

College Planning for Juniors



Fall 2021

Junior Year

Practice
ACT/PSAT
(Oct)



Fall Semester



Add to "Colleges I'm
Thinking About" in
Naviance

Mandatory ACT
(March 8th)



Spring Semester



Choose Courses for
Senior Year

Spring Individual
Student/Parent Meetings
College planning, testing,
Naviance



ACT
(April)

Write Essay



Letters of Rec
Ask teachers before end of
school year

Start
Applications

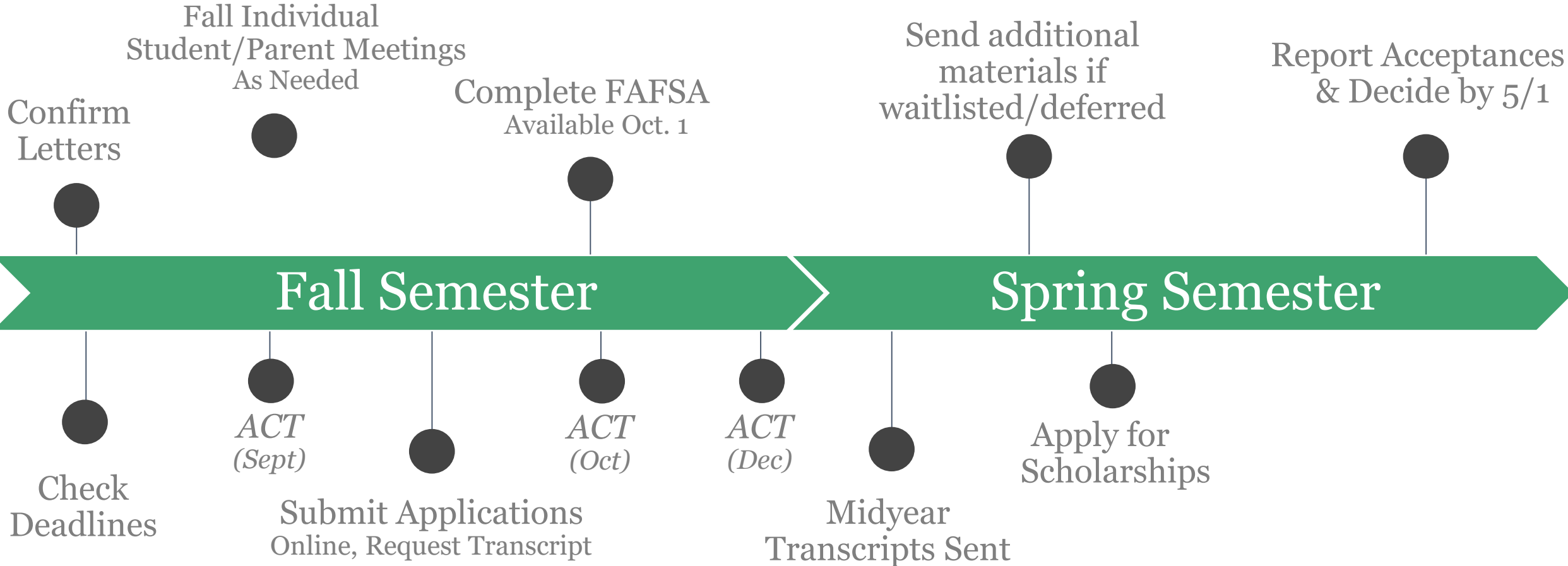


Summer



ACT
(June & July)

Senior Year



Important Dates

2021-22 School Year

Tuesday, March 8th: Junior ACT Test with Writing at Dominican

Mandatory. No online registration or fee required. Test scores can be used for college.

Mar/Apr/May: Essay Writing Workshops at Dominican

Support for Juniors on college essays in large group and individually.

Feb. 12, Apr. 2, Jun. 11, Jul. 16: ACT National Test Days

Register at least a month prior at [ACT.org](https://act.org).

Check if your colleges require ACT scores

How Do Colleges Evaluate Students?

