

Navigating Your Way to College



College Planning Night 2017

Hempfield High School Guidance Dept.

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College Planning Timeline

10th

Build academic record

Get involved in and out of school

Keep track of accomplishments and activities (resume)

Start researching colleges

11th

Continue researching colleges (admissions process, financial aid, etc.)

Campus visits

Continue to track accomplishments and activities

Take PSAT for practice and for National Merit consideration

Take SAT and/or ACT at least once before end of year

12th

Narrow down college choices during summer/ early fall

More visits in the fall

Start applying in fall

Take SAT and/or ACT again if needed

Complete financial aid process for each college (including FAFSA)

Scholarship applications throughout the year

Choose your school!



Laying the Foundation- Academics and Extracurriculars

Academics

Tips for Success:

- Grades/ GPA: Create a solid foundation early
- Academic Rigor: Take challenging courses through senior year
 - Class choices- don't set yourself up to fail!
- Get to know your counselors and teachers

Life Outside of Class

- **Extracurricular Activities**
 - Quality of participation vs. quantity
 - Community Service
 - Include activities in and out of school
 - Look for leadership opportunities
 - Make connections with peers, advisors, boss, mentor, etc.
- **Social Life**
 - Friend choices
 - Reputation
 - Digital Footprint



Utilize HHS Resources

[Translate](#) ▾ [District Home](#) [Choose School](#) ▾ [Sign In](#)

SEARCH



Hempfield High School



Sapphire



Schoolology



Calendar



Communications

[HOME](#) | [ABOUT US](#) | [OUR SCHOOL](#) | [NEWS](#) | [WHHS](#) | [GUIDANCE](#)

Freshman Academy

Athletics

Clubs

Driver's Education

Knights of the Red Tablet

Performing Arts

State Assessments

Summer School

The Flash

Club Council

The following information provides details on club locations, and activity descriptions. Also included are athletic, musical, and performing arts opportunities listed alphabetically.

Aavidum Club

Mrs. Wallace & Mr. Lin

Aavidum is a student organization to raise awareness of the warning signs of depression and suicide. Its slogan is "I've Got Your Back." This club seeks to encourage students and community members to support one another and help to deter teenage depression and suicide.

After School Homework Program

Dr. Cielsinski (CES)

The Tuesday After School Homework Program offers Hempfield High School students the opportunity to assist elementary students complete homework, study for tests, read books, and more. The program is held in the CES cafeteria. HHS students volunteer each Tuesday from 3:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.; October through May. HHS students can volunteer for the school year or during available "seasons."

Anchor Club

Utilize HHS Resources

College Planning

▾ College Planning

- ▶ Financial Aid
- ▶ Letters of Recommendation
- ▶ Testing
- ▶ Transcript Release
- ▶ NCAA and NAIA

Home > Guidance > College Planning

College Planning

College provides students with the opportunity to specialize in a variety of fields and majors. Each college and university offers different opportunities for students.

- Counseling Services
- Guidance News
- Naviance
- College Planning**
- Career Planning
- Lancaster County CTC
- Off Campus Programs
- Important Documents
- Graduation Requirements

If you're not sure what major or college would be the best fit, consider attending a community college. Community colleges are public, two-year schools that provide an excellent education, whether you're considering an associate's degree, a certificate program, technical training, or plan to continue your studies at a four-year college.

Ready to start checking out colleges? Make sure to check out these other helpful documents!

- [Campus Visit Checklist](#)
- [College Essay Tips](#)
- [Questions to Ask on a College Visit](#)

College Planning Resources
[Junior College Planning Timeline](#)
[Senior College Planning Timeline](#)

Pre-College Testing
[Khan Academy](#)
[Kaplan Online](#)
[The Princeton Review](#)

Financial Aid, Scholarships, Loans
[PHEAA](#)
[FAFSA](#)
[Ultimate Guide to the FAFSA Scholarships.com](#)
[Scholarship Search Tool](#)
[Loans](#)

[View a presentation on the newly-redesigned SAT!](#)

EXIT 1A

Thinking Ahead:
Career and Major
Consideration

EXIT



ONLY

Long-term goals

Start by considering the end-goal



- Types of goals:
 - General
 - “I want to go to college.”
 - Specific
 - “I want to go to a large liberal arts college to study Landscape Architecture.”
 - Undecided

Deciding on a Career/ Major

- Classes
 - Electives
 - Interests
 - Abilities
 - Values
- } Things to consider
- Search tools
 - Counselors
 - Naviance (“Careers” tab)
 - <https://www.mappingyourfuture.org/playyourcareer/>
 - www.bls.gov



