

James Madison High School | January 15, 2025 Class of 2026

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Welcome, Opening Remarks & Introductions

Timothy Buckley, Director of Student Services

Moderated Panel Presentation

Jeannine Lalonde, Senior Associate Dean of Admission University of Virginia

Kevin Murray, Associate Director, Undergraduate Admissions Drexel University

Luis Portillo, Associate Director for Regional Recruitment University of Wisconsin-Madison

John Pulley, Senior Assistant Director of Onboarding & Training, Admissions Counselor - Texas & Northern Virginia (select high schools) James Madison University

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Madison High School Student Services Department

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Upcoming Events for JMHS/FCPS Students

Additional information available for students in Schoology > Student Services Updates and in "This Week at Madison"

Fairfax County Public Schools Annual Gap Year Fair, Register here | Details here January 28, 2025 (Snow Date: January 29) | 6:00-8:30 pm

George C. Marshall High School, 7731 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22043

FCPS School Counseling Services and Go Overseas invite you to attend the 2025 Gap Year Fair to learn about gap year opportunities.

Coalition for College: 10 Ways to Make Your Summer Count VIRTUAL Event | Details & Register here January 28, 2025 | 8:00-9:00 pm

Admissions counselors at Babson College, Bucknell University, Davidson College and Southern Methodist University will share impactful ways to
make the most of your summer with an eye toward strengthening your college application.

U.S. Service Academy & ROTC Night for Madison, Oakton, Fairfax, Marshall and Woodson High Schools February 26, 2025 | 7:00 pm, Fairfax High School, 3501 Lion Run, Fairfax, VA 22030

Representatives from the U.S. Military Academies and ROTC programs scheduled to attend: U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army, U.S. Navy & Marine
Corps, U.S. Merchant Marine, and U.S. Coast Guard, as well as a representative from Congressman Gerry Connolly's office to talk about the
nomination process. Each branch will give a brief introduction to the audience and then it is a fair style set up for students and families to speak
individually with representatives. No registration required.

Coalition for College: The Secrets of Financial Aid VIRTUAL Event | Details & Register here, February 25, 2025 | 8:00-9:00 pm

Admissions and financial aid counselors from Ithaca College, Mount Holyoke College, Northwestern University, and the University of South
Carolina will break down the basics of financial aid. Learn about key terms, essential forms like the FAFSA, and how the process works so you
can prepare ahead of time. This session is perfect for those just starting on the college search process who are looking for tips on the best ways
to make college affordable. Bring your questions and leave feeling confident about the steps you can take now to set yourself up for success.

Paying for College - The Financial Aid Process for Underclassmen by College Access Fairfax, Spring Dates TBD -

• This program is designed to help current underclassmen (Grades 9-11) and their families understand the financial aid process. Information provided includes understanding Cost of Attendance (COA), when to apply, types and sources of financial aid, forms and financial information required, and how need is determined. Visit www.collegeaccessfairfax.org for updates

Northern Virginia Regional College Fair, Details here | Register here, April 9, 2025 | 6:30-8:30 pm | George Mason University, EagleBank Arena

Madison HS Junior Focus Day, April 4, 2025 | During the School Day

• This program is exclusively for the JMHS Class of 2026 and will be held during the school day at Madison HS. Juniors will be able to choose sessions to help them prepare for a variety of post-secondary options. More details will be sent in the Spring!

Coalition for College: Cracking the Code: Financial Aid Offers VIRTUAL Event | Details & Register here, April 8, 2025 | 8:00-9:00 pm

Admissions and financial aid experts from Reed C, Skidmore C, St. Mary's College of Maryland, and Washington and Lee Univ will offer
guidance to help you interpret your financial aid packages, compare costs, and ask the right questions to make the best decision for your future.

Madison HS College Planning Night, Part II for Juniors and Families VIRTUAL Event, March 27, 2025 | 6:00 pm | VIRTUAL

JMHS Student Services will present information specific to college preparation, college planning resources, and the college essay. JMHS will
email students and parents/guardians with the link, closer to the event date. This event will be recorded for later viewing.

NOVA Vision 2025, Wednesday, April 23, 2025 | Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA), Annandale Campus, 4:00pm-6:00pm

• FCPS and Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA), are offering an opportunity for students with disabilities interested in attending NOVA to learn about available options. Details available closer to event date.

Coalition for College: What I Wish I Knew About College VIRTUAL Event, May 20, 2025 | 8:00-9:00 pm, Details & Register here.

• Students who recently applied to college will share their personal experiences, insights and lessons learned throughout their college application process. Whether you're just starting to think about college or already are deep in your college search, bring along your questions and get practical advice from students just like you!

Additional Resources

- Opportunities Preparing for College Guide & Workbook: Topics include: Choosing the Right College, The College Application Process, Navigating Financial Aid and much more, including a map of Virginia colleges and universities! English version | Spanish version
- Standardized Testing (SAT and/or ACT): It is recommended that juniors take a standardized test in the spring of their junior year. While many colleges and universities are test optional (meaning the student can decide if they want to submit test scores), some colleges and universities continue to reevaluate their testing policies each year. The best place to locate the most up to date information is on the individual college or university website.

 Fairtest.org has a test optional list, but again, it is best practice to verify the information on the individual college or university websites.
- FCPS Post-Secondary Night Recordings: The 2024 session recordings are available <a href="https://example.com/here-example.c
- Level Up Virginia: Post-Secondary planning website from the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV).
- Naviance: All FCPS students and parents/guardians have access to <u>Naviance</u>, a college and career planning resource. Scholarship and enrichment programs are updated weekly in Naviance by FCPS.
- Schoology: Students have access to a variety of post-secondary planning resources here in the Student Services Schoology course.
- Tiggbee Career Exploration Series: Details for students here in Schoology.
- Service Learning Information: Details for students here in Schoology and on the Madison website here.

