

College Prep and Advising

College Dates to Remember

What is FAFSA and Do I Need to Apply?

<http://veritasschool.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/college-dates-to-remember.pdf>

2018-19 College-Prep Dates to Remember

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>
September 7, 2018	Registration Deadline – October SAT
September 24, 2018	Christian College Fair – Westside High (6-8 p.m.)
September 28, 2018	Registration Deadline – October ACT
October 1, 2018	Earliest Date for seniors to File FAFSA
October 5, 2018	Registration Deadline – November SAT
October 6, 2018	SAT & Subject Tests*
October 10, 2018	(WEDNESDAY) PSAT Test at Veritas School
October 27, 2018	ACT Test
October 28 & 29, 2018	National College Fair – Oregon Convention Ctr.
11/1 – 12/1, 2018	Most Early-Decision Applications Due
November 2, 2018	Registration Deadline – December SAT
November 2, 2018	Registration Deadline – December ACT
November 3, 2018	SAT & Subject Tests*
November 15, 2018	Financial-Aid-Information Meeting at Veritas; 6:30 p.m.
December 1, 2018	SAT & Subject Tests*
December 8, 2018	ACT Test
December 21, 2018	Registration Deadline – January SAT
January 1-15, 2019	Regular Application Deadline for Most Colleges
January 11, 2019	Registration Deadline – February ACT
January 21, 2019	SAT & SAT Subject Tests*
February 8, 2019	Registration Deadline – March SAT
February 9, 2019	ACT Test
February 15, 2019	Financial-Aid Deadline for Most Colleges
March 8, 2019	Registration Deadline – April ACT
March 9, 2019	SAT Test
March 18, 2019	Protocol Banquet

April 5, 2019	Registration Deadline – May SAT*
April 13, 2019	ACT Test
May 1, 2019	Decision Deadline for Most Colleges
May 3, 2019	Registration Deadline – June SAT
May 3, 2019	Registration Deadline – June ACT
May 4, 2019	SAT & Subject Tests
May 7, 2019	Poiesis Presentations for Seniors
May 24, 2019	Senior Breakfast / Graduation
May 24, 2019	Submit Final Transcript Request
June 1, 2019	SAT & Subject Tests*
June 8, 2019	ACT Test
June 30, 2019	Final date to apply for FAFSA (by midnight CST)
August, 2019	Deadline for September ACT – Check Schedule
September, 2019	Corrections or updates to FAFSA due (" ")

*Not all subject tests are offered on each test date

<http://veritasschool.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/FAFSA.pdf>

What is FAFSA and Do I need to Apply?

Financial Aid is based on a family's ability to pay in relation to the college's tuition. All colleges require completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) - even if you don't think you will qualify (the schools want to ensure that your income is from legitimate sources :). This form should be submitted on-line as soon on or after October 1 (PLEASE NOTE NEW DATE) of the senior year as possible. You can download/complete the previous year's form from the FAFSA website and use it to get a general idea of what information is needed and approximately how much aid can be expected. The new form will not be posted until midnight on September 30. Most colleges have a priority deadline for FAFSA of February 15. The closer to October 1 that this is completed, the greater your chances for receiving available grant money, as it is assigned on a first-come/first-served basis.

Your financial-aid package will be composed of three possible sources:

- 1) scholarships and grants, which do not need to be paid back
- 2) loans
- 3) work study

Financial-aid packages are typically not included with the “Letter of Acceptance.” They will follow several weeks to months later. The most important thing to keep in mind when applying for aid is the exact list of financial-aid requirements for each college or university and to carefully read/follow their instructions.

For complete information and to get registered, go to the FAFSA website (<https://fafsa.ed.gov> – not “org,” as that is a commercial website).

<http://veritasschool.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/SAT-and-ACT.pdf>

The SAT and the ACT...

What is the difference and should I take both?

Standardized tests are an important requirement for admission to most colleges and universities. The two most critical aspects of a student’s application are the high-school transcript and standardized test scores. There are two tests available – the SAT (www.collegeboard.org) and the ACT (www.actstudent.org).

I was doing some research on the new SAT (revamped in 2016) and it sounds as if the developers of the new exam worked specifically to make it more like the ACT, so it’s not quite as important to take both tests to see if one way of asking questions is better for you than the other.

