



Planning for College

What you need to know about the college admission process

Simplify the College Planning Process

College opportunities exist for everyone. These steps can help simplify the planning process:

1. Explore college options
2. Understand admission factors – You must READ and pay attention to deadlines
3. Develop a financial plan



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Explore College Options



What to Consider

- ✓ Size and diversity of student body
- ✓ Location
- ✓ Academic programs
- ✓ Campus life — athletics, activities, housing
- ✓ Graduation and retention rates
- ✓ Financial aid and scholarship opportunities

Above all, think about where you will be the most happy and successful in your college life.



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Explore
College
Options

Which colleges are right for you?

Big Future



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Visit Campuses

Get to know a school from the inside:

- ✓ Take a campus tour.
- ✓ Speak with an admission counselor.
- ✓ Ask about financial aid opportunities.
- ✓ Sit in on a class of interest.
- ✓ Read the student newspaper.
- ✓ Talk to students and faculty.



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Understand Admission Factors

What Colleges Consider

Understand
Admission
Factors

- Primary Factors

- Quality/Rigor of Academic Courses
- Academic Performance/ Grades
- Test Scores (SAT, ACT, ACCUPLACER etc.)

- Additional Factors

- Extracurricular Activities
- **Essay(s)**
- **Letters of Recommendation**
- Demonstrated Interest



Grades & Course Work - College Readiness

Understand
Admission
Factors

Your high school academic record is one of the most important factors in college admission. Colleges will look at a few aspects:

- **Course selection:** Challenge yourself with a rigorous course load and high-level classes, including honors courses.
- **Grades:** Every year counts, starting with freshman year.
- **GPA trends:** Keep improving through every grade.
- **Class rank**
- **Avoid senioritis!**



Other Considerations

- Positive **recommendations** from educators and mentors
- Personal statement and essay(s) demonstrating writing ability and self-expression
- A “demonstrated interest” that shows your enthusiasm for the colleges to which you’re applying
- Extracurricular activities, including participation and leadership in sports, performing/visual arts, volunteering, etc.
- Community involvement, part-time work or internship
- Interview or portfolio (if applicable)



Standardized Testing Options

SAT	Vs.	ACT
Reasoning test <u>SAT Redesign 2016</u>	Type of Test	Content-based test
Reading, vocabulary, grammar & usage, writing, and math	Content Covered	Grammar & usage, math, reading, science reasoning, and writing (optional)
Math, Critical Reading, and Writing scores will each range between a 200-800	Scoring	Composite ACT score is the average of your English, Math, Reading, and Science scores on the four sections; ranges between 1-36

Getting Ready for Standardized Testing

Learn
About the
SAT

- Select challenging high school courses.
- **Read widely and write extensively**, both in and out of school.
- Take the PSAT/NMSQT[®] as a sophomore or junior.
- Become familiar with SAT and ACT question types, format, directions and test taking strategies.
- Take advantage of free resources at sat.collegeboard.org or actstudent.org

• [Khan Academy](https://www.khanacademy.com/)

How do I register for standardized testing?

- SAT registration
- ACT registration



Get Organized and Apply

- Narrow and categorize your choices:
 - “More than likely” schools (1 or 2)
 - “Good match” schools (2 to 4)
 - “Reach” schools (1 or 2)
- **Review** scholarship and financial aid **requirements**.
- **Revise** application essays and share drafts with a trusted teacher, adviser or family member.
- **Ask for recommendations** and **set firm dates** for their completion.
- **Request transcripts** and schedule interviews, if needed.



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Develop a Financial Plan

Add It Up

- + Determine all **college costs** — not just tuition. This is called **Cost of Attendance**.
- + Calculate your college **savings** so far and see if you're on track.
- + Estimate your family's **expected contribution** — an **EFC** calculator is available at www.collegeboard.com/payforcollege.
- + Search for **scholarships** —
[Norwich Tech guidance page](#)

Remember to explore every opportunity!

Apply and Compare: **SENIORS**

Develop a
Financial
Plan

- Know your options: grants, loans, work-study, etc.
- Fill out the free FAFSA application as early as possible, and meet all deadlines.
- **SENIOR ALERT: January 1, 2015 is the FIRST day you can file your FAFSA**
- Compare financial aid awards and determine how they fit with other contributions:
 - Family
 - Savings
 - Scholarships

Financial Aid 101 – FAFSA Overview

Attend one of the financial aid workshops at Norwich Tech to understand the process further.

- January 14, 2015 @ 9:00AM
- January 14, 2015 @ 1:00PM

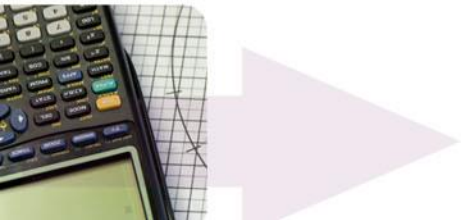
Both sessions will take place in the LPN theory room

READ the handouts provided tonight to familiarize yourself with Financial Aid in general

Making a Decision

- Try to visit colleges where you've been accepted.
- Compare financial aid packages.
- Send your deposit.
- Get ready to graduate!

Congratulations, you're off to college!



College Planning Recap

Remember: College opportunities exist for everyone!
Start thinking about it early!

- Simplify the planning process:
 - Explore college options.
 - Understand admission factors.
 - Develop a financial plan.

For more college tools and guidance, visit
[Norwich Tech Guidance Page](#)



A large, stylized logo in the background consisting of the letters 'L', 'N', and 'T' in a bold, blocky font. The letters are filled with a dark blue color and have a thick yellow outline. The 'L' and 'T' are positioned on the left and right sides respectively, with the 'N' in the center. The logo is set against a light, textured background.

**Thank you
for coming!**

Questions?