



**COLLEGE
BOUND
2009-2010**

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to College Bound! For your information, interest and assistance this booklet has been published by the Advocates for College Awareness, a community volunteer group formed in 1986 to heighten awareness and provide information about the process of college application and admission. **College Bound** encourages self-assessment to determine interest and abilities, provides methods for deciding where to apply and offers important details for college-entrance test taking and financial aid application.

A bibliography of selected books will enhance your understanding, and a section called “Feedback” offers advice from high school graduates.

Other activities of the Advocates for College Awareness are: workshops in the fall and spring on college application and admission; VISIONS, a newsletter sent to parents of high school students every October and February, and individual counseling for college bound students.

We hope you enjoy this booklet and the other activities and publications of the Advocates for College Awareness. We thank the Great Falls Public Schools for their assistance in these endeavors.

Good luck and have fun in the process. Remember that there are many resources in our community.

Gerry Jennings
Coordinator of Advocates for College Awareness

GOOD LUCK!!



Though the road you are walking be well traveled, that does not necessarily mean it is leading to your destination.”

Albert Einstein

Don't be afraid to break your "comfort zone" when applying to colleges! Just because your relatives or friends have attended a particular college or university does not mean that it will be a good school for you. Becoming acutely aware of your own value system in relation to your education is the key to choosing the school that will offer the best challenge for you. Examine those values closely and seek a personal experience in your higher education that is as unique as the individual that you are.

FOCUS AREAS

College admissions officers are looking for applicants who are well rounded and show interests in a variety of areas.

The six areas emphasized are:

Scholastic Aptitude – curriculum, high school grades (most important of all), SAT, ACT, achievement tests.

Leadership – student council, club officer, church group, 4H, Scouts, team captain, mentor.

Athletic and Artistic Activities – sports (team, individual, recreational), choir, art, clubs, awards.

Community Activities – Any extra-curricular activity, clubs, volunteer work (check Community Help Line, United Way, local church, etc. for volunteer work).

Character - how others view you; comes through in references, application, interview.

Attitude - how you view things: cooperative, willing, positive; comes through in essays, interviews.

Set your goals early and be sure to include participation and accomplishment in **each** of the focus areas. Keep track of your activities as record keeping will facilitate the process of filing applications in your senior year. The enclosed activity form is suggested for your use. Update it frequently and you will benefit from its thoroughness. Share it with your parents so they may offer suggestions and assistance.

WHY COLLEGE?

In planning for your college education take this opportunity to make a list of reasons for going to college. Place your most important reason at the top of the list.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Discuss your reasons with your parents, counselors and friends.

Next, get a clear picture of yourself, your strengths and weaknesses, your likes and dislikes. Your abilities, interests, attitudes, and personality play important parts in the college decision-making process.

The following questions may help you begin:

1. **Academic:** Are you a good, average, below average student? Does your school record reflect your capabilities? What kind of courses have you taken in high school? Do you excel, or are you weak in any specific area? Do you learn best in a competitive or in a relaxed climate?
2. **Extracurricular:** Do you participate in school activities? In community or local affairs? To what clubs, sports or cultural groups do you belong? Have you traveled? Extensively? Not at all? What are your interests or hobbies?
3. **Personal Attitudes and Values:** Are you open to new experiences or do you prefer a familiar environment? Do you work best independently or with others? Do you want to go out on your own or stay near family or friends?

After you have explored your reasons for going to college and considered your own interest and abilities, it is time to investigate what is available to you.

Consider your list of reasons. Ask yourself what you need to know about a college in order to determine if you will be able to fulfill these.

The following worksheet lists some college characteristics. Check only those that are important to you, and make notes after those where you would like to indicate a specific requirement. Don't limit your options by being too specific too early! Use this worksheet when working with the Montana Career Information System (MCIS) for finding colleges to match your interests and specifications. See your counselor for more information.