EXIT 1A

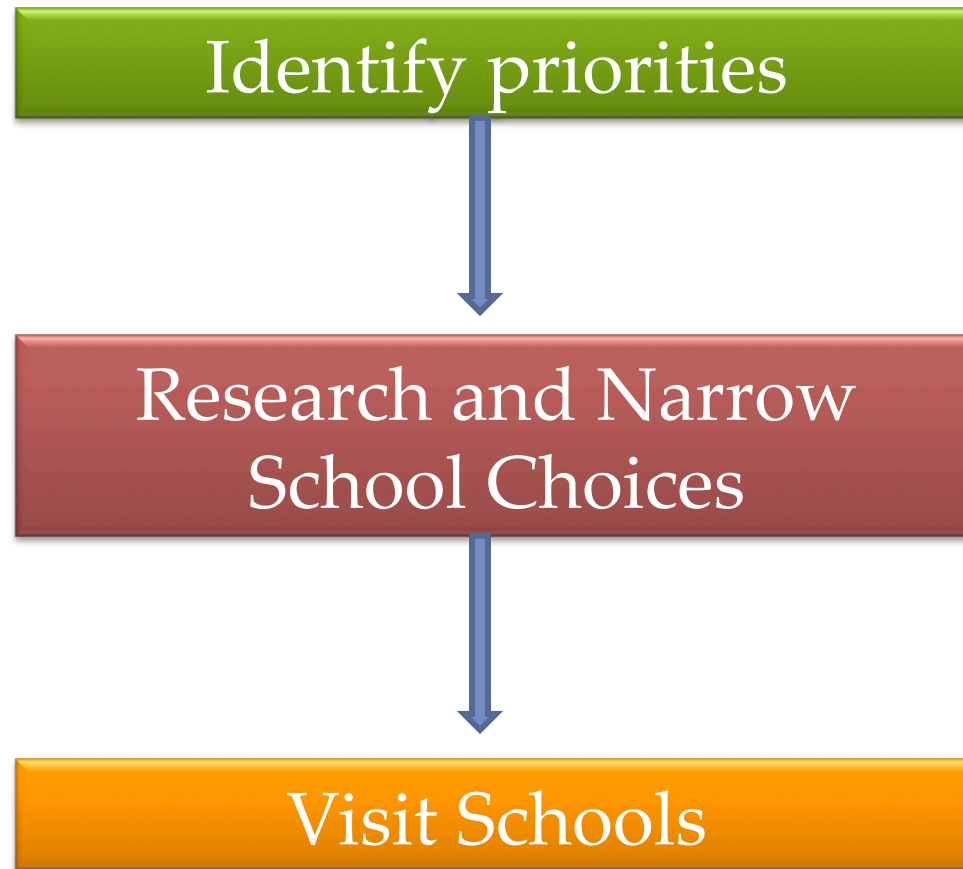
Choosing
the Right
College(s)

EXIT



ONLY

Steps in Choosing a College



The College Search

- Factors to consider:
 - Admissions “fit”
 - Look at GPA, admissions test scores
 - Choice of major
 - Type of school
 - 4 year, 2 year, Trade, Technical
 - Public or private
 - Religious affiliation
 - Location
 - Size
 - Campus life and activities
 - Cost/ financial aid availability
- Utilize Naviance, College Board, and colleges’ websites to research information and compare choices

Narrowing It Down

- Research!
 - Check admissions standards
 - Limit to 1-2 “reach” schools
 - Try to include 1-2 “safety”
- We recommend applying to 4-8 colleges
 - Remember, application fees aren’t cheap!
- Visit college fairs, request information, meet with college reps who visit HHS
 - Future Planning Fair
- Compare Pros and Cons
- Ask this question: “Can I see myself at this school?”
 - Should be able to answer “YES!” to every school on your list!



Go See Your Choices

What to do when you are there:

- Tour campus
- Talk to current students
- Visit a class
- Set up appointments with faculty or staff
- Eat in the dining hall
- Stay overnight
- ASK QUESTIONS!

