Senior College Planning Night

Thursday, September 23, 2021

Upcoming: Financial Aid Night: Understanding FAFSA, Wednesday, September 29th

College Visits

How to Visit Schools

- Go to the Undergraduate Admissions web Page for visiting information
- schools restarted small group, in-person tours and open houses
- Schools may also still offer virtual Tours
- Visiting schools - in person - is an important factor in college decision making.
- Click here to find out what to ask

How to Speak with College Reps

Admissions Reps Visit High Point

During Unit Lunch

To find out which colleges are visiting

- Log in to **Naviance**
- Click on **Colleges** at the top of the page
- Click on **College Visits**
- Check out the schedule of in-person and virtual visits

NACAC Virtual Fairs

- 9/28 - Northeastern Colleges
- 10/3 - Signature Fair
- 10/14 - Midwest Colleges
- 10/24 - 2nd Signature Fair
- 11/2 - Arts and STEM Fair

Visit the site below for additional information

https://www.virtualcollegefairs.org/conventions

College List

- How many colleges should I apply to?
- Safety - good fit - reach
- Every list must contain one college you can definitely get into and one college you can definitely afford

Check out this link: finding the right college for you

Where To Begin?

Office of Undergraduate Admissions

The Admissions website is where you will find:

- Information on how to apply
- Application deadlines and requirements
- Supporting Materials
- Campus Visits, Admissions Counselor Contact

https://www.smcvt.edu

Saint Michael's College
Founded 1904

Admission Plans

Regular Decision - apply by the deadline, receive results by a set notification date

Early Decision - binding contract which requires students to attend if accepted

Early Action - students receive their admissions decision early, non-binding

Rolling Admissions - No set deadline to submit, Notifications of acceptance on an ongoing basis

THE COMMON APPLICATION

The Application

COALITION for COLLEGE

Application Process

99% of colleges utilize electronic applications

Application types

- Institutional - specific to the School
- Common Application - www.commonapp.org
- Coalition - www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org

Check the admissions page of each school to determine which application they want you to use

- Keep track of all login information
- Link your Common Application and Naviance account

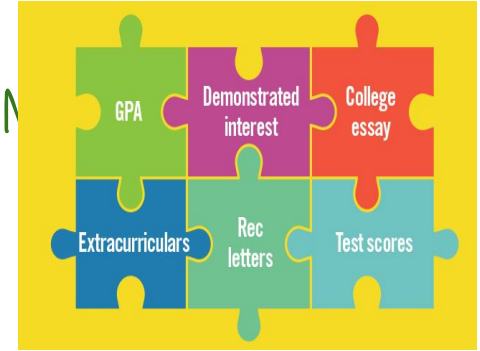
Application Essay

Ever dream of having a starring role in a book, t.v. show or movie? Now's your chance…the essay is a story with you as the man character.

- ➔ The essay should contain something that cannot be found anywhere on your application
- ➔ Begin working on your essay sooner rather than later
- ➔ Be sure to answer the entire question
- ➔ Be sure to have a conclusion that wraps your story up
- ➔ Be mindful if there is a specific Word Count
- ➔ Do a complete spelling and grammar check of your work
- ➔ Be sure to have another set of eyes review your essay
- ➔ *If* You have an application that does not require an essay, do not panic! Not all colleges have this writing requirement

Parts of the Application

- Demographics, family, GPA, Class Rank, classes, activities
- Essay - Attached to the common Application or the coalition application
- College specific questions - located on the Common Application



What are the SSAR and are SRAR?

- They are when a student self reports their classes, grades, and credits.
- Not all colleges use these forms- Rutgers, Pennsylvania State University, University of Connecticut are some of the universities that use the. **If a college uses an SSAR or SRAR, it will be indicated on the application directions found on the admissions web-page and/or at the end of the Common Application
- If this form is required by a college or colleges, ask your Guidance Counselor for a copy of your transcript.
- Please note: This form is not part of your application materials. Your application can not be evaluated until this form is completed and submitted.

Supporting Documents and Requirements

Remember the Admissions Page? In addition to the application, most colleges ask for supplemental documents. These include:

- Letters of Recommendation (How Many? From Who?)
- Official High School Transcript
- Senior Year Schedule and 1st Marking Period Report Card
- Mid Year Report (First Semester Grades, Updated GPA / Rank)
- Interview
- Art Portfolio? Audition? (*Specific majors)
- Test Scores

SAT/ACT

ACT®

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SAT / ACT - Taking the Test? Going test optional?

