

Dan River Senior Resource Meeting

Ms. Dean
Ms. Ganoë
Mr. Motley

SAT / ACT

Who should take the SAT and/or ACT?

-Any student planning to go directly to a 4 year college or university should take at least one, and usually two, college entrance exams. Schools may designate additional course specific placement tests (ex. SAT Subject tests).

Who does NOT need to take the SAT and/or ACT?

-Students planning to attend community college and/or transfer to a 4 year school **WILL** need to take a "placement" test in the spring of/summer after senior year (after you complete your final math class).

SAT or ACT? Here are the facts:

	SAT	ACT
Type of Test	A reasoning test assessing general ability and logic.	An achievement test based largely on what students learn in their classrooms.
Sections	<p>Ten Sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -3 critical reading -3 math -3 writing <p>Experimental section</p>	<p>Four Sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -English -Math -Reading -Science reasoning <p>Optional Writing</p> <p>Experimental section</p>
Length	Three hours and 45 mins	Two hours and 55 minutes, plus an additional 30 minutes for the writing test.
Penalty for wrong answers?	Yes, so don't guess blindly since you lose points for incorrect answers (except the write-in math problems - don't leave those blank!)	No, you won't lose points for wrong answers so don't leave any blank.
Scoring Method	200 - 800 for each section, with 2400 as the highest possible score. 1500 is the national average.	1 - 36 for each subject, which is averaged for the highest possible score of 36. 21 is the national average.

SAT or ACT? Here are the facts:

	SAT	ACT
Cost	The SAT Reasoning test cost \$50, which includes sending scores to four colleges.	The basic ACT test cost \$35, which includes sending scores to four colleges. The cost for ACT with the writing sections \$50.50.
Test Dates	Seven test dates between October and June: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- October 6, 2012- November 3, 2012- December 1, 2012- January 26, 2013- March 9, 2013- May 4, 2013- June 1, 2013	Five national test dates between October and June: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- October 27, 2012- December 8, 2012- February 9, 2013- April 13, 2013- June 8, 2013
Are you required to submit scores to colleges?	Yes. if a student requests a score report to be sent to the colleges of their choice, the report will automatically be sent and will include scores for every SAT the student has taken.	No. Students can choose which schools will receive their scores and which scores the schools will see.
Website	www.collegeboard.org	www.actstudent.org

SAT Registration Deadlines

Test Date:

- October 6, 2012
- November 3, 2012
- December 1, 2012
- January 26, 2013
- March 9, 2013
- May 4, 2013
- June 1, 2013

Registration Deadline:

- September 7, 2012
- October 4, 2012
- November 1, 2012
- December 28, 2012
- February 8, 2013
- April 5, 2013
- May 2, 2013

ACT Registration Deadlines

Test Date:

- October 27, 2012
- December 8, 2012
- February 9, 2013
- April 13, 2013
- June 8, 2013

Registration Deadline:

- September 21, 2012
- November 2, 2012
- January 11, 2013
- March 8, 2013
- May 3, 2013

Deadlines

- As a senior, if you have not already taken the SAT or ACT and plan on attending a four year institution, we highly recommend you take the October 6 (SAT) or October 27 (ACT) Test and get it over with!

- NOTE: The Registration Deadlines for those test are September 7th and September 21st, respectively

College Applications

Where to begin?

College Applications have Deadlines!

Early Decision: **Early decision plans are binding.** You agree to attend the college if it accepts you and offers an adequate financial aid package. Although you can apply to only one college for early decision, you may apply to other colleges through the regular admission process. If you're accepted by your first-choice college early, you must withdraw all other applications. (Often November 1st Deadline)

Early Action: **Early action plans are similar to early decision plans, but are not binding.** If you've been accepted, you can choose to commit to the college immediately, or wait until the spring. Under these plans, you may also apply early action to other colleges. Usually, you have until the late spring to let the college know your decision. (Often November 1st Deadline)

Regular Admission: Often January 1 with decisions sent out around March 1

Rolling Admission: Colleges with rolling admissions begin looking at applications and filling their freshman class as soon as the paperwork begins arriving, sometimes as early as August or September. Students generally receive acceptances or rejections within 4 to 8 weeks of submitting their applications, and in most cases, a decision is not due until spring.

College Applications have Deadlines!

Find out which type of admission is offered at the schools you intend on applying to and note their options and deadlines!

How many?

- Narrow your list of colleges to approximately **4** to **6** and review these options with your school counselor, Ms. Dean, your College Adviser, Ms. Ganoë, and/or your parents.
- Select between **3** and **5** colleges to apply to.
- Do **NOT** limit yourself to only applying to schools that send you recruiting information in the mail. Research schools based on intended major, location, selectivity, etc.

What to expect when filling out an application...

Your college application creates a portrait of who you are and what you can bring to a college. The best way to give colleges an accurate and useful picture of yourself is to fill out each application honestly, carefully and completely.

