



**College and Career Planning
Information
for Students and Parents**

www.lakecountryhs.org

Lake Country Lutheran High School Code:

500-855

Love God...Love Others

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“His lightning lights up the world...”

Psalm 97:4

Responsibilities in the Planning Process

For Students:

- Surrender your future into God’s hands. Pray for wisdom in decision-making and an open mind for His guidance.
- Insure that the courses selected and taken in high school meet the requirements of the type of institution you plan to attend.
- Maintain the best grade point average (GPA) possible.
- Discuss future plans with parents, family friends, church leaders and teachers.
- Research your options. If it’s college, then visit with admissions counselors at school, attend College Fairs and go and visit college campuses.
- Register online for college entrance tests (ACT and/or SAT) no later than Junior year.
- Complete applications, forms, and transcript requests by college deadlines.
- Investigate other institutions, military, or work opportunities.
- Search for scholarships that you may qualify for and complete those applications according to deadlines.

For Parents:

- Monitor course selection process.
- Discuss plans with your child. Establish expectations early. Help them identify their strengths and weaknesses.
- Attend Junior Registration night with your child for more information regarding Senior year responsibilities.
- Visit colleges with your child.
- Help your child be responsible for deadlines, paperwork, and explore opportunities to enhance their high school education.
- If seeking financial aid beyond high school, complete the FAFSA beginning October 1st and any other college-specific forms.
- Encourage and support your child’s interests and efforts. Hold them accountable for work that they need to complete.

For the School Counselor:

- Assist students with selecting courses and planning for after high school.
- Assist students with interpreting and understanding standardized testing results, career inventories, and other post-secondary literature.
- Discuss future plans with students and parents at their request.
- Process student recommendation letters and approve transcript requests.

The counseling office will help the planning process by supplying and interpreting information. The student is responsible for exploring the various available post-high school options. Completing necessary paperwork, meeting deadlines, and making final decisions are the responsibility of the student and the parents.

Careers

Selecting a career path can be a difficult process. It is one of the first major decisions that an individual faces during the transition to adulthood. Seek God's will for you in prayer and by discussing your plans with those that know you the best.

Things to consider:

1. Analyze yourself
 - Think about your interests
 - What do you enjoy?
 - What interests you most in the activities you have done?
 - Do you tend to focus on things, people, data or ideas?
 - Analyze your strengths
 - What comes easy to you?
 - Determine the physical, social, and mental requirements of a job and evaluate whether you believe you possess those qualities
 - What have inventories such as EXPLORE, PLAN or PSAT indicated you would do well at?
 - What are your personal preferences?
 - Working with others or alone? Indoors or outdoors? Technical or social?
 - Some careers demand 4-9 years of education. Are you willing and able to study that long?
2. Explore a variety of career options
 - Attend career fairs
 - Shadow, observe or interview a professional in that career area
 - Read and research different vocations
 - Volunteer or get a job in a related field
3. Analyze various possibilities
 - What does the job or career involve?
 - What type of training or education is required?
 - What do you like or not like about the career?
 - What is the employment outlook for the career?

Avoid these common pitfalls:

1. Not bothering to find all the facts.
2. Confusing interest with ability. Interest is important, but ability is an obvious factor that needs equal attention.
3. Choosing a job based on your aspirations to be like someone else, not necessarily the job.
4. Thinking only of money. If money is the only motivation, the career will be a poor choice.

Research careers and interest/skills inventories:

Princeton Review

www.princetonreview.com/careers

Bureau of Labor Statistics

<https://www.bls.gov/k12/content/students/careers/career-exploration.htm>

ACT College & Career Planning

www.actstudent.org/career

Careers.org

www.careers.org

Mapping Your Future

www.mappingyourfuture.org

Options After High School

Four-Year Colleges & Universities

- Examples: Marquette University, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Concordia University Wisconsin
- Earn either a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science in chosen field of study
- Sometimes a chosen program of study can take longer than four years

