

**YOUR CHILD AND CONTINUING EDUCATION
TECHNICAL/TRADE SCHOOL
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
COLLEGE / UNIVERSITY**

IF your child is considering college there are some important steps / things to be done
BEGINNING RIGHT AWAY as a freshman.

1. Require your child take the hardest courseload that he/she can handle. With so many schools offering International Baccalaureate (IB), Advanced Placement (AP) and Honors courses, it's important that if your school offers them, your student take advantage of some of them.
2. Get to know your child's guidance counselor...open lines of communication can only help with scheduling classes and figuring things out along the way! Give them your phone and/or email. Check in with them!
3. Same for your child's teacher - every year, mail a letter to each, call and leave a voicemail for each or send an email to each - letting them know you are available for any concerns/problems; check in occasionally to see how things are.
4. Keep in mind that college applications can be submitted sometimes as early as June after Junior year and into the fall of senior year - THEREFORE the admission is based on their GPA / classload from FRESHMAN, SOPHOMORE and JUNIOR years... They can't wait until junior or senior year to get serious about their future.
5. All colleges requires either SAT or ACT test scores. Unless you know exactly where you are applying, it's sometimes wise to take each test once and see how well you do...
 - A. ACT measures WHAT a student learned; SAT is more of an aptitude test.
 - B. ACT has four components: english, math, reading, science, optional writing.
 - C. SAT has three components: critical reading, math, required writing
 - D. ACT has NO penalty for guessing; SAT DOES take points off for wrong answers.
6. Check each college website's admission page to find out if they prefer one test over the other. Keep in mind you do NOT have to have test scores turned in to colleges until you want to. Take it freshman and sophomore year as a practice then "for real" as a junior.

ACT / SAT comparison, for example (ACT maximum score is 36. SAT maximum score Critical Reading + Math is 1600)

ACT	SAT	
36	=	1600
34	=	1510
32	=	1420
30	=	1340
28	=	1260

If your child takes both tests and their SAT comes back at 1260 but their ACT comes back at 30, retake the ACT!

ACT <http://www.actstudent.org/regist/dates.html> (I don't believe the ACT is offered over the summer; i.e. the last time in spring 2011 was June 11, the first one offered in fall 2010 was in September.

The College Board offers the SAT <http://sat.collegeboard.org/home>

As of June 6, 2011 the upcoming SAT test dates are

Oct. 1 - deadline to register Sept. 9

Nov. 5 - deadline to register Oct. 7

Dec. 3 - deadline to register Nov. 8

There are lots of helpful hints, practice questions, everything you need to know at either of these websites.