athletes
- q Early Decision/Early Action/Rolling Admissions/Regular Admissions
- q How to Prepare & Complete Your College Applications
- q College Resume/Activity Sheet
- q Essays & Personal Statements
- q Recommendations
- q Scholarships/FAFSA/PHEAA/SEOG/CWSP
- q Career & College Planning and Financial Aid websites
- q Checklist of what must be done
- q Information you need when researching and applying to colleges
- q Where is everything located in the School Counseling Office?
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College Vocabulary: What do all those words mean?

Admissions Decisions:

- Ø **Admit:** you have been accepted to the college.
- Ø **Deny:** you have not been accepted to the college.
- Ø **Wait list:** you have been placed on a waiting list in case an opening becomes available. Colleges usually rank their wait lists in order of priority.

Advanced Placement (AP) courses: high-level, quality courses in any of approximately 27 subjects. Students can take AP examinations (even without taking the AP course). Based on the composite score on the AP test, which ranges from 1 to 5, a college may award college credit or advanced placement to a participating student. A score of a 4 or 5 is usually required. A 3 is sometimes acceptable in some subject areas. You should check with the policy of each college you are considering.

Associate degree: 2-year degree

Bachelors or baccalaureate degree: 4-year degree

Certificate or diploma: a program that is less than 2 years in length

College Board (CEEB) (High School) Code: most applications will ask for this number which corresponds with the high school you are attending. Port Allegany's CEEB code is 394060.

Common application: an application that can be used at approximately 250 colleges. Some schools in this group also require additional forms.

CSS Profile: financial aid form required by a few private colleges.

Dual enrollment: policy that allows you to earn college credit while still in high school. Because allowance of these types of courses varies by college, what your major will be, your grades in the course, which college gave you the college credit, and where you took the course, you must check with each college you are considering.

FAFSA: financial aid form required for all students planning to attend college.

Tests required or recommended:

- Ø **ACT:** tests English, math, reading and science reasoning; Writing subtest is optional
- Ø **Placement:** required for certain majors and most 2-year colleges. Usually math and reading tests.
- Ø **SAT:** tests critical reading, math, and writing.
- Ø **SAT Subject:** subject-specific tests.

Undergraduate vs. Graduate: students beginning college are considered undergraduates. Once you finish your bachelor's degree, you could apply for college as a graduate student and get your master's degree.

High School Courses & What Colleges Require

- Ø Refer to the handouts: “Create a solid academic portfolio” and “Sample High School Requirements and College Requirements” on pages 42 & 43.
- Ø Check each college’s online or catalog section that address admissions requirements for the college.
- Ø Remember to check to see if there are additional requirements for the major you are considering.
- Ø If you are planning to play Division I or Division II sports, you need to make sure you have 16 core courses (for more information refer to page 22).
- Ø It is extremely important to have a strong senior year course load if you want to be accepted to a four-year college or university.
- Ø Remember that colleges will require a final transcript at the end of your senior year. Colleges can revoke offers of admission if your senior-year grades decline.
- Ø If you consider any major changes to your senior year schedule, you most definitely should check with the colleges to which you have applied and/or been accepted. Colleges almost always ask for you to list your senior year courses (and our office sends a copy of your senior year schedule).

Criteria Admissions Counselors Consider

Before we begin with more specific factors that college admissions counselors consider when accepting students, the following percentages are a general summary of the most important features.

In the College Board’s Annual Survey (Fall 2003), 1,917 four-year colleges rated six factors as “very important or important”. These factors are:

§ School achievement	91%
§ Test scores	87%
§ Recommendations	48%
§ Essay	43%
§ Interview	33%
§ Activities	30%

When it comes to extra-curricular activities, more is not better! Colleges would rather you devote your time and energy to a few activities than just having loads of activities. Quality outweighs quantity!

In regards to school achievement, colleges will quickly identify easy courses that you may have taken to boost your grades, so don’t do it!

Criteria Admissions Counselors Consider (continued)

Now for a closer look at what factors admissions counselors consider. The main categories are (1) Academic Achievement, Quality, and Potential and (2) Nonacademic Characteristics and Attributes. Following are the subcategories in each of these two areas along with some of the different factors in each of the subcategories. This list is to be used as a guideline, not as the only factors that colleges consider in accepting you. It is important that you work with one of the school counselors who will be your liaison with the colleges in which you are interested in attending.

Academic Achievement, Quality, and Potential:

ü Direct measures

- AP, IB and honors courses (we only offer honors courses)
- Class rank
- College courses while in high school
- Grades (GPA)
- Solid college-prep curriculum
- Strength of senior year for courses and grades
- Test scores (SAT, ACT, AP)
- Pattern of grade improvement during high school
- Participation in enrichment or outreach programs
- Internships or volunteer experiences in area of academic interest
- Courses taken

ü Caliber of High School

- Competitive grading system in high school
- Competitiveness of class
- Percentage attending 4-year colleges
- Strength of curriculum (including availability of AP, honors)

ü Evaluative measures

- Academic recognition and awards
- Artistic talent
- Depth in one or more academic areas related to student interests
- Evidence of academic passion
- Independent academic research
- Writing quality
- Grasp of world events
- Intellectual curiosity

Nonacademic Characteristics and Attributes:

ü Geographic

- Academically disadvantaged school (such as inner city or rural)
- Economically disadvantaged region
- From school with few or no previous applicants
- From far away
- From local community

ü Personal Background

- Alumni connection
- First generation to go to college from family
- Low-economic family background
- Personal disadvantage

Nonacademic Characteristics and Attributes (continued):

- ü Extracurricular activities, service, and leadership**
 - Awards and honors (athletic, artistic, musical, civic)
 - Community service
 - Leadership
 - Quality and depth of involvement
 - Work experience
- ü Personal attributes**
 - Artistic talent
 - Character
 - Civic and cultural awareness
 - Commitment
 - Concern for others
 - Creativity
 - Determination
 - Diverse perspective
 - Effort
 - Enthusiasm for learning
 - Evidence of persistence
 - Gets along well with others
 - Highly motivated
 - Initiative
 - Insight
 - Intellectual independence
 - Leadership potential
 - Maturity
 - Motivation
 - Originality
 - Personal presence
 - Personal promise
 - Productive use of time
 - Reliability
 - Responsibility
 - Team player
 - Tenacity
 - Tolerance
- ü Extenuating circumstances**
 - Family problems
 - Frequent moves/many different schools
 - Health challenges
 - Overcoming personal diversity
 - Responsibility for raising a family
 - Success in face of unusual hardships or demands on time
- ü Other**
 - Demonstrated interest in college
 - Effective oral communication
 - Interview impression
 - Strong personal statement

Transcript: the clearest indicator for success at college

- Ø All colleges and many scholarships request a transcript.
- Ø You will need to provide Mrs. Benson with a signed transcript form (one per year) in order for transcripts to be sent. (Parent's signature required for students who are not 18 years old).
- Ø If you do not want your PSAT scores included with your transcript you need to check the line indicating that on the transcript form.
- Ø You will need to complete a "Record of College/Scholarship Application" each time you need a transcript.

