

## TWO QUESTIONS

### *1. What am I going to do after high school?*

How do I decide?

What are my options?

### *2. How do I plan to get there?*

Planning your coursework

Choosing a path to obtain your goal

### *What Am I Going To Do After High School?*

Deciding between the many post high school choices offered to young adults is a process that spans many years of a person's life. Some young people already know the path that they wish to choose while others do not know and are confused about all the choices they need to make. There are many questions involved in making this choice and the Belton High School Counseling Department has several suggestions to help guide your way.

## **What Are My Options?**

1. Work 2. Military 3. Trade/Vocational/Specialty School 4. Apprenticeship 5. Community College 6. 4 year college

### **Work**

Students who choose to go directly to work after high school usually work full-time to receive necessary benefits such as health insurance.

### **Military**

Besides being the largest employer in the nation, employing 1.8 million enlisted men and women, the military offers a wide choice of career training and job opportunities. The armed services provide experience, training, and educational benefits. Over 75 percent of all military occupations have counterparts in the civilian world of work. Members of the Armed Services receive technical and skilled training needed to perform these tasks. Add the practical experience a young man or woman gets and you have a highly qualified and trained individual to re-enter back into civilian life. Young men and women who qualify for military training may choose to serve tours of anywhere from two to six years. These enlistments will vary according to the service and the specialty training offered.

To be eligible for enlistment a young man or woman must:

Be between 17 and 35 years of age.

Be a US citizen.

Be in good health and meet the standards for height, weight and vision.

Be a high school graduate (diploma only!!!)

Meet the minimum entry score on the ASVAB test.

Meet the standards of moral character.

**ROTC:** More than 40,000 college students participate in Reserve Officers' Training Corps. ROTC scholarships are available to outstanding students. You can try ROTC at no obligation for two years or, if you have a 4 year scholarship, 1 year. ROTC graduates are required to serve in the military for a set period of time. Each service sets its own enlistment requirements.

## **Trade, Specialty or Vocational Schools**

There are more than 4,000 vocational training schools in the U.S. including trade, fine arts and business schools. Depending on the program, your course of study may take anywhere from a few weeks to a few years. Little or no general education is offered. The purpose of vocational training is to provide direct, practical training in a trade, craft, or skill. Tuition varies widely. Some sources to check are: approved lists published by state departments of education and recommendations by the trade or profession association in the particular field. If you have received your high school diploma or GED certificate, you will be eligible for admission to most specialty schools.

## **Apprenticeship Programs**

Earn while you learn. Apprenticeship programs provide training for a wide variety of trades. They offer hands-on training, wages while you learn the trade, and classes taught by experts-the journeymen. The length of training varies from two to six years depending on the trade and is determined by standards adopted by the industry.

Wages also vary from trade to trade. Wages paid begin at approximately half those of the fully trained craftsman and advance at six month intervals until the apprentice completes his/her training. Upon program completion, the apprentice is paid the full journeyman wage. Apprenticeship programs may be conducted in three ways: by management and labor together, by management with the concurrence of an existing union, or by management alone when workers are not organized.

For more information:

US Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship  
Kansas City, MO

816-502-9095

[www.missouriapprenticeship.com](http://www.missouriapprenticeship.com)

## **Community Colleges (2 year colleges)**

The community college system (two year colleges) is designed to meet the needs of everyone seeking further schooling after high school. Generally, community colleges are less expensive to attend and are more willing to enroll students who may not be accepted at traditional 4 year colleges/universities. Many high school graduates attend a community college, taking advantage of the transfer or occupational programs offered. Community colleges offer flexible liberal arts and occupational programs leading to associate degrees as well as specialized certificates and diplomas. Transfer credits are accepted at four year colleges/universities upon completion.

Occupational/Vocational Associates Degree Programs are designed for students desiring advanced occupational training and also a two year college associate's degree.

Certification Programs are designed for students who are interested in taking technical courses needed to enter a specific field of employment.

Transfer Programs offer courses that will transfer to a four year college/university and can lead to a bachelor's degree. Most students taking this type of approach to a four year degree program (two years at the community college) transfer as juniors.