Virtual Postsecondary Event Recordings











In October 2024, FCPS students and families had the opportunity to attend 10 virtual sessions related to postsecondary success. The recordings of the sessions are listed below. To access, click the linked below the title of the session or enter the URL into your preferred internet browser.

Paying for College

https://youtu.be/LU5fSRPID-8

Scholarship 101

https://youtu.be/_SQz3xlb49Q

Considerations for Students with Disabilities in High School v College

https://youtu.be/x6oBbqhpj24

Advanced Placement AP, Dual Enrollment DE, and International Baccalaureate IB in FCPS https://youtu.be/V6iFMXbbehg

NOVA La Opción del Colegio Comunitario https://youtu.be/_v6c8tF3G3c

Exploring Naviance Studenthttps://youtu.be/UeHle5nX7Al

Standardized Testing in the College Process

https://youtu.be/x-FFVVbaAHO

Are you Common App Ready? https://youtu.be/gxL7Ki70Xvw

NOVA The Community College Option https://youtu.be/P6R7HfiLjlY

NOVA Certificates & Workforce Development Programs https://youtu.be/G0iH9jla70E

JMHS Class of 2024 ~ Top Attending Institutions Where Students Applied (out of 449 colleges)

College		Attend	Apply	Accept	Deny	Waitlist	Defer
1 Northern Virginia Community	College VA	47	56	53	0	0	0
2 Virginia Tech	VA	46	239	110	23	87	3
3 James Madison University	VA	36	244	163	27	47	13
4 University of Virginia-Main Ca		35	189	42	108	31	3
5 George Mason University	VA	34	180	144	12	17	0
	<u> </u>	17	101	94	5	0	0
	VA	10	79	27	31	19	2
7 William & Mary 8 Christopher Newport Universi		10	55	47	5	2	0
	UT	7	10	9	1	0	0
9 Brigham Young University	VA	7	11	11	0	0	0
10 Marymount University	<u> </u>	6					
11 The University of Tennessee-k	uioxviiio	1	60	21	11	31	16
12 Rutgers University-New Bruns		6	16	15	0	0	0
13 University of Colorado Boulde	VA	6	33	27	1	2	1
14 Radford University		6	20	20	0	0	0
15 Ohio State University-Main Ca		5	32	22	8	0	2
16 Pennsylvania State University	-	5	96	56	28	6	2
17 University of Pittsburgh-Pittsb		5	75	57	5	12	1
18 Northeastern University	MA	5	35	18	5	8	6
19 University of Vermont	VT	5	27	21	1	5	3
20 American University	DC	5	16	13	1	3	0
21 University of Maryland-College		5	64	27	29	3	0
22 Syracuse University	NY	4	21	13	2	4	1
23 East Carolina University	NC	4	20	18	2	0	0
24 Elon University	NC	4	25	22	0	0	1
25 West Virginia University	WV	4	16	16	0	0	0
26 Indiana University-Bloomingto		3	17	13	1	1	0
27 Purdue University-Main Camp		3	30	16	10	1	3
28 University of Mississippi	MS	3	15	15	0	0	0
29 Bucknell University	PA	3	5	5	0	0	0
30 Temple University	PA	3	11	11	0	0	1
31 San Diego State University	CA	3	9	9	0	0	0
32 Utah State University	UT	3	3	3	0	0	0
33 College of Charleston	SC	3	32	25	6	1	4
34 Florida State University	FL	3	28	9	16	2	2
35 University of Mary Washington	n VA	3	29	26	1	2	0
36 University of Georgia	GA	3	32	7	17	8	9

This data is student self-reported. Withdrawn data not included. Related information available in Naviance.

Defer = Student applied early to the institution and was deferred to the regular applicant pool.

Institutions with less than two students attending are not listed. 531 students in the Class of 2024.

JMHS Class of 2024 ~ Top Attending Institutions Where Students Applied (out of 449 colleges)

	College		Attend	Apply	Accept	Deny	Waitlist	Defer
37	McGill University	QC	2	3	2	0	1	0
38	Belmont University	TN	2	3	3	0	0	0
39	The University of Alabama	AL	2	29	27	1	0	0
40	University of Kentucky	KY	2	26	26	0	0	0
41	University of Michigan-Ann Arbor	MI	2	34	4	11	10	7
42	University of Notre Dame	IN	2	4	3	1	1	0
43	Cornell University	NY	2	19	2	15	1	0
44	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	NY	2	6	5	1	0	0
45	College of the Holy Cross	MA	2	2	2	0	0	0
46	University of Arizona	ΑZ	2	17	17	0	0	0
47	University of Southern California	CA	2	23	3	17	2	5
48	University of Utah	UT	2	6	5	0	0	0
49	University of Virginia's College at Wise	VA	2	4	4	0	0	0
50	Old Dominion University	VA	2	28	27	1	0	0
51	Duke University	NC	2	16	3	11	1	0
52	Georgia Institute of Technology-Main Campus	GA	2	18	4	11	1	3
53	University of Lynchburg	VA	2	5	5	0	0	0
54	North Carolina State University at Raleigh	NC	2	30	14	4	9	8
55	Nova Southeastern University	FL	2	3	3	0	0	0
56	Roanoke College	VA	2	7	7	0	0	0
57	Tallahassee Community College	FL	2	2	2	0	0	0
58	University of Miami	FL	2	22	5	5	10	6
59	University of South Carolina-Columbia	SC	2	53	27	20	9	9
60	University of South Florida-Main Campus	FL	2	7	6	1	0	0
61	Virginia Military Institute	VA	2	3	3	0	0	0
62	University of North Carolina Wilmington	NC	2	22	10	7	5	2
63	University of Toronto	ON	2	2	2	0	0	0

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Defer = Student applied early to the institution and was deferred to the regular applicant pool.

