

POST-HIGH SCHOOL OPTIONS

4-year College/University

Minnesota State University Mankato, University of St. Thomas, University of Minnesota, University of Wisconsin, North Dakota State University, and many more!

Military

Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Space Force!

Apprentice

Auto Glass Installation, Cabinetmaker, Electrician, Elevator Installation, Plumber, Pipefitter, Roofer, Contractor, Cement Mason, and more!

2-year School

Hennepin Technical College, Normandale Community College, and more!

Gap Year

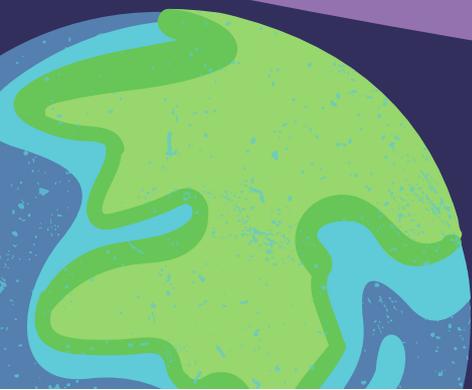
Travel, work, volunteer!

Certificates & Licenses

Emergency Medical Services, Acupressure & Holistic Therapies, Pet Grooming, Property Management, Personal Training, Computer Hardware & Software, Cosmetology, and more!

Did you know SHS offers the training for some certificates!?

Nursing Assistant, ProStart (culinary), Emergency Medical Responder, Child Development Associate, CompTIA A+, TestOut PC Pro, and more!



CONVERSATIONS TO HAVE AT HOME

DEFINING YOUR GOALS

The first step is to define your goals. Careers that require specific expertise and academic credentials usually require some kind of college, whereas careers that require hands-on experience may not.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTATIONS?

Make sure you're making decisions about your future for YOU. Write out a path to help you reach your goals. That may mean college, technical school, an apprenticeship, work, or the military. The most important thing is to do what's best for you.

WHAT AM I WILLING TO DO?

With all post-high school options, there will be pros and cons. What are you willing to do to reach your goals? Can you sit in lectures and write papers for 4 years? Are you ready to enter the workforce sooner than later? Can you endure the physical challenges of enlistment? Your path is unique. Do what is right for you.

WHAT ARE MY NEXT STEPS?

Now that you've defined your goal, what is your next step in accomplishing your goal? Who can help you with your goals? Do you have deadlines? Can you break down your goal into smaller pieces? Seek out resources that can help you with your goals. You DO NOT need to do this alone.

Things you can do in MCIS

Start a portfolio and save all your assessment results, research, and resume.

Take an interest assessment to find occupations that match your interests.

Get a Reality Check to find out if your career supports your planned lifestyle.

Learn about Green, STEM, and Hot occupations and see what jobs are available now.

Identify postsecondary schools that meet your needs.

Find scholarships and financial aid.

See what you can do with a 2-year college degree.

Learn how military occupations relate to civilian occupations.

Create several resumes in different styles by entering your information once.



Suggested Timeline

SPRING JUNIOR YEAR

- Use MCIS to explore post-secondary options
- Create a list of colleges you're interested in applying to
- Go on college visits

SUMMER

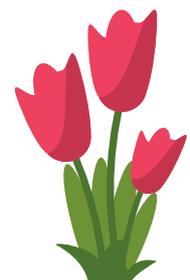
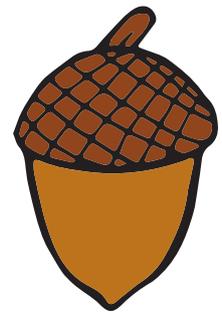
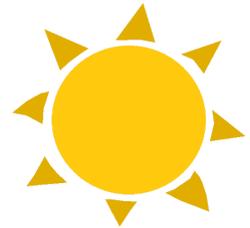
- Start working on college essays
- Go on college visits
- Retake the ACT if needed
- Update your resume
- Review application requirements for schools you're interested in