Placement tests for MCC schools such as Longview are necessary prior to entering. An application also needs to be submitted to Longview College prior to taking placement tests. Placement tests will be offered at BHS in March 2011.

## **Four Year Colleges or Universities**

These are institutions of higher education that offer a curriculum leading to a four-year Bachelor of Arts or Science degree. A university usually has a liberal arts college as well as programs in such fields of business, engineering, education, agriculture, law, and medicine. A listing of the general requirements for most four year colleges is published earlier in the guide.

A public college is tax supported and therefore less costly for in state residents.

University and college are terms that are often used interchangeably, but usually the university is a larger institution.

Student tuition, alumni gifts, special state and federal grants support a private college; therefore, the cost of attendance is greater than a public (state) university.

Scholarships, state and federal assistance programs make the private college more affordable but not necessarily the same as attending a tax-supported institution.

The chart below may be helpful when choosing which college might be right for you. After you have made a list of colleges you would like to explore in depth, you may use this sheet as a checklist. Place the name of the college at the top of the column and rate each area. This procedure should help you narrow your college choices.

Use this **RATING SCALE** when selecting a college and to help to find a good fit for you!  
**5=Superior 4=Above Average 3=Average 2=Below Average 1=Poor**

1. **ACADEMIC PROGRAMS** appropriate for my intended major and which will assist me in achieving future educational goals.

2. **ACADEMIC PROGRAMS** available if my interests shift to a different field.

3. **EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES** available to meet my personal and Career needs.

4. **CAMPUS FACILITIES:** libraries, laboratories, classrooms, living units, and recreational areas.

5. **ACCESS TO THE FACULTY:** student faculty/ratio, class size, and Number of classes taught by professors versus teaching assistants.

6. **STUDENT BODY:** consistent with my intellectual capability and sufficient diversity to stimulate personal growth.

7. **LOCATION:** urban, suburban, or rural, proximity to home, type of community.

8. **SIZE:** number of students enrolled meets my preference.

9. **TRADITION:** academic innovation and intellectual excitement.

10. **TRANSFER CREDITS:** other colleges will recognize credits earned at the institution (should you decide to transfer).

11. **COST:** tuition fees, room and board, and travel expenses. Remember to consider a safety and a reach school.

12. **ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS:** Test scores, rank in class, high School courses, activities, talents. Remember to consider Plan ABCs

school					
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
total					

	Belton High School	Prep Certificate	Public 4-year College	University Of Missouri
<b>English &amp; Language Arts</b>	4 English I, II, III (IV or higher)	4	4	4
<b>Oral Communications</b>	.5 Contest Speech Acting I Human Comm..			
<b>Social Studies</b>	3 Gov/Geo World History American History	3	3	3
<b>Mathematics</b>	3 I, II or Geometry, II Fund.	4	3 I & Higher	4 I & Higher
<b>Science</b>	3 Physical Science Biology Chemistry	3	2 No Gen. Science 1 Must be a Lab Class	3
<b>Fine Arts</b>	1 Visual Arts Music Acting	1 Visual Arts	1	1 Visual Arts Music
<b>Practical Arts</b>	1 FACS, Tech., Business, Vo-Tech	1		
<b>Physical Education</b>	1.5	1		
<b>Electives</b>	9	3 Additional Core Electives		
<b>Additional</b>			<b>Recommended</b> 2 Levels of Same Foreign Language	<b>Required</b> 2 Levels of Same Foreign Language
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	3.0 GPA Score above 21 on the ACT	Such as: UCM, MSU, , MO West	24 on ACT, & Designated Class Rank

**For admission to public universities, the law requires students to complete at least 15 units of high school course work distributed as follows:**

\*Four years of English (emphasizing written and oral communication and literature)

\*Three years of Social Studies (emphasizing history and government)

\*Three years of Mathematics (Algebra and beyond, including Algebra 2)

\*Three years of Science (Laboratory sciences)

\*\*Some universities may require at least 2 years of the same foreign language

### **Division II**

14 Core Course Rule

3 years of English

2 years of math (Algebra I or higher)

2 years of natural/physical science

2 years of additional English, math or science

2 years of social science

3 years of additional courses (from any area above, foreign language or non-doctrinal religion/philosophy)

