

# College and Career Page

## Naviance Student

Naviance Student is a comprehensive web-based platform accessible to all students and parents for college and career planning. Naviance Student is where your Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP) is created, stored, and monitored. You may access Naviance Student by selecting the Naviance Student link on the TMSA school's main webpage. For questions about Naviance Student, please consult your school counselor, who can assist you.

### Naviance Student allows you to:

- Create plans for the future – goal setting, four-year planning, learning style inventories, résumé building, and career and interest inventories. In Naviance Student, you will complete as part of your ICAP assigned tasks to better prepare you for your future college and career goals.
- Research colleges – compare entrance requirements like GPA and standardized test scores, explore majors, student activities, athletic offerings, and more.
- Research summer enrichment opportunities.

## Multiple Academic Programs

TMSA Public Charter Schools offers multiple college and career programs to help you succeed. Multiple academic programs offer various courses and learning experiences. They provide students the opportunities to earn academic credit for high school graduation into postsecondary success outside of the traditional course sequence. Each program is defined and is accessed by each student based on the individual student's academic interest and unique needs. Students pursue a path over multiple years and graduate prepared for a full range of postsecondary options— two- or four-year college, certification, apprenticeship, military service or formal job training. Through these college and career academic programs, students are pre- pared for both, not just one or the other.

## Advanced Placement (AP)



Advanced Placement courses allow students to take advanced, college-level courses. In addition to rigorous courses, students will take an end-of-course exam. Colleges and Universities have varying policies on the test score required to earn college credit.

## Concurrent Enrollment (CE)

[insert more info about dual enrollment]

## The PLTW programs

The PLTW programs at TMSA Public Charter is a four year, honors level, interdisciplinary program in science, math, and engineering. Students will experience hands-on, project-based activities that promote the development of critical thinking skills. Students will use the design process to create their own inventions or innovations to solve real-world problems. Students that enjoy working collaboratively and are eager to be challenged academically will be most successful in this program.

## College Planning Timeline

It is in your best interest to plan early for the college admission process. Consult with your school counselor once a year at a minimum to ensure that you are on track for graduation and admissions to the college/university of your choice. The following are some college planning timeline suggestions by grade level.

College Planning Timeline			
9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
Meet your Counselor	Consult with your Counselor to ensure your schedule meets your academic needs and interests. If interested in a military academy, start discussing your interest now.	Consult with your counselor to ensure your schedule meets your academic needs and interests. In the spring of junior year discuss your ideas about college and other post-secondary options with your counselor and family.	Meet with your counselor to review your post-secondary plan with your finalized list of schools.  Stay organized and know deadline dates.  Create a FAFSA ID

<p>Create a four-year plan by choosing courses that are of interest and the appropriate academic level. Earn the best grades that you can.</p>	<p>Update your four-year plan and continue to earn the best grades that you can.</p>	<p>Continue to increase the rigor of your courses and earn the best grades that you can.</p> <p>Learn about majors, colleges and programs that interest you by using Naviance.</p> <p>For athletes, consider registering for the NCAA clearing house or other smaller athletic clearing centers like NAIA.</p>	<p>Continue earning the best grades that you can.</p> <p>Begin applying in the fall and requesting that your transcripts and letters of recommendation be sent to schools of your choice. You may need to follow up with teachers about letters of recommendation.</p> <p>Apply for scholarships and FAFSA and/or CSS profile, if required in October.</p>
<p>Get involved! Join a club or sport.</p>	<p>Stay involved and grow. Volunteer or participate in a service project.</p>	<p>Take on a leadership position in a club or sport that you are passionate about.</p>	<p>Take your leadership to the next level, become president of your club or sports team.</p>
<p>Take ACT Aspire 9 and PSAT 9</p>	<p>Take the PSAT 10 and Pre-ACT.</p>	<p>Take the PSAT/NMSQT, SAT, ACT and SAT subject tests if required.</p>	<p>Take any additional ACT, SAT or SAT subject exams early in your senior year.</p>
<p>Make summer count by volunteering or participating in a service project. Make up any failed courses in summer school.</p>	<p>Attend college fairs. Tour college campuses. Start conversations about financing your college education.</p>	<p>Attend college fairs, visit campuses, estimate financial need, research and organize scholarships that you plan to apply for.</p>	<p>If admission interviews are required, schedule them early.</p> <p>After admission decisions are made, make a plan to visit your top 2-3 schools before making a final decision.</p>

	<p>Make summer count by working, volunteering or making up any failed courses in summer school.</p>	<p>Attend a junior conference with your parent(s)/guardian(s)/counselor.</p> <p>Consider asking teachers for letters of recommendation for college prior to going on summer break.</p>	<p>Share your admission decisions with your counselor and keep track of scholarships that you earn. Stay active if you are waitlisted.</p> <p>Commit to your school of choice on or before May 1st.</p> <p>Graduate from high school!</p>
		<p>Make summer count- work, save, volunteer or make up any failed courses in summer school.</p>	<p>Make summer count- work and save for college.</p> <p>Consult the academic calendar of your college and plan your travel and move-in plans accordingly.</p>

## Planning and the Importance of Middle School

Middle school is an important time to prepare for high school. Although you may not know what path you will take after high school, the academic progress, social skills, work habits and problem-solving skills you develop in middle school will play a critical role in preparing you for your future success.

