

# COLLEGE CORNER

JUNIOR EDITION

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## for Your Future Today!

The road to college speeds up significantly in your junior year. It's difficult to balance excelling in your classes with maneuvering through college exams, applications and deadlines. Stay on

the college admissions track by following these simple steps in the fall.

### Take the PSAT

All juniors will be taking this years PSAT/NMSQT on Wednesday, October 12, 2011 .

Get [PSAT/NMSQT tips](#) and a [free practice test](#) at College Board's website:

[www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/prep.html](http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/prep.html). The PSAT is a standardized test that provides firsthand practice for the SAT. This year it also gives you a chance to enter NMSC scholarship programs and gain access to college and career planning tools.

The PSAT/NMSQT measures: critical reading skills, math problem-solving skills & writing skills. Your scores will arrive sometime in December so please look for them to see how well you are prepared for the SAT.

### Start Your College Search

It start with you: Make lists of your abilities, preferences and personal qualities. List things you may want to study and do in college. Jump-start your college planning by reading about majors and careers. Visit [www.nycareerzone.org](http://www.nycareerzone.org) It's the best place where you can explore careers related to your strengths, skills and talents. Register and create a profile.

Use College Search to find colleges with the right characteristics.

### Begin Thinking about Financial Aid

Talk to your counselor about your college plans. Attend college night and financial aid night at your school. [Use financial aid calculators](#) to estimate your aid eligibility and college costs.

### Inside this issue:

Plan for your future	1
Get a Head Start	1
Review your Transcript	2
Are you an athlete?	2
Junior Year Quiz	3

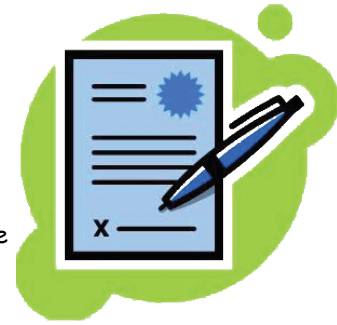
### Special points of interest:

- Prepare on taking your SAT or ACT.
- Research colleges
- Attend College Fairs
- Start searching for scholarships.
- Volunteer and join clubs or teams in and outside of school.

## Get a Head Start

Don't wait till senior year to research schools, college entrance tests and financial aid options: Take a "virtual" campus tour on the Internet. Visit the homepages of schools that interest you. Also attend college fairs to meet admission representatives and obtain course catalogs. If possible, plan to visit campuses yourself to get a first hand account of the school's culture and social life. Prepare for college entrance exams. Your scores can determine what scholarships you qualify for and what college you attend. Ask your counselor about services that offer ACT and SAT preparation classes and practice tests. Keep track of the dates and deadlines for the tests. Learn about financial aid options. Don't let the cost of a college education scare you. Attend financial aid seminars hosted by local schools. Ask community businesses and organizations if they offer college scholarships. You can also search scholarship databases on the Internet like FastWeb to apply for awards that match your interests and career goals.

## What does your transcript say about you?



You should be aware that your high school transcript is a record of every grade you earned in high school and that all of those grades are averaged to produce a single number, known as your *GPA*. But admissions officer have their eyes on more than just your *GPA*. There are other things they examine to get a sense of what kind of college student you'll be.

**Freshman Grades:** In case you were thinking they weren't important, now you know otherwise. Your freshman grades make up one-quarter of your cumulative high school *GPA*. If you bombed freshman year, it will follow you for the next three years. (That includes art class, gym class, music class or anything for which you receive a grade.)

**Coursework:** High school graduation requirements Most students have the opportunity to take more classes than are required to graduate. If you take only the minimum, colleges will conclude that you are doing the least you must do to get by. The best high school transcript will show consistent grades in a challenging course load with challenging classes. AP classes or Honor classes impress colleges and tell them that you are ready for college-level work.

Your counselor will begin giving you appointments to review your high school courses. Pay attention to the requirements necessary to graduate. Remember colleges look for challenging course work, strong grades and extra-curricular activities.