q What's in a transcript

- § Name and address
- § Courses taken (grades 9-12 & 8th grade algebra/Integrated math I)
- § Grades for those courses
- § Explanation of our school's grading scale
- § SAT/ACT/SAT Subject/PSAT scores/PSSA Scores/AP exam scores
- § Activities (school only)
- § Awards and Honors
- § Cumulative grade point average and rank
- § Unweighted grades & G.P.A. (if requested by scholarship or college)
- § Port Allegany High School Profile
- § Copy of your senior year schedule (if requested)

q Review transcript with your school counselor

- § Your school counselor can help explain what you can and should do

q Update and/or correct if necessary

- § Check courses, grades, activities, and test scores for accuracy and completeness
- § Give updates and corrections to Mrs. Benson
- § Get new transcript to review once Mrs. Benson has entered the information

GPA/Ranking/Courses Taken/Senior Year Course Load

- q Grades looked at in this order: 11th, 12th (if available), 10th, 9th
- q Midyear and final report
- q 1st Quarter Grades of Senior Year
- q What courses are you taking as a senior?
- q What courses have you taken?
- q Honors courses, AP courses, Dual enrollment

Dual enrollment/taking college courses while in high school

Dual enrollment: the participation in college-level courses and the earning of college credits by high school students. High schools can enter into agreements with colleges (both 2 and 4-year colleges) to provide possible college credit for courses taken during high school. It is urgent for you to realize that just because you complete the enrollment form for this type of program and receive “credit” from the college providing the dual enrollment program, that you will not necessarily receive credit from other colleges.

You must check with each college you may be considering applying to in order to find out what its transfer policy is. Each college has requirements of what it will and will not accept. These requirements may be based on the course you took, the major you plan to take, the grades you achieved, the college giving the dual enrollment credit, course requirements for the college, where you took the dual enrollment course, and limits on the number of courses that can be transferred.

Please refer to each college’s transfer policy section (available online) as well as personally contacting the admissions office. In some cases colleges have a particular person who deals specifically with dual enrollment questions.

Also refer to the packet our office has available concerning the Dual Enrollment program through the Pennsylvania Highlands Community College. You will note that it states specifically that there is no guarantee that any college (including our state colleges and universities) will automatically accept credit from any of its dual enrollment courses.

Taking college courses while in high school: This includes both online courses and courses taken on the college campus. Most colleges have some sort of program where high school students can apply and take college courses, usually at a reduced credit rate. Most times, these programs have a name (such as the L.E.A.P. program at Clarion and Giant Step at St. Bonaventure). You would also need to check the transferability of these courses to colleges you might apply to, but because the courses are usually taken at the college campus or through its online courses with other college students, the transferability of the courses are apt to be more likely. If you take any of these courses, you should make certain the courses become part of your high school transcript. However, you may also need to have a transcript (record of the course, date you took the course, your grade for the course, and how many credits the course was) sent from the college to any college you are applying to.

How to Select a College Major

Uncertain of College Major? It is difficult to select a college if you don't have some idea as to where your interests lie.

- Ø Maybe it would be easier to think in terms of two career interests and check the colleges that offer both.
- Ø Perhaps, you can determine which subject area (i.e. math, social studies, English) you enjoy and find colleges that have a variety of majors in your area of interest. You can go into the bridges online program to see majors listed by specific school subjects.
- Ø There are a variety of resources and online sites that can help you begin this process, but one of the best is <http://mapping-your-future.org> (This site also helps when applying for college and learning about financial aid.)
- Ø Job shadowing will help you to narrow your choices. See either Mrs. Jeselnick or Mr. Eskesen to learn how you can go job shadowing.
- Ø Take the Career Interest Inventory available through the CHOICES or bridges program or go to the AES website <http://www.educationplanner.org>
- Ø Visit the www.bridges.com site and learn about careers. Read the "interviews" that were done with people who are in a particular career. See the type of math, verbal skills, and decision-making skills that are required for a particular career.
- Ø You could take a personality inventory to help you understand your learning style and personality. MyRoad™ (explained on page 21) has the ORA Personality Profile (www.myroad.com and click on "I.D. me"). Completion of the questions takes less than an hour. You will be provided with two lists, one of suggested majors (based on your personality type), and one list of suggested careers.
- Ø Borrow "Making the Major Decision" or "College Majors Handbook" from one of the school counselors.
- Ø Take the Interest Assessment on pages 6-7 of the Pennsylvania Career Guide 2006-2007.
- Ø Find out which high school courses are required or important for the major.
- Ø Learn about the academic strengths needed for success in this major.
- Ø Learn about what types of jobs the major frequently leads to, and with which types of companies or employers it is associated, as well as the locations you most likely would be employed.
- Ø Remember, when selecting a college major find out about the employment outlook for careers in that major.
- Ø Find out about how many career paths you could pursue with a particular major.
- Ø Keep in mind that the formula for success in a certain major and eventually career goes like this:

CAREER/MAJOR SUCCESS = INTERESTS + ABILITIES

Selecting the Best College for You

College is a match to be made, not a prize to be won!

The key to finding a good match or “fit” is to first think about what interests you. There is no one college that is the “perfect fit” for anyone. You should not focus on one school, or think of being accepted to that certain college as a prize. There is more than one college that would be a good match for you. Do not rule out a college because of cost (we will cover this in the financial aid section). Begin by answering questions of what is important to you (not your friends!).

- Ø Complete the “Information you need when researching or applying to colleges” on page 37.
- Ø Complete the “College questionnaire for students” on pages 47-50.
- Ø What is important to you: majors, activities, types of students you want to be with, what you enjoy . . .
- Ø If you have not yet taken the ORA Personality Profiler (available through MyRoad™), now would be a good time to do so. www.myroad.com and click on “I.D. me”.
- Ø Discuss with your parents or guardians what their preferences are for you. Ask them:

“Do you have a preference for:

q how far from home I go to college?”

q an urban, suburban, or small-town campus?”

q the location of where I go to college?”

q public or private? religious affiliation? or no preference?”

“Do you have specific colleges you want me to learn about?”

Once you complete this step, you will have a much clearer view of the type of college that you should be checking into. If you do not consider college “fit”, then the chances of becoming unhappy and transferring increase.

How to Research Colleges

The first step in researching colleges is to examine your own interests, goals, and plans for the future. Once you have completed this step you are ready to begin the fun part!

- Ø Go to www.collegeboard.com or www.educationplanner.org and do a college search by entering in your answers to questions like college major, location, types of activities offered. Remember to not add too many features or you will severely limit your lists. Important items are major, location, and if you want a certain division sport. Once you complete this search you should have a listing of 15-30 colleges.
- Ø Refer to “Assessing your list of colleges” on pages 51-52 of this booklet.
- Ø Borrow a college catalog from the school counseling office (remember to use the sign out book). Look at the various sections of the catalog as your school counselor showed you during junior college planning groups.
- Ø Read information concerning the colleges on your list in the pamphlet file located in the school counseling office.
- Ø Borrow “Rugg’s Recommendations on the Colleges”.
- Ø Attend Penn-York College Night at St. Bonaventure University (in Reilly Center) on March 27, 2007 from 6:30 –8:30 p.m. (You will receive a program booklet listing all the colleges, universities, community colleges, business colleges, and specialized schools that will be participating). See more information about how you can get the most out of going to Penn-York College Night at the bottom of this page.
- Ø Attend presentations by college representatives (more information about this on page 12).
- Ø Visit colleges (more information about this on page 13).
- Ø Make absolutely certain that you read this entire booklet!
- Ø Visit the colleges website (the college search feature at www.collegeboard.com has a link that will take you directly to the website of each college on your list).
- Ø Visit www.campustours.com or www.campuscorner.com to take a virtual tour of a variety of college campuses.
- Ø Talk to students attending the college. (talk to more than 1 student if at all possible)

Tips for Getting the Most out of Penn-York College Night

Penn-York College Night is a great opportunity for you to speak directly with representatives from many different types of colleges. You will be able to get information about:

- Course offerings and available majors
- Admissions’ requirements
- Financial aid and scholarship information
- College life including housing

It would be helpful if you brought a small notebook to write down information and a supply of mailing labels that you can quickly attach to postcards that the college reps may have.