Below is a comparison of the two tests. Please note that at the top it gives a link for how to prepare for the new test.

<http://www.princetonreview.com/college/sat-act>

Most colleges today accept both tests equally. I can't think of one I've come across that only asks for the SAT, but I would definitely check with any college you have your heart set on just to make sure it's not the anomaly. :)

In the past, I've encouraged students to take a college entrance test at least twice - once in the spring of the junior year and once in the fall of the senior year - and to also take at least one of both the ACT and SAT. However, I had a former senior mention to me that it had been much easier for him to take the spring test than the fall, as he hadn't been using his math and science skills over the summer and noticed he wasn't quite as quick in retrieving them when school started back up. So, with that in mind, I am now recommending that you consider taking two ACT tests in the spring of the junior year - one in April and one in June - and then, if you feel so led, you can always take the September test, as well (this has a deadline of early August).

Many colleges also "super score" your tests - meaning they take the best scores for each section from every test you take, so there's should be little concern of decreasing your score if you take the exam a second time. As you can see in the following post, big colleges such as MIT super score, so even if you don't see one of your choices listed, check that school's website or contact your admissions rep and ask about super scoring, if you're at all concerned.

<http://blog.prepscholar.com/colleges-that-superscore-act-complete-list>

(there is also quite a bit of other test information on this blog, as well)

If you're comfortable with this direction, I'd recommend taking two ACT tests and, if - after reading the test comparison above - you think you'd do better with the SAT format, give that at least one try. If you're more of a math/ science student, you might just stick with the ACT, let the dust settle a bit on the SAT, and see how colleges and students respond to it.

The college-registration number for Veritas School is:

380-743.

This will also come up on a prompt during test registration.

Here is the suggested timeline for taking the PSAT/SAT/ACT:

Freshman/Sophomore:

PSAT in October at Veritas School (9th graders only if there's space)

SAT Subject Tests in May or June for subjects taken that year (in your intended major – i.e. Biology for pre-med)

Junior:

PSAT in October at Veritas (National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test)

SAT/ACT in May and/or June (Please see note above about changes with the new SAT)

SAT Subject Tests in May or June (see note below about subject tests)

Senior:

SAT/ACT in October (if not pleased with tests taken earlier)

SAT Subject Tests in May or June (see note above about subject tests).

PLEASE NOTE: Two subject tests are usually also required by State colleges for any student who did not attend a public high school.

Subject Tests are specific, content-based exams scored on the same scale as SATs, and colleges may require two or three of them. As part of their application process, most state universities in Oregon require any graduates of a non-public high school to take both the math and English SAT subject test their senior year to show a minimum level of mastery. For other subject tests, it is best if the student takes those exams that tie in with the intended major. For instance, a student planning on going in to engineering should take the chemistry and physics subject tests at the end of the school year in which he/she has that course at Veritas, before the information fades from memory – the same recommendation is made with AP (Advanced Placement) tests. Because Veritas does not offer AP-regulated classes, some tests may require more outside studying than others. Please check with your teacher in that subject before registering for a particular test. Tests are administered at Veritas and registration is done in class during early spring.

NOTE: Students should always verify specific test requirements at each college of interest.

<http://veritasschool.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/9th-and-10th-Grades---Preparing-for-College1.pdf>

Ninth and Tenth Grades:

Your journey through high school should include preparation for college and the best time to start is now!

Start asking questions:

How much do we think we can afford?

What can we do today to help us with the college-admissions process during senior year?

When are we taking traveling vacations and are there colleges nearby that we can visit?

Have we spoken with a financial planner to see if there's anything we can do now to help with our financial-aid application (uses the prior year's tax information)?

What people do we know who work in fields that might be of interest? Let's have them over for dinner!

Please don't try to put off talking about life after high school just because you don't think you're ready! And not all our graduates choose to go to college, but it's best to plan for that option and then decide the senior year, rather than scrambling to figure things out at the last minute.

When evaluating a student's application, admissions reps typically look at five main things: GPA, SAT/ACT scores, community service/jobs/extra-curricular activities, essays, and having family member who are alumni (Legacy applicants).

