Delone Catholic High School

Senior Planning Guide 2017-18

140 South Oxford Avenue ~ McSherrystown, Pa. 17331
Phone 717-637-5969 ~ Fax 717-637-0442
www.DeloneCatholic.org

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Introduction

This guide has been prepared to help students make better-informed choices about formal education after high school. The materials contained in this guide have been selected from a number of sources including both published materials and materials written by and used in various other high school guidance programs in the area. Students and families who use the materials in this booklet will have good information about college admissions, about when to submit applications and about numerous other issues regarding post-secondary education

So, are you thinking about further education? What will it be? Technical or trade school? Business school? Nursing school? Two- year college? Four- year college or university? Before you can decide, you must make some honest assessments.

Getting Started

To begin with, if you can graduate from high school, you can go on to some form of further education. Some of these demand more academic ability than others. Some demand specific aptitudes more than intellectual strengths. So it is important to evaluate your career ambitions in light of all your aptitudes. If you cannot pinpoint, even vaguely, an area of interest, a counselor may be able to help you.

Once you latch on to a general direction, there are many consultants available to provide needed information. Do not overlook parents, teachers, workers in your field of interest, and again a counselor. Career resource materials, including materials available on the internet contain an adequate supply of information. Such materials can be found in the Guidance Center. After you have determined a need for further education, research the ways and means of acquiring it.

Types of Schools

When some students talk about further education, they have only one type of institution in mind - college. While, in our society, the word college seems synonymous with success, it is not the only kind of post high school institution, nor is it the only one which can lead to a satisfying career.

Trade and Technical

There are a number of schools which specialize in teaching certain technical and manual skills. For instance, there are schools which teach electronics; schools which specialize in art; some that concentrate only on business and/or secretarial skills; those that teach skills related to the allied health field; trade schools that instruct in the various craft skills used in construction or industry; and many other types of schools that concentrate on one particular field. Some of these schools award an associate degree in specialized technology upon completion of the educational program. For the most part, credits earned under such a degree program are not transferable to a bachelor degree program in a four-year college.

College: General Information

When the term “college” is used, it implies a format of education, which is not found in the trade or technical schools. There are certain courses that a college adds to its curricula, which do not necessarily relate to the career interest of the student but which are deemed necessary to provide the student with a well-rounded education. Such courses could be English, social studies, mathematics, science, psychology, sociology, humanities, foreign language and physical education. They are referred to in some college catalogues as “core” courses or “general curriculum” courses. Most of these courses are taken during the first two years of college and the courses dealing with the major field of interest are studied during the last two years.

Junior/Community Colleges

There are a number of benefits derived from such two-year colleges. For those students whose career interests demand only two years of further education and who want more than a technical education, such schools provide an acceptable compromise: technical training plus some "core" courses to bring the education program up to the level of an associate in arts or science degree after two-years of study. A chief benefit of having this degree is that, because of the "core" courses, the door to an advanced degree remains open if the student desires to return to college at a later date.

Another benefit of the two-year college is the sympathetic ear it gives to a struggling student. A student, who would have difficulty gaining admission to a four-year college, may find the door open at the two-year college level. At this level, more remedial help is usually available and if the student maintains a C or C+ average after two years, entry can possibly be made into the junior year of a four-year college.

Four-Year Colleges

Four-year institutions that grant degrees fall under the category of college. Other labels may be used such as "university" which is a group of colleges under one name; an "institute" which is more technical in nature; or just "college" which usually is liberal arts in nature. Whichever label is used, such institutions grant bachelor degrees in various areas such as Arts, Science, Fine Arts and others.

The Bachelor of Arts is the recommended degree for pre-professional studies such as medicine, law, dentistry and veterinary medicine. Bachelor of Science degrees are awarded to those completing education leading to teaching, business, nursing and others. Those pursuing education in a field related to music, arts, dance and theater seek a Bachelor of Fine Arts. There are some colleges called theological schools that concentrate on religious studies. And finally there are Military Schools that combine military studies and academics.

Nursing Schools

Since diploma schools of nursing are rather unique in themselves, they are mentioned here separately. These schools, while technical in nature, do provide some "core" courses during the three years of training but fall short of the necessary requirements needed for a bachelor's degree. At the end of the three years, students sit for the state board examination and, upon passing it, are awarded the Registered Nurse status. Some colleges are now offering programs for the Registered Nurse from diploma schools who wish to take more courses in order to receive the degree of Bachelor of Science in Nursing. There are two other avenues for becoming a Registered Nurse. Some two-year colleges offer an associate degree program in nursing and many four year colleges offer bachelor degree programs. So, there is a choice. Talk to your counselor about the advantages and disadvantages of each.

Timeline for Seniors

Summer

- Gather information about schools.
- Visit schools in which you have an interest. One caution: be aware that schools generally have a different character in the summer then they do during the regular school year.

September - November

- Continue to gather information on colleges and narrow the field. Use materials in this guide to help.
- Keep grades as high as possible.
- Register to take or retake the SAT's and/or ACT's.
- Determine whether SAT Subject Tests are required by your intended college(s). If so, register to take no later than January.
- Call or write for college application materials.
- Attend local college fairs. The listing is published in the Squire Wire.
- Meet with your counselor.
- Meet with college representatives who will visit Delone Catholic. The schedule is published on the www.DeloneCatholic.org and is posted in classrooms.
- Schedule and visit schools in which you are interested. Refer to policy in student handbook about these visits.
- Narrow the field of choices. Experts recommend from three to six choices: one sure bet, two to four probable choices, and one long shot. Remember that each application will require a fee ranging from $25 - $70.

October - December

- Make applications to the colleges you've selected. If any of these schools have rolling admissions, the earlier you apply the better.
- Begin collecting and thinking about financial aid information.
- Arrange to send first quarter grades to schools that request them.
- Submit financial aid forms as soon as possible after October 1.