Don’t limit yourself to visiting with only those colleges on your potential list or the colleges you have heard about, also visit with those colleges that caught your eye as you were making your way down the aisles in Reilly Center. You can ask some of the same questions listed on page 12 under “Questions to Ask Visiting College Representatives”.

Questions to Ask Visiting College Representatives

Throughout the spring of your junior year and into the fall of your senior year, you should make a point to attend several meetings with college representatives. You will need to sign the roster in the School Counseling Office and get permission from your classroom teacher to attend. If you are unable to attend, you can ask one of the school counselors or a classmate to get you information from the meeting. These meetings are your opportunity to get first-hand knowledge about the college you may be considering. But it is equally important that you go prepared with questions that are more specific to your needs so you can let the college rep know you are seriously interested. Following are some questions you could ask:

- What types of clubs or activities does the college have for students?
- What do students do for fun?
- What do students like most about the college? What do they like least?
- What is the role, if any, of fraternities or sororities on campus?
- What team sports are there? Any intramural sports?
- How can students get involved with the campus newspaper? Any other literary or creative outlets?
- Who were some of the guest speakers or lecturers last year?
- What were some of the social and cultural highlights last year?
- What community service activities are there on and off campus?
- Is there an alcohol problem, and if so, how is the college handling it? What is the incidence of binge drinking?
- Do students feel safe on campus?
- How good is the security on campus?
- What is your most popular major on campus? Why?
- What types of food plans does the school offer?
- Is there something I should know about housing?
- Are microwaves and refrigerators supplied or should/could I bring my own?
- If there is no on-campus housing, does the college help students find housing? How?
- What kinds of facilities does the student center have?
- Is there a medical clinic with a doctor and/or nurse available? If there is a medical emergency what happens?
- Is the faculty interested in students and easy to reach after class?
- Are there any new programs scheduled for the next four years?
- Are there any curriculum changes about to happen?
- What is the library like? Do the students like it? Have there been complaints?
- Is the library well equipped with computers and copy machines?
- What are the recommendations by the college regarding computers?
- Are computers supplied? Do we need to bring our own? A certain type or with certain capabilities? Does the college have a special deal for me to buy a computer through the college?
- What would you tell students is important to bring besides the typical items?
- What does the college do to help students who are undecided about their majors?
- How large are classes?

College Visits

Visiting a college campus is often the most important information-gathering tool in your search. It provides an excellent opportunity to determine a college's fit. Remember it's very different seeing the college in person as opposed to just reading about it in catalogs or on the internet.

Your junior year is a good time to begin visiting colleges. Your first campus "visit" should be via the internet. This will help you prioritize the colleges you would like to visit in person. Although initial visits to colleges should be made during the spring and summer your junior year, visits during the fall of your senior year can give you additional information that is needed to finalize your decision as to which college is your first choice. If you visit during the summer, remember you will not have the full effect of seeing the campus in action with its students, but you may have more time to spend with the admissions' counselor. Weekends are not usually an ideal time to visit because you will not have an opportunity to meet with any faculty or sit in on courses.

You and your parents should schedule a visit to the campus and ask to "sit in" a class that is in your major or interest area. Colleges have a variety of options available to students who want to visit. To check into these options and schedule a visit you will need to either call the college admissions office or register online at the college's website.

Decide what is important for you in your college "fit"; then evaluate each college using the same criteria. Before your visit, review the college website and any information you have received.

Some criteria to consider and things to see or do are:

- Ø Library
- Ø Dorm Rooms (one that is similar to the one in which you will live)
- Ø Laboratories (science majors)
- Ø Athletic & Recreational Facilities
- Ø Campus Security
- Ø Social Life
- Ø Activities available
- Ø An appointment with a financial aid officer if possible
- Ø Eat a meal in the dining facilities. . . Ask about meal plans
- Ø Try to speak to students on campus. What do they like about the college and what do they not like? Where do students hang out, study, go on weekends?
- Ø Write down the names of each person you meet, and send a thank you note. If possible, refer to something from your conversation with that person.

q For more information about visiting colleges you could borrow the book "Campus Visits & College Interviews" from one of your school counselors.

What if you can't visit?

Although not as good as actually physically being on the campus, sometimes there are circumstances where you just cannot go to a college campus. In that case, you should visit www.campustours.com or www.campuscorner.com to take a virtual tour of the colleges in which you have an interest.

College Interview

Some colleges recommend interviews; few actually require them, and some do not even offer them. Interviews can and do make a difference. The interview is the opportunity for you to once again shine and personalize the application process. It is also a chance for you to continue seeing if this particular college is a good “fit” or match for you. Your parents should not be present during your interview. This is something you need to do on your own. Most colleges will not allow a parent to be present during the interview, but if the college does allow it; then it is important for you (not your parents) to do the talking. Remember to watch your body language!

Ø How to prepare for an interview:

- Practice answering questions (see the ones that follow on pages 15-16)
- Read information sent to you by the college, in the college catalogs or on the college’s website
- Bring a transcript (unofficial) and be prepared to discuss your academic background and test scores if asked. Also, be prepared to discuss how you spend your time outside of school
- Honesty and maturity will work in your favor. When discussing a point or answering a question, do not complain, make excuses, or blame others.
- Tolerance: if you have issues with thinking you are better than someone else you should be taking an inventory of how this type of behavior will come across to someone else. If you give the impression of thinking that you are better than the “typical” person your age, it will leave a negative imprint on the interviewer.

Ø Interview Dos:

- Be yourself
- Maintain good eye contact
- Dress well and neatly. No hats!
- Be positive
- Listen
- Try to avoid one sentence or one-word answers. Remember, each question is an invitation for a conversation.
- Show interest and pay attention to both the questions being asked and the answers your interviewer gives.
- Be honest.
- Have questions to ask the interviewer ready.
- Send a thank you note. (Make sure you have the correct spelling of the person’s name)

Ø Interview Don’ts:

- Do not be late for your appointment.
- Do not make excuses, blame others or show intolerance or prejudice.
- Do not provide academic materials unless they are requested.
- Do not ask the interviewer to compare colleges.
- If your parents ask questions at the conclusion of the interview, watch your body language and make sure you don’t argue or correct them.
- Don’t smoke or chew gum.
- Don’t be arrogant.

