

Important information for college applications:

SPCPA School Code: 242 284

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School Information:
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Need Help Session Update: ACT Info

The ACT (and its standardized testing rival the SAT) are entrance exams that four-year colleges and universities may consider in conjunction with a student's high school transcript during the admissions decision process. **As a result of Covid-19 related testing issues, many colleges and universities have made standardized test scores optional this college application season.** Because the decision to test/submit now falls upon each applicant, it is helpful to have a [frame of reference](#) (current national averages):

Percentile	English	Math	Reading	Science	Composite
99th (Best)	35+	34+	35+	35+	34+
90th (Excellent)	30-31	27-28	31-32	28	29
75th (Good)	24	24-25	25-26	23-24	24-25
50th (Average)	19-20	18-19	20	19-20	19-20
25th (Poor)	14	15-16	15-16	15-16	15-16
10th (Very Poor)	10-11	14	12	13	13
1st (Poorest)	7 and below	12 and below	9 and below	9 and below	10 and below

For most students with ACT test scores, the more important question usually becomes: **"How do my scores compare to the typical (i.e. middle 50%) candidate at the colleges and universities on my possibilities list?"** Click [here](#) to find out the answers.

Need to [send ACT scores](#)? Use the registration link above to set up/log into your account. **Note: SPCPA transcripts include ACT scores from tests taken prior to (not including) September 2019!**

Interested in testing/retesting? **The next ACT registration deadline is 9/17/21 for the October 23rd test.** Click [here](#) for details. (Note: the earlier you register the more likely you are to test at your 1st choice location). **Students who have submitted their Educational Benefits forms should contact Ms. Green for their fee waiver.**

Not interested in testing/retesting? Many two year or less programs do not require the ACT. (Note: community colleges may accept ACT results in lieu of the [free Accuplacer exam](#) which is typically required for admission and offered onsite.) The [FairTest organization](#) keeps a record of the growing list of colleges and universities (1700+) that place little or no emphasis on these exams. (Note: to ensure their applicants academic success, these schools may place more emphasis on the student's transcripts and require essays and recommendation letters.)

[Need testing help](#)? The ACT organization offers a variety of resources (some of which are free to those registering with fee waivers). More personalized and costly in-person and on-line tutors are also available through local and national providers. There is no one universal "right" tutor or study system. Knowing the student's goals and budget is key. Any option that promises more than a 2-point gain in ACT score should be considered with healthy skepticism. Larger changes are possible but require significant effort (i.e. hours of study) on the test takers part.



Wondering if you might qualify for a [Minnesota state grant](#) to help offset some of the expenses of attending college? The answer starts with applying to at least one college or university in Minnesota and [in October that application may be free...](#)

FREE APPLICATIONS DURING COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE MONTH

Some institutions use promo codes, noted by | below.

Free for the whole month of OCTOBER:

PRIVATE COLLEGES

Minneapolis College of Art and Design [MCW2022]

MINNESOTA STATE

Alexandria Technical & Community College
Bemidji State University
Century College
Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College
Hennepin Technical College [CKM2021]
Hibbing Community College
Itasca Community College
Mesabi Range College
Minneapolis College
Minnesota State College Southeast
Minnesota State University, Mankato
Minnesota State University Moorhead

Normandale Community College
North Hennepin Community College
Northwest Technical College
Rainy River Community College [CKM2021]
St. Cloud Technical and Community College
Southwest Minnesota State University
Vermilion Community College
Winona State University

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Crookston Campus
Morris Campus [Morris22]

Free for the week of OCT 25 to 31:

MINNESOTA STATE

Dakota County Technical College
Inver Hills Community College

...unless it's ALWAYS free!

FREE APPLICATIONS

Institutions below do not charge application fees throughout the year, unless specified.

