



ST. PIUS X HIGH SCHOOL
Dominican Sisters of Houston ★ 1956

College Application Guide: Information and Procedures for the Class of 2020

Class of 2020 Information:

Official size of class of 2019:	133 students
CEEB School Code:	443-432
Graduation Date:	May 23, 2020
Class Rank:	Not Applicable; St. Pius X High School does not rank.
GPA:	Weighted GPA, 4.0 scale
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STANDARDIZED TESTING DATES

PSAT - October 16, 2019

The PSAT is administered during the school day at St. Pius X High School. All 9th, 10th and 11th graders will be automatically registered for the PSAT

2019-2020 SAT and ACT Test Dates

ACT 2019-2020 www.actstudent.org/register	
<u>Test Dates</u>	<u>Registration Dates</u>
September 14, 2019*	August 16, 2019
October 26, 2019*	September 20, 2019
December 14, 2019	November 8, 2019
February 8, 2020	January 10, 2020
April 4, 2020*	February 28, 2020
June 13, 2020*	May 8, 2020
July 18, 2020	June 19, 2020
*SPX will be a host site for these ACT test dates	

SAT 2019-2020 www.collegeboard.org/register	
<u>Test Dates</u>	<u>Registration Dates</u>
August 24, 2019	July 26, 2019
October 5, 2019	September 6, 2019
November 2, 2019	October 3, 2019
December 7, 2019	November 8, 2019
March 14, 2020	February 14, 2020
May 2, 2020	April 3, 2020
June 6, 2020	May 8, 2020

Students must register for all SAT, ACT, or SAT Subject Tests on their own. We recommend you choose a testing center that is a convenient distance from your home. *The St. Pius X High School Code is: 443-432.*

SPX COLLEGE GUIDANCE DATES & OFF-CAMPUS COLLEGE FAIRS

August 24-25, 2019	College Counselor Classroom Visits: <i>Seniors Only</i>	In English Classes
August 28, 2019	Senior Parent College Meeting	6:30pm
September 21, 2019	ZAPS Test Prep- PSAT/ SAT seminar https://store.zaps.com/seminars	8am-1:30pm
September 25, 2019	Junior Parent College Meeting	6:30pm
October 8, 2019	Houston Catholic Schools' College Fair (Hosted at Strake Jesuit)	6pm-8pm
October 16, 2019	PSAT Test Day (9-11 grade) & Senior Student Meeting	8am-12pm
October 16, 2019	NACAC Performing and Visual Arts Fair (@ Rice University- the Shepherd School of Music)	7pm-9pm
October 20, 2019	NACAC STEM College & Career Fair (@ Bayou City Event Center)	1pm-4pm
November 13, 2019	Paying for College Presentation Scholarships, FAFSA, & CSS (All Grade Levels)	6:30pm
November 21, 2019	Pre-ACT for 10th Grade Mock ACT for 11th Grade College Admissions Discussion for 9th/12th Grades	8am-12pm
December TBD	HARN College Fair	<i>*TBD</i>
January 16, 2020	Junior Parent College Meeting (Princeton Review)	6:30pm
February & March 2020	Junior Student/Parent College Counselor Conferences	<i>*registration link will be sent to families</i>
March 30 – April 3, 2020	College & Career Week	Various programs throughout the week
April 22, 2020	College Admissions Case Study (9 th - 11 th grade families)	6:30pm
June 4-6, 2020	Rising Senior (Class of 2021) Summer Programming	<i>*TBD</i>

HOUSTON AREA COLLEGE FAIRS – September and October in 2019

Check the list of area college fairs (below) to see when representatives might be at a location near you. College fairs provide an excellent opportunity to meet the representatives from the colleges on your list and to establish a relationship with these schools. You do not need to be a student at the host school/district to attend.

Sunday, September 30, 2018

NATIONAL ART PORTFOLIO DAY*
Woodlands Waterway Marriott
12:00 Noon – 4:00 P.M.