Interview: Some Questions and Answers

Before we begin with possible questions and answers, keep in mind that you must tailor the answers to be your own, in your own words. Although you will not know all the questions that an interviewer might ask, you can be prepared for many of the questions.

Ø How can I explain a poor grade on my transcript?

- Poor grades may be acceptable under certain circumstances:

1. If poor grades are concentrated in one particular area such as math then you could point out that math has never been a strong point, but you have great grades in other subjects. Also explain how you still devote time and effort to weak areas (such as getting tutored) and take on a challenge as opposed to avoiding it.

2. If poor grades were due to a circumstance such as problems at home, illness, or part-time employment.

- You should try to draw attention to your strengths – your stronger grades, or how your grades have improved over time. Remember how important junior and senior year grades are.

Ø Why did you choose our university?

- Tell about the factors that made you decide on that university, e.g., location, costs, teachers, facilities, and programs the university may have. If you can add personal touches to this answer all the better.

Ø What courses have you enjoyed/hated most?

- NEVER admit to hating a course which is of significant importance in the college you are trying to get into - no college wants to accept a student who'll get sick of the curriculum and quit in a few months time.
- Ideally, the courses in which you've performed well should be the ones you enjoyed the most, and they should be the most important courses as far as the college/degree in question is concerned.
- Don't lie and say you enjoyed a course that you really hated - the people interviewing you have decades of experience in education and can easily spot a lie, especially a lie concerned with academia.

Ø What is your greatest achievement in life?

- Try to be very well prepared for this question, because it's bound to be asked.
- Of all the achievements you've made, think of the one that will have the greatest impact on the interviewer and mention that.
- Make sure the achievement you mention is one that portrays some positive personal qualities: hard work, perseverance, intelligence, diligence, honesty, and determination to mention a few.

Interview: Questions and Answers (continued)

Ø What is your opinion on (any current event)?

- **Your opinion does not matter, the way you express it does.**
- **Used to test your knowledge, your ability to assimilate and analyze information, and how you are able to present that information. For example, whether you support or oppose the U.S. attack on Iraq is irrelevant - what counts is how you defend your stand in the light of facts and convincing arguments.**

Ø If you could change one thing about the time you spent at high school, what would it be?

- **This is what some students would refer to as a "trick" question, making you divulge something negative about your high school experience.**
- **The best way to deal with this question is to have an answer prepared well in advance - something about your time at high school which could have been improved, but which is not something negative enough to give the interviewers second thoughts about offering you admission.**
- **Tell them about how you spent too much time on soccer and got a B in math.**

Ø What was the most recent book you read or your favorite book and why?

- **The purpose of this question is not to check to see that you are reading a certain type of "intellectual" book, but more that you are reading and the reason why.**
- **If you are an avid reader (and you should be if you are considering college), then this should be an excellent opportunity for you to relax and tell the interviewer what is of interest to you.**

These are only some of the possible questions that could be asked of you. To learn about more questions, borrow one of the books available through the School Counseling Office or go online and search for information. One of the best books is "Campus Visits & College Interviews" (available to be borrowed from your school counselor).

Interview: Possible Questions for You to Ask

At the conclusion of the interview, the interviewer will ask you if you have any questions. It is important that you have some questions ready. The interview process is still continuing. The interviewer is checking to see that you can do more than just answer questions. Also, keep in mind that as much as you are being interviewed, you are also interviewing the college. College is very expensive and you should want to make certain that you are buying something you truly want.

q Some possible questions that you could ask are:

- Ø Are there educational opportunities off campus such as study abroad and internships for certain majors such as business, psychology...?
- Ø What type of housing is available to freshmen? Is there additional or different types of housing available after freshmen year?
- Ø Are there any special interest houses? If yes, what kinds are available?
- Ø If housing is not available, does the college help students find housing? How? What kinds are available?
- Ø How are roommates chosen?
- Ø What do students do for fun?
- Ø Do most students leave on weekends or spend time on campus?
- Ø If there are fraternities or sororities on campus, are they important to the social life on campus?
- Ø What kinds of dining facilities are there on campus?
- Ø Are there different priced meal plans? What are they?
- Ø What kind of scholarships (financial aid) does the college have?
- Ø What kinds of special services are available to students? Health? Psychological? Educational and vocational placement?
- Ø Do classes tend to be large lectures or small sessions, or a combination of both?
- Ø What percentage of graduates goes on to professional and graduate schools?
- Ø What type of campus security is there? Do they have an escort system? Is there a published crime rate? Ask to see one.
- Ø What new facilities are being planned?
- Ø _____
- Ø _____
- Ø Also look at the questions listed on page 12. Any of those could be asked at this time as well.

Tests for College Entrance

Port Allegany High School CEEB Code is 394060

✓ SAT:

What is it? The SAT Reasoning Test is a standardized test that is required by most 4-year colleges and by some majors at 2-year colleges. There are three sections: critical reading, mathematics, and writing skills. There is also an essay which is included as part of the writing skills section. The essay is usually the first part of the test. The test is composed of multiple-choice questions and an essay.

When should you take the SAT? You should take the SAT at least once in the spring of your junior year and once in your senior year. Colleges recommend taking the SAT no more than 3 times!! Students should take their senior year SAT no later than the November date, although December would be acceptable in most cases. You should not wait until you receive your scores to apply to college.

How is the SAT scored? Scores range from 200 to 800 on each section, for a maximum score of 2400. However, colleges are still only considering the critical reading and math scores with the maximum total being 1600, so that is how you should be totaling your scores. The essay is scored from 2-12. The writing scores are used in different ways by each college. The scores might be used to help identify students eligible for honors courses in college, or sometimes for placement in English composition courses. You should still do your best on this section, because if you score poorly (especially on the essay) it could hurt your chances for acceptance.

How do I register? Registration forms are available in the School Counseling Office or may be completed online. Students are encouraged to apply online at www.collegeboard.com. Although registering is your responsibility, you can get help from one of the school counselors. If you qualify for a fee waiver, you should definitely work directly with a school counselor and register online.

Do I qualify for a fee waiver? Discuss with your counselor whether you qualify for a fee waiver. The fee waiver entitles you to register for the SAT for free and has an application fee waived for up to 4 colleges, 6 colleges if you register online.

What are the dates and where is the SAT given? The SAT is administered at several local high schools throughout the school year. Please refer to the chart on page 20 that gives you the SAT dates, where it is given, the test center codes, and registration deadlines.

Can I prepare for the SAT? Yes!!! (and you should) There are many resources to help you prepare, including various books available in the School Counseling Office, and some excellent free resources online. If you took the PSAT, you should have registered with MyRoad™. Begin preparing for the SAT with this part of the College Board's website. Also, check out these sites:

www.collegeboard.com

www.number2.com

www.4tests.com

Special important notes: There is a section on the registration form that asks where you would like your scores sent. You can select up to 4 colleges or scholarship programs for no extra cost to the registration fee. Most colleges will accept SAT scores from your high school. But this is not always the case. If you are planning to apply to Penn State, you must have the scores sent directly from the College Board. Also, if you are planning to register for NCAA Clearinghouse, you must also send your scores directly (the SAT code number for NCAA is 9999). If you know where you might apply next year, you should enter the correct codes in the question that asks where you want your scores sent.

See pages 44 & 45 for more information about the SAT.

