

OCTOBER 2015

the
College Corner

Fall is in the air!



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I'm a senior. What should I be doing?

Right now, you should be visiting the schools on your list and beginning to narrow down your choices. Continue your research and look for schools that have programs that meet your interests, both academically and socially. If you are looking at going to a 4-year institution, you should have a minimum of four schools to apply to. Once you have narrowed down your list, start working on applications, and see Mr. Miller if you have questions! Good luck!

Save the Date!

October PSAT
Wednesday,
October 14
Sign up in the Guidance Office to take the PSAT!

October ACT
Saturday, Oct. 28
Keep practicing!
See page 2 for more practice resources!

November SAT
Saturday, Nov. 9
If you have not registered yet, the deadline is October 9th! See Mr. Miller if you need help.

College Application Week!
Nov. 16th- Nov. 20th
Need help completing an application? Come to the learning commons and work with an admissions rep to finish your application!

Best (Free) Ways to Study for the SAT & ACT

- Khan Academy -

By linking your Khan Academy and College Board accounts, you can have free and personalized practice to help you prepare for the SAT. Khan Academy practice includes full-length practice tests as well as practice on individual sections. By linking your College Board account, Khan Academy will tailor your practice to help you improve on your weakest sections.

How to access it: KhanAcademy.org



- Daily Practice SAT App -

This new app from the College Board provides a revolutionary way of practicing for the SAT by getting real-time feedback on your answers. By using the practice tests provided with the app, you are able to scan your results onto your cell phone and find out how you scored instantly on your practice test! **This is great practice for those of you planning to take the Redesigned SAT this spring!**

How to access it:

collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/practice/daily-practice-app



- Prep Factory for the SAT & ACT -

On Prep Factory, you can practice for the different sections of the SAT and ACT by completing different sets of questions. You gain points based on how you score for each set, so it can be a great way for you and your friends to have some friendly competition while you practice for the SAT/ACT!

How to access it: PrepFactory.com

- Sample Questions from the ACT -

The ACT website provides sample ACT questions for you to complete on their website. As you complete each question, it will give you the answers to allow you to check your work as you go! You can also see sample essays to give you an idea what sort of writing is required on the ACT.

How to access it: actstudent.org/sampletest/

- ACT Question of the Day -

Each day, a new ACT question is posted on the website. Keep up the daily practice and answer a question a day!

How to access it: act.org/qotd/





College Search Tools:

Websites to help you find the right college for you!

College Search

on the College Board

The College Search feature on the College Board website is a simple and easy way for you to start your college search. The College Search tool allows you to input information about what you are looking for in a college. A list will then be generated based on your preferences. This

list will be ranked in terms of how well it matches your criteria (a 100% match means that it has everything you are looking for based on the information you provided). This is a great way to get the ball rolling on what colleges you should consider looking at and applying to.

Find this tool at: BigFuture.org

College Scorecard

Similar to the filter search provided by the College Board, the College Scorecard allows you to input various factors to find colleges that match what you are looking for. However, this website goes into much greater detail about each college with just a few simple clicks! On each college's page, you can find information about graduation rates, average test scores, financial aid information, the most popular majors and programs on campus, and even the average salary after graduating from that college. This is a great way to learn more about a school and plan which you want to visit!

Find this tool at: CollegeScorecard.ed.gov/

Still not sure?

Check out the videos by **Pennsylvania Goes to College** that talk about how to find the right college for you!

Watch the **Pennsylvania Goes to College** YouTube channel!

If you have a topic that you want addressed in a video, send an email with your topic to: pagoestocollege@gmail.com



Upcoming College Visits

October 13th – 19th

- *Tuesday, Oct. 13* – **Mansfield University**
(1:00 pm)
- *Thursday, Oct. 15* – **Wilson College**
(1:30 pm)
- *Friday, Oct. 16* – **Johnson & Wales University** (1:00 pm)



October 19th – 30th

- *Monday, Oct. 19* – **Indiana University of Pennsylvania** (11:30 am)
- *Monday, Oct. 19* – **York County College Fair** (6:00 pm – 8:00 pm)
- *Friday, Oct. 30* – **Franklin & Marshall College** (10:30 am)

Nov 11th & 12th

- *Wednesday, Nov. 11* – **Penn State York**
(10:20 am)
- *Wednesday, Nov. 11* – **Lock Haven**
(1:00 pm)
- *Thursday, Nov. 12* – **Thaddeus Stevens**
(12:30 pm)
- *Thursday, Nov. 12* – **University of Pittsburgh Johnstown Instant Decisions!!!** (1:15 pm)



November 16th – 20th

COLLEGE APPLICATION WEEK!!