January - February

- Arrange to submit mid-year reports to the schools that request them.
- Continue checking on and applying for national and local scholarships. A listing of these is published periodically by the Guidance Department and is posted in classrooms and on www.DeloneCatholic.org. Also, many internet scholarship search sites exist.

February - May

- Notify schools about your decisions.
- Submit deposit to the one you will attend.
- Write letters to the schools you will not be attending.
- Continue to build study skills and keep grades as high as possible.

College Admissions Testing

Tests which are labeled college admissions tests measure how much a student has learned throughout all his years of schooling. There are two major tests: the SAT and the ACT.

SAT

The SAT is preferred by colleges in the Middle Atlantic states. It measures both verbal and math ability. This test is administered at specific sites seven times during the school year. Dates are posted in the Guidance Center and are included in this guide.

ACT

The ACT is recognized by most colleges in the Middle Atlantic States but is preferred by schools in the southern and western states. Many community colleges in Pennsylvania use this test for admission and/or placement purposes. It measures ability in four areas: verbal, math, natural science and reading. It is administered at specified sites five times during the school year. Dates are posted in the Guidance Center and are included in this guide.

SAT Subject Tests

Some of the more competitive colleges require one or more placement tests from students whom they have accepted. These tests are in individual subject areas such as English Composition, Mathematics, Foreign Languages, Biology, etc. Registering for these tests is accomplished through the same procedure as registering for the SAT. Subject Tests are administered on five SAT test dates.

Special Tests

For specific areas of study, there are sometimes special tests. For example, some nursing schools require the National League of Nursing Test. Those wishing to pursue Dental Hygiene must take a specific test. The catalogue of each school will indicate what tests, if any, are required.

2017-18 SAT Testing

Date	Tests	Regular Registration (Postmark Date)	Late Registration (Postmark Date)
Aug. 26, 2017	SAT I/SAT II Subject Tests	Registration deadlines were not available at time of printing. Visit www.SAT.org for more information. * Delone Catholic serves as a test center on these dates. Some students do better on the ACT assessment because the ACT measures achievement, while the SAT measures aptitude. Therefore, if you are not happy with your SAT scores, you might want to consider taking the ACT assessment.	
Oct. 7, 2017	SAT I/SAT II Subject Tests		
Nov. 4, 2017*	SAT I/SAT II Subject Tests		
Dec. 2, 2017	SAT I/SAT II Subject Tests		
March 10, 2018	SAT I		
May 5, 2018*	SAT I/SAT II Subject Tests		
June 2, 2018	SAT I/SAT II Subject Tests		

2017-18 ACT Testing

Date	Regular Registration (Postmark Date)	Late Registration (Postmark Date)
Sept. 9, 2017	Registration deadlines were not available at time of printing. Visit www.ACT.org for more information. * Delone Catholic serves as a test center on these dates. Some students do better on the ACT assessment because the ACT measures achievement, while the SAT measures aptitude. Therefore, if you are not happy with your SAT scores, you might want to consider taking the ACT assessment.	
Oct. 28 2017*		
Dec. 9, 2017		
Feb. 10, 2018		
April 14, 2018*		
June 9, 2018		

Admission Requirements

In general, the easiest road to acceptance into any type of post high school institution is a good high school preparation. The time you give to developing good study skills; the attention you pay in class; the attitude you develop toward learning, all contribute to your eligibility for further education. However, different types of schools have different admissions requirements.

Trade and Technical Schools

These schools require graduation from high school or a GED certificate. Some administer their own tests to find out the strengths and weaknesses of a student.

Junior/community colleges

Colleges in general are concerned about courses a student has taken in high school, the grades achieved and the class rank or the grade point average. Community colleges may administer their own tests or require the SAT or the ACT.

Four-Year Colleges and Universities

Perhaps the most important admission factor is the class rank. In our school, this rank is a cumulative rank and it is the six-semester rank, achieved by the end of the junior year, which is sent to the colleges to which the student applies for admission. Seven semester ranks are sent to colleges which request them and eight semester ranks are sent to the college which the student will definitely attend.

Besides the success in academics, the extent of a student's participation in extracurricular activities is important in the admission process. The number of different activities is not as important as the quality of time given to an activity. Some colleges require one or more letters of recommendation as a necessary part of the admission requirements. In order to assist those who are to write such letters, please pick up and return to the Guidance Center a Letter of Recommendation Request Form (Appendix C). These forms should also be given to teachers and others from whom you request a recommendation.

Nursing schools

These schools are also interested in class rank and academic achievement. However, the type of admissions test required differs from one school to another. School catalogues must be consulted.

The Application

Most colleges and universities prefer that students apply on line but application forms can be obtained by requesting them by mail or by calling the school's admission office. The only information that you must give at the time of this request is your name and address; your field of interest and your year of graduation from high school. Simply request an application, descriptive materials and financial aid information.

The application is usually not difficult to complete. Read all instructions carefully and answer everything that applies to you. Print or type neatly. Along with the application there is often a secondary school form to be completed by the school counselor. Since the school or college will also request a transcript of your grades, you must submit a Transcript Request Form (Appendix D). This form is available in the Guidance Center, the main office and in the Guidance section of Delone Catholic's website.

Transcript and Release of Information Request Form

Your high school transcript is a legal document that contains your grades, test scores, and activities. The release of information form gives the school permission to send that information to the colleges of your choice.

Please make sure that you and your parents (if you are under 18), sign the release form. All transcripts cost $4 each. Official transcripts may not be given directly to you. If you anticipate visiting a school, the transcript can be mailed prior to your visit. You will need a release form for each school that you apply to. You may ask for an unofficial transcript for your own use.