Tests for College Entrance continued

✓ ACT:

What is it? The ACT is comprised of four tests plus an optional writing section. The four tests are English, mathematics, reading, and science reasoning. Some students do better on the ACT, so it is important to take both the SAT and the ACT.

When should you take the ACT? You should take the ACT at least once in the spring of your junior year and once in your senior year. The latest the ACT should be taken is in December of your senior year.

How is it scored? The scores for the ACT range from 1 to 36. You will receive a separate score ranging from 1-36 for each of the 4 tests, as well as one overall composite score. Keep in mind that while the SAT deducts a fraction of a point for each question answered incorrectly, the ACT does not deduct any points for incorrect answers. For this reason, some students have less anxiety when taking the ACT and may do better.

How do I register? Get the registration form either from the School Counseling Office or complete it online at www.act.org

Do I qualify for a fee waiver? Discuss with your counselor whether you qualify for a fee waiver. The fee waiver entitles you to register for the ACT for free and has an application fee waived for up to 4 colleges. You cannot register online with a fee waiver. You must use the paper application.

What are the dates and where is the ACT given? The ACT is administered at a few local high schools throughout the school year. Please refer to the chart on page 20 that gives you the ACT dates, where it is given, the test center codes, and registration deadlines.

Can I prepare for the ACT? Yes!!! (and you should) There are many resources to help you prepare, including various books available in the School Counseling Office, and some excellent free resources online. Check out these sites:

www.act.org

www.number2.com

www.4tests.com

See page 46 for more information about the ACT.

- ✓ SAT Subject tests: A few colleges require or recommend you take one or more SAT Subject tests. These tests measure your knowledge of particular subjects and your ability to apply that knowledge. Check with each college to see if any SAT Subject Tests are recommended or required.
- ✓ AP Examinations: You can take AP exams even if you have not taken an AP course. AP exams are offered once each year in May and are approximately 2-3 hours long. Scores range from 1-5. Some colleges (more than 3,000) will award students college credit or advanced placement if they attain a certain score (usually at least 3, sometimes more). There are many resources available at www.collegeboard.com to help you prepare for these exams. It is important to understand, that unlike our school's policy on honors courses, advanced placement courses must be offered to every student. College Board assigned every student who took the PSAT a percentage for each AP course of his/her potential for achieving a 3 or better. If you are interested in knowing your AP potential for scoring at least a 3 on the AP exams, you should schedule an appointment with one of the school counselors.

J REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR PHOTO ID AND ADMISSION TICKET WITH YOU!

SAT REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Port Allegany HS CEEB Code: 394060

www.collegeboard.org

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Regular Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Test Center</u>	<u>Test Center Code</u>
May 5 th	April 3 rd	<u>Bradford HS</u>	<u>39-158</u>
		<u>Coudersport HS</u>	<u>39-216</u>
		<u>Olean HS</u>	<u>33-730</u>
June 2 nd	April 27 th	<u>Johnsonburg HS</u>	<u>39-340</u>
		<u>Olean HS</u>	<u>33-730</u>
		<u>St. Marys HS</u>	<u>39-668</u>

ACT REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Port Allegany HS CEEB Code: 394060

www.act.org

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Regular Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Test Center</u>	<u>Test Center Code</u>
April 14 th	March 9 th	<u>Coudersport HS</u>	<u>156020</u>
June 9 th	May 4 th	<u>Olean HS</u>	<u>199500</u>
		<u>Portville HS</u>	<u>199520</u>
		<u>Wellsville HS</u>	<u>182150</u>

How to Best Utilize “My Road™”

Any student, who took the PSAT/NMSQT in October 2006, has access to My Road™. You were provided with your access number, when you got your scores from the School Counseling office. My Road™ is an interactive website (www.myroad.com) that will help you explore majors, colleges, and careers. There are 6 sections:

- Ø **Insights**
 - Resource Library
 - Hot Topics
 - Mentor’s Corner (interviews with professionals)
 - Sound Off (excerpts from student interviews, road journals, and more)
 - Campus View (profile of department or major at a college)

- Ø **I.D. Me**
 - ORA Personality Profiler (mentioned on page 9 of this booklet)

- Ø **Explore Majors**
 - Information and descriptions on hundreds of majors
 - Discussions of related topics
 - Insights from undergraduates
 - Book recommendations

- Ø **Find a College**
 - College search site with information on 3,600 2- and 4-year colleges

- Ø **Research Careers**
 - Information and descriptions on hundreds of careers

- Ø **My Plan**
 - Track personal information such as activities, grades, and majors of interests

NCAA Information for Student Athletes

Any student athlete who is considering applying to a Division I or Division II college must meet certain academic eligibility requirements in order to be able to play sports. Students must also register with the NCAA Clearinghouse at www.ncaa.clearinghouse.net .

Beginning with the graduating class of 2008, Division I requires 16 core courses. SAT and ACT scores are also used in the eligibility requirements. (the writing scores from the SAT and ACT are not used as of this date).

The application process timeline recruited athletes must follow can differ from the application timeline for all other students, so it is important that you work closely with your school counselor and coach during your junior year to make certain that you are on target for what you need to do.

This process can be especially confusing since there are several adults who will be involved: your school counselor, your high school coach, your prospective college coach, the admissions counselor from the college, and your parents. You will need to do additional research on your own and with your school counselor to find out the answers to your individual questions.

In addition to the NCAA Clearinghouse website, you can also visit the official NCAA website at www.ncaa.org , but the Clearinghouse website is more valuable as it gives you the 37-page *“Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete”*.

I Won't Get Into College Without

Applications

- ✓ Your list of colleges should fall into 3 categories: Reach, Possible, and Likely. Most students apply to 3 to six schools, but some students apply to less and some apply to more. It is recommended that you always apply to at least two.
- ✓ Paper or Online? Whenever possible, always do online. It looks neater and is much quicker than the paper version. Most colleges prefer the online version and some colleges will even waive the application fee if you apply online.
- ✓ Remember to make 2 copies of your online version (keep one and give the other to your school counselor to keep). If you do a paper application, make a copy of it to use as your “work copy”, then transfer all information to the paper application and make a copy of that one. It is a good rule of thumb to have your school counselor check a copy of your application (even if it is online) before it is submitted.
- ✓ Because more applications are being done online, it is more difficult to keep track of making sure transcripts are being sent. Some students assume the colleges contact the high school. This is not true. In an effort to help make certain the transcripts are mailed to any college you are applying, you need to complete the “Record of College/Scholarship Application” for each college and scholarship that you need a transcript for and give this sheet to Mrs. Jeselnick or Mr. Eskesen. These forms are available in the School Counseling office and it is your responsibility to complete and return a form for all transcripts you need to be sent (see page 39 for a copy of this form).
- ✓ Look at “Tips for undertaking the application process” on page 40.

When should I begin applying?

This is an exciting time of your life and you may want to start as early as possible. But it is important to remember that applying early will not guarantee acceptance and if you apply without the help from your school counselors you could possibly make some costly errors in the process. You should begin applying in September or October, and no later than November or December of your senior year. Check the deadlines for all colleges including the early decision and early action deadlines to know when you need to submit your application. Early decision and early action deadlines range from November 1 to January 15. If you are applying to any of the Penn State campuses, you should have everything submitted by November 30th.