### Planning

Your middle school Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP) in Naviance is one way to help you prepare and plan for success in high school. Your S.M.A.R.T goals should align with your post-secondary goals and are a great way to monitor your own progress. Exposure to careers will help you further identify your interests and skills as you begin to align those with your course selections in high school. Understanding your interests and academic abilities will help you select the appropriate level of courses in high school.

### Student Planner for Middle School

## The Successful Middle School Student

Developmentally, middle school students should demonstrate positive learning habits that include skills like organization, the ability to communicate with teachers and keeping a set homework schedule. Middle school students, with the help of parents, teachers and school counselors, should also be able to do the following:

- Identify personal interests, abilities and strengths
- Describe how work and home and/or school relates to jobs in the community.
- Describe how work is important and attainable for all people.
- Describe how personal beliefs and values affect decision making.
- Demonstrate effective skills in working with others.

- Show an appreciation for the similarities and differences among people.
- Describe individual skills and aptitudes required to fulfill roles.
- Describe skills needed in a variety of occupations.
- Demonstrate skills needed to obtain and keep a job.

Additional opportunities in middle school to prepare for college and career include:

### **Middle School Academic Programming**

Middle school academics build upon the fundamentals of the elementary grades, ensuring a strong foundation for student achievement in high school and post-secondary education. In addition to the basic instructional program, each middle school may also offer special programming that may require an application.

### **Middle School PLTW Programs**

Middle school is a time of exploration, a time when students are figuring out what they're passionate about today and how that relates to who they'll become tomorrow.

During this transitional time, PLTW Gateway's 10 units empower students to lead their own discovery. The hands-on program boosts classroom engagement and excitement, drives collaboration, and inspires "aha! moments" and deep comprehension. And as students engage in PLTW's activities in computer science, engineering, and biomedical science, they see range of paths and possibilities they can look forward to in high school and beyond.

### **Middle School World Languages**

World language instruction in middle school is critical to the long sequence of success in the coming years. What's more, it provides world-readiness by preparing students to participate in multilingual environments that value other cultures with the goal of developing functional fluency. Students who study world languages in middle school have higher oral fluency and motivation. World language is encouraged as an elective offering at TMSA Public Charter Middle School.

## Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP)

All high school students in TMSA Public Charter are required to develop their plan for graduation and beyond. The ICAP is developed beginning in Grade 8 and lays the critical foundation for individual course planning to ensure that your postsecondary goals are aligned with your chosen path. Your ICAP will follow you from middle to high school, up through Grade 12. ICAPS include:

- Career exploration, including interest surveys;
- Academic progress including courses taken, assessment results (PSAT, SAT, ACT Aspire, Pre-ACT);
- Experiences in contextual and service learning;
- College applications and résumé as they are prepared and submitted;
- Postsecondary studies as the student progresses, such as concurrent enrollment credits earned.

### Graduation Requirements

- English 1, 2, 3, and 4
- Math 1, 2, 3, and 4 (advanced math)
- Biology, Earth Science and a Physical Science
- World History, American History, Civic Literacy, Economics and Personal Finance
- Health/PE
- 2 years of a foreign language are required for entry into a 4-year college

### Post-Secondary Options

You have many options available to you upon graduation from high school. With support from your family, counselor and teachers, you can find your passion and develop a plan to accomplish your goals.

Whatever option you select, your planning should start early. Below are some identified post-secondary options to consider.

#### Military

The United States Armed Services offer multiple branches and pathways within those branches. Depending upon your interests and skills, you can apply to enlist directly into service following graduation or you may opt to

apply for admission to a selective military academy. At a selective military academy, you would complete your four-year bachelor's degree, simultaneously earning a higher rank as an Officer as you enlist following the bachelor's degree. Students interested in military careers will take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) exam. Students who have an interest in applying to a selective military academy should speak to their counselor specifically about course selection and the application process.