It is really important to work hard at maintaining a solid GPA, but it's also good to show that you can be more than just a student. Logging community-service hours, having a regular job, or participating in after-school activities such as sports, music, drama, art, etc. are all great ways to accomplish this. Several years ago, Stanford turned down something like 38 applicants with perfect SAT scores, because that was all those students had to offer the college. When the admissions committee has several candidates with similar GPAs and essays, the one with more than just strong academics will be its first choice! Also, college reps are pursuing all our seniors – not just those with straight A's. They know that our courses are considered Honors level and they want incoming college freshmen who have had a liberal arts education such as that offered at Veritas, as well as the Protocol training which makes you much more desirable to those companies hiring college graduates.

Start now keeping track of all your activities, awards, jobs, etc. There are places on all college applications that ask for these things, and it's SO much harder to try and retrieve that information your senior year!

If you're thinking you want to go into engineering or medicine, talk with your science and math teachers about studying to take the AP exams in their subjects the years that you have them, e.g. biology in 10th, chemistry in 11th. Also, check into getting credit for CLEP tests (though please keep in mind that not all colleges accept AP/CLEP/ACT scores for course credit. Each school is different. If you have a few favorite colleges you're considering, go to their websites and see what test scores they do accept for course credit.

Take the PSAT your sophomore year to help prepare you for the one you take as a junior, since that will be the test that counts toward numerous scholarships, including National Merit.

PARENTS: PLEASE do not contact college-admissions departments for any reason. I know you want to help, but colleges truly frown on this. They want to know that it's the child wishing to attend there, and not the mom or dad :) And our students tend to really shine on the phone and in e-mails. This will give them a very positive connection with their reps that will add great "weight" to their applications. Students: If you do e-mail or call, have your questions written out in advance (proof read e-mails carefully) and don't ask anything that is easily found on the college's website.

And know that you can always contact me if you have ANY questions during this exciting process! The Lord knows EXACTLY where you need to be the fall after your senior year. Just work diligently, develop the gifts He has given you, serve others, and entrust your future to our wise and loving God. And please know that I'm praying for you...

<http://veritasschool.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/10th-and-11th-Preparing-for-College.pdf>

Sophomores and Juniors: Preparing for College

Taken mostly from

"Countdown to College: 21 To-Do Lists for High School"

By Valerie Pierce

Parents should make any financial decisions regarding paying for college prior to January 1st of the student's sophomore year, as that is the beginning of the base calendar year used for the FAFSA application.

By 10th grade, students should narrow down their activities to two or three that you'll continue to do through high school and possibly into college. Colleges would prefer to see you do a few things well and that show dedication, rather than many things with mediocrity, which can show little focus and the tendency to get spread too thin.

A study sponsored by the National Bureau of Economic Research showed that if you take two average, middle-class students who are equal academically, the one who attends a slightly less selective institution will probably have higher grades in college, a higher class rank, and stand out more to faculty. This doesn't mean you don't apply to your dream school; it just means that those who think they need to attend an ivy-league college to succeed may want to rethink their motivation.

Best college website according to the author:

www.allaboutcollege.com

Scholarships/Financial Aid Websites:

finaid.org

fastweb.com

collegboard.org

scholarships.com

review.com

xap.com

allaboutcollege.com

collegeview.com

scholarshipexperts.com

collegeanswer.com

ed.gov/index.jsp

collegeispossible.com

petersons.com

studentedge.com

collegegold.com

[Student Guide, Funding Your Education, and Looking for Student Aid](#)

(Please – never pay anyone to search for scholarships for you)

On-line personality tests to help find colleges:

[Youscience](#)

[collegegrazing.com](#)

[collegetrends.org](#) [princetonreview.com/colleges-majors.aspx](#) [rankingsandreviews.com](#)

Help finding majors:

[mymajors.com](#)

[myplan.com](#)

Talk with people in the profession you're thinking of pursuing and find out what they majored in/where they interned/ what skills they needed, etc. to get that job.

If you don't know anyone:

- call professional organizations such as the Society of Mechanical Engineers, and ask if they could refer you to someone.
- look through magazines related to that career (Psychology Today) for stories that profile people.
- call the Human Resources Department of a related business and ask if they could refer you to someone in that company.

