



# Post High School Planning Guide

A reference for students  
and their parents

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Published by the Lancaster High School Counseling Center

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# COLLEGE PLANNING CALENDAR

## SPRING/SUMMER-Junior Year

- Utilize PSAT results
- Career/Major research
- Create an Activity Resume
- Attend the College Fair in March at the Buffalo Convention Center
- College Search via Naviance
- College Visits
- Register for and take SAT and/or ACT if planning to attend a 4 year college
- Create Common Application account (commonapp.org) and begin to fill out
- Start making a list of colleges you are planning to apply to
- Apply for Scholarships

## FALL –Senior Year

- Finalize college choices, taking note of application deadlines
- Register for SAT and/or ACT if taking again to improve scores
- Request counselor/teacher recommendations
- Complete/finalize/submit college applications (request transcripts from your counselor)
- Attend Financial Aid Night in September
- Complete FAFSA/Financial Aid forms beginning October 1<sup>st</sup>
- Apply for Scholarships

## SPRING -Senior Year

- Request from your counselor any mid year grades the colleges want
- Acceptance letters from colleges should be received
- Accepted student college visit days attend if still undecided where you would like to attend
- Apply for Scholarships
- May 1<sup>st</sup>... must inform college you plan on attending and provide a deposit

# GETTING STARTED

## **SAT and ACT (College Admissions Tests)**

Highly recommended for students to take both tests in spring of junior year and fall of their senior year.

## **CAREER SEARCH**

If you're unsure about what you want to pursue as a career, use NAVIANCE to help you find your interests and strengths.

## **COLLEGE SEARCH**

Utilize NAVIANCE to help you create a list of colleges that best fit what you are looking for!

## **COLLEGE VISITS**

Utilize school breaks for the spring and complete follow up visits in the fall.

## **ACTIVITY RESUME**

Create a list of all experiences you have had in and out school.

## **MILITARY INTEREST**

Representatives are available at LHS one time a month to assist you.

## **NCAA ELIGIBILITY**

If you are a student athlete, you need to register with NCAA prior to senior year (the NCAA now recommends creating an account in 10<sup>th</sup> grade).

## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

Search Naviance and inquire with organizations in which your family is affiliated.

# COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TESTING

	<b>ACT</b>	<b>SAT</b>
<b>PURPOSE</b>	Measures classroom achievement as well as the ability to reason and apply problem solving skills.	Measures developed verbal and math abilities related to successful performance in college.
<b>SCORING</b>	11-36 No penalty for guessing.	600-1600 (not including the writing section) No penalty for guessing.
<b>CONTENT</b>	Reading / English /Math/ Science Writing* *optional but recommended by some colleges	Evidence Based Reading and Writing Math *Essay *optional but recommended by some colleges
<b>HOW TO REGISTER</b>	<a href="http://www.actstudent.org">www.actstudent.org</a>	<a href="http://www.sat.org">www.sat.org</a>
<b>HOW TO REVIEW</b>	<a href="http://www.actstudent.org">www.actstudent.org</a> (practice books available in the counseling center)	<a href="http://www.sat.org">www.sat.org</a> <b>Khan Academy</b>
<b>HOW TO SEND SCORES</b>	Request your scores be sent to colleges at <a href="http://www.actstudent.org">www.actstudent.org</a>  You can do this upon registration, you get 4 free score reports sent to colleges. If not done at registration it costs additional money to send score reports to colleges.	Request your scores be sent to colleges at <a href="http://www.sat.org">www.sat.org</a>  You can do this upon registration, you get 4 free score reports sent to colleges. If not done at registration it costs additional money to send score reports to colleges.

**WHEN REGISTERING FOR ANY TEST ABOVE YOU MUST SEND YOUR SCORES DIRECTLY TO THE COLLEGES FOR ANY 4 YEAR INSTITUTION.**

# TEST DATES

## SAT

Register at [www.sat.org](http://www.sat.org)

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Additional Fees
March 13, 2021	February 12, 2021	March 2, 2021
May 8, 2021	April 8, 2021	April 27, 2021
June 5, 2021	May 6, 2021	May 26, 2021

## ACT

Register at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Additional Fees
April 17, 2021	March 12, 2021	March 26, 2021
June 12, 2021	May 7, 2021	May 21, 2021

Students that receive free or reduced lunch should see their school counselor for a fee waiver.

