

COLLEGE PLANNING DURING A PANDEMIC

**Choosing Courses and Researching Colleges in a
Virtual World**

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TOPICS FOR TONIGHT:

- Course selection for next year
 - Exploring graduation requirements and diploma types
 - What kind of course load makes you a stronger applicant?
- Importance of applicant factors ranked by colleges
 - What are colleges really looking for and what is most important?
- Using SCOIR to explore colleges
 - See colleges virtually from your home!
- Updates and changes from COVID-19
 - How is the pandemic changing admissions?

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS: CREDITS

- 4 credits of English
- 4 credits of Social Studies
- 3 credits of Math (4 is recommended)
- 3 credits of Science (4 is recommended)
- 2 credits of Physical Education ($\frac{1}{2}$ credit each year)
- 1 credit of Art/Music (this can be DDP, Theater, or World of Fashion/Interior Design as alternatives, as well as Art or Music)
- $\frac{1}{2}$ credit of Health
- 1 credit of Language Other Than English LOTE (3 credits are recommended and needed for an Advanced Regents diploma or 5 credit elective sequence)
- 3.5 credits of Electives (this can be in a variety of departments; extra LOTE, math, science, art/music credits beyond minimum can count towards these credits. 1.5 credits of Electives needed for the Advanced Regents diploma {due to additional 2 credits in LOTE})

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS: EXAMS

For the Regents diploma, a score of 65 or better on the following exams:

- 1 Science exam (typically Living Environment, but can be any)
- 1 Math exam (typically Algebra, but can be any)
- 2 Social Studies exams (Global and U.S. History)
- 1 English exam (English 11)

For the Advanced Regents diploma, a score of 65 or better on the following exams:

- 2 Science exams (can be 2 of Living Environment, Chemistry, Earth Science, and/or Physics)
- 3 Math exams (Algebra, Geometry, and Algebra 2)
- 2 Social Studies exams (Global and U.S. History)
- 1 English exam (English 11)
- Final Exam for Language Other Than English (along with 3 credits) OR 5 Elective Sequence Credits

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS: HONORS AND DESIGNATIONS

With Honors

The "with honors" designation is added to either Regents Diploma option for students with an average score of 90 or more on all required Regents exams.

Mastery in Math

Meets all assessment requirements for the Regents diploma with advanced designation and, in addition, scores 85 or better on each of 3 Regents examinations in mathematics.

Mastery in Science

Meets all assessment requirements for the Regents diploma with advanced designation and, in addition, scores 85 or better on each of 3 Regents examinations in science.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS: HONORS AND DESIGNATIONS

Career and Technical Education Endorsement

Completes all credit requirements as listed for specific diploma types and successfully completes an approved career and technical education program and successfully completes the 3 part technical assessment designated for the particular approved career and technical education program which the student has completed.

*This can be awarded through BOCES/CTI, Business Administration courses and/or Business Computer Science courses

Career Development and Occupational Studies

Completes a career plan; demonstrates attainment of the commencement level Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) learning standards in the area of career exploration and development, integrated learning and universal foundation skills; satisfactorily completes the equivalent of 2 units of study (216 hours) in Career and Technical Education coursework and work-based learning (including at least 54 hours of work-based learning); and has at least 1 completed employability profile; OR meets criteria for a national work readiness credential.

*This can be awarded through BOCES/CTI

Biliteracy Seal

Based on a point system for successful completion of English and Language Other Than English courses and demonstrating proficiency in both, including presentations, exams, and projects.

*This can be awarded through above Level 3 Language Other Than English students

COURSE SELECTION

We offer electives in the following departments:

- Business Education
- Family and Consumer Sciences
- Fine Arts
- English
- Languages Other Than English
- Mathematics
- Performing Arts
- Science
- Social Studies
- Technology and Engineering

[Course Handbook](#)

[WCSD Virtual Electives Fair](#)