Application Review

- **Course Schedule and Grades Earned**

- **Course Rigor:** These courses show students challenging themselves, preferred to easy A's
- **Trends:** Colleges prefer to see consistency or an upward trend

- **GPA**

- **Standardized Test Scores**

- All colleges now accept ACT or SAT, some selective schools require SAT subject tests
- Many colleges are still test-optional (you can submit if you want), you must research your school

- **Recommendations**

- Teacher letters can speak to the student's personality, work ethic, and involvement

- **Activities and Involvement**

- Students should get involved in activities they are passionate about

- **College Essay**

- Provides opportunity to tell student's story and show personality

Course Selection

Research what courses are required for admission into colleges

- Some require more than 2 years language, 4 years math

Rigor-Based Courses

- Students should challenge themselves
- High achieving students should enroll in AP courses- even if it means a lower grade

Interest-Based Courses

- Students should select courses that align with their interests
- Confirm or deny their intended majors
- Ex. Pre-law students enroll in Government & Politics
- Ex. Pre-med students enroll in AP Bio, Anatomy

Required Materials for College Applications

College Application

Students must complete an application

- Common Application



- One application that works for many colleges
- Access at CommonApp.org
- Very lengthy and in-depth, choose this if applying to many schools that accept it
- You can start an account now and start filling out!

- College-Specific Application



- Students apply directly to a college on college website
- UW system has one application that can be sent to any UW school

Standardized Tests

- ACT is the test most students in WI take; both ACT/SAT accepted everywhere
- Superscore: Some colleges take best subject score from tests to create composite
- It is recommended to take ACT more than once, students tend to take 2-3 times
- Use **Naviance Test Prep** tool to prepare for ACT
- **More colleges are becoming test optional (don't need to send scores)**

Freshman

- Practice ACT (Spring)

Sophomore

- Practice ACT (Spring)

Junior

- Practice ACT or PSAT (Fall)
- Live ACT (March, mandatory)
- Additional ACT as desired

Senior

- Additional ACT as desired

Letters of Recommendation

- College websites tell how many (if any) letters needed
- Academic teacher recommendations preferred
 - Prioritize teachers within intended major (ex: math/science for engineering)
- Juniors request letters from teachers before summer break
 - Students complete yellow “Request for Recommendation” form for background
- Counselor letters required by some
 - Counselor letters can speak to unique circumstances (mental health, academic or learning challenges) or highlight a student’s strengths

College Essay

Students check what essays are needed & start writing over summer

- Personal Statement
 - Common App provides 7 prompts; 650 word limit
 - Non-Common App schools might also require personal statement
- Supplemental Essays
 - Additional essay requests from colleges
 - Why do you want to attend this school?
 - Why are you pursuing your major?

****Dominican Essay Writing Workshops in the Spring for Juniors****

Application Materials

Students Apply Senior Year (Fall) with:

- ❑ **Transcript** sent by Counseling
- ❑ **Senior Year Course Schedule** sent by Counseling
- ❑ Possible **ACT scores** sent by student via one of three options
 - Choose colleges to send scores to during registration for the test (sent without seeing scores)
 - Send directly from ACT for a small fee when applying to colleges (choose which scores to send)
 - Self-report scores and then send to college once admitted (if colleges allow this)
- ❑ **Application** (Common App or direct to institution) completed by student
- ❑ **College Essays** sent within application by student
- ❑ **Recommendation Letters** requested by student, sent by Counseling
- ❑ **Application Fee*** (about \$60 per college)

*Fee waivers are available for families that qualify

**Finding Colleges that are
the Right Fit for You**

College Research

Factors to consider when searching for a college:

- Selectivity
- Location
- Majors Available
- Public vs. Private
- Small vs. Large
- Tuition Costs
- Christian vs. Secular
- Coed vs. Single-Sex
- Extracurricular Offerings
- Student Demographics

Naviance

Student.Naviance.com

- **Tool for college and career research**
 - College Search
 - SuperMatch Search
 - College Match
- **List of College Visits**
- **Counseling sends materials to colleges**
 - Transcript
 - Recommendation letters
 - Senior course schedule