If you want to play a sport in college, your junior year is the time to start asking questions. Talk to your coach first, then contact the coaches of colleges in which you're interested. There are very strict guidelines concerning recruiting. You can check out the website below to find out what those are:

[eligibilitycenter.org](#)

And though not in this book, I recommend that all juniors sign up now to take the ACT test at least once this spring, as well as the SAT if there's time.

[ACT – act.org](http://act.org)

[SAT - collegeboard.org](http://collegeboard.org)

<http://veritasschool.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Community-Service-and-Volunteer-Ideas.pdf>

Community Service and Volunteer Ideas

When evaluating applications, colleges like to see students who have gone “outside themselves” and done something for others. Rather than a couple hours with one program and a few more hours with another, they prefer to see students who commit to one or two organizations for at least one-hour-a-week during the school year and/or summer, for at least a year or two. Participating in such a program provides wonderful opportunities for the growth of the student, as well as experiences that transfer well to college-essay topics! The supervisors really get to know the students working with them and are almost always willing to provide a wonderful letter of recommendation for those kids who have consistently provided “service with a smile!”

Some suggestions:

- FISH or LOVE, Inc. of Newberg (food sorting, after-school tutoring, cleaning) Local grade schools that offer after-school care or tutoring
- Your church: worship team, Sunday School, summer camps
- Retirement and care homes: reading to a shut-in once a week, giving manicures
- Habitat for Humanity
- Horse therapy programs/camps for handicapped children, such as Forward Stride (Wilsonville), Chehalem Mountain Therapy Riding Center (Jaquith Rd., Newberg), etc.
- Libraries
- CAT – The Cat Adoption Team in Sherwood (located near the DMV)
- Veritas – The school is often looking for a student who will help on a regular basis in the library, doing yard work, etc.

*Mom, Dad, Grandma, Grandpa, family friends...In order for these children to be successful volunteers at this age, they truly need your support! Any commitment they make of their time will also involve someone who can provide encouragement, schedule juggling, and, often times, a ride! Please adequately evaluate any volunteer plans your children have so that they can keep their time commitment to the organization, or otherwise they can end up with negative evaluations from their supervisors due to not being reliable.

Action Plan for Volunteer Work:

- 1) Keep a volunteer log by using a binder and adding log pages (provided by the school, or you can make your own).
- 2) Choose and pursue a choice of service. Offering four hours of your time per month is a good standard to follow. You can also take advantage of your free time during school breaks and summers to serve as camp counselors, etc.
- 3) Find something that you truly enjoy doing! If you're not an animal person, don't offer to help at the Cat Adoption Team. :) There will be times when you really don't feel like going, but you need to show you're dependable, so volunteering somewhere you like is a big motivator.
- 4) If you can't make it for some reason, be sure to give your supervisors as much advance notice as possible so that they can find someone to take your place. Better yet, see if you can find another volunteer who will switch places with you. This will make your supervisor very happy!

Be sure to keep track of volunteer hours by using one of the following forms:

<http://veritasschool.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/College-Visit-Guide.pdf>

Veritas School's Guide to College Visits

Visiting colleges is the very best way to know if that school is right for you. All of them can look great on a website, but that is because you're looking through the lens of a professional photographer and seeing only those parts of campus the marketing department wants to reveal to

you. One of the colleges we visited looked wonderful on-line, but when we got there, the school was actually located in an area of town that would be similar to Swan Island in Portland – lots of train tracks and manufacturing plants.

A good time to really begin visiting colleges is the summer between your sophomore and junior year. Prior to that, the college-admissions staff doesn't take you quite as seriously as they will when you're closer to actually being able to apply. If you do want to start visiting schools earlier than this, don't spend a great deal of money or go out of your way to make it to specific colleges, as intended majors and thoughts on what you want in a school can change.

The optimal times to visit are on long weekends during the school year when Veritas has days off, but the college doesn't. That way, you can experience campus as it would be when you're a student there, rather than over the summer or on weekends when the college is in "non-class" or remodeling mode. Be sure to check the on-line calendar to see when Dead Week and final exams are, as those would not be good times to visit.

