



JUNIOR YEAR COLLEGE PLANNING GUIDE

**Your resource for Academic and
Career Planning**

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"The biggest adventure you can take is to live the life of your dreams."
- Oprah Winfrey



HOMESTEAD
— HIGH SCHOOL —



Welcome

Let the journey begin!

The Homestead High School Counseling Department has developed the 2021-2022 College Planning Guide to share the necessary tools for students to start (or continue) the college search process. The guide is a resource sharing several valuable items to consider while navigating the journey of post high school planning. Clearly this is an important time in the life of a junior, and there is ample time to navigate this process. Please remember as students you are not alone in this experience! The counselors are looking forward to supporting you in college and career exploration, and the college application process. **The counselors are here to help every step of the way.** If after reviewing this information you have more questions, please follow-up with your school counselor. You are always welcome to schedule an appointment with your counselor. We look forward to working with you and your family throughout this exciting and important journey!

The Homestead High School Counselors



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How to Choose a College That's Right for You

You begin with a question: **"What type of college is right for me?"** Then you objectively review the evidence: your personality, talents, interests, strengths, and challenges, and then reflect on the data: your grades, rigor of courses, and standardized test scores.

1. How do you learn best?

Are you accepting and inquisitive?

Do you prefer to work and learn in teams or by yourself, memorizing notes?

Are you an active learner or a passive learner?

Are you self-motivated or do you need to be encouraged to do your work?

2. How do you interact with others?

Are you an initiator or a follower? Who do you seek as peers?

How important to you is the ability to work closely with teaching faculty?

Do you prefer to interact in organized groups with a purpose or informal groups?

Are you open/ tolerant of differences, or do you prefer to be with "people like me?"

What are your general educational objectives? What do you enjoy learning about?

3. Get to know a college's "personality."

Small or large/ public or private

Residential or commuter/ rural, suburban or urban

Teaching or research focus

Undergraduate or graduate student focus

Nurturing community or competitive environment

Interactive learning, small seminars or lectures

Diverse or homogeneous population

Big-time athletics or emphasis on the varsity "student-athlete" and intramurals

Large fraternity/sorority presence or predominantly "independent" campus

4. How do you discover a college's "personality?"

Use multiple sources

Counselors and teachers

Use email to your advantage

Once you have done your homework, VISIT the college campus

Be objective and open-minded in your assessments

Choose 6-8 "first choices"

This process is not easy. You will work hard. College is an investment of 4 years of your life, time, energy, and money. College is what you make of it. Students who know what they are looking for have better luck finding it, and can do a better job of articulating their hopes and interests in their college applications. Think about the people in your life who are happy and successful. Often, you'll find that success in life has less to do with your college choice and more to do with your personal qualities and traits coupled with the experiences and opportunities you'll have in college. Employers and graduate schools are looking for students with outstanding skills and experience. As you search for colleges, ask about student outcomes.



College Fit: Additional Points and Questions

Who are you, and why are you going to college? What are your abilities, interests, and strengths? What do you want out of life? What are your goals?

Size & Location: Is the college setting urban, suburban, or rural? Close to a big city? College is a time to explore, and many students find a smaller community more conducive to internal exploration. What really matters, however, is not the number of people, but the people themselves and the kind of community in which you learn best.

A Name-Brand College will not guarantee success: You will find in the college search process that many colleges you've never heard of actually outperform the Ivies and "name brand" colleges and universities. Keep your options open. Do your research.

You don't need to pick a major yet: How much flexibility do you need and want in a curriculum? Do you really know with certainty what you want to do with your life? With a major? Very few high school students have enough information or experience to choose a major. College is a time to explore, reflect, and grow. Most students need the variety and depth of college coursework to determine their interests and aptitudes. In fact, many college students change their minds several times before they settle on a major, and they still graduate in four years.

Chances of getting admitted: If you're worried about your chances for admission and you're willing to explore beyond the very narrow band of highly selective colleges, you'll discover many options that could be a great fit for you. Compare your academic profile (grades, courses and ACT/SAT scores) to those of recently admitted students at any college you're considering. Use the Naviance Student "Scattergrams" link for review.

The most important factor in choosing a college is "FIT." Choosing a college because your friends are going there or because of where it ranks on a list does not take into account who you are and who you will become. Finding a good fit requires time, exploration, and introspection. Visiting a college campus should include a tour, attending a class, eating in a dining hall, and talking to students and representatives. Hang around the student union, the athletic center or other high-traffic areas. Ask questions. Imagine yourself as part of the college community.

Research: What opportunities are available to participate in research? How many students conduct research? Do professors work with undergraduates? How does the school help students find research opportunities? Are there paid research experiences?

Career Advising: How does the college prepare students to achieve their professional goals? Does the school have an internship program? Do employers recruit on campus?

Student Life: What options for co-curricular activities are available for students? Athletics? What is the athletic culture on campus? What facilities are available for students? Arts? Music? Drama? Is there an opportunity for students to perform and showcase their art work?



GPA Information

GPA is the average of your final grades, beginning with the freshman year. Homestead has two scales for determining GPA: The unweighted (4.00) scale and the weighted (4.00+) scale. Homestead uses weighted grades for Honors and Advanced Placement (AP) courses. In these courses, an A is worth 5 points, a B is worth 4 points, and so on. The higher the GPA, the more college and scholarship opportunities are available to students.

