

Sophomore College Information Night

Jesuit High School College Admission Success

Class of 2014 (305 students) applied to 266 colleges and ultimately attending 97 different colleges. On average, students in the class of 2014 applied to seven colleges.

University of Oregon	University of Arizona
Oregon State University	Portland State University
Gonzaga University	Loyola Marymount U
Santa Clara University	Texas Christian University
University of Portland	Boise State University
Univ of Notre Dame	Seattle University
Univ of Washington	Cal Poly – San Luis Obispo

Colleges where 5 or more students are attending.

College Planning Priorities

Maintain focus on academics and classroom performance.

My first two priorities for your consideration are important ideas for second year high school students, for life and college planning.

At this mid-point in your high school career, it is important to recognize that you are developing your self academically, personally and socially.

As an academic, you are developing good study habits and organizational skills; you are developing academic interests that may prompt further research and study....perhaps leading to a college major or professional career? You are learning how to take responsibility for your actions: performance on tests, responsibility for deadlines, asking questions and seeking help when needed.

You are hopefully developing an affinity for reading...both in and outside of the classroom. I cannot stress enough the importance of reading in enhancing your vocabulary, building your reading comprehension and speed, contributing to SAT and ACT preparation. Studies show that lifelong readers are better able to focus on complex ideas. And perhaps most importantly, reading provides a powerful catalyst for developing deep interests. Read, Read, Read.

Your high school life is allowing you to build a comprehensive academic record of

your scholastic strengths, abilities and motivation.

Lastly, please know that your transcript is a picture/snapshot of your academic life at Jesuit High School and admittedly the most important piece of any college application

Top Factors in the College Admission Decision

- Grades in college prep courses – Math, English, History, Science and World Language
- Strength of curriculum
- Admission test scores
- Grades in all courses

College Planning Priorities

Developing interests outside of the classroom.

The second college planning priority I would like to highlight is co-curricular activities. In addition to academic development, the high school years are a wonderful time to develop interests and passions.

Beyond the joy of participation and the rigors of winning or losing, we believe that co-curricular participation also has a dramatic impact on your personality and personal growth. Student initiated activities often add “interestingness” and variety to life, and of course it enlivens a college application where often in a selective admission environment admission officers are keeping an eye out for students who demonstrate a deep interest of some kind.

Activities help students develop self-control without externally imposed pressure. Students individually should gravitate to their own individual tendencies, interests and pursuit of happiness. Hopefully parental hovering should not be required. The student should be discerning what they are crazy about...that requires effort...not passive observation.

College Planning Priorities

Begin discerning priority college characteristics.

A year from now when student sit down with a Jesuit college advisor – students will be asked to articulate what is important to them when considering college qualities and characteristics. Examples of such things include college size, location such as urban, rural, suburban and the like. Beginning to discern priority college characteristics is a fun and important part of early college planning.

One step toward such discernment is to acknowledge established family priorities – religion, proximity to home, perceived best learning environment, legacy. While we don't want to dictate our student's college search, as parents you do know the student best and your insights in terms of college characteristics could be helpful and appropriate.

Secondly college mail and communication can be helpful.

Campus visits – experience colleges with different qualities. Helps to develop a context, compare and contrast, make a connection between what they are doing in high school and what will be expected in college. Utilize group visits or individual visits. I am a fan of visiting locally. Think about the diversity of colleges just in your local area. Or consider visiting colleges at your vacation destination.

Conversations with parents and extended family and friends.

College Fairs

Considering attending local upcoming college fairs:

- Monday, March 16 7-8:30 p.m. Oregon Public Universities Fair, Gedrose Student Center
- Sunday, April 26 Noon – 3 p.m. Spring College Fair at University of Portland
- Tuesday, May 19 6 – 7:30 p.m. Jesuit Excellence Tour at Jesuit

A college fair can be enlightening, interactive, and an opportunity to discover a college or college location that was previously unknown.

College Fairs

- What is the campus atmosphere like at your school?
- What do students like most about your college?
- What do you consider your college's top three positive qualities?
- Do students participate in activities that enhance their faith or spirituality?

College Planning Priorities

Anticipate junior and senior year
standardized testing.

Redesigned SAT

- Evidenced Based Reading and Writing AND Mathematics
- Optional essay
- 3 hours + 50 minute optional essay
- Scoring scale will change
- No penalty for wrong answers.

An introduction to junior and senior year testing must include a few words about the redesigned SAT. If this is news to you, in fall 2014 the College Board announced details surrounding the redesigned SAT which will be introduced to the class of 2017 with the PSAT in October 2015 and the SAT beginning in March 2016 and beyond.

According to the College Board, the redesigned SAT will be more focused on the few things shown by current research to matter most in college and career. When students open their test books in spring 2016, they'll find questions asking them to support their answers with evidence, vocabulary they'll use long after they've taken the exam – no more archaic words, an essay prompt asking them to analyze a writer's argument, and multistep problems requiring them to apply math in real-world contexts.

Connecticut College

New SAT Reasoning Test

The newly redesigned SAT will be offered for the first time in spring 2016. Connecticut College will accept current or redesigned SAT scores for applicants who wish to submit standardized tests during the application process.