The process of arranging a visitation or tour is critical for you, the student. Parents, please realize that this is the one real opportunity that your child might have to build that critical relationship with and make a positive impression on his/her admissions rep. Don't take that away by wanting to be too involved in the planning. Again, as much as we might want to justify calling or e-mailing by saying our child doesn't have the time, the college needs to know that it is the student who wants to attend there, NOT the parent! :)

Before you go:

- ✓ Go on the college's website to gather information and get a good overview. If possible, do a web tour of the campus and make notes of things you'd like to see. This way, you won't get home afterwards and realize that there was a part of campus you completely missed.

- ✓ Call the admissions department and ask if they have any programs to financially help students visit campus. Sometimes, such as to Calvin College, they will pay a portion of the airfare, as well as provide meals, if you get a certain number of students to travel together (usually three or four with an adult) – or they will cover the student's airfare and put them up for an overnight stay (as at Grand Canyon University).

- ✓ The student should call the admissions department at least four weeks in advance to sign up for a Visitation Weekend or to schedule a personal visitation time (see below).

- ✓ If you unexpectedly find yourself traveling to an area where there's a college you'd like to tour, still call and do what you can to arrange a visit, but understand that it may be more difficult for the admissions team to include everything you want to see when they haven't had much notice. Most tours take about 30 to 60 minutes, starting and ending at the admissions office.

✓ When calling, be specific about what you would like to see/do (see notes of possibilities below). Have a list in front of you so you don't have to call back and check things off once you discuss it. Although it might seem easier to e-mail, you will more likely get what you want if the admissions rep is able to personally interact with you.

✓ **Does the college offer interviews? If at all possible, ask to schedule one (optimally after the tour so you have a better feel for their program), even if you're not sure how interested you are in that particular school.** First off, you may end up deciding down the road that it is your #1 choice and then you'll wish you had taken the time to have an interview, and secondly, even if you don't apply there, you get to practice the interview process so that you will hopefully feel more comfortable going into the interview at your top-choice school. Prior to your visits, have your parents ask you questions about yourself that you respond to quickly. This helps you think through what are good and not so good responses. Also, be sure to have recently read a quality book that you either really enjoyed or found very thought provoking, as "Tell me about a book you've just read" often comes up during interviews (Check out "Reading Lists for College-Bound Students," by Doug Estell)

✓ Search the school or town website for listings of area churches. Note those that might interest you. Write down addresses and phone numbers so you can visit a couple of them when you're there.

✓ Get clear directions; ask for travel distances between colleges, if visiting more than one

✓ Pack a notebook in which to take notes and keep handouts/information. Plan on taking photos, especially if you're checking out a number of colleges. This will help you remember what you saw where!

✓ For individual/private tours, the student should call the admissions department several days prior to your arrival and confirm your tour time and schedule.

✓ Plan on taking nice-looking, clean, and modest clothes, such as you might wear to church. Also, take time to brush your hair and teeth before going on campus. First impressions are so important here. I've had comments made to me by admissions reps about how our students have stood out during campus visits because they made an effort to present themselves well, both in their interactions with others and their appearances.

Should I visit during an official preview event?

- An official recruiting event like Wheaton Connection or Bruin Preview will provide more specific attention and events, but it may not leave you as free to visit exactly the class you want to visit and you may not have the chance to see the campus as it really is on non-visitation weekends. These programs are helpful in the sense that everything is laid out for you; those two days are geared toward visiting high schoolers. There are usually

seminars for both students and parents, as well as special activities, such as concerts or movie nights.

- Going on a non-recruiting weekend allows you to spend less directed time at the college. Some college students have told me that they love the preview weekends at their schools because the quality of the cafeteria food goes way up!
- Either way, make sure you visit at a time when students are on campus and regular classes are in session.

What should I do while I'm on campus?

(Take the same list of questions to each college so that you can more objectively compare schools).

