

Instructions for NAVIANCE

A complete college search management system

1. Log on to 'NAVIANCE Family Connections' at <http://connection.naviance.com/northcentral>.
2. The sign-in screen will welcome you to Family Connection. Click on "i need to register" on the right side of the screen.
3. Enter your "username" which is the e-mail address North Central has on file for you or your parents.
4. Enter the "registration code" assigned to you by the Guidance Department. This is a temporary password that can be changed once you successfully log in to the site.
5. Contact the college coordinator or your counselor if you have trouble logging in or if you need your username and registration code.

Take advantage of the Naviance benefits

- Find links to ACT and SAT (also PSAT) preparation
- Find colleges and majors that match your qualifications
- Compare colleges and see how your grades and scores measure up to other applicants
- Search for a wide variety of scholarships
- See which colleges are coming to NC to talk with interested students
- Sign up to meet with the visiting colleges (only juniors & seniors with at least a 2.0 GPA)
- Keep track of the colleges that interest you
- Build your résumé
- Track your progress, your plans and your results
- Complete your Senior Survey online in April!

Advice for All Students Each Year

- Take challenging courses. Study! Ask for help. Grades from each year impact your college and future planning opportunities!
- Read COLLEGE CORNER, the regular e-mail from your college coordinator for news on test prep, visiting colleges, scholarships and financial aid, summer enrichment opportunities, future planning, career opportunities and college fairs. If you're not getting these e-mails, contact the college coordinator to supply your current e-mail address.
- Create and/or update your résumé in Family Connection. Track activities, service, leadership, employment and awards under the 'about me' tab.
- Volunteer for an organization related to a career interest area.
- Get involved! Be an active club member. Volunteer.

Freshman Year

- Develop strong study habits. Freshman grades count toward your college applications. First semester grades determine which classes you may select for your sophomore year.
- **August: Register with NAVIANCE Family Connection.**
- October: PLAN exam given in school (practice for the ACT; determine your strengths)
- January: Register for challenging classes for your sophomore year. Be sure you meet the prerequisites. Talk to your counselor if you have any questions or concerns.

- Continue with strong study habits. Second semester grades impact the classes you are allowed to take your sophomore year and beyond.
- Join clubs and school organizations.

Sophomore Year

- September: Think about what you're good at and the courses you enjoy to help you begin identifying possible careers.
- October: PSAT exam (practice for the SAT; determine your strengths)
- January: Establish College Board login and keep a record of it: _____
- January-June: Use College Board's "My College Quick Start" to review PSAT results and strengthen skills; sign up with "BigFuture" for your college search.
- Attend at least one Open House on a college campus (weekends, vacation days or summer).
- Attend a College Fair.
- Job shadow one day during the summer.
- Get more involved in one or two extra-curricular activities.

Junior Year

- August: Register with www.parchment.com for college search information and to compare colleges.
- August: Register with scholarship sites. Some scholarships are awarded to juniors.
- September -November: Sign up for college rep visits on Family Connection. Limit: 5.
- October: PSAT exam (practice for the SAT, also determines National Merit qualifiers)
- October: Visit colleges during fall break!
- Throughout the year: Utilize your two College Visit Days wisely.
- Use College Board's "My College Quick Start" to review PSAT results and strengthen skills.
- **January-May: Prepare for ACT and SAT using ZAPS, www.number2.com, ACT and SAT study guides and online practice tests, etc.**
- **January-March: Register for and take first ACT and SAT**
- February-June – Complete NC's "My College Search" form and schedule a meeting with the college coordinator to discuss the college search and application process.
- **March: Attend Junior Class Night: "Inside the College Admission Office"**
- **March-June: Take second ACT and/ or SAT (or the higher of the two)**
- Utilize your two College Visit Days wisely
- Visit colleges *before* your senior year so you can expand or narrow your list, as needed
- Consider running for an office in your favorite activity.
- May: Request letters of recommendation from our favorite teachers, keeping in mind that they are going to be asked by many!

Senior Year

- Use NAVIANCE to:
 - Enter and track college applications
 - Find, enter and track scholarship applications
 - Track all admission decisions
 - Notify your counselor of your final college decision
 - Complete your Senior Survey
- July-August: Begin college applications online.
- August-September: Your college coordinator will visit your English class to review the college application process.

- August-September: Your counselor will contact you for your senior conference to discuss diploma requirements, colleges, and timing.
- August-September: Create/update your résumé: Many colleges request it and teachers and administrators use this information to write letters of recommendation.
- Throughout the year: Utilize your two College Visit Days wisely.
- September- November: Sign up for college rep visits on NAVIANCE.
- September- December: Retake ACT / SAT, if necessary.
- October 1: Complete college applications that are due November 1.
- Fall Break: VISIT COLLEGES!!
- Before January: Apply for a PIN (one for you, another for parents) for FAFSA
- January- February: File FAFSA (college's deadlines vary, so check with your schools)
- March: Forget the beach – visit your top colleges again, or for the first time!
- April: Evaluate financial aid packages from colleges
- May 1: Commit to one school. Notify other colleges that you have decided against.

Helpful Websites

ACT

www.actstudent.org

Register for the ACT;

Free ACT practice

College Board (+ the SAT)

www.collegeboard.org

Register for the SAT;

Free SAT practice;

'My College QuickStart' – PSAT review and practice; 'BigFuture' – explore majors, careers, begin the search process, find colleges.

Scholarships

www.fastweb.com

www.cappex.com

www.zinch.com

Search and apply for scholarships

Financial Aid

www.finaid.org

Information about scholarships, loans, savings, and military aid

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid

www.fafsa.ed.gov (NOT fafsa.com!!!)

Apply for federal student aid for college

NCAA Eligibility Center

www.eligibilitycenter.org

View NCAA eligibility requirements

Register for athletic eligibility at NCAA colleges

NAIA (National Association of Intercollegiate Athletes)

www.naia.cstv.com

View NAIA eligibility requirements