### **Division I**

16 Core Course Rule

4 years of English

3 years of Math (Algebra I or higher)

2 years of natural/physical science

1 year of additional English, Math or Science

2 years of social science

4 years of additional courses (from any area above, foreign language or non-doctrinal religion/philosophy)

**\*\*\*\*\*NCAA Eligibility Standards as of August 1, 2008: Only core courses (English, Math – Algebra or higher, Science, Social Sciences, Foreign Language) are used in the calculation of the GPA. NCAA Division I has a sliding test scale for test score and GPA. Division II has a minimum SAT of 820 or an ACT sum score of 68.**

## How Will You Pay For College?

**Financial Aid:** Understanding financial aid is very important, and can also be very confusing! Talk to your family about their willingness/ability to support your schooling after high school. Colleges believe students and their families are responsible for paying for the students' education. Financial need is, simply stated, calculated using this formula:

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Cost of Attendance (COA) *} \\ - \text{Expected Family Contribution (EFC)} \\ \hline = \text{Financial Need} \end{array}$$

\*(includes tuition, fees, books, supplies, room, board, transportation)

Most private schools have much more money to assist with financial need than do public/state schools. Don't rule out applying to a school based only on its cost. Schools send out financial aid offerings BEFORE the time when you need to finally decide which school's admission you will be accepting. Financial aid packages often include **loans** (you need to pay back), **grants** (you don't pay back), and **work-study options** (you are offered work on campus for which you are paid; that money does not count as income on your FAFSA form)

When considering the right "fit" for you and your family, applying to a financial "safety" school is an important consideration.

### Financial Aid Resources at BHS:

Printed materials are available in the Counseling Center (see also websites in the Resource section of this booklet)

Financial aid presentation at BHS in December 2011

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) Frenzy is February 12<sup>th</sup> at BHS. Financial Aid Counselors will be here to help you complete and submit the FAFSA. This document is required for most students to apply for any type of financial assistance at post secondary educational and training programs.

### Scholarships

Scholarships represent money that you do NOT have to pay back. **(It is important to note that there are many scholarship services available to high school seniors and you may have already been contacted by mail or e-mail regarding some of these services. In general, if you have to pay a fee in return for "guaranteed" scholarship money, you want to beware of a possible scam.)**

A listing of local scholarships will be available outside the Counseling Center office starting October 20<sup>th</sup>, as well as online at [www.beltonschoools.org](http://www.beltonschoools.org). Click on the "Students" link and then click on "Counseling Center". Paper applications for local scholarships can be obtained inside the BHS Counseling Center. Check with your family about possible scholarships available from their places of employment and/or through your religious organizations.

# College Admissions Testing

## ACT or SAT or ????

**Please sign up to discuss your options with Mrs. Angela Brown in Counseling**

- The SAT has a stronger emphasis on vocabulary and critical thinking. ACT more content based.
- The ACT has a Science section, while the SAT does not.
- The ACT tests more advanced math concepts (includes Trigonometry).
- The SAT is broken up into more sections.
- Both are accepted at most universities.

## Admissions Requirements for State of Missouri Universities

Applications to state universities in Missouri should be made to the university as a whole. The following requirements are subject to change each year and listed here as a guideline. ***Each family/student should check with the individual college admission offices for the most current guidelines.***

MO State University Admissions (800) 492-7900 Enrollment 22,938/ \$35 application fee	Best qualified admitted as space permits. 12/1 & 1/15- Scholarship Deadlines
MO Western Admissions (800) 662-7041 Enrollment 5,735/ \$15 application fee	Best qualified admitted as space permits. **Golden Scholarships-\$10,000 each
Northwest MO State Admissions (800) 633-1175 Enrollment 7,000/ \$25 application fee	ACT minimum=21; GPA minimum=2.0
Southeast MO State Admissions (573) 651-2590 Enrollment 10,800/ \$30 application fee	ACT minimum=21; GPA minimum=2.5 *12/15- Early Admission & Scholarship Guarantee Deadline
University of Central MO Admissions (877) 729-8266 Enrollment 11,045/ \$30 application fee	ACT minimum=21; GPA minimum=2.0 *12/1- Priority Deadline for Scholarships
University of Missouri Admissions (800) 225-6075 Enrollment 31,314/ \$50 application fee	Best qualified admitted as space permits. ACT minimum=24 * 12/1 Scholarship Deadline
University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) Admissions (800) 775-8652 Enrollment 8,015/ \$35 application fee	Best qualified admitted as space permits.