Since college applications are usually completed in the fall of the senior year, the cumulative GPA at the **end of the junior year** is what most colleges use to determine admission. Colleges may also recalculate your GPA for admission to include only core subject areas.

When completing college applications: Homestead DOES NOT RANK, or estimate class rank. Students should report their weighted GPA on a 4 point scale.

Homestead utilizes an A-F grading scale, as reported in the "courses and grades" section in the Common Application. Each trimester course is worth .5 credit.

UNWEIGHTED	GRADE	WEIGHTED
4.00	A	5.00
3.67	A-	4.67
3.33	B+	4.33
3.00	B	4.00
2.67	B-	3.67
2.33	C+	3.33
2.00	C	3.00
1.67	C-	2.67
1.33	D+	2.33
1.00	D	2.00
0.67	D-	1.67
0.00	F	0.00



College Evaluation

How do colleges and universities evaluate applicants?

Admission policies vary strongly from college to college, and even from year to year. At some you must only demonstrate the potential for success at that college. At the most selective colleges, there are so many applicants for every spot that even students with excellent credentials are often not accepted. Keep in mind: no single factor will qualify or disqualify a student from getting accepted. All of the following criteria will be considered in reviewing student applications.

The High School Transcript. The most important factor in the college admissions process is the high school transcript: the schedule of courses taken and the grades earned by a student.

Honors/AP courses. Colleges prefer to see AP and Honors classes even if they come at the expense of slightly lower grades. Take academic risks and challenge yourself in subject areas that interest you. The Homestead High School Counselors must comment on the rigor of the student's curriculum on every secondary report sent to colleges and universities.

Trends. College admissions officers are well aware that students mature and develop at different rates, and students come to high school with different backgrounds. College admissions officers are interested in trends. They would much rather see a student who starts high school slowly and builds academic steam than the reverse. For students who are academically strong, colleges are looking for consistency in academic performance.

Grade point average. The Homestead High School Counseling Dept. includes weighted and unweighted grade point average on the student transcript.

- weighted = Honors/ AP grades are calculated on a 5.0 grading scale (pg. 93 of the HHS Course Guide)
- unweighted = All grades are calculated on a 4.0 grading scale.

Standardized Tests Scores. Every traditional college will accept either the ACT or the SAT. Schools will generally review a student's best composite (single sitting) score. Please check the college application requirements for each college you're considering on the college admission requirements page, as many schools have waived testing requirements to accommodate for COVID-19 related challenges.

The ACT: Four areas of one section each (English, Math, Reading, Science). The writing portion is optional and is scored separately. The ACT, with the writing portion, is given to all juniors during the school day in March. Juniors do not need to register online to take the state mandated test at HHS in March. Register for other test dates at www.act.org. Please note test dates and registration deadlines. Homestead High School's ACT code is 502-269.

The SAT: Two areas (Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (2 sections), Math (1 section). There is an optional essay section. The optional essay section is scored separately. Register to test at www.collegeboard.org, please note test dates and registration deadlines. The Homestead High School code is 502-269.



College Evaluation, cont.

School and Teacher Recommendations. Recommendations play an important part in the application process because they help the admissions committee see the student as a human being. The letters of recommendation can highlight a student's personality, work ethic, engagement in class and specific examples of a student's demonstration of learning. Students typically need one (1) teacher letter of recommendation from a sophomore or junior teacher. All requests for recommendation should be made at least 3 weeks prior to the due date. Students will communicate in person with a teacher to request a letter of recommendation after spring break in trimester 3 of junior year. Students will also request a letter of recommendation in their Naviance Student account under Letters of Recommendation.

Co-curricular Activities and Involvement in Community Activities. Colleges and universities are looking for students who will contribute positively to the life of the college learning community. So get involved in co-curricular activities that you're passionate about! However, colleges are more impressed with a student who has dedicated himself or herself to a few activities rather than dabbled in many. They are looking for evidence of talent, leadership, dedication, collaboration, work-ethic, and perseverance. Quality over quantity is key. This is an important area where Homestead students have the opportunity to distinguish themselves from other applicants.

Summer Activities. Summer enrichment opportunities, employment, home responsibilities, and volunteer opportunities are all viewed favorably by colleges. These activities show that you have not wasted your time, but have spent it wisely to continue learning and serving others. When possible, explore summer enrichment opportunities that interest you. Select activities you'd want to participate in even if the colleges weren't considering it. Don't pursue summer activities because they look good on your resume. Embrace the opportunities driven by your interests and what is manageable with personal and family responsibilities.

The College Essay. The essay/personal statement is the one and only part of the process that the student totally controls. It provides the applicant with an opportunity to tell his/ her story. Colleges use the essays as a way to evaluate the personality, character, thinking skills, and communication skills of the applicant. Some colleges may use the essay in selecting scholarship recipients. In writing your essay, follow these suggestions: consider your audience, choose your topic carefully, remember to answer the essay topic, compose thoughtfully, revise liberally, edit thoroughly (seek out different readers to help edit), and submit with confidence. Students are encouraged to use the writing lab in the I-Wing for support. The college essay should be written in your authentic voice, allowing the college admissions evaluation team to really see you shine. Students should view any optional or supplemental essay prompt as another opportunity to share more to distinguish themselves in the college admissions process.