The screenshot shows the Naviance Student dashboard. At the top, there is a teal header with the Naviance logo and the text "Naviance | Student". Navigation links for "Home", "Colleges", "Careers", and "About Me" are visible. A personalized greeting "Welcome, Ava!" is displayed. Below the greeting is a search bar with the placeholder text "Type a college name" and a "SEARCH" button. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Welcome Seniors!**: A dark blue header for a section containing a "College Application Checklist" with two bullet points: "Finalize your list of colleges in Naviance under 'Colleges I'm Applying To'" and "Request recommendation letters with the Request for Recommendation form and in Naviance". A "Read more" button is located at the bottom of this section.
- My Favorites**: A dark blue header for a section listing three items: "COLLEGES I'm thinking about", "COLLEGES I'm applying to", and "CAREERS AND CLUSTERS I'm thinking about".
- Important To-Dos and Tasks**: A teal header for a section with the text: "Relax, you have no overdue or upcoming to-dos and tasks. However, you can get ahead by going to My Planner to see what's next or create a goal or to-do."
- What's New**: A teal header for a section with a calendar icon and the text: "George Williams College of Aurora University will be visiting your school on Monday, October 29th, 2018 at 11:30 am more info".

Naviance College Search

Using your
Naviance login:

SuperMatch College Search

- Add colleges of interest to

“Colleges I’m Thinking About”



SuperMatch College Search About SuperMatch ?

☰ Choose Fit Criteria Location Academics Admission Diversity Institution Characteristics Cost Student Life Athletics Re

Your Fit Criteria Saved Searches Choose one Save Search Start Over

7 selected criteria
To refine your results, use the arrows to move your criteria into the "Must Have" and "Nice to Have" boxes.

Must Have

- ✕ Location [7] →
- ✕ Major [Any] →
- ✕ Campus Surroundings [1] →
- ✕ Institution Type →
- ✕ Student Body Size [3] →


Nice to Have

- ✕ Gender Concentration [1] ←
- ✕ Acceptance Rate [3] ←

Your Results Your results include **23 institutions** with a fit score of 90% or above.

Fit Score ⓘ	Academic Match ⓘ	Highlights ▼	Cost ▼	Pick what to show ▼
Ohio State University-Main Campus Columbus, OH, Large City 4 year, Public ★ PIN TO COMPARE ♥ FAVORITED	100% Why?	Match Average You GPA N/A 3.5 ⓘ SAT 1285 N/A ACT 29 28	No Highlights Available Tuition & Fees \$9,168 <i>In State (OH)</i> \$27,360 <i>Out of State</i> Room & Board \$11,706	Customize what you see here— Choose a category above



University of Minnesota Twin Cities 
Minneapolis, MN, United States |
www.umn.edu

Communicate 

Apply online

Learn More 

Overview


Studies

Student Life


Admissions

Costs




AVERAGE NET PRICE 

\$8,246

Income: 

[More about Cost & Aid](#)

GRADUATION RATE 

75%

Within 6 years

[More about Learning Environment](#)

ACCEPTANCE RATE 

45%

[Check out Scattergrams to see how this relates to you](#)

COLLEGE OVERLAPS

225

Students who apply to this college also applied to these 225 colleges

[Learn more](#)

EARLY ACTION DEADLINE

November

1

[See all deadlines](#)

Naviance College Admissions



University of Minnesota Twin Cities
Minneapolis, MN, United States |
www.umn.edu

- Communicate ▾
- Apply online
- Learn More ▾

Overview

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EARLY ACTION DEADLINE



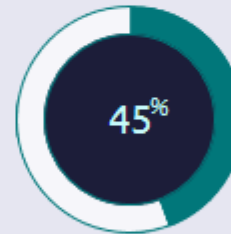
[See all deadlines](#)

