



Getting Ahead of the Game:

How To Make the Most of the College Admissions Process

Presented by Ashley McCarrick and Scott Simons

About KD College Prep

- Established in **1992**
- Locations in Plano, Frisco, Dallas and Colleyville
- Our program is **highly personalized**
- All activity is conducted **in person, at our campus**
- **Flexible schedules** and **ongoing practice** to maximize student success
- We **commit** to students for all college admissions testing they will face

About KD College Prep

- Helped over **50,000 students** in the DFW area
- Over **1650 National Merit® Semifinalists** in the last 12 years alone
- Class of 2014 students are enrolled at **100+ universities**, including every Ivy League university
- **76 perfect scores** in the past 5 years



What are colleges looking for?



Admission Factors:

Academic Performance

- ✓ Admissions Tests
- ✓ GPA (*Grade Point Average*)
- ✓ Class Rank
- ✓ Difficulty of Curriculum (*Academic Index*)



Admission Factors:

Personal Performance

- ✓ Extracurricular activities
(*school & non-school*)
- ✓ Personal achievements
(*school & non-school*)
- ✓ Recommendations
- ✓ Interviews
- ✓ Application essays
- ✓ Demonstrated interest
in the college



Choosing the right college...



Start Researching Now!

- Do some soul-searching
- Make a preliminary list of colleges
- Go on college websites
- Talk to admission reps, alumni, and students
- Go to college fairs
- Fiske Guide to Colleges by Edward Fiske

My College Match

By Janet Miranda, PhD.

Colleges	GENEROUS ADMISSION	OUTPUT ADMISSION	SELECTIVE ADMISSION	MORE SELECTIVE	HIGHLY SELECTIVE	MOST SELECTIVE
	Open to many students; may or may not require test scores.	Not so much what you bring in with you but what you will be able to do when you graduate. Accept a class knowing 1/3 will not make it.	Could be a good fit for a solid student with nice test scores and school and community involvement.	Very selective with about 20% admission rate. Test scores must be high and coursework and grades are critical. School and community involvement with leadership.	Highly selective with about 10-15% admission rate. Test scores must be near or at NM level. AP® coursework is required. Leadership must be evident as well as school and community involvement.	Top 1-7% in the country. NM recognition is a must. Curriculum must be the most demanding at the HS. Community/school leadership.
ACT® Test SAT® Test <i>(CR+M)</i>	17-19 800-900	20-25 910-1170	26-29 1180-1300	28-31 1250-1400	29-32 1350-1500	33-36 1450-1600
GPA (4.0) Grades	= or < 2.5 < 75%	= or < 3.2 < 83%	= or < 3.6 < 86%	= or < 3.9 < 91%	= or > 4.0 > 92%	= or > 4.0 > 98%
Activities	Minimal involvement, perhaps only one.	One or two serious involvements and community volunteer work.	Serious involvement in two or more major activities, volunteer work in depth.	Leadership in school and community. Honors. Talent recognized at a district or state level.	Top leadership positions. Honors. Talent recognized at the state level. Volunteer. Work/Intern.	Highest level of talent, activities and leadership. Work/Intern Community. Summer Programs.
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My College Match

By Janet Miranda, PhD.

