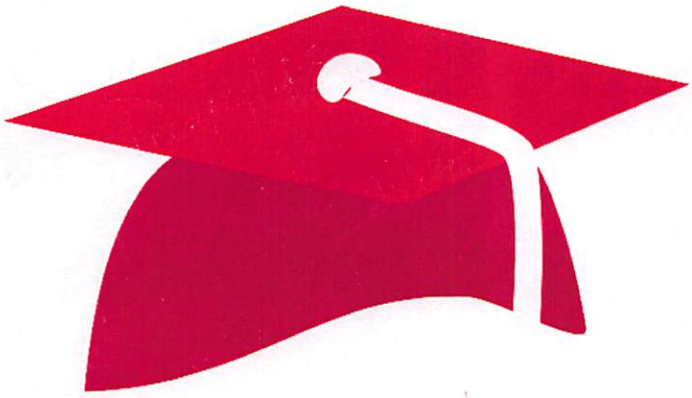
Germantown High School
Class of 2021



Senior Handbook

CEEB School Code for ACT/SAT: 430760

Senior Parent Meeting
Hosted by:

Senior Counselor
Fran Odom
901-416-2303
odommf@scsk12.org
Office: V Building

IB College & Career Counselor
Martha Morris
901-416-0949
morrismm@scsk12.org
Office: M Building

College & Career Counselor
LaShonda Norman
901-416-1977
normanlm@scsk12.org
Office: V Building

remind

Would you like to receive information about post-secondary opportunities? Register for the Remind text messaging alerts.

GHS Class of 2021 STUDENTS

To join the **Class of 2021** Remind, send a text to ***81010*** and enter your code.

Student Codes by LAST NAME:

A-D	@6hc9f3
E-H	@262689
I-L	@eaf69g
M-P	@2ddegb9
Q-T	@k2bghkb
U-Z	@gd2agk

GHS Class of 2021 PARENTS

To join the **Class of 2021** Remind, send a text to ***81010*** and enter your code.

Parent Codes by LAST NAME:

A-F	@ebh69c
G-L	@g2d6c7
M-R	@8378g4e
S-Z	@febkh3

Germantown High School
SENIOR DATES FOR THE CLASS OF 2021

September 22	**GHS Virtual Senior Parent Night** GHS Virtual Senior Parent Night
September 30	Virtual Financial Aid Night with TSAC Virtual FAFSA
October 1	Parent-Teacher Conferences 4:00PM-7:00PM
TBA	TN Promise Meeting #1 (***SENIORS ONLY***)
October 1	FAFSA ***OPENS***
October 12-16	Fall Break
November 1	TN Promise DEADLINE
November 23-27	Thanksgiving Break
December 21 **January 3**	Winter Break
January 18	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day
February 1	FAFSA DEADLINE
February 2-4	1 Semester Exams
February 15	Final Date to Submit a Request for a Recommendation Letter/Presidents Day
TBA	TN Promise Meeting #2
March 11	Parent-Teacher Conferences 4:00PM-7:00PM
March 29 **April 2**	Spring Break
May 31	Memorial Day
June 14-16	2nd Semester Exams

Note: Dates and times are subject to change.

Germantown High School Honor Code

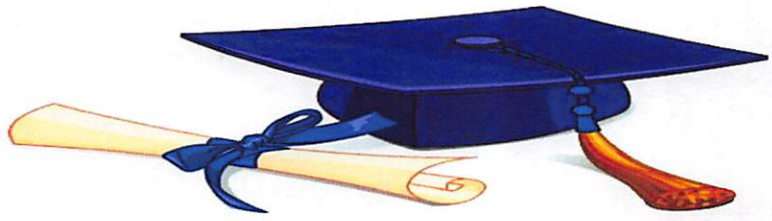
I pledge to.....

- *take pride in my work*
- *model and encourage integrity*
- *focus on learning rather than grades.*

Academic Integrity
making the right decisions in regard to learning and committing one's self to actively and honestly participate in his/her own learning

Collaboration
working with others to equally complete tasks a teacher has specifically assigned for a group

Academic Dishonesty
intended or unintended participation in activities that misrepresent one's true academic ability



GRADUTION REQUIREMENTS

Administrative Rules and Regulations

Adoption: 05/28/13
Issued Date: 08/25/15
Revised: 12/05/17, 01/31/18, 05/28/19

REGULAR HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

To earn a regular high school diploma, students must meet the minimum standards established by the State Board of Education, specifically, complete the ACT or SAT prior to graduation, if the students was enrolled in a Tennessee public high school during their 11th grade year*, have a satisfactory record of attendance and discipline, and earn the following 22 units of credit:

• English Language Arts	4 credits
• Mathematics	4 credits
• Science	3 credits
• Social Studies	3 credits
• Wellness	1 credit
• Physical Education	0.5 credit
• Personal Finance	0.5 credit
• Elective Focus	3 credits
• Foreign Language**	2 credits
• Fine Arts**	1 credit
Total	22 credits

* *Effective for all students beginning with those students graduating during the 2017-2018 school year.*

** Also see Foreign Language and Fine Arts description in the Description of Requirements section below.

ADDITIONAL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

United States Civics Exam

The United State Civics Exam must be passed with 70% and recorded on the student's record before graduation.

ACT Test

A recorded score must be on file before graduation.

TENNESSEE AND SHELBY COUNTY SCHOOLS DIPLOMA PROGRAMS

Graduation with State Honors

Students who score at or above on **all** of the subject area readiness benchmarks on the ACT or equivalent score on the SAT will graduate with "state honors"

ACT Readiness Benchmark	
English	18
Reading	22
Math	22
Science	23

Graduation with State Distinction

Students will be recognized as graduating with "state distinction" by attaining a B or better average and completing at least one of the following:

- Earn a national and/or state recognized industry certification;
- Participate in at least one of the Governor's Schools;
- Participate in one of the state's All-State musical organizations;
- Earn statewide recognition or award at a skill- or knowledge-based state tournament, convention, or competition hosted by a statewide student organization, and/or qualify for national recognition by a national student organization;
- Be selected as a National Merit Finalist of Semi-Finalist;
- Attain a score of 31 or higher composite score on the ACT or SAT equivalent (e.g., 1360);
- Attain a score of 3 or higher on at least two advanced placement exams;
- Successfully complete the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme; or
- Earn 12 or more semester hours of postsecondary credit.

Graduation with Shelby County Schools Honors

Students with an overall grade point average of a 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale. The District may set a higher GPA at its discretion. The District may specify additional requirements, such as requiring students to demonstrate performance of distinction in one (1) or more areas.

Shelby County Schools Designation of Exemplary Recognition

Students eligible for the *Designation of Exemplary Recognition* must have earned twelve (12) Honors or Advanced Placement credits (any combination) in Grades 9-12 or a combination of such credits totaling twelve (12), with each Advanced Placement credit equal to 1.5 honors credits. A minimum of two (2) Honors or Advanced Placement courses is required during the senior year.

Tennessee Tri-Star Recognition

A student who earns a composite score of nineteen (19) or higher on the ACT, or an equivalent score on the SAT, and earns a capstone industry certification as promoted by the Department of Education, shall be recognized as a Tennessee Tri-Star Scholar upon graduation from high school.

Industry Certification Recognition: District Distinction

A student who obtains an overall grade point average of at least a 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale and have earned an industry certification in his or her career interest category or a regionally-recognized industry certification.

General Information

TRANSCRIPT REQUEST

An *official* transcript is a transcript sent directly from Germantown High. Transcripts are $6 per request form which covers up to 4 transcripts. Transcripts must be requested at least 24 hours before needed. *Transcript Request Forms* are available in the Counseling Office with the guidance secretary.

An *unofficial* transcript is an unsealed transcript issued to the student/parent. Do ***NOT*** included unofficial transcripts with college/university applications unless the school specifically request you to do so. An unofficial transcript is enclosed for verification purposes *ONLY*. Please verify the subjects and credits earned to make sure that your student meets the requirements for their preferred college/university.

A ***FINAL official transcript*** will be mailed after graduation at no cost to the student to the college/university of their choice. Students must have a final transcript showing the date of graduation before registering for college classes.

College acceptance is unofficial until the senior year is successfully completed.

COVID: Please request transcript at https://scstn.scriborder.com/applicationCurrent

ACT

The ACT is given several times a year in Tennessee. It is highly recommended that seniors attempt to complete their college testing by December 2020. Consult with colleges to determine if you are required to take ACT writing. The SAT maybe preferred by some selective colleges.

GHS School Code: 430760

COVID: Due to COVID-19, some colleges and universities will waive ACT scores or offer residual ACT testing. Contact the college admissions office for more information.

COLLEGE VISITS

Seniors are allowed two excused college visits per year. *College Visit Request Forms* are available in the Counseling Office and must be approved by Ms. Norman or Ms. Odom and submitted to the Attendance Office before the college visit. Upon returning from the college visit, the student must return the request form signed by a college official to the 1st period teacher.

Approval for college visits are based on the student's academic status, attendance, and ACT/SAT scores.

COVID: College Visit Permission Forms are online at GHS College Visit Permission Form

SENIOR CELEBRATION (TBA)

COVID: Instructions for Senior Celebration will be provided at a later time.

CLASS RINGS

Class rings can be ordered anytime with Jostens/Ring Leader.

Jostens/Ring Leader
5587 Murray Avenue Suite 105
Memphis, TN 38119
901-682-1801 (Press 1 and ask for Cathy)

Graduation and Graduation Practice Procedures

CAPS & GOWNS

Caps & Gowns may be ordered from Jostens.
IF PARTICIPATING IN GRADUATION, SENIORS ARE REQUIRED TO PURCHASE A *CURRENT* CAP & GOWN
COVID: Instructions for Cap & Gown purchases will be provided at a later time.

GRADUATION ANNOUNCEMENT

Seniors will meet in October to receive information about ordering announcements. Payment is due when orders are placed. Announcements are ordered with Jostens/Ring Leader. Please contact Jostens/Ring Leader for more information.
COVID: Instructions for announcement purchases will be provided at a later time.

GRADUATION PRACTICE

Graduation practice is ***required*** for all graduates participating in the graduation ceremony.
Location: TBA
Cellphones and hats are NOT allowed at graduation practice. Students ***must*** follow the **SCS Dress Code**. Students who are late to practice run the risk of not participating in the graduation ceremony.
NO PRACTICE! NO GRADUATION!
COVID: Instructions for graduation practice will be provided at a later time.

GRADUATION

Location: TBA
Date: TBA
Time: TBA
COVID: Instructions for graduation will be provided at a later time.

GRADUATION ATTIRE

Graduation is special ceremony and rite of passage for graduates. Students are required to dress appropriately for the ceremony. The graduation gowns are RED but thin.

ATTIRE FOR GRADUATES

Dress (Pastels)
Shoes
- Flats ONLY- This is a safety precaution.
- Closed toe & closed heel ONLY
- White
- Black
- Tan
- NO tennis shoes! NO flip-flop! No Sandals!

Jewelry
- Stud style earring ONLY
- NO other jewelry maybe worn

***You may bring other shoes to wear after the graduation.**

Pants
- Dark dress pants (preferably black)

Shirt
- White long sleeve button down shirt

Tie
- ***Dark*** color of your choice

Shoes
- Dark dress shoes (preferably black)
- NO Tennis shoes! NO flipflops! NO Spikes!

Socks
- Dark dress socks (preferably black)

Jewelry
- Stud Style earring ONLY
- NO other jewelry maybe worn

COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS

WHEN TO START.	Start the application process during the ***first semester*** of your senior year.
GETTING ORGANIZED.	Set up a tracking system to keep track of all correspondences, deadlines, and items needed to complete the application process.
STEP 1:	Apply by submitting an application online or paper application.
STEP 2:	If applicable, pay the college application fee.
STEP 3:	Submit a request for your transcript to be sent directly from GHS to the college. **(Transcript Request Forms are located in the guidance office.)**
STEP 4:	Allow ***15 business*** days for the college to process your application.

RECOMMENDATION LETTERS

If a recommendation is ***required***,

By a teacher

- Send an email to the teacher of your choice requesting assistance by submitting a recommendation letter/form on your behalf.
  - Enclose a copy of your resume with the email.
- Give the teacher a ***2 weeks*** prior notice to the deadline.
- Due to Covid, all recommendation letters will be emailed to the requesting organization.

By a counselor

- **You can request a Recommendation Letter from Ms. Norman by clicking on the link GHS Recommendation Letter Request .**
  NOTE: See the "Virtually Everything You Need to Know Post-Secondary" Sheet.
- Allow **2 weeks** prior notice to the deadline.