Institutions with less than two students attending are not listed. 531 students in the Class of 2024.

1/2025





Types of Colleges: The Basics

Is a college the same thing as a university? What does "liberal arts" mean? Why are some colleges called public and others private? Here are the basic types of colleges.

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COLLEGES

Public colleges are funded by local and state governments and usually offer lower tuition rates than private colleges, especially for students who are residents of the same state.

Private colleges rely mainly on tuition, fees, and private sources of funding. Private donations can sometimes provide generous financial aid packages for students.

FOR-PROFIT COLLEGES

These are businesses that offer degree programs that typically prepare students for a specific career. They tend to have higher costs, which could mean graduating with more debt. Credits earned may not transfer to other colleges.

FOUR-YEAR AND TWO-YEAR COLLEGES

Four-year colleges offer four-year programs that lead to a bachelor's degree. These include universities and liberal arts colleges.

Two-year colleges offer two-year programs leading to a certificate or an associate degree. They include community, vocational-technical, and career colleges.

LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGES

These colleges offer a broad base of courses in the liberal arts: literature, history, languages, mathematics, and life sciences. Most are private with four-year bachelor's degree programs that can prepare you for a variety of careers or for graduate study.

UNIVERSITIES

Universities often are larger and offer more majors and degree options—bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees—than colleges. Most universities consist of several smaller colleges, such as colleges of liberal arts, engineering, or health sciences. These colleges can prepare you for a variety of careers or for graduate study.

COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Community colleges offer two-year associate degrees that prepare you to transfer to a four-year college to earn a bachelor's degree. They also offer other associate degrees and certificates that focus on preparing you for a specific career. Community colleges are often an affordable option with relatively low tuition.

VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL AND CAREER COLLEGES

Vocational-technical and career colleges offer specialized training for a particular industry or career. Possible programs of study include the culinary arts, firefighting, dental hygiene, and medical-records technology. These colleges usually offer certificates or associate degrees.

ARTS COLLEGES

In addition to regular coursework, arts colleges and conservatories provide training in areas such as photography, music, theater, or fashion design. Most of these colleges offer associate or bachelor's degrees in fine arts or a specialized field.

SINGLE-SEX COLLEGES

All four-year public colleges, and most private colleges, are coed. But there are some private colleges that are specifically for men or for women.

RELIGIOUSLY AFFILIATED COLLEGES

Some private colleges are connected to a religious faith. The connection may be historic only, or it may affect day-to-day student life.

SPECIALIZED-MISSION COLLEGES

Historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) focus on educating African American students. Hispanic-serving institutions (HSIs) are colleges where at least 25% of the full-time undergraduate students are Hispanic. HBCUs and HSIs may offer programs, services, and activities targeted to the underrepresented students they serve.

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DEFINITIONS OF ADMISSION OPTIONS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

STUDENTS: WHICH COLLEGE ADMISSION PROCESS BEST SUITS YOU?

Regular Decision

DEFINITION:

Students submit an application by a specified date and receive a decision in a clearly stated period of time.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Rolling Admission

DEFINITION:

Institutions review applications as they are submitted and render admission decisions throughout the admission cycle.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Early Action (EA)

DEFINITION:

Students apply early and receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Students are not restricted from applying to other institutions and have until May 1 to consider their options and confirm enrollment.

Early Decision (ED)

DEFINITION:

Students make a commitment to a first-choice institution where, if admitted they definitely will enroll and withdraw all other applications. The application deadline and decision deadline occur early.

COMMITMENT:

BINDING

Restrictive Early Action (REA)

DEFINITION:

Students apply to an institution of preference and receive a decision early. They may be restricted from applying ED or EA or REA to other institutions. If offered enrollment, they have until May 1 to confirm.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Students are responsible for determining and following restrictions.

GET THE MOST OUT OF A CAMPUS VISIT IN

6 STEPS

DECIDE WHERE AND HOW

See if your school arranges group trips to colleges or if you could get a group of friends together and visit the campus. A family trip is another option and allows you to involve your family in the process.

PREPARE FOR YOUR VISIT

Before you set out, get a map of the college campus and pick out places of interest. Call the college's admission office to schedule a guided tour of the campus.

TAKE YOUR OWN TOUR

Just wandering around the campus on your own or with friends can be the best way to get a feel for what a college is like.

4 EXPLORE THE FACILITIES

Finding the spots on campus where students gather or asking a student where the best place to eat is can give you a feel for the character of the college. Visit the library and check out the gym or theater. Ask an admission officer if you can tour a dorm and a classroom.

5 MAKE CONNECTIONS

Talk to current students. Ask the students at the next table or sitting nearby what they like best about the college.

6 TAKE NOTES

During your visit, write down some notes about your experience. What did you see that excited you? Are there aspects of the college that you don't like? If so, what are they?

Questions to Ask During Your Visit:

ASK TOUR GUIDES/STUDENTS

- What are the best reasons to go to this college?
- What's it like to go from high school to college?
- What do you do in your free time? On the weekends?
- What do you love about this college?
- What do you wish you could change about this college?
- Why did you choose this college?
- What is it like to live here?
- What does the college do to promote student involvement in campus groups, extracurricular activities, or volunteerism?

ASK PROFESSORS

- What are the best reasons to go to this college?
- Can a student be mentored by professors, graduate students, or upperclassmen?
- How are professors rated by the college? Does the college think mentoring and meetings for project guidance are important?
- How does the college help students have access to professors outside class? Do professors join students for lunch, help with community service groups, or guide student organizations?
- How many students do research or other kinds of projects for a semester or more?

