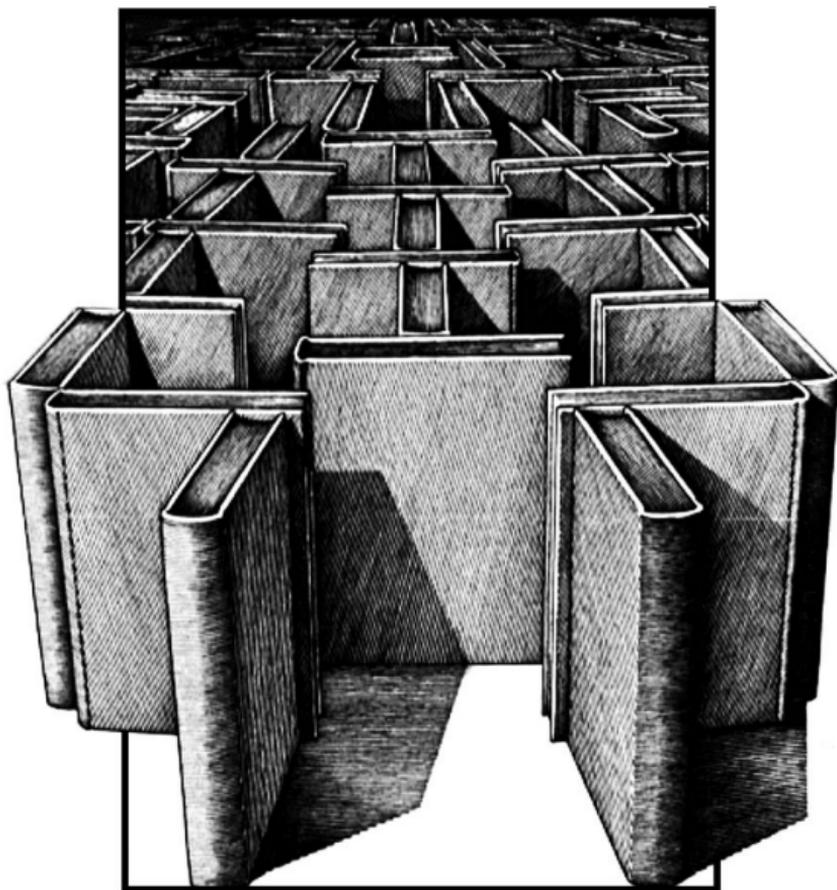


***Ensure Future Success ...  
Build on a Solid Foundation***



# ***College Guide for Parents of Sophomores***



**TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 211**

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS OF EXCELLENCE**



If you require assistance while visiting a District 211 school, please contact the principal's office.

For individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, please access the following TTD/TTY telephone number: (847) 755-6654.

# Choices

High school students face a bewildering array of choices. This brochure provides parents and students with helpful information about college entrance requirements.

While sophomore students may not be quite ready to explore colleges, they, along with their parents, should be aware of many factors as they prepare for this exploration.

## 4-Year Colleges and Universities

## Technical and Vocational Schools



## Community Colleges



## Questions to Consider

What different types of colleges are available to students upon graduation?

- **Four-year colleges and universities** provide a broad academic foundation and prepare students for a wide variety of career options. They typically award a Bachelor's Degree.
  - **Community colleges** may satisfy the first two years of study for a four-year college program. They typically award an Associate's Degree (*two years*) or a certificate of completion in a specific field (*one year*). They also prepare students for entry-level technical and business careers and for training in specialized fields.
  - **Technical and Vocational schools** teach the necessary skills to help students become employable in entry level positions in a specific vocational field. Because they provide specific training, careful planning prior to enrollment is encouraged. They typically award a certificate of proficiency in the area of study.
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What are the entrance requirements?

Four-year colleges and universities typically require students to complete a certain sequence of courses in high school. Most institutions consider class rank, grade-point average, strength of schedule, and performance on standardized tests (ACT or SAT) for admission. Good character, activities, leadership skills, personal statement, and letters of recommendation may be considered at selective institutions.

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What should we do if our student seems unsure of post-high school plans?

Each high school has career information available for interested students. Parents should encourage career exploration through experiences within the community. Each high school also has both a career consultant and a college consultant as added resources. Utilize [www.careercruising.com](http://www.careercruising.com) as a college search and career planning tool. Pay attention to the results of the PLAN test. This test, taken by all sophomores in October, contains valuable career interest information and points students toward academic strengths.

## What should we be doing sophomore year?

The primary emphasis during sophomore year should be on guiding students to take courses which will give them the greatest number of options after high school graduation. Review the chart in this brochure to check that your son or daughter will meet the standards for admission to the type of school preferred.

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## How can we select a college?

Look at several factors, including costs, size, campus setting, distance from home, programs offered and selectivity in admissions. Internet sites, such as Career Cruising, can generate a list of colleges fitting individual needs. Be sure to schedule a visit to colleges of interest. Many colleges send representatives to school to meet with students during the day.

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## How can we learn about college entrance requirements?

High school counselors will advise students and parents about requirements. Many college guides are published commercially and are available at school. Career Cruising ([www.careercruising.com](http://www.careercruising.com)) is available on the Internet and can be very helpful. Information about specific schools can be accessed on the Internet. Check out our schools' websites for college search links.