For recommendations to be received by the deadline, you *MUST* submit your request to the teacher/counselor *2 weeks* in advance.

WEBSITES TO KNOW

COLLEGE SEARCH

Big Future
www.collegeboard.com

FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIPS

TN Student Assistance Corporation(TSAC)
www.tn.gov/collegepays/tsac-student-portal.html
College Pays TN
www.tn.gov/collegepays.html
Federal Student Aid
www.studentaid.ed.gov
Free Application for Federal Student Aid
www.fafsa.ed.gov
The Community Foundation of Greater Memphis
www.cfgm.org/scholarships
The United States Department of Agriculture
www.usda.gov/our-agency/careers/scholarship-programs
The UNCF
www.uncf.org/scholarships
Gates Millennium Scholars
https://gmsp.org/
My Scholly
www.myscholly.com/

TESTING

ACT
www.actstudent.org
ACT Fee Waiver Instructions
www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/FeeWaiver.pdf
SAT
www.collegeboard.com
SAT Fee Waiver Instructions
https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/fees/fee-waivers

TEST PREP

khan Academy
www.khanacademy.org/

ATHLETICS

NCAA Eligibility Center
www.ncaa.org/

Tips for Avoiding Senioritis

The symptoms show up every year. High school seniors try to balance extracurricular activities, a social life, college admission and perhaps a part-time job. Somewhere along the way, home work begins to seem less important and spending time with friends becomes the top priority. Then, they get accepted to college, and after that, high school seems even less important. School work begins to slide, and so do their grades. The diagnosis? Senioritis.

Senioritis can be defined as a "sickness" that strikes high school seniors. Symptoms include: laziness, an over-excessive wearing of track pants, old athletic shirts, sweatpants, athletic shorts, and sweatshirts. Also features a lack of studying, repeated absences, and a generally dismissive attitude. The only known cure is a phenomenon known as graduation. Senioritis is easy to catch and hard to get rid of. It can also be dangerous to your plans for the future. Every year, colleges take back their offers of admission, put students on academic probation, or change financial aid packages because of it. For example, Wilkes University (PA) gives merit-based financial aid based in part on class rank. "Four [students] this year were awarded one merit level based on their class rank at the point of application, but [their] final transcripts showed that their class rank had fallen to such a level that they no longer qualified for the original merit level," says the dean of enrollment services at Wilkes. "The damage ranged from $1,000 per year to over $3,000 per year in merit aid." A less obvious consequence of slacking off senior year is the lack of being prepared for the challenges of college. Freshman year can be tough, even for students who kept up with their course work throughout high school. Imagine entering college with rusty study skills?

"The habits one forms early in life are often carried over into later stages of life, be it college or the professional world," says the dean. "Motivation and hard work will always win out over basic intelligence."

Regardless of the consequences, it is still tempting to let school work slide. After all, seniors are busy people. To help you fight that temptation, read on for some ways to avoid senioritis.

Plan ahead. You probably already know what activities you'll stay involved in this year. And you know that college applications are coming up fast. Plus, you want to make the most of your time with friends and family. Fitting all of it in without pulling your hair out (or pulling your grades down) is the goal. The best tool is a

calendar or day planner. Write down all of your deadlines, for applications, papers, tests and so on. Then note your other activities, your sports schedule, drama or band rehearsals, SAT or ACT day, or college visits. Then, map out what you have to do. To complete that English paper, when should you begin working on it? If the big game is the night before the due date, plan to finish the paper a few days ahead of time. You won't have time to get it done the night before because you'll be leading the team to victory!

Don't obsess. It's easy to get caught up in the college admission process and forget about the here and now. "Don't spend the whole senior year obsessing about college admission," says the director of admission at Oberlin College (OH). "Going about the business of being a good student and good citizen, making choices for the betterment of your brain, body and spirit, often offers more benefit for college admission than some plan crafted to impress college admission officers." *So don't get involved in some activity just to impress colleges.* You don't have time for that. Instead, do the things you love, and drop activities that you're just not that committed to. (That doesn't include academics, though!)

Talk about it. Senior year can be sad and exhilarating at the same time. You and your friends catalog all the "lasts"—the last first day of school, the last football game, the last prom. But you're also looking forward to graduating and starting college.

"Remember in The Wizard of Oz when Scarecrow said 'part of me is over there and part of me is over here'?" says a representative from Westmont College (CA). "That's how seniors feel."
She advises seniors to talk about their feelings—which can range from fear of leaving high school to stress about college admission to anticipation of the new experiences college will bring. Useful people to talk to are your friends (who are going through the same things you are), your parents, your guidance counselor and other adults whom you respect.

Have fun. "I always encourage seniors to celebrate their senior year," says the representative from Westmont. "They have worked a long time to get to this point and should do all they can to enjoy it."

Back to: Guidance for Seniors

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1050 North Highland Street, Suite 400, Arlington, VA 22201 | Phone: 800-822-6285 | Fax: 703-243-9375 | Email: info@nacacnet.org

The Application Process

Narrowing Your College List

In the fall of your senior year it is important to narrow your list of potential college choices and choose the schools to which you will apply. If you have done good research and have visited as many of the schools as you feasibly can, the process of narrowing your list should be fairly easy. There is no magic number of applications to submit; however, it is important that you have among your list three different categories: a safety school, an optimistic school and a reach school.

Safety School

Among the schools to which you are applying be certain that you have at least one safety school. You should have an academic safety as well as a financial safety. A safety school, as its name implies, is a school where you have well above a 50% chance of being admitted. While your safety school may not be your first choice, it needs to be a place where you feel you could be happy in case it turns out to be your only choice. Do not select a safety school by default!

Optimistic School

You should choose a couple of schools for which your SAT scores and GPA closely match the median scores and GPA of the freshman class profile. You have a 50/50 chance of being admitted. While your statistics may match the school's statistics and your chances for admittance are good, it is important to realize that each applicant pool is different and schools may become slightly more or less selective in any given year. It is also important to remember that admission offices will look beyond your numbers as they try to shape their first year class.

Reach School

After you complete your college search you may have liked a school for which your scores and GPA fall below the median numbers for their entering freshman class. Although you may have less than a 50% chance of being admitted, it is not wrong to set high goals and apply to a reach school. Let Memphis' location work for you in this category. Schools that are in a different region of the country love to boast that they have students from different areas. This is when geographic distribution can be in your favor! It is important to remember that you have to be realistic regardless. If you approach the reach schools in this manner and do not have your heart set on being admitted, you can then rejoice if you are admitted, but will not feel devastated if you are not. Remember, the turtle who never sticks his neck out of his shell gets nowhere.

College Selection: Finding A Match

There are thousands of colleges and universities in the country. How are you going to find the one that's right for you? Following are key issues you need to think about when searching for a school:

SIZE

One of the major distinctions between small and large schools is course offerings and student-faculty ratio. Most large schools have extensive course offerings; however, they will probably be extremely large lecture classes, sometimes numbering hundreds of students. At smaller schools there will be more limited course offerings and fewer majors or departments, but most classes will be pretty small, often limited to 20 students or fewer. As you think about the differences between small and large schools, keep in mind that this is all relative. Even at large schools, you'll usually have opportunities to take small classes and seminars, either at higher levels or in special programs. And many small schools are affiliated with other schools that group together as part of a consortium, which greatly increases the opportunities and resources available to students.

LOCATION

A school's climate can be an important consideration for many students, as well as distance from home. Some students choose to go to school relatively close to home, others want to get as far away as possible. Living at home or near home can save on travel expenses and cut down on long-distance phone bills. For many, though, college marks the first opportunity to live on their own, free from the watchful eyes of concerned parents.

SETTING

If you attend school in a city, you'll have any number of cultural activities, not to mention cuisines, to choose from. But you'll also have pollution, crowds, and noise. Colleges located in rural locations, on the other hand, are more like those scenic campuses you see in movies. You can live in beautiful, peaceful collegiate surroundings, which can make it easier to work and study. Also, at rural and suburban campuses, there is often a stronger feeling of community and cultural activities are frequently brought to campus.

COST

How much you can afford to pay for your education is obviously a major factor in determining where you apply. You don't necessarily have to eliminate certain schools from your list because the tuition is too high. Instead, you should begin to investigate the many forms of financial aid that are available. In addition to tuition, you should consider such factors as the room and board expenses as well as the costs of traveling back and forth to school.

CollegeBoard **Access**

Campus Visit Checklist

Visiting a college campus helps you get a sense of what a college — and life at that college — is like. This can help you decide whether the college is right for you.

GATHER INFORMATION

Find out what you need to do to apply, and see if the college's class and major offerings are what you want:

- ☐ Take part in a group information session at the admission office.
- ☐ Interview with an admission officer.
- ☐ Pick up financial aid forms.
- ☐ Sit in on a class that interests you. If classes aren't in session, just see what the classrooms are like.
- ☐ Meet a professor who teaches a subject that interests you.
- ☐ Talk to students about what they think of their classes and professors.
- ☐ Get the names and business cards of the people you meet so you can contact them later if you have questions.

EXPLORE THE CAMPUS

Get a feel for student life, and see if this college is a place where you will do well:

- ☐ Take a campus tour.
- ☐ Visit the dining hall, fitness center, library, career center, bookstore, and other campus facilities.
- ☐ Talk to current students about the college and life on campus.
- ☐ Check out the freshman dorms, and stay overnight with a student, if possible.
- ☐ Talk to the coaches of sports that you may want to play.
- ☐ Walk or drive around the community surrounding the campus.

CHECK OUT CAMPUS MEDIA

Tune in to learn what's happening on campus and what's on students' minds:

- ☐ Listen to the college radio station.
- ☐ Read the student newspaper.
- ☐ Scan bulletin boards to see what daily student life is like.
- ☐ Go to the career center and learn what services it offers.
- ☐ Browse the school's website and any campus blogs.
- ☐ Read other student publications, such as department newsletters, alternative newspapers, and literary reviews.

GET THE MOST OUT OF A CAMPUS VISIT IN 6 STEPS

1 DECIDE WHERE AND HOW

See if your school arranges group trips to colleges or if you could get a group of friends together and visit the campus. A family trip is another option and allows you to involve your family in the process.

2 PREPARE FOR YOUR VISIT

Before you set out, get a map of the college campus and pick out places of interest. Call the college's admission office to schedule a guided tour of the campus.

3 TAKE YOUR OWN TOUR

Just wandering around the campus on your own or with friends can be the best way to get a feel for what a college is like.

4 EXPLORE THE FACILITIES

Find the spots on campus where students gather or ask a student where the best place to eat is to get a feel for the character of the college. Visit the library and check out the gym or theater. Ask an admission officer if you can tour a dorm and a classroom.

5 MAKE CONNECTIONS

Talk to current students. Ask the students at the next table or sitting nearby what they like best about the college.

6 TAKE NOTES

During your visit, write down some notes about your experience. What did you see that excited you? Are there aspects of the college that you don't like? If so, what are they?

Questions to Ask During Your Visit:

ASK TOUR GUIDES/STUDENTS

- What are the best reasons to go to this college?
- What's it like to go from high school to college?
- What do you do in your free time? On the weekends?
- What do you love about this college?
- What do you wish you could change about this college?
- Why did you choose this college?
- What is it like to live here?
- What does the college do to promote student involvement in campus groups, extracurricular activities, or volunteerism?

ASK PROFESSORS

- What are the best reasons to go to this college?
- Can a student be mentored by professors, graduate students, or upperclassmen?
- How are professors rated by the college? Does the college think mentoring and meetings for project guidance are important?
- How does the college help students have access to professors outside class? Do professors join students for lunch, help with community service groups, or guide student organizations?
- How many students do research or other kinds of projects for a semester or more?

ASK THE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE

- How much has your total college cost for each student risen in the past year?
- How much do your students usually end up owing when they graduate?
- What is the average income of graduates who had the same major that interests me?
- Will my costs go up when your tuition goes up, or can we use the same tuition rate I started with so I'll know the costs for four years?
- How many students usually graduate in the major that interests me? How long do these students usually take to get their degree? In what ways does the college help students graduate in four years?

Visit **bigfuture.org** for more information.

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00712-006 160851609

Questions to Ask College Representatives

Visiting college campuses is the best way to determine if a school is right for you, and we want your MSU campus visit to be as informational and helpful as possible. With that in mind, we compiled a list of questions to make sure you get answered during your campus visit.

