



Young Women's Preparatory Academy College Bound Newsletter

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Ms. Gottlieb, School Counselor

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"I have an open door policy. That means that if the door is open – "come on in" you are welcome anytime."



College Searches

[FACTS.org](#)

[College Board: ACT:](#)

[Princeton Review:](#)

[EduPrep:](#)

COLLEGE FAIRS

[Ft. Lauderdale NACAC College Fair](#) – Thursday, November 1st 5:00 - 8:30pm

Ft. Lauderdale/Broward County Conv. Center / Ft. Lauderdale, FL

This is an excellent fair for undecided seniors and other students who are eager to dig into the search process. Approximately 250+ colleges and universities will be represented. Informative workshops on admissions, testing, scholarships and financial aid will also be given.

Enthusiasm Can Be the Deciding Factor

American Education Services (AES).

More than 50% of schools consider 'demonstrated interest' in the admissions process.

We've compiled a few tips to help students show their enthusiasm in their school of choice:

- Schedule a campus tour and interview
- Follow-up the interview with a thank you note
- Talk with professors and/or coaches
- Introduce yourself to the college representatives at a college fair
- Participate in an online chats
- Write a thoughtful admissions essay

The Real Story Behind U.S. News' College Rankings

By: **Lynn O'Shaughnessy**

The College Solution Newsletter

Blogger | Author | Speaker | Consultant

I cringe every year at this time when *U.S. News* releases its latest college rankings. The ranking is a flawed methodology so you shouldn't assume that the school ranked No. 15, for instance, is better than the college ranked 25th or 97th or 150th. What's more, colleges behave in ways that can hurt their families as these institutions try to inch up in the rankings.

One of the perverse aspects about the rankings is that turning out thoughtful, articulate young men and women, who can write cogently and think critically, won't budge a school's ranking up even a spot. Curiously enough, *U.S. News* doesn't even attempt to measure the type of learning going on at these schools.

Unfortunately, the methodology fueling the rankings are a collection of subjective measurements that students and families are supposed to rely upon to pinpoint the schools doing the best job of educating undergraduates. *U.S. News* relies on proxies for educational quality, but these proxies are dubious at best.

When the rankings were released this week, I wrote two pieces that attempted to explain why families should view the rankings with skepticism. Here are the posts:

[How U.S. News' College Rankings Can Hurt You](#)

[4 Reasons to Ignore U.S. News' College Rankings](#)

Search for colleges,
and scholarships:

College and scholarship
searches

Knowledge for College:

Art and Design Colleges:

College Accreditation:

Colleges that Change Lives:

Florida Health Careers:

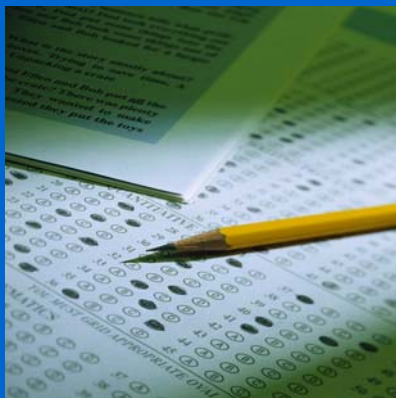
Colleges in the UK:

Virtual College Tours:

College Confidential
College View

Occupational Outlook
Handbook

The common Application:



TESTING

Here are some websites that
provide SAT and ACT
preparation

Number2.com

Max the Test

Princeton Review

State University Minimums:

SAT:

**Math: 460 / Verbal: 460 /
writing: 440**

**ACT: 19 Reading
19 Math**

Expectations Lose to Reality of Sports Scholarships

The New York Times By BILL PENNINGTON
Published: March 10, 2008

Excluding the glamour sports of football and basketball, the average N.C.A.A. athletic scholarship is nowhere near a full ride, amounting to \$8,707. In sports like baseball or track and field, the number is routinely as low as \$2,000. Even when football and basketball are included, the average is \$10,000. Tuition and room and board for N.C.A.A. institutions often cost between \$20,000 and \$50,000 a year.