The College Interview. Many of the larger colleges and universities do not interview applicants. At some colleges, an interview can be a factor in the admissions decision; at others, if an interview is offered, it is only for the student's information. If you do have the chance to interview, relax and be yourself. Do your homework on the school, think about how you might answer potential questions, and prepare good questions to ask the interviewer. Think of it as a chance to share more specific information about yourself, and a chance to gain additional insight about the college and campus life.



College Admission Factors: Order of Importance

There is no definite plan or specific combination of factors that will guarantee a student admission to his or her preferred institution. Colleges and universities review many aspects of prospective student applications in order to determine which students will be admitted. In addition to considering the merits of each applicant, most universities also consider the composition of the entering freshmen and transfer classes as a whole, in order to ensure that a diverse group of students with a variety of academic and extracurricular interests will enrich the campus experience.

The importance of various factors in the admission decision also differ depending on a student's designation as a first-time freshman, transfer, or international student. While first time freshmen and international students have similarities in regard to top admission factors, top factors for transfer students are considerably different. Institutional characteristics, such as enrollment size and acceptance rate, also impact the importance of admission factors.

Factors in the Admission Decision: First-Time Freshmen

- 1) The top admission decision factors for first-time freshmen have been consistent for decades. **The No. 1 factor—rated as "considerably important" by 79 percent of colleges—was grades in college prep courses, followed by strength of curriculum and grades in all courses (each 60 percent), and admission test scores (53 percent).**
- 2) A second set of factors were most often considered to be moderately important. These factors tend to provide insight regarding personal qualities and student interests, as well as more detail on academic performance. They included essays or writing samples; teacher and counselor recommendations; student's demonstrated interest; class rank (HHS does not rank); and extracurricular activities.
- 3) A final group of admission decision factors were given moderate or considerable importance by a small percentage of institutions, likely because they are relevant only to a small subset of colleges. These factors included subject test scores (AP, IB), portfolios, interviews, state graduation exams scores, and work.



Questions for a Campus Visit

Admissions Criteria

1. Approximately what high school average do you expect an applicant to have? What rank in class?
2. What admissions tests do you require? When should these tests be taken? What is the range of scores you find acceptable?
3. What factors are important in your selection process? What importance do you give to a student's academic program, extracurricular activities, special talents, recommendations, etc.?
4. Do you require an interview? What would be the best time to plan a visit interview?
5. What type of admissions procedure do you follow? Do you have rolling admissions? Early decision? What are the deadline and notification dates?

Costs and Financial Assistance

1. What is the annual cost – tuition and fees – for students? Estimated costs for books and travel?
2. What financial assistance is available, especially unique to your college or university?
3. Is all financial aid based on need, or do you have merit scholarships? Scholarships for students with special talents? Athletic scholarships?
4. Do you offer any cooperative work/study? In what fields?
5. Can students work on campus? Are there jobs on campus for students not receiving financial assistance?

Academic Programs

1. What major or academic program is your university especially noted for? Any unique programs? Pre-professional programs?
2. How large are the classes? What is the student-faculty ratio? Do freshmen have an opportunity to take any courses with senior professors at the university?
3. How do freshmen choose their courses? What courses are required?
4. At what point does the student have to choose a major?
6. What percentage of your students complete the four-year (or two-year) programs at your school?

Housing Facilities

1. What portion of your students live on campus? What proportion of the students stay on campus over the weekends?
2. What types of housing are available? Can the students cook in the residence halls? Must they be on a meal plan?
3. How are roommates selected? Can a student change if he/she is not compatible with the roommate?
4. Are the residence halls coed or single sex? What rules do you have regarding visitation? Special rules for freshmen?
5. Are the dorms quiet enough so that students can study in their rooms, or do they usually study in the library?
6. Are freshmen required to live on campus? Are residence halls available to students after their freshman year?

Campus Setting

1. How far is your college or university from the local community? Is there easy access to stores and other community facilities?
2. Does the college/university or nearby community offer cultural opportunities?
3. What is the composition of the student body geographically? Financially? Generally liberal or conservative? % of minority students?
4. If the college/university is associated with a religious denomination, are members of other denominations required to attend classes in religion of any kind?
5. Are there religious groups on campus? Are there places of worship on campus or nearby?
6. If you have fraternities or sororities – what percentage of students belong to these organizations?
7. What are athletic facilities like? What intercollegiate sports for men and women are available? What intramural (rec) sports are available?

Student Services

1. Are there counseling facilities on campus? Can a student go to an office or center to receive counseling for educational or personal problems? Does the faculty make itself available to students for consultation and guidance?
2. What facilities do you have for career guidance? Must students seek career guidance, or is this type of guidance a part of the educational program?
3. Are students given any assistance finding summer jobs in their fields of interest?
4. How much assistance is given to students in finding jobs upon graduation?
5. What proportion of last year's graduating class was successful in obtaining jobs related to their major fields of study?
6. What percentage of your students go on to graduate school within 4 years? Approximately how many students each year go on to medical, dental, law school, etc.? What is their acceptance rate into the graduate program?



