

Rescinding Offers of Admission

- Now that college applications have been submitted and seniors look ahead to the spring break and special events of the senior year such as the Senior Trip, Senior Prom, and graduation ceremony, some seniors have difficulty keeping their focus on academic responsibilities. Those students who are manifesting symptoms of the common malady “senioritis” should know that colleges do rescind offers of admission if students do not maintain strong grades through the completion of high school. In the view of these colleges, a marked drop in academic performance suggests trouble with a student’s approach to learning and raises questions.
- Any of the following would greatly concern a college’s Office of Admissions: a student’s performance in a subject declines two or more letter grades (for example, an *A* in English becomes a *C*, or a *B* goes to a *D*); a general pattern of falling grades in several subjects emerges (an overall *A/B* record slips to a *B/C* record); a student receives a *D* or *F*.
- In addition to rescinding offers of admission, colleges dissatisfied with second-semester grades have taken such steps as placing a student on probation and giving the student one semester in college to regain “good academic standing,” requiring a year of community college before reconsidering admission to the four-year college, requesting that a student provide a written explanation of any significant downturn in performance, reducing or withdrawing scholarship aid.

College Open Houses

Reminder - the website of the New Jersey School Counselor Association offers lists of open houses at colleges in the states indicated below:

[New Jersey](#)

[Pennsylvania](#)

[Pennsylvania, Delaware, Connecticut, New York & New Jersey:](#)

Even if open house dates have passed, contact information is provided for the listed colleges so students can contact the schools to find out more about guided tours, information sessions, overnight stays, and other kinds of on-campus events. Keeping in mind that “demonstrated interest” is a factor in many admissions decisions, students should contact admissions offices to learn more about these events or register before visiting the campuses.

Virtual Information Sessions - Harvard, Princeton, UVA, Wellesley, and Yale

Admissions officers from Harvard, Princeton, the University of Virginia, Wellesley, and Yale will be offering virtual information sessions in September and October to discuss the admissions process, financial aid, and opportunities that each school provides. More specifically, students and parents can visit hpuwy.com to register for sessions.

West Point - Admissions Information Meeting

Representatives from the United States Military Academy will be discussing the application process and the cadet experience. To register, click [here](#).

Application Preparation Workshop Series

Drexel University invites students and parents to attend a series of online events designed to provide guidance regarding important steps of the college-application process:

Insider's Guide to the Admission Committee - Tuesday, September 9, 6:00–7:15 pm

Writing Personal Statements for Your College Applications - Thursday, September 25, 6:00–7:30 pm

Crafting Your Portfolio for College Success - Thursday, October 9, 6:00–7:00 pm

Exploring Your Academic Interests - Thursday, November 6, 6:00–7:00 pm

To register for any of these events, go to

<https://drexel.edu/admissions/visit-tours/undergrad-application-preparation-workshops>.

College Scorecard

The U.S. Department of Education maintains a College Scorecard website

(<https://collegescorecard.ed.gov>) that offers reliable data on important factors that prospective college students should consider. For example, visitors to the website can learn the following about a college:

- the graduation rate
- the retention rate (the % of students who return to the school after their first year)
- the socioeconomic diversity of enrolled students
- available areas of study
- the most popular programs
- the average annual net price for financial aid recipients

- the median earnings of former students who received financial aid
- the typical total debt after graduation

LGBTQ-Inclusive Colleges

Naviance maintains a partnership with Campus Pride, a national nonprofit organization that is committed to creating safer college environments for LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning or queer) students and to identifying campuses that are LGBTQ-inclusive. When students access the SuperMatch College Search in Naviance by clicking on "Colleges," then "Find Your fit," and then "SuperMatch College Search," one of the options they can select in the "Diversity" section of the search is "LGBTQ+ Inclusive." Campus Pride provides the Campus Pride Index, an indicator of institutional commitment to LGBTQ-inclusivity through campus policies and resources (see www.campusprideindex.org).

Creating a Strong Extracurricular Record

Employers, colleges, and the National Honor Society selection committee value character, leadership, extracurricular involvement, and community service as well as scholarship. Starting as freshmen, students should identify activities that they enjoy - sports, Drama Club, student government, musical activities, service clubs, school publications, volunteer work, Peer Tutoring - and aspire to contribute significantly to the school and community through involvement in these activities. More meaningful than participating superficially in countless activities would be exhibiting real dedication, leadership, and growth in a more select group of clubs, sports, or programs. Students may wish to maintain a continuously updated list of their activities to facilitate the completion of future applications. The resume section of Naviance is useful for this purpose.

Going to College in New Jersey

New Jersey's Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) has prepared a new edition of *Going to College in New Jersey*, a free resource that provides profiles of the state's colleges and universities and information about paying for college. This publication is available online at www.gtcinj.com.