FALL SENIOR YEAR

- Double-check that your senior schedule fulfills all graduation requirements
- Attend Financial Aid Night in December
- Attend FAFSA Completion Night in January
- Complete college applications (the earliest deadline can be in October)
- Complete FAFSA
- Order your cap & gown
- Apply for scholarships
- Ask your School Counselor about the ASVAB if you're interested in enlisting in the military
- Maintain good grades

SPRING SENIOR YEAR

- Apply for scholarships
- Confirm your college enrollment by May 1
- Apply for jobs/apprenticeships
- Send your final transcript
- Complete your Senior Survey



HELPFUL WEBSITES

JUNIOR YEAR

SHAKOPEE HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

SHS COLLEGE & CAREER PAGE



FIND HELPFUL LINKS, PRESENTATIONS, COLLEGE PLANNING TIMELINES, COLLEGE REP VISIT CALENDARS, & COUNSELOR CONTACTS

MCIS



PORTAL.MCIS.INTO CAREERS.ORG

RESEARCH COLLEGES, CAREERS, MILITARY OPTIONS, & APPRENTICESHIPS

SEARCH FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

COLLEGE VISIT CALENDAR



SEE WHICH COLLEGE ADMISSIONS REPRESENTATIVES ARE VISITING SHS

SIGN UP TO MEET WITH VISITING REPS IN A SMALL GROUP

ACT



ACT.ORG

REGISTER TO RETAKE THE ACT & LOCATE FREE STUDY MATERIALS

REMEMBER, YOU WILL NEED YOUR SCORE RETURNED IN TIME FOR YOUR APPLICATION DEADLINE

SCHOLARSHIPS



FIND LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS AND SEARCH SCHOLARSHIP DATABASES

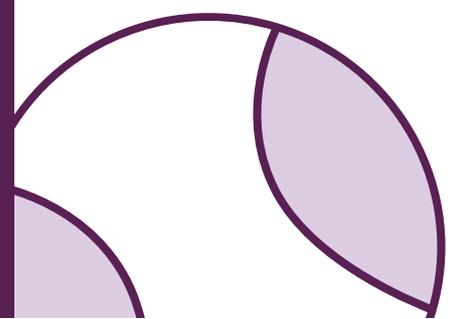
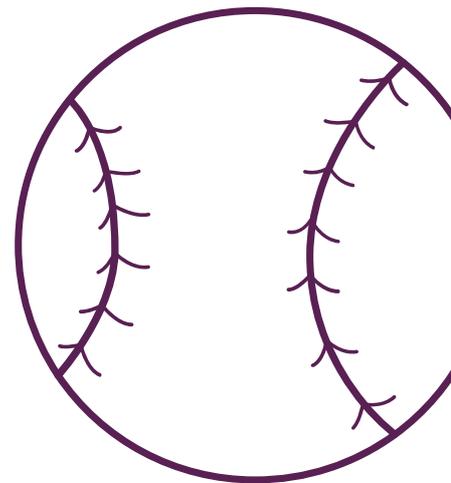
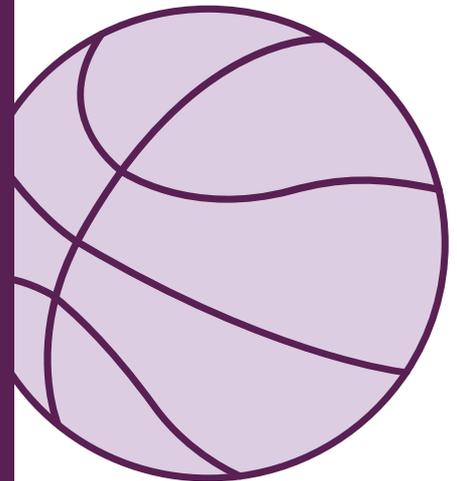
College Sports

NCAA

NAIA

If you are planning to play a sport in college, you will need to register with the **NCAA** (National Collegiate Athletic Association) if your sport is at a Division I or Division II level. These schools require a minimum academic level to be eligible to compete. Registration is typically done at the end of the junior year.