IMPORTANCE OF VARIOUS FACTORS IN THE ADMISSION DECISION: FIRST-TIME FRESHMEN

	Percentage of Colleges Rating As:			
	Considerably Important	Moderately Important	Limited Importance	Not Important
Grades in All Courses	74.5	15.0	5.5	5.0
Grades in College Prep Courses	73.2	16.8	5.9	4.1
Strength of Curriculum	62.1	21.9	8.7	7.3
Admission Test Scores (SAT, ACT)	45.7	37.1	12.2	5.0
Essay or Writing Sample	23.2	33.2	24.1	19.5
Student's Demonstrated Interest	16.1	23.9	28.0	32.1
Counselor Recommendation	15.1	40.4	26.6	17.9
Teacher Recommendation	14.2	40.2	26.5	19.2
Class Rank	9.1	29.1	34.1	27.7
Extracurricular Activities	6.4	42.9	32.0	18.7
Portfolio	6.4	11.9	26.9	54.8
Subject Test Scores (AP, IB)	5.5	18.3	35.2	41.1
Interview	5.5	16.4	28.3	49.8
Work	4.1	28.6	36.9	30.4
State Graduation Exam Scores	2.3	8.7	18.8	70.2
SAT II Scores	1.9	5.6	14.8	77.8

GRADES IN ALL COURSES (74.5% CONSIDERABLY IMPORTANT)

- Demonstrate consistent progress and effort in all courses
 - Colleges are looking at the pattern and trend of your grades throughout high school.
 - Admissions representatives are understanding of the stress of this difficult time and will certainly keep this in mind when reviewing your grades. They are also aware of the grade change format in the spring of 2020.
- Colleges can and will request midpoint high schools grades during your senior year
 - No senioritis!

GRADES IN COLLEGE-PREP COURSES (73.2 % CONSIDERABLY IMPORTANT)

- Advanced Placement (AP) courses and College-level courses are rigorous classes taught with a college curriculum; this is a way to demonstrate to colleges your readiness and ability to complete undergraduate work successfully.
- Benefits can include:
 - Earning college credits, depending on AP exam score and college-level final score
 - Placing into higher level college courses and/or placing out of introductory college courses
 - Saving money
 - Becoming more prepared for college-level courses
 - Challenging yourself
 - Increasing your value as a college applicant

CONCURRENT COLLEGE ENROLLMENT COURSES

DCC Accounting

DCC Public Speaking

DCC Calculus

Forensic Science (Syracuse)

DCC Economics

Italian 4/5 (SUNY Albany)

DCC English 101 & 102

Project Lead the Way (RIT)

DCC Pre-Calculus

AP Biology (DCC)

DCC Psychology

DCC Social Problems in Today's World

DCC Education in Society

DCC Government

College Virtual Enterprise

ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES AT JJ

AP Italian Language
AP French Language
AP Spanish Language
AP Calculus - AB
AP Calculus - BC
AP Statistics
AP MV Calculus & Lin. Algebra
AP Language & Composition
AP Literature & Composition
AP Computer Science
AP Computer Science Principles

AP Environmental Science
AP Physics C
AP Biology
AP Chemistry
AP History: European
AP Economics Macro/Micro
AP History: United States
AP History: World
AP Participation in Government
AP Studio Art 1
AP Music Theory

STRENGTH OF CURRICULUM (62.1 % CONSIDERABLY IMPORTANT)

- Complete all requirements for high school graduation, and then some.
 - 3 Math and Science credits are required, but 4 credits looks more desirable to colleges (and are often required at competitive colleges)
- Maintain a rigorous program of courses throughout junior and senior year
- Take as close to a “full schedule” your senior year as possible
- If eligible and possible, take an AP, College-level, and/or Honors-level course- this shows dedication, and are weighted to potentially increase your GPA.

ADMISSIONS TEST SCORES SAT/ACT (45.7 % CONSIDERABLY IMPORTANT)

- The SAT and ACT are standardized tests that allow colleges to measure students' ability to analyze and solve problems, to predict their success in college courses.
- The SAT has two required sections- Math and Evidence Based Reading and Writing. It was just announced in January 2021 that the optional essay will be discontinued after June 2021.
- The ACT has four required sections- Math, English, Reading, and Science. There is an optional Essay section.
- Class of 2021- Many colleges have decided to be test-optional for this year's admissions, meaning test scores are not required.
- Class of 2022- Plan to test prep as you would have pre-COVID as many colleges may revert back to their test policies. It is recommended to take one to two SAT/ACT tests this Spring and one in the Fall.