Admissions

- What are the application deadlines for admission?
- What is the average high school GPA of the entering freshman class?
- Is the ACT or SAT required?
- Do you accept Advanced Placement courses (or IB credits)?
- When must I choose a major?
- Do you offer early decision or early admission?
- What if I don't meet the admissions requirements?
- Will you accept transfer credits?

Academics

- How easy is it for freshmen to get classes?
- What's the largest class on campus? The smallest?
- What are the most popular majors? Do you have those in which I am interested?
- Do you have to declare a major when you apply?
- What types of internships are available?
- Are there study abroad opportunities?
- How do you assign faculty advisors to students, especially those who are undecided about their majors?
- What is the student to faculty ratio?
- What additional academic services are offered to students (tutoring, career counseling, study skills workshops)?

Financial Aid & Scholarships

- When is the priority deadline for financial aid applications?
- What kind of financial aid is available?
- How many students received financial aid?
- What types of scholarships are available?

Campus Life

- What types of extra-curricular activities are there on campus?
- What athletic events are popular on campus?
- Are there fraternities and sororities? How strong are they on campus?
- Is there transportation on and off campus? Is it easy to get to town and/or home?
- What is the climate during the school year?
- How are your town/gown (community and campus) relations?
- What do students do in their free time?
- Are students required to live on campus?
- Is housing guaranteed? For how long?
- How are roommates selected?
- How does the meal plan work?

The TOP 10 Ways to Succeed in College Outside of the Classroom

(in no particular order)

Studies consistently show that students who become socially integrated or "connected" with other people in the college community are more likely to remain in college and complete their degree.

(Cuseo, Fecas, & Thompson, 2007)

LIVE ON CAMPUS

- Great way to meet new people.
- Easier to get to class on time.
- Can include meal plan, good parking, etc.
- Can be based around year in school or degree program.

PLACES TO LIVE ON CAMPUS:

-
-
-
-

JOIN A CLUB THAT INTERESTS YOU

- Great way to meet new people with similar interests.
- The sky's the limit on what type of club you can join.
- Easy to start a new group.

CLUBS THAT INTEREST ME:

-
-
-
-

ATTEND UNIVERSITY EVENTS

- Free to low priced for students.
- Wide variety of events (plays, speakers, open mic nights, etc.)
- Enlarge your world!

EVENTS TO ATTEND:

-
-
-

GO THROUGH RECRUITMENT

- Great way to meet new people!
- Decide for yourself if it's for you.
- It's not all the media says it is.
- Academics, Friendship, Community Service, Leadership, Social

FRATERNITY/SORORITY RECRUITMENT DATES:

_____

SERVE THE COMMUNITY

- Colleges offer many opportunities to serve those in need.
- Another great way to meet people.
- Travel to different cities/countries, possible to have expenses paid.

EXPLORE YOUR TOWN

- Taste the local cuisine.
- Support the local economy.
- Find a part time job.
- Venture to local tourism hotspots!

BE HEALTHY

- Work out at the rec center – weight rooms, cardio areas, and classes.
- Choose healthy food options.
- If you don't feel well- check out Health Services – discounted prescriptions.

SUPPORT YOUR IN-CLASSROOM LEARNING

- Join a major-based organization.
- Get to know your department faculty.
- Get to know others in your program.

HAVE FAITH

- Good way to meet new people.
- Join a faith-based group to continue your faith away from home.
- University based groups vs. nearby church groups.

SUPPORT YOUR TEAM

- Free to low priced tickets for students or reserved student section.
- Shows the spirit of the university.
- It's fun to root on the home team!

SERVICE PROJECTS THAT INTEREST ME:

-
-
-

FUN SPOTS AROUND TOWN:

-
-
-

HEALTHY HABITS TO KEEP IN COLLEGE:

-
-
-

MAJOR-BASED GROUPS TO JOIN:

-
-
-

FAITH-BASED GROUPS THAT INTEREST ME:

-
-
-

COLLEGE SPORTS I ENJOY:

-
-
-

The Personal Statement

Your personal statement should be exactly that — personal. This is your opportunity to tell the university about yourself — your hopes, ambitions, life experiences, inspirations. We encourage you to take your time on this assignment. Be open. Be reflective. Find your individual voice and express it honestly.

As you respond to the essay prompts, think about the admissions and scholarship officers who will read your statement and what you want them to understand about you. While your personal statement is only one of many factors considered when making our admission decision, it helps provide context for the rest of your application.

The personal statement...

- Offers colleges an understanding of you as a unique individual within the context of your family, school, community, and the world.
- Adds clarity, richness, and meaning to the information collected in other parts of your application.
- Allows you to make your best case for why you should be admitted.
- Clarifies the distinctions between applicants whose academic records appear to be quite similar.
- Provides us with information that may not be evident in other parts of your application.
- Is a forum for you to explain how factors outside of your school environment have enhanced or impeded your ability to maximize available academic and intellectual opportunities

The most compelling personal statements often include discussion of...

- Your academic record, accomplishments, and activities.
- Any unusual circumstances, challenges, or hardships you have faced and the ways in which you have overcome or responded to them.
- Your initiative, motivation, leadership, persistence, service to others, special potential, and/or substantial experience with other cultures.
- Your achievements in light of the opportunities available to you.

Tips for Success

Start on your personal statement early.

Give yourself time to think about your topics, and carefully consider the rationale behind each question.

Be clear. Be focused. Be organized.

Make sure your personal statement follows a logical structure. Try to think about how it may seem to an audience who doesn't know you. Input from people you trust—teachers, friends, relatives—can help you get different perspectives on how your personal statement affects those who are reading it.

Be careful with humor and clichés.

What might seem funny or bitingly ironic to you might not seem that way to someone who doesn't know you. Remember that the personal statement is an opportunity for you to give us a complete picture of yourself. Don't allow clichés to speak for you.

Don't manufacture hardship.

A personal statement isn't effective simply because it chronicles difficult circumstances. Rather, an effective personal statement gives us a clear sense of your personal qualities and how you have used and developed them in response to your opportunities and challenges.

Use specific examples to illustrate your ideas.

Thousands upon thousands of personal statements discuss initiative. Only hundreds show initiative with concrete examples of demonstrated motivation and leadership. But examples are only one part of the equation: colleges also need to see how you have assigned meaning to your experiences and how you have grown from them. Colleges want you to prove to them with written examples that you have a sense of who you are, where you are going, and how you are going to use your education and your experiences to accomplish your goals. Although some events have long-term or even lifetime ramifications, it is usually better to focus on recent events because they shed more light on who you are right now.

Finally, give yourself plenty of time for revisions.

Read your writing to others and revise for clarity in content and in style. Pay attention to rules of correct grammar and punctuation, and don't forget to spell check.

We hope these tips will help you get organized and will inspire you. Your accomplishments, your opinions...you are important. Your personal statement is the best tool you have to show a university the individual gifts you have to offer to their college community.

The College Essay and Personal Statement

These tips will help you write a winning essay!

- **Answer the question.**
- **Choose an appropriate topic and know your audience.**
- **Choose something "real" to write about, something about which you feel strongly and know well.**
- **The essay is your "voice" in the application. It is your chance for the reader to get to know you and gain insight into your personality, values, goals, and character.**
- **Reveal something in the essay or statement that cannot be found anywhere else in the application.**
- **What makes you special may not, in your eyes, seem profound, but will be meaningful and authentic to the reader.**
- **If focusing on another person and his/her life, make sure that you indicate in detail and in a reflective way how that person has influenced *your* life.**
- **If you choose to focus on a past life event, make sure it has relevance to who you are now. Make the connection for your reader s to how and why this past event may have been a turning point for your.**
- **Show, rather than tell. Give examples and illustrate your topic.**
- **Write in your own voice and use your own style.**
- **Don't write what you think the Admissions Committee wants to hear.**
- **Be concise and to the point. Say what you need to say to get your point across.**
- **Abide by the word limit.**
- **Type your essay or personal statement**
- **The first few sentences are critical because they must engage the reader.**
- **Have someone proofread your essay or personal statement (spelling, grammar, sentence structure, and content are important!)**

The COLLEGE

Essay

Topics to Avoid

Although you will have a choice about what to write about in your essay, there are certain topics that you should try to avoid.

You should not write about:

- Your relationship with your boyfriend or girlfriend.
- Your political beliefs (this does not include working for a political candidate).
- The evils of drugs or the pleasures of drugs.
- Sex.
- How much you like to party.
- A topic you think would appeal to the reader, but does not appeal to you.
- Anything that reveals you to be a poor student who does not like to study.
- The importance of a college education.

Sample COLLEGE Essay Questions

1. "Write about a special interest, experience, achievement, or anything else you would like us to know about you." -Hamilton College
2. " What would you do if you were given a year to spend any way you wish?" -SUNY Geneseo
3. "Please tell us your thought about your future. How do these thoughts relate to your choice of major?" -Georgetown University
4. "If you were chosen as your high school's valedictorian, what would you say in the valedictory address to your peers?" -Marist College
5. "Given the authority to establish a holiday, what would you choose to commemorate?" -Stanford University
6. "Discuss something (*anything*) you just wished you understood better." -Princeton University
7. "Describe a character in fiction, a historical figure, or a creative work (as in art, music, science, etc.) that has had an influence on you, and explain that influence." -Common Application

Small Errors = Big Mistakes

Have someone else proofread your essay. Make sure it is perfect.

SAMPLE COVER LETTER FOR RESUME

Your street address
Germantown, TN 38138
August 20, 2012

Mrs. Odom, Guidance Department
Germantown High
7536 Old Poplar Pike
Germantown, TN 38138

Dear Mrs. Odom:

Thank you for agreeing to write a recommendation letter for me for admission and scholarship opportunities at both the University of Memphis and the University of Tennessee. My parents and I visited the campuses last summer, and I am particularly impressed with the engineering department at both schools.

My high school experience has provided many opportunities to prepare for college. (Add examples other than what is on resume. Working at the box office for the theatre department at Germantown High has taught me responsibility and time management skills. My duties include… .In addition, throughout high school, I have taken honors classes each year and have maintained an A average. Thus, balancing honors classes with co-curricular activities has prepared me for the demands of college.)

I am attaching a copy of my resume and two stamped, addressed envelopes for the letters. The deadline for scholarship recommendations is November 1. Thank you for helping me with my college admission process.

Sincerely,

Sign your name here (4 lines between closing and typed name)

Name typed

SAMPLE EMAIL

Mrs. Douglas,

Thank you for agreeing to write a letter of recommendation for me. I am planning to major in engineering, but I have not finalized my college decision yet. I would appreciate it if you would write a general recommendation on school letterhead that I can use for different colleges.

I have attached my resume. Would it be possible for me to pick up the letter before fall break? I will stop by your classroom the first week in October if that is convenient for you.

Thank you for taking time to help me,

Suzy Student

YOUR NAME

Address
City, State ZIP Code
Home Phone (901) 555-2468 Cell Phone (901) 755-2013
E-mail address (professional style with letters and numbers—nothing cute or clever)

EDUCATION

Germantown High School
7653 Old Poplar Pike
Germantown, TN 38138
901-756-2350

GPA: 3.4
ACT: 24
Class Rank: 65 of 456
Standing: Senior

RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

- First Place National Spanish Exam (12)
- National Honor Society (11-12)
- National Beta Club (10-12)
- Spanish Club Secretary (11)
- Perfect Attendance (9)
- Best All Around (9)

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Band (9-12)
- Chamber Choir (9-12)
- A Better Chance Club (11)
- Student Government Association (9-10)

COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTEER WORK

- Make A Wish donor (12)
- Angel Tree shopper for first period class (11)
- Germantown Centre Special Education Dance Volunteer (10-11)
- GHS PTSA Campus Clean-up volunteer (9-11)

ATHLETICS

- Church league basketball (12)
- GHS Red Devil Baseball (11-12)
- GHS Track (9-10)

WORK EXPERIENCE

- Panera Bread (2011 to present)
- Babysitting (2009 to present)
- House-sitting and pet care (2010)

Resume' notes

Keep list parallel and succinct (use nouns)
Everything must be on one page. Reduce font if necessary.

NO MISTAKES.

Add extra categories if you have special interests or activities or world travel experience

HOBBIES AND INTERESTS

COMPUTER SKILLS

TRAVEL

HONORS CLASSES

POPLAR PIKE PLAYHOUSE PERFORMANCES or DUTIES

GHS TV DUTIES AND ACTIVITIES

REMINDERS:

Always ask before you assume someone will or has time to write a letter for you.

