



Resurrection

COLLEGE PREP HIGH SCHOOL

Caritate et Veritate



COLLEGE PLANNING GUIDE

For Seniors

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SPRING/SUMMER 2018

STUDENT CHECK LIST

A checklist of major activities that should have been completed last spring/summer include:

- A. Develop a list of schools that meet your personal criteria and gather additional information on each of these schools**

- B. Take the ACT and/or SAT**

- C. Plan college campus visits**

- D. Check with your Athletic Director if you intend to pursue athletics at the collegiate level.**

- E. Develop a plan to finance your education**

FALL 2018

STUDENT CHECKLIST

To make the process of post high school education a manageable and positive experience, it is helpful to have a plan.

Watch for Student Service Communications:

- Every senior should have joined the Schoology College Group for updates, links and reminders
- Scholarships are posted and updated on Naviance and Schoology
- Attend seminar information sessions as offered
- Listen to the morning announcements for specific reminders of college and scholarship information
- College Admission Representative Visits
 - College admission representative visits are posted on the Schoology Group and Naviance
 - College rep visits are scheduled on most Mondays and Thursdays during seminar periods in Student Services
 - Meeting with a college representative at your school can increase your chances of being accepted to the college or university
- College Open Houses
 - Many colleges offer open houses for juniors and seniors. Open houses provide students with an opportunity to tour the campus, view college life, and see if this college is the right fit for you. Please visit college websites for more info.

Attend Resurrection's College Night- Tuesday, September 11, 2018

- College Night is an annual program sponsored by Student Services. This event is an opportunity for parents and students to ask specific questions and gather information.
- Over 100 colleges and educational institutions will be present at College Night. Public, private, in-state and out-of-state institutions will be represented and provide information on the many opportunities for education beyond high school.

Identify Schools and Narrow Your Choices

- connection.naviance.com/resurrection
 - To search schools by specific criteria, go to "Colleges" → "Supermatch College Search"
 - To get more information on a specific school search under "Colleges" tab

- Students will request letters of recommendation through “Colleges I’m Applying to” section
- collegescorecard.ed.gov
 - Provides the public with information on retention rates, average costs, average salaries after attending and typical debt ranges for specific colleges
- collegeboard.org
 - To search schools by specific criteria, go to top drop down menu and press “College Search”
- You should have a list of 4-6 schools that you are interested in (although this number depends on each individual student). 1-2 reach schools, 2-3 match schools and 1-2 likely schools.

Obtain Financial Aid and Scholarship Info- FAFSA Info Night, Sept. 26th

- Financial aid is primarily obtained from the following four sources:
 - Federal Government (FAFSA)
 - State Government (FAFSA)
 - Directly from colleges and universities
 - Private organizations
- Resurrection does not administer financial aid for college.
- Scholarship information and applications sent directly to Resurrection are primarily private aid programs, such as independent community, religious, ethnic, or fraternal organizations.
- Check professional associations, parent/guardian places of employment, unions, and websites for possible sources of financial aid. Scholarship applications generally have very specific requirements and the deadlines to apply vary greatly.
- Scholarship opportunities are listed in Naviance and Schoology. Additional scholarship opportunities can be found at the websites below.

Check out these scholarship websites!

<http://connection.naviance.com/resurrection>

- Click on Scholarship Match and Scholarship List under the “colleges” tab
- www.fafsa.ed.gov Free Application for Federal Student Aid
- www.fastweb.com scholarship search, financial advice
- www.collegezone.com Illinois Student Assistance Commission
- www.gocollege.com planning, finance, terminology, advice
- www.finaid.com financial aid service, scholarship search

Apply for FAFSA starting October 1st

Apply to List of Schools

- Seniors will apply via Common Application, Coalition Application, or directly on a college's website. The application depends on what the specific school accepts
- Students must sign the FERPA authorization in Common App for documents to be sent
- Students must match their Common App to Naviance under "Colleges I'm Applying To"
- Once they have applied, schools need to be added to Naviance under "Colleges I'm Applying To"
- They can request letters of recommendation via Naviance under "Colleges I'm Applying To"
- Student request official transcripts by completing and submitting a "Transcript Request Form"

Send Test Scores Directly from Testing Organization

- Seniors should be aware of the school's requirement regarding test scores
- Some schools may superscore (take the highest score in every subject on any test), or some may be test-optional (not requiring any score to be reported). Familiarize yourself with what that school is requiring
- Test scores can only be sent through the testing website (ex: act.org)
- Resurrection does not send scores or print them on transcripts

Request Transcripts

- High school Transcripts cannot be released until we have parental consent
- Colleges requiring transcripts will need "official transcripts", which means the student needs to complete a "transcript request form" and submit it to Ms. Rogers
- Transcript requests must be submitted at least 10 working days ahead to assure they will be received by the college on time

Request Letters of Recommendation

- Many schools and scholarship committees require one or more letters of recommendation to provide further insight into who you are beyond the application
- Allow at least 10 working days for your letter to be written
- To formally request a letter of recommendation from teachers, you must complete the Senior Sketch form, give it to your teacher and ask if they are willing to write your letter
- Request your teachers or counselor to write your letter via Naviance
- Teachers and counselors submit your letters via Naviance