When you have completed your application, bring it with the application fee (a check or money order) and a signed Transcript Request Form (Appendix D) to your counselor. Then, inform the counselor if there will be any recommendations forthcoming. Your counselor will check your application, complete any "Guidance" or "Secondary" reports, enclose an official transcript and send it out for you. Please be considerate and give your counselor enough time to do all of that for you - at least two weeks.

If the school to which you are applying requires letters of reccomendations, request a Letter of Recommendation Request Form (Appendix C) from the Guidance Center or download a copy from www.DeloneCatholic.org. Be aware of the policies regarding such letters listed in the student handbook. All letters of recommendation, transcripts, and application materials will be sent directly from the guidance office. Students will be notified about when items have been sent by use of a memo by the counselor.

Completing Your Application

Your application is usually the first impression of you by the admissions office. When completing the application:

- First, read over the application and pay particular attention to the directions.
- Be neat and complete.
- Type, if at all possible, or print legibly and neatly. Some applications require a certain color of pen ink.
- Applications ask for your name, address, social security number, phone number, parents' name and address.
- You will need this information too:
  - Delone Catholic High School
  - 140 South Oxford Avenue, McSherrystown, Pa. 17344
  - 717-637-5969
  - CEEB and ACT number - 392520
- You may need your Guidance Counselor's name: Mr. Christopher J. Cline, Mrs. Lori Heberling or Mr. Stephen Hutton or the principal's name: Maureen C. Thiec, Ed D.
- Some applications ask you to list your senior courses.
- Some require you to write an essay. Refer to the College Essay section.
- You may need recommendations. Refer to Letter of Recommendation section.
- Check your application deadline. Does your application say must be postmarked by ___? or Must be received by _?

Types of Admission/Acceptances

Early Decision/Early Action

Many colleges offer the possibility of an early decision acceptance. This is a binding agreement that, if accepted, requires the applicant to enroll in that college. The applicant must agree to not apply early decision to any other schools. The application deadline for early decision tends to range from Oct. 15 to Dec. 1. Early action is similar in that the application deadline is earlier, but there is no binding agreement that requires the applicant to enroll in that college if accepted.

Deadline Admission

Students apply by mail or electronically, according to the procedures prescribed by the college. Deadlines usually range from Jan. 1 to March 15, but even into July and August for less competitive schools. Schools respond by mid-spring ordinarily. The student must then accept or reject the acceptance within a certain time.

Rolling Admission

A popular trend in college admissions offices is the rolling admissions concept. Once all the application requirements are fulfilled, the college will send the applicant a decision within a short time, often within two weeks. The student is sometimes required to reply to that decision within a short time. Early application is essential with this program.

Note: Information concerning types of admission/acceptance to specific colleges maybe found in the catalogue of the college or in the College Handbook.

DEFINITIONS OF ADMISSION OPTIONS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

NACAC National Association for College Admission Counseling

STUDENTS: WHICH COLLEGE ADMISSION PROCESS BEST *SUITS YOU?*

Non-Restrictive Application Plans

Regular Decision

DEFINITION:

Students submit an application by a specified date and receive a decision in a clearly stated period of time.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Rolling Admission

DEFINITION:

Institutions review applications as they are submitted and render admission decisions throughout the admission cycle.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Early Action (EA)

DEFINITION:

Students apply early and receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Students are not restricted from applying to other institutions and have until May 1 to consider their options and confirm enrollment.

Restrictive Application Plans

Early Decision (ED)

DEFINITION:

Students make a commitment to a first-choice institution where, if admitted they definitely will enroll. The application deadline and decision deadline occur early.

COMMITMENT:

BINDING

Restrictive Early Action (REA)

DEFINITION:

Students apply to an institution of preference and receive a decision early. They may be restricted from applying ED or EA or REA to other institutions. If offered enrollment, they have until May 1 to confirm.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Students are responsible for determining and following restrictions.

For a copy of this flyer, please visit www.nacacnet.org

School or College Response

Depending on the admissions policy of the school, you may receive one of four responses: acceptance, rejection, delay or waiting list. If the response is one of acceptance, you will be requested to confirm your intention of attendance by sending a deposit ranging anywhere from fifty dollars and up. If you decide not to accept, then out of courtesy, you should write to the school and politely decline the offer.

If the response is one of rejection, you may be told that you do not qualify for admission into that particular school or you may be told that you do not qualify for the major that you requested. In the latter case, the option may still exist for admission if you select another major or apply as undecided.

If the response is delayed, the school usually needs more information such as quarter or semester grades or admission tests scores before a decision can be made.

If you are put on the waiting list, you could still be selected if some accepted students reject an offer of admission.

Applications from Their Side

Admissions officers consider these factors in roughly the following order of importance:

1. Difficulty of curriculum
2. Class rank/grade point average
3. SAT (or ACT) Test Scores
4. Extra-curricular activities
5. Recommendations
6. Interviews
7. Application essays
8. Intangibles

Of course, every college is different. The larger the school the less time will be spent on your application. Big state schools (like Penn State) rarely reach number four on the list, but small schools may look past lower grades or low SAT's if there is something special down the list.

Extra-Curricular Activities That are Impressive

- Student Publications
- Student Government and National Honor Society
- Choir or Band
- Varsity Sports
- Community Service activities
- Eagle Scout or Girl Scout Gold Award
- All-state anything
- Debate/Speech/Forensics
- Volunteer Fireman
- Business owner / operator

The College Visit

No matter how attractive the brochure, how exciting the catalog or how prestigious the reputation, you will never know what a college is like until you see for yourself. After you have narrowed your list of choices to a manageable number (try six) plan a campus visit.