College Profiles

Looking for some schools to add to your list?

Take a look at these great options!

Edinboro University

Edinboro University is one of PA's state schools that is located just outside of Erie. Despite the sometimes frigid temperatures, there are around 6,000 students who attend Edinboro. Edinboro has many state of the art facilities including an expansive indoor track and gym facility. Some of the most popular majors include Business, Communications, Education, Physical Education, and Studio Art.

Susquehanna University

Susquehanna is a small college of around 2,200 students located in Selinsgrove, PA. Classes typically have around 19 students. Susquehanna is a community-oriented school, with strong ties to the surrounding community and over 25,000 annual volunteer hours. There are more than 60 majors and minors to choose from including Business, Creative Writing, and International Affairs. Susquehanna is a DIII college.

Albright College

Albright is a small college of around 1,700 students in Reading, PA. Albright thrives on strong interpersonal relationships to create a strong and cohesive student body. There are typically 15-25 students per class, which allows for frequent time with the professors. Albright is a test optional college, which means you do not have to submit test scores. Some unique majors include Fashion, Graphic Design, and Middle School Education.

Thaddeus Stevens

Thaddeus Stevens is a two-year technical school located on the outskirts of Lancaster, PA. There are around 900 students in 22 different programs. At least half of your daily class schedule will be in the shop working on developing skills. SATs are not a requirement, but if you have not taken the SATs, you will need to take the Compass Exam given by Thaddeus Stevens.



Questions To Ask On a College Visit

About Academics

- 1) What factors go into the admissions process (test scores, class rank, interviews, etc.), and how important are these factors?
- 2) What percentage of students graduate in 4 years?
- 3) Which academic programs are most popular?
- 4) Does the school have a major that I am interested in?
- 5) How easy is it to change majors?
- 6) Will my York College credits transfer?
- 7) Who teaches the first year classes (TAs, grad students, or the professor)?
- 8) Is there an honor code?
- 9) Is there an honors program?
- 10) What career planning services are available?
- 11) What percentage of students have a job or are in grad school within 6 months of graduation?

About Student and Social Life

- 1) How diverse (economically, racially, academically) is the campus?
- 2) What activities or clubs are there to join?
- 3) Does the school have a Greek program (sororities and fraternities) and how many students participate in this program?
- 4) What are the most popular extracurricular activities?
- 5) Can first year students have cars on campus?
- 6) How easy is it to get around campus?
- 7) What emergency services are available?
- 8) Is there an on-campus security force?
- 9) Are tutoring services available?
- 10) Is there wifi across campus?
- 11) What laundry facilities are available?

About Housing and Dining

- 1) What percentage of students live on campus?
- 2) Is housing guaranteed all four years?
- 3) What housing options are there?
- 4) What meal plans are available?
- 5) Are first years required to have a specific meal plan?
- 6) What are the different dining options on campus?
- 7) What are the hours of the dining facilities?
- 8) How is my roommate assigned?
- 9) How hard is it to find off-campus housing if housing is not guaranteed?
- 10) How much does housing cost?

About Costs and Paying

- 1) What is the all-inclusive cost?
- 2) Is your admissions process need-blind?
- 3) Which financial aid forms are required?
- 4) Is there a separate application for financial aid through the school?
- 5) What is the average financial aid package?
- 6) What percentage of students receive financial aid?
- 7) Does the school meet 100% of demonstrated need?
- 8) Will outside scholarships affect the amount of aid given by the school?
- 9) Are work study programs available and how easy is it to find a job on campus?



Checklist for Seniors:

During October and going into November, follow this checklist as a guideline of what tasks need to be completed and when you should complete them.



Are you on the right path?



1. Narrow down your schools and work on applications
2. Visit schools
3. Keep deadlines in mind for different types of admission: Early Decision, Early Action, or Rolling
4. If you're taking the SATs again, Practice, Practice, Practice!
5. Aim to have most, if not all of your applications submitted BEFORE Thanksgiving break (Sooner = less stress for you).
6. Work on your resume
7. Work on essays and have them proofread by peers or teachers
8. Ask for Letters of Recommendation (be sure to have a brag sheet ready to give out!)
9. Apply to scholarships. Stop by Guidance to see what scholarship options there are!
10. See the college adviser if you have questions

