

**COLLEGE ADMISSIONS
SEMINAR
FALL 2020**

**A GUIDE TO SELECTING AND
APPLYING TO COLLEGES**

Agenda for the Evening

- Creating a College List (quick review)
- The College Application
- Additional Opportunities & Considerations
- Responses and Decisions
- Resources

What's in Your Packet?

- Handed to your child in English class this week.
- Transcript Release Form*
- Questions to ask a college representative
- Gold teacher recommendation forms
- Green Guidance order of rec form

*Turn in tomorrow!

Develop A List of Potential Colleges

Define your criteria:

- Do you want a Christian college? Yes or no?
- What is your major going to be? Field of study?
- How big of a college are you looking for?
- How expensive is the college?
- Sports? Music? Art programs? Etc.
- Geographically, where do you want to be?
- Other (housing, reputation, food, student life, churches, intervarsity, etc.)

Where Do I Find College Info?

- [College Board/Big Future](#)
- [The Common App](#)
- [Naviance](#)
- Guidance Office
- Friends, Alumni
- College Visits - Virtual or In Person
- College Websites

Developing a Final College List

- Which colleges meet most of my criteria?
 - Narrow your list to 4-8 schools including:
 - Two reach schools
 - Two or more match schools
 - Two safety schools

This varies by student. The more highly selective the institution (lower admissions rates) the more college applications.

Your College Application

- Where do I find applications?
 - College/university website
 - Common Application/Coalition Application/QuestBridge
 - Ask Guidance Office for help if needed

The College Application Packet

- Application
- Essays
- Transcripts
- Test Scores
- Recommendations
- Interview
- Audition, Portfolio

1. The Application

- Fill out neatly, no mistakes, spelling and grammar are checked.
- This is the college's first impression of you. Is this a complete picture of you?
- Indicate the method of applying (Common Application (or others) or individual college website) in Naviance

The “Common” Application

- Several versions: ([Common Application](#), [Coalition for College](#), [QuestBridge](#), [Universal College Application](#))
- Colleges agree to use these applications as their own
- Common Application is paired with Naviance so WCS recommends this platform when possible
- Each application may ask for some additional components for each school depending on requirements (e.g. essay, recommendations, resume)
 - Note: Use same birthdate and email on all sites and documents!
 - Use formal name consistently!

What is FERPA?

- Family Education Rights and Privacy Act
- All students have a right to see application materials.
- You can waive that right - but why?
- Tells colleges the rec writer is being honest, not fearing repercussions from an angry parent if there are any damaging comments.
- Students are advised to waive it

Features in Common App

- Many college application resources
- Advisor role - invite up to 3 people to help observe, guide the student along - this is private!
- Counselor preview (both advisor and counselor by invite only)
- Guidance can review your Common App for errors and omissions if you invite us as advisors AND click “enable preview”. Please make sure to do so well before your first due date!

Self-Reporting Grades

- Some colleges require the self-reporting of grades on Common Application.
- Guidance will also submit mid-year report cards and official transcripts - these grades must match.
- All of our courses are “college prep”
- See Common Application tutorials in the application for details.

Entering Grades and Courses in the CA

Grades ▼

Graduating class size (approx.)*

Class rank reporting

- Exact
- Decile
- Quintile
- Quartile
- None

GPA Scale reporting
 ✕ ▼

Cumulative GPA*

GPA weighting

- Weighted
- Unweighted

Current or Most Recent Year Courses ▼

Please list all courses you are taking this academic year. If you are not currently enrolled, please list courses from your most recent academic year.
How many courses would you like to report?*

Select the number of courses you are taking this year ✕ ▼

Please select the course scheduling system your institution is using.*

- Semester
- Trimester
- Quarter

Course 1 title*

Course 1 level, if applicable
 ✕ ▼

Course 1 schedule*
 ✕ ▼ OR First Semester or Second Semester ✕ ▼

2. The Essays

- Try to be creative, interesting, honest
- What will make yours stand out?
- Find your voice
- Adhere to guidelines - answer the question!
- Watch grammar and spelling
- Ask someone to edit and proofread (English lab 8th period, teacher, parent, counselor)
- College Writing Seminar with Mrs. Christy (see Dr. L-C)