What is the Common Application?

More than 250 colleges accept the Common Application. You complete one application form and send it to your participating colleges. Usually, a college who accepts this form requests additional information on a Supplemental Form. The Common Application website will tell you which colleges require a Supplemental Form, and will either allow you to download the form in a pdf file, or give you the option to complete and submit the form online. You can get this application form from the school counseling office or online at www.commonap.org .

Early Decision, Early Action, Regular Decision, Rolling Admissions

- Ø *Early Decision:* you can only apply to one college on Early Decision. If accepted to this school, you agree to withdraw your applications from any other colleges. Early decision deadlines range from November 1 to January 15.
- Ø *Early Action:* similar to Early Decision in that you apply early (deadlines range from November 1 to January 15). The main difference is whereas you are committed to attend a school under the Early Decision plan, with the Early Action plan you don't have to make a commitment until May 1.
- Ø *Regular Decision:* you submit an application by a certain date, usually between December 15th and March 1st. You will learn if you are accepted by early to mid April.
- Ø *Rolling Admissions:* Applications are reviewed by the admissions committee as the applications arrive, or by some regular intervals such as monthly or biweekly. However, the earlier you apply the greater the chances of being accepted to the college. You usually are notified of whether you are admitted within six to eight weeks after the college receives your application. Penn State has rolling admissions, but accepts applicants according to phases. Phase 1 ends November 30th so if you get your application, test scores, and transcripts to the admissions office by then, you have the best chance of being accepted.

Essays

- q Keep in mind that this is your chance to reflect your personality, but most importantly a way to separate you from the “crowd” of freshmen with similar SAT scores, grades, courses, and activities. Remember that the admissions committee does not know you the way your parents, friends, teachers, and your school counselor does.
- q Before composing your essay, refer to one of the numerous resources (available either online or books), including the books that are available through your school counselors.
- q Visit www.educationplanner.org and go to the essay writing course. There are six lessons that help you with the various aspects of the essay writing process including Preparation, Question-Specific Strategies, Essay Structure, Style and Tone, Introductions and Conclusions, and an Editing Checklist.
- q The essay is an opportunity to reveal new information; don’t rehash or list activities, courses, grades, or SAT scores. The transcript has already provided this. However, if you decide to expand on something within your transcript, that’s fine.
 - Ø The admissions committee looks for
 - (1) Something about you that is not revealed in the rest of your application,
 - (2) An interesting take on your topic—the first sentence in particular can make or break how someone is going to be reading your essay,
 - (3) Make sure it is genuine, remember this is a reflection of you—not your parents,
 - (4) Thoughtfulness: how your experiences have molded who you have become. Of course, spelling, grammar, punctuation, and how you compose your essay should be perfect so as not to detract from the content of your essay.
 - Ø When writing the essay, picture yourself as one of the admissions’ committee members: he or she has read thousands of essays, what would make the next essay stand out and not just be one more essay that really didn’t say anything.
 - Ø Have several people check the essay. Although you must write the essay, it is imperative that you get assistance from others with their thoughts on how to tighten the essay up, reflect you more, be correct grammatically, and have correct spelling. Who are these others? Your parents, teachers, and school counselors. (Remember, school counselors have a strong understanding of what the admissions committee is looking for).
 - Ø Make sure that you always include your name and social security number on each page of your essay.
 - Ø Even if the application has a space for the essay, always word process the essay and include it as an extra page. However, there are a few college applications that will state that the essay must be “written or pasted in the space provided”.

Personal Statements

Personal Statements are shortened essays.

Ø Usually there is a limit of no more than 100 words, sometimes even less.

Ø It is the college's way of getting a "snapshot" into you as a person.

Follow the guidelines for the essay listed on page 25 except you usually do not need to include your name or social security number since the personal statement is almost always part of your application packet.

Auditions and Portfolios

If you plan to study a major in the area of the arts, such as theater, music, or fine arts, you may be required to audition or show your portfolio to admissions personnel from that department in the college, conservatory, or institute.

Art Portfolio

An art portfolio is a collection of your best pieces of artwork. The pieces you select should show diversity in technique and a range of subject matter. These portfolios cannot only help you gain acceptance, but also may be used in determining if you receive a scholarship. You must follow the guidelines of how the college or scholarship competition wants the portfolio presented. More is not necessarily better!

Music Auditions

If you plan to major in music, whether it is vocal or instrumental, you usually must audition. If you are a singer, prepare at least two pieces in contrasting styles to highlight your vocal range. You should definitely schedule time with Mr. Myers, as he would know which pieces would showcase your voice the best.

If you are an instrumentalist, you need to be prepared to play scales and arpeggios, at least one etude or technical study, and a solo work. Instrumental audition pieces do not need to be memorized. You should schedule time with Mr. Stewart to help you choose your selections.

In either vocal or instrumental, you may be required to do sight-reading. Programs differ at each college, so you should call the college and ask for audition information. Music departments are usually looking for students who have both technical competence and performance achievement.

Recommendations

- q** Some colleges ask for them, some don't. In most cases you should definitely have anywhere from 1-3 recommendations to accompany your application file. If you plan to ask someone for a recommendation, you should provide the person with information that might prove useful for him/her, such as the "Questionnaire for College Recommendations". Another useful piece of information that your parents can complete is the "Parent Brag Sheet for College Recommendations".
- Ø** Who do you get recommendations from?
 - School counselor (always)
 - Teacher (usually at least 1)
 - Others: teachers, pastors, person where you did job shadowing or volunteer work, Scout/4-H Leaders, coach, employers
 - Ø** You should be careful about whom you choose: what recommendations say can often be the key to acceptance or rejection. Recommendations have more influence on whether or not you are admitted than you may suspect.
 - Ø** Choose someone who knows you well, not just someone you have your senior year, or a class where you received an "A", or someone who you think will "look good" to the admissions committee.
 - Ø** Provide the person who will be doing the recommendation with information he/she may not know about you as well as what he/she does know. Ask the person if he/she has any questions about you.
- q** Waive or not waive: Legally, you have the right to see all your academic and personal records and letters of recommendations. You may be asked whether you choose to waive these rights.
- Ø** Some applications will have a place where you will check if you waive or do not waive these rights. You should always waive your rights to see your recommendations.
 - Ø** Admissions committees believe that recommendation letters may not be as honest when the writers know you will see your files, thereby making the recommendations less valuable. Admissions committees may give more weight to confidential recommendation letters.
- q** In regards to waiving rights, you might be able to get a "glimpse" of whether or not the person you ask to do a recommendation would give a positive one by asking the person the question: "Would you be able to do a good recommendation for me for _____ (college or scholarship)?" If the person hesitates, or says, "If you could find someone else..." or "I'm quite busy right now", that is your cue to move on to someone else. That person has just told you that the recommendation would not be in your best interest.