MAJOR FIELD _____

LOCATION

Urban/Suburban Geographical Area

SIZE _____

TOTAL COST

Tuition
 Room/Board
 Fees/Travel
TOTAL

CONTROLLING BODY

Private
 Public
 Church Affiliation
 Military

HOUSING

Dormitories
 Off-Campus
 No Preference

OTHER

Strong Departments
 Entrance Exams
 Special Academic Programs
 Remedial Programs
 Honors Program

FINANCIAL AID

Scholarship
 Part-time job
 Loan
 Not needed
 Other

LENGTH OF PROGRAM

One Year
 Two Years
 Four Years
 Other

STUDENT BODY

Co-educational
 Women only
 Men only

FEATURES

Academic Major Available
 Library/Other Facilities
 Faculty/Student Ratio
 Placement Services
 Age/Prestige of School
 Tutoring Services
 Athletic Programs
 Social Environment
 Academic Environment
 Co-op Programs
 Student Services Available
 Travel Distances
 Student Regulations

LEARNING MORE ABOUT COLLEGES

The more information you can gather about the colleges that interest you, the better your chance of making a good choice. Start a file folder for each college which interests you. Initiate the process by looking through **college catalogs** in the guidance department or in the public library. The information in the catalogs will help you decide which schools to contact for more information. College catalogs vary, but most contain detailed information on admissions, student life, academic offerings, degree requirements, costs and financial aid. Another aid in beginning your search is Montana Career Information Systems (MCIS). After inputting the characteristics that are important to you, the computer will print out colleges that combine these characteristics. Check with the counselors for the use of this. Talk to counselors, friends, school teachers, and advocates about colleges with which they are familiar. Many colleges and universities are represented by alumni in your community. Call these people and talk to them about their school. **Use the internet to access information about colleges which may interest you. Some have virtual tours of their institution.**

Continue the process by **writing a letter** to each college expressing your interest in the institution and requesting additional information. Be specific about the information you want – tell the college something about yourself and be sure grammar and spelling are correct and your letter is neat.

College newspapers are also a good source of information about day-to-day student life. Write to the colleges and request these.

College representatives will meet with you and give you first hand information about the college. Check with the counselors to see if a recruitment or admissions officer from the college is scheduled to visit your high school. If not, write to the college requesting an appointment with a college representative in this area. Before you meet with the representative, think about the questions and interests you have concerning the college.

College visits are probably the best way to learn about a college. If possible, plan to visit during the academic year when students are in residence and classes are in session. Many colleges schedule regular campus tours conducted by students and will arrange for you to spend the night in a dorm and dine in the cafeteria. Be sure to write a letter requesting these amenities. Plan to attend some classes, visit the

library and student center, and arrange for an interview with the admissions officer, as well as the department representative (faculty member).

When you are ready to start your applications, apply to more than one school unless you are absolutely certain of admission. Most students will apply to: (1) a “dream” college – one that is competitive for their aptitude level, (2) a “probable” college - selective but quite possible, (3) a “sure entry” college – less selective or open admission. Of course, you may apply to more than three!

Keep your options open! Avoid limiting yourself in your search; allow for changes of mind and interest. Likewise, it is not necessary to specialize too early. A liberal arts education offers a wide spectrum of study and prepares a student for many areas of employment. Some organizations prefer employees who have not specialized but who can be further educated/trained by the organization.

COLLEGE INTERVIEW

Whether required or not an interview is your chance to personally express your interests and goals, your background and the reasons you are interested in the college. It also gives you an opportunity to assess the college. Remember that the interview is a two way process, so be prepared with questions to help you decide which college you want to attend. Dress appropriately and be punctual. Write a thank-you note to the admissions officer to express your appreciation.

APPLICATIONS

START EARLY! This cannot be emphasized enough. Read through the entire application to see what is needed and what the deadlines are. In most cases, different parts are due at different times. Give yourself plenty of time (weeks, not hours). Make a checklist to help you outline the admissions requirements and deadlines for each college. Photocopy the blank application form so you have spares in case of mistakes.

The application must look professional. Remember that you are competing against other students who will be submitting their best applications. Most schools have on-line applications available. Typed applications (if not applying on-line) present better than hand-written. The grammar and spelling must be perfect. There is no excuse for corrections. Have your form checked by several people (parents, teachers, counselors, volunteers) for corrections. This all takes time, but the results are well worth it. Make certain that your answers are accurate.

The Transcripts must be sent by your high school. Make the request for your transcript in advance and give the deadline date. Transcript sent with the application can either be picked up by the student or sent by the school. Final transcript must be requested from and sent by your high school. Check to be sure this has been sent. Even though it may be of utmost importance to you, it may not be the most important thing that the high school has to do that day.

Your **SAT and ACT scores** will be sent to colleges by the testing service if you have requested it on your test application. If you did not, be sure you make a separate request.

You will be asked to send recommendations from **references**. It is advantageous to select your references well before recommendations are required. Often you are told who should write the recommendation; other possibilities may be teachers, clergy, family friends, community leaders, and employers. When you decide whom to select, ask if they would be willing to write a recommendation for you and be sure to give them enough time (at least two weeks). Follow up on whether this has been sent and be sure to send a thank-you note.