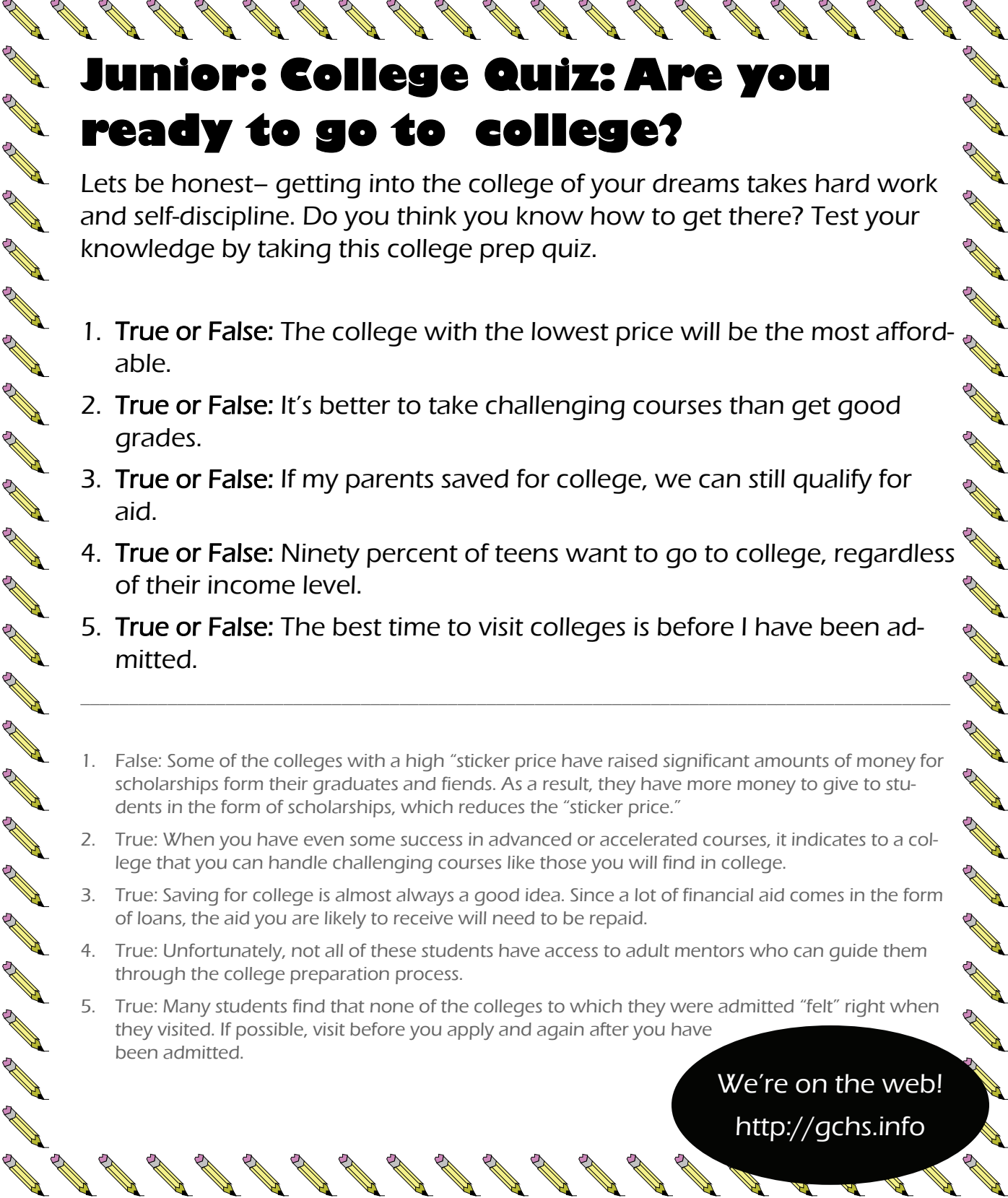
## ARE YOU AN ATHLETE?

YOU MUST REGISTER WITH THE NCAA CLEARING HOUSE  
- COLLEGE SPORTS RECRUITING

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) is the governing body of all College Sports. Your first step towards an Athletic Scholarship is registering with the NCAA Clearinghouse. Student-Athletes who want to compete at College level must register with the NCAA clearinghouse. You must register to qualify. To register visit [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org). If you don't you will not be eligible to play or practice during your college freshman year. Registration with the NCAA clearinghouse is a one-time fee of \$50 US. A limited amount of fee waivers are available, please stop by the College Office with proof of income (your parents 2010 tax income, budget letter, SSI letter) to see if you

qualify. Once you register the NCAA clearinghouse will verify your eligibility. Please know students must graduate from High School and have a grade point average {GPA} of 2.00. You must also achieve a minimum score of 37 and 86 on the ACT and between 820 and 1010 on the SAT.

Also you'll need to develop an Athletic Resume and send out letter of interest directly to coaches at desired colleges. Check for the names and addresses of the coaches on the schools websites. Please see Mrs. Mastropietro for more information regarding the NCAA Clearinghouse in Room 306.



## Junior: College Quiz: Are you ready to go to college?

Lets be honest– getting into the college of your dreams takes hard work and self-discipline. Do you think you know how to get there? Test your knowledge by taking this college prep quiz.

1. **True or False:** The college with the lowest price will be the most affordable.
2. **True or False:** It's better to take challenging courses than get good grades.
3. **True or False:** If my parents saved for college, we can still qualify for aid.
4. **True or False:** Ninety percent of teens want to go to college, regardless of their income level.
5. **True or False:** The best time to visit colleges is before I have been admitted.

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1. False: Some of the colleges with a high "sticker price have raised significant amounts of money for scholarships form their graduates and fiends. As a result, they have more money to give to students in the form of scholarships, which reduces the "sticker price."
  2. True: When you have even some success in advanced or accelerated courses, it indicates to a college that you can handle challenging courses like those you will find in college.
  3. True: Saving for college is almost always a good idea. Since a lot of financial aid comes in the form of loans, the aid you are likely to receive will need to be repaid.
  4. True: Unfortunately, not all of these students have access to adult mentors who can guide them through the college preparation process.
  5. True: Many students find that none of the colleges to which they were admitted "felt" right when they visited. If possible, visit before you apply and again after you have been admitted.

We're on the web!  
<http://gchs.info>