Scholarships & Grants

- q Before we tackle this subject, here are a few starters to always keep in mind.
1. Never pay for a scholarship search service. You can find all the information that a fee-based search service will supply and more for free.
 2. FAFSA is an application that you complete after January 1, 2008.
 3. It's easy to "discover" scholarships, but it does take time and effort.
 4. Only apply to scholarships for which you are eligible.
 5. Scholarships are not just based on grades.
 6. CSS Profile is required by a few private colleges.
 7. You do not have to "accept" a college's "financial aid package".
- q Scholarships are sometimes quite easy to apply for: just a click on many of the websites mentioned on pages 34-35 will give you a chance to win \$1,000 or more for college. It never hurts to give these websites' scholarships a chance. The only criterion for most is that you must attend a college.
- q There are several financial aid websites that offer free scholarship searches. Enter information to more than one, since their database of scholarship information may vary. The best site by far is FastWeb. Following are some great starts to your scholarship search (remember to update information on these sites if your information changes). (Remember these are only a few of the many resources available).

www.fastweb.com
www.freschinfo.com
www.educationplanner.org
www.finaid.org
www.collegeboard.com
www.college-scholarships.com
www.wiredscholar.com
www.salliemae.com
www.fafsa.ed.gov

What is upromise.com?

www.upromise.com is a free service designed to help families save for college. It's simple: you'll save when you shop for the things you need. With Upromise, thousands of companies will help you save for your college education. You can save when you shop online, at your favorite stores, or at the grocery or drug store. You can save when you travel, dine out, and more. You can invite your family, all your relatives, and friends to contribute to your college savings account at Upromise.

SCHOLARSHIP CHECK LIST:

- employers and unions (parents, yours)**
- clubs or organizations (parents, yours)**
- religion (almost all religions have scholarships)**
- colleges (each catalog has a financial aid/scholarship section)**
- majors or career fields**
- local based (within your community)**
- armed services (parents who are veterans)**
- academic/achievement based**
- leadership/community involvement based**
- ethnic background (race/nationality)**
- skills, talents, and contests**

SCHOLARSHIP RESOURCES

All these resources are available through your school counselor unless otherwise noted. See your school counselor if you would like to borrow or learn more about any of these resources.

- _____ www.bridges.com (user name: 0047376, password: captain) (this site can be accessed by using any computer with the internet)
- _____ Fast Web site (www.fastweb.com)
- _____ www.educationplanner.org
- _____ How to Pay for College: A Practical Guide for Families
- _____ Peterson's Financial Aid 101
- _____ College Savings Rx
- _____ Loans and Grants from Uncle Sam
- _____ Get a Jump! The Student Aid Answer Book
- _____ The A's and B's of Academic Scholarships
- _____ Don't Miss Out
- _____ Meeting College Costs
- _____ Financial Aid Officers: What they do to you and for you
- _____ Parents' Guide to Paying for College
- _____ Need A Lift? College Financial Aid Handbook
- _____ Scholarships, Grants, and Prizes 2004
- _____ The YOU CAN Guide to Paying for Your College Education*
- _____ The Guide to Federal Student Aid 2007-2008*
- _____ Pennsylvania's Guide to Student Aid 2007-2008*
- _____ Completing the 2006-2007 FAFSA*

*These booklets are part of your college planning packet.

Checklist: Must Do!

Date Done	What I Need To Do
_____	Register for SAT
_____	Register for SAT if taking it twice
_____	Register for ACT
_____	Get a fee waiver from Mrs. J or Mr. Eskesen if I qualify
_____	Complete College Resume/Activity Sheet
_____	Attend Penn-York College Night on March 27 th (St. Bonaventure University)
_____	Decide on career/major: _____
_____	Schedule appointment with Mrs. J. or Mr. Eskesen to explore careers/majors and take career interest survey (if necessary)
_____	Explore bridges.com website (http://cx.bridges.com) (id 0047376, password: captain)
_____	Register and explore Education Planner (www.educationplanner.com)
_____	Complete at least 10 th and 11 th grade sections of Education Planner portfolio
_____	Complete informational sheet and return to Mrs. J or Mr. Eskesen
_____	Complete "College questionnaire for students" (college "fit" or match)
_____	Read college catalogs and pamphlets available in School Counseling Office
_____	Go to college websites and read information. Send for more information if interested
_____	Find out about and use resources available in the School Counseling Office
_____	Set up my FastWeb scholarship search account
_____	Talk to my parents about upromise.com and register
_____	Send information about upromise.com to relatives and others who may be interested in helping me

Check List: Must Do!

- _____ Visit My Road™ and explore all the options
- _____ Read magazines from the School Counseling Office (can be taken and kept)
- _____ Job shadow or talk to someone who is in my chosen career
- _____ Get involved with activities at school, in the community, or with my church or other organization
- _____ Do independent study if possible (such as Seneca Highlands Summer Academy, Rotary Youth Leadership, or others)
- _____ Attend college admissions meetings that I am sincerely interested in and go to the meetings prepared with good questions
- _____ Visit colleges
- _____ Find out what is in my transcript and check it over. Give Mrs. Benson any corrections to my activity list
- _____ Begin thinking about who to ask for letters of recommendation next year
- Possible choices: _____

- _____ Make a point to prepare for SAT/ACT and set aside at least 2 days/week to do so.
- _____ Register and read information at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net if necessary
- _____ Begin working on your portfolio or what you will present for an audition if necessary

INTERNET RESOURCES

Following are only some of the numerous sites for college/career planning, applications, financial aid, SATs, careers, and various issues to do with the college process. Keep in mind that sites are being added, updated, or removed on a daily basis. (sites were verified as of 9/07/06).

COLLEGE/CAREER SITES: (*may include information on financial aid)

- _____ <http://www.princetonreview.com>
- _____ <http://www.braintrack.com>
- _____ <http://www.careersandcolleges.com>
- _____ <http://www.petersons.com>
- _____ <http://www.octameron.com>
- _____ <http://www.campustours.com>
- _____ <http://www.collegeview.com>
- _____ <http://www.collegeboard.com>
- _____ <http://www.collegiatechoice.com>
- _____ <http://collegebound.com>
- _____ <http://dailyjolt.com>
- _____ <http://www.act.org>
- _____ <http://www.myroad.com>
- _____ <http://www.educationplanner.org>
- _____ <http://sagescholars.com>
- _____ <http://www.collegesurfing.com>
- _____ <http://maxthetest.com>
- _____ <http://www.xap.com>
- _____ <http://makingcollegcount.com>
- _____ <http://www.talbotsbook.com>
- _____ <http://kaptest.com>
- _____ <http://www.number2.com>
- _____ <http://4Tests.com>
- _____ <http://www.schoolfinder.com>
- _____ <http://www.collegeconfidential.com>
- _____ <http://collegeapps.about.com>
- _____ <http://www.mapping-your-future.org/>
- _____ <http://www.bridges.com> (id 0047376 & password: captain)
- _____ <http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/college/cohome.htm>
- _____ <http://www.geocities.com/CollegePark/1150/index.html>
- _____ <http://www.campuschamps.com>
- _____ <http://www.campuscorner.com>
- _____ <http://www.naaclearinghouse.net>

FINANCIAL AID SITES:

