

COUNSELING SERVICES INFORMATION

College planning should begin early in a student's high school career. Exploring entrance requirements should begin with students in ninth and tenth grade.

GUIDELINES for SELECTING a POST-SECONDARY SCHOOL

The following are some questions that need to be considered in your final selection of a school:

1. Is the program of study consistent with your goals?
2. Is the expense within your means?
3. Is the geographic location suitable?
4. Is the size of the school comfortable?
5. Is it public or private?

The following are some questions to consider for selection of vocational technical programs:

1. Is it accredited?
2. Are the facilities and equipment appropriate?
3. Is hands-on training available?
4. Is placement assistance available?
5. Does it have enrollment agreements with colleges or employers?

Fairview has a computer program known as the COIN System that allows students to explore college or technical school entrance requirements using computer software. Information is updated annually. The program can be accessed through the school's website.

FINANCIAL AID

The counseling staff will issue bulletins during the junior and senior years as material concerning financial aid is received. Students are to study these for programs and share the information with their parents.

Students with the ability and determination to go to post secondary schools can find the means. It must be noted, however, that all financial aid programs are sponsored and administered by agencies outside the school.

Most schools have their own scholarship and financial assistance plans. Students should inquire when requesting an application.

Financial aid packages vary according to the demonstrated needs of the applicants and with the individual schools depending on their funds. There are four basic types of financial aid, usually in the form of a package which includes scholarship, grant, loan, and work study award. The major sources of financial aid are from the following:

1. Public Funds
Federal Grant – Federal funds for which School provides applications
PHEAA – Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency
Colleges and Universities
2. Private Organizations
i.e., community agencies, religious organizations, civic cultural groups, foundations, corporations, unions, clubs

College planning meetings are sponsored by the Fairview counseling department annually to inform students and parents of financial aid procedures for post-graduate education.

Fairview High School is not responsible for obtaining financial aid for students. This is the parent's responsibility.

SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES

Approximately fifty to seventy-five representatives from the armed services, colleges, and vocational, technical, and business schools visit Fairview High School throughout the school year. A monthly schedule of visitations is posted in the counseling office and on the bulletin boards in the hallways.

Students may have the privilege of an excused absence to meet with these representatives. Students should register in the counseling office no later than dismissal time of the day prior to the scheduled visit. Parents should plan to visit colleges in the junior year of high school.

TESTING INFORMATION

P.S.A.T. – [Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test]

N.M.S.Q.T. – [National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test]

The Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test of the Educational Testing Service of the College Board in Princeton, New Jersey, is a multiple-choice examination that measures verbal and mathematical abilities important for academic performance in college. The questions test ability to reason with facts and concepts rather than to recall or recite them. The test is given in October of the junior year and is useful as a practice test for the Scholastic Aptitude Test (S.A.T.)

The P.S.A.T. also serves as the national Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test for juniors in nationwide competition for recognition, awards, and scholarships.

High School juniors usually take the P.S.A.T./N.M.S.Q.T. in October. Sophomores will take the test as practice; however, their scores are not applicable to the N.M.S.Q.T.

SCHOLASTIC ASSESSMENT TESTS

The Scholastic Aptitude Test (S.A.T.) measures verbal, mathematical, and writing abilities.

The Scholastic Aptitude Test is required by the majority of colleges for admission and is usually given in November, January, and May of each year to high school juniors and seniors. The S.A.T. is published by the Educational Testing Service of the College Board, Princeton, New Jersey.

A.C.T.

The A.C.T. exam may be used in place of or in combination with the S.A.T. See the counselors for details.

S.A.T. TEST COMMENTS

Research suggests that students who enroll in advanced courses in English, science, social studies, and math will score higher on S.A.T. exams.

Research suggests that students who read books regularly will score higher on S.A.T. exams.

Research suggests that students who study S.A.T. test-taking skills will score higher on the S.A.T. exam. Local colleges offer preparatory courses each summer and fall.

Fairview High School offers an S.A.T. preparation elective and has software available for all students to practice S.A.T. test-taking skills. All juniors should complete this software package.

NOTE: Colleges usually report average S.A.T. scores of admitted students, but one should not refrain from applying to a school if his or her score is less than the average for that school.

REQUIREMENTS TO ENTER THE FAIRVIEW HIGH SCHOOL HONORS PROGRAM

1. Students have the opportunity to apply to schedule honors English, social studies, and biology classes as ninth grade students at Fairview High School. **Those who schedule Honors English in the ninth grade will be scheduled for Honors Social Studies as well.**

2. Students wishing to enroll in honors courses at Fairview High School or students wishing to transfer into the honors program will complete an application in the spring when counselors from the high school visit the middle school or high school classes to begin the scheduling process. Students are admitted to the honors program through a screening process based on the student's ability, achievement, and teacher recommendation. Students' grades and test scores will be evaluated. Students will complete the application and present it to their middle school or high school teachers for their recommendations.

3. Fairview High School department heads, counselors, principal of the high school, affected subject teachers, and principal of the middle school will review the applications prior to scheduling students. If necessary, an interview may be arranged so the parent or guardian, high school teachers, principal, counselor, and student can discuss a student's admission to the honors program. Should a student not be selected for admission to honors courses, parents will be notified and alternate schedules will be arranged.