



Applying to college

Presented by: Lana Meskunas



Welcome to the Guidance office!

Mrs. Heather Porter



**12th Grade
Freshman P-Z**

Mrs. Rosalyn Smith



**10th Grade
Freshman G-O**

Mr. George Cruz



**11th Grade
Freshman A-F**

Mrs. Lana Meskunas



**College and
Career**



**Mrs. Susan Blades
Guidance Receptionist**



**Ms. Laura Spencer
Registrar**



**Mrs. Lynn
Ferrell**

**Mrs. Kara
Lingerfelt**



Choosing the right school

- 
- **The College VISIT!!**
 - **Commuting vs. living on campus**
 - **Urban vs. small college town**
 - **Size of the school**
 - **Extracurricular/ athletic activities**
 - **Size of classes/ faculty-student ratio**
 - **Restrictions/ regulations of social life**
 - **Type of programs offered**
 - **Cost of the school**



Deadlines

- Deadlines will vary. To be sure you need to check with the colleges you have chosen to apply to.
- Missing an application deadline automatically means that you've missed your chance to apply.
- If you are trying to apply early decision, the deadline is usually in mid October/first of November. Schools have different criteria for accepting early decision applicants. Some schools look for GPA, test scores and or specific coursework. You should review the admissions section of your college's website for details. Research the college's mission statement.
- Early decision (ED) is binding, so if you chose to apply early decision make sure it is THE school you want to attend.
- Early action applications are usually due by November 1st. It is similar to early decision, but it is not binding.
- **Scholarship applications to colleges should be completed before Dec. 1st. Several schools require you to be admitted before you can fill out the scholarship application.**



The Application

- Your college application creates a portrait of **who you are** and what you can bring to a college.
- Remember that it is really important that you are aware of and **meet all the deadlines** for your applications.
- **When applying for scholarships, be sure to adhere to deadlines. Many are due by Dec. 1st, although some will still take the Dec. ACT into consideration.**



The Common Application

- The Common Application is a not-for-profit organization that serves students and member institutions by providing an admission application – online and in print – that students may submit to any of the 800+ members.
- <https://www.commonapp.org>
- If the school you are applying to is one of the 800+ that accepts this application, you can save a lot of time and effort by using The Common Application.
- There is a search feature so you can verify if the school you are interested in accepts The Common Application.
- Even if you are using The Common Application some of the colleges may also request additional materials when you apply.



College Essays

- Common app or highly selective
- This can be the most time-consuming and difficult part of applying to college.
- The personal essay is usually about 300 to 500 words in length or longer, depending on the college.
- Sometimes you have a choice and other times the colleges give you specific prompts.
- **You need to give this part a lot of thought and dedicate a lot of time to it.**
- Once you think you are done, have several people read your essay.
- Explore the link below for more ideas and tips:
- <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/apply/essay-skills/index.html>



College Essay Tips

- Be honest – write about something small in scale; a story only you can tell in your own words.
- Let your voice be heard.
- If there is something strange about your record, you should explain it (e.g., academic trends primarily).
- You should write about something that's important to you.
- Don't try to guess about which topic they want to read.
- Content, style, originality – cautiously humorous, risk taking.
- Discuss unique talents.
- How would you describe the strength and weaknesses of the topic – your point of view – regarding the essay question?
- Interesting or unique insights about a particular topic are welcome.
- Something that will enlighten them about yourself as it relates to the chosen topic.
- Use language with which you are familiar.
- Don't try to borrow someone else's phrases.
- The essay should show your character and personality – not just bragging about your list of accomplishments.
- Answer the question when you choose a topic – follow the directions, length, and format.
- Most readers look for essays that are persuasive and somewhat argumentative.