ASK FINANCIAL AID OFFICE

- How much has your total college cost for each student risen in the past year?
- How much do your students usually owe in loans when they graduate?
- What is the average income of graduates who had the same major that interests me?
- Will my costs go up when your tuition goes up, or can we use the same tuition rate I started with so I'll know the costs for four years? What should I expect in terms of increases in living expenses?
- How many students usually graduate in the major that interests me? How long do these students usually take to get their degrees? In what ways does the college help students graduate in four years?

Campus Visit Checklist



FOR STUDENTS

Visiting a college campus helps you get a sense of what a college — and life at that college — is like. This can help you decide whether the college is a good fit for you.

GATHER INFORMATION		
Find out what you need to do to apply, a	nd see if the college's class and major of	ferings are what you want:
 Take part in a group information session at the admission office. Interview with an admission officer. 	☐ Sit in on a class that interests you. If classes aren't in session, just see what the classrooms are like.	 □ Talk to students about what they think of their classes and professors. □ Get the names and business
$\ \square$ Pick up financial aid information.	 Meet a professor who teaches a subject that interests you. 	cards of the people you meet so you can contact them later if you have questions.
EXPLORE THE CAMPUS		
Get a feel for student life, and see if this	college is a place where you will do well:	
Take a campus tour.Talk to current students about the college and life on campus.	☐ Visit the dining hall, fitness center, library, career center, bookstore, and other campus facilities.	☐ Walk or drive around the community surrounding the campus.
 Check out the freshman dorms, and stay overnight on campus if possible. 	☐ Talk to the coaches of sports that you may want to play.	
CHECK OUT CAMPUS M	EDIA	
Tune in to learn what's happening on ca	mpus and what's on students' minds:	
☐ Listen to the college radio station.☐ Read the student newspaper.	☐ Go to the career center and learn what services it offers.☐ Browse the school's website and	 Read other student publications, such as department newsletters, and literary reviews.
☐ Scan bulletin boards to see what daily student life is like.	any campus blogs.	

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The College Essay



FOR STUDENTS

The college essay is your chance to use your voice to add to your college application. Many colleges require the essay as a way to hear from the student directly and to get a sense of who you are in your own words. It's a great opportunity to personalize your application beyond the grades, scores, and other information you've provided and can make a difference at decision time.

8 KEY POINTSTHAT ADMISSION OFFICERS LOOK FOR:

- A command of the basics of good writing
- A direct answer to the essay question
- A strong opening paragraph that captures the reader's interest
- A comprehensive argument or narrative—make your point and stick to it
- A style that is comfortable for you and that is appropriate for the subject matter
- Correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling
- Correct data—check your facts, dates, and names
- Succinctness—pay attention to the recommended length

WHAT THE ESSAY CAN DO FOR YOUR APPLICATION:

- Demonstrate your writing ability, a key component of success in college.
- Show that you have thought carefully about where you are applying and why you are a good match for the college, in your own words.
- Explain your commitment to learning and that you are willing and able to be a contributing member to the college community.
- Draw distinctions between you and other applicants, something that selective colleges especially rely on.

An essay will rarely take an applicant out of consideration at a college, but it certainly can elevate an applicant in an admission committee's eyes.

MAKE IT PERSONAL:

- Often you will be asked to write about a personal experience, an achievement, or a person who has been significant to you. Go beyond the what or the who and dig into the how and the why.
- If you write about a trip or event, describe how this experience affected you and is meaningful to you.
- If you are writing about a person in your life, be personal and specific, not just sentimental. Explain how or what this person did for you that is important to you.

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

Revise, revise. Take the time to reread and revise. This process will help you develop a strong opening and a solid direction, and refine what you are trying to express.

Show, don't tell. Give readers such convincing evidence that they will come to the conclusion that you want. Provide detailed examples instead of providing a list of things.

Be authentic. Don't stress trying to write what you think they are looking for—just showcase who you are!

Just get started! Writing something meaningful can be a long process, so get started right away to allow for time to draft and revise. Be sure to write your essay long before the deadline.

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Digital SAT & ACT Structure

Students have three main testing options: (1) the stage-adaptive digital SAT, (2) the paper-and-pencil ACT, or (3) the online ACT, which is not adaptive. The following pages detail the similarities and differences among the three options, all of which are only offered at national test day sites or at students' schools as part of School Day Testing. At-home testing is not available for the SAT or ACT. ACT has announced a shorter Core ACT that makes the science section optional and decreases the number of questions and overall testing time. Core ACT becomes available in April 2025 for online national testing only. See pages 52–53 for more details or www.compassprep.com/act-changes-spring-2025 for updates.

