COLLEGE TESTS

PLAN - a practice test for the ACT. Some high schools make the PLAN available to sophomores.

PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) - a practice test for the SAT Reasoning Test. The PSAT/NMSQT is given in October, primarily to juniors. This test is also used to determine National Merit semifinalists.

ACT - a college entrance examination that students generally take during their junior and/or senior year. Students receive scores in English, reading, math, and science, as well as a composite score. There is also an optional writing test.

SAT Reasoning Test - a college entrance examination that students generally take during their junior and/or senior year. The SAT has three sections: critical reading, math and writing.

SAT Subject Tests - one-hour tests that measure a student's knowledge in specific subject areas. SAT Subject Tests are required by some of the more competitive colleges.


RESOURCES

For more information on making high school count, visit:
- www.actstudent.org
- www.collegeboard.com
- www.fafsa.ed.gov
- www.fastweb.com
- www.makingitcount.com

Check your local library or book store for these resources which offer objective data and information:
- College Handbook 2011/College Board
- Peterson’s Four-Year Colleges: 2011/Peterson’s
- Book of Majors 2011/College Board
- Guide to College Majors/Princeton Review

ADMISSION TO THE MOUNT

The College of Mount St. Joseph conducts a comprehensive and individualized review of every candidate’s credentials for admission, including, but not limited to, the following: a college-prep high school curriculum, strong grade point average, standardized test scores, evidence of leadership, and extracurricular involvement.

In addition, a student’s personal background and attributes as well as individual life circumstances are taken into consideration. The Mount seeks students who would contribute to, and benefit from, the educational programs and activities the College offers.

The profile of the average student who is accepted at the College of Mount St. Joseph includes:
- Grade point average of 3.23
- ACT and SAT scores at or above the national average
- Successful completion of a solid college preparatory curriculum.

VISIT US ON:

College of Mount St. Joseph | (800) 654-9314 | (513) 244-4531 | www.msj.edu

TOP 10 COLLEGE MAJORS

1. Business Administration/Management
2. Psychology
3. Nursing
4. Biology/Biological Sciences
5. Education
6. English Language & Literature
7. Economics
8. Communication Studies/Speech Communication Rhetoric
9. Political Science and Government
10. Computer and Information Science

Source: 2012 TPR Education IP Holdings, LLC. The Princeton Review
Your high school years are a time of growth and discovery—a time to learn more about yourself and the world around you. From academics to extracurricular activities, you can learn from everything you do.

**FRESHMAN YEAR**
Everything starts to count

- Develop a four-year academic plan for high school.
- Ask your guidance counselor for help.
- Focus on taking challenging courses and getting good grades.
- Become involved in a wide variety of activities. This will allow you to develop your leadership and social skills.
- Keep a list of your activities and accomplishments.
- Plan summer activities that keep your brain active.

**JUNIOR YEAR**
Time to get serious about your plans and options.

- Be aware of your academic progress—GPA, class rank, etc.
- Register to take the ACT and/or SAT during the spring.
- Use college specific search engines to explore your college options.
- Decide what is important to you in a college—academic reputation, size, location, activities, cost, etc.
- Begin visiting colleges and universities.
- Start checking into scholarships and financial aid.
- Carefully select courses for your senior year.
- Check to see if any prerequisite courses are needed for your major.

**SENIOR YEAR**
Everything comes together. You see the rewards of your hard work.

- Focus on doing well in school.
- Know college deadlines, if any.
- Narrow your list of colleges and visit your top choices.
- In the fall, complete applications to the colleges of your choice.
- Apply for financial aid and scholarships.
- Make your college decision!

**AN ACADEMIC PLAN**
An ideal, four-year academic plan in high school will include, but not be limited to:

- 4 credits of math (including algebra I & II and geometry)
- 4 credits of English
- 4 credits of science
- 3 credits of social studies
- 2-3 credits of foreign language
- 1 credit of fine arts

**MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR TIME IN HIGH SCHOOL CAN HELP YOU GET INTO THE COLLEGE OF YOUR CHOICE.**

**TIPS FOR SUCCESS**

- Attend class.
- Keep up with assignments and participate in classroom activities.
- Take notes.
- Notes help in studying for tests and doing assignments.
- Join in class discussions.
- Speaking out helps develop confidence, and explaining your ideas helps sharpen your thinking.
- Ask questions in class.
- If you don't understand something you may become confused and fall behind. Remember, if you have questions, others probably do too.
- Ask for help if you need it.
- Teachers want their students to learn. Your teachers can help you achieve your goals.
- Reading is important.
- Reading expands your vocabulary and exercises your brain.
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**MAKING THE MOST OF A COLLEGE VISIT**
Your junior year is an excellent time to make college visits. If you visit colleges during the summer months, go back and revisit the colleges you're seriously considering when they're in "full swing."

Here are some important questions to ask during your visit:

- Is the college the right size for me?
- Is the campus clean?
- Does this college offer my major?
- Is the campus safe?
- How is the food in the dining hall?
- What are the residence halls like?