



# From Start to Finish: Understanding the College Process

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There are only two lasting bequests we can hope to give our children. One of these is roots, the other wings.- Hodding Carter



## & TAKE AWAY POINTS &

**UNDERSTANDING TYPES OF COLLEGES, TYPES OF DEADLINES, AND THE APPLICATION MATERIALS**

**LEARNING THE STUDENTS ROLE AND THE PARENTS ROLE IN THE APPLICATION PROCESS**

**STAYING ORGANIZED**

**UNDERSTANDING THE COLLEGE TIMELINE FROM PREPARING TO APPLY TO ENROLLING AS A COLLEGE STUDENT**

# Types of Colleges | What's best for you?



- **Technical Schools**
  - Learn a trade such as but not limited to:
    - ✦ Electrician      Plumber      Hair Dresser      Culinary
  - Programs range from 6 months to 2 years
  - Typically result in licensure
  - Usually no on campus housing
- **Examples: Porter & Chester | Brio Academy**
- **Average Tuition: \$18,500**
- **Financial Aid is available**

# Types of Colleges | What's best for you?



- **Two Year (Community College)**
  - Receive certificates or associates degree
  - Take General Education courses and transfer to a 4 year college
  - Usually do not offer housing
  - Minimal to no college admissions requirements
  - Great as a transition between high school & university
    - ✦ New Program: A + B in CT (2 years at Gateway and smooth transition to Southern)
- **Example: Gateway Community College**
- **Average Tuition: \$5,000/ year (including books)**
- **Financial Aid is available**

# Types of Colleges | What's best for you?



- **Four Year College/University**

- Earn Bachelor's degree
- Can live on campus or commute
- The traditional “going away to school” experience

- **Financial Aid is available**

- **Tuition**

- **Private:** more expensive, but scholarship opportunities

University of New Haven/Quinnipiac University/Albertus Magnus  
on campus: \$56,000/\$61,000/\$51,000 / live at home \$35,000

- **Public:** less expensive because federally funded

Southern Connecticut State University/University of Connecticut  
In State on campus: \$23,000-30,000 / live at home: \$12,000

# Deadline Definitions



- **Early Decision**

- Apply in early fall and have an answer by early winter
- By applying early decision, you enter into a binding contract which means you MUST attend this school and withdraw your applications from others.

- **Early Action**

- Apply by early winter and receive your decision sooner. No binding contract which means you may choose any school you wish and have until May 1 to commit
- Typically have better scholarship opportunity by applying early

- **Regular Deadline**

- The school will stop taking applications on a specific date (each school's dates vary) and will not review applications until after this time

- **Rolling Admission**

- There is no deadline. You will receive a decision within 3-4 weeks after a complete application is received
- Keep in mind housing can still fill up even though admissions is still taking applications

# The (typical) Materials Needed to Make Your Application Complete



**APPLICATION AND FEE**

**NAVIANCE**

**OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT**

**SAT/ACT SCORES**

**ESSAY/PERSONAL STATEMENT**

**LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION**

**INTERVIEW**

# The Application



- Common Application

- [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)
- Remember your password! Put it in your phone!

- What is it?

- A website that colleges choose to belong to
- Allows students to apply to multiple colleges on one website
- Some schools only use the Common App, some use the Common App and their own application, and others do not use the Common App at all

**A Common Application can be started in August of 2018**



# Naviance – A Necessity



- [connections.naviance.com/metroba](https://connections.naviance.com/metroba)
- User Name: School ID code (not your e-mail)
- Password: Your Birthdate (mmddyy)
  - Senior Year Plan: Set 3 Short Term Goals
  - College List
  - Upload your Personal Statement/Essay
  - Apply to College
  - Complete FAFSA
  - Create Common Application
  - Enter community service to [servo.city](https://servo.city)

# Application Fee



- Ranges from \$25 - \$75 (could be more or less)
- Waivers may be offered if you attend Open Houses or other on campus events
- You may be eligible for SAT fee waivers

# Official Transcript



- Request from Guidance Office as early as possible
  - Guidance will need to upload your transcript to Naviance or send a paper copy signed and sealed. Please keep track of your deadlines!
  - Make sure you keep up your grades up because we send out your transcript after T1, T2 and Final Transcript!
- You can wait until Trimester 1 grades are posted – unless you are applying early action/early decision.