STRUCTURE AND SCORING COMPARISON

	SAT Digital Adaptive	ACT Paper-and-Pencil or Online*		
Format	Digital only** via College Board's Bluebook app. PC, Mac, and tablet support. School and personal devices allowed. ChromeOS supported only on school-managed devices.	Paper-and-pencil or online at a designated test site that provides the testing device for you; you will not be able to bring or use your personal device to take the ACT.		
Testing Length	2 hours 14 minutes	2 hours 55 minutes without optional essay		
Test Scores	400–1600 Total Score 200–800 Reading & Writing 200–800 Math	1-36 Inglish Composite Score 1-36 Math Average of 4 Test 1-36 Reading Scores 1-36 Science		
	2 Sections, each with 2 Stages	4 Tests		
Sections	Reading and Writing Stage 1 32 min 27 items Stage 2 32 min 27 items Math Stage 1 35 min 22 items	English 45 min 75 items Math 60 min 60 items Reading 35 min 40 items Science 35 min 40 items		
	Stage 2 35 min 22 items	Writing (optional) 40 min 1 essay		
Structure	Stage Adaptive. The difficulty of a section's second stage is based on performance in the initial stage.	Static. The content does not change based on a student's performance.		
Navigation	Students can move among problems within a stage and electronically flag items for further review.	Students can move among problems within a test and circle or electronically flag items for further review.		
Other Scores	No subscores or cross-test scores	STEM: average of Math and Science scores ELA: average of English, Reading, and Writing scores		
Reading Passages	Short passages with 1 question per passage	Long passages with 10 questions per passage		
Math Questions	Multiple-Choice and Student-Produced Response	Multiple-Choice		
Calculator Use	Allowed on both Math stages. On-screen Desmos Graphing Calculator or student's personal calculator.	Only allowed on Math test. Student must bring a calculator or use the built-in one if testing online.		
Problem Mark-Up	Students can highlight passages on the Reading and Writing section, but there is no ability to mark up Math problems. Scratch paper is provided.	Paper Testing: Students can make notes and solve problems in their test booklets. Online Testing: Students can highlight passages. Scratch paper is provided only when test is online.		
Accommodations	All previous accommodations are maintained, and most are supported directly with the digital SAT. All Bluebook exams are configured to work for students who test with accommodations or assistive technology (AT).	Many timing accommodations are available. The online option allows for additional accessibility features, including support for screen reader users, text-to-speech functionality, zoom, and answer masking.		
Test Day Timing	The computer timer automatically starts when the student starts and is always available.	Paper Testing: A sometimes unreliable proctor writes the start time on the board and may provide updates. Online Testing: The computer timer automatically runs and is always available.		

^{*}Online prior to April 2025 - **Students whose accommodations require a paper test will still be able to take a paper-and-pencil exam.

SIX GREAT OPTIONS FOR

FINDING SCHOLARSHIPS





Scan the QR code to find scholarships on Going Merry $\,\,\,\,\,\,\,\,\,\,\,\,\,\,$

GOING MERRY BY EARNEST

The New, Cool Kid

- \$20 billion database of scholarships & aid
- Lots of local scholarships
- Bundled scholarships one application applies you to multiple opportunities
- · Apply directly on-site with auto-filled forms
- Filter, favorite, or ignore scholarships
- No ads, plus iOS and Android Apps!

2 FASTWEB The Veteran

- Founded in 1995
- \$3 billion in scholarships
- Clean interface with basic filters and favoriting
- Internship & part-time job search
- iOS and Android Apps

4 CHEGG SCHOLARSHIPS

The All-arounder

- \$1 billion in scholarships
- Clean interface with basic filters & favoriting
- Additional student tools to: Research colleges, Buy/sell textbooks, Find tutors

5 COLLEGE BOARD BIG FUTURE

The Planner

- \$6 billion in scholarships
- College search and planning tools
- Sweepstakes-style scholarships

2 SCHOLARSHIPS.COM

The Giant

- \$19 billion in scholarships
- Comment section to get advice from peers
- Quick signup process
- Some ads (sponsored content)
- iOS and Android Apps

COLLEGE WEBSITE The New "Home"

 Once you've been admitted to college and/or decided on a college, check out their financial aid page which often has information on scholarships available to their students



Junior Year Checklist

Fall-Winter

College Planning

- ☐ Meet with your counselor about your coursework and college plans
- ☐ Check college websites for admission requirements
- ☐ Create a professional email address to use when applying for scholarships, registering for college entrance exams and completing college applications
- ☐ Meet with college admissions recruiters when they visit your high school
- ☐ Attend college information events in your community (www.collegenights.org)

College Search

- ☐ Tour local campuses and visit non-local colleges during winter and spring breaks
- ☐ Try online college fairs and virtual campus tours (https://campustours.com, www.appily.com/virtual-college-tours, www.thecollegetour.com)
- ☐ Use college search sites to explore your college options (https://collegescorecard.ed.gov)
- ☐ Prepare your college list (refer to worksheet on page 5)

Career Exploration

- ☐ Attend a local career fair
- ☐ Research career options and their education requirements, median pay and projected growth rates (www.bls.gov/ooh)
- ☐ Make a list of careers that may interest you and research the education level required for each profession
- ☐ Talk with professionals in careers you are curious about and ask about their work
- ☐ Enhance skills that would be useful in a career of interest through your extracurricular activities

Spring

College Entrance Exams

- ☐ Register and take your college entrance exams—check first with your high school to see if they administer them on-site
 - ☐ Several colleges are test optional—check https://fairtest.
 org/test-optional-list for the most comprehensive list
 - ☐ SAT, with optional essay (www.collegeboard.org); free SAT test prep help (www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/sat)
 - ☐ ACT, with optional writing section (www.act.org); free ACT test prep help (www.act.org/content/act/en/ products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation/free-acttest-prep.html)

Academics

- ☐ Prepare for Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) exams
- ☐ Plan your senior year schedule with your counselor
- ☐ Review your college preparation coursework and GPA with a college advisor
- ☐ Create a list of teachers, coaches and other mentors who will be able to write personalized letters of recommendation

Summer Preparation

- ☐ Apply for summer jobs or internships
- ☐ Seek volunteer opportunities in your field of interest
- □ Register for community college courses and earn college credit while in high school, also referred to as dual/concurrent enrollment
- ☐ If you took the SAT or ACT, review your test scores to determine if retesting is necessary
- ☐ Plan a test preparation schedule if you plan to retake college entrance exams

Summer

College Application Preparation

- ☐ Check websites of colleges on your list; review admissions application process and timeline
- ☐ Draft your application essays and/or personal statement; work with a college advisor for feedback
- ☐ Prepare a scholarship resume and/or a "brag sheet" that includes all your non-academic activities and honors
- ☐ Communicate with college admission representatives for questions you may have