## Trade School

Trade schools offer students an opportunity to focus on a specific skill that creates access to immediate employment in the workforce. As part of your trade program, you may be provided with on-the-job training. Trade programs vary in length and certification. Examples of trade certificates are:

- Cosmetology
- Auto Mechanics
- Veterinarian Technician

## Four-Year University/College

NC has approximately 149 public and private colleges/universities in the state. Ranging from small to large and rural to urban, these higher education institutions vary in their educational offerings. Students who complete a set curriculum at a four-year institution will have earned a bachelor's degree. Following a bachelor's degree, students can opt to continue their education to a master's or doctorate level by completing additional course/program requirements.

## Workforce

Joining the workforce directly following graduation from high school is another option for students. Students who may have financial obligations may choose to work in their area of interest. Choosing to enter the workforce is also an option for students who need to save money to help finance their future education goals. For free resources regarding employment, visit one of the local Workforce Centers.

## Middle and High School Assessments: Pre-College Exams

The ACT Assessment System spans elementary through high school and is designed to provide teachers, parents and students insight on college and career readiness through a series of connected assessments. At the high school level, the ACT exam assesses high-school students' general education development and their capability to complete college-level work by assessing skills in the areas of English, mathematics, reading and science.

Students may also opt to register for and take a National ACT or SAT exams. More information about National ACT exam dates can be found on the [ACT website](#). Or [sat.org](#)

The ACT Assessment System is part of the State of NC Assessment Program and is required for all juniors in the state of NC. The ACT is a college admission exam used by admission representatives as part of the admission decision. The exam assesses the students' knowledge in the areas of reading, writing and mathematics.

Grade Level	Assessment	Required or Recommended	When?
6-9	ACT Aspire	Optional	Fall
10	PreACT	Optional	Fall
11	ACT*	State Required	Spring

Grade Level	Assessment	Required or Recommended	When?
9	PSAT	Required	Spring
10	PSAT	Required	Spring
11	PSAT/NMSQT	Required	Fall
11	SAT*	Optional	Spring

## Financial Aid

Financing education after high school can be many things; stressful, eye-opening and time-consuming. It doesn't have to be. It can also be a rewarding experience if you plan in advance. Your work now will pay off later.

### Tips:

- Begin conversations about affordability sooner than later with your family.
- Gain an understanding of total costs (use Net Price Calculators found on every school's financial aid page).
- Research sources of aid.
- Utilize Naviance scholarship lists and matches.
- Plan backward to meet deadlines.
- Apply! Keep Applying!

### Types of Aid:

Federal Aid (Complete the FAFSA as early as October 1st of your senior year).

- By filing the FAFSA, your Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) is determined. EFC is a measure of your family's financial strength based on a legal formula. The EFC is not the amount your family is expected to pay. It is an amount used by your college/university to determine how much aid you are eligible to receive.
- The federal government may award support in the form of Pell grants and work-study. These awards are based on financial need determined by the federal government. You must complete the FAFSA in order to determine need. FAFSA stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid and can be found at the [Federal Student Aid website](#).

### Institutional Aid

- Most colleges/universities have grants and/or scholarship dollars that are awarded to students upon application to the institution. These awards can be based on merit (academic profile) or

financial need and often have early deadlines and other requirements.

- Some private colleges/universities, in addition to the FAFSA, require you to complete the CSS Profile, which is available October 1st of your senior year. The CSS Profile application can be found at the [College Board CSS webpage](#).
- Also check the school's financial aid website for additional scholarships that may require a separate application.

## Grants

- Grants are dollars that don't require any type of repayment. Grants can be funded by the federal government, state governments and colleges and universities, but may also come from corporations, institutions and foundations. Pell Grant eligibility and awards are determined by the data you provide on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Even if you don't plan to borrow money, file the FAFSA to see what grant aid you may qualify for.

## Private Scholarships

- Scholarships are often awarded based on merit and vary in terms of the amount awarded, due dates and application requirements. Academic scholarships are most often considered merit-based scholarships. Private scholarships are awarded by a variety of organizations. Check your employer, local banks, foundations and community organizations that you may belong to.
- Outside of academics, some athletes may be awarded full or partial athletic scholarships to help defray the costs of attendance.

## Student & Parent Loans

- If you apply for financial aid, you may be offered both student and parent loans as part of your financial aid package. Both student and parent loans are aid that must be paid back with interest over time following the completion of the degree or at the time you are no longer an active student. Loans are funded by local financial institutions, the federal government or private lenders. Federal student (Guaranteed Student Loans) and parent (PLUS loans) generally offer lower interest rates.

Below is a basic formula for determining your financial need. Once you know the full cost of attendance and your family's EFC, you can determine your level of eligibility. The eligibility amount is what the college will try to help you meet by way of family contribution, scholarship, grants and loans.

### Basic Equation of Need



Cost of Attendance (COA) - Expected Family Contribution (EFC)
- Student's Financial Need (eligibility)