To read more go to <http://tinyurl.com/2coerw>

ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORO



How Much Will a College Expect You to Pay?

By: Lynn O'Shaughnessy
The College Solution Newsletter
Blogger | Author | Speaker | Consultant

You can't possibly answer that question unless you know what your **Estimated Family Contribution** or EFC is.

An EFC is the amount of money, at a minimum, that a college will expect you to pay for one year of your child's college education. Often times you will have to pay more than your stated **EFC** unless you're attending an elite school with excellent financial aid packages.

If you have any favorite websites that you would like to share with us, please e-mail the links to me at:

igottlieb@dadeschools.net



Common Application Errors

"I'll start the application next week." Don't run out of time to complete the application. Give yourself at least two weeks to find mistakes.

"I already ran a spell-check on my computer." Words can be spelled correctly but used incorrectly. Ask a counselor, teacher or family member to proof read the application to catch any errors or poor phrasing.

"One copy is enough." Print out any online forms and keep copies of all paperwork.

"I can send my application as soon as I'm finished." Before you seal the envelope or click "Send" on your computer, double- and triple-check that you have included all necessary materials.

Follow-up in two weeks to verify that all mailed materials have been received.

"I assume this is right." If you're confused by a question or any part of the application, ask someone. A quick call to

Your EFC will be expressed as a dollar amount. A low-income family could have an EFC that's as low as \$0. There is no ceiling as to how high the EFC can be for wealthy families. The highest I've ever seen was about \$108,000 for a family where the father was a CEO. Obviously, \$108,000 is way above the price of one year's costs at any college.

How To Obtain Your EFC

Getting advance notice is better than waiting until your child receives his or her financial aid packet in the spring of her senior year in high school. I think families should obtain their EFC as early as their child's freshman year in high school. Here are two calculators that you can use to obtain your EFC:

[College Board's EFC Calculator](#) [FinAid's EFC Calculator](#)

Here is some of the information that you'll need to use the calculators:

- **Number of children in college.**
- **Marital status of parents.**
- **Adjusted gross income.**
- **Non-retirement investments.**
- **Income taxes paid for most recent calendar year.**

Too Many Letters of Recommendation???

In a recent college counseling chat room a counselor asked a question about having well known people who they know write letters of recommendation in order to grease the wheels of admission. Here are some of the interesting responses from them.

- **A majority of responders wrote with the old adage: "The thicker the file the thicker the student."**
- **Two points I'd have: 1. the record I've seen is 20 recommendations. I'd say 18 say "he's a great guy" and not much else. Bottom line with him: he stayed on the wait list and none of those letters changed a vote in committee. 2. I tell people that a file of a finite amount of time in committee. A quantity of information takes away from the value for thoughtful consideration of any individual piece.**
- **Too much of this name dropping-esque behavior will make them appear to be pandering/sucking up. Not a good thing. The kid is either the college's material or he isn't...No amount of connections will really change that, despite what people think.**
- **Based on conversations I have had with college admissions counselors, they are interested in getting recommendations from individuals who know you and can speak in the first person about the qualities and characteristics that you possess which make you a good candidate (which for you is a long list indeed!). They want to know who you are like as a student (teacher recommendation), and an overall view of you (counselor recommendation). Sometimes students have circumstances whereby a parent, employer or someone who has overseen volunteer work can also write a great recommendation that speaks to character, work ethic, etc.**
- **If the parents know someone who really has the clout and wants to use it on behalf of their kid, that person will know how to exercise his/her influence, and it's usually done over the phone. Otherwise, recommendations from well-connected people are less than helpful (and often annoying) unless the recommender had something specific and unique to say about the applicant, and then the person doesn't need to be famous or connected to support the applicant. If it's the usual "comes from a great family", "I know the parents well", etc., it's a waste of time. I remember receiving a letter once from a well-known author who wrote that he'd never met the applicant, couldn't say anything helpful but wrote in order to be able to honestly say to the parents that he'd written the letter. The parents chuckled and appreciated the honesty, but a letter from the applicant's summer job supervisor would have been far more helpful.**
- **A large number of letters, ultimately and not so subliminally say is: "you're not good enough."**

the admissions office can save you from making an embarrassing error



You must see Ms. Roundtree to request copies of your Transcripts to be sent to those Colleges you applied to.