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## Are there any tests available for students in the sophomore year?

The PLAN test, taken by all students during the sophomore year, assists students in understanding their strengths and weaknesses in English, mathematics, reading, and science reasoning. The PLAN test is a practice version of the ACT and also contains career information. Some students may take the PSAT, a practice version of the SAT. ACT and SAT are college entrance tests taken during the junior year.

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## When do students apply to college?

Most college applications are completed and sent in the fall of the senior year. Students applying to one of the military academies begin the application process during the spring of the junior year.

## How do we find out about financial aid?

Pamphlets and books about federal and state aid programs are available in each school. Internet searches through [www.collegezone.com](http://www.collegezone.com) can identify potential sources of financial assistance. Scholarship money is awarded by many public and private organizations. Parents are encouraged to begin planning as early as possible to meet college expenses. "College Illinois" enables parents to prepay tuition and control costs. Each high school sponsors a financial aid night.

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## Are summer programs available at colleges?

Many colleges invite students to participate in summer programs taught by college professors on the college campus. Some programs are geared toward developing special talents, but many also are opportunities to learn about subjects of interest. Student Services departments have information on these programs, or parents may contact colleges directly.

## Some Extra Help

In college planning, parents and students may wish to take advantage of the many resources available at District 211 schools:

- Students and parents can access the Internet from home or through their school to search for college, career, and scholarship information.
- Check your high school's web site to find helpful college, career, and scholarship links.
- College guides, catalogs, and other reference materials are located in each school's Student Services Department.
- Many universities mail pamphlets and guidebooks directly to high schools. Colleges and universities also make this information available on the Internet and will mail this information to students' homes upon request.
- Each high school has different programs designed to help parents and students understand the college selection and financing process.
- Counselors are trained to offer assistance to families about colleges.

# Recommended Guide for Academic Preparation

## Types of Programs

Academic Areas	District 211 Graduation Requirements*	Community College Career Programs, Vocational Schools	4-Year Colleges and Universities, Community College Transfer Programs	Highly Selective Colleges and Universities
ENGLISH	4 Years	4 Years	4 Years: Emphasis on written and oral communication and literature	4 Years
MATHEMATICS	3 Years One year must be a 300-level course	2 Years	3-4 Years: Recommended Algebra Geometry Algebra 2 Trigonometry	4 Years: Recommended through Calculus
SCIENCE (laboratory sciences)	2 Years	2 Years	3 Years: Recommended core areas: Biology Chemistry Physics	4 Years: Recommended core areas: Biology Chemistry Physics
SOCIAL STUDIES	2 Years U.S. History Social Science Survey or equivalent	2 Years	3 Years: Emphasis on history and government (requirement varies)	3 to 4 Years
WORLD LANGUAGE	1 Year or Vocational Education/Fine Arts	None Required	2 Years **	2 to 4 Years
FINE ARTS			1 Year of fine arts is required at some out-of-state universities	
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION			2 Years: ** May include courses in: Applied Technology, Art, Business Education, Family & Consumer Science, or Music	1 Year Fine Arts Recommended

\* Additional District 211 requirements include: Health, Consumer Education, Driver Education, 4 years of Physical Education, and 6 other academic credits.

\*\* World Language courses and one or more years of fine arts courses may be required by colleges or universities. State-supported universities in Illinois **may** accept vocational education or fine arts courses in lieu of World Language. Check with a counselor for details.

The chart above compares the academic expectations of various post high school opportunities available to graduates. It is intended only as a general guide. **Colleges expect a student to program at least four core academic subjects into each year.** These college preparatory subjects are: English, world language, mathematics, science, and social studies. Highly selective institutions require greater numbers of these core academics.

Counselors act as resource people but many specific questions are better directed to the college or university admissions staff. **Final admissions decisions are always up to the colleges.** Admission criteria usually includes academic courses, grade point average, and class rank as well as the student's scores on standardized admissions tests (ACT, SAT Reasoning).

## For More Information ...

### **Palatine High School**

1111 N. Rohlwing Road • Palatine 60074-3777

(847) 755-1600

[www.phs.d211.org](http://www.phs.d211.org)

### **William Fremd High School**

1000 S. Quentin Road • Palatine 60067-7018

(847) 755-2600

[www.fhs.d211.org](http://www.fhs.d211.org)

### **James B. Conant High School**

700 E. Cougar Trail • Hoffman Estates 60169-3659

(847) 755-3600

[www.chs.d211.org](http://www.chs.d211.org)

### **Schaumburg High School**

1100 W. Schaumburg Rd. • Schaumburg 60194-4150

(847) 755-4600

[www.shs.d211.org](http://www.shs.d211.org)

### **Hoffman Estates High School**

1100 W. Higgins Road • Hoffman Estates 60169-4050

(847) 755-5600

[www.hehs.d211.org](http://www.hehs.d211.org)

### **G.A. McElroy Administration Center**

1750 S. Roselle Road • Palatine 60067-7336

(847) 755-6600

[www.d211.org](http://www.d211.org)



**TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 211**

*"Building the Future, One Student at a Time."*

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