

JUNIORS: BEGINNING THE COLLEGE PROCESS

The process must start with the student. Listen to his voice.



Let your child drive the bus

- This is a quote from a college admission counselor when asked to provide advice to give to junior parents.
- Try not to use “we” through this process. Your son should be driving the process.
- Ultimately, the application needs to convey your son’s voice.
- In many ways, this is the first “adult” decision of his lifetime. Work as a team to empower your son.





Our Process

- Individual student and family meetings will begin January 17. We are available for meetings before and after school and during the school day if your son has a free period or during his lunch. These meetings are an initial conversation for us to learn about your sons and to chart a framework for organizing the college process. Together, we outline the path forward.
- We will go into junior Religion classes at several points during this spring to talk to your sons about the process.
- Your son will be given an assignment over the summer to write two essays and create his resume. These must be emailed to his college counselor by Aug. 15 and will be returned to your sons the day before school begins.
- We will be in the library computer lab a few days in June and August for your sons to begin working on their applications and have questions answered.

Our Process (cont.)



- Mandatory meeting for all seniors the week before school begins. Date/time TBA.
- Individual student and family meetings in the fall to finalize school lists.
- Financial Aid Workshop in late September. Date TBA.
- We will sponsor an “Essay/Resume Boot Camp” in early June 2018.
- We have an “open door” policy. Your sons are always encouraged and welcomed in our offices with any questions or concerns. Parents are always invited to schedule appointments with our office.

What factors do colleges look for in an applicant?

- Academics
 - Performance: consistent work and upward trajectory in grades
 - Strength of courses: attention paid to the core curriculum
 - Strength of schedule: rigor
- Standardized Test Scores
- Involvement beyond the classroom
 - Service involvement
 - Jobs/Internships: applied/experiential learning
 - Athletics
 - Clubs: learning beyond the classroom
 - Family obligations
- Essays: your voice
- Letters of Recommendation



Transcript

- Courses and grades (semester and final grades only)
 - AP and Honors courses are designated on the transcript.
- Your son's GPA
 - 100 point scale
 - Unweighted
- Trends are important! It is never too late to improve
- Some particular majors such as engineering or business are looking for levels of achievement/benchmarks throughout a course of study
- College admission officers evaluate the concept in the context of the school's Profile





Testing Timeline

- Typically, it is recommended that students wait until spring of junior year to begin testing (more developmentally appropriate).
 - SAT – March or May
 - ACT – April (at Prep) or February (not at Prep)
 - Subject Tests - June
- Each student will have his own plan. There is no right or wrong testing plan...do not force your son into a plan that isn't right for him.
- Standardized test preparation should be woven into the student's overall scheduling demands (course v. individualized test prep).



SAT®

SAT Registration

- Georgetown Prep is a test center for the following sittings: December, March, May, June, August and October. This is **only available to Prep students.**
- Register online at www.collegeboard.org .
- Instructions to register for our location:
 - Be sure to indicate Georgetown Prep as current school attending.
 - Select “test at my high school” as location.

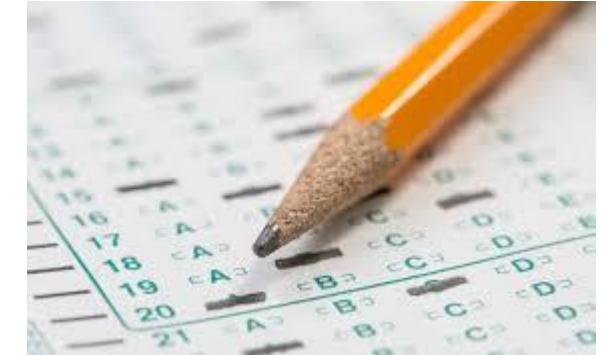


ACT Registration

- Georgetown Prep is a test center for the following sittings: April, September, and October and is **only available to Prep students.**
 - The ACT is also offered in December, February, June, & July, but Prep is not a test center.
- Register online at www.act.org
- Instructions to register for our location:
 - Georgetown Prep's test center code is 242030. You must enter this code to register at Prep.
 - Please DO NOT share this code with non-Prep students or families. Non-Prep students will not be allowed to test on our campus.

