

POST-SECONDARY PLANNING



MARCH 15TH, 2023

MS TEAMS ETIQUETTE

- Please keep microphones and video **off** to help keep focus on the presentation & presenters
- If general questions come up during the session, please post them in the chat. They will be addressed during or at the end of the session by the presenters.
- This session will be recorded and posted on the website.

BRIEF OVERVIEW



- Naviance
- The Common Application
- Junior Year Timeline
- Senior Year Timeline
- ACT and SAT information
- Financial Aid
- Career Pathways and Workforce Development
- Additional Options Post High School
- Q & A

COLLEGE REFERENCE GUIDE



Arlington Career Center College Reference Guide

Questions to get you started:

Public vs. Private

2 – year vs. 4 – year

Single sex vs. Coed

Size: Small, Medium, or Large

Location: Urban, Suburban, Rural

In-State vs. Out-of-State

Religious? Military? HBCU?

Liberal Arts vs. Comprehensive University

Acceptance Rates

Available Majors

Athletics

Community Service/ Extra Curriculars

Housing

Career Counseling/Job Placement

Diversity/Make up of Student Body

Cost

Counseling/Mental Health Services

Special Programs: Special Education, ROTC

COLLEGE REFERENCE GUIDE

Where can I get information?

ACC College and Career Webpage

Naviance Student-College Tab- find your fit

College Fairs

College Visits to ACC

College Websites

College Admissions Representatives

Parents, Family, Friends

Visiting College Campuses

Make a preliminary list of colleges to research further:

Use SuperMatch or Advanced College Search on Naviance's Student's College Tab

Evaluate each college and narrow you list down to:

2 to 3 Safety Schools (You have a very good chance of getting in & you can afford it)

3 to 4 Good Matches or Target Schools (good matches overall)

2 to 3 Reach Schools (More of a challenge to get into; not a sure thing)

*Use Scattergrams on Naviance Student's College Tab to help with this activity

COLLEGE REFERENCE GUIDE

Get Organized; Establish Deadlines for:

College Entrance Exams (SAT/ACT)

Researching Colleges

Completing Applications

Applying for Scholarships

Requesting Transcripts

Requesting Recommendations

Writing Essays

Applying for Financial Aid

COLLEGE RESEARCH TOOLS



General websites to help with college and career planning:

Naviance - It is important that students know how to navigate this platform. It is what APS counselors use to send supporting documents (Letters of recommendation, transcripts, other school reports.)

Students can access their Naviance accounts through their APS single sign on just as you would when accessing Canvas and Studentvue.

VA Wizard

Big Future – College Board

College Navigator

Virtual and in- person college visits

NAVIANCE STUDENT



Explore Careers and Interests



CAREERS AND CLUSTERS
I'm thinking about

Career Cluster Finder

Do What You Are

Career Interest Profiler

Apply to Colleges



COLLEGES
I'm applying to

Letters of Recommendation

Test scores

Research Colleges



COLLEGES
I'm Thinking About


College Compare

College Resources

COLLEGE RESEARCH-NAVIANCE




Find Your Fit

-  SuperMatch®
- College Match
- Scattergrams
- Advanced College Search
- College Lookup

Show less

Research Colleges

-  COLLEGES
I'm Thinking About
- College Compare
- College Resources
- Acceptance History

NAVIANCE SUPERMATCH- DEMO DEROCCO



SuperMatch College Search

[About SuperMatch](#) 

☰ Choose Fit Criteria

[Location](#)

[Academics](#)

[Admission](#)

[Student Life](#)

[Diversity](#)

[Institution Characteristics](#)

[Cost](#)

[Athletics](#)

[Resources](#)

Your Fit Criteria

Saved Searches [Choose one](#) ▼

[Save Search](#)

[Start Over](#)

3 selected criteria

To refine your results, use the arrows to move your criteria into the "Must Have" and "Nice to Have" boxes.

Must Have

✕ Location [8] →

✕ Master's [Any] →

✕ Test Optional →

Nice to Have

A **Nice to Have** is anything that's important to you, but isn't an absolute must have.

Your Results

Your results include **50 institutions** that are both an [academic match](#)  and also match all the criteria selected above.

COLLEGES I'M THINKING ABOUT

Actions:

 Favorite

Colleges I'm thinking about



Search for colleges


 Add Colleges to List









 Compare Me

 UPDATE INTEREST

 MOVE TO APPLICATION LIST

 REMOVE

 = extended profile available

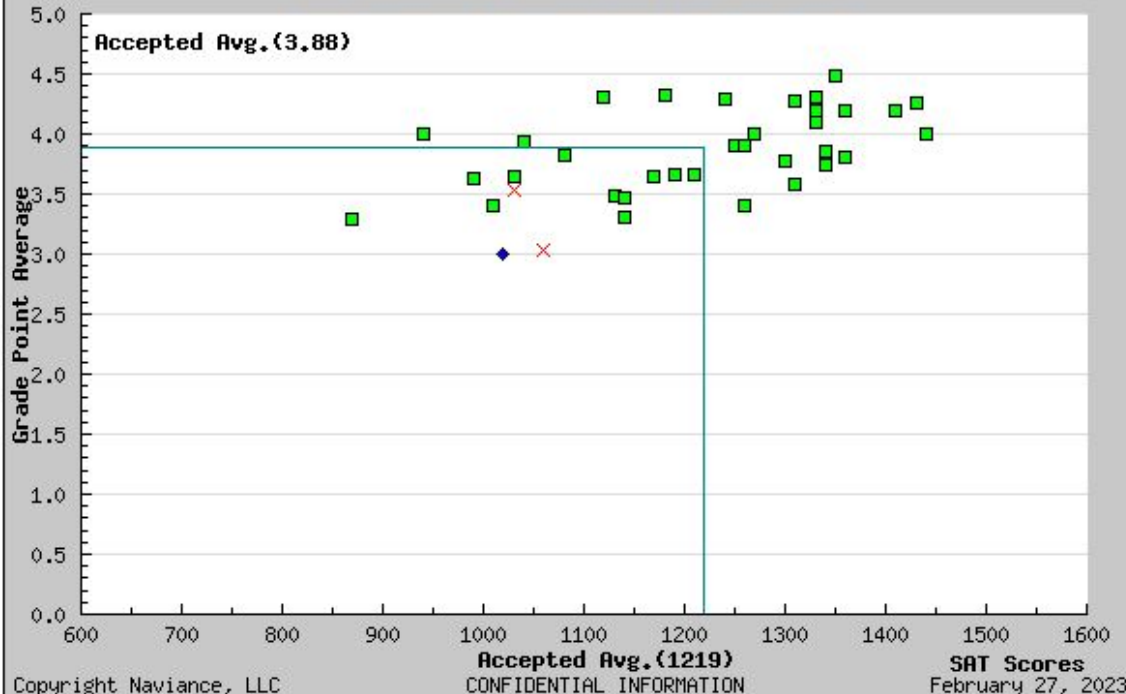
	College	Delivery type 	Added By	Application Deadlines	Interest		
<input type="checkbox"/>	James Madison University		Student	Multiple Deadlines 	N/A		MORE 
<input type="checkbox"/>	Virginia Commonwealth University		Student	Regular Decision January 15	N/A		MORE 