- Plan your visit in advance by writing or calling ahead for an appointment with the director of admissions. Include a description of your primary interest.
- Schedule an appointment with a financial aid officer.
- If at all possible, visit when the school is in session. Avoid special event days. Late spring or fall is the best visiting time.
- Stay overnight if possible. Contact the admissions office for arrangements or contact a friend who can house you for the night.
- Include your parents on your visit. What do they think?
- Many campuses offer "Visitation Days." Guided tours are available. Ask students on campus what they think of the school.

What to Look For

- How well does it fit with your school assessment profile?
- What is the atmosphere on campus? Is it peaceful, laid back, busy, rushed? How does it feel to you?
- What opportunities exist in your intended field of study?
- Sit in on one or more classes, if possible. Observe both the instructor and students. How would you fit in?
- Check out the library, laboratories, lecture halls, and computer facilities. Go to the bookstore. What do they sell? What religious facilities are on or close to the campus? What about the health services?
- How hard do you have to work to be successful? Who teaches most of the classes - professors or graduate students?
- Student life : Visit dorms, student union, eating-places. Have a meal on campus. What types of entertainment are there?
- Extra-curricular activities: look for fraternities, sororities, service clubs, organized sports, school paper, and magazines, etc. What are your interests?
- Surrounding the town: Is the campus in the middle of a city or in a rural setting?
- Does the campus meet your needs in what you want out of college life?

Writing Your Essay

Some college applications are never submitted because students "can't" write an essay. The essay is the part of the application that lets your uniqueness come through. It tells much more about you than numbers do. Use the following tips and seek help if you need it from teachers, counselors, parents, etc.

Do's and Don'ts

- DO write lean. Quantity is not quality. Clear, concise writing is much better than a volume of mediocrity.
- DO start early. Leave plenty of time to revise, reword, and rewrite. You can improve on your presentation
- DO read the directions carefully. You will want to answer the question as directly as possible, and you'll want to follow word limits exactly.
- DO tell the truth about yourself. The admission committee is anonymous to you; you are completely unknown to them.
- DO focus on an aspect of yourself that will show your best side. You might have overcome some difficulty, worked through an unusual situation, or benefited froma specific incident. A narrow focus is more interesting than are broad-based generalizations. Make your point with examples.
- DO consider using the three Common Application form topics as early practice possibilities:
  - ◊ Evaluate a significant experience or achievement that has special meaning to you;
  - ◊ Discuss some issue of personal, local, or national concern and its importance to you;
  - ◊ Indicate a person who has had a significant influence on you, and describe the influence.
- DO feel comfortable in expressing anxieties. Everybody has them, and it's good to know that an applicant can see them and face them.
- DO speak positively. Negatives tend to turn people off.
- DO write about your greatest assets and achievements. You should be proud of them! This is important! Do not be tempted to understate your accomplishments for fear of seeming boastful. Let yourself shine.
- DO have someone proofread your work.
- DON'T repeat information given elsewhere on your application. The committee has already seen it - and it looks as though you have nothing better to say.
- DON'T write on general, impersonal topics - like the nuclear arms race or even about your family. The college wants to know about you.
- DON'T sacrifice the essay to excuse your shortcomings unless you intend that to be a natural and integral part of your topic. If it's a question of underachievement, you should find a spot somewhere else in the application (or use a separate sheet of paper) to explain why you have not been working to your ability.
- DON'T use clichés.
- DON'T go to extremes; too witty; too opinionated, or too "intellectual."

Remember: The personal statement is yours. If it looks like Madison Avenue, the admissions committee will probably assume that it is your mother's or your father's or their secretaries'.

Financial Aid

Paying for post-secondary education is often a challenging task for students and their parents. There are many financial aid programs available, however, to help.

There is a variety of forms to fill out and steps to complete, but the effort can pay off in real financial help for students -- SO DO IT!

Here is a listing of types of financial aid and then some guidelines on applying. Good luck!

Types of Financial Aid

- Scholarships: Money awarded to students that does not have to have to be paid back. Scholarships can come from the State (Pennsylvania or Maryland), the college you will attend, or from private sources (organizations, businesses, etc).
  Awarding of scholarships is usually based on achievement measured by SATand GPA. They can also be based on financial need, community service, athletic ability or other achievements.
  There are many thousands of scholarships awarded every year. Websites are linked in the Guidance section of www.DeloneCatholic.org that will search for scholarships for you. Local scholarship information is published and posted in classrooms and on www.DeloneCatholic.org.
- Grants: Money given by the state and federal governments that does not have to be paid back. State and federal grants are awarded based on financial need. This need is determined by the government based on information given on an application - more information in "Scholarships and Applying Financial Aid" section.
- Loans: Money borrowed by students or their parents that must be paid back. Loans are made by banks. The federal government may pay interest while a student is in school. Interest rates are usually low and no collateral is needed. Repayment begins six months after school is completed - repayment terms are low payments with a long time to pay. Some loans are for students only - some include parents.
- Work Study: Money is earned by student while working at the college. Student's working hours are limited. Many jobs allow time for study. These are set up by the college.
- Loan Forgiveness: As part of a special program for students who wish to become teachers, the state may pay back loans if the student teaches in this state - especially math or science.

Scholarships and Applying for Financial Aid

- Watch for Scholarship information published by the guidance department throughout the year and posted in the class rooms. These lists include local scholarship applications that have been mailed to the Guidance Office.
- Look for more sources. The Guidance Center has on its section of the schools website a number of financial aid resources and scholarship search websites e.g. www.fastweb.com, www.collegeboard.org , www.educationplanner.org and www.finaid.com. Students who are residents of Maryland should go to www.mhec.state.md.us.
- When you decide on a school, let them know you are interested in financial aid, so they can help you know what is available at their school. They may have an additional financial aid form for you to fill out.
- In October, submit the the Free Application for Federal StudentAid (FAFSA) form. This form will determine how much you get in grants and other aid based on need. Do this early even if you have not decided on a college. Forms cannot be postmarked earlier than Oct. 1.
- The Profile Form issued by the College Board; certain schools (usually private schools) require families to complete this form. It is important to complete this form as early as possible. It may be submitted as soon as it is completed.