3. The Transcript

- Most important part of application
- Sent in via Naviance by the Guidance Office, cannot be submitted by student
- GPA through junior year, updated at semester based on completed courses
- Senior courses will be listed without grades
- WCS Transcript release form - **fill out tonight**

4. Test Scores

- SAT Reasoning Test – scores within college’s range
 - Send directly to college from College Board
www.collegeboard.com
- Some colleges count only the higher score
 - *Super scores vs highest combined test date.*
- ACT - A few people do better...less math, includes a science section **www.actstudent.org**

Should I Take the SAT? (COVID-19 Update)

- Many colleges (not all) have waived SAT/ACT for admissions purposes.
- But - not all have waived them for scholarship awards.
- Check the college website.
- New consideration - should you list your colleges when you register for SAT?
 - Pro - free versus paying a fee later
 - Con - cannot see score before deciding

Subject Tests

- SAT Subject Tests - check your colleges
- More competitive schools use it
- Can take up to three on same day
- Offered same dates as SAT Reasoning Test
 - (Cannot do both on same day)
 - Used for admission and course placement
- Check with colleges, but now in COVID days it maybe less stressed.

Upcoming Test Dates

- SAT Reasoning/ Subject Test Dates (Registration)

- Oct. 3 -late deadline is Sept. 22nd
- Nov. 7 (Oct. 7th)-late deadline Oct. 27th
- Dec. 5 (Nov. 5)- late deadline Nov. 24th
- See [College Board](#) for updates and cancelations

- ACT ([Registration](#))

- Sept. 12 & 13
 - Oct. 10
 - Oct. 17
 - Oct. 24 & 25
-

BE SURE TO HAVE PROPER I.D. THE DAY OF THE TEST.

5. Recommendations

- Ask people who know you well and can comment positively. Ask in person and follow up via email.
- Use WCS **gold** form and give to teachers. Then request teacher through Naviance.
- **Green** sheet must be submitted to Guidance showing recommendation preference order.
- If a recommendation cannot be submitted online (employer, coach), submit it to Guidance so we can upload and send it.
- Send thank you notes to writers!

Resume/Activity List

- Complete in Naviance - Student Grades 9-12, include fall activities/ other things you are sure you will do - can be updated during the year.
- Be specific with dates, details of what you did.
- Helps teachers learn about your activities and non-WCS life.
- May need to complete on college applications too. Naviance is only for teacher's use.
- Some schools will use your resume to learn more about you and will rely more heavily on this.
- Submit with application, not through Naviance, if required.

6. The Interview

- Determine if appointment is required or optional
- Make an appointment
- If recommended, go for interview to make a good impression
- Be yourself, be inquisitive, be informed
 - Admissions reps are impressed by good questions and knowledgeable students
- Write down your questions, notes and reflections/ impressions on the school.

7. The Audition/Portfolio

- Prepare with help from teachers
- Show your talent
- Strive for highest quality possible
- Turn in well before deadline

Submitting the Application

- Students must submit applications and SAT scores.
- High school guidance office submits transcript, schedule of courses and recommendations.
- Guidance Office and teachers need a minimum of 2-3 weeks to complete recommendations and documents

Early Decision/Early Action

- Should I apply for early decision/action?
 - How competitive is the school?
 - How many let in under E.D.?
 - Would I go to this school if accepted? Binding?
 - Do I need fin. aid info before deciding? ([Net Price Calculator](#))
- Read the fine print – what am I agreeing to? (ED I, II?)
- Most deadlines are Nov. 1st (a few Oct. 15th or Nov. 15th)
- May go back into regular decision pool if not accepted ED or EA (depends on the school)

Opportunities to meet with College Representatives

- Virtual College Fairs & Open Houses
- Limited In-Person Visits
- See [Guidance Resource Slides](#)
 - Updated regularly
 - Includes links to College Open Houses, Virtual Fairs, Application Resources

College Visits

- Definitely worthwhile if you can visit!
- Make appointment two or more weeks before when possible
- Schedule tour, interview, visit classes, meet with professors/coaches
- Notify WCS two weeks before - Counts as absence
- Fill out pre-planned absence form and [College Visits](#) link for out of state travel
- If not official visit, let admissions office know you were there, shows interest. Demonstrated Interest - what does this mean?
- Be prepared! Research. Prepare questions!

