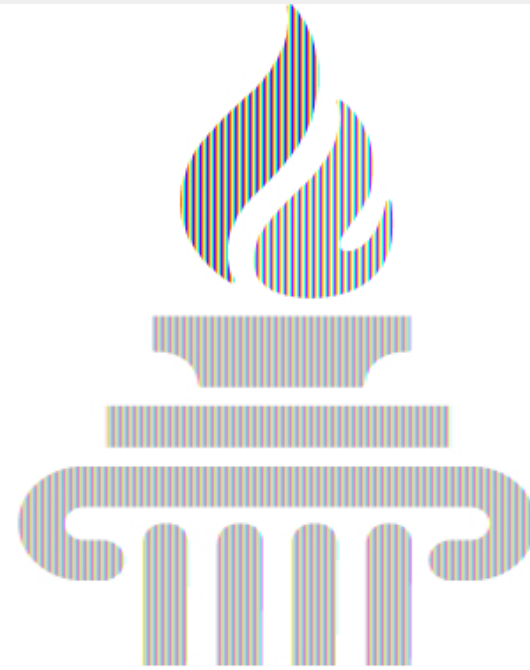


College Exploration/Postsecondary Planning:



Know Yourself. Know The World.

NOVA CLASSICAL

ACADEMY™

Post Secondary Options

Post-High School Options

- 4-Year Private and Public Colleges and Universities
Bachelors Degrees (4 years)
- Community Colleges (Open Enrollment)
Associates Degrees (2 years)

- Specialty Schools
- Technical Colleges

Non educational options

- Military
- Travel/Gap Year
- Volunteer/Service Activities
- College Prep School
- Work



Today we will focus on College Process since the majority of students pursue that path.

Defining Terms

Match: “Match” generally refers to academics and pure numbers (GPA and test scores) and whether your academic achievements align with the school’s academic expectations for incoming students...When looking at colleges' profiles, look at the averages and the middle fifty percent figures for each.

Fit: "Fit" is a much more ambiguous concept; it refers to how well prospective students might mesh with the institution once on campus. Students need to consider their own personalities, interests, and wants as they make their decisions about where to apply.

The Process

➤ Be authentic

- It's about *fit* and not about getting *accepted/in*
- *Selectivity* does NOT equal *fit*
- Using your voice + your knowledge = the process works

Have important conversations with your parents/guardians regarding options as soon as possible

- Financial expectations
- Distance expectations/parameters
- Grades/participation expectations

➤ Don't stress but do set timelines

- Meeting deadlines is essential
- Follow your plan and avoid procrastination

How Will Colleges Evaluate My Application

Number One: High School Transcript:

The high school transcript is the most important part of the application folder. It will be examined closely for:

- The rigor of the courses taken
- The breadth of study within each department
- The grades earned in these courses
- They want to see trends, growth, challenge, and achievement

Numbers two and three:

Qualitative Factors (often required at more selective schools)

- **Personal Statement/Essay**
- **Leadership/Extracurricular Activities**
- **Recommendations**
- **Work/Volunteer Service**
- **Interviews**

ACT/SAT Test Scores (many schools have become test optional over the years, and most schools are maintaining test optionality through your applicant class)

- **Test optionality means that you will not be disadvantaged in the school's admissions process if you decide not to submit your score**

College Testing

What tests should I take and when?

- Winter/Spring of Junior Year ACT with writing is most popular/SAT
- ALL COLLEGES ACCEPT EITHER TEST without PREFERENCE/BIAS!
- Many students wait to send their test scores directly to colleges until they apply; however, you have the option to send four results every time you register for the ACT and test
- What is my SuperScore and why does it matter? Combination of your best subtest scores to create your highest possible composite score! Sending free scores can help reduce the cost of sending CE scores and highlights the positive perspective schools have regarding your abilities (more schools super-score the SAT than ACT)
- Dates and how to register:
 - www.actstudent.org
 - www.collegeboard.org
- Every junior will take the ACT in school on Tuesday, March 8th as part of the Minnesota State testing plan; you will be registered for it here at Nova!

College Testing

(NCA TESTING CODE 242-269)

- 100% of Nova students by senior year take the ACT (1-36).
- This exam consists of four sections: English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science Reasoning and includes an optional Writing test (it will be part of the district ACT 2/25)...No deduction for wrong answers.
- The purpose of this test is to measure the skills and knowledge that have been developed since middle school; it is an achievement test
- Look at past tests and the middle 50%s of schools in which you are interested to create an achievable goal score.