APPLICATION FEES

Freshman Application

\$55

ACCEPTANCE RATE



IMPORTANT POLICIES

- Rolling Notification
- Wait List
- Competitive Admissions

Applications from your high school to University of Minnesota Twin Cities

12 Total Applicants in 2018

3 Students Accepted 0 Students Enrolled



20 Total Applicants in 2017

9 Students Accepted 4 Students Enrolled



10 Total Applicants in 2016

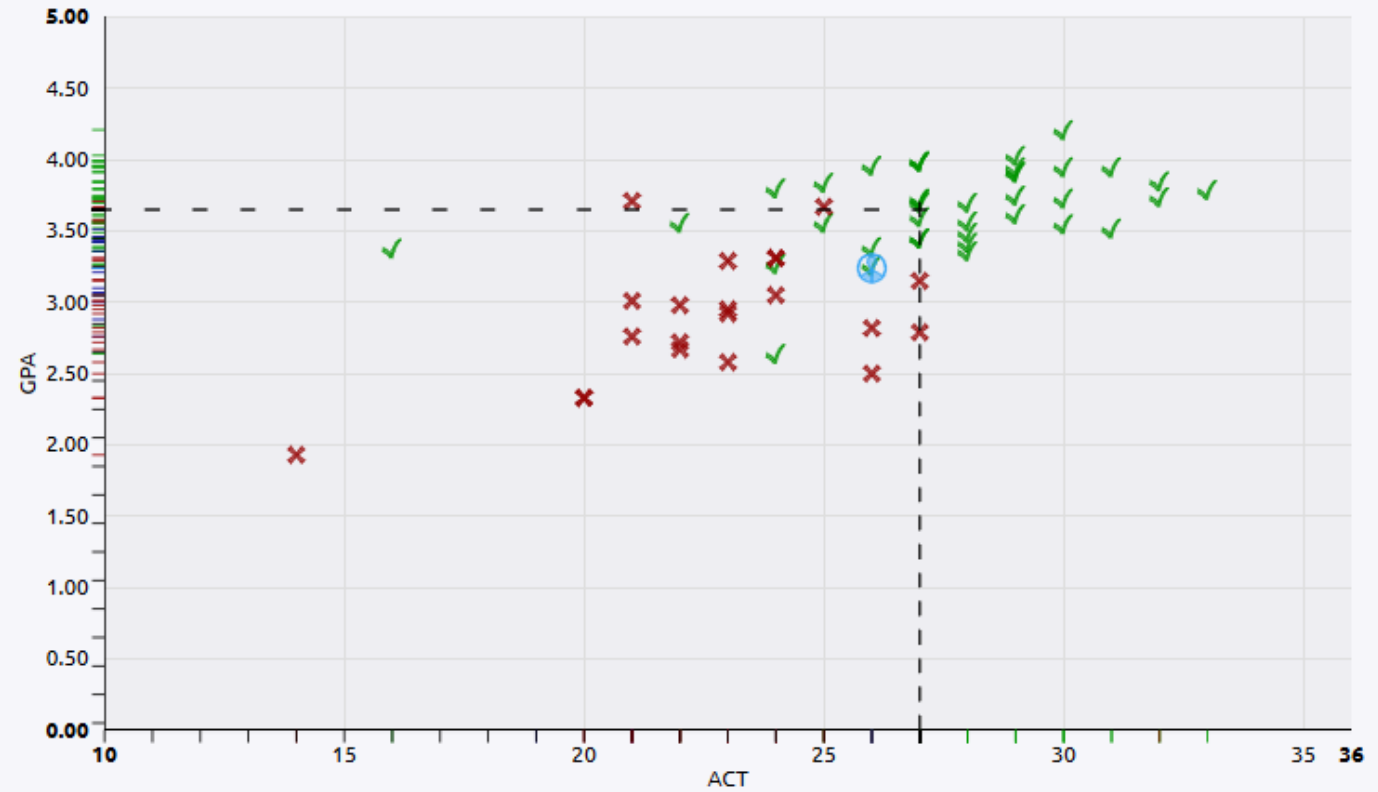
2 Students Accepted 0 Students Enrolled



Scattergrams: Compare yourself with past Dominican applicants

Scattergrams | Applications for Dominican High School

Comparing Unweighted GPA with ACT



Legend

You

Accepted



Waitlisted/Accepted



Waitlisted/Unknown



Waitlisted/Denied



Denied



College Application List

Choose colleges by the end of junior year

- 3 to 7 colleges including:
 - Safety
 - Probable
 - Reach

Once you have college list, determine:

- How to apply? *Common Application vs. institution specific application*
- When to apply? *Early Action vs. **Early Decision** vs. Rolling vs. Regular Decision*
- How many letters of recommendation required?
- Which college essays are required?