Put your resume and cover letter in a folder. Include stamped, addressed envelopes with specific directions in the cover letter if the writer is supposed to mail the recommendation. If you are mailing the letter, provide that information in your cover letter (I will pick up the letter and mail it with my application).

DO NOT ask the same person to write multiple college recommendations at different times (exception would be if you needed a letter for a specific scholarship for which you are applying). Plan ahead and get what you need the first time—copies of the same letter with specifics to a particular university and / or a general letter on school stationery that you can copy and use for several schools as needed.

ALWAYS remember to send a note or email to thank the person who recommended you in addition to thanking him or her when you pick up the letter.

12 Words that Trip Up the "At Risk" Student on a Standardized Test

Trace

Follow up, step-by-step, from the beginning to the end, list the steps.

Analyze

Take it apart, tell me the good and the bad, break it down.

Infer

Read between the lines, make an educated guess, what do you think they are really trying to say.

Evaluate

Rate, grade, score or judge it.

Formulate

Create, Come up with, build, show me in words what it means.

Describe

Paint a picture in words, tell me all about it.

Support

Back it up, prove it, give me the reasons, give me some facts.

Explain

In your own words tell me about it, give your opinion.

Summarize

Recap in a few sentences, give me the main ideas in a few sentences.

Compare

Tell how all the things are alike.

Contrast

Tell how all the things are different.

Predict

Give me your best guess, look ahead and tell me what you think will happen.

Register at **actstudent.org**

Here's what you'll need to register for the test:

- About 45 minutes
- A credit card or fee waiver
- Your high school course list and grades
- Your interests—our interest survey will match you to academic programs and jobs you might enjoy
- Up to four colleges and universities to send your score reports for free
- Your photo to upload

Why you should check YES

When registering for the ACT, you can choose to sign up for the ACT Educational Opportunity Service (EOS) and have an opportunity to:

- Get recruited by more colleges
- Find more scholarship opportunities
- Broaden your college search

To learn more about how EOS discloses information about you, in order to provide you with free information from colleges, universities, financial aid/scholarship agencies and organizations that offer educational programs, go to **act.org/sayyes**

Accommodations & English Learner Supports

During the registration process, you can indicate a need for accommodations and/or English learner supports.

For a step-by-step guide on requesting accommodations, go to **act.org/accomms**

Practice for Free with ACT Academy

ACT Academy™ is a free online learning tool and test practice program designed to help you get the best score possible on the ACT test, and well on your way to college and career success.

- Personalized resources
- Accessible anytime/anywhere there is an internet connection
- Both a full length ACT test option as well as ACT test sections
- Educational games to drive mastery of content

Start practicing today at **act.org/academy**

Get More from Your Score Report

Most scores are available through your ACT account within two weeks after testing (or five weeks for the writing test) but can take up to eight weeks from the testing date.

The ACT is the only college entrance test that shows you how your interests fit with the college major you plan to enter.

Your custom score report will:

- Help you determine your college readiness
- Help you identify whether your interests match up with your intended major
- Help you plan and inform your future after high school
- Identify your academic strengths and weaknesses
- Help you put yourself in the best position to win a scholarship

For more information, visit **actstudent.org**

GHS Code: 430760

The ACT®

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Web Resources Guide

Information about Financial Aid

Fastweb
www.fastweb.com
FinAid
www.finaid.org
Fastweb's College Gold
www.collegegold.com
Federal Student Aid for Students
www.studentaid.ed.gov
Financial Aid Calculators
www.finaid.org/calculators
College Cost Information
http://navigator.ed.gov
College Affordability and Transparency Center
www.collegecost.ed.gov
FTC Project Scholarship Scam
ftc.gov/scholarshipscams
Guide to Federal Student Aid
studentaid.ed.gov/guide/
International Students
www.edupass.org
Mapping Your Future
www.mappingyourfuture.org
National Student Loan Data System
www.nslds.ed.gov

Sources of Aid

Scholarship Search
www.fastweb.com
AmeriCorps*
www.americorps.gov
Athletic Scholarships
www.ncaa.org
City Year*
www.cityyear.org
College Savings Plan Network
www.collegesavings.org
Job Corps
www.jobcorps.gov
State Resources
www.finaid.org/state
Student Tax Information
www.irs.gov/individuals/students
**Award upon successful program completion*

Financial Aid Applications

CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE
profileonline.collegeboard.com
FAFSA
www.fafsa.ed.gov
FAFSA PIN Registration
www.pin.ed.gov
FAFSA 4Caster
www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov

General Information

Social Security Administration
www.ssa.gov
Selective Service
www.sss.gov
Study Abroad
www.studyabroad.com
U.S. Department of Education
www.ed.gov
Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration
uscis.gov

Graduate and Admissions Testing

SAT & SAT Subject Tests
www.sat.collegeboard.org
ACT
www.actstudent.org
GRE
www.ets.org/gre
LSAT
www.lsac.org
GMAT
www.mba.com/mba
MCAT
www.aamc.org/mcat

Choosing a Career

MonsterCollege
www.monstercollege.com
Bureau of Labor Statistics
www.stats.bls.gov
Occupational Outlook Handbook
www.bls.gov/oco

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Key Scholarship Application Information Quick Reference Guide

Top Scholarships by Category

Most Unusual Scholarships

- Scholarship for Left-Handed Students
- Duck Brand Duct Tape Stuck at Prom Contest
- David Letterman Telecommunications Scholarships
- Zolp Scholarships
- Patrick Kerr Skateboard Scholarships
- Scholar Athlete Milk Mustache of the Year Award
- National Marbles Tournament Scholarships
- Klingon Language Institute Scholarships
- National Beef Ambassador Program
- Vegetarian Resource Group Scholarships

Most Prestigious Scholarships

- Marshall Scholarships
- Rhodes Scholarships
- Winston Churchill Scholarship Program
- Harry S. Truman Scholarships
- Henry Luce Foundation Scholarships
- Morris K. Udall Foundation Undergraduate Scholarships
- Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program
- Barry M. Goldwater Scholarships
- Elie Wiesel Prize in Ethics Essay Contest
- National Merit Scholarship Corporation

Most Generous Scholarships

- Intel Science Talent Search
- Siemens Competition in Math, Science and Technology
- NIH Undergraduate Scholarship Program
- Elks Nat'l Foundation Most Valuable Student Competition
- Davidson Fellows
- Intel International Science and Engineering Fair
- Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarships
- Collegiate Inventors Competition
- Coca-Cola Scholars Program Scholarships
- Gates Millennium Scholars

Scholarships for Age 13 and Under

- National Spelling Bee
- National Geography Bee
- National History Day Contest
- Jif Most Creative Peanut Butter Sandwich Contest
- Scholastic Art & Writing Awards
- Christopher Columbus Community Service Awards
- Dick Blick Linoleum Block Print Contest
- Gloria Barron Prize for Your Heroes
- Patriot's Pen
- Prudential Spirit of Community Awards

Scholarships for Community Service

- Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards
- The Do Something Awards
- Comcast Leaders and Achievers Scholarships
- Discover Card Tribute Awards
- Echoing Green Fellowships
- The Heart of America Christopher Reeve Awards
- Kohl's Kids Who Care Program
- Samuel Huntington Public Service Awards
- National Caring Awards
- Youth Action Net

Scholarships that Don't Need an A

- US Department of Education (Federal Student Aid)
- AXA Achievement Scholarship Program
- Horatio Alger Association Scholarships
- Ayn Rand Institute
- Girls Going Places Scholarships
- Holocaust Remembrance Project Essay Contest
- Americanism Essay Contest
- AFSA National Scholarship Essay Contest
- Red Vines Drawing Contest
- Community Foundation Scholarships

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FAFSA: Step-by-Step

What is it? FAFSA stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The federal government uses this form to determine your eligibility for federal financial aid for college, which may include grants, scholarships, work-study and loans.

Why fill it out? The FAFSA is used to apply for financial aid from the federal and state government(s) and from most public and private colleges. Private colleges may have their own supplemental forms in addition to the FAFSA for awarding their own aid funds. For example, about 250 private colleges require an additional form called the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE. The FAFSA is a prerequisite for the unsubsidized Stafford and Parent PLUS loans, which do not depend on financial need.

EFC stands for **Expected Family Contribution.** According to the government's calculation, you and your family should be able to contribute this amount in the coming academic year to your college costs. The EFC is a harsh assessment of you and your family's ability to pay for college. It does not consider the impact of consumer debt on a family's financial strength.

How does it work? The college you plan to attend will try to meet your demonstrated financial need with a package of different types of aid from multiple sources, including federal, state, school and private sources.

You can do the following on www.fafsa.ed.gov:

- ☐ Electronically sign your FAFSA
- ☐ Check the status
- ☐ Make corrections
- ☐ Add additional colleges and universities
- ☐ Fill out an online renewal FAFSA next year

- To obtain a FSA ID, eligible students should visit https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas.
- Fill out the form to create a FSA ID and follow all instructions.
- Keep your FSA ID confidential. It allows you to electronically sign federal student aid and loan documents and access your confidential FAFSA information.

Step 1: Assemble forms needed to complete FAFSA

You and your parents (if you are dependent) need the following to fill out the form:

- Social Security Number
- Current bank and brokerage account statements
- Driver's license (if any)
- Current mortgage and investment records (if any)
- Alien registration card (if not a U.S. citizen)
- Current federal tax return (estimates are OK on tax questions, if you or your parents haven't filed yet)
- Current untaxed income records (if any)
- Current W2 and 1099 forms and other record of money earned
- Parents' current income tax return (if dependent)

Step 2: Complete the FAFSA

- Download, print and complete the FAFSA on the Web worksheet.
- Complete FAFSA on the Web at www.fafsa.ed.gov. The online version is used by over 99% of the applicants since it includes skip logic to avoid asking you unnecessary and redundant questions. Processing is quicker and more efficient with built-in edit-checks to reduce errors on the form.
- In order to maximize the amount of aid, fill out the FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1.
- Once finished, print the FAFSA summary as well as the "Submission Confirmation" page (or write down your confirmation number and date). If you complete the paper version, make a copy for your records.

Step 3: Review your Student Aid Report (SAR)

The SAR is proof that your FAFSA was received. You should receive your electronic SAR in 1-3 days if you filed electronically (paper filing: 2-3 weeks).

What if I find errors on my Student Aid Report (SAR)?

- Report errors immediately to your financial aid office. You can also make corrections online using your FSA ID at www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- If you don't receive your SAR in 3-4 weeks, call 1-800-433-3243 (1-800-4-FED-AID) or visit www.studentaid.ed.gov.

Quick Tip: *New in 2016, the FAFSA application will now be accepted as early as October 1st. Early submission maximizes your chances of receiving aid.*

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Student Aid Report (SAR) and Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

What is the Student Aid Report (SAR)?

The SAR is a summary of the information you entered on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). It tells you how much federal student aid you might be eligible to receive, and how much the government thinks you can reasonably pay for your school expenses. The SAR also notifies you if you are eligible for a Federal Pell Grant. You will receive a SAR in 1-3 days after you filed an Electronic FAFSA or 2-3 weeks after you filed a paper version. Check immediately for your EFC and any mistakes or errors.

What is the Expected Family Contribution (EFC)?

The EFC is the amount you and your family will be expected to pay for the coming academic year based on your financial situation. Some colleges do not satisfy the student's full demonstrated financial need, leaving the family with unmet need (a gap). Some need may be met with loans, which need to be repaid, usually with interest.

How is the EFC calculated?

The U.S. Department of Education uses the Federal Methodology (FM) to calculate your aid eligibility. The FM takes into account your family's income, the number of family members, in college, net value of assets and your enrollment status, among other factors. To estimate your EFC, utilize the Expected Family Contribution Calculator: www.finaid.org/efc.

What happens after I receive my SAR?

Look for mistakes or errors. Any colleges you listed on your FAFSA will also receive an electronic copy of your SAR. If you find an error notify your school's financial aid office immediately to let them know. Errors can also be corrected online using your FSA ID at www.fasfa.gov.

What if I find mistakes on my SAR?

Let your college know and go to www.fafsa.ed.gov. Under "FAFSA Follow Up," click "Make Corrections to a Processed FAFSA." Check the items you want to change and make corrections. On paper, on the last pages of the SAR, find your original FAFSA info. Make changes and only fill in the areas that need to be changed and/or corrected. You and your parents must sign and mail the corrected FAFSA to the central processor or send to each school to which you are applying to for admission and financial aid.