MODERATELY IMPORTANT FACTORS

- Essay or writing sample
 - Senior English classes will work on the college admissions essay and/or the teacher will offer feedback.
- Student's demonstrated interest
 - Colleges can track virtual visits, website visits, interactions with admissions representatives.
- Counselor recommendation and Teacher Recommendation
 - Students will complete a Senior Fact Sheet where they can highlight their strengths and accomplishments to be included in their letters.
- Class rank
 - There is limited control by the student to affect class rank, so rather focus on maintaining or improving your grades each year.
- Extracurricular activities
 - Colleges will be mindful of the limitations of the pandemic.

LIMITED IMPORTANCE FACTORS

- Portfolio
 - This may be more important for specific programs, such as fine and performing arts.
- Subject Test-Scores (IB/AP)
 - We offer AP courses and exams- colleges will see the course and final grade on the transcript. Students have the option of reporting their exam grade for potential transfer credit (this is typical after you are accepted).
- Interview
 - Interviews are rare overall; this is usually only among Ivy League admissions.
- Work
 - You can include a resume on your Common App application to showcase any work experience.
- State Graduation Exam Scores (Regents)
 - Colleges value the strength of the overall curriculum rather than the exam grades.
- SAT II Scores
 - It was just announced that CollegeBoard will no longer be offering the SAT II.

NARROWING DOWN YOUR SEARCH

Many students apply to **5 to 10** colleges. Some students will apply to more, some less. The important thing is that there are a **range** of colleges, some that you are above the average accepted student, some that you meet the criteria, and often some where you are at the low end or below their average acceptance scores. You would use your high school GPA and SAT/ACT scores to estimate where you fall, remember, the great **analysis** feature on [SCOIR](#) is helpful, too. There is no true “safe” school and no true “reach” school. As a general guide, your choices would break down as follows:

Likelihood of Acceptance	Number of Applications
High Probability	1-2
Likely to be Accepted	2-4
Less Likely, but still possible	1-2

FACTORS TO CONSIDER

- **Academics** - Do they offer the major you want? If you are undecided, do they offer a good variety? Study abroad?
- **Size** - Colleges can have fewer students than John Jay up to tens of thousands of students. What works for you?
- **Affordability** - Does the cost and payment options work for you and your family? Have an open conversation with your family.
- **Location** - How close or far from home do you want to be? Remember, distance can mean additional costs.
- **Campus Facilities** - Do they have the labs, library, athletic facilities, etc.. that you are hoping for.
- **Student Activities** - This includes clubs, sports, greek life, and other campus organizations and events.
- **Career Services** - What is the colleges post graduation job rate? Do they have a robust internship or practicum program?
- **The Feeling** - Does the school feel like “home” to you? If you haven’t visited yet, you can still visit next year or even after you are accepted before you make your final choice.

MORE ON AFFORDABILITY...

- Have the money conversation early and often! Start discussing budgeting soon!
 - [Preparing for College Budgeting Information](#)
- Consider that many careers will require a Master's level degree, which means additional school (and COST) beyond an Associate's and Bachelor's degree. The average amount of debt from a Bachelor's degree (public and private) is approximately **\$30,000**.
- For a VERY THOROUGH financial aid presentation, please view last year's PTSA presentation by DCC Financial Aid!
 - [Dutchess Community College Financial Aid Presentation 9/23/19](#)
 - [DCC Financial Aid TV](#)
- The process for applying for financial aid is completing the FAFSA (Federal aid), then TAP (NY State aid), and if required CSS profile. Check out scholarships offered- beginning in February of 12th grade!
 - [Scholarships- JJ Website](#)

