

BERNARDS TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
**RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL**  
**COUNSELING DEPARTMENT**

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE COLLEGE RESEARCH WORKSHEET

- The purpose of the activity is for you to become comfortable using Naviance for college research.
- We have provided step by step directions below for completing using this tool.
- When researching schools you should focus on finding a “good fit” which might include characteristics such as:
  - Selectivity of school
  - Majors offered
  - Geographic location (distance from home)
  - Size of institution
  - Cost
  - Sports and activities

| STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS |                                                                                                                                                                                           | ON THE CHART, COMPLETE ITEM(S): |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1                         | Select three colleges you intend to research.                                                                                                                                             | A                               |
| 2                         | Type the name of the school into the search box to pull it up. Click on the school from the results field below.                                                                          | B                               |
| 3                         | In the “Overview” tab look for the “Average Net Price”                                                                                                                                    | C                               |
| 4                         | Scroll down to “How You Compare With Others” and enter the middle 50% GPA, test scores (SAT and ACT)                                                                                      | D-F                             |
| 5                         | Scroll back up to the top in the “Overview tab” and enter the “Acceptance Rate”                                                                                                           | G                               |
| 6                         | Enter the school’s 6-year graduation rate.                                                                                                                                                | H                               |
| 7                         | Scroll to “Quick Facts” and find the college’s undergraduate enrollment.                                                                                                                  | I                               |
| 8                         | Click on the “Admissions” tab and note the number of total applicants and the number accepted for last school year.                                                                       | J                               |
| 9                         | Beneath the scattergram, there is a section called “Application Requirements.” Note which standardized tests are required or recommended.                                                 | K                               |
| 10                        | In the next section down, review the “Application Information.”                                                                                                                           | L                               |
| 11                        | Use the information you just gathered, your GPA and test scores, and the scattergrams on the admissions page to make the determination to whether it is a safety, target or reach school. | <b>SAMPLE</b>                   |

**SAMPLE**

|                      |                       |                   |            |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|------------|
| <b>Student Name:</b> | Sara Student (SAMPLE) | <b>Counselor:</b> | Mrs. Ridge |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|------------|

|            |                                                                   |     |                                                                                |                |     |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----|
| My Profile | My Mid-Year, Junior Year GPA                                      | 3.4 | Number of 5-credit courses I will have in each subject (including Senior Year) | English        | 4   |
|            | My Best SAT Reading/Writing Score                                 | 620 |                                                                                | World Language | 3   |
|            | My Best SAT Math Score                                            | 640 |                                                                                | Math           | 4   |
|            | My Best ACT Composite Score                                       | 26  |                                                                                | Science        | 4   |
|            |                                                                   |     |                                                                                | Social Studies | 3.5 |
|            | Majors I am considering:<br>Biology, Psychology, Forensic Science |     |                                                                                |                |     |

|          |                                                        |                                                 |                                                  |                                  |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>A</b> | Name of college?                                       | Bucknell                                        | James Madison                                    | Kean                             |
| <b>B</b> | Location?                                              | Lewisburg, PA                                   | Harrisonburg, VA                                 | Union, NJ                        |
| <b>C</b> | Average Net Price?                                     | \$18,079                                        | \$21,679                                         | \$13,826                         |
| <b>D</b> | Middle 50% GPA of Accepted Ridge Students?             | 3.96                                            | 3.41                                             | 2.84                             |
| <b>E</b> | Middle 50% SAT of Accepted Ridge Students?             | 1397                                            | 1227                                             | 1099                             |
| <b>F</b> | Middle 50% ACT of Accepted Ridge Students?             | 29                                              | 25                                               | 21                               |
| <b>G</b> | Acceptance rate?                                       | 25%                                             | 66%                                              | 70%                              |
| <b>H</b> | Graduation rate?                                       | 89%                                             | 82%                                              | 48%                              |
| <b>I</b> | Undergraduate Enrollment?                              | 3,569                                           | 19,144                                           | 11,814                           |
| <b>J</b> | Number of applicants/<br>number of acceptances?        | 16 applied<br>8 accepted                        | 42 applied<br>27 accepted                        | 9 applied<br>8 accepted          |
| <b>K</b> | Tests required?                                        | SAT or ACT                                      | SAT or ACT                                       | SAT or ACT recommended           |
| <b>L</b> | Admissions plans and deadlines? (ED? EA? RD? Rolling?) | ED - Nov. 15<br>ED II - Jan. 15<br>RD - Jan. 15 | EA - Nov. 1<br>Priority - Nov. 1<br>RD - Jan. 15 | EA - Dec. 1<br>Rolling - July 28 |
| <b>M</b> | Safety, Target or Reach?                               | Reach                                           | Target                                           | Safety                           |

|                      |  |                   |  |
|----------------------|--|-------------------|--|
| <b>Student Name:</b> |  | <b>Counselor:</b> |  |
|----------------------|--|-------------------|--|

|                   |                                                  |  |                                                                                       |                |  |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|--|
| <b>My Profile</b> | My Mid-Year, Junior Year GPA                     |  | <b>Number of 5-credit courses I will have in each subject (including Senior Year)</b> | English        |  |
|                   | My Best SAT Evidence-Based Reading/Writing Score |  |                                                                                       | World Language |  |
|                   | My Best SAT Math Score                           |  |                                                                                       | Math           |  |
|                   | My Best ACT Composite Score                      |  |                                                                                       | Science        |  |
|                   | Majors I am considering:                         |  |                                                                                       |                |  |

|          |                                                        |  |  |  |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| <b>A</b> | Name of college?                                       |  |  |  |
| <b>B</b> | Location?                                              |  |  |  |
| <b>C</b> | Average Net Price?                                     |  |  |  |
| <b>D</b> | Average GPA of Accepted Ridge Students?                |  |  |  |
| <b>E</b> | Average SAT of Accepted Ridge Students?                |  |  |  |
| <b>F</b> | Average ACT of Accepted Ridge Students?                |  |  |  |
| <b>G</b> | Acceptance rate?                                       |  |  |  |
| <b>H</b> | Graduation rate?                                       |  |  |  |
| <b>I</b> | Undergraduate Enrollment?                              |  |  |  |
| <b>J</b> | Number of applicants/ number of acceptances?           |  |  |  |
| <b>K</b> | Tests required?                                        |  |  |  |
| <b>L</b> | Admissions plans and deadlines? (ED? EA? RD? Rolling?) |  |  |  |
| <b>M</b> | Safety, Target or Reach?                               |  |  |  |

# COLLEGE LIST PLANNING

## SAFETY SCHOOL

One where the student exceeds the academic profile of accepted Ridge students in both GPA and standardized test scores, and is a school the student would be happy to attend. Students should have at least one to two safety schools on their final college list.

## TARGET SCHOOL

One where the student matches the academic profile of accepted Ridge students in both GPA and standardized test scores. Target schools should make-up the majority of the final college list.

## REACH SCHOOL

One where the student falls below the academic profile of accepted Ridge students in either GPA or standardized test scores (or both). In general, a school accepting less than thirty percent of applicants is a reach for everyone, regardless of the individual student's academic profile. Students can apply to as many reaches as they wish but are encouraged to develop a final college list that is well balanced.