# MISSOURI CONNECTIONS

Missouri Connections helps students open the door to career exploration and educational planning. Sponsored by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Missouri students, their parents, guidance counselors, and educators can use the online system at no charge for their lifetime.

When using the Missouri Connections website, students are able to take career interest inventories, build a portfolio of assessment scores, favorite colleges, career interests, and résumés. Parents can use the Missouri Connections website to access information on their student's portfolio, careers and majors, post-secondary education options, and financial aid

## **How to get started!**

Website: [www.MissouriConnections.org](http://www.MissouriConnections.org)

Beginning user name: Beltonhs Password: 2viewmoc

After logging in set up your own portfolio (located on the right under create my portfolio)and explore your options.

Helpful information includes:

A to Z List of Careers and Majors  
Top Careers in Missouri

Wage/Salary Calculator  
Occupation Profile Sheets

Financial Aid Resources  
College Planning Calendar

**Letter of Recommendation Request Form**

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Recommendation Due: \_\_\_\_\_ (allow at least 2 weeks)

Purpose of Recommendation: (Circle One)

College/University

Scholarship

Employment

(Name(s) of School/Organization) \_\_\_\_\_

Please be honest and thorough when answering the following questions. If you are giving this to someone other than your counselor, attaching a transcript is recommended. **Use the back of this page if needed or attach a listing if preferred.**

List the activities in which you have been involved while in high school; identify leadership roles.  
(i.e., Forensics, 10-12, Co-Capt. 12)

List any honors, awards, or scholarships that you have received while in high school.

Describe any volunteer work or community service you have performed during your high school years.

Have you been employed? When, where and what were (are) your duties?

Briefly explain your long-range goals and/or career plans below.

What would you like emphasized in this recommendation? (i.e., why grades were low one semester)

---

Student Signature

## **Resource Websites**

### **College**

College Abroad [www.collegeabroad.com](http://www.collegeabroad.com)  
College Guide for Parents [www.collegeparents.org](http://www.collegeparents.org)  
Common Application [www.commonapp.com](http://www.commonapp.com)  
NCAA [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org)  
NCAA Eligibility Center <http://eligibilitycenter.org>

### **Financial**

Bright Start <https://www.brightstartsavings.com/>

Financial Info Resources: [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)  
[www.finaid.com](http://www.finaid.com)  
[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)  
[www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov)

Scholarships in the newsletter

### **Career**

Majors & Careers <http://www.niu.edu/careerservices/weblinks/index.html>  
(what you do with a certain major)  
Mizzou Career Center <http://career.missouri.edu>  
Occupational Outlook Handbook [www.bls.gov/oco/](http://www.bls.gov/oco/)  
O\*NET Online <http://online.onetcenter.org>

## TEST Dates

**ACT** - There will be student prep sessions either before or the week of ACT test dates.

- Oct 22<sup>nd</sup>
- December 10<sup>th</sup>
- April 14<sup>th</sup>
- June 9<sup>th</sup> There will be no preps during this session.

**SAT** –

- November 5<sup>th</sup>
- Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Jan 28<sup>th</sup>
- March 10<sup>th</sup>
- May 5<sup>TH</sup>
- June 2<sup>nd</sup>

**ASVAB-**

- Will be announced and based upon sign ups.

**MCC /Longview -Compass Testing**

- March 22<sup>nd</sup>

## OTHER DATES

- October 13<sup>th</sup> – Greater KC College Expo @ Sprint Center (taking selected juniors and seniors)
- December TBD- Financial aid information night (pay attention to student announcements)
- November 10<sup>th</sup>- Belton High School Career Day (1/2 day PD)
- Feb 12<sup>th</sup> – FAFSA frenzy
- April 17<sup>th</sup> - MCC/Longview Enrollment

Pay attention to the student announcements!