College Communication

- **Demonstrated Interest**
- **College Rep Visits to Dominican**
- **College Tours**
 - Arrange with admissions office when school in session if possible
 - Visit prior to applying or after acceptance to make final decision
- **Request information from schools**
- **Check Email (personal email)**
- **Social Media (Pros/Cons)**

College Costs

Financial Aid:

- Merit Aid vs. Need-Based Aid
- FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) at www.fafsa.gov available Oct. 1
 - Determines how much federal and state aid you qualify for
 - Many colleges require for scholarships & merit aid

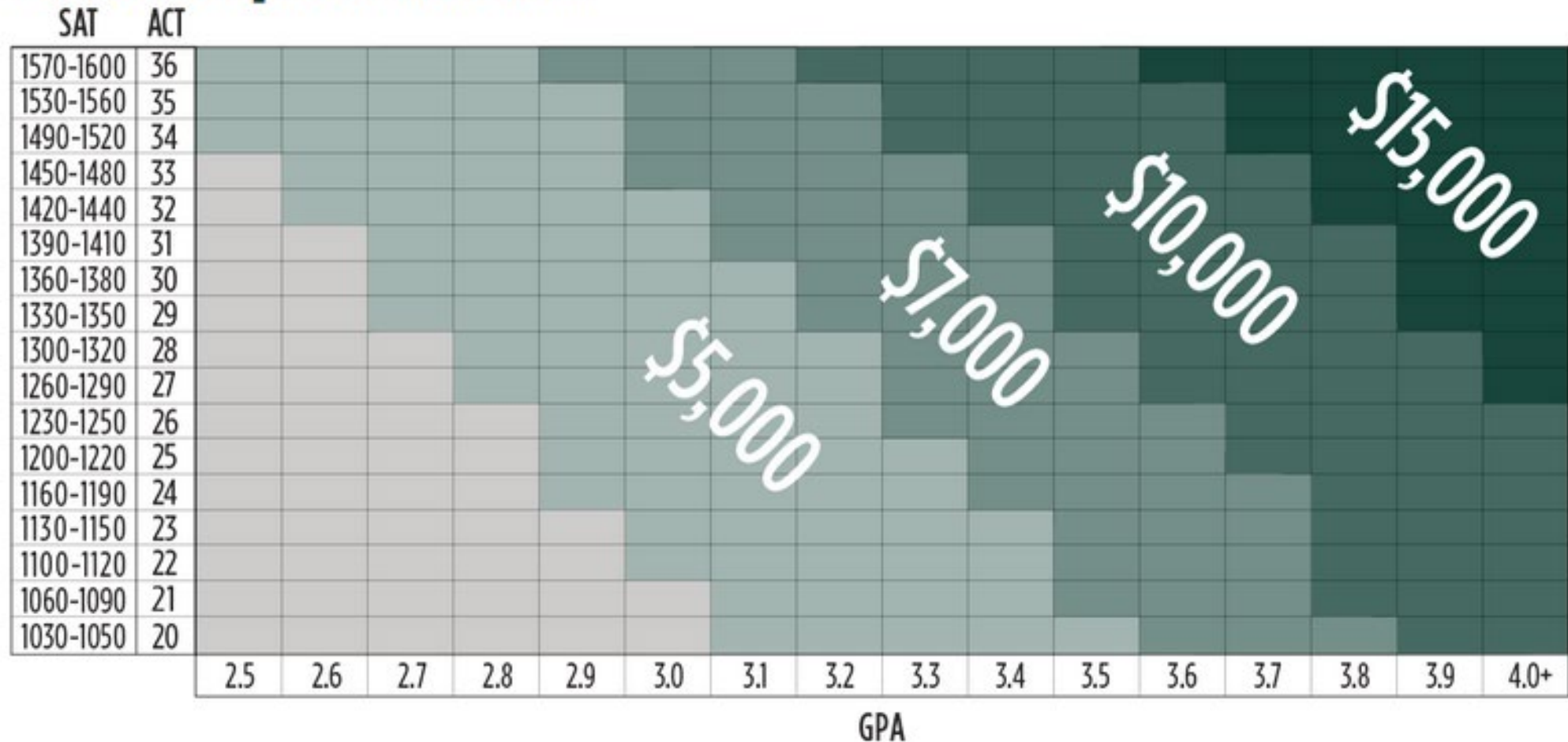
Financial Timeline:

- Check **Net Price Calculators** on college websites prior to applying
- Fill out FAFSA ASAP after Oct. 1st senior year (even if you think you won't qualify)
- Complete by college financial aid deadlines, usually early Feb, some as early as Dec
- Colleges will send financial aid offer letter
- Contact college's Financial Aid Office with questions & opportunities for additional aid & scholarships

Example Scholarship Chart

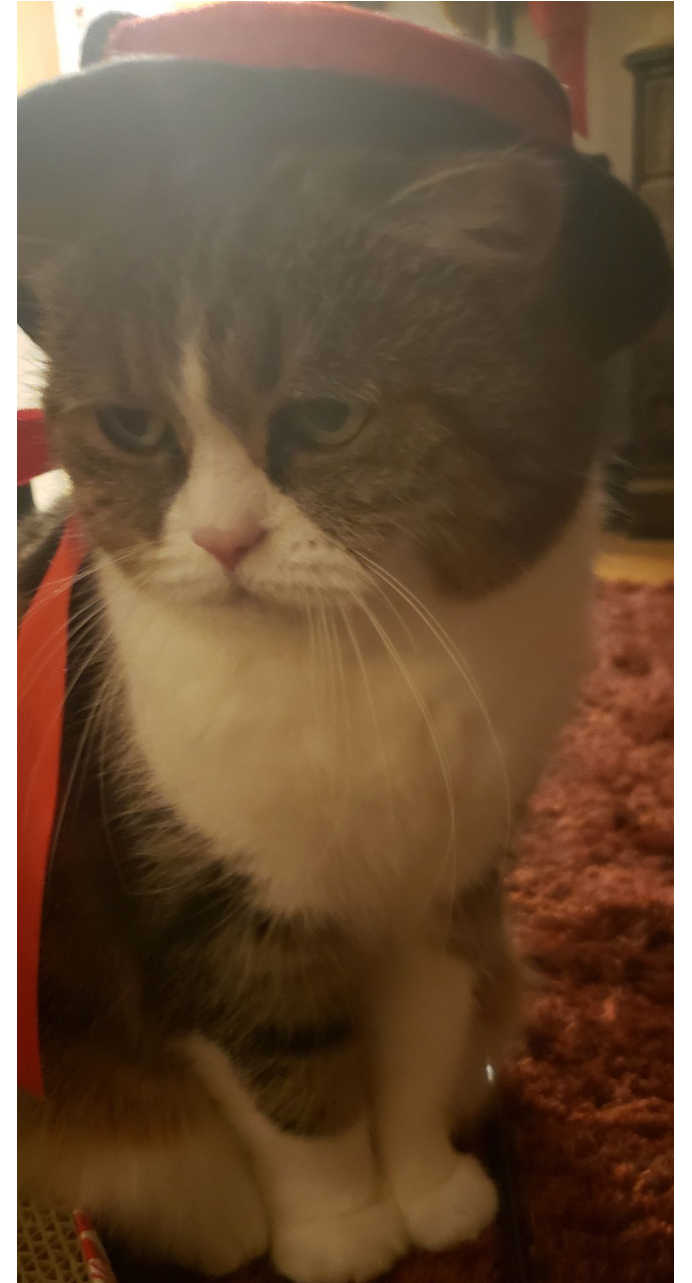
- Some colleges award scholarships using charts like this based solely on GPA and ACT score

Scholarship award levels



How to Manage Stress

- **Prepare for the application process when not in school**
- **Apply only to schools you would want to go to**
- **Organize ahead of time so not last minute**



Moving Forward

- **Parent/student meetings with Ms. Young this spring**
 - **Parents can call Keller to schedule individual meetings**
- **Visit Counseling anytime to start discussing college**
- **Make sure you're receiving Junior/Senior College Planning Emails!**