Highlights of each page in your SAR:

Page 1	Intro: Tracks the aid process for you. If there is an asterisk next to your EFC, you have been selected for verification (see below)*.
Page 2	Confidentiality information; reminders.
Page 3	EFC, other info: EFC is listed at the top, along with other information, such as any issues with aid eligibility.
Page 4	Summary of loans: Refer to your records and make sure your totals are accurate.
Pages 5-8	FAFSA summary: Review the summary. Make corrections or changes in the spaces provided. You can also make changes online at: www.fafsa.gov.

SAR Information Acknowledgement: Correct any wrong information on pages 5 through 8 of the SAR or online.

When do I receive my financial aid?

Once your college reviews your SAR and verifies your eligibility, it will create and notify you of your aid eligibility and send an award letter. You do not need to accept all of the aid that's offered to you; accept only the aid you want. Rejecting one form of aid, however, will not result in increases in the other forms of aid. Federal aid will first be applied to certain school charges, such as tuition, fees, room and board. Excess may then be disbursed to the student or credited to his or her student account.

*Why is there an asterisk next to my EFC?

An asterisk (*) means you have been selected for verification and you must provide documents to your college to verify that information submitted on the FAFSA is correct. If your college asks verification documents, send as soon as possible to avoid a delay in the aid process. The US Department of Education has switched to a targeted verification process. About a third to half of all FAFSAs will be selected for verification. Some colleges verify 100% of their aid applicants, they find that this increases the accuracy of the information used to award financial aid. This helps ensure that the most deserving/needy students receive financial aid.

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Types of Aid

There are many different types of financial aid available from federal and state government, college and private sources. The major types of financial aid include:

Grants are awards typically based on financial need that do not need to be repaid. An example is the Federal Pell Grant. Eligibility often depends on your EFC and/or financial need. For example, the Federal Pell Grant is based on your EFC.

Scholarships are awards usually based on achievement or talent that also do not need to be paid back. You can search for scholarships for free at www.fastweb.com. Fastweb adds and updates scholarships every single day, and will send you email notification when there's a new scholarship that matches your personal background profile. Also, your prospective college(s) may offer scholarships based on academic merit and/or financial need. Call the financial aid office to find out which scholarships are available to you and how you can apply.

Federal Work-Study (FWS) provides part-time jobs for students with financial need. The jobs are usually available on or near campus. A list of available jobs can be found at the college's financial aid office or student employment office. Students who don't qualify for a work-study job may able to find student employment to help pay for college bills or get a little spending money.

Loans are funds that must be paid back, usually with interest. There are federal student loans, federal parent loans, and private or alternative loans. The good news is that interest rates for education loans are currently at historic lows. However, you must demonstrate financial need for some loans, like the Federal Perkins Loan or the Federal subsidized Stafford Loan. Other loans, such as the Federal unsubsidized Stafford loan and the Federal Parent PLUS loan, do not depend on financial need. Private student loans may depend on your credit history. To find out more about loans, visit www.finaid.org/loans.

Education Tax Benefits are available to you and your parents when you file your federal income tax returns based on amounts you paid for college. The most popular education tax benefits are the Hope Scholarship tax credit, Lifetime Learning tax credit and the student loan interest deduction.

American Opportunity Tax Credit provides a federal income tax credit of up to $2,500 (40% refundable) per student based on the first $4,000 in postsecondary tuition, fees and course materials paid by the taxpayer during the tax year. The full $2,500 credit is available to individuals with modified adjusted gross income of $80,000 or less and to married couples filing a joint return with modified AGI of $160,000 or less. For more information about the Hope Scholarship tax credit and other education tax benefits, visit www.finaid.org/otheraid.

Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF). Students who work full-time in a public service job for 10 years may qualify to have their remaining debt forgiven. Public service loan forgiveness works in conjunction with income-based repayment. Public service jobs include public school teachers, police, fire, EMT, members of the military, public defenders, prosecutors and others who work for the city, state and federal government, as well as people working for 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organizations. Public service loan forgiveness is available only for federal student loans. Private student loans and Federal Parent PLUS loans are not eligible. To find out more about public service loan forgiveness, visit www.finaid.org/publicservice.

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Quick Guide to Financial Aid

A few weeks after filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), you will receive a copy of your Student Aid Report (SAR) with your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The prospective college(s) will receive your FAFSA information as well. Each school you applied to will send you a Financial Aid Award Letter, breaking down the college costs and summarizing your eligibility for each type of financial aid. The aid offered in the letter will be based on your demonstrated financial need, which is equal to the Cost of Attendance (COA) minus your EFC. To understand the financial aid process better, here are the key terms you need to know:

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA): The FAFSA is a form used to apply for student financial aid from the federal and state government, as well as most colleges and universities. The government uses the information from your FAFSA to determine your expected family contribution (EFC). You can file the FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Personal Identification Number (PIN). A PIN is a 4-digit number used to electronically sign the online version of the FAFSA. The student and parent must each obtain their own PIN at www.pin.ed.gov. The PIN also gives you access to personal records on the US Department of Education web site. Do not share your PIN with anybody.

Student Aid Report (SAR): The SAR is the official notification sent to you about a week after filing the FAFSA online. This document includes your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The SAR also provides information about the colleges you are considering, such as the graduation rates.

Expected Family Contribution (EFC): The EFC is a measure of your family's financial strength. It is based on the information you submitted on the FAFSA, including income, assets, family size and the number of children in college. Your EFC represents the amount of money the federal government believes your family can contribute toward one academic year of college. It is a harsh assessment of ability to pay, since it does not consider many types of consumer debt, such as credit card debt, student loan debt and auto loans. The actual amount your family ends up paying could be higher or lower than the EFC figure, depending on the sources of aid available to you.

There are two main formulas for calculating an EFC, the federal methodology (FM) and the institutional methodology (IM). The two formulas differ in the types of assets that are included (e.g., family home, assets of siblings), the assumption of a minimum student contribution, the treatment of paper losses, regional differences in cost of living, allowances for educational savings and emergency funds, the treatment of children of divorced parents and adjustments for more than one child in college at the same time. The FM EFC is used for determining eligibility for federal and state aid and financial aid at most colleges. About 250 colleges use the IM EFC for awarding their own financial aid funds.

Financial Aid Package: The financial aid package is a combination of multiple types and sources of financial aid available to you to help pay for college costs. It may include money from the federal government, state government, the college itself and private sources. It can include scholarships, grants, work-study and loans. The financial aid offered by each college may vary and is summarized in financial aid award letters sent by the prospective colleges.

Financial Aid Award Letter: The financial aid award letter is the list of all the aid from multiple sources that you are eligible to receive through your prospective college, including terms and conditions. You are not required to accept every type of aid found in the letter. For example, you could turn down loans. Turning down loans, however, will not increase the amount of grants and/or scholarships you may receive.

Cost of Attendance (COA): The cost of attendance includes the total price of tuition, fees, room, board, textbooks, supplies, transportation and personal expenses for one year of college. This is also known at some colleges as the "Student Budget." There may be separate student budgets for students who live on campus, off campus or with their parents. Some colleges will adjust the cost of attendance to include the cost of a computer, student health insurance and dependent care.

Net Price: The net price or out-of-pocket cost is the bottom line cost of college. It is the difference between the cost of attendance and grants. It is the amount of money you must pay from savings, income and loans to cover college costs.

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A MONSTER COMPANY

Student Bulletin

Understanding Your Financial Aid Award Letter

Use this example as a guide to reading your financial aid award letter. Remember, you can choose to accept or decline any part of your financial aid package. If you decide to decline any type of aid, contact the Financial Aid Office. If you have any questions, make sure to contact your prospective college's aid office immediately.

Expenses (COA*)	
Tuition:	$7,334
Room/Board	$5,204
Health Fees	$ 176
Books/Supplies	$1,015
Personal	$2,600
Transportation	$ 900
Total Expenses	**$17,239**

*Cost of Attendance (COA): The total expenses (tuition, fees, etc.) of one year's education. Your college may also include indirect costs (books, room and board, transportation, personal expenses, etc.). Our example includes both direct and indirect expenses.

Resources (EFC*)	
Parent's Contribution	
From Earnings	$2,500
From Assets	$ 112
Student's Contribution	$ 500
Total Resources	**$3,112**

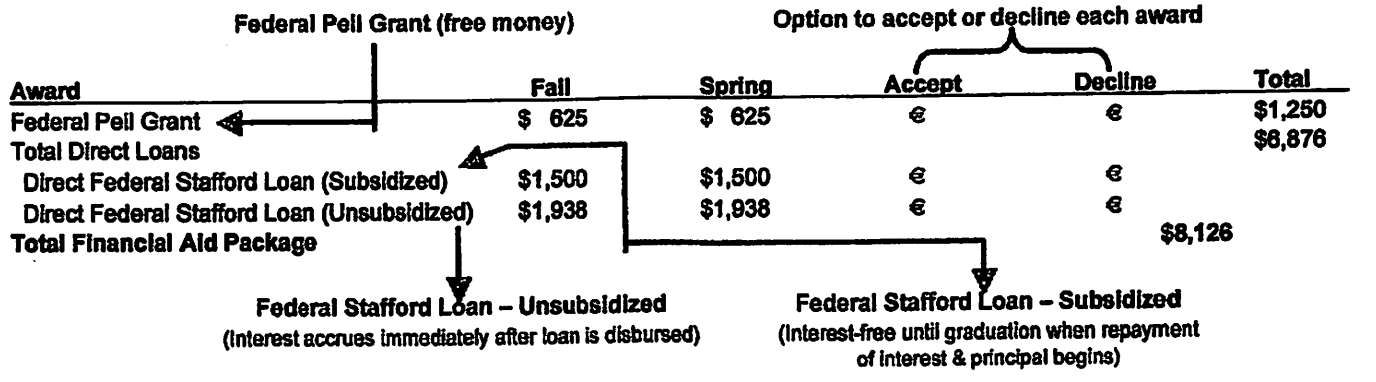
*Expected Family Contribution: Amount your family is expected to contribute determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

The amount you end up actually paying for the academic year, could differ from the EFC, depending on what resources are available at the college you decide to attend.

Sample Award Letter Explained

Dear Student:

The results of your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) indicate that you are eligible for financial assistance for the upcoming academic year. We are pleased to offer you the following financial aid award. Please review each type of award before accepting.



What does this mean to you?

Cost of Attendance (COA)	$17,239
Less Gift Aid (Pell Grant)	- $1,250
Out-of-Pocket Cost (Net Price)	**$15,989**

The out-of-pocket cost (net price) is the difference between the cost of attendance and the gift aid, such as grants and scholarships. It is the amount of money you will have to pay from savings (past income), income and loans (future income). Scholarships and grants will always be the best way to meet the costs of a college education. Search for scholarships at free websites like www.fastweb.com!

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Key Scholarship Application Information Quick Reference Guide

Tips for Applying for and Managing the Scholarship Search

- Start searching for scholarships as soon as possible. There are many scholarships available to students in grades K-11, so don't wait until spring of your senior year. Continue searching for scholarships even after you are enrolled.
- Use a free scholarship matching such as Fastweb.com. The Fastweb database is updated daily and the site will email notifications of new scholarships that match your profile.
- Answer all of the optional questions on a scholarship matching web site to create as many matches as available.
- Look for local scholarships on bulletin boards near the guidance counselor or financial aid offices, or the library's jobs and careers section. Improve grades for more matches.
- To win more scholarships, apply to every scholarship for which you are eligible. It gets easier after several applications. Also, pursue small awards and essay contests. Essays can be reused and tailored to each new application.
- Don't miss deadlines. Use checklists to get organized.
- Tailor your application to the sponsor's goals. Read and follow the instructions carefully.
- If you have difficulty writing essays, record yourself as you answer the question out loud and transcribe the recording. Most people think and speak faster than they can write or type. Write an outline afterward to organize your thoughts.
- Personalize your essay and be passionate. Write about something of interest to you. Make your application stand out from the crowd, talk about your impact on other people and give specific examples.
- Check your online presence to ensure that it looks professional. Review your social media profiles and remove inappropriate and immature material. Use a simple email address, such as firstname.lastname@gmail.com.
- Proofread a printed copy of your essay and the application for spelling and grammar errors.
- Make a copy of your application before mailing it. Send by certified mail, return receipt or with delivery confirmation.