# CAREER SEARCH

Naviance Log-in: **Your Lancaster student e-mail**

Password: **create your own**

Naviance Student gives you the opportunity to explore career interests using assessments, a career-focused video archive, and a search function that leads to career pages full of valuable information about skills and wages.

## Career Find

- Find careers by using **Careers Home > Career Cluster Finder > Explore Careers and Clusters**.

## Career Assessments

Find career assessments by navigating to **Careers Home > Explore Careers and Interests**. There are two assessments available.

- Career Cluster Finder
- Career Interest Profiler

The screenshot shows the Naviance Student website interface. At the top, there is a teal header with the Naviance logo and the word "Student". Navigation links for "Home", "Colleges", "Careers", and "About Me" are visible, with "Careers" being the active page. Below the header, there is a dark blue navigation bar with "Quick Links" on the left and "Explore Careers and Clusters" on the right, accompanied by a search icon and the text "Type a career". A red heart icon with the text "View my favorite careers and clusters" is also present. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column, titled "EXPLORE CAREERS", contains links for "Favorite careers and clusters" and "Explore careers and clusters" (which is highlighted with a red underline). Below this is a section titled "WHAT ARE MY INTERESTS?" with links for "Career cluster finder" and "Career interest profiler". The right column, titled "Career Lookup", features three search options: "Look up by keyword" with an empty text input and a "Go" button; "Look up by category" with a dropdown menu showing "N/A" and a "Go" button; and "Look up by Holland Code" with a dropdown menu showing "No Preference" and a "Go" button, and a "Learn More" link. At the bottom of the right column, there is a partially visible "Look up by career name" section.

# COLLEGE SEARCH

Using Naviance Student's search tools, you can locate the schools that most fit with your interests, passions, and criteria. Naviance Student provides two features to store college information:

- **Colleges I'm Thinking About:** This is a list of schools that you have *favorited* and identified as prospective schools of interest.
- **Colleges I'm Applying To:** This is a list of schools to which you have decided to apply. This can be populated from College's I'm Thinking About or directly from searches.

## Search Tools

- The first step of this process is figuring out what schools may be a good fit for you based on your interests. We recommend using the Advanced College Search Tool.

## Advanced College Search

- Using multiple categories, answer questions to identify colleges that match your interests and then save the search.
- Click on a **category**, i.e.; Location or Majors.
- Answer category-related **questions** and identify your preferences for a school.
- Click **View Matches**.

The screenshot shows the 'Advanced College Search' interface. At the top, there are two buttons: 'VIEW MATCHES' (highlighted in teal) and 'Start Over'. Below these is a navigation bar with tabs: 'Type', 'Location', 'Students', 'Admission', 'Athletics', 'Majors', 'Costs', and 'Special Programs'. The 'Type' tab is selected and underlined. A red circle with the number '1' is next to the 'Type' tab. Below the navigation bar, the section is titled 'School Type' with a red circle and the number '2' next to it. There are three columns of options, each with a title and three radio button choices. The first column is 'Two-Year vs. Four-Year' with options: 'Two-Year', 'Four-Year', and 'No preference' (selected). The second column is 'Public vs. Private' with options: 'Public', 'Private', and 'No preference' (selected). The third column is 'Campus Surroundings' with options: 'Large City', 'Small City', 'Large Town', 'Small Town', and 'Rural'. Below these columns are two sections: 'Coed vs. Single-sex' with options: 'All Male', 'All Female', 'Coed', and 'No preference' (selected); and 'College Groups' with a 'No Preference' option and a teal dropdown arrow. Below that is 'Religious Affiliation' with a 'No Preference' option and a teal dropdown arrow.