National Association for College Admission Counseling
Guiding the way to higher education



<http://tinyurl.com/24htzg8>

Sponsored by:
Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA)
Florida Department of Education



enough to do this on your own." And you're completely right. These extraneous do nothing.

2012 - 2013 SAT/ACT Test Dates

Standardized Tests Calendar 2012-2013 SAT/ACT

2012-13 Test Dates	Test	Regular Registration Deadline	Late (a fee applies)
September 8, 2012	ACT	August 17, 2012	August 24, 2012
October 6, 2012	SAT & Subject Tests	September 7, 2012	September 21, 2012
October 27, 2012	ACT	September 21, 2012	September 22, 2012
November 3, 2012	SAT & Subject Tests	October 04, 2012	October 19, 2012
December 1, 2012	SAT & Subject Tests	November 1, 2012	November 16, 2012
December 8, 2012	ACT	November 2, 2012	November 16, 2012
January 26, 2013	SAT & Subject Tests	December 28, 2012	January 11, 2013
February 9, 2013	ACT	January 11, 2013	January 18, 2013
March 09, 2013	SAT only	February 08, 2013	February 22, 2013
April 13, 2013	ACT	March 8, 2013	March 22, 2013
May 4, 2013	SAT & Subject Tests	April 05, 2013	April 19, 2013
June 1, 2013	SAT & Subject Tests	May 2, 2013	May 17, 2013
June 8, 2013	ACT	May 3, 2013	May 17, 2013

Register online at:
SAT: www.collegeboard.com
ACT: www.act.org

ACT vs. SAT

By: Lynn O'Shaughnessy
The College Solution Newsletter
Blogger | Author | Speaker | Consultant

When deciding whether to take the ACT or SAT, you need to keep in mind that the tests require different types of skills.

Teens who do well on the ACT tend to:

- Read quickly.
- Process information swiftly.
- Have great memories.

Steps to College

Steps to College is NACAC's online newsletter for and about students in the school-to-college transition.

Resources and Tips as You Begin Your College Search

- Surviving Your College Search: The Adventure Begins
- An Internet Road Map for the College-Bound Student
- Career Planning and College Choice
- College Rankings: Helpful or Hurtful?
- Faring Well at College Fairs
- College Visits: A Planning Checklist

Preparing for College While You're in High School

- Choosing High School Courses for College Success
- Choosing High School Activities Wisely
- MySpace in College Admission

Choosing the Best-Fit College

- Is a Large or Small College Right for You?
- Career and Technical Colleges: Careers in Focus
- Tips for Visual and Performing Arts Students
- Community College: A Viable Option
- Exercising Your Options: Tips for Student-Athletes

The College Admission Process

- The Parts of an Admission Folder
- Admission Tech 101: What Students Need to Know
- Early Decision/Early

Teens who do well on the SAT tend to have these characteristics:

- Possess strong vocabulary.
- Avid readers.
- Enjoy test-taking strategies.
- Like puzzles.

The ACT test is more straightforward than the SAT, but teenagers have less time to complete it. For instance, the ACT asks 40 reading questions and gives student just 35 minutes to answer. The SAT has 54 reading questions, but allows students 70 minutes to answer.

Because the SAT test contains lots of smoke screens, students who enjoy puzzles can do better.

Learn more about the standardized tests by reading:

[Differences Between the SAT and ACT](#)
[Studying for the SAT for Free](#)
[Sizing Up Your SAT and ACT Score](#)

College Campus Visit (By the way, we are having our Fall College road trip in Feb.)

Ideally, you should visit a college before attending. The visit allows you to get a personal view of a college rather than a biased view from view books, catalogs, videos, representatives, and others.

When: For soon-to-be-seniors, the best time is either during the summer or during Spring Break. Visiting during these times allows for a longer look at the various colleges and universities visited without taking time off from school. In addition, the admissions officers have more time to spend with you. Check with each college for the best time of year.