What to expect when filling out an application...

Applications vary from college to college, but most require some or all of the following parts:

- Application Form**: most colleges have online applications; paper applications are available
- Application Fee**: depends on school but range from \$20-\$65
- High School Transcript**: Your high school sends the transcript directly to colleges on your behalf. Your school also sends a final transcript, at the end of your senior year, to the college you decide to attend. Your college wants to see that you've kept your grades up through graduation; if you haven't, this may affect your admission.
- Admission Test Scores**: These are the scores from your SAT and/or ACT test
- Letters of Recommendation**: Ask a teacher, counselor or other adult who knows you well. Also, be sure to ask for recommendations well before the college's deadline.
- Essays**: This is often your last opportunity to impress the admissions counselor to admit you!

Note: Some colleges may ask/require an interview, audition, or portfolio.

Dual Enrollment

- If you are currently taking, have taken, or will take a dual enrollment class, **YOU** will need to contact DCC directly to request an official DCC transcript be sent to the school you attend.

Recommendation Letters

DOs

- Choose someone who knows you well enough to give you a recommendation
- Get a recommendation from employers, school administrators, or anyone else familiar with your work ethic
- Tell the letter writer why you need the recommendation letter (i.e. college application, scholarship application, etc.)
- Mention specific things that you would like to see included
- Send a thank you note afterwards
- Keep copies of the letter. You may need to use it again in the future

DON'Ts

- Wait until the last minute. Secure letters of recommendation ASAP
- Ask someone to lie
- Ever forge signatures
- Choose someone only for their title. Pick someone who has a title AND knows you well.
- Choose someone who is a poor writer
- Hesitate to get as many recommendation letters as possible. Choose the ones that show you in the best light.
- Be surprised if the person you are asking for a recommendation letter ask you to write a letter that they will later modify and sign. This is a common practice.
- Forget to say please and thank you!

Admission Essays

Is it really optional?

- Many colleges categorize their essays or personal statements as optional.
- While it might seem like extra work that you don't have to do, always write the essays!
- Essays are simply one more factor colleges can use to get to know you. They will only help your application. You want to be seen as more than just your grades and test scores!

Admission Essays

What makes a good essay?

- Rather than tell a full-length story, focus on a specific episode in your life.
- Successful essays are like successful commercials. They're up close and personal. They get your attention. They avoid abstractions.
- Readers will spend 30-seconds on your essay, so consider your essay a personal commercial.

Admission Essays

DOs

- Use a hook.
- Show, don't tell.
- Appeal to the senses.
- Reveal something new about yourself.
- Use your own voice.
- Focus on the details.
- Use your words wisely.

DON'Ts

- Don't use a thesaurus.
- Don't include information that's already in your application.
- Don't just write what you think a college wants to hear.
- Don't use cliches.
- Don't use humor unless you're always funny.

Admission Essays

After it's written...

- Write it. Leave it. Come back to it. Change it.
- Edit it yourself. Then have at least one other person edit it. (Your College Guide can help with this!!)
- Make sure you answered all the questions. Did you get to the heart of the issue?
- Read it out loud to a family member or friend. Make sure it sounds like your voice. If it doesn't sound like you, take a step back and try again.
- Edit!!!

Also...

- Go visit the schools where you plan to apply!
- Take the official tour and attend an information session.
- Talk to students walking around on the campus.
- Ask questions on the tour.
 - Don't know what questions to ask when visiting a school? *Meet with your College Guide to create a list of questions!*

Graduate of Merit

Objectives:

- To recognize and acknowledge accomplishments of graduates who exemplify attributes of achievement, proficiency, character and social development
- To provide additional insight into credentials of individuals who demonstrate qualities and traits beyond those of fellow graduates
- To provide prospective employers with an avenue to evaluate candidates for employment further through this recognition
- To allow area businesses the opportunity to stress to graduates the need for qualities essential to employment success

Graduate of Merit

Recognition/Acknowledgement:

- Each recipient will be honored during a public ceremony/banquet. This event is to be held at the end of the final semester and attended by the students, parents, sponsors and school officials.
- Permanent notation will be located at the respective schools and businesses.

Graduate of Merit

Components:

- Grade Point Average (GPA)
- Total Courses
- Course Work
- Attendance
- Conduct
- Community Service
- School Activities
-

***To be recognized as a Graduate of Merit, a student must earn a minimum of 170 points

Southside Virginia Tobacco Loan Forgiveness Program

The purpose is: To provide new life and employment opportunities for the communities within Southside Virginia by rewarding native residents who complete a 4-year college degree then, become employed full-time in one of the twenty-four (24) qualifying localities in the Southside Virginia region. The program assist with tuition and academic fees **ONLY**. **It is a residence-based program -- not need-based; No family income required.**

Who Is Eligible To Apply: 1. Applicants must have resided in Virginia for a minimum of 12 months and have no ties with any other state such as driver's license, auto registration, voter registration, or tax payments. 2. Is enrolled in a Bachelor's degree-seeking program at an accredited 4-year college or university. 3. **One exception has been made to the Bachelor's degree requirement** : Students who are enrolled in a **2-year degree program at a 4-year college or university** will be eligible to receive funding through the Southside Tobacco Loan Forgiveness Program, provided that the 2-year degree-program is not offered at the local community college serving that individual student.