College Finances

- ☐ Register for an FSA ID, which will be required to complete the FAFSA online in the fall; your parent(s) must also register for an FSA ID (https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch)
- ☐ Learn about the different types of financial aid (https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types)
- ☐ Use the Federal Student Aid Estimator to see how financial aid can help pay for your education (https://studentaid.gov/aid-estimator)
- □ Search and apply for scholarships (www.fastweb.com, https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org)
- ☐ Learn how money works; take a financial literacy course (www.fdic.gov/resources/consumers/money-smart /index.html)
- ☐ Use the College Scorecard to compare costs, degree programs and outcomes for the colleges you are interested in (https://collegescorecard.ed.gov)
- ☐ Save money for college



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Senior Year Checklist

Fall

College Planning

- ☐ Attend college information events in your community (www.collegenights.org)
- ☐ Check college websites for applications, deadlines, financial aid and housing information
- ☐ Ask your counselor to evaluate your transcript for high school graduation and college eligibility
- ☐ Register to take or retake college entrance exams
 - ☐ Several colleges are test optional—check www.fairtest. org/test-optional-list for the most comprehensive list
 - ☐ SAT, with optional essay (www.collegeboard.org)
 - ☐ ACT, with optional writing section (www.act.org)
- ☐ Keep your test scores, resume and transcript organized to help in completing college applications
- ☐ Ask teachers or counselors for letters of recommendation
- ☐ Finalize portfolios, audition materials or writing samples if required as part of the application
- ☐ Get feedback from a college advisor, teacher or parent/ guardian and complete revisions of all applications and essays
- ☐ Begin to submit college applications

Financial Aid

- ☐ Review the financial aid application process and timeline required by the colleges on your list
- ☐ File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) (https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa)
 - ☐ Information from the 2023 tax year will be used by the class of 2025 when applying for financial aid for the 2025-2026 academic year
- ☐ Attend financial aid workshops in your community for help completing the FAFSA
- ☐ Be aware that private colleges may require additional financial information from the CSS Profile (https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org)
- ☐ Check your state financial aid websites for more information about in-state financial aid opportunities for undocumented, DREAMer and DACA students
 - (www.ecmc.org/students/resource-guides.html)
- ☐ Search and apply for scholarships (www.fastweb.com, https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org)
- ☐ Review your FAFSA Submission Summary once the FAFSA has been processed and make any needed corrections
- ☐ Males: Plan to register for Selective Service when you turn the age of 18; federal law requires nearly all male U.S. citizens and mail immigrants, ages 18-25, to register with Selective Service; some states require registration before distributing state-based financial aid (www.sss.gov)

Winter

College Application Follow-Up

- ☐ Check your email frequently for additional information colleges might request within their timeline
- ☐ Send your mid-year transcript to colleges that request them
- ☐ Continue scholarship searches over winter break and continue to submit applications

Spring

Academics

- ☐ Keep up your grades—college admissions are conditional and can be rescinded if you do not continue academic excellence
- ☐ Check with the colleges where you have applied before considering dropping a senior year class; colleges expect you to complete all of the high school courses you listed as "in progress" on your admissions application
- ☐ Take your Advanced Placement (AP) and/or International Baccalaureate (IB) exams

College Decision

- ☐ Check your email or college admissions portal for admission decision notification
- ☐ Visit campuses that most interest you
- ☐ Carefully review your financial aid offer for each college where you have been accepted and compare offers; contact financial aid offices to answer questions or update them on any changes to your family's financial situation
- ☐ Finalize your financial aid; accept your financial aid offer or work with the college's financial aid office to adjust it
- ☐ If you'll be attending a four-year college, notify and place a deposit at the college of your choice by National College Decision Day (May 1)

College Admissions Follow-Up

- ☐ Sign into your college portal and review your task list and deadlines
- ☐ Check your email for correspondence and deadline reminders
- ☐ Request your final transcript be sent to your college choice from your high school registrar before the deadline
- ☐ Request AP and IB scores be submitted to your college choice
- ☐ Ask about college placement tests—some colleges require them for certain subjects, such as English and math; make sure to register in time and study beforehand
- ☐ Sign up for summer and/or fall orientation; some are mandatory and some have a cost
- ☐ Figure out housing—if living on campus, complete any roommate survey forms, sign the housing contract and submit a housing deposit to make sure you have a reserved room



Summer—Final Steps!

Orientation

☐ Attend orientation; at orientation, you will register for your classes; you may also take English, math or world language assessments

Paperwork and Payments

- ☐ Check your college email account and log into your college's student portal every few days for important notices for new students
- ☐ Download your college's health forms and see your doctor; colleges may require evidence of immunizations
- ☐ Most four-year colleges require students to have health insurance, so you may see it on your fall bill; if you don't want it, you must opt out
- ☐ Research tuition payment options—tuition payments are due at the beginning of the term
- □ Search your student portal for "FERPA waiver" and submit a completed form to your college if you want your parents/ guardians to access your student account (bill, grades, etc.)
- Ask your high school to send your final transcript to your college

College Finances

- ☐ Work and save money for college
- ☐ Make a budget with your parents/guardians (www.ecmc.org/studentseducators/student-resources/financial-awareness-basics-fab)
- ☐ View your class syllabus for required textbooks; consider buying used books, which cost less than new; you may also be able to save money by shopping for books online, downloading PDFs, buying e-books or renting books

Living on Campus

- ☐ Check out a sample packing list and start packing (https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/plan-for-college/after-youve-applied/off-to-college-checklist)
- ☐ Consider creating a roommate agreement (www.collegexpress. com/articles-and-advice/student-life/articles/living-campus/ how-make-your-own-college-roommate-agreement)
- ☐ Set expectations on how and when you will communicate with your family while away at college
- ☐ Make any necessary travel arrangements; buy travel tickets (plane, train, bus) and make hotel reservations early (if necessary)

Living at Home

- ☐ Develop boundaries with your family and let them know that your first obligation is your studies, so you're not available while at school
- ☐ Identify a study space at home

Support

- ☐ Search your college website for academic advising or counseling services to learn more about these free resources available to you; www.activeminds.org is another free resource used to help yourself or your friends with topics related to mental health
- ☐ Check your student portal or college website so you don't miss out on any virtual or local welcome events for students before classes start
- ☐ Send thank-you notes to everyone who helped in your college process, such as counselors and teachers who wrote letters of recommendation and scholarship providers who provided you funding for college



Virginia Resources

Virginia College Directory

The following pages include contact information for many of the degree- and non-degree-granting Virginia colleges, including nursing schools. For a complete list of colleges that are certified by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, visit www.schev.edu. If you want general information about a particular college, you can go to their website to discover what the college offers in majors, financial aid, campus life and activities, or who to contact to request more info.

