

THE ROADMAP TO COLLEGE

Paving the Way to Life After WGHS

Presented by: WGHS College and Career Counselor

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Start with the End in Mind

Grade 12:

Students will submit their applications for admission and scholarships between August-January (most by November 1).

WHAT DO COLLEGES CONSIDER?

1. High school GPA (grades 9-12)
2. Strength of Curriculum (grades 9-12)
3. Admission Test Scores (grades 11-12)*
4. Extracurricular Activities/Work (grades 9-12)
5. Admission Essay (grade 12)
6. Counselor Recommendation (grade 12)
7. Demonstrated Interest in the School (grades 11-12)
8. Teacher Recommendations (usually grades 11-12)

Source: The National Association for College Admission Counseling *Admission Trends Survey, 2019*

HIGH SCHOOL GPA

- By far most important factor in the admissions/scholarship process.
- Cumulative gpa is considered.
- Colleges are typically only using gpa from grades 9-11 when making admissions decisions.
- Only semester grades (January and June) are factored into gpa. 6 week progress report grades are not factored in.

STRENGTH OF CURRICULUM

- When appropriate, students should enroll in challenging courses.
- Many of these classes have weighted grades.
- More challenging classes will help them prepare for college admissions tests and will also help them be better prepared for college level work.

The million dollar question...

“Is a “B” in an honors class better than an “A” in a regular class?”

ADMISSIONS TEST(S) SCORES

- There are two college admissions tests:
 - The ACT (offered 7x per year)
 - The SAT (offered 7x per year)
- When do students test? Junior Year (ideally)
- Many students will take a prep course to prepare for one or the other but the best way to prepare today is to take challenging courses, read, do your homework!

ADMISSIONS EXAMPLE: UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-COLUMBIA

ACT	SAT	Core GPA
24+	1160+	2.0+
23	1130–1150	2.80
22	1100–1120	2.90
21	1060–1090	3.05
20	1030–1050	3.20
19	990-1020	3.35
18	960-980	3.50
17	920-950	3.65

SCHOLARSHIP EXAMPLE: TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Missouri TruMerit Scholarship Chart

	36	35	34	33	32	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	ACT Composite												
	1570-1600	1530-1560	1490-1520	1450-1480	1420-1440	1390-1410	1360-1380	1330-1350	1300-1320	1260-1290	1230-1250	1200-1220	1160-1190	1130-1150	SAT ERW+M												
4.0-4.0+	\$4,000																										
3.95-3.99																											
3.90-3.94																											
3.85-3.89																											
3.80-3.84																											
3.75-3.79																											
3.70-3.74																											
3.65-3.69																											
3.60-3.64																											
3.55-3.59																											
3.50-3.54																											
3.45-3.49	\$3,000																										
3.40-3.44																											
3.35-3.39																											
3.30-3.34																											
3.25-3.29																											
3.20-3.24																											
3.15-3.19													\$2,000														
3.10-3.14																											
3.05-3.09																											
3.00-3.04																											
Cum. High School GPA																											

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Why is it important to be involved?
 - Get/feel connected
 - Gain exposure to careers, different people, etc.
 - Help others/community
- What kind of activities should my child be involved in?
 - In-School Activities
 - Clubs, Athletic Teams, Art, Drama, Music...
 - Outside Activities
 - Community Service/Volunteer Work
 - Paid Work
 - Summer Enrichment Programs

OTHER FACTORS

5. Admission Essay (grade 12)
6. Counselor Recommendation (grade 12)
7. Demonstrated Interest in the School (grades 11-12)
8. Teacher Recommendations (usually grades 11-12)

A YEAR BY YEAR TIMELINE

9TH GRADE

- Earn good grades
- Build relationships with teachers, counselors, club sponsors, etc...
- Get involved! Start building your resume
- Keep a folder or list of all of your activities and accomplishments
- Start thinking about college. Going on vacation? Take a look at colleges in the area.
- Start thinking about careers/possible majors. Talk to family, friends, job shadow, etc...

10TH GRADE

- Continue to take challenging courses, earn good grades, stay involved/build your resume!
- Take practice College Admissions Tests
 - Free online practice tests, test prep books

11TH GRADE

- Take the PSAT (October)
 - Practice for the SAT and for consideration for the National Merit Scholarship Competition
- Prepare for the ACT and/or SAT
 - WGHS daytime Test Prep class (free, offered during school day for elective credit)
 - Outside test prep
- Take College Admissions Test(s)
- Research Colleges and Build Your List
 - College Visits
 - Attend College Fairs
 - Meet with Admissions Representatives who visit WGHS

12TH GRADE

- Apply for admission and merit scholarships (August-January)
- Apply for need based financial aid (FAFSA) beginning October 1
- Receive decisions throughout the year—all by April 1
- May 1—National Commitment Day

THE A+ SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

- If a student:
 - Graduates with a 2.50 gpa
 - Completes 50 hours of mentoring or tutoring within the district (not community service)
 - Has a 95% attendance rate
 - Maintains a good citizenship record and stays drug free
 - Earn a score of “Proficient” or “Advanced” on Algebra EOC
- He or she can attend any community college in MO (for up to four years after graduation) for free
- Not planning to attend a community college?
 - Some four year colleges in MO offer scholarships for students who complete the program

Thank you for Joining Me!