Guidelines for Students Seekng Financial Aid for College Athletics

- Determine, as realistically as possible, the extent of your athletic ability. Are you a select "super star", a walk-on who will earn a scholarship, a participant who will require other kinds of financial aid (need-based)? At what level of difficulty will you be able to compete?
- Get a head start on deciding academic and career goals, as much as you can. This will limit your college choices to a reasonable number with whom you can work more intensely
- Check the catalogs available in the Guidance office for scholarships offered at various colleges and names of coaches and athletic directors.
- Consult with parents, coaches, counselors, and other sources of information as you trim down your list of those with whom you will communicate.
- By the fall of your senior year, write a letter of introduction to each college's athletic department covering the following points:
  - ◊ Personal information: age, physical characteristics, height, weight, address, high school, phone number, year in school.
  - ◊ Academic information: grades, class rank, courses, SAT/ACT test scores, honors, intended major.
  - ◊ Athletic information: sports, experience, statistics, awards, special training/skills, clippings from newspaper.
- Send a duplicate copy of your letter to the college's admissions office, requesting application forms and additional relevant information on academics and finances.
- Ask the coach to write a recommendation for you. He (she) knows what points to cover.
- File a regular application and financial aid form in anticipation of the deadlines.
- Communicate with coaches and counselors on responses and your continuing interests in various schools and programs.
- Prepare with coaches, counselors for prospective interviews.
- Be sure to have a resource person, maybe a lawyer, available to your family for consultation before signing letters of intent or contracts.
- Please refer to www.eligibilitycenter.org, the website for the NCAA Initial- Eligibility Clearinghouse, for information regarding certification to participate in intercollegiate athletics at Division I or II and the particular courses taught at Delone Catholic that are recognized as core courses by the NCAA.

Key Point: Scholarships do not come from the blue, few receive full scholarship consideration and most students must be prepared to do about 90% of the work involved themselves.

Your Response to an Offer of Admission

If you are accepted by a school and elect to attend, pay particular attention to deadlines for sending in deposit fees and other information. If you are accepted by second and third choice schools and their deadline for replying is on a date that arrives before you hear from your first choice, contact the admissions office of the schools accepting you and ask for an extension of time. Schools will usually give you one and sometimes two extensions to respond to their offer of admission. Most colleges and universities subscribe to the Joint Statement on Principles of Good Practice in College Admissions and Recruiting, which states "that colleges and universities will permit candidates to choose, without penalty, among offers of admission until the dates established under the candidate's reply date agreement." This means that no students may be required to post a deposit or accept an offer of admission and/or financial aid until all institutions to which he or she has applied have responded or until May 1, whichever is earlier.

Most schools request semester and/or final grades of the student whom they accept. You must inform the Guidance Center if you want first semester grades sent to a particular school. Final grades are sent to the school that you have indicated you will attend. Many schools will provide forms for such reports. Turn these into the Guidance Center. Seniors who are accepted into any college or school or who enlist in the military are expected to bring to the Guidance Center a copy of the letter of acceptance. An updated list of these students' names will be included in the school's newsletter and on posted acceptance lists.

Making the Final Choice

Most colleges need a reply by May 1 as to whether you will be attending or not.

If you have only been accepted to one college, or you have a favorite choice of those colleges that have accepted you, then the final choice is an easy one. But what if you have no clear-cut choice of the colleges to which you were accepted? Get yourself some paper and a pen or pencil and prepare to do some work.

- List those colleges you are considering.
- Review your self-assessment and college assessment.
- List the pros and cons of each college - what are the advantages or disadvantages?
  - ◊ How good is your major at the college?
  - ◊ How well does the college meet your academic and social needs?
  - ◊ Consider the financial aspects. How much of a difference is there between a private school costing $40,000 a year and a public institution ranging from $15,000-$24,000 a year? How much financial aid can you expect from each school? What will the transportation costs be?
  - ◊ How well will you do in college? Considering the college's academic standards, will you be able to compete with your classmates, excel or just keep your head above water? This is important to consider.
  - ◊ Is it important that other Delone Catholic students be on campus?
  - ◊ Distance will be a factor when determining how often you will be able to return home.
- Consider how you felt about being on campus. Rank the choices from most to least comfortable.
- Determine what is most important to you. Review all of your information and try to decide. Do steps 1-4 again in a few days. Do you come to the same conclusion?
- Talk to people - verbalizing sometimes helps make things clearer. Talk to God - take time out to pray about your decision.

Make your final decision. Just remember - no decision is ever etched in stone. Mostly everyone has doubts. However, if you have worked through the process carefully, your decision will most likely be a good one.

Appendix A - College Comparison Worksheet

College Name			
Location • distance from home			
Size • enrollment • physical size of campus			
Environment • school setting (urban, rural) • location and size of nearest city • co-ed, male, female			
Admissions Requirements • deadline or rolling • test required • average test scores, GPA, rank • special requirements • notification			
Academics • your major offered • special requirements • accreditation • student-faculty ratio • typical class size			
College Expenses • tuition, room, board • estimated total budget • application fee, deposits			
Financial Aid • deadline • required forms/applications • percentage receiving aid • scholarships			
Housing • residence hall requirement • availability • types and sizes • food plan			
Facilities • academic • recreation/athletic			
Activities • clubs and organizations • Greek life • athletics, intramurals • other			
Campus Visits • when/special opportunities			

Appendix B - Letters of Recommendation Policy

Students at Delone Catholic High School may need letters of recommendation from teachers, counselors and administrators at various times.

