



# AURORA CHRISTIAN

RELATIONSHIP. EDUCATION. SERVICE

## PARENT COLLEGE INFO NIGHT

College & Career Guidance Office | Parent Connect

# ACS COLLEGE AND CAREER DEPT



**Mrs. Beck** English Dept. Chair, College and Career Guidance Counselor  
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\*\*\*Oversees all high school students' guidance process, but works MOST directly with seniors.



**Miss Sanders**  
MS/HS Tech, Yearbook  
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\*\*\*Works with students in Career Readiness, and introduces Naviance to the underclassmen



**Mrs. Henning**  
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\*\*\*Works remotely from Arizona, 3 days a week. Please reach out to Mrs. Beck first for guidance-related issues, transcripts, any schedule change requests after school begins, etc.

# OUR ULTIMATE GOAL AT ACS

To enable our students to find the path that God has intended specifically for them, whatever that path may be:

- ★ college
- ★ trades
- ★ formal ministry
- ★ service work
- ★ etc.



# NAVIANCE

- Self-Discovery Assessments
- College Exploration
- Recommendation/Transcript Processing w/Colleges
- Financial Aid and Scholarships
- <https://id.naviance.com/>
- We are in the process of activating high school parent access in Naviance...please be patient as we work out the kinks. Junior and Senior parents are “activated” and can get the access codes from us this evening.
- Career Exploration
- Resume Creation

# BASIC COLLEGE PREP TIMELINE

## BASIC HIGH SCHOOL COLLEGE PREP TIMELINE

(Fall - Spring each year)

### FRESHMEN/SOPHOMORES:

- ☐ It's not too early to work hard and develop good study habits. Your freshman and sophomore grades count toward college admission and scholarships.
- ☐ There are many questionnaires and tests available that are designed to help you figure out your interests, strengths and weaknesses, and the careers you would excel at and enjoy. Take advantage of those as you have the opportunity.
- ☐ Extracurricular activities are an important and fun part of high school. Look for sports, groups and clubs that match your interests, then join! Colleges are looking for well-rounded, involved people to join their communities.
- ☐ Keep track of academic and athletic awards, extracurricular accomplishments and community service.
- ☐ It's never too early to start researching schools. Get familiar with different college options, including ROTC, by searching online.

### JUNIORS:

- ☐ Take the PSAT in October. Not only is it a good way to practice for the SAT, it also qualifies you for the National Merit Scholarship Program.
- ☐ Start reviewing colleges. Look online. Go to college fairs. Speak to college representatives that visit your school. Start to actively learn more about the schools you are interested in.
- ☐ Start thinking about financial aid. Have a discussion with your parents or guardian about what they think they can afford.
- ☐ Find out registration deadlines and the exact dates and times of important tests like the ACT, SAT and SAT Subject Tests.
- ☐ Take part in extracurricular activities. Colleges like well-rounded students who participate in more than just school, especially if they display consistent involvement or take a leadership role.
- ☐ Plan trips around colleges you are interested in, and visit friends in college and tour nearby campuses.
- ☐ Take an SAT OR ACT test in the spring. Use an SAT or ACT prep book to experience what it's like to take a test from beginning to end.
- ☐ Scholarships are a great way to save money, but they can be hard to find. Talk to your school counselor and search online.
- ☐ While financial pressure often dictates your summer employment, start thinking about how your summer work may look on a college application.
- ☐ Visit the colleges you are seriously considering during the summer before senior year. Go to your top five choices, if possible, and learn as much as you can.

# MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Establish good study habits!
- Explore extracurricular activities that you enjoy
- Preview the Handbook for high school academic offerings



## Academic - High School Recommended Course of Study

This is a general outline of a four-year high school plan. Students do not have to remain strictly in one "track." Schedules are created each year to ensure that each student is taking the proper courses. Please contact the guidance office if you have questions regarding your student's individual course of study.