Register with the Eligibility Center (NCAA Clearinghouse)

NCAA Eligibility Clearinghouse

- Playing sports at college?
- Register after junior year
- \$90 to register
- \$150 for international student
- For all Div. 1 and Div. 2 schools
- Notify Guidance after you register
- Also check NAIA rules for NAIA colleges

How might colleges respond?

1. Accept
2. Deny – you can ask why – reapply next year?
3. Accept – conditional
4. Accept on Probation – meet GPA min.
5. Waitlist – find out May - June

The Final Decision

- Which schools did I get in?
- Evaluate financial aid packages - appeal if necessary
- Make a final spring visit
- Prayerfully decide
- Notify schools by May 1st – common reply date
- Early Decision and Early Action are an exception. Know your dates and deadlines!
- Send in deposit
- Notify Guidance and indicate in Naviance

Additional Resources

- [Collegeboard.com](https://collegeboard.com)
- [Bigfuture.collegeboard.org](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org)
- [Petersons.com](https://petersons.com)
- [Collegenet.com](https://collegenet.com)
- [Princetonreview.com](https://princetonreview.com)
- [Christiancollegementor.org](https://christiancollegementor.org)

Register with Selective Services

Males - Register after you turn 18.

<https://www.sss.gov/>

Guidance Resource Slides

- How to Create your Common App Account
- How to Match your CA with Naviance
- How to request a teacher letter of recommendation
- Virtual College Fairs
- Virtual Open Houses and Resources
- Virtual College Admission & Application Tips

Financial Aid...



Questions?

Thank you for joining us!

Where Do We Get Financial Aid?

- Federal Loans
- Institutional (college) and other Grants
- Federal Pell Grants
- State Grants
- Federal Campus-Based Programs
- Other Federal Programs
- Non-federal Loans

The FAFSA

- Every student should fill out the FAFSA
- Each student and at least one parent needs to create a Federal Student Aid ID
- [Applications for the 2021-2022](#) academic year opens **October 1st**
- tax info from [2019 Tax Returns](#)
- Individual schools and state governments also reference the application to determine financial aid eligibility.
- Federal [Parent PLUS Loan](#)

CSS/Financial Aid Profile

- [Participating colleges](#) rely on PROFILE data to award non-federal funds
- PROFILE collects more comprehensive family and financial information
- Goes into more depth than FAFSA
- Ability to share special circumstances
- \$25 Fee to apply through [College Board](#) and \$16 for each school

Net Price Calculator - Search for your school



U.S. Department of Education

Net Price Calculator Center



Search for Schools' Calculator



What does Net Price mean?

Net Price is the amount that a student pays to attend an institution in a single academic year AFTER subtracting scholarships and grants the student receives. Scholarships and grants are forms of financial aid that a student does not have to pay back.

What is a Net Price Calculator?

Net price calculators are available on a college's or university's website and allow prospective students to enter information about themselves to find out what students like them paid to attend the institution in the previous year, after taking grants and scholarship aid into account.

How do other students describe net price?



Net Price Calculator -
Typography Video

By Brian Schwabauer



Justin, Remo, Bilyana
Net Price Calculator
Video

By Michael Kirby, Remo
Kommnick, John Remmes,
Bilyana Petrova

Am I Eligible To Receive Financial Aid?

What Is an EFC? (Expected Family Contribution)

- A measure of parents' capacity over time to absorb educational costs
 - Not a dollar amount expected from current income assets
 - Not an estimate of *extra* cash available
- **Expected Family Contribution** (EFC) is used as an ELIGIBILITY INDEX for federal aid purposes
- Schools use the EFC and college cost budget to put together a “package” of financial assistance
- EFC determines student eligibility for the Pell Grant and other forms of federal aid
- Subject to school verification and adjustments

Pearls of Wisdom

- Feel free to ask Financial Aid offices any question!
They want to help!
- Know your deadlines!
- Fulfill all requirements!
- Keep all tax records!
- Don't rule out a college due to sticker price.

Resources

- [CollegeSavings Info](#)
- [FSA Help Center](#)
- [FastWEB Scholarship Sources](#)
- [Mapping Your Future](#)
- [Sallie Mae](#)
- [NASFAA](#)
- [Net Price Calculator](#)
Search for your school

Thank You!