Application Fees

- College application fees vary.
- Most are in the \$35 to \$50 range.
- The fee is usually nonrefundable, even if you're not accepted.
- Many colleges offer fee waivers for applicants from low-income families. If you need a fee waiver, see Mrs. Meskunas.
- Remember, if you qualified for a fee waiver for the SAT/ACT you may qualify for application fee waivers. Some colleges do not accept fee waivers.
- Most applications can be filled out online.
- If you're doing a paper application, remember neatness counts so you will want to print or type perfectly



Test Scores

- SAT/ACT Give you a limited number of schools to have your scores sent to initially (4)
- ACT = \$50.50 (fee waivers available)
 - \$67.00 with writing
- \$13 per additional test score sent out
- SAT = \$47.50 (fee waivers available)
 - \$64.50 with essay
 - \$22.00 - \$26.00 (subject tests)
 - \$12 per additional test score sent out
- JCHS does NOT send test scores
- It is important that you check the average test scores for your college to see if you should retake your SAT or ACT



Recommendations

- Some colleges ask you to submit one or more letters of recommendation from a teacher, counselor or other adult who knows you well.
- Choose someone who knows you well, but that is also still involved in your academic life. Your kindergarten teacher might think highly of you, but they cannot speak to the type of student you are today.
- It is also important that you give the person enough time to write a thoughtful and individual letter. You should give the person at least 3 weeks prior notice.
- Remember, teachers are asked to write a lot of recommendation letters every year. Asking them at the last minute reflects poorly on you and may result in a less than ideal recommendation.



Recommendations (cont.)

- It is also helpful if you provide the person writing the recommendation with information about the schools and programs you are applying to. This helps them tailor the letter to reflect your strong points in those areas.
- It is also thoughtful to provide the person with a self-addressed stamped envelope to send your recommendation if it is not online.
- If you are not sure how the person you are asking feels about you, don't be shy. Ask them if they feel comfortable writing a good recommendation. If they say no or seem to waiver, ask someone else!!!
- Check in with the person about a week or two after you asked them. Remember, teachers are really busy people. They might have forgotten.
- A thank you letter or letting the teacher know if you got in or not is always a nice touch!



Recommendation Packet

for selective colleges *ONLY*

- Student Profile
- Parent Information page
- Resume
- Teacher Information page (2)
- DUE to Mrs. Meskunas at least 2 weeks before needed



Interviews and visits

- If the colleges you are considering offer interviews, you should schedule one as this shows you are very interested.
- This is an opportunity to connect directly with someone who will be part of the decision making process concerning your application.
- If an on-campus interview is not feasible, you can arrange to meet with an alumnus near you.
- The interview is also a good time to ask questions, so you can make sure the college is right for you.
- Follow interview protocol:
 - Be on time!
 - Dress neatly and professionally
 - Use appropriate language
 - Avoid eating or drinking during the interview
 - Do a little background research on the university and have some questions of your own ready



Admission Requirements

- Alabama A&M – 18 ACT & 2.0 GPA
- Alabama State University – Sliding scale 18+ ACT & 2.0-2.49 GPA
- Auburn University – Individual basis Average – 24-30 ACT & 3.8 GPA
- AUM – 18 ACT & 2.3 GPA
- BSC – Individual basis Average – 26.5 ACT & 3.7 GPA
- Huntingdon College – 20 ACT & 2.5 GPA
- Jacksonville State University – 20 ACT & 2.0 GPA
- Judson College – 18 ACT & 2.0 Academic GPA
- Miles College – Unconditional admittance given with high school diploma
- Samford University – Average range – 23-29 ACT & 3.48-4.0 GPA
- Spring Hill College – 20 ACT & 3.0 GPA
- Troy University – 20 ACT & 2.0 GPA
- Tuskegee University – 18 ACT & 2.6 GPA
- University of Alabama – 21 ACT & 3.0 GPA
- UAB – 20 ACT & 2.75 GPA
- UAH – 20 ACT & 2.9 GPA
- University of Mobile – 21 ACT & 2.75 GPA
- University of Montevallo – 20 ACT & 2.5 GPA
- University of North Alabama – 18 ACT & 2.25 GPA (Unweighted)
- University of South Alabama – 19 ACT & 2.5 GPA
- University of West Alabama – 19 ACT & 2.0 GPA