COLLEGES I'M APPLYING TO

Colleges I'm applying to									
Search for colleges									
Compare Me +									
✦ = extended profile available REMOVE									
	College	Type	Deadline		Transcripts	Office materials	Submission Type ⓘ	Application	
<input type="checkbox"/>	George Mason University	RD	Regular Decision	January 15	no request	Pending	CA	Unknown ▾	EDIT MORE ⋮
<input type="checkbox"/>	James Madison University	EA	Early Action	November 1	no request	Pending		Submitted ▾	EDIT MORE ⋮
<input type="checkbox"/>	Virginia Commonwealth University	EDII	Early Decision II	-	no request	Pending	CA	Submitted ▾	EDIT MORE ⋮

SCATTERGRAMS - GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

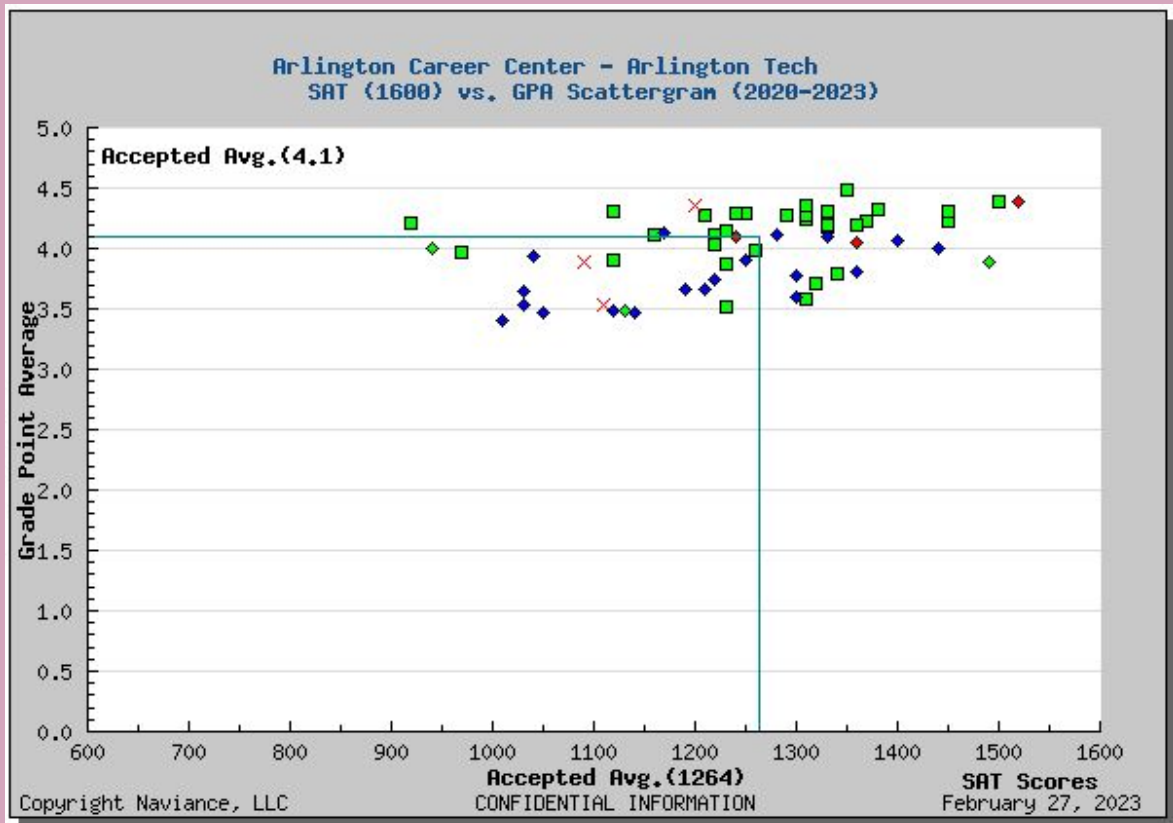
Arlington Career Center - Arlington Tech
SAT (1600) vs. GPA Scattergram (2020-2023)



Graph Legend

- Accepted
- Denied
- Waitlisted or Deferred
- Waitlisted or Deferred (Accepted)
- Waitlisted or Deferred (Denied)

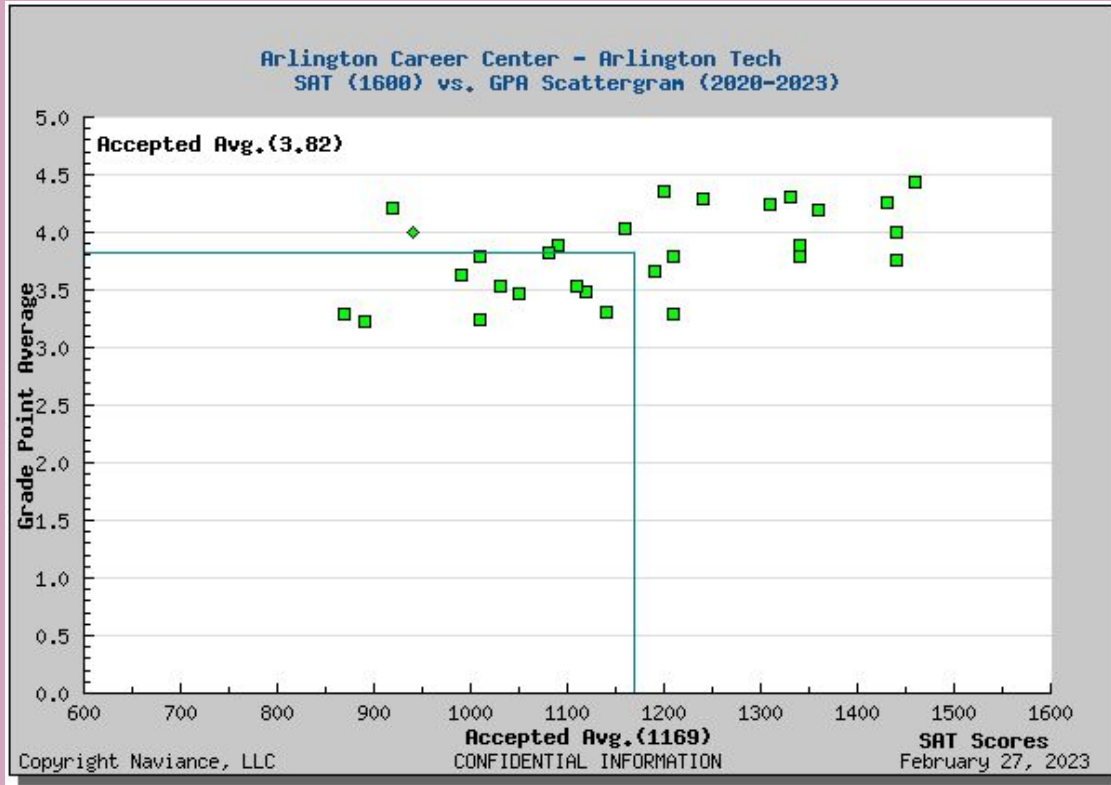
SCATTERGRAMS - VIRGINIA TECH



Graph Legend

- Accepted
- Denied
- Waitlisted or Deferred
- Waitlisted or Deferred (Accepted)
- Waitlisted or Deferred (Denied)