Complete All Parts of the Application

- Essays matter. All Common Application essay prompts are available on their website. If it is optional, it is recommended to write one.
- Deadlines for applications depend entirely on the college and can be found on Naviance and the college's website
- Allow 10 working days for counselors to process your application materials and transcript requests
- After applying, you must add the college or university to Naviance under "Colleges I'm Applying to"
- Mid-year and final transcripts are sent to colleges

WINTER/SPRING 2019 STUDENT CHECKLIST

Schedule College/Scholarship Interviews (if required)

Keep in Contact with the Admission and Financial Aid Office

- The best source of personal information regarding your application and admissions status comes directly from the admission office. Feel free to call or email the admissions office if you have any questions or concerns.
- The first step in applying for financial aid is to apply for admission. Most institutions require that you are accepted before they can offer financial aid. Apply for financial aid when you apply for admission.

Obtain the Most Financial Aid

- A lot of financial aid and scholarships are based upon need and/or merit and is distributed directly by the college. Colleges usually require the family to submit the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) or CSS Financial Aid Profile to document financial need. The FAFSA and CSS are known as “need analysis” forms and require both student and parent assets and income.
- “Need” is defined (according to the CSS and FAFSA analysis) as the difference between what it costs to attend a particular school and what you and your family can afford to pay toward the cost. Since the cost varies from college to college, you may be eligible for different amounts of financial aid at each institution.
- The FAFSA application is available online at www.fafsa.ed.gov
- Ask the college if they offer any alternative sources for financing your education. The college might have a tuition budget plan that will let you spread out your payments, or a loan program designed for students who don't qualify for federal loans. They may have a program to help students locate part time jobs.
- Do not hesitate to ask for advice. The college that offers you admission will want to help you arrange your finances so that you can attend. Remember, too, that even if you don't receive aid one year, you may apply for it the following year if your situation changes or more funds are available.

- Call the Financial Aid Office or the Admissions Office of your daughter's first choice and ask for more aid, if needed.

Check your email frequently

- Warning: Some emails are mass emails sent by colleges and universities. If you know you have all of your documents in and it's saying you don't, call the school's admissions office to double check, but also be aware that it might have been sent to you automatically.
- Resurrection sends most documents electronically. Schools have to search for transcripts and letters of recommendation for each individual student. If you are receiving email's that say these are not submitted, call admissions and tell them it was submitted via Naviance.

Bring All Acceptances and Financial Aid Award Letters to College Counselor's Office

Make Your Final Decision

- May 1st is National College Decision Day. Many schools require a deposit to commit by this time.

ATTENTION ATHLETES – If you hope to participate in athletics at the college level, you must register online with the NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) and the NAIA (National Association for Intercollegiate Athletics). Register at www.ncaa.org (under eligibility center) and at www.naia.org (under membership services). Please contact our athletic director, Eddie Kane, at 773-775-6616 x134 or ekane@reshs.org with any questions.

HELPFUL RESOURCES: COLLEGE COMPARISON WORKSHEET

COLLEGE NAME			
LOCATION Distance from home			
ENVIRONMENT Type of school (2yr. 4yr.) School setting (urban, rural) State school/Private school Co-ed or female Religious affiliation Support services			
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS Deadline Tests required Average test scores, GPA Notification of acceptance			
ACADEMICS Your major offered Special requirements Accreditation Student-faculty ratio Typical class size			
COLLEGE EXPENSES Tuition, room & board Estimated total budget Application fee, deposits			
FINANCIAL AID Deadline Required forms % receiving aid Scholarships			
HOUSING Residence hall requirement Types and sizes Food plan			
FACILITIES Academic Recreational Other			
ACTIVITIES Clubs, organizations Greek life (sororities) Athletics, intramurals Other			
CAMPUS VISITS When Special opportunities			

CHECKLIST FOR A CAMPUS VISIT

- Call the Admissions Office to schedule a visit (if required)
- Meet with an Admissions Counselor
- Verify admission requirements
- Determine actual college costs
- Ask about financial aid opportunities
- Take a campus tour
- Investigate the academic program that interests you
- Attend a class
- Talk with college students and faculty
- Discuss your opportunities for success with your friends and family

Admission Guides:

OPEN - All high school graduates are accepted into the school's enrollment until capacity is reached.

TRADITIONAL - The majority of freshmen who are accepted are in the top 50% of their high school graduating class.

SELECTIVE - The majority of freshmen who are accepted are in the top 25% of their high school graduating class.

HIGHLY SELECTIVE - The majority of freshmen who are accepted are in the top 10% of their high school graduating class.

MOST SELECTIVE – The majority of freshmen who are accepted are in the top 5-10% of their class with a very rigorous curriculum (Ivy League, Notre Dame, Stanford, Duke, Northwestern, University of Chicago, etc.).