USING SCOIR TO SEARCH AND RESEARCH

SCOIR LOGIN

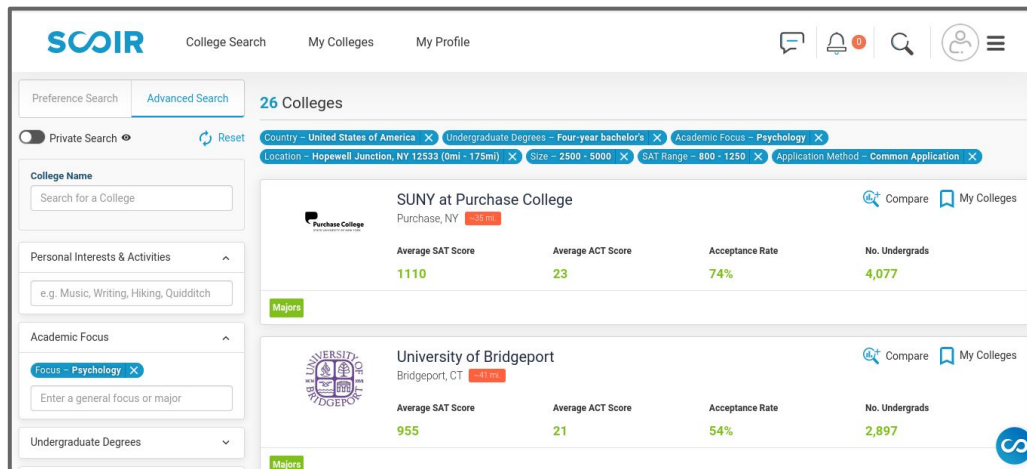
You can use SCOIR on your home device or smartphone. They also offer an App for smartphones. We prefer the Advanced Search feature shown below, but the other search is nice, too.

To sign in:

Username- WCS D Google email address

Password- students created password

(If you can't remember your Password, click "Forgot your Password?")



The screenshot displays the SCOIR website interface. At the top, there are navigation links for "College Search", "My Colleges", and "My Profile". The main search area shows "26 Colleges" and a list of filters: Country (United States of America), Undergraduate Degrees (Four-year bachelor's), Academic Focus (Psychology), Location (Hopewell Junction, NY 12533 (0mi - 175m)), Size (2500 - 5000), SAT Range (800 - 1250), and Application Method (Common Application). The search results are displayed in a table format, showing details for two colleges: SUNY at Purchase College and University of Bridgeport. Each entry includes the college name, location, average SAT score, average ACT score, acceptance rate, and number of undergraduates. A "Majors" button is visible below each entry.

College Name	Location	Average SAT Score	Average ACT Score	Acceptance Rate	No. Undergrads
SUNY at Purchase College	Purchase, NY	1110	23	74%	4,077
University of Bridgeport	Bridgeport, CT	955	21	54%	2,897

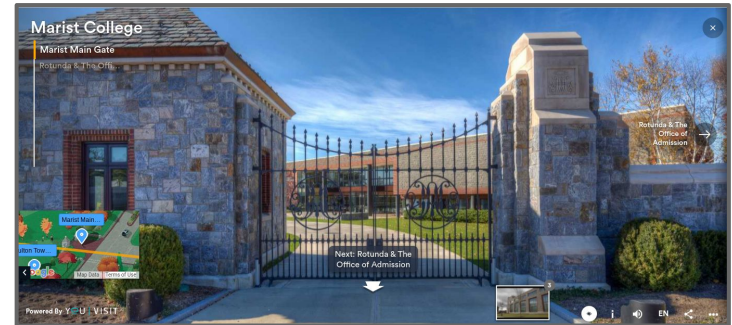
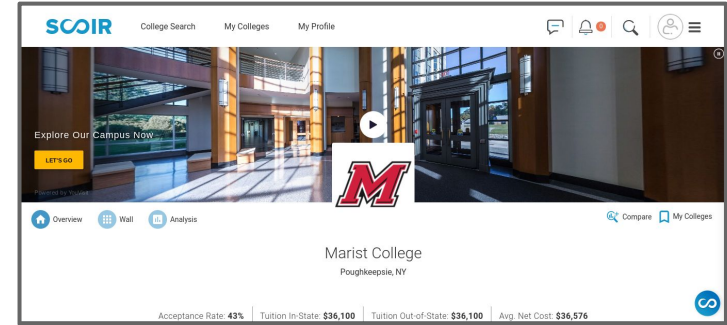
VIRTUAL TOURS ON SCOIR

Not every college has a virtual tour you can access directly through SCOIR, but many do. If it's not available in SCOIR, you can also check the college's website.