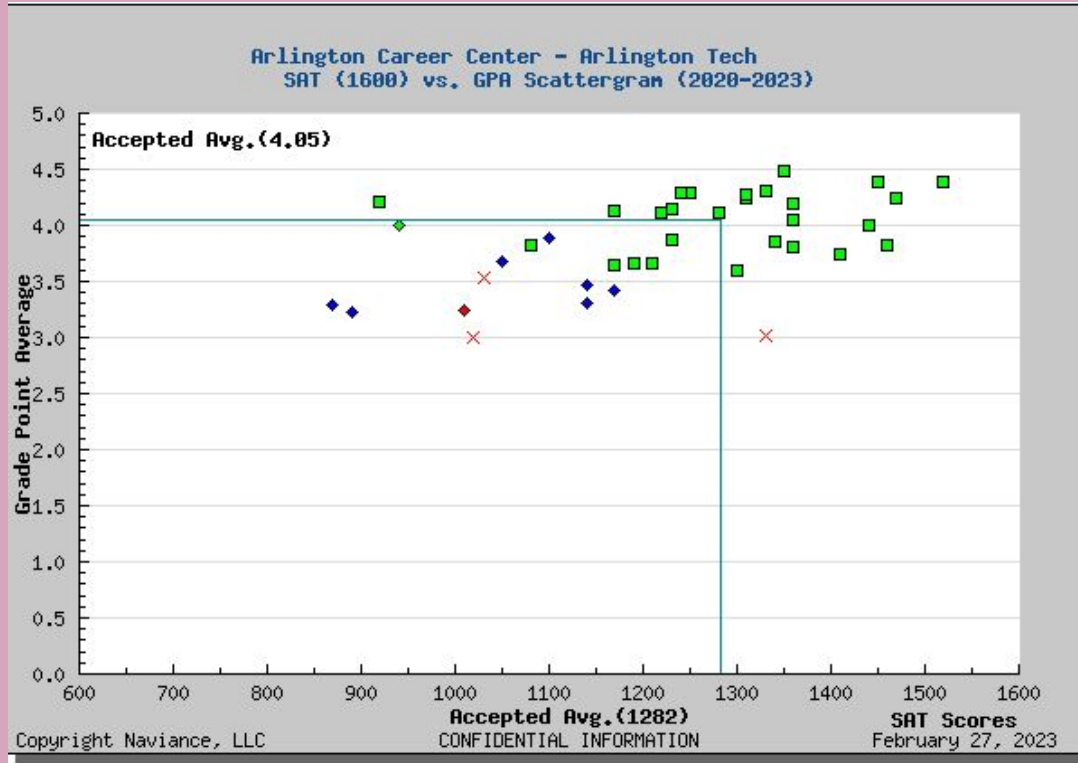
SCATTERGRAMS - VCU



Graph Legend

- Accepted
- Denied
- Waitlisted or Deferred
- Waitlisted or Deferred (Accepted)
- Waitlisted or Deferred (Denied)

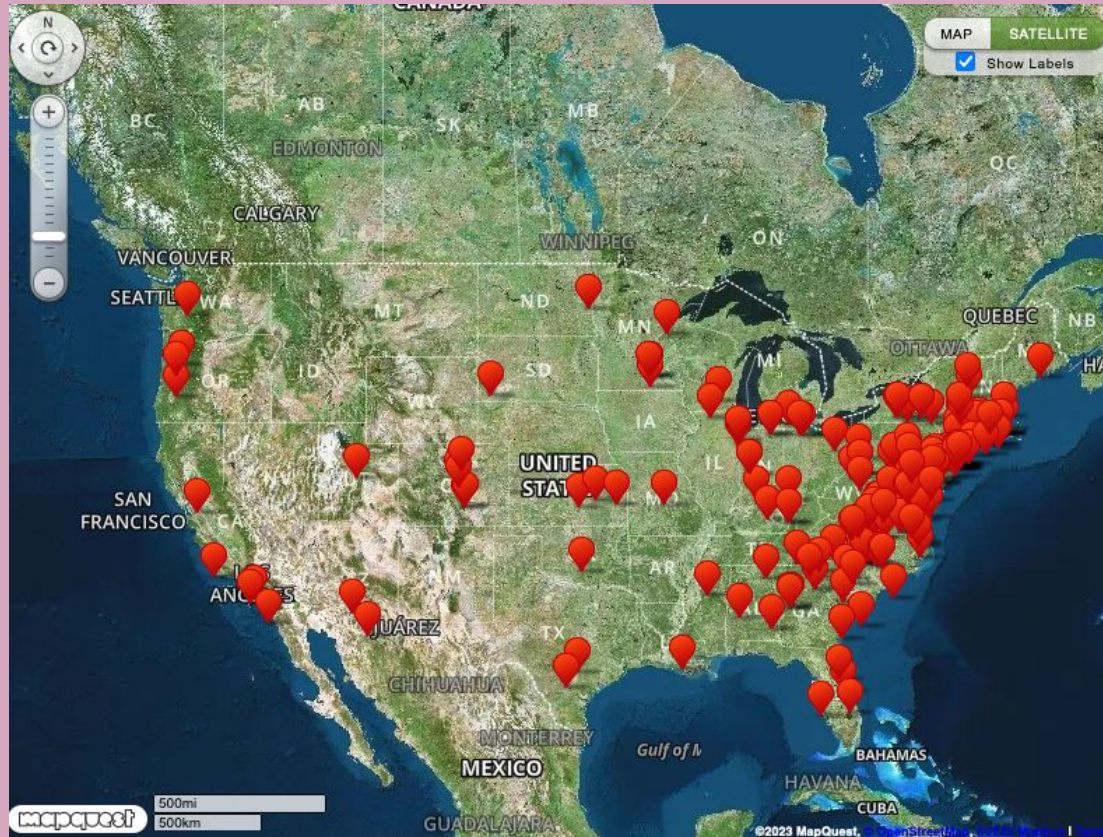
SCATTERGRAMS - VCU



Graph Legend

- Accepted
- Denied
- Waitlisted or Deferred
- Waitlisted or Deferred (Accepted)
- Waitlisted or Deferred (Denied)

COLLEGES THAT ACCEPTED OUR STUDENTS!