Students might need such letters to aid them:

- in gaining admission to post-secondary schools
- in acquiring financial aid
- in qualifying for scholarships (need-based and merit-based)
- in competing for awards or contests
- in explaining weaknesses on their high school record

Teachers, counselors and administrators will compose such letters for students according to the following guidelines. For whatever reason, a teacher, counselor or administrator has the right to decline an invitation to submit a letter of recommendation.

Guidelines for Letters of Recommendation

1. Students must provide the teacher, counselor or administrator at least two weeks' notice of the need for a letter of recommendation. If possible, students should give even more than two weeks' notice for such a letter.
2. Students must provide the teacher, counselor or administrator with a written request for a letter of recommendation, stating the reason for the request. Letter of Recommendation Request Forms are available on www.DeloneCatholic.org, in Mrs. Heberling's office and in the Guidance Center.
3. Teachers, counselors and administrators should keep a copy of the letter for their personal file.
4. Teachers, counselors and administrators may offer a copy of the letter to the student.
5. Original letters of recommendation should normally be forwarded to the student's counselor who will include them with the other application materials. If the letter must be directly sent under separate cover by the teacher, counselor or administator to the post-secondary institution or applicable agency, the student must provide a stamped, addressed envelope for this purpose.

Appendix C - Letter of Recommendation Request Form

Delone Catholic High School
Letter of Recommendation Request Form

Reminder: Teachers must be given two weeks' notice of the need for a letter of recommendation.

Student Name		Grade		Homeroom		Date	

Teacher/Counselor/Administrator	
	Please list all that apply. Copies may be made after completing the request.

Please write a letter to the following school or agency for me.

Name of College or Agency	
Address of College or Agency	
Postmark/Deadline Date	

Please give letter to my guidance counselor,	_____ *Name of Counselor*		or	Please send the letter directly.	

I need this letter of recommendation for one or more of the following reasons, which I have checked:

- ❑ Required for Admission
- ❑ Financial Aid
- ❑ Scholarship Competition
- ❑ Contest Competition
- ❑ Explain weakness on academic record
- ❑ Other (please specify)_____

Is a specific form required?	Yes		No		

Students: So that a complete letter of recommendation can be prepared, please complete the following sections. If you need more space, you may attach additional sheets as needed.

High School and Community Activities (list activity and year of participation):

Awards Received, if applicable (list name and year of award):

Part-time Employment (list employer, duties and hours worked per week):

School Subjects taken during current year:

Favorite High School Subjects:

Volunteer Activities (include Works of Mercy Activities):

What major academic fields and related careers have you seriously considered? Why do they interest you?
What do you consider your greatest talent or valuable qualities? Explain.
What would you change about your high school experience if you could?
Describe a significant service project you have completed, if applicable:
What obstacles have you had to overcome, if any?
Is there something in your past accomplishments or personal qualities of which you are particularly proud? Explain.

Appendix D: Transcript Request Form

Delone Catholic High School
Transcript Request Form

Student: _____ Date of Birth: _____

(maiden name, if applicable)

Homeroom: _____

(if applicable)

Year of Graduation: _____ Reason for Release _____

High School Guidance Counselor _____

I hereby authorize Delone Catholic High School to release a copy of my entire permanent record (transcript) to the following:

Transcript #1	
Deadline Dates	Postmarked _____
	Received _____
ATTN: _____	
Name of Agency/School	
Address	

Transcript #2	
Deadline Dates	Postmarked _____
	Received _____
ATTN: _____	
Name of Agency/School	
Address	

Transcript #3	
Deadline Dates	Postmarked _____
	Received _____
ATTN: _____	
Name of Agency/School	
Address	

Transcript #4	
Deadline Dates	Postmarked _____
	Received _____
ATTN: _____	
Name of Agency/School	
Address	

Date Request Received

_____

Signature of Parent, Guardian or Adult Student*

_____

_____

Address

Telephone #: _____ Cell Phone #: _____

Date: _____

A student 18 years or older may sign this release without the permission of parent or guardian.
Note: A $4fee is charged for each transcript.

Appendix e - NCAA Initial Academic eligibility Requirements



DIVISION I ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

College-bound student-athletes will need to meet the following academic requirements to practice, receive athletic scholarships, and/or compete during their first year.

Core-Course Requirement

Complete 16 core courses in the following areas:

ENGLISH	MATH (Algebra I or higher)	NATURAL/ PHYSICAL SCIENCE (One year of lab, if offered)	ADDITIONAL ENGLISH, MATH OR NATURAL/ PHYSICAL SCIENCE	SOCIAL SCIENCE	ADDITIONAL COURSES (Any area listed to the left, foreign language or comparative religion/philosophy)
4 years	3 years	2 years	1 year	2 years	4 years

Full Qualifier

- Complete 16 core courses.
  - Ten of the 16 core courses must be completed before the seventh semester (senior year) of high school.
  - Seven of the 10 core courses must be in English, math or science.
- Earn a core-course GPA of at least 2.300.
- Earn the ACT/SAT score matching your core-course GPA on the Division I sliding scale (see back page).
- Graduate high school.

Academic Redshirt

- Complete 16 core courses.
- Earn a core-course GPA of at least 2.000.
- Earn the ACT/SAT score matching your core-course GPA on the Division I sliding scale (see back page).
- Graduate high school.

Full Qualifier:
College-bound student-athletes may practice, compete and receive athletics scholarships during their first year of enrollment at an NCAA Division I school.

Academic Redshirt:
College-bound student-athletes may receive athletics scholarships during their first year of enrollment and may practice during their first regular academic term, but may NOT compete during their first year of enrollment.

Nonqualifier:
College-bound student-athletes cannot practice, receive athletics scholarships or compete during their first year of enrollment at an NCAA Division I school.