Contact the admissions office for information on campus tours, or to request an admissions application or information

packet. The financial aid office can give you information on the college's financial aid procedures and available college scholarships, as well as let you know the status of your financial aid applications.

DEADLINES ARE IMPORTANT!

Many of the colleges on the following pages have deadlines for submitting admission applications. Check with the college to make sure you know what information you need to submit by the deadline to maximize your chances for admission.

Where available, the college's financial aid priority filing date is listed in the directory. It is a good idea to double-check these dates on the colleges' websites since they

are subject to change. If you miss this deadline, it doesn't mean you will not be considered for financial aid. However, meeting this deadline will maximize your opportunity to receive aid from the college.

Many colleges have a financial aid priority filing date. Submit your FAFSA and other required information by this date to maximize your opportunity to receive financial aid.

MAP	SCHOOL	LOCATION	WEBSITE	FEDERAL SCHOOL CODE	PRIORITY FILING DATE (2024-2025) ¹
	PUBLIC COLLEGES				
1	Christopher Newport University	Newport News	https://cnu.edu	003706	March 1
2	College of William & Mary	Williamsburg	www.wm.edu	003705	March 1
3	George Mason University	Fairfax	www.gmu.edu	003749	March 1
4	James Madison University	Harrisonburg	www.jmu.edu	003721	March 1
5	Longwood University	Farmville	www.longwood.edu	003719	March 1
6	Norfolk State University	Norfolk	www.nsu.edu	003765	March 15
7	Old Dominion University	Norfolk	www.odu.edu	003728	March 1
8	Radford University	Radford	www.radford.edu	003732	March 1
9	University of Mary Washington	Fredericksburg	www.umw.edu	003746	March 1
10	University of Virginia	Charlottesville	www.virginia.edu	003745	May 1
11	University of Virginia's College at Wise	Wise	www.uvawise.edu	003747	March 15
12	Virginia Commonwealth University	Richmond	www.vcu.edu	003735	March 1
13	Virginia Military Institute	Lexington	www.vmi.edu	003753	April 1
14	Virginia State University	Petersburg	www.vsu.edu	003764	March 31
15	Virginia Tech	Multiple locations	https://vt.edu	003754	March 1
	PUBLIC OTHER				
16	Eastern Virginia Medical School	Multiple locations	www.evms.edu	010338	April 1
	JUNIOR COLLEGES				
17	Richard Bland College	South Prince George	www.rbc.edu	003707	April 15
	COMMUNITY COLLEGES				
18	Blue Ridge Community College	Weyers Cave	www.brcc.edu	006819	April 15
19	Brightpoint Community College	Multiple locations	www.brightpoint.edu	004004	May 15
20	Central Virginia Community College	Lynchburg	https://centralvirginia.edu	004988	April 1
21	Danville Community College	Multiple locations	www.danville.edu	003758	June 1
22	Eastern Shore Community College	Melfa	https://es.vccs.edu	003748	July 15
23	Germanna Community College	Multiple locations	www.germanna.edu	008660	April 1
24	Laurel Ridge Community College	Multiple locations	https://laurelridge.edu	008659	June 1