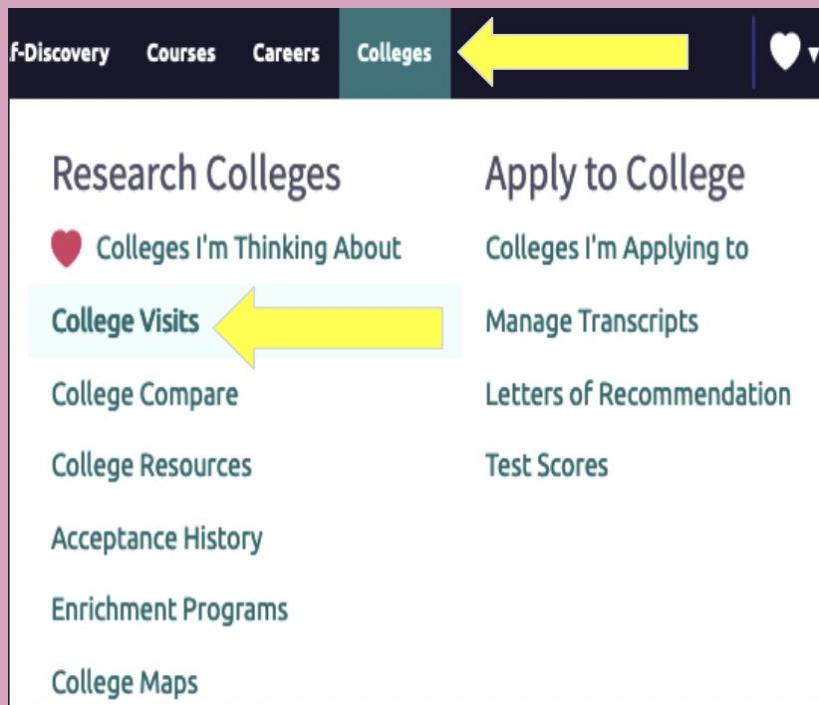


TOP 12 COLLEGES THAT OUR STUDENTS APPLY TO

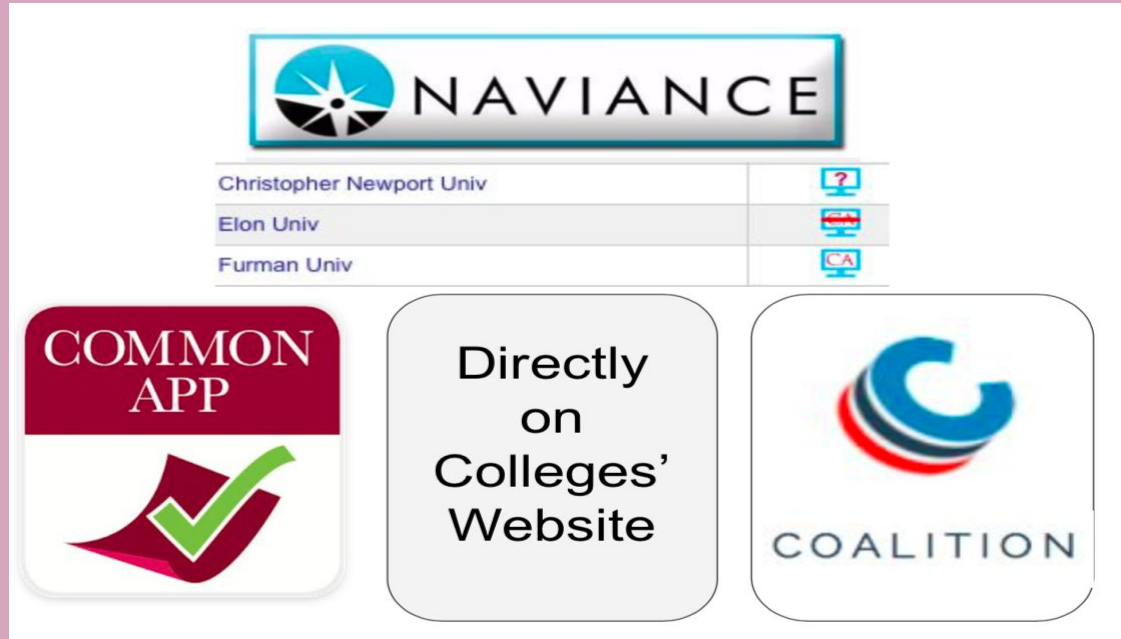


MORE COLLEGE RESEARCH - ACC FALL VISITS ROOM 230!!

* Admission Reps that visit ACC are sometimes the ones reviewing your college applications!!



EVERY SCHOOL THAT YOU APPLY TO MUST BE ADDED TO NAVIANCE




COMMONAPP.ORG

COALITIONFORCOLLEGEACCESS.ORG

COMMON APP HOME PAGE - COMMONAPP.ORG

PRACTICE ACCOUNT



Welcome, Frank!
[Practice Applicant](#) [Practice account FAQs](#)
CAID 27683898
frank.derocco@apsva.us

[Sign Out](#)

Dashboard

My Colleges

Common App

College Search

Financial Aid Resources

Welcome, Frank!


Congratulations on taking this first step in the college application process!

Here are some tips to get you started:

- This tab is your Dashboard. After you add a college to your list, you will see your application progress here.
- All colleges will need you to answer the common questions under your [Common App](#) tab.
- To apply to a college, head over to the [College Search](#) tab.
- Once you have added a college, you can complete and submit your application in the [My Colleges](#) tab.

We are here to help you every step of the way! If you run into any questions or you need some help, check out our 24/7 [Applicant Solutions Center](#) or [contact us](#) at any time.

Need help?



How can I remove a school from my Dashboard?

You can remove a school by clicking the X icon on the school name line on the Dashboard. However, [Read more](#)

How can I add a college to my Dashboard?

You can add a college from the [College Search](#) tab.

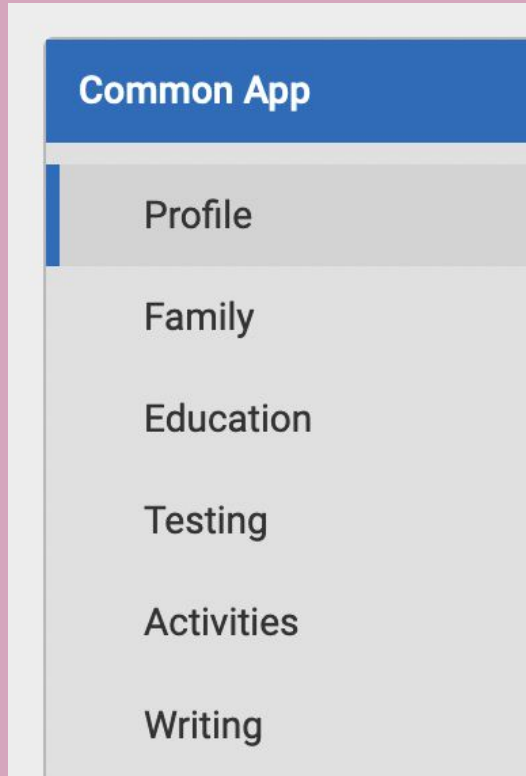
[Read more](#)

How many colleges can I add to my Dashboard?

The Common Application member colleges have stipulated that applicants may add up to 20

[Read more](#)

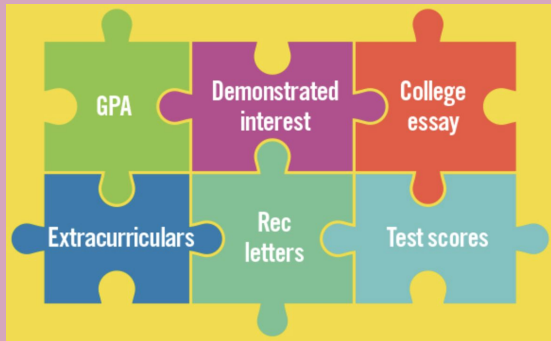
THE COMMON APPLICATION- THE COMMON SIDE



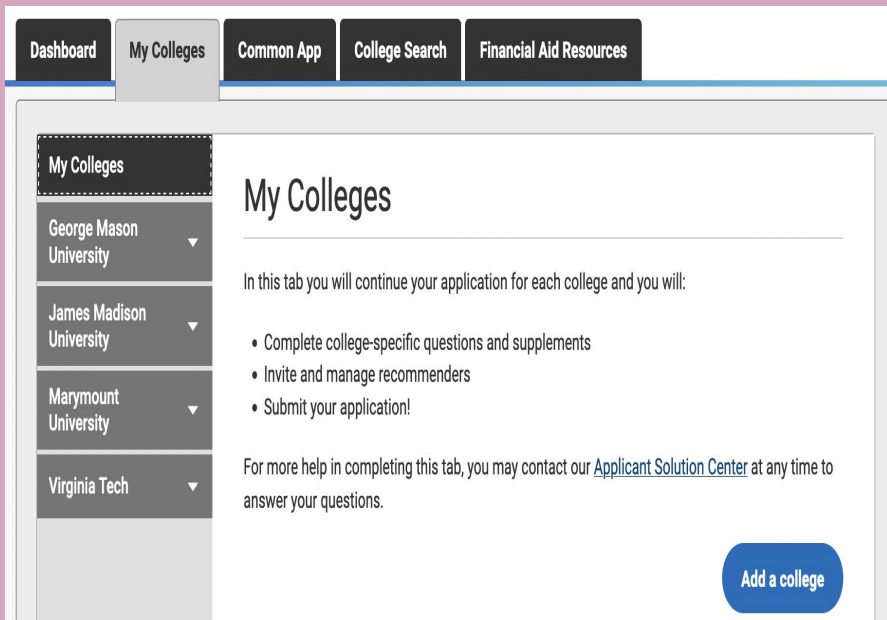
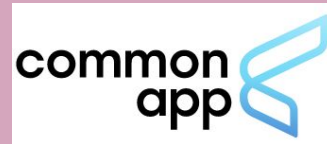
- The Common App has over 1000 member institutions.
- The Common App has 6 different sections.
- Within each section there are subsections.
- You CAN start the Common App at any time and the information will be saved and “rolled over” to next school year on
- 80% of your college application can be started early! 👍