Plan Ahead: Check the publications and with the admissions office to schedule your visit. You may want to schedule a tour, personal interview (if possible), visit classes, stay in a dorm, or meet with specific members of the faculty.

Campus Visit Procedures:

Call, e-mail, or write the college or university as far in advance as possible to schedule tours, dorm accommodations, and interviews, etc.

While on Campus:

- Assess the cleanliness, comfort, noise level, privacy, and safety of the dormitory. Is there a Laundromat in the dorm?
- Is the library accessible to you when you need it? Can you use other libraries in the area? Are the librarians helpful?
- Evaluate campus security. Do they have an escort service? The admissions office has statistics on campus crime.
- Evaluate the computers on campus. Are dorm rooms hooked up to the main system? Are college computers easily accessible? Can you purchase one at a discount?
- Evaluate the food and dining options.
- Are movie theaters, shopping, dining, etc. close to campus?
- Read the college newspaper, alumni magazine, and bulletin boards.
- Try to get a general impression of what the college and the students are like.

Special Interests: Evaluate those areas which are important to you:

- Athletic facilities
- Campus theaters
- Publication offices
- Science and foreign language labs
- Extracurricular activity options
- Department of intended major

Action: Does the Early Bird Get the Worm?

- Getting Great Recommendations
- Top Ten Tips for Writing the College Essay
- Help with the Writing Process
- The Truth About College Interviews
- The Waiting Game: What if I'm Wait-Listed?
- Making the Final Decision

Financial Aid

- Focus on Financial Aid: An Introduction
- Focus on Financial Aid: How to Apply
- Focus on Financial Aid: Terminology and Words to Know
- Focus on Financial Aid: Resources
- The Scoop on Scholarships
- Financial Aid Basics
- Financial Aid Myths and Misconceptions
- Financial Aid Words to Know

For Parents

- Off to College? Enter Here: The Changing Parent/Child Relationship
- For Parents: Preparing Your Child for the Social Aspects of College
- Tips for Parents: Countdown to College
- Tips for Parents: Helping Your Child Through College Admission
- Books for Parents of College-Bound Students
- A Parent's Guide to Financial Aid
- Everyone in My Child's Space

Online Personality and Career Interest Tests

These resources are of value for those who want to learn about themselves.

Talk to Students:

- What drew them to this college?
- What do they like and dislike?
- What is the academic load like?
- How is the social life at the school?
- How do they get along with faculty and administration?

Observe:

- Appearance of the students and faculty
- Academic atmosphere
- Friendliness of students and faculty
- Ethnic diversity
- School spirit

Evaluate:

- While on your visit, write down your impressions--good and bad. Be specific.
- Would you be happy in this environment for the next four years?
- Trust your instincts and first impressions.

5 reasons to join an honors program

From: Next Step Publishing Inc

<http://www.nextstepu.com/5-reasons-to-join-an-honors-program.htm>

Small classes, special perks and a community of like-minded students are just some of the reasons to consider an honors college or program

You have the grades, a high SAT or ACT score and the motivation to work hard in your classes, it's no surprise that you're looking at honors colleges and programs at the schools you're considering.

Should you enroll? Here are five reasons why you should at least consider an honors program

It prepares you for grad school

When Kelly Ross starts her graduate degree in psychology at the University of Alabama-Birmingham, the Gonzaga University (gonzaga.edu) honors program grad will already have experience writing a thesis, presenting on a research topic and working closely with an advisor.

Those weren't little projects, either. Her thesis presentation was an hour and a half long, the required to be at least 40 pages.

"Going into grad school, I feel much more prepared for the work I'll be doing there," Ross says.

Honors students get perks

Priority registration is a big perk for Mansfield University's (mansfield.edu) honors students.

"The minute registration opens, they get first crack at everything," says Dr. Sharon Carrish, who was director of the honors program there for six years.

Honors students are also considered for special scholarships, receive a notation on their transcripts and get to participate in day trips and other social activities. And did we mention the special abroad options? At Mansfield, two honors students earn a most-expenses-paid trip overseas. Last year, it was to China.