	GENEROUS ADMISSIONS	OUTPUT ADMISSIONS	SELECTIVE ADMISSIONS	MORE SELECTIVE	HIGHLY SELECTIVE	MOST SELECTIVE
© Miranda	Abilene Christian U Bellhaven College Cal Baptist Centenary College Collin College Dallas Baptist U Hardin-Simmons John Brown U Kansas State U Lamar University Lubbock Christian Mary Hardin-Baylor Missouri State U Oklahoma Baptist Oklahoma City U Oklahoma State U Ole Miss Ouachita Baptist Richland College Sam Houston State Southeastern (PA) The Kings College TX Lutheran TX Women's U U of Alabama U of Arkansas U of Charleston U of Montana U of Wyoming Union University	Abilene Christian U Alabama Anderson U (SC) Arizona Arizona State Baylor Cal Baptist Colorado State Creighton Drake Drury Howard Kansas LaTourneau LSU Millsap College Oklahoma State U Pace Savannah C A & D Stephen F. Austin Southeastern (PA) Texas Tech The Kings College U of South Carolina U of Dallas U of Houston U of Missouri U of Nebraska U North Colorado U North Texas U of San Diego	Agnes Scott American U Anderson U (SC) Auburn Austin College Azusa Pacific U Baylor Biola University Chapman Clemson Fordham Gordon Lehigh Messiah College Pratt Institute Samford Southwestern Taylor University TCU Trinity University TX State U Texas Tech U of Colorado U of Dallas U of Denver U of Miami U of Oklahoma U of Tulsa U TX at Dallas Westmont	Babson Barnard Belmont Boston College Boston University Emerson Florida State Georgia Tech George Washington Gordon Iowa State Michigan State Northeastern Pepperdine Purdue Rhodes SMU Texas A & M Trinity Tulane U of Florida U of Georgia U of Richmond Wake Forest	Barnard Boston College Carnegie Mellon Colorado Mines Davidson Emory NYU Northeastern Northwestern Notre Dame Texas A & M UC Berkley UCLA U North Carolina U of Michigan U of Texas - Austin U Southern Cal UVA U of Wisconsin USAFA USMA USNA Vanderbilt Washington U Wellesley Wheaton College William & Mary	Brown Cal Tech Columbia Cornell Dartmouth Duke Georgetown Harvard Johns-Hopkins MIT Princeton Rice Stanford St. Andrews Tufts U of Chicago U of Edinburgh U of NC U Penn U of Virginia Wheaton College Yale

Campus Visits

- The student schedules an appointment using online registration at the college web site
- Don't forget to register for both the information session and the tour
- Take family, not friends
- Dress appropriately

Campus Visits

- The student needs to be “in the driver seat”
- Send a “thank you” note
- Visit before you apply and possibly again before college acceptance
- Attend no more than two tours in one day
(for best experience and evaluation of each college)



The Application Process

The Application Process

- Use the common applications
- Send transcript
- Send an essay
- Send a resume
- Send test scores
- Send recommendations
- Fill out housing registration forms
- Fill out Financial Aid Forms
- Narrow your college list by September 1 of 12th grade
- 3-10 applications
- Send everything early, early, early ...

Tips For Reaching Success

- Maintain only one e-mail account throughout the admissions process
- Create a calendar for deadlines
- Understand Early Action, Early Action Single Choice and Early Decision
- Don't rely on third party sources or hearsay for your college information
- Challenge yourself during your senior year



Scholarship

- Academic Scholarships typically require strong test scores, class rank and depth in activities
- Your best source for money is the financial aid department at the college



College Admissions Tests: An Overview



The PSAT/NMSQT® Test

- The last practice round before college admissions testing
- The qualifying test for National Merit® Scholarship Programs in 11th Grade
 - *National Merit® Scholarship Finalists*
 - *National Achievement® Scholarship Finalists*
 - *National Hispanic Scholarship Finalists*
- Will change to new format in October 2015


Test Differences

	Old PSAT/ NMSQT® test	New PSAT/ NMSQT® test	Old SAT® test	New SAT® test	ACT® test
Length	2 hrs. 10 min.	2 hrs., 45 min.	3 hrs., 45 min.	3 hrs. With Essay 3 hrs. 50 min.	2 hrs. 55 min. With Essay 3 hrs. 25 min.
Essay	No	No	Yes	Optional*	Optional*
Reading	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Grammar	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Algebra II	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Trigonometry	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Science Topics	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Guessing Penalty	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Scoring	60-240	400-1600**	600-2400	400-1600	1-36

* KD Recommended

** Under Review

The ACT[®] Test

- 
- + Consistent, stable test
 - + Accepted by all colleges
 - + No vocabulary
 - + No tricky, critical reasoning questions
 - + No guessing penalty
 - Higher-level math than “Old SAT[®] Test”
 - Difficult Science section for some
 - Fast paced testing
 - +/- “Optional” Essay (*Optional for the college*)

SAT Subject Tests TM

- Required for admissions by many Tier 1 colleges
- Best taken at the conclusion of AP[®] or IB[®] courses
(May or June)
- SAT[®] and SAT Subject Tests[™] can NOT be taken on the same day
- Up to 3 subjects can be taken on test day
- Scored from 200-800 (700+ 😊)
- Always check with the colleges for specific details
 - *NOTE: Some colleges refer to these tests as SAT II exams*