Naviance Student

What is Naviance Student? Naviance Student is a web-based program Homestead uses as a resource and organizational tool during the college search, career exploration, resume building, and college application process. Methodize, a free, user-friendly program to support students' ACT and SAT preparation is also located in Naviance Student. We encourage students to use the many tools and links on the Naviance Student web site.

How do I access it? Homestead students now have direct access to Naviance Student through their Homestead Gmail account. Students can click on the Google Apps Icon to select Naviance Student, and select "single sign on" without a password required. If you have problems logging in, please email Mrs. Young at dyoung@mtsd.k12.wi.us.

What are the resources available to Juniors in Naviance Student?

Home: Get a quick glance at your account, including a welcome message, important to-dos and tasks, your favorites, and new college visits and other events.

Self-Discovery: Take assessments to help you learn more about yourself and your potential career interests.

Careers: Explore and favorite careers of interest, access our Roadtrip Nation videos to learn more about different career and professional pathways.

Colleges: Search for and discover your best fit college possibilities.

- Saving a college to the "colleges I'm thinking about" list will prompt a student to be notified when a college admissions representative schedules a visit at HHS. This is a great opportunity for students to learn additional information about specific colleges and build a personal connection with our college admissions representatives.
- The SuperMatch search tool is a robust feature to identify specific criteria in exploring college options, such as location, academic criteria and degree type, co-curriculars, cost, and selectivity.

Planner: Define and manage your goals, to-dos, and tasks that have been assigned to you by your school.

About Me: Access account information, build and review items such as your resume and access surveys

Scholarships: Look up scholarship options available locally and nationally

Methodize: Formerly Method Test Prep, Methodize is a valuable program designed to help students prepare for the ACT or SAT.

- This free, user-friendly program offers lessons in English, math, reading and science, full-length practice tests, vocabulary enrichment, and subject review materials. The Methodize link is located at the bottom left side of the Naviance Student Home Page. **All HHS students can create an account to access Methodize for free!** MTSD pays for each student account.



Scholarship Information

What to Do and What to Know

Complete and submit your college application(s) for admission, paying attention to priority application deadlines, before starting to search for scholarships. Please also explore scholarship opportunities at each college.

The greatest amount of student financial support, merit scholarships, and/or family need-based aid, comes directly from the colleges once you've been accepted for admission. Please make sure you understand the specific scholarship process for the college(s) you're applying to, and if you're not sure, ask the college admission representatives.

After October 1, submit your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to be considered for grants, loans and work on campus. www.fafsa.gov Some colleges require a student FAFSA in order to offer institutional scholarships. Please communicate with each college/university to learn about merit-based scholarships and need-based financial aid for students.

Tips for Accessing Scholarship Info in Naviance Student

Visit your Naviance Student account to learn about scholarship opportunities.

1. Log in to your Naviance Student (NS) account through the student MTSD Google Apps Icon.
2. Click the Colleges tab at the top of the home page to get started.
3. Click Scholarships and Money.
4. Click Scholarship List, and select the "local & regional scholarships"
5. Consider creating a Going Merry scholarship application template: found at the top of the scholarship list to support your scholarship search and application process.
6. Explore scholarship opportunities available for you to apply. **LINKS IN ALL CAPS ARE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR HOMESTEAD STUDENTS ONLY.**
7. Click on the Scholarship link to get additional details about the scholarship, including the website to apply directly online, or the application PDF, the deadline and the contact information.
8. Please listen to the Homestead announcements for scholarship updates and deadlines. You can always access the announcements in Infinite Campus.
9. If you need an unofficial transcript for a scholarship, log in to your Infinite Campus account and click on Reports, and then select Historical Grades.
10. If you need an official transcript for a scholarship, please request one from your counselor.



Financing College

For many families, the cost of higher education will be a major consideration, so thorough planning is a must. College costs continue to increase and in some cases a family's ability to pay has been compromised. Institutional and governmental budgets are strained in efforts to provide aid. Despite cost, a college education is possible and affordable, just be ready to put in some time in the process.

1. Institutional Aid:

The college you choose to attend is often a major source of financial aid. Typically, private colleges have more money to allocate to students than public colleges. Communicate with the Financial Aid Offices at the schools to which you apply.

2. Federal/Government Aid:

Fill out the FAFSA form (www.fafsa.gov) and submit it as early as possible after October 1. FAFSA will determine your **Expected Family Contribution (EFC)**, which will dictate the amount of loan, grant, and/or work-study money that you may qualify for to help finance college. This can be a time-consuming process so it helps to get an early start. The form can be submitted after October 1 of senior year.

Many factors go into creating the EFC, and sometimes families who think they will not qualify for any financial assistance may find that they do. The only way to know for certain is to apply. Some colleges (generally private), may ask a student to fill out a CSS Profile form as soon as he/she applies for admission. This allows the college to analyze additional data and determine if the student qualifies for institutional aid. Any college that requires the CSS Profile form should let the student know during the application process.

3. Loans:

Many college students will have loans to pay back when they finish college. Some parents take out loans in the process as well. Private lending institutions or the government will be involved in the loan program.