Year	College Bound Track	College Prep. Track	Advanced Studies Track
9	Bible 1 Applied Technology World Lit./Speech Biological Science Algebra I PE World History 1.5 electives	Bible 1 Applied Technology World Lit./Speech Biological Science Geometry PE Spanish I 1.5 electives	Bible 1 Applied Technology World Lit./Speech Biological Science Honors Geometry PE Spanish I or Spanish II 1.5 electives
10	Bible 2 British Lit Physical Science Geometry Spanish I Health 2.5 electives	Bible 2 British Lit Physical Science Algebra II Spanish II World History Health 1.5 electives	Bible 2 Honors British Lit Physical Science Honors Algebra II/Trig Spanish II or III AP World History Health 1.5 electives
11	Bible 3 American Lit US History Chemistry Algebra II Spanish II 2 electives	Bible 3 AP English Language US History Chemistry Stats & Trig Spanish III 2 electives	Bible 3 AP English Language US History Honors Chemistry AP Stats and/or Precalculus Spanish III or IV 2 electives
12	Bible 4 American Gov/Economics English 12 5 electives Electives must include 2 of the following: Science, Math, Spanish, Social Studies, or English elective	Bible 4 American Gov/Economics AP English Literature AP Stats or Precalculus Anatomy & Physiology or Physics Spanish IV 2 electives	Bible 4 American Gov/Economics AP English Literature AP Calculus or AP Stats Anatomy & Physiology or Physics Spanish IV or AP Spanish V 0 or 1 elective

# FRESHMAN/SOPHOMORE



# JUNIOR YEAR: STANDARDIZED TESTING

## PSAT - Fall of Junior Year

- Qualifies students for the National Merit Scholarship Program
- Qualifies students for the National Recognition Program
  - National African American Recognition Program
  - National First-Generation Recognition Program
  - National Indigenous Recognition Program
  - National Hispanic Recognition Program
  - National Rural and Small Town Recognition Program

# JUNIOR YEAR: STANDARDIZED TESTING

## ACT/SAT

- Which test should I take?
- All ACS students take the ACT in the spring of their junior year during the school day
- Consider testing multiple times
- Superscore
- ACT My Answer Key available three times per year
- Test optional

# JUNIOR YEAR: COLLEGE LISTS

Explore and create a list of potential colleges

- College fairs
- Naviance
- Big Future by the College Board
- Explore online resources/websites/YouTube
- Make a list of what's important to you: geographic location, size, academic programs, sports, cost, transportation, etc.

Self-assessment + reflection + research = College Selection

# COLLEGE CHOICES OF RECENT ACS GRADS

# SPORTS

- <http://www.eligibilitycenter.org/>
- <https://www.playnaia.org/>
- Talk to parents of students of current college athletes
- Market yourself to the coaches. Send them your tapes, stats, etc.
- Attend summer athletic showcases and events at the colleges the summer before your senior year
- Make sure the college you play at also has the academic program you are interested in
- Talk to your HS coach. He/She can help you make contacts

# JUNIOR YEAR: COLLEGE VISITS

- Jr/Srs are allowed two excused absences each year to visit colleges and universities
- Ideally, try to visit when classes are in session
- Spring break is an especially busy visit time, plan ahead
- Take some pics and jot down notes after a visit
- If traveling at all during the high school years, try to drive through any nearby college campuses

# YOUR FINAL COLLEGE LIST: 6-10 SCHOOLS

Safety School	You are positioned well in the upper 25% of the incoming freshman class or you are applying to an open enrollment school.	1-2
Match School	You are positioned in the top 50% of the incoming freshman class.	4-5
Reach School	You are positioned in the bottom 25% of the incoming freshman class or aren't sure you can get accepted.	1-2

# APPLICATION TIMELINE

- Take note of each school's application deadlines
- Decide how you will apply and plan accordingly:
  - College applications open August 1
  - Regular Decision (deadlines typically Jan-Feb)
  - Early Action - non-binding (Nov deadline)
  - Early Decision - binding (Nov deadline)

# JUNIOR/SENIOR YEAR: COLLEGE APP

## BASICS

Most applications are done through the Common App website ([commonapp.org](https://commonapp.org)):

- Personal Essay
- Letters of Recommendation
- Resume
- Activities List (up to 10)
- Academic Honors (up to 5)
- Test Scores
- Additional essays/info required by each school

# FAQS

- My student only wants to go to one school, should I really apply to so many?
- Are ACS students at a disadvantage because we don't offer as many AP classes as some other schools? What about our more difficult grading scale?
- How can I find information about a school's demographics, median test scores, etc?
  - College Board, CollegeVine, US News & World Reports, Common Data Set for each college

# COMMON DATA SET

- Enrollment/persistence (graduation rates)
- First-time, first-year admission (demographic info)
- Academic offerings (core curriculum, study abroad)
- Student life (greek life, housing, clubs, etc.)
- Annual expenses (tuition, housing, fees)
- Financial aid (average need-based aid package)
- Student:faculty ratios
- Degrees conferred

# Common Data Set 2023-2024

For each assessment listed below, report the score that represents the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile (the score that 25 percent of the first-time, first-year population scored at or below) and the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile score (the score that 25 percent scored at or above).