BENEFITS OF SUBMITTING YOUR COLLEGE APPLICATIONS EARLY

- More time to focus on your academics 👍
- Less waiting for a decision
 - Apply early = getting an admissions decision early 👍
- More time for scholarship applications 😁
- More time to evaluate your admission decisions
- Over 80% of our 2023 grads submitted at least one app early!



THE COMMON APP - THE COLLEGE SIDE



- The information added to the college side will not roll over to the next school year. Questions asked by college may change.
- Recommendation: start in the summer or in early fall of senior year. After August 1st
- Students CAN add colleges to the colleges tab.

Outside of your college list, we are unable to rollover anything else in your My Colleges tab. Because of this, we encourage you to not answer college questions unless you plan to apply to college before July 31.

COMMON APP ESSAY PROMPTS - CAN START EARLY!

Minimum 250 words - maximum 650 words. Essays that do not meet the 250 minimum will not be accepted by Common App

Writing

Preview

Personal Essay

Some colleges require submission of the personal essay with your Common App. You may submit a personal essay to any college, even if it is not required by that college. If not required by a college, you will be given the option during submission to include your essay or not for that college.*

☐ I understand

Here is the current list of colleges on your Dashboard and whether they require the Personal Essay.

Required	Not Required
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• George Mason University• James Madison University• Marymount University• Virginia Tech

- ☐ Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
- ☐ The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
- ☐ Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
- ☐ Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?
- ☐ Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
- ☐ Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
- ☒ Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

COLLEGE APPLICATION DEADLINES

EARLY ACTION

- apply early, find out early
- can apply elsewhere
- not binding: can still choose another school
- indicates strong interest

EARLY DECISION

- apply early, find out early
- apply ED to only one school
- binding: obligated to go if admitted & withdraw other applications
- indicates strong interest
- no chance to compare financial aid offers

REGULAR DECISION

- apply by deadline & find out in spring
- deadlines vary
- commit by May 1

ROLLING ADMISSION

- application open until college meets capacity
- apply when you wish, though there may be priority deadlines
- find out in a few weeks

COLLEGE APPLICATION DEADLINES AND DECISION DATES

Applicaton Deadline	Decision Release Date
Early Decision - November	Mid/Late December
Early Action - November/December	February
Regular Decision - January/February	March / April
Rolling Admissions - Ongoing	Depends On Application Date



REQUESTING LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION FROM YOUR TEACHERS- NAVIANCE



Teacher Recommendations

General Rules to follow:

1. We recommend at least 2 letters of rec. One must be from a core teacher.
2. Be prepared to provide recommender a resume or “brag sheet”.
3. Begin thinking about who you will ask for a recommendation during spring of your junior year.
4. Send teacher request during senior year via Naviance.
5. Do not use the Commonapp recommendation feature only use Naviance. You can use Commonapp for outside recommenders only!
6. You will need LOR's for more than just your college applications. You will need LOR's for applying to scholarships.
7. Please request LOR's with plenty of advance notice – know your application deadlines.

REQUESTING LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION FROM YOUR SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Most colleges will require a recommendation from your school counselor. In order for you to get a recommendation from your school counselor you must **ASK** in person and you must fill out a “Brag Sheet” which is a series of open ended questions that allow you to brag about yourself and let your counselor know more about you and your unique situation.

“Brag Sheets” are found in your Naviance account. Upper right hand corner click on the “About Me” tab – from there you will see “surveys from your school.”

COLLEGE & CAREER PLANNING RESOURCES ONLINE

Visit the ACC website to locate more resources, including Naviance.

<https://careercenter.apsva.us/college-career-planning-resources-2/>

ACC Homepage > Counseling > College and Career Counseling

Factors in Admission Decision

	Percentage of Colleges Rating As:			
	Considerably Important	Moderately Important	Limited Importance	Not Important
Grades in All Courses	74.5	15.0	5.5	5.0
Grades in College Prep Courses	73.2	16.8	5.9	4.1
Strength of Curriculum	62.1	21.9	8.7	7.3
Admission Test Scores (SAT, ACT)	45.7	37.1	12.2	5.0
Essay or Writing Sample	23.2	33.2	24.1	19.5
Student's Demonstrated Interest	16.1	23.9	28.0	32.1
Counselor Recommendation	15.1	40.4	26.6	17.9
Teacher Recommendation	14.2	40.2	26.5	19.2
Class Rank	9.1	29.1	34.1	27.7
Extracurricular Activities	6.4	42.9	32.0	18.7
Portfolio	6.4	11.9	26.9	54.8
Subject Test Scores (AP, IB)	5.5	18.3	35.2	41.1
Interview	5.5	16.4	28.3	49.8
Work	4.1	28.6	36.9	30.4
State Graduation Exam Scores	2.3	8.7	18.8	70.2
SAT II Scores	1.9	5.6	14.8	77.8

APPLYING TO NVCC

If you are already a Dual Enrollment student, then you are already a NOVA student, and you don't need to apply again! If you need help with your NOVA student ID # please let us know.

Contact Ms. Amanda Wilder awilder@nvcc.edu or visit NOVA on campus to get set up for the Fall 2022. Ms. Wilder is our ACC NVCC admissions counselor.

3/22 - room 230 - 1:30pm NVCC College Application Day!!



Monthly NVCC Workshop Schedule
All Sessions Will Be In Room 230 During 5th Period with Ms. Wilder, NOVA Admissions

1/11 - General NOVA Information

2/09 - Paying For College: FAFSA/VASA, Grants, Loans, Scholarships

3/22 - NOVA Application Day

4/19 - Holds, To-Do List, Tuition Rates, Finding Your Program, Search For Classes

5/17 - NOVA Resources (Advising, Academic Success, Student Life, Accommodations)

Link for students to make appointments virtually or in person on NOVA campus:

<https://nova-wilder.appointlet.com>

APPLYING TO NVCC

- If you have not taken a Dual Enrollment class - Apply to NOVA
 - Pathways to 4-year Schools
 - Guaranteed admission contracts to 4-year Universities
 - <https://www.nvcc.edu/gaa/>
 - Associate's Degrees
 - Non-Degree Seeking Options
 - Career Certificates - Be Workforce Ready!
- You can select NOVA on your Naviance Account
- Apply to NOVA online at: <https://www.nvcc.edu/admissions/apply/index.html>
- Contact Ms. Wilder awilder@nvcc.edu or our in-house NVCC contact Ms. Deirdre Magro dmagro@nvcc.edu to get assistance.