4. Miscellaneous:

- You will hear about Financial Aid decisions prior to making your final college selection (May 1).
- Stay in contact with the Financial Aid office at the colleges being considered. They are the experts.
- The amount of aid awarded will vary by college. Compare awards.
- You can sometimes appeal a decision, especially if family circumstances change.
- Apply early so that you have the best possible access to financial aid opportunities.
- Many colleges have scholarships and aid available to make a "dream school" price tag more affordable.
- You never know how much financial aid or scholarship money may be available to you..
- It is wise to have a "financial safety" school in the event the financial aid package does not meet your need.



Request a Letter of Recommendation & Transcript

Process to Request a Teacher Letter of Recommendation *recommended in the spring of junior year*

1. **Ask your teacher in person if he/she is willing to write you a letter.** Choose an academic teacher who can comment on your academic growth in their class. Most colleges prefer to receive a letter from a teacher in a course in English, science, math, social studies, or world language.
2. **Update your college list BEFORE you send a letter of recommendation request to your teacher:**
 - a. Go to the "Colleges Home" page in Naviance Student
 - b. Scroll down and click the "letters of recommendation" link
 - c. Click "Add Request"
 - d. Choose your teacher's name from the dropdown list of all teachers
 - e. Select the colleges for which you would like that specific teacher letter to be sent
 - f. Write a brief thank-you note to your teacher, and let them know your first deadline.
 - g. Click "submit request"
 - h. Once your teacher uploads your letter in the fall, it will change from "requested" to submitted.
3. **Complete the "Letter of Recommendation Survey" in Naviance Student (required):**
 - a. Go to your Naviance Student Homepage
 - b. Click on the "Tasks assigned to me" link
 - c. Scroll down and click the "Letter of recommendation survey" link and complete the survey
 - d. Your teacher will have access to this survey after you complete it
4. **Write a thank-you note for your teacher**
5. **In the rare instance of requesting more than one teacher letter, repeat steps 1-4.**

Homestead Official Transcript Request Process

to do after you have finalized your college list, available during the fall of senior year

1. Log in to your Naviance Student account using your MTSD email
2. Go to the "Colleges Home" page in Naviance Student.
3. Click "Colleges that I'm thinking about" link.
4. Check the box(es) for the colleges that you plan to apply.
5. Click "Move to Colleges that I'm Applying to" link.
6. Link your Common App Account to your Naviance Student account (if using Common App).
7. Waive your FERPA rights in the Common App ("colleges" tab) and add all colleges you will apply to.
8. Add the school to your Naviance Student account under "colleges I'm applying to."
9. Complete the yellow transcript request form available in the counseling office.
10. Record the college(s) requiring your transcript, the application deadline you will use, and how you will be applying (ex: Common App, or directly to the college).

***** Return your yellow transcript request form at least 2 weeks prior to your college app deadline.**



College Admission Pledge on the lighter side...

Parent

"I am resigned to the fact that my child's college search will end in disaster. I am serene. Deadlines will be missed and scholarships will be lost as my child lounges under pulsating headphones or stares transfixed at their phone. I am a parent and I know nothing. I am serene.

Confronted with endless procrastination, my impulse is to take control - to register for tests, plan visits, schedule interviews, and get applications. It was I who asked those four follow-up questions at College Night - I couldn't help myself. And yet I know that everything will be fine if I can summon the fortitude to relax. My child is smart, capable and perhaps a little too accustomed to me jumping in and fixing things. I will hold back. I will drop hints and encourage, then back off. I will facilitate rather than dominate. The college search won't happen on my schedule, but it will happen.

I will not get too high or low about any facet of the college search. By doing so, I give it more importance than it really has. My child's self-worth may already be too wrapped up in getting an acceptance letter. I will attempt to lessen the fear rather than heighten it. I will try not to say "no" simply because my son or daughter says "yes," and remain open to the possibility, however improbable, that my child has the most important things under control. I understand that my anxiety comes partly from a sense of impending loss. I can feel my child slipping away. Sometimes I hold on too tightly or let social acceptability cloud the issue of what is best.

I realize that my child is almost ready to go and that a little rebellion at this time of life can be a good thing. I will respect and encourage independence, even if some of it is expressed as resentment toward me. I will make suggestions with care and try to avoid unnecessary confrontation.

Paying for college is my responsibility. I will take a major role in the search for financial aid and scholarships and speak honestly to my child about the financial realities we face.

I must help my son or daughter take charge of the college search. I will try to support without smothering, encourage without annoying, and consult without controlling. The college search is too big to be handled alone - I will be there every step of the way."

Student

"I have accepted the fact that my parents are clueless. I am serene. I will betray not a tremor when they offer opinions or advice, no matter how laughable. My soul will be light as a feather when my mother elbows her way to the front of my college tour and talks the guide's ear off. I am serene.

Going to college is a stressful time for my parents, even though they are not the ones going. I recognize that neurosis is beyond anyone's control. Each week, I will calmly reassure them that I am working on my essays, have registered for my tests, am finishing my applications, have scheduled my interviews, am aware of all deadlines, and will have everything done in plenty of time. I will smile good-naturedly as my parent asks four follow-up questions at College Night.

