

Junior Information Night

Western Wayne High School

May 13, 2026

School Counseling Department

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Agenda

- Timeline for Junior to Senior Year
- Types of Post-Secondary Education
- College Visits
- Application Process
- Maia Information
- Cost & Financial Aid
- Military
- Workforce
- Closing Thoughts & Questions

Choosing a College/Training Program

- Countdown to College- Timeline
 - Junior Year
 - Spring/Summer
 - Register and take SAT or ACT
 - Visit Colleges – In-person or Virtual (Register for a tour)
 - Think about teachers, counselors, coaches, advisors, or other community members who can write you a letter of recommendation
 - Research your potential Major/Career
 - College Board – Big Futures
 - Maia
 - Occupational Outlook Handbook

Choosing a College/Training Program

- Senior Year
 - Fall
 - Meet with college admissions representatives visiting our school
 - Ask teachers, counselors, coaches, advisors, or other community members to write you a letter of recommendation
 - Register and take SAT or ACT again (if needed)
 - Work on and submit admissions applications (EARLY- August and Sept.)
 - Revisit your top school choices
 - Seek and apply for scholarships from a variety of sources
 - Complete FAFSA (October 1st)
 - Watch the mail/email for acceptance letters and financial aid award letters
 - Bring copy to your School Counselor
 - Choose a school and send in a deposit by the deadline
 - Apply for scholarships!!!
 - Continue to work hard in your high school classes.

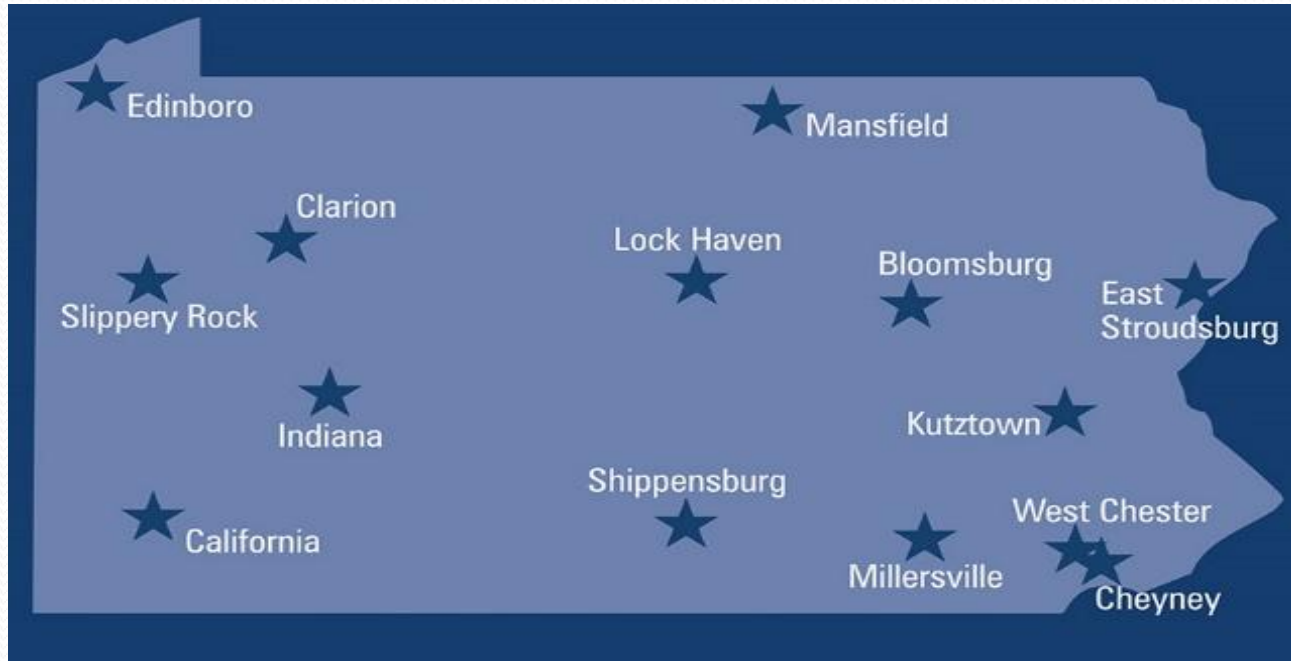
Choosing a College/Training Program

- What Are You Looking For?
 - Size – Large or Small school?
 - Setting – Urban, Suburban, Rural?
 - Close to Home or Far Away?
 - Specific Clubs or Activities
 - Outcomes
 - What do people do after they graduate?