## ACT or SAT?

Students typically do about the same on each test, just depends on which style the student is more comfortable with.

Some students take the ACT once or twice and the SAT once or twice – not a bad idea.

Should ideally take a standardized test 2 -3 times.

Registration deadline is typically a month before test date- don't be late!

## SAT: [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

- Three sections:
  - ✦ Evidence Based Reading and writing (ERW) | Math | Optional essay
- Scores range 200-800 on ERW and Math (1600 highest)
- SUPER SCORE - Schools look at best score per section, not per whole test,
- \$52.50 registration fee | + \$28 if late | fee waivers - two available for each Metropolitan student

**SAT Subject Tests:** Advised for Very competitive schools

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

- Four Sections:
  - ✦ English    Math    Reading    Science
- Score is a composite score range from 4-36
- An additional Writing test is an option – many schools require the Writing!!
- The final composite score is always looked at per test date
- \$38.00 registration fee | \$54.50 w/ writing | +\$24 if late
- **YOU MUST SEND YOUR SCORES TO YOUR COLLEGES DIRECTLY THROUGH [collegeboard.org](http://collegeboard.org) OR [act.org](http://act.org)**  
\$12.00 per COLLEGE!!

# Essay or Personal Statement



- If application says it is optional, do it anyway
- This is a great way for the admissions office to get to know you beyond the transcript
  - Don't be boring
  - Keep it brief –no more than 650 words on common app
  - Don't reiterate what your transcript says
  - Use to explain a bad grade or a bad year
- Work with your English Teacher!!
  - Use proper Grammar
- Google examples of GOOD college essays or buy a College Essay book at Barnes & Noble.



## Essay/Personal Statement

If you are stuck, use some of these topics for help.

Put positive spins on negative things

Some students, given a topic of choice, have submitted Creative Writing pieces.

### Common Application Essay/Personal Statement Topics 2018-19:

- Some students have a background or story that is so central to their identity that they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
- The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
- Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
- Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you would like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma - anything that is of personal importance no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.
- Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself and others.
- Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
- Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.
- Colleges and universities that are not on Common App will have their own essay questions.
- Very competitive colleges will require more than one essay.

# Letters of Recommendation



- Ask teachers who will give you a good recommendation
  - They have a positive relationship with you
  - They have seen you work hard and respect your work
  - Ask your teachers both in person and through Naviance.
- Colleges ask for at least one and up to three rec's
  - Request two from teachers before the end of your junior year.
  - **Most schools require one from Guidance.** Give PLENTY of notice because they have to write one for each member of the senior class!
  - Fill out Guidance Recommendation Form
- Ask politely and with enough time in advance
  - Be professional and don't assume they will do it!! Have a back up plan.

# Thank You!



- Don't forget to send a thank you note to your recommenders!
- Tell them where you were accepted!
- Tell them where you ultimately will go!
- They helped you get there !



# Interview



- Some schools require an interview
  - Prepare! Look up typical college interview questions online
  - Be neat and presentable – DO NOT USE YOUR PHONE!!!
  - Practice with a friend, parent, or guidance counselor
- Some schools ask for an interview if candidate is borderline
- You can ask the admissions office for an interview
  - Your chance to explain why they should take a chance on you!
  - Makes a good impression that you want to interview
  - Let's you get to know the admissions counselor

The things taught in schools and colleges are not an education, but the means to an education.- Ralph Waldo Emerson



## Student Roles

- Be Independent
- Ask Questions!
  - No one is going to give you information – you must seek it out
  - Have a Folder for all of your college materials to keep them in one place.
- Make phone calls yourself
- Seek scholarship opportunities online, through naviance and in guidance

## Parent Roles

- Be there for your student
  - Let student talk on the phone but be in the room in case something comes up they don't understand
- Don't do it for them
  - Once a student is enrolled in a college, you do NOT have any access to information.
- Support and encourage, but don't put unrealistic pressure on them