When the College Board switches over to the redesigned SAT in spring 2016, the current SAT will no longer be offered. However, some students will take the SAT before that time and then take the redesigned SAT later. Because the exam and score scale are changing, we recommend that these students send all scores, allowing colleges to use those that are most favorable to the student. Keep in mind that some colleges require students to send all scores. In the junior year, as you research prospective colleges it will be important to determine the college's guidelines toward the SAT. Some colleges have already posted on their webpage their standardized testing policy toward the redesigned test. Connecticut College's policy is noted.

College Testing

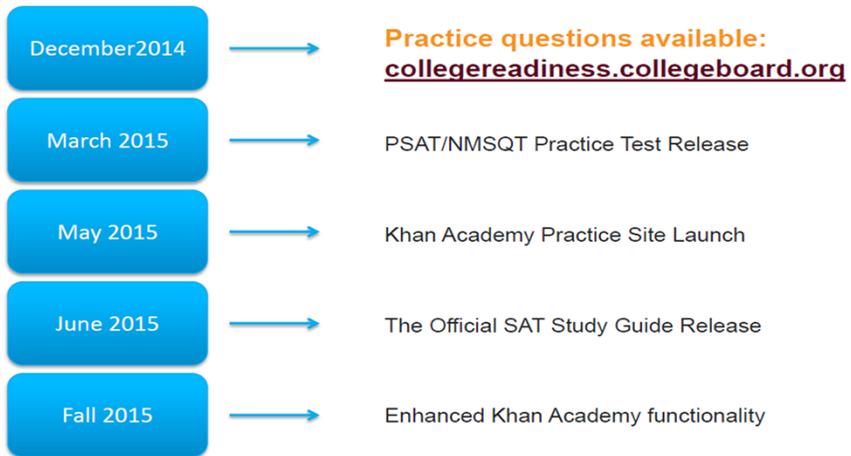
- Redesigned PSAT – October 2015
- Redesigned SAT + Essay – beginning March 2016
- ACT + Writing – Spring 2016
- SAT or ACT retakes - Fall 2016
- SAT Subject Tests (required for some colleges)

A student's testing calendar may look like the calendar shown on the screen. You will note the presence of both the SAT Reasoning test and the ACT in the spring 2016. Recent trends in Jesuit student testing indicates that most students are taking both exams to determine which assessment best serves their knowledge base and preferences for standardized testing.

The October 2015 PSAT will continue to serve as the assessment to determine National Merit eligibility for high school junior test takers

College advisors will clearly map out testing with juniors during the first college advising meeting beginning in February 2015.

Practice



 CollegeBoard

16

Note the timeline regarding the outlay of practice resources provided by the College Board for the redesigned SAT.

2.3 or Take a Knee

To play Division I sports, you need to qualify academically. To meet the minimum requirements for Division I student-athletes enrolling in college in August 2016 or later you must:

- Graduate from high school
- Complete 16 Core Courses, including 10 before your seventh semester
- Earn a minimum 2.300 Grade-Point Average in core courses to compete in your first year of college
- Earn a combined SAT or ACT score that matches your core-course GPA on the sliding scale.

Speaking of changes in academic standards, the class of 2017 will certainly be included in the looming adjustments to NCAA Division I athletic eligibility standards.

To play Division I sports, you need to qualify academically. The meet the minimum requirements for Division I student-athletes enrolling in college in August 2016 or later students must.....

Division I Core Course Requirements

- 4 years of English.
- 3 years of mathematics (Algebra I or higher).
- 2 years of natural/physical science (1 year of lab if offered by high school).
- 1 year of additional English, mathematics or natural/physical science.
- 2 years of social science.
- 4 years of additional courses (from any area above, foreign language or comparative religion/philosophy).

Go to the NCAA Eligibility Center for more information about athletic eligibility and for assistance with academic eligibility requirements.

College Planning Priorities

Consider affordability and utilize the Net Price Calculator and College Navigator.

Family Connection

- Colleges tab/**SuperMatch college search**
- Careers tab/Career **Cluster Finder**
- About me/**Resume**

Family Connection is a valuable resource for Jesuit student college planning. Sophomore students will receive a registration code for the Family Connection website. While our goal is clearly not to raise the college-related anxiety of students and parents not even halfway through the sophomore year of high school, we do think you might be interested in utilizing some of the following features of this website.

The **SuperMatch college search** is a dynamic college search engine that accounts for a variety of college qualities and characteristics.

From the Careers tab, students can select **cluster finder** under the heading **what are my interests?** This quick career inventory will assist students in identifying general career areas based upon academic and personal interests.

From the About Me tab, students may be interested in maintaining an academic and activity resume. Students can select **resume** under the interesting things about me heading.

Jesuit's official kick-off for college advising typically begins at the beginning of the student's junior year, second semester. Hopefully in the interim, the Family

Connection resources assists the student and family with some initial college planning and discernment.

Next Steps for the Class of 2017

- Maintain focus on academics.
- Pursue your interests and talents.
- Anticipate PSAT, SAT and/or ACT testing in grades 11 & 12.
- Visit college campuses and attend college fairs.
- Explore the Family Connection website resources.
- Anticipate one-on-one college advising with college counselor, beginning Feb. 2016.