

# College Planning Guide



## General Information:

### IMPORTANT & COMMONLY USED TERMS

#### Admissions Criteria

Colleges use some, if not all, of the information listed below when determining whether or not to accept an applicant. Individual colleges, however, differ on how they evaluate this information. One college, for example, may place a great deal of importance on test scores. Another college may choose to focus more on other factors.

- GPA (Grade Point Average)
- ACT/SAT scores
- Class Rank
- Personal Essays
- Recommendations
- Activities/Awards
- Strength of class schedule
- Interviews

#### Grade Point Average

Your grade point average (GPA) is generally considered to be the most important criteria for college admissions. GPA is simply the average of a student's semester grades, starting w/the freshman year. Each college you apply for recalculates your academic GPA using its own formula. Normally, honors, dual enrollment, and AP courses are given extra weight in the process. Most colleges & scholarship applications ask that a student's GPA be included in his/her application form and transcript. Because students generally complete applications in the Fall of their Senior year, a student's GPA at the END of your JUNIOR year is VERY IMPORTANT!!

## **Class Rank**

Many high schools use class rank to show where a student stands academically in relation to the other members of his/her graduating class. Class rank is generally written as two numbers (e.g. 35/141). The first number represents the total number of students in the class. At WRHS, students are ranked numerically within their classes. Extra weight is calculated for classes that earn honor, dual enrollment, and AP points. Colleges receive your rank as part of the transcript. The class rank is locked in at the end of the 7<sup>th</sup> semester for graduating seniors.

## **High School Transcript**

A transcript is a document detailing a student's academic achievement in high school. Although the appearance of the high school transcript varies from school to school, high school transcripts usually contain the following information:

1. Courses, grades, and credits for each grade completed beginning with grade 9.
2. Cumulative GPA, class rank, and attendance
3. Anticipated graduation date
4. PLAN, PSAT, SAT and/or ACT scores

A transcript provides admissions and scholarship committees with important objective data. All colleges, and most scholarship programs request that an OFFICIAL transcript be submitted with each application. Requests for official transcripts must be made in writing with a signature from the parent (if student is under age 18) or student. Transcript request forms are available in Student Services.

## **Other Ways to Gain Admission to a State University**

**'Talented 20' Program:** If you rank in the top 20% of your Florida public high school graduating class, have taken the required courses for university admissions, and submitted your SAT or ACT scores, you are guaranteed admission to a state university, although the specific university may not be your first choice.

**Student Profile Assessment:** A few applicants who do not meet the minimum admissions requirements are granted admission to state universities through a 'student profile assessment' process. Profile assessment takes into account a student's exceptional attributes or special talents, such as accomplishments in music, art, or sports.

**Start at a Community College:** Enroll at a community college or state college, earn an AA degree, and transfer to a state university to complete coursework for a bachelor's degree. You are guaranteed admission to a state university, although not necessarily the university of choice. This approach to earning a 4-year degree is commonly referred to as the 2+2 system.