

the College Corner

September, 2015

SAT and the ACT:



Not sure of which test to take or when to take them? Get a brief overview of the differences between the SAT and ACT and when you should be taking them as a junior or senior

3

College FAQs



For those of you beginning your application process, check over these FAQs to see if you have any similar questions

2

Mapping Your Year



Seniors: now is the time to plan out when to apply for colleges and scholarships! The end of the year will be here sooner than you think!

3

College Profiles



Check out these great college options!

4



Welcome Back!

For those of you who haven't met or worked with me before, I'm Mr. Miller, Columbia's College Adviser. There is much to look forward to this year with many great upcoming events such as Financial Aid Night, College Rep Visits, College Application Week, and much, *much* more!

There are also many new and exciting resources and tools for you this year! To take advantage of these resources, be sure to follow [Columbia Does College on Weebly](#) as well as [Pennsylvania Goes to College](#) on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#)! These resources, in conjunction with meeting with the college adviser, will help you to become more prepared for life after high school.

Don't forget to be awesome,
Mr. Miller

College FAQs:

1. How do I apply to college?

- a. To apply to a college, it is best to start on that college's admissions website. Look for the "apply" button for instructions on how to apply to that college. Some colleges will use the Common Application, which allows you to apply to multiple colleges with one application.

2. When should I start applying to college?

- a. You can start applying to colleges at any time now! If you are applying for a competitive program with limited spots available, such as nursing or engineering, you will want to apply sooner rather than later before all the spots are filled!

3. How do I send my transcript?

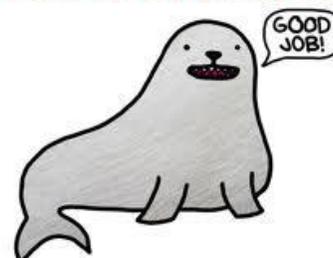
- a. You will need to go to Student Services and anyone there can print one out for you.

4. When should I start looking for scholarships?

- a. You can also look for scholarships at any time! Be sure to check with Mr. Miller or stop by Guidance for the most up to date scholarship list! Also check out online scholarship databases such as FastWeb, Raise.me, and Scholarships.com.

Upcoming Dates and Rep Visits:

- Monday, September 14—
Alvernia University 8:30 am
 - Tuesday, September 15—
Lebanon Valley College 10:45 am
 - Wednesday, September 16—
Shippensburg University 9:00 am
 - Saturday, September 18 – **Registration Deadline for the October 24 ACT**
 - Tuesday, September 22 –
University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown 12:30 pm
 - Thursday, September 24 –
Penn College of Health Sciences—
9:00 am
 - Thursday, October 1—
Lancaster Bible College 11am
 - Saturday, October 3 – **SAT test date**
 - Friday, October 9 – **Registration Deadline for November 7 SAT**
 - Wednesday, October 14 – **PSAT**
 - Thursday, October 15—
Wilson College 1:30 pm
 - **College Application Week!!!!**
October 19th—October 23rd
- Be sure to check SEAL OF APPROVAL in with Guidance for the most up-to-date list of college visits!**





The SAT & the ACT

What are they?

The SAT and ACT are both standardized tests that are used as part of the college admissions process. When comparing the SAT and the ACT, the biggest difference between these tests is that the ACT measures what a student has learned in school and is referred to as an *achievement test*. On the other hand, the SAT is considered an *aptitude test*, which only focuses mainly on certain aspects of an individual's abilities.

In terms of content, the ACT is comprised of up to five sections: English, Math, Reading, Science, and Writing. However, it is important to note that the writing section is optional, and the science section is more about comprehension than scientific knowledge. On the other hand, the writing section is *not* optional on the SAT. There is no penalty for a wrong answer on the ACT and is only based off of the number of correct answers you have. The SAT also tends to focus more heavily on vocabulary.

When should I take the SAT or ACT?

As a senior, you want to be taking the test as soon as possible so that you can report those test scores on your college applications. However, if you already have taken a test, you can apply with your existing scores and have your new scores sent along after taking either test again.

As a junior, plan to be taking the SAT or ACT by the spring of this year. You may take it in the fall, but there will be a new SAT being launched in March, so you will be taking a new format of the SAT. Come see Mr. Miller to learn more about the differences between the new and the old SAT.

Mapping Your Year

September

- Start putting together a list of colleges to apply to and begin working on applications
- Meet with Mr. Miller
- Study for SATs
- Visit colleges

- Start checking the scholarship list **regularly**

October

- Narrow down your top colleges
- Continue working on apps
- Visit MORE colleges!

November

- Participate in College Application Day!
- Submit your applications before Thanksgiving!

December

- Submit remaining applications
- Continue working on scholarships

January & February

- Attend FAFSA completion night and submit your FAFSA!
- More scholarships!

March & April

- Scholarships, scholarships, and more scholarships!
- Compare financial aid packages

May & June

- IT'S TIME TO DECIDE!
- GRADUATION!!!!

Pennsylvania College of Technology

Pennsylvania College of Technology is located in Williamsport, PA, where the Little League World Series is held. Penn Tech is a Penn State affiliate, but is not a branch campus of Penn State. There are around 5,600 students on campus with the option of both 2 year associates degrees and 4 year bachelor's degrees. Most associate degree programs will have an equivalent bachelor's degree program to enter if a student wishes to continue beyond a 2 year degree.



Kutztown University

Kutztown University is one of the state schools located in eastern PA. There are around 9,000 students that form the Kutztown family across the sprawling, scenic campus. Like other state schools, Kutztown is a Division II school with 21 sports offered for men and women. Some of their most popular majors are Business, Digital Communication/Media, Education, English Literature, Criminal Justice, Parks and Recreation, Psychology, Social Work, and the Visual Arts (Art studios, commercial/fine advertising, fine arts).



Elizabethtown College

Elizabethtown College is a small school with around 1,900 students. Business is the most popular major, but other large majors include Biology, Mass Communication/Media, Education, Engineering, the Health Professions, and the Social Sciences. At Etown, you will have to do two of the following: community service, study abroad, conduct research, do an internship or field placement, or a senior capstone. Etown is a DIII school, with soccer being the most popular sport. The tradition of the "Marshmallow Bowl" is quite popular amongst the soccer fans on campus, so be sure to ask about it.



American University

Located in Washington D.C., American is a private university. American represents a diverse population, coming from all 50 states and over 140 countries around the world. Given the location in the Capital and the diverse student body, it is no surprise that some of the most popular programs are international service, public policy/public affairs, international law, and human rights. Classes are typically around 24 students and American is broken up into seven different schools of varying fields.