The **essays** are the part of the application where you can express who you are. Allow this to come through. Be creative, honest, humorous, exciting, and unique! Dare to be different! They are not looking for lists of activities; they are looking for creativity. Discuss with your family what your topics may be. You must do the writing, but ask others to critique the essays for you. **The application is you!** It is the one item that separates you from all the other applicants. Your essay should make them remember who you are and why it is important both for you to attend their school and for them to have you as a student. Do not hesitate to include newspaper clippings, tapes of musical performances, poetry, or even a cover letter explaining any circumstances affecting your high school performance and why you chose to apply.

Clarify your extra-curricular activities, if necessary (e.g., what is “Wranglers” or “Bisonettes”). Be sure to photocopy your completed application for your file.

Send the application at the earliest possible date. Early applicants often receive more attention than applicants just meeting the deadline, giving them an edge when it comes to admission. Don’t stand at the end of the line when there is limited seating.

After the application filing period, call or write the college admissions office and ask if any materials are needed to complete your file (scores, transcripts, recommendations, etc.).

Everyone hopes to be accepted at all, or at least one, of the schools applied to. If you are put on the waiting list, is there anything that you can do to facilitate your ultimate acceptance? **YES!!** First, write to the school to express your interest in being kept on their list of interested applicants. Next, ask if there is anything missing from the required materials (references, transcript, etc.). Finally, let them know that you are very interested in their school and would be interested in coming to see them personally (if this is at all possible).

EARLY DECISION PLAN

You may reduce the number of applications you file without penalizing your chances of admission or financial aid by applying under the Early Decision or Early Action plan. Application must be made and all tests completed by November 15 (November 1 for some). You will be notified by the college of its admissions and financial aid decisions by mid-December. If you are not accepted under this plan, your application is reconsidered without bias under the college's regular admissions plan. You will still have time to initiate other applications to other schools.

TESTS

The College Entrance Examination Board (CEEB), with a membership of over 800 American colleges and universities, administers the SAT. Check the admission requirements of prospective schools for the tests they require and the dates by which they must be taken.

Preparation for PSATs, SATs, and ACTs is of utmost importance. This preparation includes study and practice. Study guides are listed under "References". Make it a habit to spend time every day (20 to 30 minutes) studying the vocabulary. You can increase your score by studying and reading. Review the math and grammar sections. Each high school has materials to help prepare for the college entrance exams.

Take the tests more than once so you know what to expect. You may take them any time, but at least take them during your junior year in preparation for your final testing during the fall of your senior year if you do not do well enough the first time.

Test dates and registration dates are included in this booklet. Registration deadlines are final. The dates given are for testing in Great Falls.

PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test)

A preliminary test to the SAT, PSAT/NMSQT is also the qualifying exam for the **National Merit Scholarship Program**. This scholarship can be very lucrative, depending on the need of the student, parent employment, and the college chosen.

Although the test may be taken at any grade level (except senior) we recommend taking it for practice during the freshman and/or sophomore years. **Junior year PSAT is used for National Merit qualification**; however, the results of the PSAT do not go on your transcripts.

SAT (Scholastic Assessment Test)

SAT I: Reasoning Tests. Consisting of three parts – Verbal Reasoning, Mathematical Reasoning, and Writing. SAT I will require three hours of testing time. Hand-held calculators are recommended for the math section. Students can register on-line at www.collegeboard.org.

SAT II: Subject Tests. Subject tests (formerly Achievement tests) give students an opportunity to show their academic strengths in a wide variety of subject areas important to college performance and course placement.

A few of the more prestigious schools require the SAT and you may choose where you want the results sent. You may even take it for practice and have the scores sent to your home only. The highest score in the math and verbal sections is 800. The SAT results are not the only factors that determine your acceptance as is sometimes thought, but may well separate you from other worthy candidates.

Not all schools require the SAT II. Check the college catalogs to see if your choices do require SAT IIs and which ones they require. Not all should be taken during the senior year. If you should decide to take biology, chemistry, or a language that you complete before the senior year, take the SAT II upon completion of that course. These tests are one-hour exams for each subject and are sometimes used by colleges as placement exams.

Register on time. Reference books are available for the SAT IIs.

ACT (American College Testing)

An admission exam similar to the SAT, it includes English, math, reading and science reasoning and is sometimes used for course placement. Check individual school requirements. Students can register on-line www.act.org. Highest score in each section is 36. Composite score is the average of individual sections.