Test Scores

When a student registers for the SAT or ACT, he or she can use the NCAA Eligibility Center code of **9999** so his or her scores are sent directly to the NCAA Eligibility Center from the testing agency. Test scores on transcripts will **NOT** be used in his or her academic certification.

A combined SAT score is calculated by adding reading and math subscores. An ACT sum score is calculated by adding English, math, reading and science subscores. A student may take the SAT or ACT an unlimited number of times before he or she enrolls full time in college. If a student takes either test more than once, the best subscore from different tests are used to meet initial-eligibility requirements.

If a student took the SAT before March 2016 and then took the redesigned SAT at a later date, the NCAA Eligibility Center will not combine section scores from the former and redesigned SAT when determining his or her initial eligibility. The NCAA Eligibility Center will only combine section scores from the same version of the test. Because the redesigned SAT varies in design and measures different academic concepts than the former SAT, the Eligibility Center will apply the College Board's concordance tables when performing academic certifications for students with redesigned SAT scores.

*To compare SAT scores, click here for a comparison table, or click here to visit the College Board's website.

DIVISION I FULL QUALIFIER SLIDING SCALE		
CORE GPA	SAT* READING/MATH	ACT SUM
3.550	400	37
3.525	410	38
3.500	420	39
3.475	430	40
3.450	440	41
3.425	450	41
3.400	460	42
3.375	470	42
3.350	480	43
3.325	490	44
3.300	500	44
3.275	510	45
3.250	520	46
3.225	530	46
3.200	540	47
3.175	550	47
3.150	560	48
3.125	570	49
3.100	580	49
3.075	590	50
3.050	600	50
3.025	610	51
3.000	620	52
2.975	630	52
2.950	640	53
2.925	650	53
2.900	660	54
2.875	670	55
2.850	680	56
2.825	690	56
2.800	700	57
2.775	710	58

DIVISION I FULL QUALIFIER SLIDING SCALE		
CORE GPA	SAT* READING/MATH	ACT SUM
2.750	720	59
2.725	730	60
2.700	740	61
2.675	750	61
2.650	760	62
2.625	770	63
2.600	780	64
2.575	790	65
2.550	800	66
2.525	810	67
2.500	820	68
2.475	830	69
2.450	840	70
2.425	850	70
2.400	860	71
2.375	870	72
2.350	880	73
2.325	890	74
2.300	900	75
2.299	910	76
2.275	910	76
2.250	920	77
2.225	930	78
2.200	940	79
2.175	950	80
2.150	960	81
2.125	970	82
2.100	980	83
2.075	990	84
2.050	1000	85
2.025	1010	86
2.000	1020	88

ACADEMIC REDSHIRT

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NCAA Eligibility Center

2018 DIVISION II NEW ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

College-bound student-athletes first enrolling at an NCAA Division II school on or after August 1, 2018, need to meet new academic rules to practice, compete and receive athletics scholarships during their first year.

Core-Course Requirement

Complete 16 core courses in the following areas:

ENGLISH	MATH (Algebra I or higher)	NATURAL/ PHYSICAL SCIENCE (including one year of lab science, if offered)	SOCIAL SCIENCE	ADDITIONAL (English, math, or natural/physical science)	ADDITIONAL (English, math, natural/physical science, social science, foreign language, comparative religion or philosophy)
3 years	2 years	2 years	2 years	3 years	4 years

Full Qualifier

- Complete 16 core courses.
- Earn a core-course GPA of at least 2.200.
- Earn the ACT/SAT score matching your core-course GPA on the Division II full qualifier sliding scale (see back page).
- Graduate high school.

Partial Qualifier

- Complete 16 core courses.
- Earn a core-course GPA of at least 2.000.
- Earn the ACT/SAT score matching your core-course GPA on the Division II partial qualifier sliding scale (see back page).
- Graduate high school.

Full Qualifier:

College-bound student-athletes may practice, compete and receive athletics scholarships during their first year of enrollment at an NCAA Division II school.

Partial Qualifier:

College-bound student-athletes may receive athletics scholarships during their first year of enrollment and may practice during their first regular academic term, but may NOT compete during their first year of enrollment.

Nonqualifier:

College-bound student-athletes may not practice, compete or receive athletics scholarships during their first year of enrollment at an NCAA Division II school.

Test Scores

If a student took the SAT before March 2016 and then took the redesigned SAT at a later date, the NCAA Eligibility Center will not combine section scores from the former and redesigned SAT when determining his or her initial eligibility. The NCAA Eligibility Center will only combine section scores from the same version of the test. Because the redesigned SAT varies in design and measures different academic concepts than the former SAT, the Eligibility Center will apply the College Board's concordance tables when performing academic certifications for students with redesigned SAT scores.

*To compare SAT scores, click here for a comparison table, or click here to visit the College Board's website.

DIVISION II FULL QUALIFIER SLIDING SCALE

USE FOR DIVISION II BEGINNING AUGUST 2018

CORE GPA	SAT* READING/MATH	ACT SUM
3.300 & above	400	37
3.275	410	38
3.250	420	39
3.225	430	40
3.200	440	41
3.175	450	41
3.150	460	42
3.125	470	42
3.100	480	43
3.075	490	44
3.050	500	44
3.025	510	45
3.000	520	46
2.975	530	46
2.950	540	47
2.925	550	47
2.900	560	48
2.875	570	49
2.850	580	49
2.825	590	50
2.800	600	50
2.775	610	51
2.750	620	52
2.725	630	52
2.700	640	53
2.675	650	53
2.650	660	54
2.625	670	55
2.600	680	56
2.575	690	56
2.550	700	57
2.525	710	58
2.500	720	59
2.475	730	60
2.450	740	61
2.425	750	61
2.400	760	62
2.375	770	63
2.350	780	64
2.325	790	65
2.300	800	66
2.275	810	67
2.250	820	68
2.225	830	69
2.200	840 & above	70 & above