# HOW TO APPLY TO COLLEGE

Students may apply to college using the following:

- **The Common Application** – [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)
  - You will need to “match” your common app account in Naviance
- **Individual college applications** – located on the college websites
- **State University College of New York Application** – (use this application if the SUNY college is not on the Common App)  
[www.suny.edu/attend/apply-to-suny](http://www.suny.edu/attend/apply-to-suny)
- **Erie Community College** – [www.ecc.edu](http://www.ecc.edu) – Make sure you do not use the SUNY application as you will be charged. The application on the ECC website is FREE!

**Lancaster HS Code:**  
**332765**

**Graduation Date:**  
**June 24, 2022**

## Information to have on hand while applying:

- \*SAT/ACT test dates and scores
- \*Parent info...their education and employment info
- \*Activities you have participated in
- \*Awards/Honors you have received
- \*High School Transcript
  - Class Rank & Class Size
  - Grade Point Average (GPA) (100 pt scale)



# HOW TO APPLY VIA THE COMMON APP

- Go to [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org) and click Apply Now
- Create an account
- Write down your user name and password
- Complete the Common Application
- Link your Common App to Naviance
  - Click on the College tab
  - Click Colleges I am Applying To
  - Click on Match and enter Common App email (use email that you used to set up common app account)

# CREATING YOUR RESUME IN NAVIANCE

- Click About Me>About Me Home> Resume
- Complete your Resume here
- Counselors and teachers can view your resume here. Some teachers may ask for a paper copy.

Class of 2020

[Account](#) [Resume](#) [Test Scores](#) [Portfolio](#)

### My Surveys

Surveys Progress

LHS Career Plan 2016-2017 IN PROGRESS

[See all Surveys](#)

### My Assessments

Assessments in Progress

✓ Career Interest Profiler	100%
✓ StrengthsExplorer	100%

Assessments to Take

[Career Cluster Finder](#)

# FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION

## Financial Aid Night @ LHS September of Senior Year

Federal and NYS student financial aid is something you must apply every year for.

**FAFSA:** Free Application for Federal Student Aid, the first step in financial aid.....

\* Apply for a Federal Student Aid Identification Number (FSA ID) in September at [www.fsaidth.gov](http://www.fsaidth.gov)

\*Complete the FAFSA as soon after October 1<sup>st</sup> as possible at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

**TAP:** Tuition Assistance Program

\*If you are a NYS resident planning to attend a college within NYS, you should apply for TAP

\*To apply, click on the TAP application link at the end of the online FAFSA

**FINANCIAL AID PACKAGE:**

Each college to which you are accepted sends a college award letter detailing the financial aid package you are eligible to receive. Review and compare financial award letters carefully before making a decision.

# SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

- **Free scholarship searches**

Start with the *Naviance* online Scholarship

\*Click on the **Colleges** in the upper right corner

\*Click on **Scholarship and Money** and then **Scholarship List**

- **Other free searches are available:**

[www.collegeexpress.com](http://www.collegeexpress.com)

[www.collegeanswer.com](http://www.collegeanswer.com)

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

[www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

[www.collegescholarships.com](http://www.collegescholarships.com)

[www.cappex.com](http://www.cappex.com)

[www.goodcall.com](http://www.goodcall.com)

[www.collegenet.com](http://www.collegenet.com)

[www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com)

[www.discussawards.com](http://www.discussawards.com)

[www.studentscholarships.org](http://www.studentscholarships.org)

- **Additional Scholarship Opportunities**

Check for scholarships offered by your employer or your parents employer as well as any organizations or unions/memberships that your family is affiliated with. Every college will have scholarships available. Some will be merit based and others you can apply for through the college.