COLLEGE BOUND STUDENTS 2009-2010 TESTING CALENDAR

Resources: www.act.org OR www.collegeboard.com OR CMR/GFH School Calendars at www.gfps.k12.mt.us .

TEST DATE	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	TIME	LOCATION
<u>PSAT</u>			
10/14/09			CMR/GFH
<u>ACT</u>			
10/24/09	9/19/09*	8:00 a.m.	CMR/GFH
12/12/09	11/6/09*	8:00 a.m.	CMR/GFH
2/6/10	1/5/10*	8:00 a.m.	CMR/GFH
4/10/10	3/5/10*	8:00 a.m.	CMR/GFH
6/12/10	5/7/09*	8:00 a.m.	CMR/GFH
<u>SAT I & II</u>			
10/10/09	9/9/09*	8:00 a.m.	GFH
11/7/09	10/1/09*	8:00 a.m.	GFH
12/5/09	10/30/09*	8:00 a.m.	GFH
1/23/10	12/15/09*	8:00 a.m.	GFH
3/13/10 (SAT I Only)	2/4/10*	8:00 a.m.	GFH
5/1/10	3/25/10*	8:00 a.m.	GFH
6/5/10	4/29/10*	8:00 a.m.	GFH

STUDENTS MAY NOT TAKE SAT I AND SAT II ON THE SAME DAY.

*Registration forms must be postmarked by the first deadline or a penalty fee will be charged.

	<u>CMR</u>	<u>GFH</u>
School Code:	270397	270400
ACT Test Center Code:	7959	7960
SAT Test Center Code:		27130

FINANCIAL AID

Avoid ruling out any college because of cost until you find out if you are eligible for financial aid. Demonstrated need is the difference between what it costs to attend a college and what your family can reasonably contribute. Help is available in several forms:

- Scholarships (state, college, ROTC, National Merit, sponsoring organization or corporation, athletic, subject area, competitive)
- Federal assistance, including Pell grants
- Military assistance
- Benefits for children of deceased or disabled veterans
- Work study programs
- Guaranteed student loans
- Co-op programs

Students must go to the high school counseling departments to ask about the hundreds of scholarships based on academic achievement, specialized skills or talents, proposed field of concentration, competitive essay/speech, financial need or other factors. The counselors also distribute financial aid bulletins to students. The high school counseling department would also have the scheduled date for the annual Financial Aid Workshop.

Parents may have to complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in order for students to apply for scholarships. Start early in your senior year.

Be sure to write to the colleges in which you are interested to inquire about scholarships or other forms of available financial aid. Many schools have “blind” admission, i.e. the student is accepted on merit without the school’s knowledge of his/her financial need. After a student is accepted, the school then reviews the financial application and compiles an aid package consisting of a combination of grant, loan, and work study.

FEEDBACK

This section contains quotes from graduating high school students to help you in planning your education after high school. Remember that requirements and policies vary from college to college.

Early Decision

“This is quite convenient if you have a clear-cut first choice college however, you must make your decision by November in most cases. Also, beware of the two versions of this plan: Early ACTION still allows you to apply for regular decision at other schools, regardless of acceptance or denial at your first choice. Early DECISION requires you to attend if you are accepted.”

“What was nice about it was that I could relax while most of the others around me started getting nervous and tense. I could concentrate on important things – like enjoying my senior year!!”

“It is an ‘unproven rumor’ that if you go early decision and are deferred until the spring, you have a better chance because the school knows that you are really interested.”

“When applying for early decision, be sure to check for the deadline.”

Researching and Visiting Colleges

“The best initial source for choosing the right college is MCIS or Bridges.com in the Guidance Office. It will tell you the names of colleges that have curriculums pertaining to your interests and other important things such as application deadlines and tuition fees...send away for more information from the college that looks promising. In the meantime, you can look up more information in the books available in the Guidance Office. The final step is to go and visit the college campus.”

“Sit down and make a list of things you want from a college. Put all of the items down in order of importance to you. Then you can evaluate each college you are considering by seeing how many and which of your requirements the college fills. The ones that fit the most items on your list are probably the ones to which you will want to apply. Here are some things

you might want to put down: size of college, student-to-faculty ratio, location, cost, overseas study program, accreditation, and admissions standards. These are only a few. The most important thing is to list what YOU want and pick the college you like, not the one your parents or friends may want. This is your decision!!