PRIVATE COLLEGES

Augsburg University
Bethany Lutheran College
Bethel University
Carleton College
College of Saint Benedict
Concordia College, Moorhead
Concordia University, St. Paul
The College of St. Scholastica
Gustavus Adolphus College
Hamline University
Macalester College
Saint John's University
Saint Mary's University of Minnesota
St. Catherine University
St. Olaf College
University of St. Thomas

MINNESOTA STATE

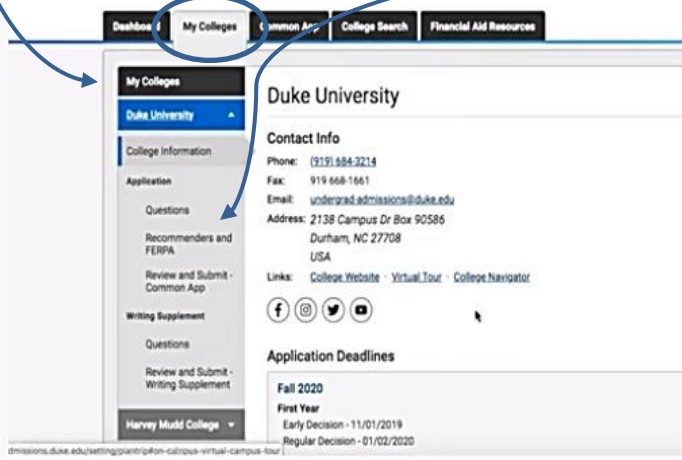
Anoka-Ramsey Community College
Anoka Technical College
Central Lakes College
Lake Superior College
Metropolitan State University
Minnesota State Community & Technical College
Minnesota West Community & Technical College
Northland Community & Technical College
Pine Technical & Community College
Ridgewater College
Riverland Community College
Rochester Community & Technical College
St. Cloud State University
Saint Paul College
South Central College

College Application...



It's all about the recommendations...

- The **My Colleges** tab catalogs important school specific information including school counselor email (green@spcpa.org) and recommendation and additional essay/short answer requirements as well as the FERPA question. Each school specific step must be completed prior to submitting the application.
- The Family Educational Rights and Privacy ACT (FERPA) is designed to protect student records. **FERPA lets you request access to your recommendation letters after getting in and enrolling in a school (but only after)**. Admissions officers give most weight to letters that provide an honest and qualified assessment of the applicant. **Not waiving your FERPA** right could accidentally signal to admissions officers that you don't trust your recommender or that the recommendation is less candid or genuine.



- Use *Recommendations/ FERPA* link to assign your recommenders by college/university. Once a recommender has been assigned, the student's name will appear on the recommender's CA roster with the student's **first application deadline** listed. If you need it earlier – LET THEM KNOW WHEN/WHY!
- Recommenders submit a **single** recommendation per student to the CA. The CA system will distribute the student's supporting documents (*recommendations, transcripts, etc.*) within a day or two of the individual application's submission.
- **Recommendation requirements**, which vary by institution, are listed in the **My Colleges** section.
- "Required" teacher recommendations typically refers to ACADEMIC subjects.
- Assign Arts teachers in the "Other Recommender section (*if provided*).

- No Other Recommender section? Arts teachers may be assigned to the Teacher section as an optional recommendation or second to the academic teacher recommendation.
- Incomplete applications are not reviewed but **students do NOT have to wait to submit their applications until their recommendations have been submitted**. Always submit your application prior to your deadlines! Recommenders *may* have "grace periods." Applicants don't! *Note: not all schools require the Common App essay. [Submitting an application without it won't prevent you from adding this essay to a later submission.](#)*
- No matter which option student's select for the FERPA question (*waive/do not waive your rights*), **SPCPA policy is to NOT share teacher/counselor recommendations**.
- Providing Ms. Green's contact information (green@spcpa.org) in the **Counselor** section (*under FERPA/Recommendations link*) will ensure that the student's School Report, Transcript, Course Schedule, Counselor Report/Recommendation (*if required*) and Mid-Year Report (*if required*) are automatically submitted by the student's application deadline.
- If one school on a CA list requires the Counselor Report/Recommendation, and/or Mid-Year reports, all schools will have access to this information *if available* at the time the application is downloaded. *Note: Application already downloaded but could benefit from additional information? Contact the school and ask how to add them to your application file.*
- More information is frequently "more better" as long as these documents are welcomed (follow the "Optional" recommendation rules) and bring additional perspective, context, and completeness to the file. **Repetition is not helpful**. Each recommender should have something unique to share with the admissions committee. Help your recommenders focus on specific examples that demonstrate your preparedness for/interest in a specific college path. The more work you put into your recommendation request the better the recommendation! Click [here](#) for the request form.
- Use the "**Preview**" button (top right of the screen) to **double-check every application** before you push "Submit"! [Edits](#) can only be made on unsubmitted applications. Click [here](#) for additional help.