I will try not to say "no" simply because my parents say "yes", and remain open to the possibility, however improbable, that they may have a point. I may not be fully conscious of my anxieties about the college search - the fear of being judged and the fear of leaving home are both strong. I don't really want to get out of here as much as I say I do, and it is easier to put off thinking about the college search than to get it done. My parents are right about the importance of being proactive, even if they do get carried away.

Though the college search belongs to me, I will listen to my parents. They know me better than anyone else, and they are the ones who will pay most of the bills. Their ideas about what will be best for me are based on years of experience in the real world. I will seriously consider what they say as I form my own opinions. I must take charge of the college search. If I do, the nagging will stop, and everyone's anxiety will go down. My parents have given me a remarkable gift - the ability to think and do for myself. I know I can do it with a little help from Mom and Dad."

Graduation Requirements

Required: 24.00 Credits

English.....	4.00
Social Studies	3.00
Math	3.00
Science.....	3.00
Phy. Ed.....	1.50
Health50
Computer Science50
Fine Arts	1.00
Electives	7.50

English 9.....	1.00
American Literature (Grade 10)	1.00
Language and Composition (Grade 11).....	1.00
English 12 (Electives).....	1.00

World Studies (Grade 9 or 10)	1.00
U.S. History (Grade 10 or 11).....	1.00
Government (Grade 11 or 12).....	0.50
Economics (Grade 11 or 12).....	0.50

Biology	1.00
Science.....	1.00
Science	1.00

Math	1.00
Math	1.00
Math	1.00

Contemporary Computing	0.50
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Physical Education 9	0.50
Health	0.50

Physical Education 10.....	0.50
Physical Education 11 or 12	0.50

Fine Arts (art, music or drama)	1.00
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State Civics Exam	
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Homestead High School

Academic Preparation Chart

Subject	Homestead High School	University of Wisconsin System	Minimum College Preparation	Selective College* Recommendations
English	4 credits	4 credits	4 credits	4-5 credits Honors & AP Level
Social Studies	3 credits	3 credits	3 credits	4 credits Honors & AP Level
Mathematics	3 credits	3 credits (to include Algebra 1, Algebra 2 & Geometry)	3 credits (to include Algebra 1, Algebra 2 & Geometry)	4 credits Honors & AP Level
Science	3 credits	3 credits (2 with laboratory)	2-3 credits (2 with laboratory)	3-4 credits (to include Biology, Chemistry & Physics)
Foreign Language	Not Required But Recommended	UW-Madison 2-3 credits	0-2 credits	3-4 credits of the same language
Health/Physical Education	2 credits	_____	_____	_____
Computers	.5 credit	Will Count as Academic Credit	Computer Proficiency Helpful	Computer Proficiency Required
Fine Arts	1 credit	Will Count as Academic Credit	Recommended	1 or more credits Recommended
Electives	7.5 credits	4 Academic Credits from the Areas Above	Academic Electives	Academic Electives Recommended
Total	24 Total Credits	17 (or more) Academic Credits	16-17 Academic Credits	18-20 Academic Credits

FEDERAL STUDENT AID AT A GLANCE

Page 1 of 2
2020–21

WHAT is federal student aid?

Federal student aid comes from the federal government—specifically, the U.S. Department of Education. It's money that helps a student pay for higher education expenses (i.e., college, career school, or graduate school expenses).

Federal student aid covers such expenses as tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, and transportation.

There are three main categories of federal student aid: grants, work-study funds, and loans. Check with your school's financial aid office to find out which programs the school participates in.

WHO gets federal student aid?

Some of the most basic eligibility requirements for students are that you must

- demonstrate financial need (for most programs—to learn more about financial need, visit [StudentAid.gov/how-calculated](https://studentaid.gov/how-calculated));
- be a U.S. citizen or an eligible noncitizen;
- have a valid Social Security number;
- be registered with Selective Service, if you're a male (you must register between the ages of 18 and 25);
- be enrolled or accepted for enrollment in an eligible degree or certificate program;
- be enrolled at least half-time (for most programs);
- maintain satisfactory academic progress in college, career school, or graduate school; and
- show you're qualified to obtain a college or career school education by
 - having a high school diploma or a state-recognized equivalent (for example, the General Educational Development [GED] certificate);
 - completing a high school education in a home-school setting approved under state law; or
 - enrolling in an eligible career pathways program.

See the full list of eligibility requirements at StudentAid.gov/eligibility.

Federal
Student
Aid

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U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

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HOW do you apply for federal student aid?

