

In a perfect world, college admissions would be a cut and dry process. If you meet the entrance requirements, you are admitted. Unfortunately, that is not the way it works which makes finding that perfect college fit a planning process not a specific event. At SFCA, we believe the college planning process should begin early in a student's high school career and develop throughout the student's time at SFCA. As your college counselor, I am committed to providing you with the highest level of professionalism, support and resources available to assist in making this overwhelming process a success for all families at SFCA.

Mrs. Long

College Fit

While you don't have to know exactly what you want to study in college, you are encouraged to narrow down your career choices and look for a college offering the programs of most interest to you. To help you define your college fit search, here are some items to ask yourself.

- I'd like to study _____ because I want to be _____.
- Are you looking for a public or private college?
- I prefer to attend college close to home, in the same state as home, out of state, as far away as I can.
- I prefer to live in a large, metropolitan city; a suburb of a large city; a medium sized city or a small, rural city.
- I prefer a college with a very large student body (20,000 or more), a large student body (10,000-20,000), a medium student body (5,000-10,000) or a small student body (5,000 or less).
- These college activities/organizations/clubs are important to me (list).
- What is the cost of attendance for this particular college?
- What is the retention rate for first year students at this college? What is the graduation rate?
Answers to these questions will help you measure the school's quality and satisfaction of its students.

Also, you may want to run a college search on one of the programs listed below.

www.collegeboard.com

www.fastweb.com

www.princetonreview.com

www.nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/

As always, it is highly recommended that students and parents tour the colleges the student feels are a fit for them. Then, once you have narrowed down your college fit list, you are ready to move on to the college **application checklist below**.

College Application Checklist

_____ *Research the admission information on each college of interest website; make note of deadlines and what information is needed to fill out the application.*

_____ *Research the financial aid information on each college of interest website to ensure you meet the deadline dates.*

_____ *Complete the admission application on-line and submit the application fee.*

_____ *Turn in a separate Transcript Request Form to the guidance office for each college application submitted.*

_____ *Make note of recommendations needed to complete your application. Please give teachers/counselor at least a two weeks' notice and supply a high school resume with your request.*

College Entrance Testing

ACT Assessment

The ACT is divided into five segments, although there are only four test sections. The ACT composite score is the arithmetic average of the math, English, reading, and science reasoning tests. It is a useful instrument for assessing a student's collective performance. The highest possible score is 36. Visit www.actstudent.org for more information.

ACT ENGLISH

A 75-question, 45-minute test, ACT-E measures how you use standard written English. The English test has subscores in the areas of usage/mechanics and rhetorical skills. The highest possible score is 36.

ACT MATHEMATICS

The ACT-M is a 60-item, 60-minute test measuring your ability to apply knowledge of mathematics, primarily in the areas of geometry and algebra. It stresses reasoning skills rather than knowledge of specific formulas. A calculator is permitted. The highest possible score is a 36.

ACT READING

The 35-minute ACT-R measures your ability to understand what is read. Based on reading passages, 40 questions assess reading comprehension skills and the ability to reason from these passages. Reading test sub-scores are social studies/sciences and arts/literature.

ACT SCIENCE REASONING

The ACT-SR measures your ability to interpret, analyze and evaluate information associated with the natural sciences. This 35-minute test is based on reading passages, 40 questions assess these skills and the ability to reason from these passages. The highest possible score is 36.

ACT OPTIONAL WRITING

ACT offers an optional 30-minute Writing test. The combined information from the Writing test and the English test will tell postsecondary institutions about your understanding of the conventions of standard written English and your ability to produce a direct sample of writing. Visit www.actstudent.org for more information.

ACT Test Dates and Registration Deadlines 2011-2012

Students are encouraged to register online at www.actstudent.org

Test Date	Registration Deadline	(Late Fee Required)
September 10, 2011	August 12, 2011	August 13 – 26, 2011
October 22, 2011	September 16, 2011	September 17 – 30, 2011
December 10, 2011	November 4, 2011	November 5 – 18, 2011
February 11, 2012*	January 13, 2012	January 14 – 20, 2012
April 14, 2012	March 9, 2012	March 10 – 23, 2012
June 9, 2012	May 4, 2012	May 5 – 18, 2012

[ACT Test Day Checklist](#)

SAT: Reasoning Test

The SAT assesses how well you analyze and solve problems—skills you learned in school that you'll need in college. Each section of the SAT is scored on a scale of 200—800, with two writing subscores for multiple-choice and the essay. Visit www.collegeboard.com for more information.

WRITING

60 min., Grammar, usage, and word choice; Multiple choice questions (35 min.) and student-written essay (25 min.)
Score range 200-800

CRITICAL READING

70 min. (two 25-min.sections and one 20-min.section); Critical reading and sentence level reading; Reading comprehension, sentence completions, and paragraph-length critical reading Score range 200-800

MATH

70 min.(two 25-min.sections and one 20-min.section); Number and operations; algebra and functions; geometry; statistics, probability, and data analysis Five-choice multiple choice questions and student produced responses Score Range 200-800

SAT Test Dates and Registration Deadlines 2011-2012

Students are encouraged to register online at www.collegeboard.com

Test Date	Reg. Deadline
Oct. 1, 2011	Sept. 9, 2011
Nov. 5, 2011	Oct. 7, 2011
Dec. 3, 2011	Nov. 8, 2011
Jan. 28, 2012	Dec. 30, 2011
March 10, 2012	Feb. 10, 2012
May 5, 2012	April 6, 2012
June 2, 2012	May 8, 2012

[SAT Test Day Checklist](#)