

# ARTISTS, PREPARE!

## A SUMMER GUIDE FOR COLLEGE PLANNING

### NOCCA's Guiding Principles of College Counseling

Artists and scholars are vitally important in the world.  
 College is a primary path toward achieving your artistic, educational, and professional goals.  
 A career in the arts is a viable option and a worthy pursuit.  
 You have a right to personalized support, resources, and advocacy.  
 Your talent and potential is not defined by an admissions decision.  
 The “best” school is the school that’s best *for you*.

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#### ASK YOURSELF

##### “Why?” Before “Where?”

It’s hard to know *where* to go to college until you become clear about *why* you’re going to college. What purpose do you want it to serve? What do you want from your experience? Once you know your *why*, you’ll be able to search for schools that will help you fulfill your specific goals and purpose.

#### CONSIDER

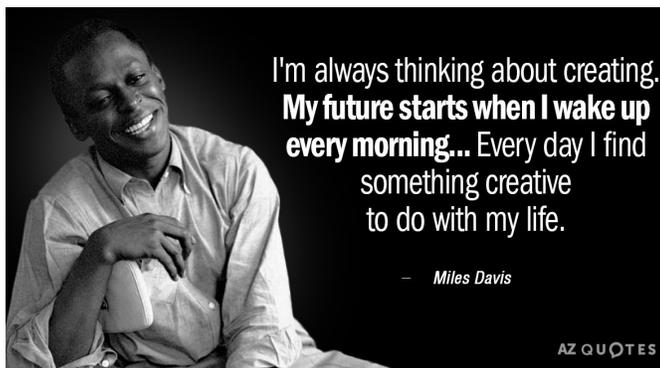
##### All Your Interests

College provides an opportunity to develop your craft, explore new areas of study, travel abroad, conduct research, intern with organizations, join clubs, collaborate across disciplines, and more. Look for schools that offer a full range of areas that interest you - in and out of the classroom!

#### REMEMBER

##### Don’t Be Fooled By Flash

Flashy websites and college brochures are simply marketing tools. College rankings are unscientific and largely manipulated to create hype. Delve deeper to investigate the arts and academic programs, campus life, and values of the school.



I'm always thinking about creating.  
**My future starts when I wake up every morning...** Every day I find something creative to do with my life.

— Miles Davis

AZ QUOTES

#### COMING SOON!

SCOIR is a new college search tool that will help you identify schools that fit *your interests and needs*. It’s easy, fun, and free to use.

NOCCA is in the process of setting up an account for all NOCCA seniors. It will be ready for you in the fall. Stay tuned!

#### VIRTUAL COLLEGE TOURS

Did you know you can take 360° and virtual reality (VR) tours of college campuses? Even if you can’t tour in person, you’ll learn more about the programs, and get a sense of the architecture, physical layout and “vibe” of the school!

Find tours on individual college websites; register for national virtual college fairs at [www.nacacfairs.org](http://www.nacacfairs.org); or browse more than 600 virtual campus tours at [www.youvisit.com](http://www.youvisit.com).

## Summer To-Do List

- Complete the Student Questionnaire (required)
- Research colleges and take virtual tours
- Practice for the ACT
- Get started on your college application essay
- Talk with your parents/guardians about your goals, concerns, and hopes for your future
- Keep a sketchbook, journal, or video notebook of your summer activities and creative ideas. This year, summer work and volunteer options are limited, but schools will still want to know/see how you spent your time.

## SENIOR PRE-COLLEGE QUESTIONNAIRE

\*this is required for all seniors

In order to advocate for you, I'll need to know about your goals, talents, strengths, and challenges. The questionnaire is long *on purpose!* Please provide thoughtful, detailed answers. It's a great idea to complete this over the summer while you have more time.

A link was sent to you in an email. Or you may complete the paper copy.

## COLLEGE ESSAY

The 2020-21 Common Application essay prompts are below. These are shortened versions, so check the website for the full prompts. Write a draft this summer! Choose one.

1. Share the story of your background, identity, interest, or talent.
2. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. What did you learn?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea.
4. Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve.
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging it makes you lose all track of time.
7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice.

[www.commonapp.org/apply/essay-prompts](http://www.commonapp.org/apply/essay-prompts)

## ACT PREP

Many - *but not all* - schools are test-optional this year (meaning you are not required to submit ACT or SAT scores). *It's still important to prepare for and take the ACT in the fall.* This summer, you can do practice tests at home, and/or enroll in an online ACT prep class. Practice test books are available at libraries and bookstores, and there's information online about prep classes, including:

ACT: [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

Princeton Review:

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

ACT Qualified: [www.actqualified.com](http://www.actqualified.com)

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

(or use as conversation starters):

What do you wish to learn? How do you wish to grow?

How do you wish to develop as an artist and scholar?

How do you wish to evolve as a human being?

How do you wish to contribute to your family, school, community and/or world?

If you were to bravely "go for it," what is "it"?

What is an interest/talent you wish to continue pursuing?

What is a new interest/curiosity just forming (within arts, academics, or public life)?

Where do you apply most of your effort? Why?

When do you feel most uplifted, energized, or fulfilled? Why?

Is there a habit that's no longer serving you? What is it time to let go of?

Is there an aspect of yourself you've been hiding and it's time to let shine? If so, what is it?

Preferences: City or rural campus? Close to home or far away? Large or small student body? Cold weather or hot?

Consider the options: university, college, conservatory, HBCU, women's college, religious-affiliated, non-traditional, technical or community college, international school, experiential/cooperative education, and more...

It's time to think big. Don't put a limit on your potential! What questions do *you* have for yourself?