Common Scholarship Application Mistakes

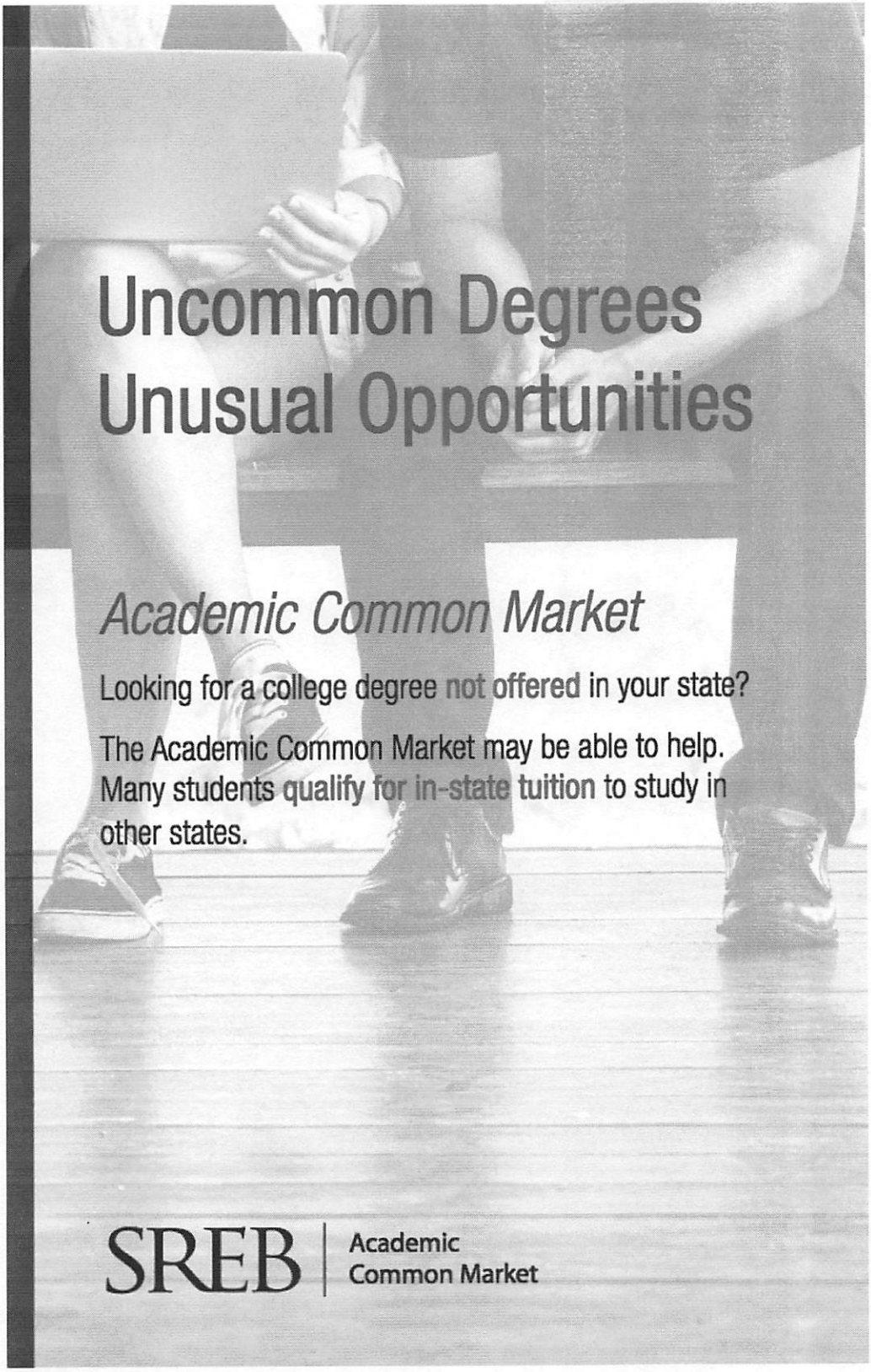
- Missing deadlines
- Failing to proofread the application
- Failing to follow directions, especially regarding essay length and the number of recommendations
- Omitting required information
- Applying for an award when you don't qualify
- Failing to apply for an award for which you are eligible
- Failing to tailor the application to the sponsor
- Writing a boring essay
- Writing an essay that may offend the reviewer
- Including exaggerations or lies on your application

Beware of Scholarship Scams

- If you have to pay money to get money, it's probably a scam.
- Never invest more than a postage stamp to get information about scholarships or to apply for a scholarship.
- Nobody can guarantee that you'll win a scholarship.
- Do not give out personal information like bank account, credit card or Social Security numbers.
- Beware of the unclaimed aid myth. The only money that goes unclaimed is money that can't be claimed

Essential Scholarship Resources

- Fastweb Free Scholarship Matching Service: www.fastweb.com
- FinAid's Scholarships Section: www.finaid.org/scholarships
- Search for Scholarships on the Web: www.finaid.org/websearch
- Beware of Scholarship Scams: www.finaid.org/scholarshipscams and www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams
- Education Tax Benefits: www.finaid.org/taxbenefits and www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p970.pdf
- Federal Student Financial Aid: www.fafsa.ed.gov


Uncommon Degrees
Unusual Opportunities
Academic Common Market
Looking for a college degree not offered in your state?
The Academic Common Market may be able to help. Many students qualify for in-state tuition to study in other states.
SREB
Academic
Common Market

Is Academic Common Market for You?

1 Do you live in one of these 15 states?

Alabama	Georgia	Mississippi	Texas*
Arkansas	Kentucky	Oklahoma	Virginia
Delaware	Louisiana	South Carolina	West Virginia
Florida*	Maryland	Tennessee	

** Florida and Texas participate at the graduate level only*

North Carolina is a Southern Regional Education Board state but does not participate in the Academic Common Market

2 Is the out-of-state degree program you seek eligible?

Use our tool at ACMprograms.SREB.org to see if the degree you seek is eligible for Academic Common Market.

Not all colleges participate, not all programs are offered, and not every offered program is available to students in all states.

If the answers to 1 and 2 are "yes," you may want to apply for Academic Common Market.

3 Have you been admitted to the college?

Apply through the institution's regular application process. Once you are admitted to the college and you have your acceptance letter that clearly states regular admission to the specific program, you are ready to apply to the Academic Common Market.

4 Have you applied to the ACM in your home state?

Contact your state's Academic Common Market coordinator. Complete the process to be certified as a resident of your home state. This process varies state to state but generally involves several signatures. SREB does not manage or track ACM applications.

5 Do I have to reapply each year?

There is no need to reapply so long as you:

- Do not change majors or institutions
- Maintain full-time enrollment
- Maintain home state residency

Check with your institution for additional requirements

TENNESSEE

PROMISE

Student Checklist

August 1, 2020	TN Promise application opens
October 1, 2020	FAFSA Opens
November 2, 2020	TN Promise application closes
February 1, 2021	TN deadline for FAFSA completion. Complete the 2021-2022 FAFSA application. Website: www.fafsa.gov
Fall/Spring	Attend a mandatory meeting coordinated by your assigned partnering organization. Additional details will be sent in the future regarding these meetings.
Spring	Apply to an ***approved*** community or technical college.
By July 1, 2021	Complete and report your first 8 hours of community service. Community service must be completed after November 1, 2020 in order to be considered.

TNACHIEVES MONEY IS...

Last Dollar !
tnAchieves pays only the balance of your tuition and fees. It is often explained as the amount you would pay following the payment of all other state and federal aid or scholarships. For example, if you qualify for the HOPE, you will receive $1000 per semester. Full-time community college tuition and fees are approximately $1730, therefore, tnAchieves would pick up the remaining $730.

Up to $3000 annually !
As a tnAchieves student, you begin with a balance of $3000 each year for college tuition and fees. For example, you may use $1200 your first semester, leaving an $1800 balance for the second semester. tnAchieves does not pay in equal quantities like the HOPE scholarship.

Still available if you receive the HOPE scholarship !
A full-time student owes a balance to the college each semester even after the HOPE is credited to his/her account. Again, tnAchieves pays the remainder of your tuition and fee balance.

Paid directly to college !
You will never receive any money directly from tnAchieves. The money is paid to the college.

Not paid until after the college deadline !
The college will bill tnAchieves on your behalf following the drop/add period and after all other funding is credited to your account. This does not happen until October. You may receive correspondence from your college saying your classes will be dropped if you do not pay. IGNORE THESE!! If you have met all your tnAchieves requirements, the school will not drop your classes. If you pay for these classes, tnAchieves is unable to reimburse, so please be patient, and contact us with any concerns.

Not for books !
tnAchieves will not cover books or any other expenses outside of tuition and fees. Book rental programs are available at most community colleges as well as several websites to buy college textbooks at reduced prices.

Contingent upon meeting requirements !
You will lose your tnAchieves funding if you fail to meet the 2.0 GPA, 8-hour a semester community service requirement, and annual FAFSA deadline. Also, you must verify your attendance with the college before tnAchieves funding applies.

Also contingent upon other requirements !
You must begin in the fall semester directly following your high school graduation date. You must attend all four semesters uninterrupted, excluding the summer. You must attend all tnAchieves meetings during your senior year and meet all tnAchieves deadlines. Finally, you must keep in regular contact with your mentor!

Fast Facts

The Selective Service System
Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs
National Headquarters
Arlington, Virginia 22209-2425

WHO MUST REGISTER

Almost all male U.S. citizens, and male aliens living in the U.S., who are 18 through 25, are required to register with Selective Service. It's important to know that even though he is registered, a man will not automatically be inducted into the military. In a crisis requiring a draft, men would be called in sequence determined by random lottery number and year of birth. Then, they would be examined for mental, physical and moral fitness by the military before being deferred or exempted from military service or inducted into the Armed Forces.

A chart of who must register is also available.

NON-CITIZENS

Some non-citizens are required to register. Others are not. Noncitizens who are not required to register with Selective Service include men who are in the U.S. on student or visitor visas, and men who are part of a diplomatic or trade mission and their families. Almost all other male noncitizens are required to register, including illegal aliens, legal permanent residents, and refugees. The general rule is that if a male noncitizen takes up residency in the U.S. before his 26th birthday, he must register with Selective Service. For a more detailed list of which non-citizens must register, see Who Must Register - Chart.

DUAL NATIONALS

Dual nationals of the U.S. and another country are required to register, regardless of where they live, because they are U.S. nationals.
See also Aliens and Dual Nationals - Liability for Service

HOSPITALIZED OR INCARCERATED MEN

Young men in hospitals, mental institutions or prisons do not have to register while they are committed. However, they must register within 30 days after being released if they have not yet reached their 26th birthday.

DISABLED MEN

Disabled men who live at home must register with Selective Service if they can reasonably leave their homes and move about independently. A friend or relative may help a disabled man fill out the registration form if he can't do it himself.

Men with disabilities that would disqualify them from military service still must register with Selective Service. Selective Service does not presently have authority to classify men, so even men with obvious handicaps must register now, and if needed, classifications would be determined later.

FAX 703-605-4106
E-mail: information@sss.gov
Web: http://www.sss.gov

Military Offices and Recruiters

Army Jeffery Schoonover, Sergeant First Class United States Army 1400 N. Germantown Pkway, Suite 111 Cordova, TN 38016 Jeffery.s.schoonover.mil@mail.mil Office: 901-737-1297 Cell: 601-454-9151	**Marines** Reggie D. Hall, Sgt United States Marine 7424 Stage Road, Suite 106 Bartlett, TN 38133 Reggie.hall@marines.usmc.mil Cell: 901-378-7095
Navy Sean Tuohy, AOS, Petty Officer 2nd Class United States Navy 235 New Byhalia Road, Suite 2 Collierville, TN 38017 Sean.P.Tuohy@navy.mil Office: 901-850-0748 Cell: 901-661-0221	**Air Force** Corey West, Sgt United States Air Force 345 Recruiting Station 7424 Highway 64, Suite 108 Memphis, TN 38133 Corey.west.3@us.af.mil Office: 901-338-8360 Cell: 901-409-4445
National Guard Tammy Hazlerig, Sgt United States National Guard-TN Career Counselor/Recruiting RRNCO Team V TNARNG 7444 Winchester Rd Ste 106 Memphis, TN 38125 Office: 901-395-5906 Cell: 901-229-0364 Tammy.m.hazlerig.mil@mail.mil	**Air Force ROTC** HARLEY P. THOMPSON, Lt Col Air Force ROTC Detachment 785 University of Memphis Hayden Hall 118 Memphis, TN 38152 901-678-2681 hpthmpsn@memphis.edu UofM/CBU/LeMoyne/Rhodes/Baptist
Army ROTC Karlisha Benymon Enrollment Scholarship Officer Army ROTC The University of Memphis Office: 901-678-2934 kbenymon@memphis.edu CBU/Memphis/Rhodes	**Coast Guard** Jason Heniz 8044 Willow Tree Lane Cordova, TN 38018 Office: 901-624-4620 Jason.r.heinz@uscg.mil

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

WHAT IS A CORE COURSE?