Some smaller schools are in the **NAIA** (National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics). There is a registration process to be eligible for those schools as well.



College Visits

IN-PERSON TOUR

1. GO TO THE ADMISSIONS PAGE
2. CLICK "VISIT"
3. CHOOSE THE OPTION THAT WORKS FOR YOU (GUIDED/SELF GUIDED/VISIT DAY)

VIRTUAL TOUR

1. GO TO THE ADMISSIONS PAGE
2. LOOK FOR A VIRTUAL TOUR OPTION
3. NO VIRTUAL OPTION?
TRY WWW.YOUVISIT.COM OR
CAMPUSTOURS.COM

**REMEMBER TO TAKE NOTES SO YOU CAN
COMPARE SCHOOLS LATER**



College Visits

WHY SHOULD I SCHEDULE A TOUR?

- IT'S YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO ASK QUESTIONS
- MEET WITH CURRENT STUDENTS
- GIVES YOU A FEEL FOR CAMPUS
- DEMONSTRATE INTEREST

WHAT SHOULD I SEE WHILE I'M ON CAMPUS?

- RESIDENCE HALLS
- STUDENT UNION
- SPORTS COMPLEXES
- ACADEMIC CENTER
- CAREER CENTER
- LIBRARY
- DINING HALLS

WHAT QUESTIONS SHOULD I ASK?

- WHAT IS YOUR AVERAGE CLASS SIZE?
- HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE CAMPUS CULTURE?
- WHAT IS YOUR TEST POLICY? DO ACT SCORES IMPACT SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABILITY?
- WHAT FACTORS IMPACT ADMISSIONS?

WHEN SHOULD I VISIT?

ANYTIME! YOU CAN VISIT BEFORE YOU APPLY TO SEE IF YOU'D LIKE TO APPLY. OR, YOU CAN APPLY AFTER YOU APPLY TO HELP YOU MAKE A FINAL DECISION.

REMEMBER TO TAKE NOTES SO YOU CAN COMPARE SCHOOLS LATER



ADMISSIONS VOCABULARY



Rolling Decision

Students can apply anytime during the application process and will get a decision back from the school when your application is processed.



Priority Decision

Schools with Rolling Admissions use Priority Decision. A student's application gets priority for admissions as long as it is completed within the application window specified by the school.



Early Decision

A student can only apply to one school for Early Decision (ED). ED is binding; if you apply ED and are accepted, you must attend this school and pull all applications submitted to other schools.



Early Action

Under Early Action (EA), a student can apply early and get a decision quickly with no requirement to attend. You can apply early action to more than one school.



Early Decision 2

This is a second round of ED that some schools offer. It is binding. The deadline is usually January 1 with the decision coming in February. If you don't get into your first ED school, this is a good option to apply to your 2nd choice ED.



Regular Decision

Students apply during the regular application period. This is non-binding and you can choose whether or not to attend. Deadlines vary by school.

COLLEGE VOCABULARY



Admission Tests

Some colleges require standardized tests for admissions. Popular admissions tests include ACT and SAT.



Class Rank

A measurement of how a student's academic achievement compares with that of other students in their grade at their high school. This number is usually determined by using a weighted GPA that considers both the student's grades and the difficulty of the courses they've taken.



Common Applications

Common applications, such as The Common App, Common Black App, and Coalition App, are applications that allow you to apply to more than one college with the same application.



Letter of Recommendation

Some colleges will ask for a letter of recommendation. These letters are written by teachers, counselors, coaches, and mentors who speak to the strengths of a student's academic ability and character.



GPA

A number that shows overall academic performance. It's computed by assigning a point value to each grade the student earns. SHS provides weighted and unweighted GPAs on their transcripts.



Transcript

The official record of a student's coursework at a school or college. Most colleges require applicants to include their high school transcript.



FAFSA

Free Application for Federal Student Aid
The federal form that colleges use to determine a student's eligibility for financial aid. We highly encourage all students/families to fill out the FAFSA.