- _____ <http://www.fastweb.com/>
- _____ <http://www.upromise.com>
- _____ <http://www.freschinfo.com>
- _____ <http://college-scholarships.com/>
- _____ <http://collegescholarships.com>
- _____ <http://www.salliemae.com>
- _____ <http://www.scholarships.com>
- _____ <http://www.studentaid.ed.gov>
- _____ <http://www.pheaa.org>
- _____ <http://www.srnexpress.com/index.cfm>
- _____ <http://www.collegeanswer.com/index.jsp>
- _____ <http://www.collegenet.com/about/index.html>
- _____ <http://www.collegebound.net/studentrewards>
- _____ <http://www.acenet.edu/AM/Template.cfm?section=CIP1>
- _____ <http://finaid.org>
- _____ <http://www.theoldschool.org>
- _____ <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>
- _____ <http://www.ed.gov/index.jhtml>
- _____ <http://www.kaptest.com>
- _____ <http://www.scholarship-page.com>
- _____ <http://www.students.gov>
- _____ <http://scholarshiphound.com>
- _____ <http://www.patap.org>

RESOURCE MATERIALS AVAILABLE IN SCHOOL COUNSELING OFFICE

A Great Place to Start:

www.bridges.com (internet)
Choices 2007 (computer program)

SAT & ACT Guides:

Princeton Review: 2006 New SAT
The Official SAT Study Guide
Panic Plan for the SAT
Cracking the New SAT
The Real ACT Prep Guide
The Procrastinator's Guide to the ACT '06
Cliff's Test Prep ACT

Admissions & Applications

101 Ways to Become the Perfect
College Applicant
Admissions Decision-Making Models
Behind the Scenes: An Inside Look at
the Selective College Admission Process
USA Today: Getting Into College
College Match: A Blueprint for Choosing
the Best College for You
Creating Your High School Resume
(college resume pp.17-21)

Campus Visits & Interviews

Visiting College Campuses
Campus Visits & College Interviews

Also . . .

The Ultimate College Survival Guide
The Portable College Advisor
Virtual College
College.EDU
Majoring in Success
Campus Daze: Easing the Transition from High School to College
Campus Opportunities for Students with Learning Differences
The Winning Edge: The Student Athlete's Guide to College Sports

And Don't Forget These Guides:

College & Financial Planner for Seniors
College Rankings Exposed
Peterson's 2-year College Guide
Peterson's 4-year College Guide
Rugg's Recommendations on the Colleges
US News & World Report Ultimate
College Guide
Colleges With Programs for Students with
Learning Disabilities or A.D.D.
Choices: A Guide to Pennsylvania
Post-Secondary Career Schools
Great Colleges for the Real World

Essays: I Need Help!

College Admissions Essay Handbook
The College Application Essay
Writing a Winning College Application
Essay
Best College Admissions Essays
College Applications & Essays
The Adams College Essay Handbook
Do it Write: How to Prepare a Great
College Application

What About My Major?

College Majors Handbook
Making the Major Decision

INFORMATION YOU NEED WHEN RESEARCHING OR APPLYING TO COLLEGES

Name _____ Address _____
DOB _____ SSN _____
Phone# _____ Cell Phone # _____ email _____
Parents/Guardian Names _____

School Counselor's Name _____
School Counselor's Phone # (814)642-2544 ext. _____ email _____

Port Allegany High School 20 Oak Street Port Allegany, PA 16743
CEEB Code: 394060 Phone #: (814)642-2544 Fax: (814) 642-9574
Date Entered PAHS _____ Date Graduated: tentatively June 6, 2008
G.P.A. _____ Class Rank _____

Test Scores

SAT Dates & Scores _____	CR: _____	Math: _____	Writing _____
SAT Dates & Scores _____	CR: _____	Math: _____	Writing _____
SAT Dates & Scores _____	CR: _____	Math: _____	Writing _____
SAT Subject Tests Date: _____		Test _____	Score _____
SAT Subject Tests Date: _____		Test _____	Score _____
SAT Subject Tests Date: _____		Test _____	Score _____
ACT Dates & Scores _____		Composite _____	
ACT Dates & Scores _____		Composite _____	
AP Exams Date: _____		Test _____	Score _____
AP Exams Date: _____		Test _____	Score _____

Dual Enrollment Courses

Course _____ Grade _____
Course _____ Grade _____

Subjects Taken in Grades 9-12:

English CP ____ English ____ English Honors ____
Foreign Language: French ____ Spanish ____ Other _____
Math: _____
Science: _____
Soc. St.: _____
Other: _____

Senior Courses:

1st Semester

2nd Semester

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Name
Address
Phone Number
Cell Phone Number
Email address if you have one
Social Security Number

Extracurricular Activities

- Grades 9-12 only.
- Designate the year or years of participation after the activity
- Use 9,10, 11, 12 or 1,2,3,4 to connote high school years
- You may use years, for example 2000-2001, for community and summer activities
- List activity of greatest involvement first
- Remember to include if you were an officer

School Awards

- Grades 9-12 only
- Continue using same format you used in the Extracurricular Activities section

Community Activities

- Continue using same format as above & grades 9-12
- Include volunteer work
- Include individual activities performed while a member of various groups such as Youth Group, Peer Helpers, Student Council

Athletics

- Continue using same format as above & grades 9-12
- List sports
- Specify JV or Varsity
- List individual and team awards won
- Include captain or co-captain if you served in that capacity

Employment

Summer Activities (or Travel or Study)

*if a section does not apply to you then don't include it

Record of College/Scholarship Application

Please complete this form for each college to which you are applying for admission.

Transcript Request Form Signed & Returned: Yes _____ No _____

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

My College Counselor: ___ Mrs. Jeselnick ___ Mr. Eskesen Homeroom _____

College/Scholarship _____ Application Deadline: _____

Please print full name of institution or scholarship Be specific-Don't use ASAP

Address of College/Scholarship

Application Process: (do not complete this section if this is for a scholarship)

I am applying: ___ Early Decision ___ Early Action ___ Regular ___ Rolling

I am using: _____ The college's application form _____ Common Application Form _____ Applying Online

Application Mailing Plan:

___ I will turn my application into the School Counseling Office for mailing. NOTE: Applications are due in School Counseling Office 5 school days prior to the application deadline. (Student needs to provide 2 stamps)

___ I will mail or submit online, the application myself. School Counseling office will need to mail the transcript.

___ I will give my school counselor an additional required form to complete and mail.

RECOMMENDATION LETTERS:

List the name of those who will be writing recommendations for you. Indicate if they will mail the recommendation directly to the college, or if they will turn the recommendation into the School Counseling office for mailing. Include faculty, coaches, work supervisors, etc.

Name	will mail	School Counseling office to mail
1) _____	_____	_____
2) _____	_____	_____
3) _____	_____	_____

TEST SCORE RELEASE:

Please indicate the standardized test (ACT or SAT) results you wish for the School Counseling Office to provide with your transcript. Along with this, it is the student's responsibility to contact the testing agency to send your official test scores to all colleges to which you have applied. If no specific directions are given or if this form is not complete, all test results will be sent.

Test	Test Date(s)
___ All test Scores	
___ ACT	_____
___ SAT Reasoning	_____
___ SAT Subject Test	_____

Student's Signature _____ Date _____

For Office Use Only:

Date Application Packet Mailed: _____

Enclosures: ___ Student Application ___ Application Fee ___ Counselor's Rec. ___ Transcript
___ Profile ___ Common App. Supplement Other: _____

Date form was turned into School Counseling Office: _____