Here are some tips for how to make the most of a virtual tour from [US News](#)

This database from NACAC also has a list of Virtual Admissions

Events: [NACAC Virtual Admissions Events Database](#)



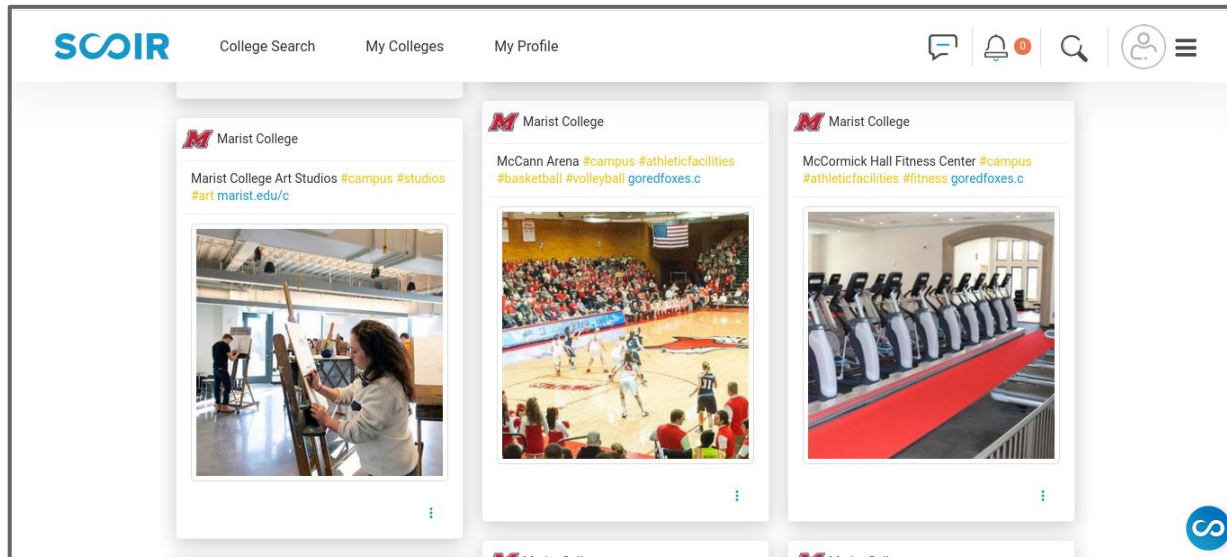
SCOIR ANALYSIS

The Analysis tool can help you find your range of likely to less likely schools for acceptance.



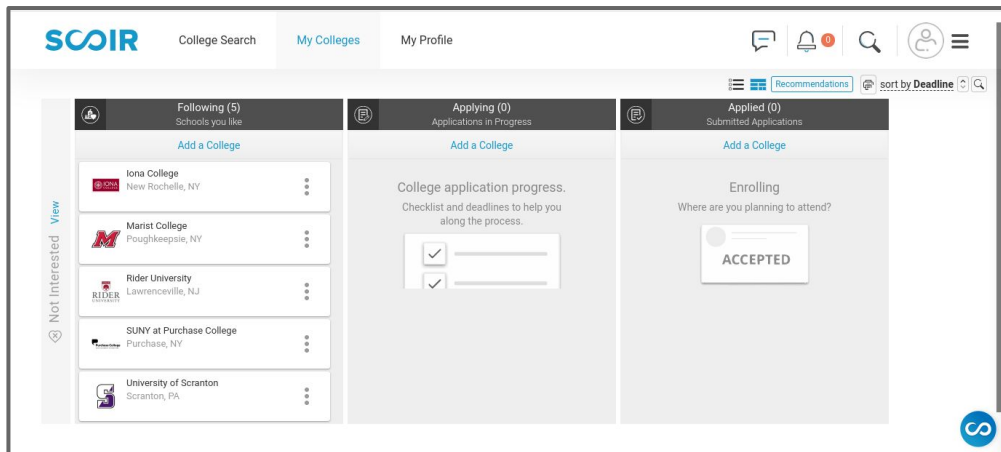
THE SCOIR WALL

Through the SCOIR Wall feature you can get a glimpse into the personality and offerings of the college.