“Talk to your counselor and past graduates, and read college hand-books and handouts to determine the college best suited to your needs and likes. Also, speak with your parents – financing your education is probably going to be somewhat of a difficult task. Utilize computers and punch in information relevant to you – the printouts can often lead you in the right direction. Research is helpful, but only to a point; a visit to the campus can tell you more than the best literature could ever hope to.”

“Begin sending for information your sophomore year. This gets you on mailing lists and you receive many pamphlets for the next two year. You also will get applications earlier. Addresses are in college guides.”

“You can start with the information you receive in the mail, then start talking to other students, read up on schools that catch your eye, and use the computer in the guidance office. It also helps to talk to college representatives who come to the school. Aside from the pamphlets from the colleges, the best places to get information are from Barron’s Book of Colleges and the computer resources.”

“One book I consulted was extremely good: The Insider’s Guide to the Colleges. This book is written and published by college students and tells you what you **really** want to know about many U. S. schools. It changed my mind about several schools!”

“If you already are interested in a particular major for college, then you are in business. All you have to do then is look for some of the top schools in that field and choose. However, if you are part of the majority who plan on taking liberal arts at first, then you should look into schools which provide a wide variety of fields... One can dabble in these until one finds a major that would be suitable.”

“Try to get the Gourman reports. This is a report in which each department at each college is ranked. You might be surprised at what you find.”

Applications

“Each application should be filled out on a Xeroxed copy first!! Applications are very delicate – cross outs and erasure marks are very unattractive. By looking at the application, the admissions officer can get a good idea of what kind of person you are, so make a good impression. Even if you receive an application in August or September – read it immediately because you cannot assume that all applications are due January 1 – many have preliminary applications due much earlier.”

“Put time into your application and make it look presentable. Neatness counts! If your application is neat, an admissions person receives a good first impression of you.”

“Be very neat. Get them typed if possible. Read all the directions first.”

“Make sure that when applying to colleges you apply to a wide range of universities. If one college won’t accept you, a backup college is there just in case.”

“Usually long, tedious, and seemingly endless. However, don’t rush through them just to finish. Show yourself to your best possible advantage and try to keep remembering how rewarding your acceptance will be!”

“Make extra copies of all the applications you send out since you may be able to reuse the same information.”

Essays

“Do not put essays off until the last minute!! Spend some time and thought on them. When you are done, have someone else proof them to catch any errors you missed. Type or write it **neatly** on the application. Proofread again to check for mistakes. Write the best paragraph you can, but do not try to be too sophisticated or flowery – a well thought out message in your own home style is best.”

“If an essay is required or optional, write one! **Start early**. Allow time for a lot of re-writing. Don’t write what you think “they” want you to write. Write about something that means a lot to you. Make it different. Have other people besides your parents read it, and accept their criticism. Do not be afraid to pitch it and start over.”

“Essays are perhaps the most important part of the application. Essays show the admissions officers how well the student can write, think, and express themselves in a concise manner. If requested, one should submit essays; it is generally to the student’s advantage. One should take the time to write a quality essay. The topics which usually work best are those about personal experiences or hobbies.”

“Be creative and original! Of course there are fine lines and distinctions to be wary of, but the personal essay on the application for which I got accepted was a **fable!** Make your uniqueness stand out – be remembered! I have heard of an application being sent enclosed in a loaf of French bread, for instance!” (not recommended by this publication!)

“Do not merely write a good, satisfactory essay. Treat the essay as a creative project, be willing to devote time to it, and write an essay that will distinguish itself somehow. Use a creative interpretation of the question or a creative style of presentation that will make the admissions office remember your essay.”

Teacher Recommendations

“Ask teachers that you like and like you. It would be helpful if you did well in his/her class and are interested in the subject. Give them the recommendation form early. They have a lot of other work to do, and an application due the next day will not be done in the best manner. Their extra effort is really a help to you; it could get you in or keep you out. A written thank you would be appreciated and if not that, be sure and thank them verbally.”

“Very important – ask only teachers that you are sure will write positive and long recommendations. Colleges can’t learn anything about you from one short paragraph.”

“Ask a teacher who knows you well and likes you, of course. Also, make sure your teacher taught you a course the college would consider important; i.e., a science or math teacher for a technical school, etc.”

“Early in the senior year, ask two teachers with whom you have had a positive association if they would be willing to write a recommendation. Give the teachers at least two weeks notice and include a properly addressed stamped envelope with the recommendation form.”

Interviews

“Be neat, well dressed, and on time. To demonstrate a sincere interest in the college, have intelligent questions to ask the interviewer.”

