



Your College Navigator, LLC

Admissions by design, not chance!

Michael Binder
President and Founder
Phone: 516-367-6625

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Seniors

Work on remaining regular decision applications

Register for College Board/ACT testing opportunities if you still wish to take a test

Juniors

Focus on grades in this all-important year, and look to make an impact in activities of interest

Begin developing your college list based on meaningful criteria

Have a test prep strategy in place with targeted test dates

9th/10th Graders

Focus on grades and join clubs/activities of interest

Upcoming Library Info Sessions

For 9th, 10th, and 11th-grade students and parents

With a focus on how to select and get into the best colleges for you!

Get started now! Attend one of our informative events:

Jump-Start College Admissions

7PM Mon, Dec 11 Syosset Library

7PM Wed, Dec 13 Cold Spring Harbor Library

Register through:

www.ycnavigator.com

Determining The Strength Of A Department

When considering which schools to apply to, it is important to remember that different institutions specialize in different fields of study. Understanding the academic direction you'd like to pursue is a key factor in selecting your future college, as some majors may be stronger than others in a particular school, and vice-versa. Here are some pointers on how to determine the strength of a department at each college or university:

Courses: Look at the quantity and depth of the undergraduate courses offered through the department, as opposed to cross-listed courses from outside the department that still fulfill requirements. Additionally, check if the department offers specializations and/or concentrations in the 3rd and 4th years. Research each concentration to see if it interests you. The availability of concentrations demonstrates the breadth and depth of the major.

Faculty: Research the faculty members in your desired department. Feel free to research individual members and determine if their work and experience aligns with your interests. You can check the department's size to see if it consists of just a handful of members or a substantial team. It is also helpful to connect directly with the departments at various schools and see about setting meetings with faculty. This can give insight into the accessibility of faculty members and their

willingness to make time for students. Finally, you may check professor reviews on <https://ratemyprofessors.com>.

Research: Explore the current research being conducted by professors and undergraduates. Is it areas of interest to you? When and how can you get involved? Can you conduct independent research and how available is funding?

Publications: Publishing work is difficult and takes a substantial amount of time and effort. Delving into this realm to see which faculty members within the department have research published may sound meticulous, but it is well worth your time to determine the reputation of the school's major and its professors.

Additional Considerations for that major

- Department's undergraduate mission
- Availability of undergraduate advising
- Number of undergraduates in the major
- Quality and availability of internships
- Student organizations in that major
- Which companies recruit on-campus
- Graduation outcomes - grad school & jobs

Each department and each college or university is unique and possesses its own distinctive characteristics. Some may have strengths where others have limitations. It's important to weigh the pros and cons of each college and university's department in order to determine which is the best for your academic path.

Focus on Majors: Computer Programming

Career Paths for Computer Programming

- Software developer
- Web developer
- Network specialist
- Computer programmer
- Computer science teacher
- Systems analyst
- Database developer

Programmers may work in a variety of fields including:

- Finance
- Government
- Health care
- Marketing & advertising
- Data security
- Software publishing



Computer programming is the study of computer languages and the ways to apply them. Students in this major learn how to develop, maintain, and fix software systems.

A major in computer programming would include classes such as database design, network security, and business communications. Courses are typically part lecture and part lab work. In lectures, students learn the necessary computer concepts, terminology and applications. In labs, students apply those lessons to real-world problems.

Labs are essential to the major because jobs in computer programming often require professionals to solve problems they have never seen before. New issues are constantly arising in technology, so computer programmers must be able to have the patience to solve difficult problems.

The major is designed to help students develop the necessary patience and problem-solving skills to be successful. Students will also become proficient communicators in order to understand a client's needs and issues. Through application, they will gain a strong attention to detail.

While most programs hone all of these abilities, the focus of the major differs greatly from college to college. Some schools concentrate on software and programming while others have a core in website design. Some colleges structure their programs so that students emerge with industry approved certificates. Others focus on applications or networking.

Because simple programming jobs are moving overseas, students pursuing this major in the United States may benefit from also gaining knowledge in a scientific or business field of their choosing. That way, they have a specialized ability to use programming to meet a specific, industry related goal.

For students looking to become computer programmers, there are two main types:

application programmers and system programmers. System programmers develop operating software systems such as Windows, as well as programs that help preserve networks or databases. Application programmers develop programs to address specific needs in specific environments. An application programmer might create a program designed to calculate and store students' grades, for example.

Students may become computer system analysts. Analysts work to improve the efficiency of existing systems.

Students more interested in website creation can go into web development. Web developers use coding and programming to create websites that are both aesthetically pleasing and functional. Web developers are different than web designers. Web designers focus on the graphic elements of a website while developers create the code that makes a website work. However, designers and developers often work together to build a website.

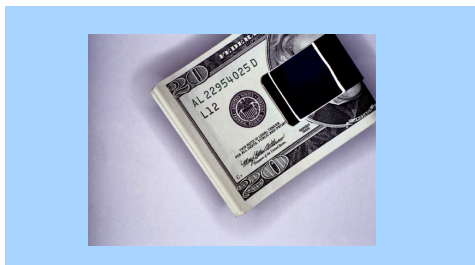
Computer support specialists work closely with computer-users in their organizations. They troubleshoot programs, fix technical issues, suggest updates, and perform routine checks on networks to prevent problems before they occur.