Choosing a College/Training Program

- Types of Schools
 - Community/Technical- typically offers 2-year Associate Degree programs and/or certificate programs
 - Low cost
 - Close to home
 - Sharpen study skills
 - Attend classes at day/night/weekends
 - State- 14 state universities
 - State Related- Pennsylvania State University, University of Pittsburgh, Temple, Lincoln
 - Military Academies
 - Private
 - Patriot
 - Ivy League

State Schools & State Related Schools



Patriot & Ivy Leagues

Patriot League



Lehigh University

Lafayette
College



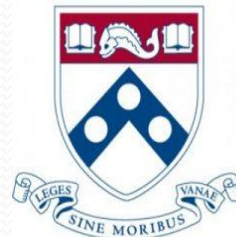
College of the
Holy Cross



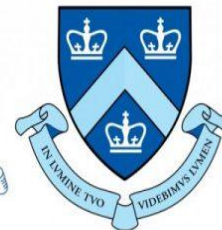
Bucknell
University



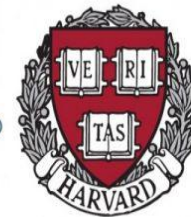
Colgate
University



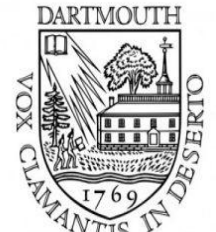
Penn



COLUMBIA



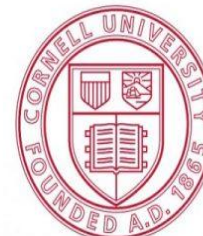
HARVARD



Dartmouth



Yale



Cornell



BROWN



PRINCETON

What Do Colleges Look For?

- Difficulty (rigor) of curriculum student took in high school
- Grade point average (GPA)
- Class rank
- Extra curricular activities
- Letters of recommendation
- Interviews
- Test scores (SAT/ACT) – Test Optional Policies

College Visits

- **COLLEGE VISITS** offer the college bound student a first-hand look at campus life.
 - Planning ahead:
 - Consult college websites for open house or visitation dates
 - Schedule your visit ahead of time
 - What you should be looking for:
 - Go on a day when classes are in session
 - Ask questions!
 - Cost
 - Application Deadline
 - Majors
 - Graduation Rate
 - Class Size
 - Internships
 - Housing
 - And much more!!
 - Ask to meet with a person from disability services if you anticipate accommodations in college (for students with a current 504 plan or IEP)

What About Picking A Major?

- An estimated 80% of students change their majors at least once
- On average, 1 in 10 college students change their major more than once
- Most will change majors at least 3 times before they graduate
- Job market demands are constantly changing and what's hot today may not be hot tomorrow
 - Estimates from various sources state that 40% – 60% of the jobs of the future have yet to be created!
- Research your major
- Talk to people in the profession!
 - What did they have to do in order to obtain their current job?
 - Are there any special exams or licensing requirements?
 - What is their average workday like?

Applications

- Rolling Admissions (No Deadline)
- Early Action or Early Decision
- Common Application
- Self-Reported Transcript & Academic Record (STARS)
 - PSU, Temple, Pitt (All Require)

Early Action vs. Early Decision

- Early decision and early action plans allow the student to apply early and get an admission decision from the college well before the usually spring notification date.
- **Early Action-** Early action plans are similar to early decision, but are not binding. Under early action plans, students can apply early to other colleges.
- **Early Decision-** It is important to know early decision plans are binding. That means the student agrees to attend the college if accepted (and if the college offers an adequate financial aid package).

College Admissions Process

1. When completing applications request transcript and supporting documents be sent at least one week before the deadline. This can include essays, letters of recommendations, etc. Guidance Department will not guarantee meeting college deadlines for applications submitted late.
2. Applications are **not** complete without a high school transcript. Students' transcripts are sent through Maia. Students will complete an online transcript request to let their school counselor know when they applied to a college and need their transcript sent.
3. Students requesting letters of recommendation should request the letter at least **TWO WEEKS** in advance and supply the recommender with a resume.
4. Final transcripts will be sent to the college that the student will attend. **FINAL TRANSCRIPT REQUESTS will be given to seniors during graduation practice.** Remember, college admissions representatives review all senior year grades very carefully.

Maia

- Maia is a program that we have used the past three years.
- Transcripts, Letters of Recommendations, Counselor and Teacher Forms are sent through Maia.
- College Search, Career Search, Financial Aid, Interest Profiles and Resumes can be done here.
- Database being built on colleges WW students are being accepted.
- Common App and Maia can be synced.