DIVISION II PARTIAL QUALIFIER SLIDING SCALE

USE FOR DIVISION II BEGINNING AUGUST 2018

CORE GPA	SAT* READING/MATH	ACT SUM
3.050 & above	400	37
3.025	410	38
3.000	420	39
2.975	430	40
2.950	440	41
2.925	450	41
2.900	460	42
2.875	470	42
2.850	480	43
2.825	490	44
2.800	500	44
2.775	510	45
2.750	520	46
2.725	530	46
2.700	540	47
2.675	550	47
2.650	560	48
2.625	570	49
2.600	580	49
2.575	590	50
2.550	600	50
2.525	610	51
2.500	620	52
2.475	630	52
2.450	640	53
2.425	650	53
2.400	660	54
2.375	670	55
2.350	680	56
2.325	690	56
2.300	700	57
2.275	710	58
2.250	720	59
2.225	730	60
2.200	740	61
2.175	750	61
2.150	760	62
2.125	770	63
2.100	780	64
2.075	790	65
2.050	800	66
2.025	810	67
2.000	820 & above	68 & above

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Appendix F - NCAA -Approved Core Courses for Initial Eligibility

English

- Creative Writing
- English 9, 10, 11 and 12
- AP English Literature and Composition
- Introduction to Journalism
- Introduction to Poetry
- Communications

Mathematics

- Algebra I, II and III
- Algebra II/Trigonometry
- AP Calculus
- AP Statistics
- Calculus-H
- Geometry
- Pre-Calculus
- Statistics-H
- Trigonometry

Science

- Anatomy and Physiology
- Biology I and II
- Chemistry I and II
- Conceptual Physics
- Earth and Space Science
- Electronics I and II
- Physical Science
- Physics I and II
- Practical Chemistry

Social Studies

- American Cultures
- American Government
- AP US Government and Politics
- AP Microeconomics
- AP US History
- Contemporary Microeconomic Issues
- Criminology
- Economics
- Global History/European Cultures
- Holocaust
- International Relations
- Psychology
- Sociology
- World Area Studies

Additional Core Courses

- French I, II, III, IV and V
- Introduction to Philosophical Thought
- Latin I, II
- Spanish I, II, III, IV and V

Appendix G - PASFAA Website Resource Guide

The Pennsylvania Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (PASFAA), through the efforts of the Technology Advisory and Electronic Initiatives Committee, is pleased to provide this Resource Guide to you. The purpose of this guide is to provide a list of some of the websites that are most useful not only to students, but also to those involved in helping students to achieve their educational goals. We hope you find this resource useful.

Pennsylvania Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

www.pasfaa.org

College Search

College Comparisons
www.overview.com/colleges
www.usnews.com

College Opportunities On-Line
www.nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator

College Search
www.collegenet.com
www.educationplanner.org
www.mapping-your-future.org
www.pennsylvaniamentor.org
www.petersons.com
www.review.com

Planning for College
www.adventuresineducation.org
www.collegiatepossible.org
www.review.com

SAT/ACT Information & Tips
www.act.org
www.collegeboard.com
www.petersons.com
www.review.com

Athletics

National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics
www.naia.org

National Collegiate Athletic Association
www.ncaa.org

National Junior College Athletic Association
www.njcaa.org

Government Sites

Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry
www.dli.state.pa.us
- Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services
- Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

Pennsylvania (Official State Site)
www.state.pa.us

Tax Credit Information
www.irs.gov/individuals/students/index.html

US Citizenship and Immigration Services
http://uscis.gov

US Corporation for National Service
www.cns.gov
www.americorps.org

US Department of Education
www.ed.gov/finaid.html
www.ifap.ed.gov
www.studentaid.ed.gov
www.students.gov

US Department of Veterans Affairs
www.va.gov

US House of Representatives
www.house.gov

US Internal Revenue Service
www.irs.gov

US President
www.whitehouse.gov

US Selective Service System
www.sss.gov

US Senate
www.senate.gov

US Social Security Administration
www.ssa.gov

PASFAA Website Resource Guide

PASFAA Website Resource Guide

Applying for Financial Aid

www.fafsa.ed.gov

- Apply for a PIN number
- Find School Codes
- Submit Free Application for Federal Student Aid on-line

Financial Aid Resources

International Education Financial Aid
www.isfa.org

Military Service Education
www.military.com
- GI Bill
- ROTC

National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
www.nasfaa.org
www.studentaid.org

National Student Loan Data System
www.nslds.ed.gov

Overview of Financial Aid
www.finaid.org

Pennsylvania Assistance
www.ssasuccess.org
www.pheaa.org (PA State Grants)
www.pasfenders.org

Scholarship Search
www.fastweb.com
www.gocollege.com
www.petersons.com
www.educationplanner.org

College Savings

College Savings
www.collegesavings.org
www.moneycentral.msn.com
www.nasu529.com (PA Tuition Account Program)
www.upromise.com

Budgets, Debt Management
www.annualcreditreport.com
www.mapping-your-future.org
www.myfico.com
www.nfcc.org
www.youcandealwithit.com

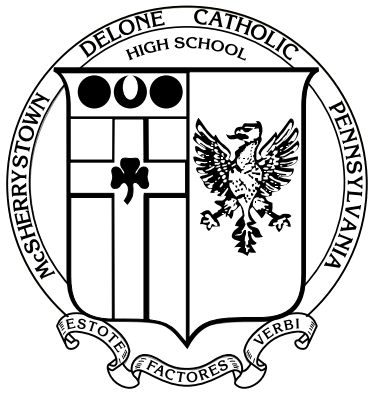


Frequently Requested Telephone Numbers

General Information About Federal Aid:
1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243)
- FAFSA help
- Request copies of Student Aid Report

Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency Grant and Loan Programs:
1-800-692-7392

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