# Staying Organized



- Keep a College Folder for all of your materials
- Complete all items on the Senior Checklist
- Once your application is submitted, make SURE you let Guidance know so we can send supplemental documents
- Once all materials have been submitted, contact the admissions office two weeks later to verify they have received all materials

# College Application Timelines



**FOLLOWING THESE GUIDELINES  
WILL HELP YOU STAY ON TOP OF  
THE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS  
PROCESS**

# Junior Year | Fall & Winter



- Complete your required 100 hours of community service before you get too busy
- Do your best EVER in school – these grades matter the most
- Study for the SAT
  - All students should have a [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) account
  - Link your collegeboard account with Khan Academy to help study for the SAT (This should have been done with guidance early in the middle of the year)

# Junior Year | End of Winter/Early Spring

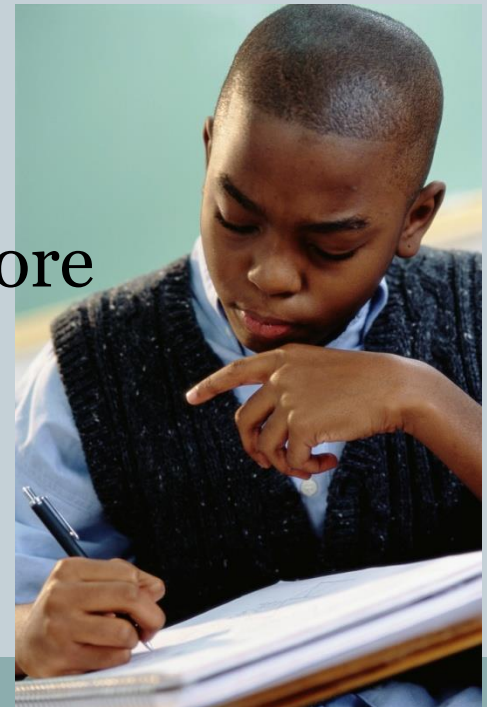


- Take the in school SAT in April
- Attend the NHPS College Fair Consortium
  - Be engaged | Do your Research | Ask Questions
- Continue doing well in school
- Work with your guidance counselor to pick courses for next year that challenge you
  - Schools will analyze what courses you are taking as a senior

# Junior Year | Late Spring



- Work on your College Essay in English Class
- Request two letters of recommendation from teachers before the end of the year
- Register for and take June SAT/ACT
- Create a list of schools you want to explore
  - 3-5 each of Reach, Target, & Safe schools





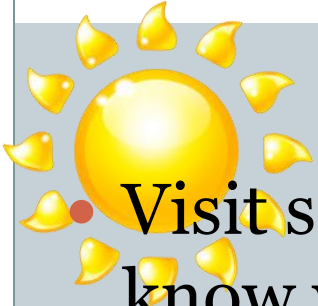
## List of Schools

All students should have a list of colleges they are interested in applying to. These schools should have some variety to allow the student to have a choice among the schools he/she is accepted to

- Research the average SATs & GPAs of incoming college Freshman (easily found on [www.collegboard.org](http://www.collegboard.org) or Naviance).
- Use this information to compare where your grades & scores stand
  - **Reach:** Your grades & scores are below the average. There's a chance you will not be accepted, but your still competitive enough.
  - **Target:** Your grades & scores are right on track. Most likely you'll be accepted
  - **Safe:** Your grades & scores are way above average. You'll easily be accepted.



# Summer between Junior & Senior Year



- Visit schools to learn more about them and let them know you are interested
  - Learn what you like and don't like within a campus
    - ✦ location                      size                      campus layout
- Develop list of 8-10 definite schools you will be applying to
- Register for October SAT/ACT



# Senior Year | September



- Finalize your Essay
- Request letters of recommendation from Guidance
  - And teachers if you do not have any on file.
- Finalize your list of schools you will be applying to
- Register for October SAT if you are taking it.
- Make an appointment with your Guidance Counselor.
- Hit the ground running in your academics.