Database administrators specialize in data tracking and storing software. Administrators keep databases secure, check for errors or needed updates, and create software so that users can easily search for company data.

Computer programming majors may also become computer and information systems managers. Many managers have graduate degrees, but it is not always necessary. Managers are responsible for finding, testing, and suggesting new software programs for their companies. They often compare the virtues and costs of existing programs necessary for new company projects. It is up to them to present the program options to company executives.

Students who major in computer programming can find their niche in almost any kind of company. Majors graduate with many options and fields to explore.

Financial Matters: Understanding Financial Aid Terminology



Navigating the world of college costs can feel confusing. Before you decide whether to apply for financial aid, do your research. If applying for aid, make sure to keep track of form submission dates. Parents should make sure their teen is sharing financial aid emails with them. Have discussions with your teen about college affordability. If you are considering a student loan, one rule of thumb is to never borrow more than the student expects to make in their first year salary after graduation.

Here is a glossary of terms to help you better understand financial aid:

Cost of Attendance

The estimated cost of attending a university for one year. This includes tuition, fees, transportation, student health insurance, books, food and housing.

Demonstrated Need

Your demonstrated financial need is the difference between the cost of attendance (COA) and your student aid index (SAI).

Student Aid Index (SAI)

This is a measure of your family's ability to pay for college. The SAI is replacing the expected family contribution (EFC).

Net Price Calculators

A free online tool available on universi-

ty websites. It allows parents or students to input information about themselves, then provides an estimated net price of attending that particular college. The actual cost of attendance is determined when the financial aid package is received.

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

The form uses Federal Methodology which considers parental gross income as the main factor in determining aid eligibility such as grants, work study, and federal student loans:

<https://studentaid.gov/>

FAFSA ID

A username and password which allows students and parents to identify themselves electronically to access Federal student aid websites. This is your legal signature. Both the parent and student must create their own ID.

CSS Profile (College Scholarship Profile)

Issued by the College Board and is used to determine a student's eligibility for non-federal financial aid. The CSS Profile is a much more comprehensive look at a family's financial situation than the FAFSA. There is a fee for each application and not all colleges require this form -

<https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/>

Grants

Usually based on demonstrated financial need. They are usually awarded by the state or federal government and by the universities and colleges. Understand that a minimum GPA is required to remain eligible.

Scholarships

Based on merit, scholarships can be

awarded for academic success, athletic ability, artistic talent, diversity or leadership. There are numerous private foundations and community organizations that award scholarships. Students usually need to fill out an application and may need to write an essay or submit a letter of recommendation. <https://www.fastweb.com/>

Student Loans

Required to be paid back, often with fees and interest rates. Stipulations about college enrollment apply. Here are some of the different types of federal loans that might be offered:

- **Direct Subsidized:** These loans are based on financial need, and the federal government pays the interest that accrues while the borrower is in school.

- **Direct Unsubsidized Loans:** These loans are not based on financial need, and the borrower is responsible for all interest, including interest that accrues while in school.

- **Direct PLUS Loans:** These loans are available to graduate and professional students, as well as to parents of dependent undergraduate students. They have higher interest rates and require a credit check.

- **Work Study:** Financial need must be demonstrated to qualify for this program. Work study is an opportunity to work part-time on or near campus. Employers understand you are a student and will give you flexible hours. It is also a great way to gain some work experience that can be added to your resume.



Your College Navigator

Michael Binder, MS, MBA
President & Founder

Office: 516.367.6625
Mobile: 516.724.0610

success@yccnavigator.com

www.yccnavigator.com

**Check our website for
upcoming webinars
and seminars.**

After Submitting Your Applications

Your applications are in and you are enjoying that wonderful feeling of relief that comes with the last early submission, but don't put away those usernames and passwords just yet. Make sure to check your emails regularly, as well as the specific application portals for each college. Do not panic if you are notified that your application is incomplete, as the missing document probably has not been logged into the system yet. It's also a good idea to keep copies of your applications, just in case a document does get lost.

If you are applying for financial aid, make sure you are submitting required documents such as the FAFSA and the CSS Profile.

Be sure to keep up with schoolwork. Even if you have been accepted early at your favorite school, an offer of admission is always contingent upon successful completion of senior year. If your grades are significantly lower or you have lightened your course load, you could be jeopardizing your admission. Be sure to notify the admission office if you decide to drop a class or make any other changes to your schedule.

Some colleges will request interviews

after you have submitted your application. Make sure to be prepared by practicing your interview skills. You may be asked to discuss your interests and experiences. Make sure you can answer the question about why you want to attend that particular school. It is also a good idea to have questions prepared for the interviewer.

If you submitted letters of recommendation, it is important to write thank you notes to those who took their time to write them for you. Teachers and counselors spend a tremendous amount of time doing this for students each year. Show them some appreciation.

Most importantly, celebrate your achievements despite the outcome of admission decisions. Be open to alternate plans. Sometimes they work out better than you expect.

It could be a few months before you find out where you have been admitted. Try not to obsess about upcoming decisions; find other things to occupy your time. Spending more time on community service is a productive way to channel your energy, and helping others can make you feel good about yourself.