Open Online the month of April. Go to <http://tobacco.swcenter.edu/>.

Resources for YOU

DRHS Guidance Webpage

<http://www.pcs.k12.va.us/drhs/AcademicPages/Guidance.htm>

or Google "Dan River HS Guidance"

Fall Senior Survey

Senior Resume

Scholarship listing

Poor Planning on Your
Part does NOT
constitute an
Emergency
on Our Part!

Letters of Recommendation-

It is best to have a teacher write you a letter of recommendation since they will know you best. Provide a copy of your resume to anyone writing a letter of recommendation for you.

Transcript Requests must be turned in to Guidance 3 days in advance!

FREE Online Course

- Longwood University is offering a **free** online course for high school juniors and seniors. Over the course of 10 weeks, students who register for the course, "Five Skills You Need to Succeed: What Employers Want You to Know," will learn about the skills needed to get and keep a job, to succeed in college and more.
- Registration for this optional non-credit bearing course is open until September 16, 2012; and class begins October 1, 2012.
- For more information and to register, go to <http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?e=0011mkY6Hrj-CYUYLDar47K_6kr5JizS5cQ5H9mUsVYwX4t4EiebJqo57DHJjI7K5zJmcGChfPULQGn7-jpbbkQbp96S1B3J6wo4iMhSImu8inGSS4MF5Lebw==> .
- If you have questions, please e-mail langlienk@longwood.edu directly.

Virginia Education Wizard

Careers, College Planning, Paying
for College, Transfer Info, etc.

Resume Writing—Sample Phrases & Skills Templates

- 1. Able to bring productive energy**, accuracy and enthusiasm to both individual and group projects
- 2. Friendly, positive disposition**, able to converse with a pleasant and uplifting attitude
- 3. Persuasive demeanor**, skilled at influencing the opinions & ideas of others and eventually convincing them to try or purchase a product or service
- 4. Effective contributor**—capable of voicing opinions about ideas/projects and giving valuable input when needed
- 5. Always looking to work beyond** any expectations and deliver exceptional results
- 6. Experienced at taking overwhelming, confusing situations** and creating organization, efficiency and productivity
- 7. Effective manager**—skilled at accomplishing projects by wisely delegating portions of workflow to those best able to complete certain tasks
- 8. Effective counselor/consultant**—able to pinpoint needs of prospects/clients and give beneficial advice when needed
- 9. Quick and enthusiastic study**—enjoy learning new skills and technology
- 10. Conveniently flexible**—can easily adapt to any changes that may occur within an organization
- 11. Effective communicator**—able to clearly relay information, both verbally and in writing

- 12. Able to analyze a problem/situation**, and strategically plan to achieve the best possible solutions
- 13. Exceptional motivator**, adept at inspiring others to do the best job possible
- 14. Highly creative**, able to think of innovative ideas and solutions
- 15. Great problem-solver**, able to outline specific, most cost-effective ways to reach a solution
- 16. Can successfully take a project from concept to completion**
- 17. Persistent and hardworking**—always striving to meet or exceed set goals
- 18. Able to prioritize and accomplish tasks** in a sensible, productive order of importance
- 19. Expertise for functioning effectively** in a team environment
- 20. Effective at leading other employees/team members** towards achieving specific goals
- 21. Effective at making people feel at ease and comfortable** about expressing their thoughts and opinions
- 22. Great listener**—able to hear what customer/client is saying and trying to communicate
- 23. Skilled at handling multiple tasks smoothly and effectively**
- 24. Exceptional interpersonal skills**--capable of interacting with and working with a variety of personalities
- 25. Strong work ethic**—always focused on accomplishing tasks/projects as smoothly & effectively as possible
- Bonus: Strong sense of loyalty and commitment**

Instructions

- Go to: www.vawizard.org
- On top right corner, click on **Create an Account**
- Username: **firstnamelastname**
- Password: **Wildcats13**

Now browse around and see what the site has to offer!

I-Am-The-One.com

<http://www.i-am-the-one.com/downloads/presentation/StudentPlannerPresentation.ppt>

- <http://collegeapps.about.com/od/collegerankings/tp/top-virginia-colleges.htm>
- www.schev.edu
- www.studentaid.ed.gov
- www.vawizard.org/vccs/FinAid.action
- www.vawizard.org/vccs/Career.action
- www.collegeboard.org
- www.actstudent.org
- www.doe.virginia.gov
- www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov/
- www.domesatreview.com/