Honors students also have something to tell potential employers.

"It shows, 'I was not the typical student; I went above and beyond,'" Carrish says. "You're going to have a heck of an opener in the interview."

- [Personality tests](#)
- [Career Tests](#)
- [Just for Fun](#)

[Careers and Majors](#)

- [Cutting Edge Majors](#)

These aren't your parents' college majors. New trends and technologies have made their mark on the world. Colleges have responded by creating exciting new areas of study. These majors are hot right now because of business demands, expanding technologies and current events.

- [College Majors for In-Demand Careers](#)

If you need a clear path to a job after graduation, one of these majors might be right for you. These majors are tied to some of the hottest, most in-demand careers in the country today.

- [Four Reasons To Declare A Major Now](#)

Can't decide on a major? Don't put off the decision any longer. Choosing a major now can help clear up your college search and may even give you an application advantage. Plus, if you don't like your major, you can always change.

- [Advice on Choosing Your Career](#)

You're not required to have your career mapped out to start college, but you should definitely be thinking about your career path in order to make the most of your college years. Try these steps to get started.

- [Show Me The Money: Majors And Careers With Top Salaries](#)

Money isn't the only

You'll experience a different kind of teaching

Alex Scott, director of admissions at Felician College (felician.edu), says that small, lively classes and social activities are great reasons to join an honors program.

"But the biggest reason," he says, "is the support of a group of people who are highly interested in learning."

Honors professors know they're teaching the college's top students. So their classes are often discussion-based, seminar-style classes instead of lectures.

"The professors assumed you already did the reading," Ross says. "They might clarify a couple things, but it's about taking the lessons a step further."

Universities	FAMU	FAU	FGCU	FIU	FSU	NCF	UCF	UF	UNF
Honors Program Minimum Requirements	SAT1700; ACT 27; GPA 3.50; 2 Ltrs of recommendation	3.8 GPA1800 SAT (3 sections) or 27 ACT	3.9 GPA/1850 (all 3 sections) SAT and/or 28 ACT	GPA-3.5, SAT-1850, ACT-28	2012 Honors Midrange: 4.2-4.5 GPA; 30-32 ACT; 1980-2140 SAT	Holistic review. Top factors: course selection, grades, writing, scores.	Average GPA 4.2, SAT 2040, ACT 30	4.0 GP A & 2070 SAT or 33 ACT	http://www.unf.edu

Florida State University Summer Bridge Program

The Summer Bridge Program (SBP) is an alternative admission program for first-generation college students, and students who are disadvantaged by economic or educational circumstances. This school to college bridge program is designed to help ease students' adjustment to college life and build a foundation for academic success. Students will be required to apply for financial aid, and students with financial need will have 100% of their need for the summer term met from non-loan sources.

Students admitted to FSU through the C.A.R.E. Summer Bridge Program will participate in a six-week program in which they will:

- Live in campus housing with other participants, staff and upper class students who will serve as peer counselors and guides during the summer
- Receive comprehensive orientation to campus and academic requirements
- Take institutional placement tests (if needed)
- Take freshman level or preparatory level classes of up to 7 credit hours (based on placement or college entrance test scores)
- Get to meet key university faculty, staff and administrators
- When student participants return in the fall, they are adjusted to student life and well acquainted with the campus and important university personnel. In addition, they have developed good study habits and time management skills.

Students selected for the Summer Bridge Program must be first-generation college students from financially disadvantaged backgrounds who have demonstrated a strong desire to succeed. In addition, applicants must:

- Be a legal Florida resident
- Be eligible to receive the Federal Pell Grant
- Have a minimum 2.8 academic GPA (as recalculated by the Office of Admissions)
- Have a minimum 19 ACT composite score or 1330 SAT total score. All applicants taking ACT must also submit the ACT Writing Test.
- Applicants with an academic GPA between 2.8-2.99 must earn minimum subscores as outlined below:
 - SAT-Critical Reading \geq 460 or ACT-Reading \geq 19
 - SAT-Mathematics \geq 460 or ACT-Mathematics \geq 19

consideration when it comes to choosing a college major and your future career, but you should consider these majors and careers if you want to maximize your earning potential.