# Senior Year | October



- Start filling out your college applications.
- Take SAT and/or register for November SAT.
- Do well in class-your T1 grade will be on your transcript!
  - Schools analyze how well you did during T1 and T2
  - If you drop a class or fail a class – you are subject to having your acceptance withdrawn.
- Complete FAFSA as soon as possible
  - Free Application for Financial Student Aid
  - Gives you Loans, Grants, & Work Studies
  - Uses Parent/Guardian Tax information from the year before
  - Apply as soon as possible:
    - ✦ Use the prior years tax return if necessary then update when you file

# Senior Year | November & December



- Finish all college applications.
- Make sure your counselor has sent out all of your follow up materials.
- Take SAT again if necessary in November
- Relax, but don't get senioritis!
- Attend Financial Night at your school

# Senior Year | January - March



- FAFSA should be completed by now!
- Get in contact with your schools to confirm materials have been received
- Read EVERYTHING schools send you, word for word, to not miss out on deadlines or opportunities
- Give copies of your acceptance letters to guidance

# Senior Year | April - June



- **Visit Schools you were accepted to**
  - Some schools host Accepted Student Days
  - Helps you to decide which school you really want to attend
  - Visit the school during the school day to see campus in action
  - See if you can shadow a student and/or have an overnight
- **Choose which college you wish to attend**
  - Let other schools who have accepted you know that you will not be attending so they can accept other students
  - They usually send a paper to fill out to make it easy
- **Submit your deposit to your choice by May 1**
  - Fill out housing paperwork (usually includes health checks)
  - Accept your financial aid
    - ✦ If you're accepting loans, look into what Promissary Notes and paperwork you need to complete
  - Fill out Orientation & Registration paperwork
- **Enjoy Senior Year Activities—We'll miss you!**

# Behind the Scene of College Admissions



**DON'T GO INTO A PANIC!**

**UNDERSTANDING WHEN TO HEAR FROM A  
COLLEGE AND HOW COLLEGE ADMISSIONS  
WORKS BEHIND THE SCENES CALMS NERVES**

# Application Review



- Colleges typically start reviewing applications in Late November
- When will you hear?
  - If rolling admissions, you can usually expect a response within a month of when the office receives your Complete Application
  - Keep in mind most applications are received between December and January, so these months may take longer.
  - If there is a deadline, typically admissions offices won't start reviewing applications until the deadline has passed



# Scholarships & Financial Aid



- Merit Scholarships will usually be announced with the acceptance package
  - Pay attention to deadlines! Sometimes a school may be rolling admissions but have a deadline if you wish to be considered for a scholarship
- FAFSA deadlines range between mid February and mid March.
  - Each School is different
- A Financial Aid Package can be expected sometime between Late December and May depending on when you submit the FAFSA.
  - It is reviewed once you submit it, so the earlier the better!!

# Picking a School & Depositing



- When you decide on a school, submit your deposit by May 1
  - If they say earlier, read the fine print as it may just be a way to make you feel obligated to attend their school
  - Unless you enter a binding admissions, you have until May 1
- Deposits range from \$200 - \$500 (or more)
  - There are usually two deposits: one for tuition and one for housing. Don't need to submit both UNLESS you are living on campus
- Only deposit to one school – they are most likely nonrefundable!!

# Then What?



- Once your deposit is submitted, you will receive information on:
  - housing, orientation, registration, immunizations and other things.
  - Read it all and submit it so you do not miss out on anything.
- Orientations typically take place over the summer and are a great way to meet other new students and pick your classes
- Be honest with yourself when filling out housing information so you get a great match for a roommate
- Enjoy the end of your Senior Year!!! You're a college student now

A college education is not a quantitative body of knowledge salted away in a card file. It is a taste for knowledge, a taste for philosophy, if you will; a capacity to explore, to question, to perceive relationships, between fields of knowledge and experience.  
- A. Whitney Griswold



**REMEMBER:**

**EVERY COLLEGE & STUDENT IS DIFFERENT**

**DO YOUR RESEARCH AND DO WHAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU**

**STAY ORGANIZED & FOCUSED, BUT CALM**

**YOU ARE NOT IN THIS ALONE!! SEEK HELP IF YOU ARE LOST**