**Scholarship information is freely available to those who take the time and effort to conduct their own search. There is no reason to ever have to pay anyone to help find scholarships.**

# NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER

**\*\*Register @ [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org)\*\***

## Division I Athlete

(16 Core Courses)

(10 of the 16 courses must be completed by the end of junior year; 7 of the 10 must be in English, math or natural/physical science)

4 yrs of English

3 yrs of Math (Algebra I or higher)

2 yrs of natural/physical science (1 yr of lab science)

1 yr of additional English, mathematics or natural/physical science

2 years of social science

4 years of additional courses (from any area above, foreign Language or comparative religion/philosophy)

## Division II Athlete

(16 Core Courses)

3 yrs of English

2 yrs of Math (Algebra I or higher)

2 yrs of natural/physical science (1yr of lab science)

3 yrs of additional English, math or natural/physical science

2 yrs of social science

4 yrs of additional courses (from any area above, foreign language or comparative religion/philosophy)

**\*\*Request your transcript via Naviance at the end of your junior and senior year\*\***

# MILITARY INFORMATION

If you are interested in the military...the different branches visit the high school monthly and their dates can be found on the high school daily announcements. If you would like to make contact with a military rep, contact info can be found on the Lancaster Counseling Center website.

## APPRENTICESHIPS: The Other 4 – Year Degree

Did you know...

Apprenticeships provide free training and education while you work? Earn while you learn!

Apprenticeships give you a credential you can take with you anywhere in the nation!

Apprenticeships include outstanding full benefits – health insurance, pensions and annuities!

Apprentices earn about 40% of the Journeyman rate and you get great raises as training progresses. There is room for advancement – Apprentice, Journeyman, Foreman, Manager & Owner of a company.

[www.buffalotrades.com/apprenticeships-training](http://www.buffalotrades.com/apprenticeships-training) has a wealth of information about all Trade Industries.

### **Some of the fields which offer Apprenticeships:**

Boilermakers	Bricklayers	Carpenters	Cement Masons
Electricians	Elevator Constructors	Heat & Frost Insulators	Ironworkers
Laborers	Operating Engineers	Painters & Glaziers/Glass Workers	
Plasterers	Plumbers & Steamfitters	Road Sprinkler Fitters	
Roofers	Sheet Metal Workers	Teamsters	

# Useful online resources

many are linked on the Counseling Center tab of  
[www.lancasterschools.org](http://www.lancasterschools.org)

- ACT, inc. ([www.act.org](http://www.act.org)) – college planning, financial aid estimator, career information and ACT registration
- College Board Online ([www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)) – college planning, college search, financial aid, SAT preparation and SAT registration.
- Common Application Website ([www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)) – Online application used by over 200 colleges.
- Career Zone (<http://www.nycareerzone.org>)- match your preferences, skills and abilities to careers. Develop a plan based on your interests and view NYS job openings.
- Career One Stop ([www.careeronestop.org](http://www.careeronestop.org)) – Department of Labor site with tons of career information
- Today's Military ([www.http://todaysmilitary.com](http://www.todaysmilitary.com)) – Helps inform students, parents and students about the military as a career option.
- Trade Apprenticeship Programs ([www.buffalotrades.com](http://www.buffalotrades.com))- information about on the job training and apprenticeship programs in trade careers.
- New York's Private Colleges and Universities ([www.nycolleges.org](http://www.nycolleges.org)) – admissions and financial aid information for NYS private colleges
- WNY College Search ([www.wnycollegeconnection.com](http://www.wnycollegeconnection.com))- Information on local colleges
- SUNY ([www.suny.edu](http://www.suny.edu)) – Information regarding all 64 SUNY campuses, transfer paths, and online application
- FAFSA ([www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)) - Online form to complete Free Application for Federal Student Aid, NYS student aid and apply for PIN number.
- FastWeb ([www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)) – Scholarship search
- FINAID ([www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)) – Free resources for financial aid information, scholarship search and financial aid calculator.
- NYS Higher Education Services Corporation ([www.hesc.com](http://www.hesc.com)) – NYS site for advice on college financial aid.
- Student Aid on the Web ([www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov)) – Offers good overview of federal financial aid options.
- College Confidential ([www.collegeconfidential.com](http://www.collegeconfidential.com)) – virtual information from other students & parents about colleges.