SAT Subject Tests™

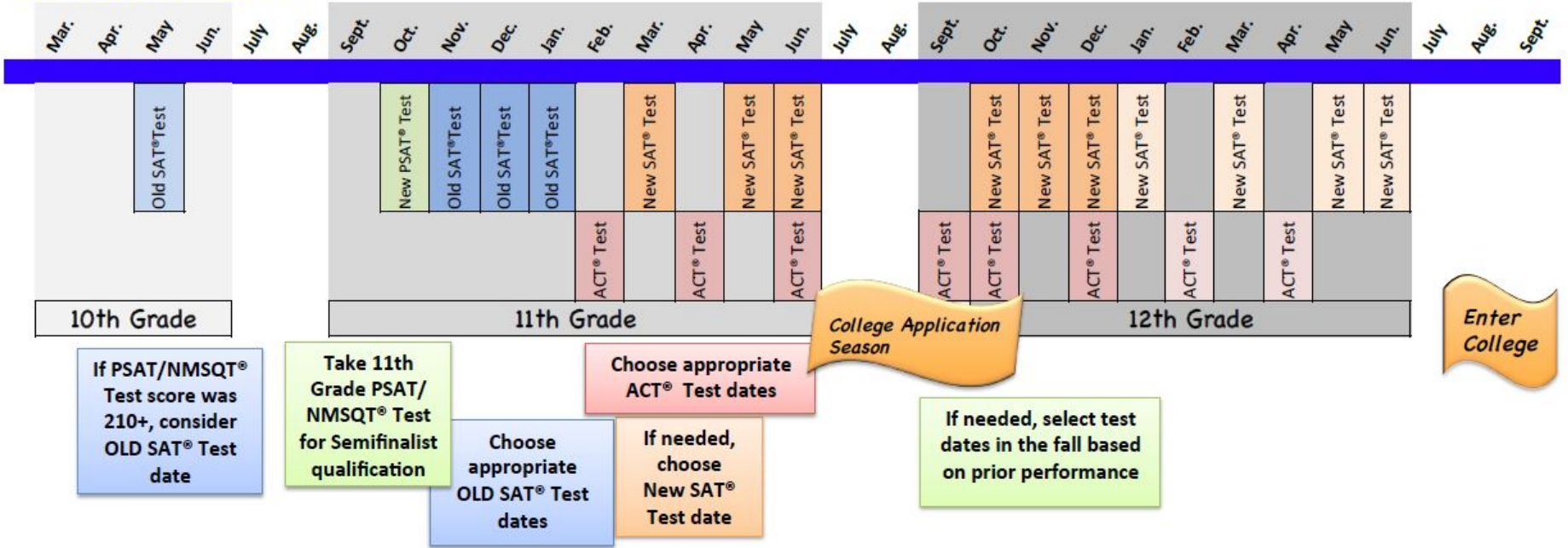
- Math Level 1
 - Math Level 2
 - Literature
 - Biology
 - Chemistry
 - Physics
 - U.S. History
 - World History
 - French
 - German
 - Italian
 - Latin
 - Modern Hebrew
 - Spanish
- Language Listening tests for native language (November Only)
 - Spanish
 - French
 - German
 - Chinese
 - Japanese
 - Korean

College Admissions Tests:

Creating a Testing Plan



CLASS OF 2017



Registering for National Tests

- **Online Registration**
 - collegeboard.org
 - actstudent.org
- **Establishing your identity with the test administrators**
 - Set-up account for other College Board® or ACT® services
 - “QuickStart” for PSAT/NMSQT® Test question explanations

NOTE:

- Social Security number is **not** required to register (*Optional*)
- The Questionnaire is **not** required to register (*Optional*)
- Registering early is recommended

Registering for National Tests

- **Sending scores to colleges**
 - Score Choice or not? (*Your choice*)
 - Super Score or not? (*The College's Choice*)
- **Reminders for Test Day**
 - Water, snack, No. 2 pencils, calculator, watch (*No beeping*), ID (*matching registration*), admission ticket
 - No cell phones or mechanical pencils allowed

KD Dallas Hours: Summer and School Year

Summer	
Monday – Thursday	8:30am – 9:00pm
Friday	8:30am – 4:00pm
Saturday	8:30am – 5:00pm
Sunday	Closed
School Year	
Monday – Thursday	12:00pm – 9:00pm
Friday	Closed*
Saturday	8:30am – 5:00pm
Sunday	11:15am– 6:30pm

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