

## More Resources

The College Board (official SAT site)  
[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

American College Test  
[www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

The Princeton Review  
[www.theprincetonreview.com](http://www.theprincetonreview.com)

Free Application for Federal Student Aid  
[www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov)



300 Water Street, Suite 300  
Baltimore, MD 21202  
Tel. 410.783.2905  
Fax. 410.727.5786

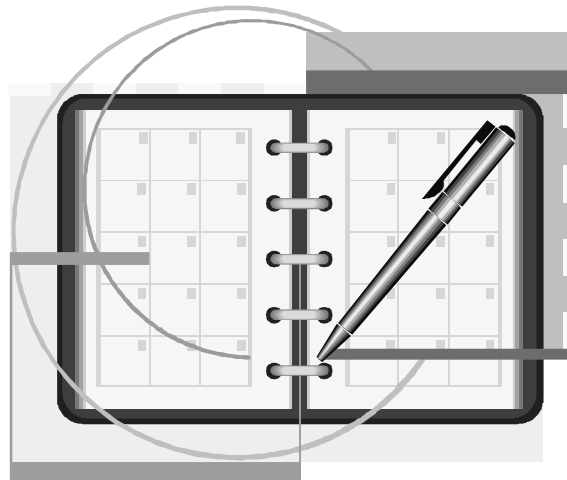
[www.collegeboundfoundation.org](http://www.collegeboundfoundation.org)  
Dr. Craig E. Spilman, Executive Director



**CollegeBound Foundation**

*Building the Pipeline from High School to College to Work*

# College Tips for Juniors



*Go to college. We'll show you how.*

## Junior Year Questions

- ⇒ What are your hobbies?
- ⇒ What occupations would you like to explore?
- ⇒ What subjects do you enjoy the most?
- ⇒ In what subjects do you excel?
- ⇒ How do you feel about working with people?
- ⇒ Can you see yourself working with machines?
- ⇒ Are you good with your hands?
- ⇒ What age groups do you prefer?
- ⇒ Have you taken the SAT or ACT? Do you have plans to take a prep course or re-take the tests?
- ⇒ Did you know that you can receive fee waivers for the SAT and ACT tests?
- ⇒ Have you done research on majors and careers of interest?
- ⇒ At what kind of school will you be most comfortable? Big or small? Public or private? In-state or out-of-state? Rural or city? Religiously affiliated?
- ⇒ Are you considering community college?
- ⇒ Are you maintaining good grades?
- ⇒ Who will you ask for recommendations?
- ⇒ Have you researched financial aid options and scholarships? Will you take out student loans?
- ⇒ Have you created a list of schools you would like to visit? When will you visit these schools and who will go with you?
- ⇒ Have you used the school library and the public library to read as much as you can about your options?

## 10 Fastest Growing Careers

1. Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses, and Nursing Aides
2. Pre-K through 12 Teachers
3. Computer Software Engineers, Systems Analysts, and Support Specialists
4. Postsecondary Teachers
5. Accountants and Auditors
6. Automotive Technicians
7. Lawyers
8. Doctors and Surgeons
9. Network Systems Analysts and Administrators
10. Financial Services Agents (i.e. Stockbrokers)

Source: The College Board, [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

## Top 10 Majors

1. Business Administration
2. Psychology
3. Nursing
4. Biology
5. Education
6. English Language & Literature
7. Economics
8. Communications
9. Political Science & Government
10. Computer & Information Sciences

Source: The Princeton Review, [www.princetonreview.com](http://www.princetonreview.com)

## Making the Best Choice

Different things are important to different people. This is particularly true of high school students trying to decide which colleges to apply to, let alone the final decision of which school to attend. You can make your decision based on:

- ◆ location
- ◆ admissions policies
- ◆ size
- ◆ religious affiliation
- ◆ cost
- ◆ racial make up

College will be your five years, so it is very important that you find a place where you will feel the most comfortable!

So where do you start?

- ◆ Location can be one of the best places to start, but don't choose a geographical region that may include a couple of states. Did you know that there are 15 colleges in the Baltimore area and 55 in Maryland?
- ◆ It may make sense to look at majors that you might be interested in – it is a waste of time for you to consider colleges that do not offer your major.
- ◆ Consider size next. Larger schools tend to have larger class sizes. It is not unusual to have over 300 people in some courses at larger schools (for example, University of Maryland College Park).
- ◆ Historically black colleges are of interest to many students. This is an entirely personal decision, but one that students should discuss with parents, CollegeBound Specialists, admissions representatives and friends. Understand the benefits and drawbacks of a historically black college versus a predominately white college.
- ◆ Most importantly, you should visit the campus to get a feel for the school and make your final decision much easier.

## The SAT or ACT?

If you plan to apply to college during the fall of your senior year, you need to take the SAT or ACT. How do you know if you should take them? How do you know which one to take?

Four-year colleges require you to take one of these tests. Generally, two-year colleges do not require the SAT or ACT. However, many community colleges will use SAT/ACT scores for placement in lieu of their own tests.

The ACT

- ◆ Includes four timed tests: English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science Reasoning.
- ◆ Students receive scores ranging from 1 (low) to 36 (high).
- ◆ Popular in the Midwest and on the west coast, but becoming more popular on the east coast.
- ◆ Colleges find it gives a more accurate prediction of college success, so its popularity is growing in Maryland as well as other colleges in the region.
- ◆ Most Maryland colleges expect students to score at least an 18 on the ACT.

The SAT

- ◆ Distributed by the College Board Admissions Testing Program.
- ◆ A 3 hour, 45 minute multiple choice test with three sections: Critical Reading, Math and Writing.
- ◆ The maximum score per section is 800, for a total of 2400.
- ◆ The Maryland average score is about 550 for each section. The closer you are to this average score, the better your chance of getting accepted into college.
- ◆ Most Maryland colleges expect students to score at least 1200 combined on the SAT.

## Paying for College

Parents and students often have the same concern about attending college – the cost.

- ◆ Where will I get the money to pay for college?
- ◆ When do I apply for financial aid?
- ◆ Are there any guarantees that I will get enough financial aid to pay for college?

The *first* thing you must do to get financial aid is *get accepted to college!* You will apply to college in the fall and immediately start collecting income tax information for the year. You want to encourage your parents to get their taxes done early.

Right after winter break, your CollegeBound Specialist receives the financial aid forms. Most schools have *at least* one financial aid night when a financial aid officer from one of the local colleges comes to help you fill out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) - keep your eyes and ears open for these dates.

Your CollegeBound Specialist has been trained to help you fill out the forms and answer any questions that you may have. He/she may be able to help you get in touch with the Financial Aid Director at your college of choice.

**REMEMBER:** It is important that the FAFSA is filled out as soon as possible after January 1<sup>st</sup> but before March 1<sup>st</sup>. Students who mail information on time are given priority when the college makes its financial aid award decisions. Make sure to read the college information carefully because many colleges have deadlines *before* March 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Ready, Set, GO!

Use these tips to get a head start on making plans for college:

- ◆ Talk to your CollegeBound Specialist, Guidance Counselor or Commonwealth employment coordinator before the end of the school year.
- ◆ Visit colleges this summer if possible. It can be an inexpensive family trip.
- ◆ Write to colleges and request applications and catalogues. All the public libraries have a college section.
- ◆ Be a volunteer. Community service is very important to colleges and scholarship committees now and the summertime is a great time to work in a hospital, recreation center, or nursing home.
- ◆ Be prepared to do a lot of follow up. There are going to be deadlines and forms to fill out and you are responsible for getting things in on time!

