

# Sophomore College Planning Night

## Class of 2027

College 101: An Introduction to the College Admission Process

Factors in College Admissions | Preparing for College | Campus Visits  
Timelines | Decision Making

Presented by Dante Evans, Assistant Director First-Year Recruitment, UNC Greensboro

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## Additional Information & Upcoming Events

**College Access Fairfax:** Financial aid resources for FCPS students and families

- It's never too early to start planning for a post-secondary education. College Access Fairfax provides many services to help students and families in the financial aid process. Families can request a one-on-one meeting with a Financial Aid Champion. Visit the College Access Fairfax website for details and program offerings.

**Level Up Virginia:** State Council of Higher Education (SCHEV) post-secondary planning

- Statewide initiative led by the State Council for Higher Education (SCHEV) and the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) to increase post-secondary readiness. Explore careers, pathways, financial aid, college and so much more!

**Naviance:**

- College and Career Planning | JMHS College Specific Data
- All FCPS students and parents/guardians have access to the resources and tools to explore and prepare for post-secondary planning. There are lots of opportunities for self-discovery and career exploration. Students also track their service learning hours through the use of x2VOL which is accessed through Naviance.
- General college information, as well as data specific to Madison HS
- Access the FCPS approved scholarship list AND Enrichment Opportunities Database, updated weekly
- Explore career pathways, take career assessments and interest inventories

**Opportunities College Planning Guides:** [English version](#) and [Spanish version](#)

- Guides to help high school students choose the right college, understand admission requirements, identify types of financial aid and more!

# Upcoming Events



March 15:

- [Fairfax County Teen Job Fair & Career Building Workshops](#), 11am to 1pm at Chantilly High School

March 18:

- [College Access Fairfax Financial Aid Virtual Session for Military Families](#), 7:30-9:00pm

March 22:

- [College Access Fairfax Financial Aid Virtual Session for Military Families](#), 10:00-11:30am

March 23:

- [National Association of College Admissions Counselors \(NACAC\) Virtual College Fair](#), 1:00-6:00pm

April 2:

- [College Access Fairfax Paying for College for Underclassmen Virtual Event](#), 7:00-8:30pm

April 8:

- [Coalition for College](#), Cracking the Code: Financial Aid Virtual Event, 8pm

April 5:

- [College Access Fairfax Paying for College for Underclassmen Virtual Event](#), 10:00-11:30am

April 8:

- [National Association of College Admission Counselors \(NACAC\) College Fair](#), 6:30pm, Montgomery County, MD

April 9:

- [Northern Virginia Regional College Fair](#), 6:30pm-8:30pm at EagleBank Arena

April 12:

- [American Association of Pre-Veterinary Medical Colleges Career Fair](#), 1:00-5:00pm, Grand Hyatt Wash., D.C.

April 26:

- [Academy Day 2025](#), hosted by Senator Mark Warner, 9:30am-1:30pm, University of Mary Washington

April 27:

- [National Association of College Admissions Counselors \(NACAC\) Virtual College Fair](#), 1:00-6:00pm

May 20:

- [Coalition for College](#), What I Wish I Knew About Applying to College Virtual Event, 8pm

Disclaimer: Opportunities offered by organizations other than Fairfax County Public Schools are neither sponsored nor endorsed by the Fairfax County School Board, the Superintendent, or a specific school. These opportunities may utilize technology tools that have not been assessed by the Fairfax County Public Schools Department of Information Technology. Students should gain permission from their parent or guardian before engaging in any non-FCPS enrichment opportunity and families should review the Terms of Service, User Agreements, and Privacy Policy for any technology platform that the enrichment opportunity may use before participating.

# 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](https://youtu.be/_SQz3xlb49Q)

**Considerations for Students with Disabilities in High School v College**

<https://youtu.be/x6oBbqhbj24>

**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](https://youtu.be/_v6c8tF3G3c)

**Exploring Naviance Student**

<https://youtu.be/UeHle5nX7AI>

**Standardized Testing in the College Process**

<https://youtu.be/x-FFVVbaAH0>

**Are you Common App Ready?**

<https://youtu.be/gxL7Ki70Xvw>

**NOVA The Community College Option**

<https://youtu.be/P6R7HfiLjIY>

**NOVA Certificates & Workforce Development Programs**

<https://youtu.be/G0iH9jla7QE>

**For more information visit: <https://bit.ly/fcpspostsecondary>**

# GET THE MOST OUT OF A CAMPUS VISIT IN 6 STEPS

## 1 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.

## 2 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.

## 3 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?

# 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.

# 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

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

Students are responsible for determining and following restrictions.





# 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 Campus	VA	35	189	42	108	31	3
5	George Mason University	VA	34	180	144	12	17	0
6	Virginia Commonwealth University	VA	17	101	94	5	0	0
7	William & Mary	VA	10	79	27	31	19	2
8	Christopher Newport University	VA	10	55	47	5	2	0
9	Brigham Young University	UT	7	10	9	1	0	0
10	Marymount University	VA	7	11	11	0	0	0
11	The University of Tennessee-Knoxville	TN	6	60	21	11	31	16
12	Rutgers University-New Brunswick	NJ	6	16	15	0	0	0
13	University of Colorado Boulder	CO	6	33	27	1	2	1
14	Radford University	VA	6	20	20	0	0	0
15	Ohio State University-Main Campus	OH	5	32	22	8	0	2
16	Pennsylvania State University-Main Campus	PA	5	96	56	28	6	2
17	University of Pittsburgh-Pittsburgh Campus	PA	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 Park	MD	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-Bloomington	IN	3	17	13	1	1	0
27	Purdue University-Main Campus	IN	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	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.

(over)

**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	AZ	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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