1. **To apply for federal student aid, you must complete the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)* form at fafsa.gov.** The FAFSA® form is available every Oct. 1 for the next school year. If you plan to attend college from July 1, 2020–June 30, 2021, submit a 2020–21 FAFSA® form. Fill it out as soon as possible to meet school and state deadlines. Schools and states often use FAFSA® information to award nonfederal aid, but their deadlines vary. Check with the schools that you're interested in for their deadlines, and find state and federal FAFSA® deadlines at StudentAid.gov/fafsa#deadlines.
2. **Students and parents are required to use an FSA ID (a username and password combination) to sign their FAFSA® form online and to access information about their financial aid on U.S. Department of Education websites.** Your FSA ID is used to confirm your identity and electronically sign your federal student aid documents. Your FSA ID has the same legal status as a written signature. Don't give your FSA ID to anyone or allow anyone to create an FSA ID for you. To create an FSA ID, visit StudentAid.gov/fsaid.
3. **After you apply, you'll receive a *Student Aid Report*, or SAR.** Your SAR contains the information reported on your FAFSA form and usually includes your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The EFC is a number (not a dollar amount) used to determine your eligibility for federal student aid. Review your SAR information to make sure it's correct. The school(s) you list on your FAFSA® form will get your SAR data electronically.
4. **Contact the schools you might attend.** Make sure the financial aid office at each school you're interested in has all the information needed to determine your eligibility. If you're eligible, each school's financial aid office will send you an aid offer showing the amount and types of aid (from all sources) the school will offer you. You can compare the aid offers you received and see which school is the most affordable once financial aid is taken into account.

Completing and submitting the FAFSA® form is free and quick, and it gives you access to the largest sources of financial aid to pay for college or career school—federal, state, and school sources. If you need a print-out of the FAFSA® PDF, call 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243) or 334-523-2691 (TTY for the deaf or hard of hearing 1-800-730-8913).

HAVE QUESTIONS?

Contact or visit the following:

- StudentAid.gov
- a college financial aid office
- studentaid@ed.gov
- 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243) toll-free
- 1-800-730-8913 (toll-free TTY for the deaf or hard of hearing)

FEDERAL STUDENT AID AT A GLANCE

Program and Type of Aid	Program Information	Annual Award Amount (subject to change)
Federal Pell Grant Grant: does not have to be repaid	For undergraduates with financial need who have not earned bachelor's or professional degrees. For details and updates, visit StudentAid.gov/pell-grant .	Amounts can change annually. For 2019–20 (July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020), the award amount is up to \$6,195.
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) Grant: does not have to be repaid	For undergraduates with exceptional financial need; Federal Pell Grant recipients take priority; funds depend on availability at school. For details and updates, visit StudentAid.gov/fseog .	Up to \$4,000.
Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Grant: does not have to be repaid unless converted to a Direct Unsubsidized Loan for failure to carry out teaching service obligation as promised	For undergraduate, postbaccalaureate, and graduate students who are completing or plan to complete course work needed to begin a career in teaching. To receive a TEACH Grant, a student must agree to teach for four years in a high-need field at an elementary school, secondary school, or educational service agency that serves low-income families. If a student doesn't complete the teaching service requirement, all TEACH Grants the student received will be converted to a Direct Unsubsidized Loan that must be repaid, with interest. For details and updates, visit StudentAid.gov/teach .	Up to \$4,000.
Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant Grant: does not have to be repaid	For undergraduate students who are not Pell-eligible and whose parent or guardian died as a result of military service in Iraq or Afghanistan after the events of 9/11. For details and updates, visit StudentAid.gov/iraq-afghanistan .	The grant award can be equal to the maximum Federal Pell Grant amount (see above) but cannot exceed your cost of attending school.
Federal Work-Study Work-Study: money is earned through a job and doesn't have to be repaid	For undergraduate and graduate students; part-time jobs can be on campus or off campus. Money is earned while attending school. Your total work-study award depends on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • when you apply, • your level of financial need, and • your school's funding level. For details and updates, visit StudentAid.gov/workstudy .	No annual minimum or maximum amounts.
Direct Subsidized Loan Loan: must be repaid with interest	For undergraduate students who have financial need; U.S. Department of Education generally pays interest while the student is in school and during certain other periods; a student must be enrolled at least half-time. Interest rates for new Direct Subsidized Loans can change every year. Loans made to undergraduate students during the 2019–20 award year have the rate fixed at 4.53% for the life of the loan.	Up to \$5,500 depending on grade level and dependency status. For details and updates, visit StudentAid.gov/sub-unsub .
Direct Unsubsidized Loan Loan: must be repaid with interest	For undergraduate and graduate or professional students; the borrower is responsible for interest during all periods; a student must be enrolled at least half-time; financial need is not required. For undergraduate students: Interest rates for new Direct Unsubsidized Loans can change every year. Loans made to undergraduate students during the 2019–20 award year have the rate fixed at 4.53% for the life of the loan. For graduate or professional students: Interest rates for new Direct Unsubsidized Loans can change every year. Loans made to graduate or professional students during the 2019–20 award year have the rate fixed at 6.08% for the life of the loan.	Up to \$20,500 (less any subsidized amounts received for same period), depending on grade level and dependency status. For details and updates, visit StudentAid.gov/sub-unsub .
Direct PLUS Loan Loan: must be repaid with interest	For parents of dependent undergraduate students and for graduate or professional students; the borrower is responsible for interest during all periods; a student must be enrolled at least half-time; financial need is not required; the borrower must not have an adverse credit history. Interest rates for new Direct PLUS Loans can change every year. Loans made during the 2019–20 award year have the rate fixed at 7.08% for the life of the loan.	Maximum amount is the cost of attendance minus any other financial aid received. For details and updates, visit StudentAid.gov/plus .

DIVISION I ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

College-bound student-athletes enrolling at an NCAA Division I school need to meet the following academic requirements to practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship in their first year of full-time enrollment.