General Interview Topics for Admission Interviews

- Academic standing (grades, GPA, ACT/SAT test scores)
- Course work (why you took specific courses)
- Present career/area of interest
- Know yourself (In what kind of environment do you learn best? Would you take advantage of talking to professors or would you rather learn by the lecture method? Areas of strength/weakness? How would others describe you?)
- Extracurricular activities
- How you spend free time (hobbies, interests)
- Reason for your interest in this school/scholarship (know what they have to offer and how you may fit in)
- Your plans and objectives (What are you hoping to gain from this college experience? What do you see yourself doing 5, 10 years from now? What would you like to know about the college?)
- Your values and ideals (meaningful experiences, how do you handle challenges)

The interview also offers an opportunity for you to ask questions. Make sure you do your homework about the school and have questions prepared.

Sample Questions

- What if I can't decide between two majors?
- I like music, but don't want to major in it. How can I include music in my college experience?
- What kinds of internships are there?
- Are there any study abroad programs?

Questions to Ask College Representatives:

(via www.collegeboard.org)

1. What makes your college unique?
2. What academic programs is your college most known for?
3. Where do kids hang out on campus?
4. What happens on weekends—are there things to do on campus or in town, or do most kids go home?
5. Are fraternities and sororities a big part of campus life?
6. What are the housing options for freshmen?
7. Do many students live off campus?
8. What are the most popular clubs and activities?
9. What's the surrounding area like? Is it easy to get around?
10. What are the most popular majors?
11. What support services are available (academic advisers, tutors, etc.)?
12. Are there opportunities for internships?
13. Is there job placement help for graduates?
14. Are any big changes in the works that I should know about?

GLOSSARY

- **COMMON APPLICATION FORM:** A standard college admission application form designed to facilitate the application process for college applicants and high school guidance personnel; accepted by approximately 500 private colleges and universities.
- **DEFERRED ADMISSION:** A practice of allowing an accepted candidate to postpone enrollment at college, usually for a period of an academic term or year.
- **EARLY ACTION:** A program allowing students to apply and be notified of an admission decision well in advance of the regular notification date. IF accepted, the student is NOT committed to enroll; the student may reply to the offer under the college's regular reply policy.
- **EARLY DECISION:** A plan that permits students to apply and be notified of an admission (and financial aid offer if applicable) well in advance of the regular notification date. Applicants agree to accept an offer of admission, and, if accepted to withdraw their applications from other colleges. THE ACCEPTANCE IS BINDING.
- **EFC:** Expected family contribution
- **FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid):** The free federal form completed by students applying for Pell Grants, student loans, and federal college-based aid. It establishes a single estimate of a student's or family's ability to pay for higher education and is generally available from high school guidance offices.
- **NEED-BASED AID:** Financial aid based on ability to pay.
- **MERIT-BASED AID:** Based on individual achievements and talents
- **OPEN ADMISSION:** An admission policy granting acceptance to all secondary graduates without regard to academic record, test score results, or additional qualifications.
- **PROFILE:** A financial aid form administered by The College Board. (CSS Profile)
- **ROLLING ADMISSION:** Applications are reviewed as they are received and applicants are notified as decisions are made.
- **SAR:** Student Aid Report, sent to student and colleges indicated on the FAFSA, states the EFC

VALUABLE WEBSITES

Naviance Family Connection

<http://connection.naviance.com/resurrection>

Peterson's Planner

www.petersons.com

College Scorecard

www.collegescorecard.ed.gov

College Board Online

www.collegeboard.com

College Navigator

<http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

College Net

www.collegeNet.com

College View

www.collegeview.com

College Zone

www.collegezone.com

Illinois Student Assistance Commission

www.isac.org

Senior Planning Timeline

2018-2019

August

- Senior Seminar Meeting
- Begin Individual Meetings
 - Common Application Setup & Naviance (Family Connection)
 - Review Transcripts and Transcript Request Process
 - Give Application Process to student
 - Admission Plans (ED, RD, etc.)
 - College Essay topics/Supplements
 - Revised list of schools

September

- Continue individual meetings
- Attend college rep meetings during seminar
- Recommendations Requested (list teachers, non-teachers)
- Senior Parent Night (9/6)
- Res College Fair (9/11)
- Attend FAFSA Info Night for Parents (9/26)

October

- File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid **FAFSA** *registration opens online* (10/1)
- File early decision (ED) or early action (EA) applications
- At least one application checklist submitted to Ms. Rogers by 10/15
- All applications with a 11/1 deadline must be submitted 10/15

November/December

- Continue to submit applications- Colleges have different deadlines
- Remember to send official ACT and SAT test scores to your schools directly from the test organization (act.org)
- Review scholarships on Naviance
- All applications with a 1/1 or 1/15 deadline must be submitted to Ms. Rogers by 12/14

January

- Midterm transcripts sent to colleges
- Bring in ACCEPTANCE and AWARD LETTERS to Ms. Rogers

February-April

- Application submission for regular and rolling admissions
- Search and apply for local scholarship
- Bring in ACCEPTANCE and/or AWARD LETTERS to the College Office
- Senior Signing Day/College Dress

May

- Colleges have the reply date of May 1st -- students must confirm with an acceptance letter and deposit
- Bring in ACCEPTANCE and/or AWARD LETTERS to the College Office
- AP Exams

June

- Graduation (5/30)
- Final transcript is sent to colleges (after graduation)

NOTES