Test Optional

College policy indicating that test scores are not required for the admission process.



Letters of Recommendation

Do I need a letter of recommendation?

It depends. Every college is different. You need to check admissions requirements.

Who can I ask for a letter of recommendation?

We recommend asking someone who can speak to your strengths as a student (typically a core content teacher or a teacher from your area of interest).

How do I ask for a letter?

1. Ask in-person for a letter of recommendation.
 2. Follow up with an email that includes a summary of your conversation, the deadline, and a brag sheet.
 3. Send a thank you note.
- ★ Allow at least 2 weeks for a recommender to write a letter.

Find your brag sheet here:



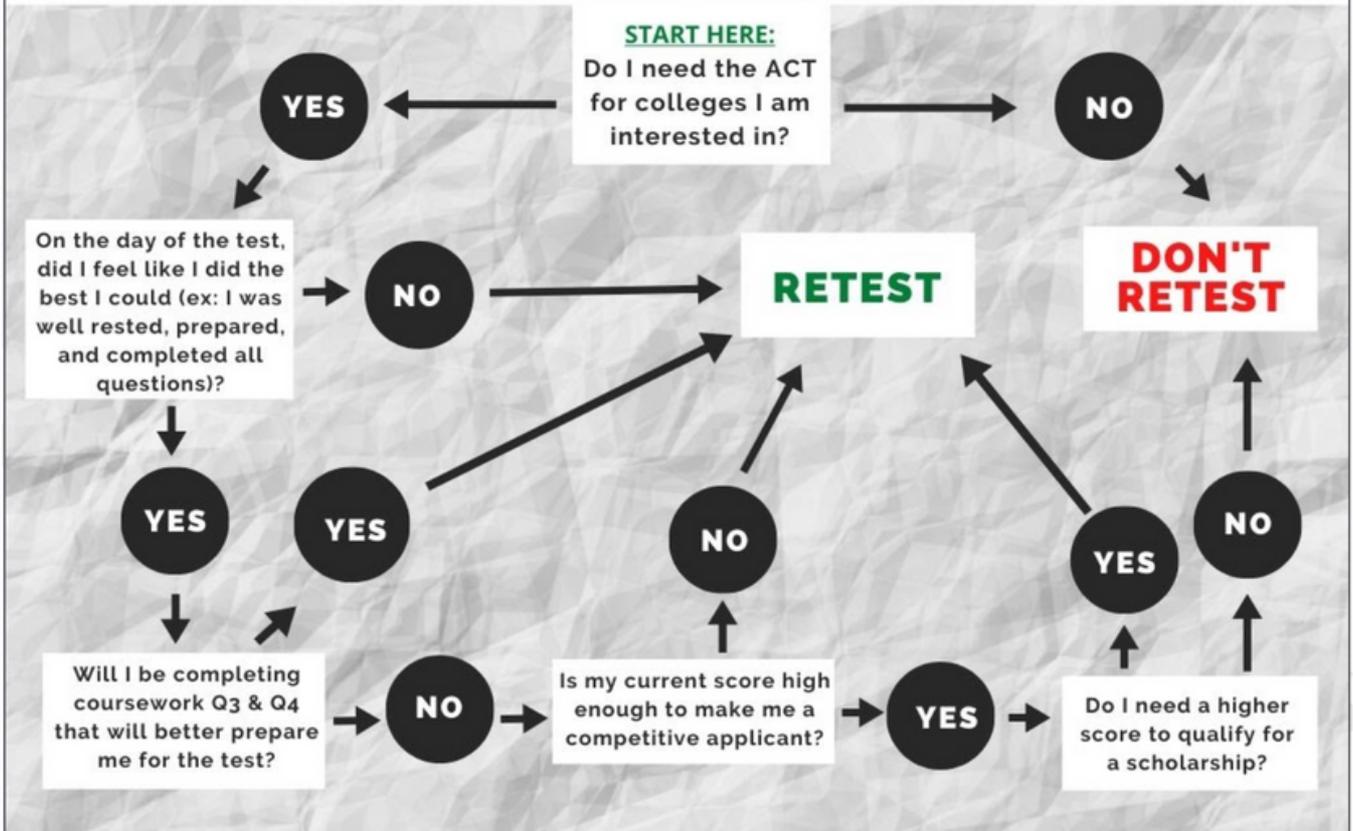
OR



ACT TESTING

SHOULD I RETAKE THE ACT?