Assessment	25th Percentile Score	50th Percentile Score	75th Percentile Score
SAT Composite	1500	1530	1560
SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing	730	750	770
SAT Math	760	780	790
ACT Composite	33	34	35
ACT Math	31	34	35
ACT English	34	35	36
ACT Writing			
ACT Science	32	34	35
ACT Reading	34	35	36

**C7.Relative importance of each of the following academic and nonacademic factors in your first-time, first-year, degree-seeking general (not including programs with specific criteria) admission decisions.**

<b>Factors</b>	<b>Very Important</b>	<b>Important</b>	<b>Considered</b>	<b>Not Considered</b>
<i><b>Academic</b></i>				
Rigor of secondary school record	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Class rank	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Academic GPA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Standardized test scores	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Application Essay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recommendation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i><b>Nonacademic</b></i>				
Interview	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Extracurricular activities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Talent/ability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Character/personal qualities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
First generation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alumni/ae relation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Geographical residence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
State residency	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Religious affiliation/commitment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Volunteer work	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Work experience	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Level of applicant's interest	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

# FAQS

What are colleges looking for in potential students?

- There's a good fit college for every kid!
- Academics
- Involvement - extracurricular activities, clubs, sports, volunteer work, part-time jobs
- Leadership - participation in National Honor Society, Dunham Scholars, Eagle Ambassadors, Chapel Band, mentoring, leading clubs
- Students are evaluated within the context of their school environment

# FAQS

My child wants to go to a highly selective school, any advice?

- See the school's Common Data Set for which factors most influenced admission decisions. Focus on those areas
- Demonstrated interest: go visit, call/email counselors, click on the emails they send, attend any local events they offer
- Consider Early Decision, with the understanding that this may hinder your financial aid package
- Make sure to apply to several match schools as well
- Stay grounded and keep things in perspective! Admission to very selective schools is largely arbitrary

# COST OF COLLEGE

- Utilize a college's net price calculator to get an idea of your cost for each school
- Complete the FAFSA and/or CSS profile as soon as possible
- Applying to multiple schools can help boost your financial aid package
- Don't be afraid to contact a school to negotiate for more aid!

# FINANCIAL AID

Merit Scholarships	Need-Based Aid
<p>Aid based on student achievement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Academics</li><li>● Sports</li><li>● Fine Arts</li></ul> <p>Availability and requirements vary greatly across colleges</p> <p>Merit aid is available through each school, but also through independent donors, clubs and organizations</p>	<p>Aid based on financial need as determined by the FAFSA and/or CSS Profile</p>

# FAFSA


## Free Application for Federal Student Aid

- Open to applications beginning in the fall of each year
- Colleges use this form to determine a student's eligibility for federal grants, loans, scholarships, and work-study programs
- In almost all cases, you should fill out the FAFSA

# CSS PROFILE

- CSS Profile is an online application used by some colleges and scholarship programs in addition to the FAFSA to award non-federal institutional aid
- Generally opens October 1st of each year
- It examines family finances more thoroughly than the FAFSA
- It may hinder or help your financial aid package
- Both the FAFSA and the CSS Profile need to be filled out each year

# College Application Timeline

 Scribbr	Junior Year			Senior Year									
	Fall semester	Spring semester	Summer	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May
Admission plans							Early decision I deadlines Nov 1 or 15		Early decision II deadlines Jan 1 or 15				
							Early action deadlines Nov 1 or 15	Regular decision deadlines					
				Rolling admission									
Standardized Tests	Take the PSAT/PreACT												
		Take the SAT/ACT											
		Take AP exams											Take AP exams
Financial Aid						File your FAFSA							
				Apply for application fee waivers									
	Complete scholarship applications												
College Research and Planning	Research schools and create a college list												
	College visits (on-campus and virtual)			College visits (on-campus and virtual)									
			Choose admission plans and note school deadlines										
College Application			Brainstorm, write, and revise admission essays										
			Create accounts on application portals and fill out your details										
			Request letters of recommendation										
					Send test scores, transcripts, and rec letters for ED/EA deadlines			Send test scores, transcripts, and rec letters for RD deadlines					

# FINAL REMINDERS

- Start early and do your research
- Find a good fit for your child, make sure they are honest in their applications
- Partner with your student to help them take ownership of the process as much as possible
- Remind them that there is no one “perfect” college. Encourage them to do their best, then trust the outcome.
- Pray for/with your child and remember....

## PROVERBS 3:5-6 NIV

Trust in the Lord with all your heart  
and lean not on your own understanding;  
in all your ways submit to him,  
and he will make your paths straight.

# GOT

## QUESTIONS?