- **Spend time with someone from the admissions department**
 - What percentage of freshmen return for their sophomore year?
 - Please tell me about the (your intended major) department here.
 - How difficult is it to switch majors?
 - Is it possible to live in a dorm all four years? How much off-campus housing is available?
 - Are the dorms separate for men and women or are they mixed? If mixed, are the bathrooms separate?
 - Ask about safety issues. Are there campus police? What about building security? Are dorm doors locked? Are security personnel available after night classes or late work-study jobs to escort ladies back to their dorms?
 - Are there other major expenses I should be aware of that aren't covered in tuition/housing/books/meal plans?
 - Is it possible to earn scholarships as a student there or are they all awarded to incoming freshmen?
 - What about fraternities and sororities? Are there ways to socialize without joining one?
 - How are roommates selected?
 - Is there an Honors program? Please tell me about it. Does it take a separate application?
 - Are there ways that I can volunteer or work on campus as part of a student-leadership group?
 - Are there volunteer/ministry opportunities on campus, such as tutoring children, or ministry opportunities off campus that I can do with other students?
 - If this is a Christian campus, is Chapel offered during the week? Are students required to go? What types of speakers or programs are typical for Chapel? What percentage of students attend?
 - Are there active Christian organizations and Bible studies on campus? If so, does each dorm floor have a Bible study/discipleship group, each dorm, or just one group that meets on campus?

- **If you see a student not rushing to class, ask questions about student life and attitudes?**
 - What do students love? What do they not like?
 - Does the school culture make it easy or difficult to be a good student?
 - Do professors teach all the classes or are there TAs? Are the professors accessible?
 - What kinds of things do students typically do after class or off campus?
 - Is it hard or easy to get around without a car, such as to the airport, different kinds of stores (food/school supplies/toiletries/clothing, etc.), a movie theater, or coffee shop?
 - Do most students have bikes here?
 - Do many students go home on the weekends?

- **Spend a night in the dorm (See if there is a Veritas grad with whom you can stay).**
 - What is the “culture” like in the dorm? Noisy? Quiet? Studious? Party-ish?
 - Is it hard or easy to be a good student while living in this dorm? Would you always feel like you needed to leave the dorm in order to study without lots of distractions?
 - Ask whether different dorms have different identities. What are they? Explain what you'd prefer (I'm an early-to-bed person; I want to be able to cook; I love social events) and see which dorm other students would recommend for you.
 - Can students pick which dorm to live in?
 - What are the bathrooms like? Typically, some are in the rooms whereas others are at the end of the hall. Are they clean? Do the students have to clean the bathrooms?

- **Set up a one-on-one visit with a professor in the department in which you're thinking of majoring.**
 - Ask about the level of academic rigor in the department.
 - Ask what students from that department typically find themselves doing after they graduate.
 - Are alumni getting into top-level grad schools? Ask for examples.
 - Be bold and ask the professor's opinions about the equivalent department at the other colleges you're thinking of attending – "Why would you recommend I be a student here rather than there?"

- **Visit classes!**
 - This is the most important thing to do while on campus.
 - Definitely visit some classes in the department in which you're thinking of majoring.
 - Try to sit in on the same class in your intended major at each college you visit (eg Calculus or English Lit). This will make it easier to compare schools.
 - Consider visiting a “general education” or required class. If you're going into a science or music major, ask to also visit the labs/practice rooms.
 - Things to notice:

- Is the class centered around a lecture, discussion, or both?
 - Are students encouraged to participate actively or simply take notes?
 - Before or after a class in your major, ask a student what kind of work the professor assigns and how a grade is determined.
- **If you're interested in playing intercollegiate sports, arrange beforehand to meet with a member of that coaching staff.**
- **If your parents are with you for a preview weekend, they should consider attending a seminar about financial aid or set up a meeting with the admissions/financial-aid office to learn all they can about it at that particular college.**
- **Read a school newspaper; check out bulletin boards to see what types of things are posted.**
- **Eat in the cafeteria. If you have food allergies, look to see what options there are. Arrange to talk with a staff member about your particular needs.**
- **Visit the student union, bookstore, exercise gym. What is the atmosphere?**
- **What is the library like? Are there places for study groups? Tables for private study? Areas for research?**
- **Look at the physical aspects of campus. Are the buildings well maintained? Are there grassy/treed areas in which to relax or study? Are there benches and tables outside? Is there a great deal of litter?**
- **Look to see what clubs and activities are available? Do they offer intramural sports?**
- **Do the students and staff generally seem "happy?" Would you say for the most part they want to be there?**
- **Look around. Notice the student groupings, attire, behavior... Can you see yourself there?**
- **Visit several of the churches you researched prior to your visit. Call ahead and ask if the college/career pastor is available to meet with you.**
- **Visit the town/surrounding area. What is nearby – stores, restaurants, coffee shops?**