NCAA schools require college-bound student-athletes to build a foundation of high school courses to prepare them for the academic expectations in college.

For a high school class to be an NCAA-approved core course, it MUST meet these conditions:

1. Be a four-year college preparatory course in one of these subject areas:
   - English.
   - Math (Algebra I or higher).
   - Natural/physical science.
   - Social science.
   - Foreign language.
   - Comparative religion or philosophy.
2. Be taught at or above your high school's regular academic level.
3. Receive credit toward high school graduation and appear on an official transcript with course title, grade and credit awarded.

What is Not a Core Course

Not all high school classes are NCAA-approved core courses. Some examples of courses that are not NCAA-approved core courses include:

- Courses in non-core areas, such as driver education, typing, art, music, physical education or welding.
- Courses that prepare students for the world of work or life, or for a two-year college or technical school, such as personal finance, consumer education or tech prep.
- Courses taught below grade level, at a slower pace or with less rigor or depth, such as basic, essential, fundamental or foundational courses.
- Credit-by-exam courses.

Find your high school's list of NCAA-approved courses at **eligibilitycenter.org/courselist**. Make sure you are taking the courses on the approved list and ask your counselor if you need help.

Core-Course Credits

You can earn credit for a core course only once. If you take a course that repeats the content of another core course, you earn credit for only one of these courses and the higher grade counts toward your core-course GPA.

Generally, you receive the same number of credits from the NCAA for a core course that you receive from your high school for the class. A one-year class taken over a longer period of time is considered one core course and is not awarded more than one credit.

Courses Taken Before High School

If you take a high school class such as Algebra I or Spanish I in eighth grade, the class may count toward your 16 core courses if it appears on your high school's list of NCAA-approved courses and is shown on your high school transcript with grade and credit.

Courses Taken After High School

For information about courses taken after high school, see page 18 for Division I or page 22 for Division II.

College Courses, Dual-Enrollment Courses and Dual-Credit Courses

College courses may be used to satisfy NCAA core-course requirements if the courses are awarded a grade and credit by the high school for any student and meet all other requirements for core courses. College courses must be placed on the student's high school transcript with clarification of college completion.

NONTRADITIONAL AND ONLINE COURSES

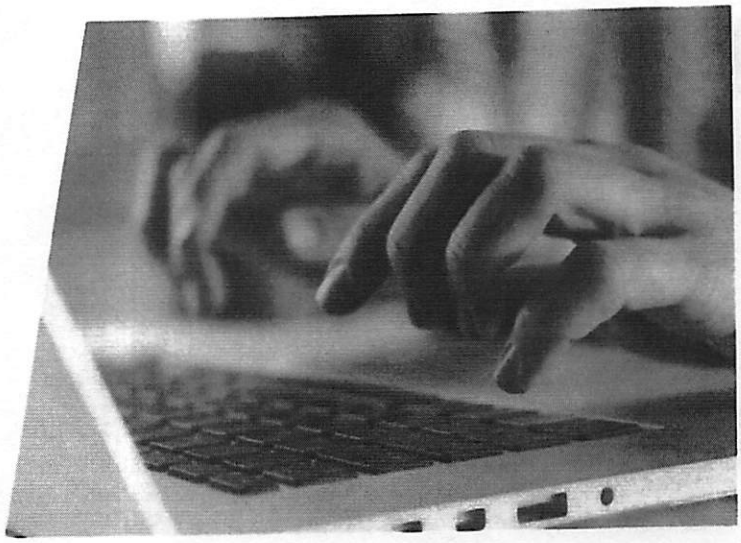
Nontraditional courses are taught online or through distance learning, credit recovery, independent study, individualized instruction or correspondence methods.

Generally, for a nontraditional course to count as an NCAA-approved core course, it must meet *all* of the following requirements:

- The course must appear on the school's list of NCAA-approved courses.
- A student in the course must have regular instructor-led interaction for the purpose of instruction, evaluation and assistance for the duration of the course. This may include, for example, exchanging emails between the student and teacher, online chats, phone calls, feedback on assignments and the opportunity for the teacher to engage the student in individual instruction.
- The course must have a defined time period for completion. For example, it should be clear whether the course is meant to be taken for an entire semester or a more condensed time period.
- The course should be clearly identified as nontraditional on the student's official high school transcript.

REMEMBER...

Log in to your NCAA Eligibility Center account frequently to update your school information if you take courses from additional academic programs.



A nontraditional course may not be approved for any of the following reasons:

- Does not have teacher-based instruction.
- Does not require regular and ongoing instructor-led interaction between the student and teacher.
- Does not require students to complete the entire course.
- Does not prepare students for four-year college classwork.
- Does not have official student grade records.
- Does not meet NCAA core-course requirements.

To find out if a nontraditional program or course is approved, go to **eligibilitycenter.org/courselist** to search the school or program's list of NCAA-approved courses. You will find information about any nontraditional programs or courses in the "Additional Information" box as seen below.

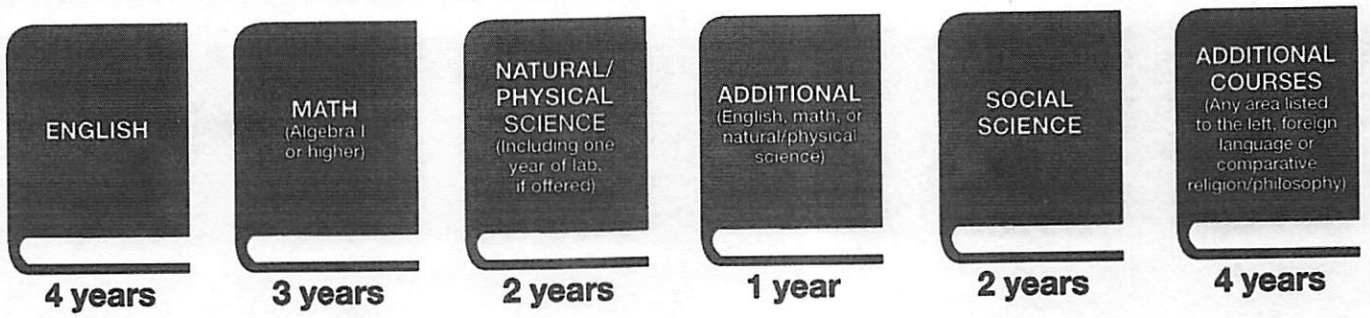
Additional Information

Coursework from this school/program meets NCAA nontraditional core-course legislation.

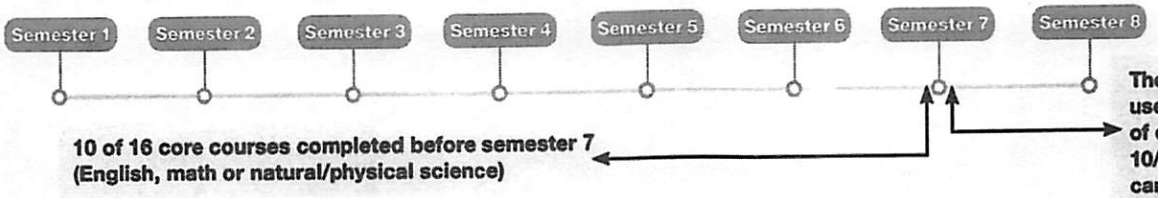
DIVISION I ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Division I schools require you to meet academic standards for NCAA-approved core courses, core-course GPA and test scores. To be eligible to practice, compete and receive athletics scholarships in your first full-time year at a Division I school, you must graduate from high school and meet *all* of the following requirements:

1. Complete a total of 16 core courses in the following areas:



2. Complete 10 of your 16 core courses, including seven in English, math or natural/physical science, before the start of your seventh semester. Once you begin your seventh semester, you must have more than 10 core courses completed to be able to repeat or replace any of the 10 courses used to meet the 10/7 requirement.



The Eligibility Center will use the best combination of courses to meet the 10/7 requirement. Courses can be repeated or replaced so long as they are not needed to meet the 10/7 requirement.

- Students with solely international academic credentials (including Canada) are not required to meet the 10/7 requirement.

3. Complete the 16 NCAA-approved core courses in eight academic semesters or four consecutive academic years from the start of ninth grade. If you graduate from high school early, you still must meet core-course requirements.

4. Earn an SAT combined score or ACT sum score that matches your core-course GPA (minimum 2.300) on the Division I full qualifier sliding scale. Review the sliding scale on page 19 to ensure your score meets Division I requirements.

How to plan your high school courses to meet the 16 core-course requirement:

4 X 4 = 16

4 English courses (one per year)
+ 4 math courses (one per year)
+ 4 science courses (one per year)
+ 4 social science (and/or additional) courses (one per year)

16 NCAA core courses

Sliding Scale for Division I

Division I uses a sliding scale to match test scores and GPAs to determine eligibility. The sliding scale balances your test score with your GPA. Find more information about test scores on page 12 or visit ***ncaa.org/test-scores.***

DIVISION I FULL QUALIFIER SLIDING SCALE			
Core GPA	New SAT*	Old SAT (Prior to 3/2016)	ACT Sum
3.550	400	400	37
3.525	410	410	38
3.500	430	420	39
3.475	440	430	40
3.450	460	440	41
3.425	470	450	41
3.400	490	460	42
3.375	500	470	42
3.350	520	480	43
3.325	530	490	44
3.300	550	500	44
3.275	560	510	45
3.250	580	520	46
3.225	590	530	46
3.200	600	540	47
3.175	620	550	47
3.150	630	560	48
3.125	650	570	49
3.100	660	580	49
3.075	680	590	50
3.050	690	600	50
3.025	710	610	51
3.000	720	620	52
2.975	730	630	52
2.950	740	640	53
2.925	750	650	53
2.900	750	660	54
2.875	760	670	55
2.850	770	680	56
2.825	780	690	56
2.800	790	700	57
2.775	800	710	58

*Final concordance research between the new SAT and ACT is ongoing.

DIVISION I FULL QUALIFIER SLIDING SCALE			
Core GPA	New SAT*	Old SAT (Prior to 3/2016)	ACT Sum
2.750	810	720	59
2.725	820	730	60
2.700	830	740	61
2.675	840	750	61
2.650	850	760	62
2.625	860	770	63
2.600	860	780	64
2.575	870	790	65
2.550	880	800	66
2.525	890	810	67
2.500	900	820	68
2.475	910	830	69
2.450	920	840	70
2.425	930	850	70
2.400	940	860	71
2.375	950	870	72
2.350	960	880	73
2.325	970	890	74
2.300	980	900	75
2.299	990	910	76
2.275	990	910	76
2.250	1000	920	77
2.225	1010	930	78
2.200	1020	940	79
2.175	1030	950	80
2.150	1040	960	81
2.125	1050	970	82
2.100	1060	980	83
2.075	1070	990	84
2.050	1080	1000	85
2.025	1090	1010	86
2.000	1100	1020	86

ACADEMIC REDSHIRT

DIVISION II ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Division II schools require college-bound student-athletes to meet academic standards for NCAA core courses, core-course GPA and test scores.