NVCC CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS



EARN A CERTIFICATE

In some cases, a certificate might be a simpler way to hone your skillset. Choose from these certificate programs:

Certificate

- [Accounting: Bookkeeping, Certificate](#)
- [Administration of Justice, Certificate](#)
- [Air Conditioning and Refrigeration, Certificate](#)
- [Architectural Drafting, Certificate](#)
- [Contract Management, Certificate](#)
- [Dental Assisting, Certificate](#)
- [Early Childhood Development, Certificate](#)
- [General Education, Certificate](#)
- [Graphic Design: Multimedia Design, Certificate](#)
- [Hospitality Management: Culinary Arts, Certificate](#)
- [Hospitality Management: Meeting, Event, and Exhibition Management, Certificate](#)
- [Music Recording Technology, Certificate](#)
- [Professional Writing, Certificate](#)
- [Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Counselor, Certificate](#)



What is ADVANCE?

ADVANCE is an exciting partnership between Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) and **George Mason University** (Mason) that gives NOVA students targeted, personalized support to complete their bachelor's degrees in a timely manner and save money.



Benefits of Advance

- **Major Cost Savings!** Completing your associates degree at NOVA before transferring to Mason will save you tuition costs.
- **Make every Credit Count.** Specialized, aligned curriculum from NOVA to Mason ensures all credits transfer toward your selected degree program.
- **Dedicated Success Coaches.** Success coaches provide you with continuous support and guidance, from your enrollment at NOVA to your graduation from Mason.
- **ADVANCE = Access.** You will be eligible to access recreational facilities, sporting and cultural events at NOVA and Mason.
- **No Additional Application.** Earn your associate degree at NOVA and then seamlessly transition to earn your bachelor's degree at Mason with no additional application required.
- **Co-Enrollment.** You are eligible to take select classes at Mason while you are enrolled at NOVA.
- **ADVANCE Your Career.** Enjoy special internship and co-curricular experiences that will prepare you for career success.



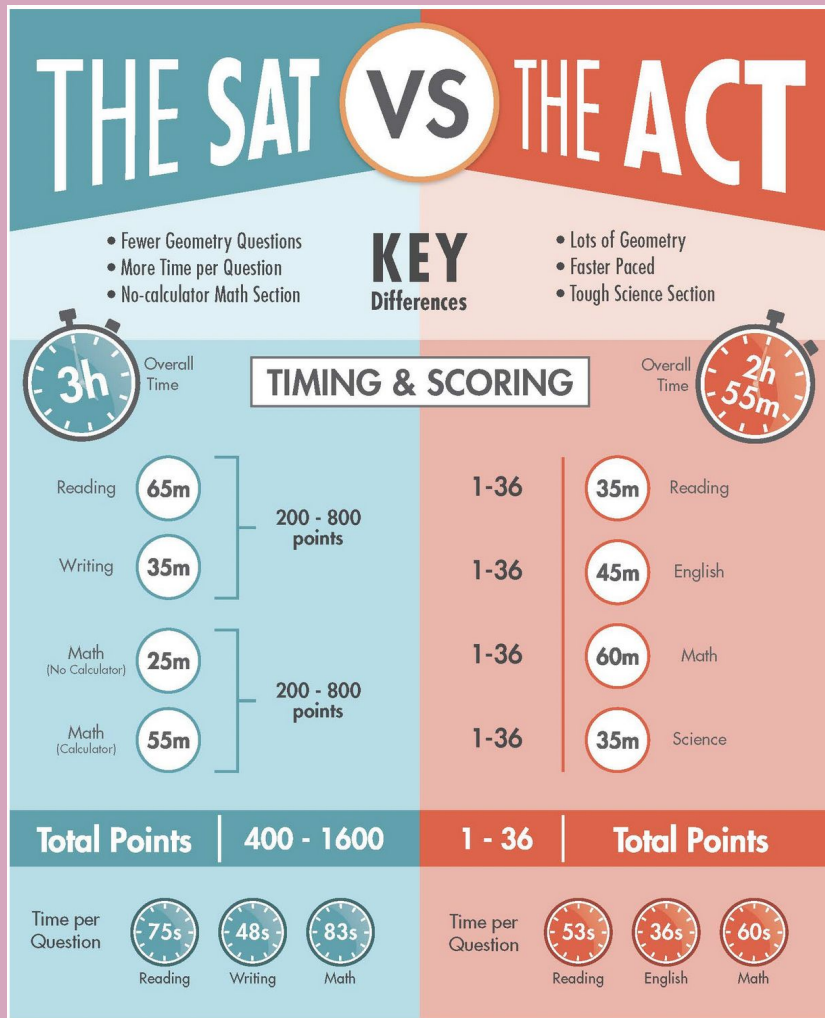
Contact ADVANCE

Prospective Students

Prospective Students that have not submitted an ADVANCE Agreement.

Email: advance@gmu.edu





<https://www.khanacademy.org/sat>

Personalized to your child

With Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy, your child will:

- get a personalized plan tailored to their strengths and weaknesses based on their previous PSAT/NMSQT® or SAT results or our diagnostics;
- hone their skills with thousands of practice questions, hints, and video lessons;
- take up to eight official full-length practice tests [online](#) or on [paper](#);
- receive instant feedback and adaptive recommendations for what to practice;
- set a personalized practice schedule to get reminders for when to practice; and
- review [expert tips and strategies](#) for the test.

Check out our [overview of Official SAT Practice video](#) to get a sense of the student experience.



SAT VS. ACT



WHICH TEST SHOULD I TAKE??

Here is a very informative presentation from

[UVA Club of Washington DC: SAT, ACT, or Skip It? with Ann Dolin](#)

This video along with additional SAT / ACT information on our [ACC website](#)

2023 TESTING DATES - SAT AND ACT

The dates in the table below are based on the College Board's schedule of anticipated 2022-2023 SAT test dates but may be subject to change. You can find the most current information about SAT test dates 2022-2023 [on the College Board website](#).

Test Date	Normal Registration	Late Registration	Score Release
Aug 27, 2022	Jul 30, 2022	Aug 13, 2022	Sep 9, 2022
Oct 1, 2022	Sep 3, 2022	Sep 17, 2022	Oct 14, 2022
Nov 5, 2022	Oct 8, 2022	Oct 22, 2022	Nov 18, 2022
Dec 3, 2022	Nov 5, 2022	Nov 19, 2022	Dec 16, 2022
Mar 11, 2023	Feb 11, 2023	Feb 25, 2023	Mar 24, 2023
May 6, 2023	Apr 8, 2023	Apr 22, 2023	May 19, 2023
Jun 3, 2023	May 6, 2023	May 20, 2023	Jun 16, 2023

2022-2023 Test Dates (National)

Test Date	Regular Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline Late Fee Applies
September 10, 2022	August 5	August 19
October 22, 2022	September 16	September 30
December 10, 2022	November 4	November 15
February 11, 2023	January 6	January 20
April 15, 2023	March 10	March 24
June 10, 2023	May 5	May 19
July 15, 2023*	June 16	June 23

FEE WAIVERS AVAILABLE!

Arlington Career Center – school/CEEB code: 470073

Standardized Testing

- ▶ 40% of applicants reported a test score in an application for the 2020-21 season.
 - This rate fell from 73% in 2019-20 and 70% in 2018-19



Test-Optional Admission

See What Schools are Test Optional:
<http://www.fairtest.org/university/optional>

TEST OPTIONAL STATEMENTS



We've extended our current test-optional practice for two years. If you're applying for admission for Fall 2024 or Fall 2025, you'll have the choice of sharing or not sharing results from the SAT and ACT. Whichever path you choose, we'll consider your application with care and respect, and you won't be disadvantaged because of the choice you've made.