After you return home:

✓ As soon as possible, write down your likes/dislikes in your notebook to help you later when you want to narrow down your college choices. Keep everything on one college in one

file folder or tab, so you can then just throw away what you have for those colleges that you decide to eliminate.

✓ If you met with an admissions rep, professor, etc., be sure to send each a handwritten thank-you note soon after returning.

✓ If you really liked a particular school and it's one of your top choices, see if it's possible to visit at a different time of year. If you went on a beautiful spring day, consider going during January. If you went for a preview weekend, try going at a time when there isn't something like that scheduled.

If you're not able to visit many campuses, here are some alternatives to consider:

- Check for a video tour on the website. Also: www.campustours.com or www.ecampustours.com
- Ask Mrs. Jones if any Veritas alums have attended that college. If someone has, she can usually provide you with an e-mail address or Facebook contact so that you can arrange to meet or talk with that person.
- Visit colleges that are nearby or ones that you'll pass on family vacations, etc. Even if you're not really interested in these schools, you'll still get a feel for what types of dorms you prefer, whether you like a college that's in the city or out in the country, etc. This information will help you as you narrow your search.
- Save your travel money to use on visiting your #1 choice. Keep in mind that committing to a four-year college that turns out to not be the school you hoped it would be is a far more expensive endeavor than the travel costs needed to check it out.

<http://veritasschool.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/College-Application-Outline-8.26.14.pdf>

A Basic Checklist to Follow When Applying to Colleges

- 1) If you desire to play an intercollegiate sport, do not go through the college's admissions department for information. You or your coach should contact that school's coaching staff directly. Please see Mrs. Jones for further information on how to get recruited for college athletics.

- 2) Take AP or SAT2 subject exams each year, especially in those subjects related to your intended area of study. If you're changing from Latin to Greek, take the Latin exam at the end of your junior year; take French at the end of 12th grade. Taking AP/SAT2 tests does not necessarily give you college credit; good scores show colleges your mastery of a subject and make your application have more "weight."

- 3) Be sure to take the SAT and/or ACT at least twice – once or twice in the spring of your junior year and once in the fall of your senior year. When registering for the tests, be sure to enter those colleges to which you would like your scores sent (these initial ones are free; fill in all available spaces). If you apply to a school you did not originally list on the test registration, be sure to ask the College Board or ACT to have a copy of your scores sent to that college at the time you're applying (there is a cost for this).

- 4) Research organizations and websites that offer college-scholarship information. If a relative is part of a group such as Rotary, Elks, or Kiwanis, ask about its scholarships. If you have any ethnic heritage (Asian, American Indian, etc.), research scholarships for that and check to see if any colleges offer special scholarships, as well. There are many on-line sites that list possible scholarships for free. Do not send money to anyone for this service. One financial aid site: <http://myblueprintstory.com/financial-aid/>

- 5) Spend time doing some basic research on each college to which you're applying. Most of this will have been part of your required college homework. What are the application deadlines? Is the college's early application binding (some schools have "Early Decision," which requires you to only apply to that school prior to the January (or later) open-application time, and your application is binding, meaning you have to go there if accepted). Does the college require the Common Application or have its own? How many letters of recommendation does the college require? And from whom? **Make a calendar and checklist of everything each college requires and when it's due: tests/registration deadlines, college application deadlines, financial aid deadlines, recommendations, transcript requests, etc. Enter calendar reminders ahead of due dates so you don't get surprised by a deadline.**

- 6) Be sure that any contact made with a college is done by you and not your parents.