SAT: collegeboard.org / ACT: actstudent.org

- Many schools remain test optional for the 2021-2022 application period. check your school's individual website for confirmation!
- There are exceptions for specific programs, i.e. nursing, accelerated programs, seven year medical, etc. Be Certain of what you need!
- If a college of interest is test optional for admission, check to be sure they do not want the SAT / ACT for scholarship consideration

SAT / ACT - Sending your Scores

- Some schools will have you self-report your scores through your college application. Verify with an admissions representative if they still want scores officially.
- If scores are required, it is *your* responsibility to send official scores directly from the testing service.
- Make your request for your test scores WELL IN ADVANCE of your application deadline
    - Request your score reports *when you register for the test*
    - Both the SAT and ACT provide four free reports and release as soon as the scores are available
- SAT score reports are cumulative, ACT reports your superscore if you test more than once

TRANSCRIPTS

&

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Transcripts

- Your transcript contains:
    - all courses and grades from Freshman through Junior year
    - your Senior year schedule or marking period/semester grades (depending on the time of year)
    - your weighted GPA and class rank (which is updated after the first semester)
- Students submit transcript requests via naviance. Please submit your requests *7 - 10 days* before the deadline and email your counselor to let her know.
- If you self report your grades, Guidance does not submit your transcript at the time of applying

Letters of Recommendation

- Carefully note each college's recommendation requirements.
- First, Ask your teachers / coaches / advisors "in person" to write your letter of recommendation. Then, request each letter through your Naviance Account. Complete the student input form to assist your teacher. Forms available in guidance.
- Some colleges *require* a counselor recommendation. If you need one, inform your counselor, and complete the counselor recommendation survey in the "about me" section on Naviance.
- Please be sure to give your recommenders plenty of time to write your letters. write them thank you notes.

Naviance

www.naviance.com

Use this website for:

- College searches and organization
- College applications, letters of recommendation, transcript requests
- Information on College Admission Rep Visits
- Scholarship Listing
- Career assessments

NAVIANCE
College & Career
PLANNING

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONAL DOCUMENTS

- How to get organized for college applications
- College application organization chart

- How to log in to Naviance
- How to request transcripts in Naviance
- How to send your test scores
- Teacher letters of recommendation
- Counselor letters of recommendation

- How to apply for scholarships using Naviance

Community College

- Apply online at the college's website

  sussex.edu sunyorange.edu

  ccm.edu bergen.edu

- Placement testing - Accuplacer, SAT/ACT, PARCC, transcript review
  - Different schools have different policies and standards

Transferring - planning for your Bachelor's degree - do your research now

~ www.njtransfer.org

NJ STARS - scholarship for students ranked in the top 15%

Reminders

- Check your email regularly…often!
  - Colleges will communicate important application information to you
  - Guidance will send out notices regarding dates, deadlines, events, and scholarships
- Keep your grades up
  - Guidance recalculates GPA & rank after the first semester for college mid-year reports
  - Colleges may rescind acceptances for poor/failing final grades
- Let your counselor know when you get accepted
  - Colleges don't tell us, so we won't know unless you do. We love to celebrate your good news!

Sneak Peak - FAFSA
**Financial Aid Night (Virtual)
9/29/21**
&
Scholarships

FAFSA
(Free Application For Federal Student Aid)

- FAFSA becomes available **October 1 https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa**
- You can and should create your account, obtain an electronic signature prior to starting the application
- FAFSA is used for:
  - Consideration of federal loans, grants, federal work study
  - College scholarship information
  - NJ Stars
- Loans - money students eventually pay back
- Scholarships - money not paid back
- Loans, Grants and scholarships are all Financial Aid

APPLY AS EARLY AS YOU CAN

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships come from different sources

- Directly from Colleges
  - Check the Financial Aid Web-Page for information on scholarships
- Local Scholarship Application
  - Distributed by the Guidance Office in January. This scholarship is reviewed by local organizations that give scholarships to High Point students
- Naviance
  - Log into your Naviance account and go to the Scholarship List - many local organizations use separate applications. These are posted in Naviance and students are encouraged to check the list often and to apply, apply, apply!

DATES TO REMEMBER!

Upcoming SAT dates

November 6th SAT - Registration Deadline 10/8
December 4th SAT - Registration Deadline 11/4

Upcoming ACT dates

October 23rd ACT - Late registration deadline 10/1
December 11th ACT - Registration Deadline 11/5
February 12th ACT - Registration Deadline 1/7

**Remember to request official test scores in advance of college application deadline

FAFSA and CSS Profile - Application Window opens October 1

HPRHS Financial Aid Night (Virtual) Wednesday, 9/29 at 7 p.m.

Selective Service

- Almost all males between the ages of 18 - 24 must register for selective service
- Registration can be found here: https://www.sss.gov/register/ You can register online or through Paper
- Males must be registered for Selective Service in order to be eligible for Financial Aid
- When completing the FAFSA, if a student has not registered for Selective Service, there is a prompt that allows you to do so
- When registering, you need your SS#, Full Name, Address, Email