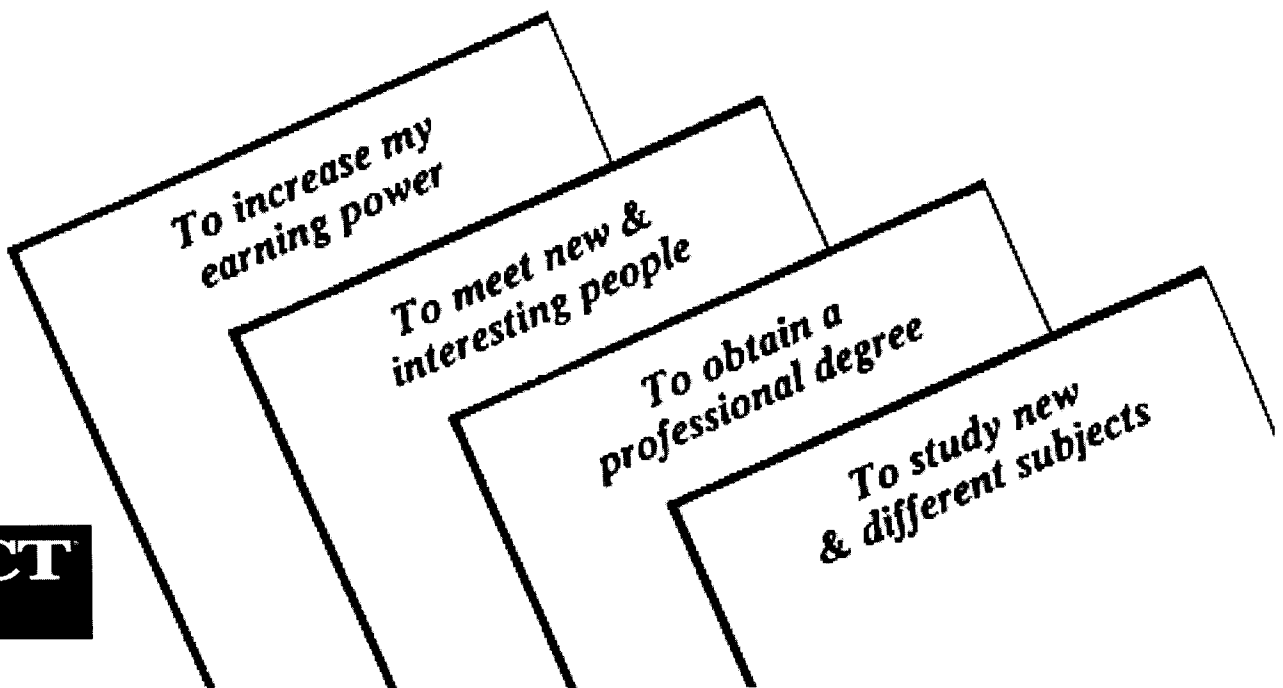


Consider Your Reasons For Attending College

- Achievement of a personal goal
- Career preparation
- Learning opportunities
- Influence of family and friends
- Involvement in extracurricular activities



The Most Important Factor In College Planning -

UNDERSTANDING YOURSELF

Important considerations:

- Recognize your strengths/weaknesses
- Analyze your interests
- Identify your values
- Learn about your alternatives
- Consider **all** colleges of interest, regardless of cost
- Take responsibility for your future!



STEP 1

Know yourself



Take a little time to think about the kind of person you are. For example, are you a self-starter, or do you need someone to motivate you? Do you like being part of a crowd, or would you rather be alone, or in a small group? How important is being close to home and family?

What about your academic accomplishments? Which classes give you headaches? How much academic challenge are you comfortable with?

Don't forget to think about your outside-of-school activities. Have any of them given you clues to your interests in future employment?

You may want to write some of your thoughts down here.

Now take a few minutes and ask yourself what you need and want from college. You can list your expectations here. (Some of your expectations may have to do with personal values and goals and the kind of career preparation you think you'll need.)

If you're unsure how to answer some of the above questions, your school guidance counselor may be able to provide some helpful insights.

Once you've given some thought to your personality, your capabilities, and what you expect from college, you may be ready to gather additional information by taking a standardized exam. The ACT Assessment, or "ACT test" as it's commonly called, is a standardized exam taken by more than one million students each year. It measures knowledge and skills in English, mathematics, reading, and science reasoning. And it collects a variety of other information including educational background, plans, and needs.

Here's what you can learn from taking the ACT Assessment:

- A measure of your educational development (abilities)

- Guidelines for choosing a college
- Information about possible college choices
- Your chances of receiving a "C" or higher
- High school grade point averages of freshmen
- Whether your tentative major is available
- Suggestions for exploring career options and determining how your interests relate to work tasks and careers

In making decisions about admission, many colleges use results from the ACT test or other assessment measures, along with high school grades, class rank, and extracurricular accomplishments. They may also use what they learn about you from such an assessment for course placement, academic advising, and career counseling.

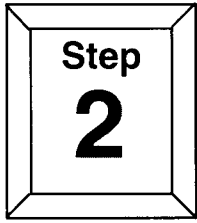
If the thought of taking a standardized exam like the ACT test turns your legs into quivering masses of jelly, it shouldn't! You've been preparing for the test since the day you started school. In fact, because the exam is designed to measure general academic development, your best preparation is the solid high school curriculum you probably already have.

A little test anxiety is only normal. To lessen your anxiety, though, there are things you can do to prepare. Make certain that you are familiar with the test content and format and are aware of several basic test-taking strategies. See "Ten tips for taking a standardized exam."

For more advice about test preparation, ask a school guidance counselor for a copy of a free guidebook called Preparing for the ACT Assessment. Besides providing general test preparation information and additional test-taking strategies, this useful guidebook describes the content and format of the four ACT subject area tests; summarizes test administration procedures followed at ACT test centers; and includes an entire practice test complete with answer sheet, answer key, and guidelines for interpreting results.

Ten tips for taking a standardized exam

1. Get plenty of sleep the night before the test.
2. If you feel nervous before beginning, try to relax by taking a few deep breaths.
3. Maintain confidence in your abilities and plan to do your best. Your attitude can affect your performance.
4. Listen carefully to all instructions and ask questions if you hear something you don't understand.
5. Focus your attention entirely on your work.
6. Position your answer sheet next to your test booklet so you can mark answers quickly and accurately.
7. Before answering each question, read it completely, as well as all the possible responses.
8. When you are unsure of an answer, choose the one you think is best and go on to the next question.
9. Pace yourself throughout the test by occasionally checking the time.
10. If you complete the test before your time is up, reread the questions and check your answers.



Identify College Characteristics Important to YOU

- Majors and educational programs
- Type of school and degrees offered
- Location and size
- Costs and financial aid
- College affiliation
- College accreditation
- Academic reputation