Community Colleges, Junior Colleges, or Two-Year Colleges

- Examples: UW-Waukesha, UW-Washington County
- Earn either an Associate's Degree, a non-degree certificate, or credits to transfer to a four-year institution
- Often have courses available for high school juniors and seniors

Vocational, Technical, & Career Schools

- Examples: Waukesha County Technical College (WCTC), VICI Beauty School
- Offer career-oriented study that may last from a few months to a couple of years

Online Schools

- Examples: University of Phoenix, University of Wisconsin Colleges Online
- Flexible learning opportunities for isolated classes or degree-seeking students

Military Service

- Military Academies
 - Rigorous physical and academic qualifications
 - Official nomination must be obtained from your local US Senator or Representative
 - Academy Websites:
 - Air Force Academy www.usafa.af.mil
 - Naval Academy www.usna.edu
 - West Point www.usma.edu
 - Coast Guard Academy www.cga.edu
 - U.S. Merchant Marine Academy www.usmma.edu
- ROTC
 - Attend a four-year college while participating in military training and service after college
 - ROTC Websites:
 - Air Force www.afrotc.com
 - Army www.armyrotc.com
 - Navy www.nrotc.navy.mil

- Enlisting
 - Contact a local recruiting office for more information
 - Air Force www.airforce.com
 - Army www.goarmy.com
 - Coast Guard www.uscg.mil
 - Marines www.marines.com
 - Navy www.navy.com
 - Air National Guard www.ang.af.mil

Employment

- Some students and families decide that entering the workforce is the best option for a student. Many students do this for financial reasons, to give them more time to find a career or major that interests them before college or to take a break from school.

Choosing a College or University

Each college is unique, with its own atmosphere and distinct personality. This is composed of its students and faculty, location, facilities, traditions, philosophy and more. Through investigating and visiting various types of schools you will discover where you are the most comfortable.

Some advice

- Talk to current students about their college experiences
- Use college search engines
- Browse school websites
- Attend college fairs in your area
- Check out resources in the guidance area
- Talk to adults in careers you are interested in regarding their education

Research colleges at these websites

www.bigfuture.collegeboard.com/college-search

www.careersandcolleges.com

www.princetonreview.com

www.Christiancollegeguide.net

www.petersons.com

Remember, you don't have to choose the college you are attending until spring of your senior year. Apply early, get admitted, and then weigh the options. Your plans might change throughout your senior year!

Visiting A College

- this is BY FAR the best way to get an idea about what it would be like to be a student there!

Things to do Before and During a College Visit

- 1) Visit before you apply to the school, if possible.
- 2) Contact admissions to set up an appointment in advance. Ask to meet with faculty in your selected major of study.
- 3) Research the school beforehand so that you have questions to ask admissions.
- 4) While there, tour the campus, stay overnight in a residence hall, eat in the dining room, attend an on-campus event, and attend a couple classes.
- 5) Don't let your parents ask all the questions. YOU are attending college, NOT your parents!
- 6) You are there to interview them, but they will also be interviewing you!

How Colleges Evaluate Applicants

Colleges are not only looking for academic excellence, but also for the multi-dimensional student that will bring something to the campus. This is seen in students who demonstrate curiosity, make “intelligent” mistakes, and have experiences of “depth”, not just breadth. Present yourself as a student who is involved in intellectual, physical, artistic, and spiritual activities.

Types of Courses Taken and Grades

- “Most Demanding” Curriculum for LCLHS Students
 - English (4 years); including Honors and/or AP English
 - Math (4 years); including AP Statistics and/or AP Calculus
 - Science (4 years); including Honors or AP course
 - Social Studies (3-4 years); including AP US History and/or AP Psychology
 - Foreign Language (3-4 years)
- “Demanding” Curriculum for LCLHS Students
 - English (4 years)
 - Math (4 years)
 - Science (4 years)
 - Social Studies (4 years)
 - Foreign Language (2 or more years)
 - Above may include 1 or 2 AP/Honors courses
- “Average” Curriculum for LCLHS Students
 - English (4 years)
 - Math (3 years)
 - Science (3 years)
 - Social Studies (3 years)
 - Foreign Language (2 years)

Colleges would prefer a “B” in an AP or Honors course rather than an “A” in an easier course. Not only does the advanced course look better to schools, but it will better prepare the student for the demands of collegiate academics.