“Try to anticipate questions: they like to know about your family, your schedule, and your hobbies. **BE CALM AND RELAX!**”

“Getting interviews on campus is usually easy to do. Just ask at admissions when you are trying to set up a visit. Try to get interviews with professors of the department in which you are thinking of studying. Use this opportunity to ask any and all questions you have about the college. See this as your chance to find out if this is a school where you will get your money’s worth.”

“BE YOURSELF!”

Taking Tests

“Be sure to make use of the score reports available at no extra charge when you take your tests. You don’t have to be sure about a college to have your scores sent there.”

“More often than not, you will score higher when you take the SAT a second time. I strongly recommend taking an SAT review course. It raised my score 140 overall from the first time.”

Most schools require either an SAT or an ACT test score. You should probably take the SAT twice – once in your junior year and at least once as a senior. The school will take the best score.”

“Take your SATs early. That way, if you do badly, there’s always time to re-take them. Take the achievement tests in English, math, and depending on the school, science or a foreign language. Review courses can help, but don’t expect them to propel you directly to the 1600 mark. Plan wisely, study in advance, and no matter what you do, don’t cram the night before the tests!”

Financial Aid

“It’s tough – there is no denying it. Some books are written strictly about available scholarship money, and these can be found in almost any library or bookstore. Talk to the school itself; find out how much the average student receives in scholarship and where the primary sources are. The guidance counselors can help a great deal in this department as well.”

“Many colleges are need-blind, which means that they accept you and if you can’t afford it, they pay for you. You should apply to a college even though you may think you cannot afford it. There is always some way you will manage.”

“Even if you absolutely know you cannot get it – FILL IT OUT AND SEND IT!! What can you lose?”

“Writing to the school of your choice and checking with the GIS (MCIS now) computer are the best ways to look for aid. Many schools have study programs, part-time status for working students, and cooperative education programs where students go to school for half the year and work in their field for the other half. With growing tuition prices and the increase in the number of people who fall into the middle class income group, these are some of the better alternatives.”

TIME LINE FOR COLLEGE PREPARATION

9th Grade

- Fall – College Bound Workshop
- Set goals and objectives for next four years – accept challenges
- Develop good study habits
- Keep record of all activities on “High School Activities” sheet
- Study vocabulary for SATs and ACTs on regular basis
- Plan class schedule considering college goals (advanced courses, language, electives, are study halls necessary?)
- Develop reading and writing skills
- Top students might consider taking the PSAT this year.

10th Grade

- Follow 9th grade items plus:
- October – take PSAT in preparation for 11th grade testing
- Fall – SAT/ACT Preparation Workshop
- Fall – College Bound Workshop
- Take SAT II for Biology as soon as course is completed
- Keep activity list current
- Use MCIS to start investigating colleges
- Study hard – GPA is very important

11th Grade

- October – PSAT (qualifying exam for National Merit Scholarship Program)
- SAT and ACT – check dates
- MCIS – arrange with counselors
- Fall – College Bound Workshop
- Fall – SAT/ACT preparation workshop
- Spring – College Bound Workshop for Juniors
- College catalogs – guidance departments and public library
- Write to colleges for information – keep separate file on each
- Investigate scholarship information
- Attend college rep sessions
- Take SAT II tests (chemistry, language, history, etc.)
- Visit colleges – interviews

12th Grade

Fall – SAT/ACT review course

College Bound Workshop

SAT or ACT

Final SAT II tests

Preparation of college applications – check deadlines

Scholarship applications – check deadlines

Early Decision Applications (usually by November 15)

REFERENCES

FINANCIAL AID GUIDES

Barron's Handbook of American College Financial Aid

The College Money Handbook – Peterson

Montana Financial Aid Handbook

Web Sites

www.finaid.org (a private site)

www.fastweb.com (Financial aid and guide to colleges)

www.collegequest.com (Peterson Guide)

GUIDES TO COLLEGES

Lovejoy's Career and Vocational Guide

Peterson's Guide to Four Year Colleges

Selective Guide to Colleges

Lovejoy's Guide to College

College Handbook – College Board

Handbook for College Admission – Thomas Hayden

Insiders Guide to Colleges – The Yale Daily News

Gourman Report (ranking of colleges according to majors)

TESTING PREPARATION GUIDES

Barron's How to Prepare for the SAT College Entrance

Examination (also available for ACT, PSAT, and SAT II

Cracking the System – The SAT – Princeton Review

(Hints on how to take the tests)