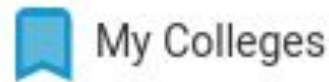


ADDING SCHOOLS TO “MY COLLEGES”

By adding colleges to your “My Colleges” list, you can organize the colleges you are interested in. As you move through the application and admissions process, you are able to move your colleges along different categories and continue to narrow your list.



Use this icon to add colleges to your list:



CHANGES IN COLLEGE ADMISSIONS DURING CORONAVIRUS

NACAC ADMISSIONS UPDATE TOOL

The National Association for College Admissions Counseling, NACAC, has added a convenient way to look up changes in admissions for many colleges at one time.

[Click Here for the Update Tool](#)



FORBES 7 ESSENTIAL COLLEGE ADMISSIONS RESOURCES DURING CORONAVIRUS

The following article provides additional helpful links [CLICK HERE](#)

SUNY COLLEGES

The State University of New York has released a [SUNY Virtual Events](#) schedule for high school juniors!

SUNY Virtual Events include:

- [SUNY Information Sessions featuring 40+ Campuses](#)
- [Which SUNY Are You? Information Sessions](#)
- [Financial Aid Information Sessions](#)

Students can register for the above events at www.suny.edu/studentevents or by calling 1.800.342.3811. Additional campus events can be found on their [Visit a Campus](#) page.

Look for information about **virtual** SUNY College Fairs in May.

DUTCHESS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

DCC is offering daily virtual or phone appointments with admissions counselors, as well as online admissions information sessions twice a week for prospective students. Students can click [HERE](#) or visit www.sunydutchess.edu and click Visit DCC to register for a session and get the link for the session.



TEST OPTIONAL COLLEGES

Each year more colleges decide to not require SAT or ACT exam scores when they evaluate your admissions information. You want to be aware that when you choose to do this, the school is more heavily weighing their choice on your transcript, application, essay, and letters. Below is a link to a list of colleges that do not require an SAT or ACT for admissions. This is also something to be considered as you create your range of colleges for admissions. If you missed out on chances to take the ACT or SAT due to the Coronavirus, and want to ease some of the burden of that, you may want to be considering having some of these on your list.

[Fairtest.org List of Test Optional Schools](#)

WHAT DO COLLEGES KNOW ABOUT WCSD AND COVID-19?

This information has been shared with colleges on our John Jay School Profile:

- School Closing During COVID-19 Pandemic:
 - Spring 2020 and Fall 2020 SAT, SAT Subject Tests, and ACT
 - These standardized tests were not available in our district and much of the surrounding school districts beginning March of 2020. Local testing will resume when our district transitions to a hybrid model which is planned for Mid-November 2020.
- School Closing Spring 2020
 - John Jay High School ceased in person instruction on 3/13/2020 and transitioned to distance learning effective 4/3/2020. During distance learning, there was no set time, but students were expected to log in daily to complete work. The school used a quarter grading system to calculate semester and final grades. Students were able to complete Q1-Q2 prior to transitioning to distance learning.
 - For Q3, the quarter was extended, and the grade mostly reflected time in school as well as review work for the 2nd 5 weeks of the marking period.
 - Grading for Q4 was changed to a four tiered numeric grade scale, Exceeds Grade Level-100, Meets Grade Level- 85, Attempts Grade Level- 75, and Work not attempted- 60. The final grade was calculated averaging Q1- Q4 grades.
 - NYS Regents exams were canceled for June and August 2020 and January 2021.
- 2020-2021 Academic Year
 - The school year began fully remote through 11/08/20. Beginning on 11/09/20, students began attending a two-day-a-week in person (with distance learning the other three days) or 100% distance learning model for students who parent(s) choose this option for their student.
 - During distance learning, students will be learning both asynchronously and synchronously via web platforms and are expected to be active participants. Normal grading policy will be implemented for the 2020-2021 academic year regardless of instruction, in-person, or distance learning.

THANK YOU!

Please complete this survey to share your thoughts and feedback. We look forward to our next presentation!

<https://forms.gle/2sBg4GsRawKot9tF7>



If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact your child's school counselor.