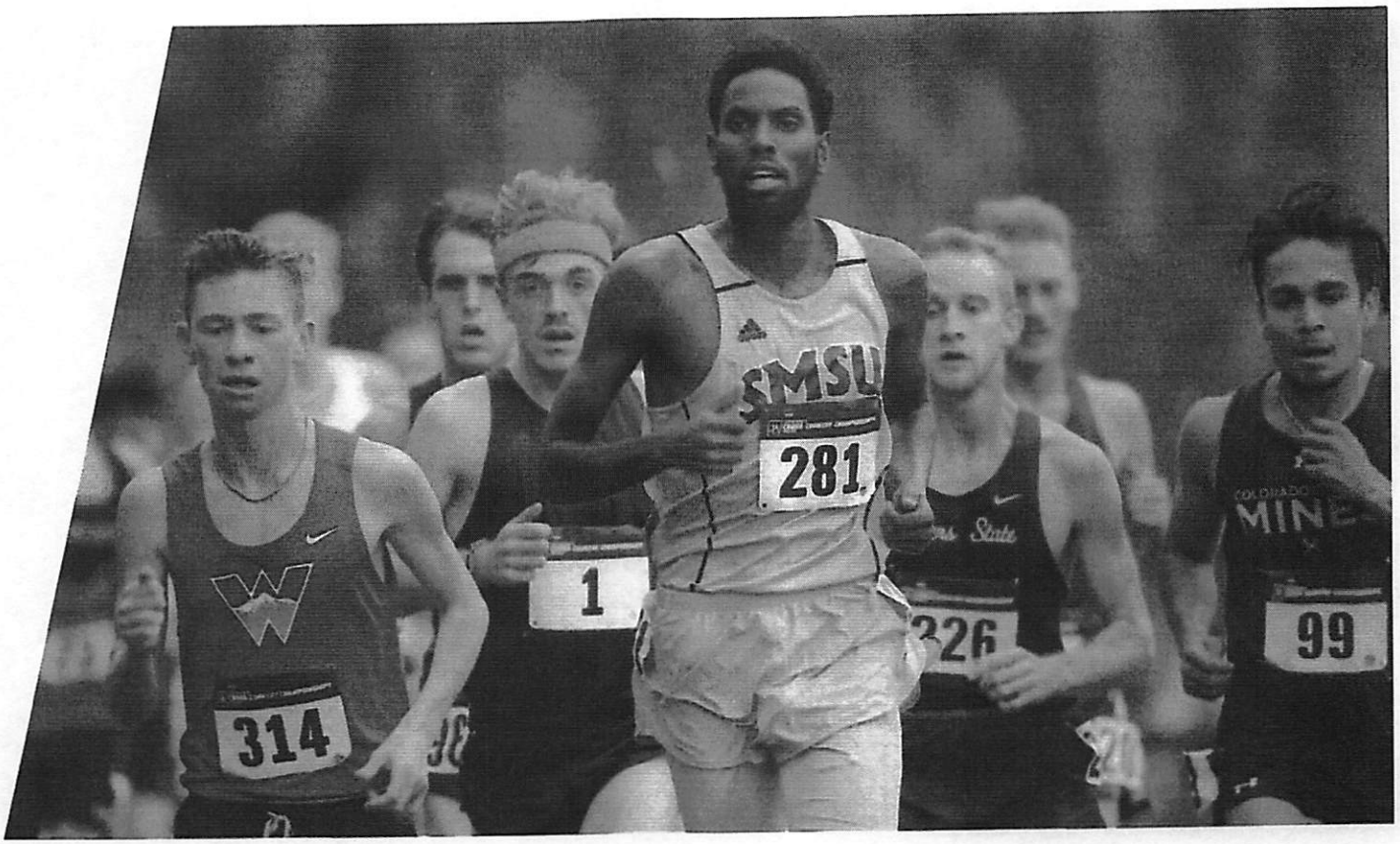
NCAA Division II MAKE IT YOURS™

To be eligible to practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship in your first full-time year at a Division II school, you must graduate from high school and meet *all* of the following requirements:

1. Complete 16 core courses in the following areas:

ENGLISH	MATH (Algebra I or higher)	NATURAL/ PHYSICAL SCIENCE (Including one year of lab, if offered)	ADDITIONAL (English, math, or natural/physical science)	SOCIAL SCIENCE	ADDITIONAL COURSES (Any area listed to the left, foreign language or comparative religion/philosophy)
3 years	2 years	2 years	3 years	2 years	4 years

2. Earn an SAT combined score or ACT sum score that matches your core-course GPA (minimum 2.200) on the Division II full qualifier sliding scale.



Sliding Scale for Division II

Division II uses a sliding scale to match test scores and GPAs to determine eligibility. The sliding scale balances your test score with your GPA. Find more information about test scores on page 12 or visit ***ncaa.org/test-scores.***

DIVISION II FULL QUALIFIER SLIDING SCALE			
USE FOR DIVISION II BEGINNING AUGUST 2018			
Core GPA	New SAT*	Old SAT (Prior to 3/2016)	ACT Sum
3.300 & above	400	400	37
3.275	410	410	38
3.250	430	420	39
3.225	440	430	40
3.200	460	440	41
3.175	470	450	41
3.150	490	460	42
3.125	500	470	42
3.100	520	480	43
3.075	530	490	44
3.050	550	500	44
3.025	560	510	45
3.000	580	520	46
2.975	590	530	46
2.950	600	540	47
2.925	620	550	47
2.900	630	560	48
2.875	650	570	49
2.850	660	580	49
2.825	680	590	50
2.800	690	600	50
2.775	710	610	51
2.750	720	620	52
2.725	730	630	52
2.700	740	640	53
2.675	750	650	53
2.650	750	660	54
2.625	760	670	55
2.600	770	680	56
2.575	780	690	56
2.550	790	700	57
2.525	800	710	58
2.500	810	720	59
2.475	820	730	60
2.450	830	740	61
2.425	840	750	61
2.400	850	760	62
2.375	860	770	63
2.350	860	780	64
2.325	870	790	65
2.300	880	800	66
2.275	890	810	67
2.250	900	820	68
2.225	910	830	69
2.200	920	840 & above	70 & above

DIVISION II PARTIAL QUALIFIER SLIDING SCALE			
USE FOR DIVISION II BEGINNING AUGUST 2018			
Core GPA	New SAT*	Old SAT (Prior to 3/2016)	ACT Sum
3.050 & above	400	400	37
3.025	410	410	38
3.000	430	420	39
2.975	440	430	40
2.950	460	440	41
2.925	470	450	41
2.900	490	460	42
2.875	500	470	42
2.850	520	480	43
2.825	530	490	44
2.800	550	500	44
2.775	560	510	45
2.750	580	520	46
2.725	590	530	46
2.700	600	540	47
2.675	620	550	47
2.650	630	560	48
2.625	650	570	49
2.600	660	580	49
2.575	680	590	50
2.550	690	600	50
2.525	710	610	51
2.500	720	620	52
2.475	730	630	52
2.450	740	640	53
2.425	750	650	53
2.400	750	660	54
2.375	760	670	55
2.350	770	680	56
2.325	780	690	56
2.300	790	700	57
2.275	800	710	58
2.250	810	720	59
2.225	820	730	60
2.200	830	740	61
2.175	840	750	61
2.150	850	760	62
2.125	860	770	63
2.100	860	780	64
2.075	870	790	65
2.050	880	800	66
2.025	890	810	67
2.000	900	820 & above	68 & above

*Final concordance research between the new SAT and ACT is ongoing.

GRADE-POINT AVERAGE

The NCAA Eligibility Center calculates your core-course grade-point average (GPA) based on the grades you earn in NCAA-approved core courses. Only your best grades from the required number of NCAA core courses will be used.

Your GPA is calculated on a 4.000 scale. Numeric grades such as 92 or 87 are changed to letter grades such as A or B. The NCAA Eligibility Center does not use plus or minus grades when calculating your GPA. Weighted honors or advanced placement courses may improve your core-course GPA but your high school must notify the NCAA Eligibility Center that it weighs grades in these classes.

In "Pass/Fail" grading situations, the NCAA Eligibility Center will assign your high school's lowest passing grade for a course in which you received a "Pass" grade. For most high schools, the lowest passing grade is a D, so the NCAA Eligibility Center generally assigns a D as a passing grade.

Calculating Your Quality Points

In order to determine your quality points earned for each course, multiply the quality points for the grade by the amount of credit earned.

Examples:

- An A grade (4 points) for a trimester course (0.34 units):
  4 points x 0.34 units = 1.36 total quality points
- An A grade (4 points) for a semester course (0.50 units):
  4 points x 0.50 units = 2.00 total quality points
- An A grade (4 points) for a full-year course (1.00 units):
  4 points x 1.00 units = 4.00 quality points

The worksheets on pages 20 and 24 will help you to determine your core-course GPA.

QUALITY POINTS

A = 4 points
B = 3 points
C = 2 points
D = 1 point

UNITS OF CREDIT

1 quarter unit = 0.25 units
1 trimester unit = 0.34 units
1 semester unit = 0.50 units
1 year = 1 unit

Being a student-athlete means doing more than what is expected. Whether I am doing extra reps in the gym or studying just a bit more, I know that the extra effort I put forth will make an impact in my journey toward success. I know the dedication I have put into being a student-athlete has helped me push myself in all aspects of my life.

Amanda Carroll
Volleyball
Florida Gulf Coast University

DIVISION I WORKSHEET

This worksheet is provided to assist you in monitoring your progress in meeting NCAA initial-eligibility standards. The NCAA Eligibility Center will determine your academic status after you graduate. Remember to check your high school's list of NCAA-approved courses for the classes you have taken or plan to take.

Use the following scale: A = 4 quality points; B = 3 quality points; C = 2 quality points; D = 1 quality point.

ENGLISH (4 YEARS REQUIRED)

10/7	COURSE TITLE	CREDIT	X	GRADE	=	QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)
✓	Example: English 9	.50		A		(.5 x 4) = 2
	TOTAL ENGLISH UNITS					TOTAL QUALITY POINTS

MATHEMATICS (3 YEARS REQUIRED)

10/7	COURSE TITLE	CREDIT	X	GRADE	=	QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)
✓	Example: Algebra I	1.0		B		(1.0 x 3) = 3
	TOTAL MATHEMATICS UNITS					TOTAL QUALITY POINTS

NATURAL/PHYSICAL SCIENCE (2 YEARS REQUIRED)

10/7	COURSE TITLE	CREDIT	X	GRADE	=	QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)
	TOTAL NATURAL/PHYSICAL SCIENCE UNITS					TOTAL QUALITY POINTS

ADDITIONAL YEAR IN ENGLISH, MATHEMATICS OR NATURAL/PHYSICAL SCIENCE (1 YEAR REQUIRED)

10/7	COURSE TITLE	CREDIT	X	GRADE	=	QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)
	TOTAL ADDITIONAL UNITS					TOTAL QUALITY POINTS

SOCIAL SCIENCE (2 YEARS REQUIRED)

10/7	COURSE TITLE	CREDIT	X	GRADE	=	QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)
	TOTAL SOCIAL SCIENCE UNITS					TOTAL QUALITY POINTS

ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC COURSES (4 YEARS REQUIRED)

10/7	COURSE TITLE	CREDIT	X	GRADE	=	QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)
	TOTAL ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC UNITS					TOTAL QUALITY POINTS

	TOTAL QUALITY POINTS FROM EACH SUBJECT AREA / TOTAL CREDITS = CORE-COURSE GPA		/		=	
		Quality Points	/	Credits	=	Core-Course GPA

Sixteen core courses are required for your core-course GPA. Ten core courses must be completed before the seventh semester; seven of the 10 must be a combination of English, math or natural or physical science.

DIVISION II WORKSHEET

This worksheet is provided to assist you in monitoring your progress in meeting NCAA initial-eligibility standards. The NCAA Eligibility Center will determine your academic status after you graduate. Remember to check your high school's list of NCAA-approved courses for the classes you have taken or plan to take.

Use the following scale: A = 4 quality points; B = 3 quality points; C = 2 quality points; D = 1 quality point.

ENGLISH (3 YEARS REQUIRED)

COURSE TITLE	CREDIT	X	GRADE	=	QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)
Example: English 9	.50		A		(.5 x 4) = 2
TOTAL ENGLISH UNITS					TOTAL QUALITY POINTS

MATHEMATICS (2 YEARS REQUIRED)

COURSE TITLE	CREDIT	X	GRADE	=	QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)
Example: Algebra I	1.0		B		(1.0 x 3) = 3
TOTAL MATHEMATICS UNITS					TOTAL QUALITY POINTS

NATURAL/PHYSICAL SCIENCE (2 YEARS REQUIRED)

COURSE TITLE	CREDIT	X	GRADE	=	QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)
TOTAL NATURAL/PHYSICAL SCIENCE UNITS					TOTAL QUALITY POINTS

ADDITIONAL YEARS IN ENGLISH, MATHEMATICS OR NATURAL/PHYSICAL SCIENCE (3 YEARS REQUIRED)

COURSE TITLE	CREDIT	X	GRADE	=	QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)
TOTAL ADDITIONAL UNITS					TOTAL QUALITY POINTS

SOCIAL SCIENCE (2 YEARS REQUIRED)

COURSE TITLE	CREDIT	X	GRADE	=	QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)
TOTAL SOCIAL SCIENCE UNITS					TOTAL QUALITY POINTS

ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC COURSES (4 YEARS REQUIRED)

COURSE TITLE	CREDIT	X	GRADE	=	QUALITY POINTS (MULTIPLY CREDIT BY GRADE)
TOTAL ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC UNITS					TOTAL QUALITY POINTS

TOTAL QUALITY POINTS FROM EACH SUBJECT AREA / TOTAL CREDITS = CORE-COURSE GPA		/		=	
	QUALITY POINTS	/	CREDITS	=	CORE-COURSE GPA