- 7) Decide which three colleges are your top choices – One that you know you can get into and afford, one that's a bit of a stretch, and your dream college. Visit them if at all possible. If not, try to arrange an interview with their reps if they are coming to the area for college fairs. If these colleges offer Early-Action applications, complete those first. Many schools select the majority of freshmen applicants from those submitted by the fall Early-Action date (but be wary of the **binding** Early-Decision applications). **If applying to an Oregon state college (eg UofO, OSU), please let Mrs. Jones know as soon as possible.**

You can apply to more than three schools, but no less, as you'll want to have several options to consider.

8) See if any of your selected colleges' essay prompts are similar and then come up with a writing angle that can be tweaked to work for more than just one college. BE SURE to have someone such as a teacher or myself proof all your essays AND applications for typos, grammar, and omissions.

9) Decide which people you are going to ask to write your letters of recommendations (usually a teacher who knows you well, your pastor/youth pastor, and sometimes a school counselor, which would be Mr. Adams. The Common App does require one from me) and ask them if they will be available to do so. Put together recommendation folders for each person that include a copy of the college's recommendation form, if it has one, your resume/brag sheet, and a letter from you thanking the person for being willing to write the recommendation and giving him/her a padded date of when the letter needs to be at the college.

10) At least two weeks before the application deadline, turn in a signed, green transcript-request form to Mrs. Lundstrom. On it you will need to put the email addresses of each college's admissions departments. **At least a week prior to Christmas break, be sure to turn in any transcript requests you might need for colleges with early January deadlines, as Mrs. Lundstrom cannot send them from her home or without your signature.** If the college requires a letter of recommendation from a high-school advisor/counselor, please provide a recommendation packet (brag sheet, note with due date, etc.) with your transcript request, as Mrs. Lundstrom will pass this on to Mr. Adams once your transcript has been prepared.

11) **FAQs for Applications:** *The Veritas School ID number is 380-743. *All Veritas courses are considered Honors level, though not AP or IB classes. *Your GPA is **unweighted**, meaning we do not include pluses or minuses on your college-bound transcripts; An A=4, B=3, C=2. *With your transcript, Veritas sends a description of classical Christian education, so you do not need to try and explain it or break Humane Letters down into separate subjects. *Be sure to sign the waiver saying you **don't** want access to your application file. ***The top reasons students aren't accepted? Missed deadlines or incomplete applications. Both really devalue your "worth" to the colleges.**

12) Make a hard copy and back up of your entire application packet in case it gets lost somehow.

13) Gather what you and your parents need to complete the FAFSA form – at fafsa.ed.gov – NOT .com (FAFSA User name/Password for parents and for student, social security number, driver's license number, you and your parents' federal tax return information). The actual form should be submitted right on or soon after October 1 of your senior year. To get an estimated aid amount at any time prior to October 1, go to: <https://fafsa.ed.gov/FAFSA/app>.

User Name/Password: _____

14) Letters of acceptances from colleges may also include a scholarship offer. This is not your total financial-aid offer. It is more of a "We really want you to come here!" scholarship. I can

provide you with a form that allows you to compare the different financial-aid packages you might receive from each school (these typically arrive some time after you've received your letter of acceptance).

- 15) Be sure to send thank-you notes to all of the people who wrote letters of recommendations for you. This is important! They took a great deal of their time to do this and you need to recognize that and tell them you appreciate their efforts on your behalf.
- 16) Colleges typically have a May 1 deadline for telling them you will or will not be accepting their offer to attend there. If, say in January, you already know that you are not going to be attending Colleges A, B, and C, send your admissions reps from those schools an e-mail telling them thank you for accepting you, but that you have made a decision to attend a different school. This way, any scholarship money they had allocated to you will be released so that they can offer it to another student. At your first-choice school, that student waiting for more financial aid to be released may be you! (Only send a deposit to the one school you will be attending).
- 17) By May 15, fill out another transcript-request form, indicating to which school you have decided to attend as Mrs. Lundstrom needs to send it a copy of your final grades

...AND KNOW THAT I'M PRAYING FOR YOU! :)

<http://veritasschool.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Colleges.Accepted.pdf>

Please download attached

<http://veritasschool.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/standardized-test-summary.pdf>

Standardized Scores and Statistics

Standardized Test Summary

Historical SAT Scores

Looking for more information on Veritas academics? Check out
Measuring our Success!

<http://veritasschool.net/our-education/secondary/college-resources/>