When to go:


- Campus Visit Days/Open House events
- Schedule in advance (through the admissions office)
- Visit on days off from school

If you can't visit:

- Research as much as you can online
- Make some type of contact with the admissions offices (email, phone, etc.)
- Join social media groups
- Attend College Fairs
- Keep up-to-date on rep visits

College Rep Visits to HHS

Hempfield High School Logged In as: Thomas Test (log out) Manage my account

family connection Here are all the tools for getting into cool schools 

home courses **colleges** careers about me my planner

search for colleges:
 Go
MORE SEARCH OPTIONS >>

resources
> [transcripts](#)
> [test scores](#)

my colleges

- > [colleges I'm thinking about](#)
- > [colleges I'm applying to](#)

Upcoming college visits

- 04/08/16 HACC Experience Day [details »](#)

[view all upcoming college visits](#)

college research

- > [SuperMatch™ college search](#)
- > [college match](#)
- > [college compare](#)
- > [college lookup](#)
- > [college search](#)
- > [college resources](#)
- > [college maps](#)
- > [scattergrams](#)
- > [acceptance history](#)
- > [enrichment programs](#)

scholarships & money

- > [scholarship match](#)
- > [scholarship list](#)
- > [scholarship applications](#)
- > [national scholarship search](#)

EXIT 1A

Preparing for the
Application Process

EXIT



ONLY

What Colleges Consider

- Grades/Academic Achievement (HS transcript)
 - Cumulative GPA
 - Achievement over time
- High school course selections
 - Appropriateness of course levels
 - Meeting college's high school course requirements
- Admission test scores (SAT/ACT)
- Essays/personal statement –varies by college
- Teacher and counselor recommendations – request 2-3 letters from teachers (end of junior year or start of senior year)
- Class Rank – HHS provides rank based on weighted GPA
- Extracurricular activities & personal accomplishments – keep resume up-to-date!
- Interviews/auditions/portfolios
- “Demonstrated Interest” in the college
- ▪ Senior year grades!

Application Deadlines

Admissions processes, deadlines, and policies will be different for each college. Students are strongly encouraged to contact individual colleges for clarification!

Regular Decision

Students apply by a set deadline, at which time the college begins reviewing applications. Admissions decisions are typically returned to students in the spring on a set date.

Rolling Admissions

College will review applications and send admissions decisions as applications are received, often without a specific deadline (i.e., applications will be accepted until the class is full!).

Early Action (EA)

An application deadline that is earlier in senior year (often between Oct. 15 and Dec. 1) where admissions decisions are sent well ahead of regular decision. EA is typically non-binding, meaning students may apply to other colleges without restrictions.

Early Decision (ED)

Similar to Early Action, however Early Decision is a binding application to the college. This means students make a commitment to attend the college if they are accepted and must withdraw all other college applications.

- Students typically may only apply to one college under ED.
- This option should only be for those students who have done careful research and are committed to their 1st choice school.

About College Admissions Tests

- SAT
 - “New” Redesigned SAT as of March 2016
 - Class of 2017: colleges will accept “old” or “new” SAT scores
 - Class of 2018: check with colleges!
 - Consists of two sections: Critical Reading and Math
 - Writing section is optional- may be required by some colleges!
 - Score is a combination of Critical Reading and Math: 200-800 points possible in each section (highest score is 1600)
- ACT
 - Consists of four tests: English, Math, Reading, and Science
 - Writing section is optional- may be required by some colleges!
 - Highest score possible is 36
- SAT Subject Tests
 - Subject-specific exams
 - Shorter in length; take up to 3 on one test date
 - May be required or recommended, especially at highly selective colleges
 - <http://www.compassprep.com/subject-test-requirements-and-recommendations/>

About College Admissions Tests

When to take the SAT(or ACT)? How many times?

- Students typically take the SAT 2-3 times.
- The SAT is offered at HHS in October, January, and June.
- The registration deadline is typically one month before the date of the test.
- Things to keep in mind:
 - Don't take it too early or too late
 - Fee waivers to cover the registration fee may be available for students with financial need. Students should see their counselor to discuss.
 - Students can opt to include test scores on their transcripts, however some colleges may still require "official" scores be sent from College Board (check with the college!)

Test Optional Colleges: <http://www.fairtest.org/university/optional>



Additional Considerations:

- **NCAA/ Prospective Student Athletes**
 - Students considering participation in an NCAA Division I or II sport must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center www.eligibilitycenter.org
 - Request to have the HHS transcript sent to the NCAA after the completion of 6 semesters (i.e., end of 11th grade)
 - Have “official” SAT/ACT scores sent directly to the NCAA
- **Military Academies**
 - US Military Academy- West Point
 - US Naval Academy
 - US Air Force Academy
 - US Merchant Marines Academy
 - US Coast Guard Academy
 - Preliminary application should be completed in 11th grade
 - Additional applications will later be required for Congressional nominations and in the regular admissions process
 - In many cases, a face-to-face interview will be required
 - Both a medical exam and a physical fitness test are required for admission
 - Specific procedures or admissions criteria will vary by institution
- ■ Look into Summer Program opportunities!