A Helpful Guide from Shakopee High School Counseling Department



VISIT ACT.ORG

TO SCHEDULE FUTURE TESTS IF NEEDED.

**TEST SCORES WILL NEED TO BE RECEIVED
BY COLLEGES ON/BY APPLICATION
DEADLINE TO BE CONSIDERED**



FIND YOUR PATH

2022/2023 TEST DATES

SEP.
10

OCT.
22

DEC.
10

FEB.
11

APR.
15

JUN.
10

JUL.*
15

*No test centers are scheduled in New York for the July test date.

**WHEN IT COMES TO TEST PREP,
WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED.**

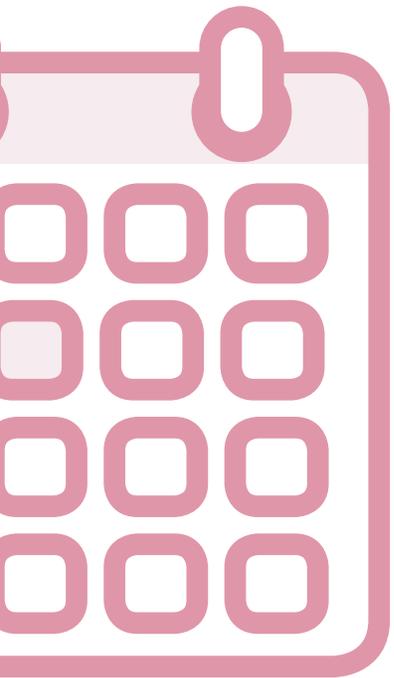
ACT offers test prep programs for every learning style with live video lessons, interactive practice questions, full-length practice tests, and on-demand tutorials.

Explore your test prep options, including a free practice test, at

act.org/prep.

Register online
at act.org/bts





TEST DATES

United States, US Territories, and Puerto Rico



2023|2024

Test Dates	Regular Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline	Photo Upload and Standby Deadline
September 9, 2023	August 4	August 18	September 1
October 28, 2023	September 22	October 6	October 20
December 9, 2023	November 3	November 17	December 1
February 10, 2024	January 5	January 19	February 2
April 13, 2024	March 8	March 22	April 5
June 8, 2024	May 3	May 17	May 31
July 13, 2024*	June 7	June 21	July 5

*No test centers are scheduled in New York for the July test date.

Test Information Release for the 2023–2024 testing year will occur in September, April, and June. See www.act.org/the-act/tir for more information.

www.act.org

Common App Essay Prompts 2023-2024

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.

2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?

3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?

4. Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?

5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.

6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?

7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

An **optional** COVID 19 response is available in the Additional Information section. This is for you to speak about how COVID has impacted *you*. Examples include illness or loss, employment changes, food insecurity, the toll on mental health, new obligations...etc.



QUALITIES TO CONVEY IN A COLLEGE ESSAY

INTELLECT

GIVE EXAMPLES OF HOW YOU CAN BE A SHARP THINKER. DISPLAY YOUR LOVE OF LEARNING.

IMAGINATION

DEMONSTRATE YOUR ABILITY TO WONDER ABOUT HOW THINGS MIGHT BE DIFFERENT.

IMPACT

SHOW THE QUALITY OF YOUR EXTRA-CURRICULAR EXPERIENCES BY TALKING ABOUT THE IMPACT YOU ARE MAKING ON OUR SCHOOL, YOUR PEERS, & THE SHAKOPEE COMMUNITY.

PERSPECTIVE

TELL THE WAYS YOU APPRECIATE COMMUNITY & ACCEPT DIFFERENCES.