SAT Subject Tests

- One hour long tests in individual subjects
 - World History, US History, Math, Languages (Modern and Latin), Biology, Chemistry, Physics, English
- June 2018 is the most appropriate date to take these tests because they are achievement based and they will immediately follow exams.
- Students can take up to three subject tests in one sitting
- Most schools do not require these tests. Some schools will require two. Depending on intended major, specific tests will be required (for example, math and science for potential engineers at certain schools).
 - Georgetown University “strongly encourages” three subject tests.



Testing Accommodations

- A student must have recent testing on file with GP & be receiving accommodation at GP.
- This testing may be for a medical, learning, or attention challenge.
- The typical accommodation is for 50% extended time. If a student seeks accommodations beyond this, he may need to find another testing site. Because of our small size, GP is limited in the scope of accommodations we can administer.
- ACT requires that all documentation be submitted with the request for accommodations. They review psycho-educational testing and medical notes prior to making a decision.
- A student must first register for the ACT and indicate that he is requesting accommodations BEFORE I can submit a request. Once he is registered, please contact me with the number on his registration ticket.
- **All Accommodations requests for SAT, ACT, and AP go to Mrs. Karen Napolitano, Director of Counseling Services, knapolitano@gprep.org or 301-214-8625**

Involvement Beyond the Classroom

- Colleges prefer to see depth and involvement with fewer activities over a longer period of time. Bonus for leadership roles.
- Ten activities done intermittently or inconsistently is NOT better.
- Colleges want students to become involved on their campuses. Admission officers also view the level of commitment as an indication of potential contributions to a collegiate community.
- Activities can include:
 - Athletics
 - Clubs
 - Visual or Musical Performance
 - Job
 - Community Service
 - Family obligations
 - Church-related activities



College Search

- Distance from home
- Major/Minor options: Strength and reputation of an academic department
- Scholarships/Financial Aid
- Athletics
- Size
- Urban/Suburban/Rural
- Greek Life
- Availability of Special Programs (Honors/Scholars)
- Public/Private



Realistic Optimism

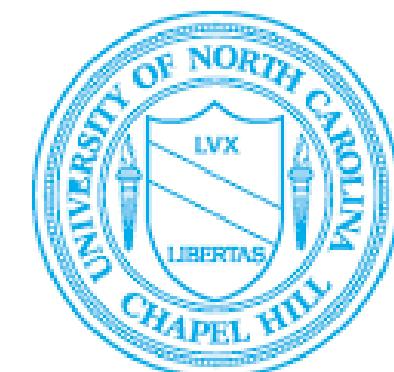


- Finding schools that are a good fit is important. Everyone is unique! This is especially important if you have older sons and daughters who have already gone through this process.
- Make an honest assessment of your son's strengths and weaknesses. Support the dream, but accept the reality.
- What does he want in a school? What criteria is most important.
- Where does he fit as an applicant? (GPA, Standardized test scores, activity interest)



Categories of Schools

- Foundation
- Mid-Range
- Reach
- We recommend that students have schools from each category
- Average number of schools applied to: 8-12



College Visits

- Go on official tours and sit in on information sessions.
- Interviews are not available at most schools.
- If you speak with an admission representative on a visit, following up with an email or note as appropriate.
- Visit when it is best for your family. There is no right or wrong time.
 - Summers are not as busy on campus, but it is easy to be away. Current students are still leading tours to ask questions.
 - Spring Break: Prep's break is usually different from colleges, so campuses should be busy.
 - After admission: It is completely appropriate to wait until after an admission decision occurs in order to visit.



Resources



- Jesuit College Fair – March 2017
- Case Study Night- February 2017
- Washington Area Independent School Fair: April 18, 2017 (held at Georgetown Prep. Close to 150 college and universities.)
- Websites
- College Counseling Office
- Area Programs/Receptions sponsored by the colleges and universities
- Naviance/Family Connection

Naviance

All students will be enrolled in Naviance, a web-based computer program, which will enable you and your son to:

- Find information about colleges and deadlines
- Compare colleges
- See the schedule of college rep visits
- Track applications—check on date sent, due dates, completeness

Students and parents have separate accounts

- Log in at: <http://connection.naviance.com/gprep>





Privacy

- Please focus on your son's process only. This is an exciting time, and we want to discover the most appropriate opportunities.
- Everyone's situation is different. The CCO respects your privacy and individual circumstances.
- Best advice: do not get caught up in the pathways of other classmates. While this is only natural, a student's true story and plan of action is uniquely tailored for that individual.
- We cannot discuss another student other than your son. He is the most important person in the room when a meeting occurs. His best interests are the centerpiece of discussion.