Maia



- <https://vimeo.com/449477120/51addff880>

\$\$ College Price Tag \$\$

- *How much is your tuition?*
 - Sticker prices do **NOT** tell the full story
- How much is your tuition and what is the average Financial Aid Award?
 - Institutions have Net Price Calculators on their websites
 - Education is an INVESTMENT

General Information on Financial Aid

- Student aid is money provided by the federal government or another entity, such as a school or state government, to help students pay for college.
 - Types of Aid:
 - Federal grants- Pell, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)
 - Grants are free aid and do not have to be repaid
 - Loans- Perkins, Stafford
 - Loans must be repaid with interest
 - Subsidized loans- federal government pays the interest of the loan during the student's college years
 - Unsubsidized loans- student is responsible for the interest of the loan during their college years
 - Federal Work-Study
 - Work-study provides income from a part-time job
 - Nonfederal sources of aid
 - State aid
 - School aid
 - Private Scholarships
 - CollegeBoard BigFuture Scholarships - <https://opportunity.collegeboard.org/>

General Information on Financial Aid

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
 - Eligibility for most federal student aid programs is based on financial need. To determine a student's financial need, a student must complete and file a FAFSA.
 - www.fafsa.ed.gov
 - A FAFSA can be completed **October** of the student's senior year
 - To complete the FAFSA, students (and their parents) need their social security numbers, driver's licenses, federal income tax return, Form(s) W-2, current bank statements, and records of any stocks, bonds, and other investments and assets.
 - Students and parents completing the FAFSA online need to create a StudentAid.gov Account in order to electronically sign their completed FAFSA form.

FINANCIAL AID NIGHT: TBA

FAFSA COMPLETION NIGHT: TBA

Getting Ahead

- How can you earn college credit in high school?
 - AP (Advanced Placement) classes
 - Students may enroll in a Western Wayne AP class and then sit to take the AP exam in the Spring
 - Students who take AP exams may receive college credit
 - Check with the college you are interested in to see if they accept AP exams for credits and what score is needed
 - Dual Enrollment
 - The dual enrollment program allows high school students to earn college credit for courses in high school
 - Tuition is paid directly to the university by the student.

Getting Ahead

- CLEP (College Level Examination Program)
 - Students have the opportunity to earn college credit by taking an online exam
 - Western Wayne is an online testing site
 - CLEP exams cover material taught in courses most students take as requirements in the first two years of college.
 - A college usually grants the same amount of credit to students earning satisfactory scores on the CLEP exams as it grants to students successfully completing the course.
 - Students pay an exam fee
 - Students should check with the college they are interested in to see if they accept CLEP exams for credit and what score is needed

Military

- Recruiters
 - Military recruiters come to WWHS during all the lunches on a rotating basis on Wednesdays of each month
 - See your School Counselor for specific recruiter information
- Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC)
 - Students are able to pursue both a college degree and train to become an officer in the Army, Navy, or Air Force
 - The ROTC program is highly competitive
 - Students must meet academic and physical standards
 - Students also agree to accept a commission and serve full time after college graduation for four years
- Military Academies
 - Military academics are highly competitive
 - Students must meet very high academic, leadership, and physical standards
 - Admittance into a military academy requires a congressional nomination
- www.military.com – good source of information

Entering the Job Market

- Finding a job
 - Advertisements
 - Recruiters
 - Employment Agencies & Temp Services
 - Networking
 - Job Fairs
- Cover Letter & Resume Writing
- Job Interview Skills

OVR – Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

- The Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, or OVR, provides vocational rehabilitation services to help persons with disabilities prepare for, obtain, or maintain employment.
- <https://www.dli.pa.gov/Individuals/Disability-Services/Pages/Disability-Services.aspx>

Other Important Information...

- NCAA eligibility
 - The NCAA Eligibility Center will certify the academic and amateur credentials of all college-bound student-athletes who wish to compete in NCAA Division I or II athletics.
 - Students interested in playing a Division I or II sport need to register at www.eligibilitycenter.org
 - Students also need to send their SAT/ACT scores and an official high school transcript to NCAA Eligibility Center.

Closing Thoughts...

Treat college like you're buying a really expensive car

- Take it for a test drive
- Compare offers
 - Not just financial but curriculum too!
- Research which school is the best *FIT* for you

Be the best student you can be

- Just because you got accepted doesn't mean you can coast

Questions???

- Means of communication:
 - Scholarships & Career Opportunities
 - Emails
 - Phone
 - Schedule an Appointment
 - Check out our Facebook & Instagram
 - Google Classroom