JMU no longer requires SAT/ACT scores. If you choose to submit a test score, your official test results must be sent to us electronically from the testing agency and arrive by the application deadline. If you do not submit test scores, you will not be penalized in the application, scholarship or Honors College review processes.

ACT or SAT: **Virginia Tech is test-optional for students entering through Fall 2025.** On the application for admission, you will be able to select whether or not you would like your scores to be reviewed as part of your application. We do not look at the Writing section of either test.



An SAT or ACT is completely optional. (The test can be reported directly from the testing agency or self-reported on application. All enrolling students may submit an official SAT or ACT score report.) Note: 34% of the Class of 2026 applied test-optional.



JUNIOR YEAR IN REVIEW



College Planning: 11th Grade

Junior year marks a turning point. This is because for most students and families, it's when college planning activities kick into high gear. Here are some things you can do this year to stay on track for college.

FALL

- ☐ **Start with you:** Make lists of your abilities, social/cultural preferences, and personal qualities. List things you may want to study and do in college.
- ☐ **Learn about colleges.** Look at their websites and find colleges at bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search. Talk to friends, family members, teachers, and recent grads of your school now in college. List the college features that interest you.
- ☐ **Resource check:** Visit the counseling office and meet the counselors there. Is there a college night for students and families? When will college representatives visit your school? (Put the dates in your calendar.) Examine catalogs and guides.
- ☐ **At school, speak to your counselor about taking the PSAT/NMSQT**, which is given in October. If you plan to ask for testing accommodations (because of a disability), be sure the College Board has approved your eligibility.
- ☐ **Make a file to manage your college search, testing, and application data.** If appropriate (for example, if you're interested in drama, music, art, sports, etc.), start to gather material for a portfolio.
- ☐ **Estimate your financial aid need.** Financial aid can help you afford college. Use the College Board's *Getting Financial Aid* and the financial aid calculator at bigfuture.org to estimate how much aid you might receive.

WINTER

- ☐ **Sign up to take the SAT[®] in the spring.** You can register online or through your school. SAT fee waivers are available to eligible students. To prepare for the SAT, you can access free, personalized SAT practice tools at satpractice.org, including thousands of interactive questions, video lessons, practice tests, and more.
- ☐ **Begin a search for financial aid sources.** National sources include the College Board's Scholarship Search and electronic sources. Don't overlook local and state aid sources. (Ask a counselor for help or check your public library.)
- ☐ **With your family, make an appointment with your counselor** to discuss ways to improve your college-preparation and selection processes.
- ☐ **Ask a counselor or teacher about taking the SAT Subject Tests[™] in the spring.** You should take them while course material is still fresh in your mind. You can download *The SAT Subject Tests Student Guide*, which offers test-prep advice, from SATSubjectTests.org.
- ☐ **Explore AP[®].** The Advanced Placement[®] Program helps hundreds of thousands of high school students achieve their college dreams each year. Get the facts at apstudent.collegeboard.org/exploreap. If you're in AP classes, register for the AP Exams given in May.
- ☐ **Opt in to the College Board Opportunity Scholarships at cb.org/opportunity.** You can earn scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$2,000 by completing individual college planning steps. Complete all six steps and you'll be eligible for the \$40,000 scholarship.

SPRING

- ☐ **Contact your counselor** before leaving school for the summer if you are considering military academies or ROTC scholarships. If you want a four-year ROTC scholarship, you should begin the application process the summer before your senior year.
- ☐ **Develop a list of 15 or 20 colleges that are of interest to you.** You can find many colleges at which you'll be happy and get a great education. The college search is about exploring who you are and what you want and then finding colleges that will meet your goals.
- ☐ **Stay open to all the possibilities—don't limit your search.** To find the best college for you, you should apply to colleges of varying selectivity. Selective colleges admit a portion of students who apply. Some colleges are highly selective while others are less selective. Make sure to apply to public, private, in-state, and out-of-state schools so that you have plenty of options from which to choose.
- ☐ **Take the SAT.** The test is typically offered in March, May, and June. Make sure you start preparing for the test several months in advance using the tools available at satpractice.org. And remember, if you're not happy with your scores when you get them, you might want to test again in the fall. Many students take the test a second time as seniors, and they usually do better.
- ☐ **Start to gather documents for financial aid:** Be sure to keep a copy of your tax returns handy. You'll use these to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which opens on Oct. 1.

SUMMER

- ☐ **Register with the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Eligibility Center** if you are an athlete planning to continue playing a sport in college (ncaaclearinghouse.net).
- ☐ **Get your FSA ID:** Before you can fill out your FAFSA, you need to get a username and password (also known as an FSA ID).
- ☐ **Find a full-time or part-time job,** or participate in a summer camp or summer college program.
- ☐ **Visit colleges.** When planning your campus visits, make sure to allow time to explore each college. While you're there, talk to as many people as possible. These can include college admission staff, professors, and students. Take campus tours and, at colleges you're serious about, make appointments to have interviews with admission counselors.
- ☐ **Create a résumé—a record of your academic accomplishments, extracurricular activities, and work experiences since you started high school.**
- ☐ **Download applications.** Go to the website of each college's admission office and either complete the application online or request a paper application from colleges to which you'll apply. Check application dates—large universities may have early dates or rolling admission.
- ☐ **Visit some local colleges—large, small, public, and private.** A visit to a college campus can help you decide if that college is right for you. Make a plan ahead of time to get the most from your visit. Check out the campus checklist at bigfuture.org. Attend college fairs, too.
- ☐ **Scan local newspapers** to see which civic, cultural, and service organizations in your area award financial aid to graduating seniors. Start a file.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM- GET INVOLVED!



~Academics are only part of the equation~

- Create a resume or brag sheet and document the following:
 - Volunteer and work experience
 - Extracurricular awards and recognitions
 - Summer programs, camps and internships
 - Activities or memberships in clubs
 - Athletics (school and community)
 - Outside organizations or church groups
 - Leadership positions





SENIOR YEAR!



College Application Timeline

Want to know if you're on track in the college application process? This timeline shows you what you should be doing, and when.

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER—PREPARE

- ☐ **Sign up for updates at bigfuture.org** and opt in to the College Board Opportunity Scholarships at cb.org/opportunity if you haven't already.
- ☐ **Talk to your school counselor or adviser** about the college search and application process.
- ☐ **College requirements:** Make a list of the application, testing, and financial aid requirements for each college.
- ☐ **Letters of recommendation:** Decide who to ask, and reach out to them early so they have time to write good letters. If you have a résumé or list of accomplishments, be sure to send it to them.
- ☐ **Application essays:** Look over essays you have already written for inspiration. Share your ideas with parents, teachers, or other trusted adults so they can help you craft the strongest essays possible.
- ☐ **Register for the SAT:** If you haven't taken it yet, or would like to take it again, it's not too late! Sign up now, and be sure to send score reports to colleges.
- ☐ **Practice and improve your SAT score:** When you practice for the SAT for 12 hours using Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy and improve your score by 100+ points, you could be eligible for a College Board Opportunity Scholarship. Visit cb.org/opportunity.
- ☐ **Opt in to Student Search Service®:** More than 1,100 colleges use this service and are looking for students like you.
- ☐ **Complete the FAFSA, which opens October 1:** It's necessary if you're applying for federal and state grants and loans. Funds are limited, so make sure to file by the financial aid priority filing dates. You could also earn a chance at a College Board Opportunity Scholarship.
- ☐ **Reminder:** Enter the Complete the FAFSA scholarship at cb.org/opportunity.
- ☐ **Complete the CSS Profile™, which also opens October 1:** Certain colleges use it to see if you qualify for additional grants and scholarships. (There's a fee for application.)