Automatic Scholarships

- Alabama A&M – 23 ACT & 3.25 GPA
- Alabama State University – 18 ACT & 2.75
- Auburn University – 28 ACT & 3.5 GPA
- AUM – 18 ACT & 2.5 GPA
- BSC – Determined by ACT, GPA, Leadership, and Extra-curricular activities
- Huntingdon College – Minimum to qualify for scholarships is acceptance to the college
- Jacksonville State University – 23 ACT & 3.0 GPA
- Judson College – 20 ACT & 2.5 GPA
- Miles College – 18 ACT & 3.0 GPA
- Samford University – Holistic view
- Spring Hill College – 20 ACT & 2.5 GPA
- Troy University – 23 ACT & 3.0 GPA
- Tuskegee University – 21 ACT & 3.0 GPA
- UAB – 20 ACT & 3.5 GPA or 24 ACT & 3.0 GPA
- UAH – 25 ACT & 3.0 GPA
- University of Alabama – 21 ACT & 3.5 GPA
- University of Mobile – 20 ACT & 2.75 GPA
- University of Montevallo – 23 ACT & 3.0 GPA or 22 ACT & 3.5 GPA
- University of North Alabama – 20 ACT & 3.0 GPA
- University of South Alabama – 23 ACT & 3.0 GPA
- University of West Alabama – 21 ACT & 3.0 GPA



University of Alabama In-State Scholarships for 2018-2019

First time freshmen who meet the December 15 scholarship deadline, have a qualifying score on the ACT or SAT and have at least a 3.5 cumulative high school GPA through the junior year will be eligible for the following merit-based scholarships:

UA Recognition

A student with a 21-24 ACT or 1060-1190 SAT score and minimum 3.5 cumulative GPA will be selected as a UA Recognition Scholar and will receive \$8,000 over four years (\$2,000 per year).

Crimson Achievement Scholar

A student with a 25 ACT or 1200-1220 SAT score and minimum 3.5 cumulative GPA will be selected as a Crimson Achievement Scholar and will receive \$12,000 over four years (\$3,000 per year).

UA Legends

A student with a 26 ACT or 1230-1250 SAT score and minimum 3.5 cumulative GPA will be selected as a UA Legends Scholar and will receive \$16,000 over four years (\$4,000 per year).

Capstone

A student with a 27 ACT or 1260-1290 SAT score and minimum 3.5 cumulative GPA will be selected as a Capstone Scholar and will receive \$20,000 over four years (\$5,000 per year).

Collegiate

A student with a 28 ACT or 1300-1320 SAT score and a minimum GPA of 3.5 a student will be named a Collegiate Scholar and will receive \$24,000 over four years (\$6,000 per year).

Foundation in Excellence

A student with a 29 ACT or 1330-1350 SAT score and minimum 3.5 cumulative GPA will be selected as a Foundation in Excellence Scholar and will receive \$32,000 over four years (\$8,000 per year).

Presidential

A student with a 30-36 ACT or 1360-1600 SAT score and at least a 3.5 GPA will be selected as a Presidential Scholar and will receive the value of tuition, or \$43,120 over four years (\$10,780 per year). Students graduating with remaining tuition scholarship semester(s) may use these monies toward graduate school and/or law school study at UA.

Presidential Elite Scholar

A student with a 4.0 GPA and a 36 ACT or 1600 SAT will be selected as a Presidential Elite Scholar and will receive:

Value of tuition for up to four years for degree-seeking undergraduate and graduate or law studies

One year of on-campus housing at regular room rate

\$1,000 per year stipend for four years

\$2,000 one-time allowance for use in summer research or international study (after completing one year of study at UA)

\$2,000 book scholarship (\$500 per year for four years)



Auburn University In-State Scholarships 2018-2019

Freshman Scholarships

Freshman Scholarships are awarded exclusively to incoming freshmen and are renewable for four years. Students accepted for admission must apply through the Auburn University Scholarship Opportunity Manager (AUSOM) to receive consideration for Freshman Scholarships. To ensure maximum consideration, it is imperative students are knowledgeable of the specific requirements associated with all scholarships awarded.

Students planning to apply for scholarships must have a complete admission application file by November 1. Incoming freshmen accepted for admission must complete the scholarship application through the Auburn University Scholarship Opportunity Manager (AUSOM) by 4:45 p.m. CST on December 1. Scholarships are awarded competitively, and consideration does not guarantee a scholarship will be awarded.

Minimum academic requirements for scholarship consideration and award amounts are for students planning to enroll Summer or Fall 2019 and are subject to change for enrollment in future terms. For the purposes of awarding scholarships, the highest composite ACT or equivalent total SAT score from a single test date is used, and the writing score is not considered. Students must have the minimum ACT or equivalent SAT score and high school GPA requirements to receive Freshman Scholarship consideration.