Paying for College

Develop a Financial Plan

- Determine all college costs — not just tuition.
 - “Cost of Attendance” or “Net Price Calculator” on college websites
- Calculate your college savings so far and see if you’re on track
- Estimate your family’s expected contribution (EFC) — an EFC calculator is available at www.collegeboard.org/payforcollege
 - The official EFC is determined by the FAFSA, the federal financial aid application. More information is available at <http://fafsa.ed.gov>
- Research the financial aid availability and process for the colleges being considered
- Attend the Financial Aid and FAFSA Completion nights at HHS (senior year)



Research, Apply, & Compare

- Know your options:
 - Federal and State Aid/ Grants
 - Loans
 - Work-study
- Fill out the free FAFSA application as early as possible (new date: Oct. 1 of senior year), and meet all deadlines
- Compare financial aid awards and determine how they fit with other contributions:
 - Family
 - Savings
 - Scholarships



Scholarships

Scholarships can come from many different sources

- Directly from the colleges
 - Contact Admissions and/or Financial Aid offices for more information
- Scholarship search databases
 - www.fastweb.com
 - www.schoolsoup.com
- Parent/ Family members' places of employment, clubs, organizations, etc.
- Naviance
 - The HHS Guidance Dept. maintains a list of scholarship opportunities that are sent to our school
 - The list also includes many local scholarship opportunities, specific to Hempfield, Lancaster County, etc.
 - Sallie Mae National Scholarship Database

While many scholarship opportunities are specifically for seniors, opportunities may be available for 10th-11th grade students so it's never too early to start looking and applying!



Search for colleges:

[colleges](#) > scholarships and financial aid

Go

MORE SEARCH OPTIONS >>

scholarships and financial aid

The list below contains scholarships or financial aid awards that may be relevant for you. Click the name of a scholarship to view more information or click the column headings to sort by name, category, deadline or maximum award.

You may also check the scholarships for which you are submitting applications and then click "Add Selected Scholarships to My List" below.

Browse by category: (select category)

Only show scholarships added or updated since my last visit

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Maximum Award</u>	<u>Merit Based</u>	<u>Need Based</u>	<u>Essay Req</u>	<u>Service Req</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	APEX Community Federal Credit Union- Phantom Branch Scholarship	5/1	\$500	X		X	
<input type="checkbox"/>	C. Michael Steadman Jr. Memorial Scholarship	4/25	\$1000	X		X	X
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cecil E. Tate Scholarship	3/21	500.00	X	X		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chester Co. Bar Association's Charles E. Swope Scholarship	4/11	\$3,000			X	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chester County Nurses Association Scholarship	3/27	N/A			X	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau Agricultural Scholarship	4/15	\$1,000	X			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Daher Memorial Scholarship	4/23	\$1000	X	X	X	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Danny Grias Scholarship Award	4/22	\$1000	X		X	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Delaware Valley School Business Officials (DVASBO) Scholarship	3/31	\$2,500	X			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dr. Kenneth A. Fegley Scholarship	4/23	\$750	X		X	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Emily Hauze Memorial Scholarship	4/25	\$1,000			X	

- [my colleges](#)
- [colleges I'm thinking about](#)
- [colleges I'm applying to](#)
- [college visits](#)
- [college research](#)
- [SuperMatch™](#)
- [college search](#)
- [college match](#)
- [college compare](#)
- [college lookup](#)
- [college search](#)
- [college resources](#)
- [college maps](#)
- [scattergrams](#)
- [acceptance history](#)
- [enrichment programs](#)

Tips for Parents

- Help your student understand the college search process
- Be realistic and non-judgmental
- Be in the "back seat" - and not the driver - of the college search and application processes
- Be open to dialogue and responsive to questions
- Help your child be aware of deadlines and fees due
- Know that things have changed since your college days
- Don't overemphasize your own alma maters
- Don't compare your student with others
- Don't dwell on disappointments, like a rejection letter
- Celebrate successes!



Important Reminders for Students

- Make sure YOU are taking charge of this process! (Especially when contacting potential colleges)
- Maintain a rigorous, yet manageable and relevant course load
- Keep in contact with the counselors and ask questions!
- Use the HHS website, Naviance, and any other resources available to you
- Keep track of all activities, honors, experiences, etc. (utilize the Resume in Naviance!)
- Know your application deadlines and submit your materials well in advance
- Summer Boot Camp (August of 12th grade!)