Core-Course Requirement

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)
4 years	3 years	2 years	1 year	2 years	4 years

FULL QUALIFIER

- Complete 16 core courses.
 - Ten of the 16 core courses must be completed before the seventh semester (senior year) of high school.
 - Seven of the 10 core courses must be in English, math or natural/physical science.
- Earn a core-course GPA of at least 2.300.
- Earn an SAT combined score or ACT sum score matching the core-course GPA on the Division I sliding scale (see back page).
- Graduate high school.

Full Qualifier

College-bound student-athletes may practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship during their first year of full-time enrollment at an NCAA Division I school.

Academic Redshirt

College-bound student-athletes may receive an athletics scholarship during their first year of full-time enrollment and may practice during their first regular academic term, but may NOT compete during their first year of enrollment.

Nonqualifier

College-bound student-athletes will not be able to practice, compete or receive an athletics scholarship during their first year of full-time enrollment at an NCAA Division I school.

International Students

Please review the [international initial-eligibility flyer](#) for information and academic requirements specific to international student-athletes.

Click [here](#) for Division II academic requirements.

ACADEMIC REDSHIRT

- Complete 16 core courses.
- Earn a core-course GPA of at least 2.000.
- Earn an SAT combined score or ACT sum score matching the core-course GPA on the Division I sliding scale (see back page).
- Graduate high school.



What should I know about the ACT & how can I prepare for taking the test?

The ACT is a standardized test (English, math, reading, science and writing) that some colleges may require as part of the application for admission. It's only one part of a college application.

Section	Time	# of Questions
1. English	45 minutes	75
2. Math	60 minutes	60
3. Reading	35 minutes	40
4. Science	35 minutes	40
5. Writing	40 minutes	1 essay

Homestead Juniors will take the ACT at HHS on Tuesday, **March 8, 2022**, as a state-mandated official ACT test. Juniors DO NOT need to register for this state-mandated ACT on March 8. Students can register for other ACT test dates at www.act.org with the HHS school code 502-269.

Methodize (formerly Method Test Prep) is a useful resource to help you prepare & practice for the ACT. This tool is located in Naviance Student at the bottom of the Home Page.

Homestead High School ACT Prep supports students to prepare for the ACT. Principal Ebert will send information to students and families in January about these prep sessions, facilitated by HHS staff.

Strategies and Tips for the ACT

- Don't cram.

The ACT tests you on knowledge you've accumulated over the course of your high school career, so there's no point in cramming. The day before the test, relax, go watch a movie and then get a good night's sleep. Staying up the night before the test and studying will only stress you out and cause you to be tired the next day.

- Familiarize yourself with the test.

Become familiar with the structure of ACT before test day. During your test prep, learn and review the directions for each of the sections on the test. When you arrive at the test you'll already know what is going to be required in each section of the ACT. This will save valuable time during the test which can be spent working on questions.

- Answer easy questions first.

Answer the questions you're sure you know the correct answer to first. Put a mark in your exam booklet next to each question you skip so you can quickly find them later. After answering all the easy questions, go back and tackle the more challenging questions.

- Write in your book.

Your ACT test booklet is yours. After the test it will simply be thrown away. Don't worry about making sure it remains in pristine condition throughout the test. Use it to your advantage. Write in it, cross out wrong answers and use it to do scratch work. Work out problems and jot down key information you'll need to answer certain questions in your test booklet since it is permitted.

- Don't write on your answer sheet.

Your ACT answer sheet is scored by a machine that isn't able to distinguish between a correct answer, a stray mark, or a careless doodle in the margin. Make sure that your answer sheet is free from any stray marks. Follow the directions given carefully as you mark correct answers on your answer sheet.

- There is only one correct answer.

On the ACT, there is only one correct answer to each question. Even if it appears as if there are two correct answers, you can only choose one answer – so select the best answer to each question.

- Easy questions precede hard ones.

Typically, easier questions on the ACT precede harder questions. In this way, the ACT gets progressively more difficult as you work through each section. Keep this in mind as you move through the test answering easy questions first and then return to answer more difficult questions.

- Guess.

If you're faced with a challenging question for which you don't know the correct answer, just make an educated guess. Try to eliminate as many incorrect answer choices as you can and then select the answer that makes the most sense. There is no point deduction for wrong answers – so any answer is always better than no answer at all.

- Budget your time.

Do not spend too much time on any one question since there is a time limit for completing the test. It is best to limit yourself to 1 to 2 minutes for the harder questions and no more than 10 to 20 seconds on the easier questions. The ACT consists of 4-5 small mini-tests that are timed. Pay close attention to how much time remains in each section, so you will not have to rush at the last minute to complete each test. We recommend bringing your own stopwatch to the test to keep track of time.

- Read each question carefully.

Never assume you know what a question is asking until you've read it in its entirety. Sometimes, students will provide an answer they recall from a similar question from a practice test. Read the words to each question carefully.

- Don't change your answers.

Don't change your answers unless you're sure you made a mistake. More often than not your first answer will be the correct answer.

- Practice, practice, practice!

Let us say it one more time. Practice, practice, practice! There is no substitute for practice.