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER—APPLY TO COLLEGES

- ☐ **Work on your applications:** Some have deadlines as early as November.
- ☐ **Send your SAT and AP® scores:** This ensures that colleges have the most complete set of your information to review for admission, as well as scholarship awards, course placement, or selection to a specific program or major.
- ☐ **Consider college application services:** Application systems like the Coalition Application, Common Application, and Universal College Application let you complete one application online and submit it to several colleges.
- ☐ **Apply to college:** Submit your applications to colleges you're interested in attending, and you could earn a chance at a College Board Opportunity Scholarship. Visit cb.org/opportunity.
- ☐ **Send transcripts:** Ask for your transcripts to be sent to your chosen colleges.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY—EXPLORE FINANCIAL AID OPTIONS

- ☐ **Compare award letters:** After examining the financial aid packages you're offered, you'll see that schools may be more affordable than you thought.
- ☐ **Search for scholarships:** Scholarships provide money for college that you don't need to repay. And they're not just for academic superstars.

MARCH/APRIL—DECIDE!

- ☐ **Get information:** Dig a little deeper to help you make the best choice. Ask questions. Create a list of any questions you still have about the colleges you're considering.
- ☐ **Review acceptance letters:** Go over all offers of admission, consider the pros and cons of each school, and pick the college that's the best fit for you.

Visit bigfuture.org for more information.



/MyBigFuture



@MyBigFuture



@collegeboard

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR JUNIORS

College Board Opportunity Scholarships

- Juniors who complete the first two steps of the College Board Opportunity Scholarships are eligible for the \$500 Build Your College List and \$1,000 Practice for the SAT scholarships.
Instructions for how to Register: [here](#)
- Drawing happen monthly
- [FastWeb](#) Scholarship Search
- Raise.me/
- QUESTBRIDGE



FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS-SENIOR YEAR

- FAFSA Opens October 1
 - <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa>
 - [FAFSA Process Overview](#)
 - You may be eligible for federal and/or state aid
 - Pell Grant, Work Study, Loans
- Apply for scholarships!
 - Get from school, community organizations
 - Websites, applications, etc.
 - APS Scholarship List on Naviance
 - CHECK NAVIANCE MESSAGES FROM MR. DEROCCO



SCHOLARSHIPS AND RESOURCES FOR DACA/DREAMERS/UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

www.thedream.us

www.esperanzafund.org/

www.maldef.org/resources/scholarship-resources/

www.dreamproject-va.org

<https://mydocumentedlife.org/>

<https://lulac.org/programs/education/scholarships/>

Work with your counselor & consider applying to the Dream Project Mentoring Program.

<https://careercenter.apsva.us/first-generation-college-students/>



VIRGINIA ALTERNATIVE STATE AID

WHICH APPLICATION SHOULD YOU COMPLETE?

File the FAFSA

OR

File the VASA Application

Who should file the FAFSA and why?

United States citizens and [eligible noncitizens](#) can complete this form to apply for federal and state financial aid.

Only the FAFSA gives you access to federal grants and federal student loans. The FAFSA also provides access to state financial aid.

For more information about the FAFSA, federal student aid eligibility requirements and more, [click this link](#).

Who should file the VASA Application

and why? Virginians who are nonimmigrants, undocumented, have Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status or are otherwise ineligible to file the FAFSA and would like to be considered for state financial aid.

The VASA application provides access only to state and to some institutional financial aid programs. **The VASA application does not provide access to federal student aid.**

WORKFORCE/APPRENTICESHIPS



Arlington Employment Center provides assistance in finding a job such as providing support to write a resume, practice interviewing skills and acquiring the skills needed to obtain a certain job.

Apprenticeships are job-training programs which incorporate both hands-on training and education of the theory.

Apprenticeships can be accessed through the Department of Labor, possibly CTE courses, adult education, or through career training.

INDUSTRY CERTIFICATIONS



NOVA Workforce Programs – Offers continuing education and training for today's workforce. Learn new, in-demand skills and prepare for industry credentials to advance your career.

APS Has Partnered With Alexandria's Workforce Development Center – job-training programs which incorporate both hands-on training and industry certifications.

ACC CTE Courses!! – Earn Certifications in: Cyber Security, Auto Tech, Web Design, Adobe, Engineering, Private Pilot License – any many more!

MILITARY



- ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery)
- Occupational Outlook Handbook-Military Careers
- Army
- Air Force
- National Guard
- Navy
- Coast Guard
- Marines

<https://careercenter.apsva.us/military-career-information/>

MILITARY RECRUITER CONTACT INFORMATION

- Please contact Mr. DeRocco for a complete list of military recruiter contact information.
- ACC also has an award winning Space Force JROTC program. Any students interested in learning more about our JROTC program you can reach out to Colonel Dierlam.



GAP YEAR



A term to describe taking time off between the end of high school and the beginning of college/work.

- It is important to clearly define what a gap year would look like.
- Options could include: Volunteer Service, Employment, Working on a special project, & working with or without a formal program
- Be productive

<https://careercenter.apsva.us/gap-year-resources/>



Monthly NVCC Workshop Schedule
All Sessions Will Be In Room 230 During 5th
Period with Ms. Wilder, NOVA Admissions

1/11 - General NOVA Information

**2/09 - Paying For College: FAFSA/VASA, Grants,
Loans, Scholarships**

3/22 - NOVA Application Day

**4/19 - Holds, To-Do List, Tuition Rates, Finding
Your Program, Search For Classes**

**5/17 - NOVA Resources (Advising, Academic
Success, Student Life, Accommodations)**

**Link for students to make appointments
virtually or in person on NOVA campus:**
<https://nova-wilder.appointlet.com>

MEET EMPLOYERS

EARN MONEY

TEEN JOB FAIR



TO REGISTER AND ATTEND: SCAN QR CODE OR VISIT

[HTTPS://ARLTEENJOBFAIR23.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://arlteenjobfair23.eventbrite.com)

**THOMAS JEFFERSON
COMMUNITY CENTER**

3501 S 2ND ST, ARLINGTON, VA 22204

SAT, APRIL 22ND
10 AM-1 PM

COLLEGE APPLICATION WORKSHOPS!

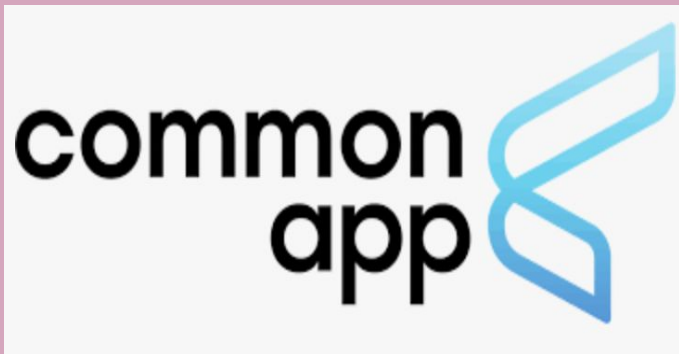


When?: (Almost) Every Thursday during Archers



Room 230

Topics Discussed: College Research, Application Process, Letters of Recommendation, Transcripts, and More!



GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

INVITES YOU TO

NVRCF

Northern Virginia Regional College Fair

Tuesday, April 4, 2023 | 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. | Fairfax, VA



**MORE THAN 200 COLLEGES &
UNIVERSITIES**



**COLLEGE PLANNING
ORGANIZATIONS**



QUESTIONS? THANK YOU!!