Some colleges will request first semester senior year grades before making an admission decision. If a student’s grades have declined during senior year, the college has the right to revoke prior admission acceptance.

High school transcripts submitted to colleges include courses the student will take during their senior year in high school.

Other Factors Colleges Consider

- Standardized test scores (ACT or SAT) – Test scores must be sent directly to colleges and universities from the testing agency.
- GPA/Grades in all subject areas – Significant improvement in your record is recognized by colleges.
- Essay or Writing Sample – Applications may suggest topics or you may choose your own. Essays can identify special talents, describe a difficult personal situation, amplify special activities, or discuss growth experiences.
- Extracurricular Activities – Colleges look for students who will make a significant contribution to the college community – in arts, music, athletics, service, leadership, student governing bodies, etc.

College Admissions Requirements

Each college or university is different, so while the information below is standard for all post-secondary institutions, each school has a specific list of requirements for college applicants. Make sure you are aware of each of your college's qualifications and deadlines.

Documentation:

- 1) ACT and/or SAT test scores (check if your college requires an "official copy")
 - Sign up for [ACT](#) or request official scores to be sent to institution
 - Sign up for [SAT](#) or request official scores to be sent to institution
- 2) Online College Application
 - applications are found on college/university websites
 - for University of Wisconsin System Schools:
<http://uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/admissions/freshman/index.aspx>
 - for colleges/universities that use the Common Application:
<https://www.commonapp.org>
- 3) Unofficial or Official High School Transcript
 - create an account and request them from LCLHS at www.parchment.com
- 4) Counselor and/or Teacher Recommendation Forms
 - some colleges have specific forms for faculty to complete
- 5) Recommendation Letters from Teachers, Employers, etc.
 - request letters well in advance of application deadlines
- 6) Any other paperwork you would like to submit – an activities list or resume, essay explaining special circumstances, etc.

Sample College Admissions Requirements and Information:

University of Wisconsin System [Admissions Guidelines](#)

Wisconsin's Private Colleges [General Admissions Information](#)

Concordia University System [general website](#)

General Timeline

Spring/Summer of Junior Year:

- Take ACT and/or SAT tests
- Research career and college possibilities
- Plan college visits
- Start activities/recognition list
(should include all participation and special recognitions from grades 9-12)
- ask for letter(s) of recommendation

Fall/Winter of Senior Year:

- Application “season” is considered to be from September 1 – November 31
(some colleges have rolling admission and will receive applications at any time, some have strict deadlines; check your college websites for details)
- Complete applications, write essays/statements, send transcripts and standardized test scores
- Apply for Federal Aid (FAFSA) starting October 1st
- Start looking and applying for scholarships
- Visit Colleges where accepted

Spring of Senior Year:

- Make final college decision
- Send final transcripts to the college of your choice

Financial Aid and Scholarships

It is mainly up to students and their parents to pay for education beyond high school. Costs include tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, transportation and other personal expenses. If your education will cost more than you and your family are able to pay (according to the US Federal Government), then you have financial need and are eligible for financial aid.

Financial aid comes in a variety of forms, including scholarships and grants, loans, and work-study jobs. If you are eligible, a college will offer you a financial aid package with a combination of different kinds of assistance.

Lake Country Lutheran holds a financial aid workshop in September. A representative from a local college financial aid office will review the process and answer any questions.

Timeline for applying for financial aid:

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/financial-aid-101/financial-aid-checklist>

Complete the FAFSA as soon after October 1st as possible at:

<http://fafsa.gov/>

Types of Financial Aid:

<http://www.collegequest.com/different-types-of-financial-aid-for-college.aspx>

List of scholarships from the Guidance Office (bottom of webpage):

<http://www.lakecountryhs.org/guidance>