

## Procedures for the Senior Year

**College Entrance Exams:** If you plan to attend a four-year college as a freshman, you will need to take the ACT and / or the SAT. Both tests are accepted at most colleges across the nation, although more colleges accept the ACT than the SAT. Students who are not strong in math usually do better on the ACT since the math portion of the exam only counts 25% of the Composite Score. If you plan to attend Greenville Technical College, you do NOT have to take the ACT or the SAT since they administer their own placement exam; however, if you plan to transfer to a four-year college, you may need an ACT or SAT score for some scholarships such as the J.E. Sirrine.

You can register on-line to take the ACT at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) or the SAT at [www.sat.collegeboard.org/register](http://www.sat.collegeboard.org/register) or you can pick up registration booklets in the Guidance office. Some colleges also require SAT Subject Tests; these results are mainly used to determine placement in freshman classes. Inquire in advance if SAT Subject Tests are required, as you cannot take Subject Tests on the same day as you take the Reasoning Test.

If you qualify for free or reduced lunch and have a Free Lunch Application on file in the cafeteria, you are eligible for Fee Waiver Forms for the ACT and SAT. This will also qualify you for fee waivers for college applications. Eligible students may receive two fee waivers for the ACT, two fee waivers for the SAT Reasoning Test, and two fee waivers for Sat Subject Tests during their high school career. Students who use a fee waiver are eligible to receive up to four Request for Waiver of College Application Fee forms. See your counselor in Guidance if you qualify.

<u>ACT Test Dates</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>	<u>*Late Registration</u>
September 21, 2013	August 23, 2013	September 13, 2013
October 26, 2013	September 27, 2013	October 11, 2013
December 14, 2013	November 8, 2013	November 22, 2013
February 8, 2014	January 10, 2014	January 24, 2014
April 12, 2014	March 7, 2014	March 21, 2014
June 14, 2014	May 9, 2014	May 23, 2014

<u>SAT Test Dates</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>	<u>*Late Registration</u>
October 5, 2013	September 6, 2013	September 20, 2013
November 2, 2013	October 3, 2013	October 18, 2013
December 7, 2013	November 8, 2013	November 22, 2013
January 25, 2014	December 27, 2013	January 11, 2014
March 8, 2014	February 7, 2014	February 21, 2014
May 3, 2014	April 4, 2014	April 18, 2014
June 7, 2014	May 9, 2014	May 23, 2014

\* Please meet deadlines to avoid expensive late fees! Apply early so that you will be able to test on the date and at the location of your choice! **You should have your test scores sent directly to colleges from the ACT or College Board, as colleges cannot accept scores from your high school as official scores.** If you wish to participate in a free online prep class for the SAT, you can pick up the necessary codes in Guidance.

**NCAA Clearinghouse:** Student athletes who plan to participate in sports at the college level need to register with the NCAA Clearinghouse at [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org). **All ACT and SAT scores must be sent directly from the ACT or the College Board to the Eligibility Center.** To send these scores, use the code 9999 when registering for the test. Once you register, download the forms for Guidance to submit a transcript at the beginning of the registration process and another after graduation. If you have further questions about the NCAA

Eligibility Center, speak with your coach. Students who qualify for free or reduced lunch can receive a fee waiver for the NCAA; see Ms. Levesque or Mrs. Coleman in Guidance.

**College Application Process:** Hopefully, you have narrowed your choices and already know the colleges to which you will apply. Most colleges set deadlines for receiving applications. While they may accept a late application, you might miss out on scholarships, priority housing, or even acceptance! Be sure you know the deadlines and prepare your materials so you can meet them. The Guidance Office has some paper applications; however, most colleges prefer to receive on-line applications. Be sure that you submit your paperwork requesting transcripts and high school forms to Guidance early (please allow 3 - 5 days) so that we can have them back to you in time to meet your deadlines. Be sure to attach a copy of each college's counselor page / secondary report to your transcript request.

The Guidance Department is hosting a College Application Day on **October 16, 2013**, in the Media Center. College representatives will be available to assist in the process.

**Transcript policies:** Students are responsible for mailing all applications and transcripts unless the program requires that all applications from a school be submitted together. You should complete the Transcript Request Form and have it signed by a parent, unless you are eighteen-years old. Guidance will process your request and return it to you in a sealed envelope. You will need to pick up transcripts in the Guidance Lobby. If you break the seal of the envelope, you will invalidate the transcript. The first three transcripts you receive are free. Additional transcripts will cost \$1.00 each. You must pay for the transcript at the time of the request and should bring correct change. **Guidance will not charge for transcripts needed for scholarships if you name the scholarship program on the form.**

**Financial Aid and Scholarship Information:** Virtually all colleges require completion of the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** for students who will be applying for any need-based financial aid. While this process is used to determine eligibility for need-based programs, it is also required for some programs that are not associated with financial need. Check with the colleges you are considering to see if it is required. The best way to complete the FAFSA is on the internet at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). They no longer send paper applications to the high schools. FAFSA cannot be completed until January 1, 2014. Many private colleges and universities will also require completion of the College Scholarship Service **PROFILE** form. This is used to determine eligibility for all institutional need-based programs. You can register and submit your PROFILE at <http://profileonline.collegeboard.com>.

Guidance will advertise scholarship information through the **Blue & Gold Express newsletters** which will be distributed monthly. If you do not apply for scholarships, more than likely, you will not receive one! Scholarships that require essays frequently receive few applications: you may receive a scholarship if you take the time to write that essay. Remember that we will only advertise the scholarships that we know about. You should consider other sources: churches, employers, civic organizations, etc. frequently offer scholarships but do not advertise with schools. There are websites, such as [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com), on which you can also search for scholarships. Be aware that there are also scholarship scams. Excellent resources for college planning and financial aid information are [www.sccango.org](http://www.sccango.org) and [www.bigfuture.org](http://www.bigfuture.org). Be aware of programs such as the Academic Common Market which allows you to pay in-state tuition at out-of-state colleges when you choose some majors that are not offered at a college in SC. For more information on the ACM, visit [www.sreb.org/acm.asp](http://www.sreb.org/acm.asp). Remember: you do not have to pay anyone to assist you with receiving financial aid. Be sure that you read through the newsletters carefully and take advantage of all scholarships for which you are qualified. As with college applications, it is imperative that you meet deadlines. You can pick up applications in the Guidance Office unless instructed otherwise. If transcripts are required, submit a request to Guidance for a sealed transcript to be sent with your scholarship application.