The minimum test score and high school GPA required for consideration must be reflected on the applicant record within AUSOM by December 1. Following receipt by Auburn, it may take up to three days before test scores and GPAs are updated in AUSOM.

Spirit of Auburn Scholarships are awarded competitively among eligible Alabama residents beginning in October, based on available funding and academic achievement as demonstrated by standardized test scores and high school GPA. Consideration does not guarantee a scholarship will be awarded. These four year, renewable scholarships are awarded at three levels: University, Founders, and Presidential.

To receive consideration, students must complete the scholarship application through AUSOM by the deadline and have the minimum ACT or SAT score* and high school GPA requirements. Minimum test scores required for consideration at each level do not include the writing score.

University Scholarship

- Requires a 28-29 ACT or equivalent SAT score and a minimum 3.5 high school GPA for consideration.
- Awarded at \$16,000 over four years (\$4,000 per year).

Founders Scholarship

- Requires a 30-32 ACT or equivalent SAT score and a minimum 3.5 high school GPA for consideration.
- Awarded at \$32,000 over four years (\$8,000 per year).

Presidential Scholarship

- Requires a 33-36 ACT or equivalent SAT score and a minimum 3.5 high school GPA for consideration.
- Awarded at the value of resident tuition over four years, currently \$38,496 for four years (\$9,624 per year).



What Seniors should be doing now

- Add to, review, and finalize your resume.
- Finalize your college essay if needed.
- Make note of all deadlines for admissions and financial aid.
- Set up a meeting with Mrs. Meskunas if you have questions.
- Review recommendations and ask for additional ones if necessary.
- Take SAT or ACT one more time, if needed.
- **Complete college applications (Sept. – Dec.).**
- **Send official transcripts (guidance office)**
- **Send SAT/ACT scores to colleges (actstudent.org or sat.collegeboard.org)**
- Gather information needed for FAFSA and CSS profile (selective colleges)
- Fill out FAFSA (available Oct.).
- Apply for local scholarships (all year).
- Take necessary AP exams.
- Notify colleges of your decision to accept or decline their offer (May).
- Accept or decline financial aid/scholarships from the college you plan to attend.



What Junior should be doing now.

- Check your GPA, transcript and rank for accuracy
- **Take the PSAT/NMSQT (October 10th)**
- Begin the process of applying to any of the Military Academies, if applicable
- Write a first draft of your resume (fall)
- Take the SAT and/or the ACT (winter or spring)
- Register with the NCAA clearing house as a recruitable athlete, if applicable
- Request admissions information from colleges and universities
- Visit colleges, either in person or online
- Clean up your social media presence.
- Make sure you graduate on time by fulfilling all district requirements
- Gather any college admissions specific information such as your art or music portfolio, athletic game tapes, or tests.
- Ask teachers, coaches, employers, or other adults for recommendations.



What Freshmen and Sophomores should be doing now

Freshmen

- Finalize your 4 year plan.
- Get to know your counselor.
- Know your course descriptions.
- Monitor your grades.
- Explore the extracurricular and community organizations open to you.
- If interested, join JROTC.
- Investigate community service opportunities. Keep track of your hours.
- Start thinking about college and what you would like to gain from college.
- Visit colleges during weekends or breaks.

Sophomores

- Check your GPA.
- Finalize your 4 year plan.
- Enroll in Advanced Placement (AP) courses where possible.
- Take the PSAT.
- Prepare for SAT/ACT.
- Military academy? Start planning now.
- Investigate careers.
- Think about what type of college you would like to attend.
- Visit colleges during weekends or breaks.
- Consider community colleges.
- Prepare for college application fees and exam fees.



Social Media

- Do not post anything that you would not want a college representative or potential employer to see.
- Be careful! People are checking.
- Make certain that you have an appropriate, professional email address. Don't use livingtoparty@gmail.com. You will need a separate email address other than your school email. Otherwise, colleges will not be able to contact you after you graduate.



Financial Aid

- Not being able to afford a certain school should not stop you from applying if you think you can get in.
- You don't know which colleges your family can afford until you get an estimate based on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) that you submit at the beginning of October in your senior year.
- This form determines what your family can contribute and what types of scholarships and grants you might be eligible.