MAP	SCHOOL	LOCATION	WEBSITE	FEDERAL SCHOOL CODE	PRIORITY FILING DATE (2024-2025) ¹
	COMMUNITY COLLEGES				
25	Mountain Empire Community College	Big Stone Gap	www.mecc.edu	009629	May 1
26	Mountain Gateway Community College	Multiple locations	www.mgcc.edu	004996	March 1
27	New River Community College	Multiple locations	www.nr.edu	005223	June 1
28	Northern Virginia Community College	Multiple locations	www.nvcc.edu	003727	May 1
29	Patrick & Henry Community College	Martinsville	www.patrickhenry.edu	003751	June 1
30	Paul D. Camp Community College	Multiple locations	www.pdc.edu	009159	June 1
31	Piedmont Virginia Community College	Charlottesville	www.pvcc.edu	009928	May 1
32	Rappahannock Community College	Multiple locations	www.rappahannock.edu	009160	April 15
33	Reynolds Community College	Multiple locations	www.reynolds.edu	003759	June 1
34	Southside Virginia Community College	Multiple locations	https://southside.edu	008661	July 1
35	Southwest Virginia Community College	Cedar Bluff	https://sw.edu	007260	May 1
36	Tidewater Community College	Multiple locations	www.tcc.edu	003712	April 1
37	Virginia Highlands Community College	Abingdon	www.vhcc.edu	007099	July 1
38	Virginia Peninsula Community College	Multiple locations	www.vpcc.edu	006871	May 1
39	Virginia Western Community College	Roanoke	www.virginiawestern.edu	003760	July 1
40	Wytheville Community College	Multiple locations	www.wcc.vccs.edu	003761	May 1
	PRIVATE COLLEGES				
41	Appalachian College of Pharmacy	Oakwood	www.acp.edu	G41806	Rolling
42	Appalachian School of Law	Grundy	www.asl.edu	G35593	Rolling
43	Ascent College	Online only	https://ascent.edu	041538	???
44	Averett University	Danville	www.averett.edu	003702	March 1
45	Bluefield University	Bluefield	www.bluefield.edu	003703	January 15
46	Bridgewater College	Bridgewater	www.bridgewater.edu	003704	March 1
47	Centra College	Lynchburg	www.centrahealth.com/college	015347	???
48	Christendom College	Front Royal	www.christendom.edu	Does not receive	Title IV funds
49	Divine Mercy University	Sterling	www.divinemercy.edu	G38724	
50	Eastern Mennonite University	Harrisonburg	https://emu.edu	003708	Rolling
51	Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine	Blacksburg	www.vcom.edu	G37093	May 31
52	Emory & Henry University	Emory	www.emoryhenry.edu	003709	March 1
53	Ferrum College	Ferrum	www.ferrum.edu	003711	January 1
54	George Washington University	Multiple locations	www.gwu.edu	001444	March 1
55	Hampden-Sydney College	Hampden-Sydney	www.hsc.edu	003713	February 1
56	Hampton University	Hampton	https://home.hamptonu.edu	003714	February 15
57	Hollins University	Roanoke	https://hollins.edu	003715	February 15
58	Liberty University	Lynchburg	www.liberty.edu	010392	January 15
59	Mary Baldwin University	Staunton	https://marybaldwin.edu	003723	March 15
60	Marymount University	Arlington	https://marymount.edu	003724	March 1
61	Patrick Henry College	Purcellville	www.phc.edu	Does not receive	
62	Randolph College	Lynchburg	www.randolphcollege.edu	003734	March 1
63	Randolph-Macon College	Ashland	www.rmc.edu	003733	February 1
64	Regent University	Virginia Beach	www.regent.edu	030913	
65	Roanoke College	Salem	www.roanoke.edu	003736	March 1
66	Shenandoah University	Multiple locations	www.su.edu	003737	April 1
67	Southern Virginia University	Buena Vista	https://svu.edu	003738	May 1

MAP	SCHOOL	LOCATION	WEBSITE	FEDERAL SCHOOL CODE	PRIORITY FILING DATE (2024-2025) ¹
	PRIVATE COLLEGES (CONTINUED)				
68	Sweet Briar College	Sweet Briar	https://sbc.edu	003742	February 1
69	Union Presbyterian Seminary	Multiple locations	www.upsem.edu	G03743	
70	University of Lynchburg	Lynchburg	www.lynchburg.edu	003720	February 1
71	University of Richmond	Richmond	www.richmond.edu	003744	February 1
72	Virginia Theological Seminary	Alexandria	https://vts.edu	Does not receive	Title IV funds
73	Virginia Union University	Richmond	www.vuu.edu	003766	May 15
74	Virginia University of Lynchburg	Lynchburg	www.vul.edu	003762	
75	Virginia Wesleyan University	Virginia Beach	www.vwu.edu	003767	March 1
76	Washington and Lee University	Lexington	www.wlu.edu	003768	February 15
	PRIVATE CAREER COLLEGES				
77	Advanced Technology Institute	Multiple locations	https://auto.edu	031275	
78	American National University	Salem	https://an.edu	003726	
79 80	Aviation Institute of Maintenance AIM-Norfolk AIM-Northern Virginia	Norfolk Manassas	https://aviationmaintenance.edu	031263 038834	
81	Bryant & Stratton College	Multiple locations	www.bryantstratton.edu	010061	
82	Cayce/Reilly School of Massage	Virginia Beach	www.caycereilly.edu	041373	
83	Centura College	Multiple locations	www.centuracollege.edu	016538	
84	Columbia College	Vienna	www.ccdc.edu	041273	
85	DeVry University	Multiple locations	www.devry.edu	010727	
86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93	ECPI University Culinary Institute Innsbrook Manassas Newport News Richmond South Richmond West Roanoke Virginia Beach	Norfolk Glen Allen Manassas Newport News Richmond Richmond Roanoke Virginia Beach	www.ecpi.edu	E01703 E01706 E01698 E00648 E01705 E01707 010198	
94	Fairfax University of America	Fairfax	www.fxua.edu	041440	
95	South University	Multiple locations	www.southuniversity.edu	013039	
96	Strayer University	Multiple locations	www.strayer.edu	001459	
97	Tidewater Tech	Norfolk	https://tidewatertechtrades.edu	016418	
98	University of Fairfax	Salem	https://ufairfax.edu	Does not receive	Title IV funds
99	University of Management and Technology	Arlington	www.umtweb.edu	041103	
100	University of the Potomac	Falls Church	https://potomac.edu	032183	
101	Virginia University of Integrative Medicine	Vienna	https://vuim.edu	042395	

MAP	SCHOOL	LOCATION	WEBSITE	FEDERAL SCHOOL CODE	PRIORITY FILING DATE (2024-2025) ¹			
	NURSING SCHOOLS (PRIVATE CAREER COLLEGES)							
102	Bon Secours Memorial College of Nursing	Richmond	www.bsmcon.edu	010043				
103	Bon Secours Saint Mary's Hospital School of Medical Imaging	Richmond	www.bonsecours.com/jobs- education/schools-education	023585				
104	Central School of Practical Nursing	Norfolk	www.npsk12.com/domain/980	021287				
105	Riverside College of Health Careers	Multiple locations	www.riverside.edu	014108				
106	Sentara College of Health Sciences	Chesapeake	www.sentara.edu	031065				
107	Southside College of Health Sciences	Colonial Heights	www.schs.edu	012744				
108	Sovah School of Health Professions	Danville	www.sovahhealth.com	013889				

¹ Priority filing dates for private colleges provided by the Council of Independent Colleges in Virginia (CICV). All other priority filing dates provided by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV). Visit the college's website for their most current priority filing date.