- **Five Majors With Great Starting Salaries**

Earning potential is one factor when choosing a major. Here are degrees that are some of the most sought after and, as such, have some of the top entry-level salaries.

- **Ten Top-Paying Technical Careers**

Want to bring home a good salary without spending four or more years earning your bachelor's degree? Consider one of these ten careers, which are among the highest-paying occupations that require either an associate's degree or vocational/technical school training.

- SAT-Writing \geq 440 or ACT Combined English/Writing \geq 18
- Satisfying these minimum requirements does not guarantee admission. The academic profile of the middle 50 percent of freshmen accepted to SBP in 2011 was:
- High School GPA - 3.2-3.8
 - SAT - 1470-1630
 - ACT - 20-24

To learn more about the FSU Summer Bridge Program, Please go to: <http://www.care.fsu.edu/Summer-Bridge-Program>

University of South Florida: Freshman Summer Institute (FSI)

The University of South Florida provides a world of opportunity for a select number of students who possess the desire to succeed. For some students, this desire may not be completely reflected in their high school record. The University recognizes the potential for success in these students and helps them make their academic goals a reality through our Freshman Summer Institute. The program provides access to a university education for promising students from first generation and/or limited income families and identifies qualified individuals through a review of admission applications, academic records, and family income as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Summer 2012 Admission Criteria [TOP](#)

Students admitted to USF through FSI must demonstrate significant financial need as determined by the 2011-2012 FAFSA. Students whose parent or guardian has completed a baccalaureate degree may be eligible as long as they can demonstrate significant financial need.

Students admitted to USF through FSI must demonstrate ability and/or potential to succeed through the combination of their high school (HSGPA) and SAT or EACT scores. FSI admission may be offered to students with a high school GPA equal to or greater than 3.0, a SAT score equal to or greater than 1450 (combined scores on SAT Critical Reading, SAT Math and SAT Writing). On the ACT, an applicant needs a composite score equal to or greater than 21. The scores listed above are minimum scores needed to be considered for participation in FSI. Actual scores of those selected for the program may be higher than the stated minimums.



Additionally, students admitted to USF through FSI must demonstrate financial need as determined by the 2011-2012 FAFSA and/or qualify as a first-generation college student--neither parent or guardian has completed a baccalaureate degree.

How to Apply

Freshmen applicants interested in attending the Freshman Summer Institute should complete/send the following information to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions for consideration:



- An application for admission (<http://usfweb2.usf.edu/admissions/application.html>),
- A non-refundable \$30 application fee,
- An official high school transcript,
- Official SAT or EACT scores,
- Complete the 2011-2012 FAFSA, and the 2012-2013 FAFSA
- Include USF's Federal School Code (#001537) on your FAFSA
- Check your OASIS account regularly (<http://oasis.usf.edu>).

To learn more about FSI, please go to: <http://www.ugs.usf.edu/fsi/fsi.htm>

Career Exploration

Great web resources from students.gov

You may have noticed that the information in our "Career Spotlight section" comes from the Occupational Outlook Handbook from the Department of Labor - a great place to learn about all of careers. But it's not the only great resource on students.gov that can help you learn about careers in the fields that interest you. Here are a few other random selections from the "Explore careers" section:

Career Voyages - Start exploring career options and be in demand by knowing about high-growth jobs with better wages and a brighter future! Career Voyages is the result of collaboration between the U.S. Department of Labor and the U.S. Department of Education.

<http://www.markosweb.com/www/careervoyages.gov/>

Anthropology and Archeology Career Guide (National Park Service) - Great career resource with guidance and links for future archeologists and anthropologists from the National Archeology and Ethnology Program of the National Park Service.

<http://www.cr.nps.gov/archeology/PUBLIC/career.htm>

Aviation and Space Careers (US Federal Aviation Administration) - This helpful site from the Federal Aviation Administration will help you learn more about the types of careers available in the aviation field or search for a job with the FAA.

http://www.faa.gov/education_research/education/aviation_space/careers