College Testing

SAT Reasoning Test (400-1600/600-2400)

- The SAT Reasoning Test consists of Critical Reading, Math, and Written/Language sections. There is also an optional Writing portion.
- The purpose of this test is to measure the writing, reading, and mathematical reasoning abilities that students possess and develop over time; it is often classified as an aptitude test.
- This test is in the same format as the PSAT/NMSQT; consider your PSAT score/comfort level with that test when deciding whether to take the SAT or not.

SAT Subject Tests (200-800)

- These tests are hour-long exams in mathematics, US History, world languages, literature, and the sciences. A few highly selective schools require or highly recommend them for admission. Visit College Board or talk to your counselor about the best way to schedule.

College Testing

HOW TEST SCORES AFFECT ADMISSION

COLLEGE ADMISSION SELECTIVITY LEVEL	ACT Mid 50%	SAT Mid 50%
Most Selective	32-36	1400-1600
Highly Selective	27-31	1200-1400
Traditional/Selective	23-26	1000-1200
Liberal	17-22	
Open/Accuplacer	16-21/Not Necessary	

Explore based on your match and fit

- Average student applies to 4-6 colleges.
 - Begin your work to narrow the list!
 - Explore your options until our senior meeting early next fall; do not apply to schools that you actually do not envision attending!
- Look for options distributed between your
 - *“**comfort/safety zone**,” (Your academic achievements exceed the academic requirements of the school and you are confident of gaining admittance/open enrollment schools)
 - *“**target/match zone**,” (Your academic achievements match the academic requirements of the school and admittance is likely)
 - *“**striving/reach zone**” (Your academic achievements are below the academic requirements of the school and admittance is possible but unlikely/highly selective schools with very low acceptance rates regardless of academic achievements)
- Look for options that **fit** your interests/wants/needs

Continue to Explore Throughout the Next Three Semesters!

- **College Visits:** Visit campus when classes are in session... Spring Break, summer, and fall (MEA)
- **Virtual Visits:** [Naviance](#), Youtube, Facebook pages, Twitter, Instagram
- **Request Information from Admissions Offices:** Create relationships with admissions officers
- **Admission Reps at NCA:** We will have some second semester visits, but most will occur early next fall
- **College Fairs**
NACAC: <https://www.nacacnet.org/>
- **Websites:**
Naviance: <https://connection.naviance.com/family-connection/login/?hsid=novaca>
Raise Me: <https://www.raise.me/>

What Should You Do Now?

- Revisit the tasks you have completed on Naviance for insight into your **fit** criteria
- Individually review schools of interest
- Complete “College Super Match(es)” with different criteria and add at least one school in each of the three zones to your “Colleges I’m Thinking About” list
- Review the hand-out you have been given over the next nine days and have it ready for our official 11th Grade Meeting; revisit the checklist as necessary and be ready to complete the next steps in the exploration and application processes after we meet again in May; [Join your Class of 2023 Postsecondary Planning and College Application Resources Google Classroom](#)
- Individual meetings early in the second semester; you can create your appointment through my [11th Grade Meeting Appointment Calendar](#) . (I will schedule them if you do not use the link to create an appointment by Spring Break, but feel free to stop by my office or email me to schedule times!)
- We will meet again in May to begin college application planning (Common Application set-up, student self-assessments/brag-sheets for the CA “School Report,” choosing two academic recommenders and requesting letters of recommendation from them, essay prep, and submission prep)

What Should You Do Next?

- Define college search criteria by revisiting your Naviance page.
- Visit a small, medium and large college campus in the next 6 months.
- Have important conversations with parents/guardians on the financial, location, and program of study parameters of your college search. Start saving \$\$/looking for scholarships.
- Utilize [Naviance Family Connection](#) tools, your Class of [2023 Google Classroom](#), and your counselor to learn more about the particulars of each school of interest; choose an eleventh grade meeting appointment slot.
- Register for ACT test dates in April and June if you want additional ACT experiences. Consider registering for the SAT and SAT subject tests in the spring and summer.
- Look for developmental volunteer, scholarly, and extracurricular experiences...search for summer programs at schools of interest or local programs in areas of interest!
- Work hard - the best college prep you can do is to do as well as you can in your classes!