Tuesday, October 2, 2018

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOLS
Strake Jesuit High School
6:00 – 8:00 P.M.

FORT BEND ISD
George Bush High School
6:00 – 8:00 P.M.

Wednesday, October 3, 2018

KATY ISD
Leonard Merrell Center
5:00 – 8:00 P.M.

Monday, October 8, 2018

SPRING BRANCH ISD
Spring Woods High School
6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

CY-FAIR ISD
The Richard Berry Center
5:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Wednesday, October 10, 2018

CY-FAIR ISD
The Richard Berry Center
5:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Thursday, October 11, 2018

SPRING ISD
Carl Wunsche Sr. High School
6:00 – 8:00 P.M.

Thursday, October 18, 20178

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS FAIR
Rice University
The Shephard School of Music
7:00 – 9:00 P.M.

9TH – 12TH GRADE COLLEGE COUNSELING TIMELINE

Freshman Year:

- Get to know your teachers.
- Begin to explore your interests and passions. Get involved in those areas. Invest in extracurricular activities. Volunteer in areas of interest to you.
- Try something new!
- Attend at least one information session held by a visiting college admissions representative.
- Look into summer academic opportunities and service projects.
- If you are interested in applying to a U.S. Service Academy, begin researching the process.

Sophomore Year:

- October: Take the practice PSAT in October. Use the results to strengthen areas of weakness before taking the test next year.
- December/January: Consider how you will spend your summer. Log into *Naviance Student* to discover pre-college summer programs.
- Meet with your college guidance counselor to discuss your initial thoughts about college.
- Look at the websites of your dream colleges. Look at their admissions requirements to begin getting a feel for what they require.
- Attend 2-4 information sessions held by visiting college admissions representatives.
- Plan an interesting summer! Look into internships, jobs, or volunteer opportunities.

Junior Summer:

- Make the best use of your time during the summer. Find a job or internship, volunteer, or participate in a summer academic program. Do something that interests you!
- Study for the PSAT by working on strategies, taking practice tests, or taking a prep class.
- Read for pleasure (reading is one of the best ways to prepare for standardized tests).
- Begin visiting colleges and researching scholarship opportunities.
- Plan out your standardized testing schedule for your Junior year.

Junior Year

Fall

- October: Take the PSAT and attend the Houston Catholic Schools' College Fair.
- Plan your standardized testing timeline. Register for the SAT or ACT as needed.
- Plan out college visits for the year. You should try to visit 3-5 colleges.
- Log onto *Naviance Student* to research colleges and build your interest list.
- Attend at least 5 information sessions held by visiting college admissions representatives.
- Research scholarships and make a list of deadlines. Some scholarship deadlines may be during your Junior year.
- Research and apply for summer academic and research programs hosted at colleges.

Spring:

- Study for the SAT or ACT by working on strategies, taking practice tests, or taking a prep class.
- Take the SAT or ACT.
- Schedule a family conference with your guidance counselor in February or March.
- Visit colleges during holidays or over Spring Break.
- Take AP tests or SAT Subject tests.

Senior Summer:

- Research scholarships and begin applying.
- Visit colleges!
- Become familiar with the Common App when it becomes available on August 1st.
- Begin writing your college essays.
- Get organized! Use *Naviance Student* to create a master calendar of deadlines (applications, test registration, test dates, scholarship applications, financial aid, housing).
- If you plan to take or retake the ACT/SAT register by August 1st.
- Consider applying early to your top schools.

Senior Year:

August/ September

- Analyze applications of all colleges you are interested in attending to ensure you submit the correct documents and know the deadlines.
- Update College Lists in *Naviance Student*. Transcript requests are managed through *Naviance Student*.
- Begin applications. If applying early decision, keep in mind the deadlines for those applications.
- Schedule an appointment with your college guidance counselor to discuss your plans.
- Ask for letters of recommendation by end of September if you still need to. This is also done through *Naviance Student*. Additional information on page 8.

October

- October 1: The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) becomes available. Submit it as soon as possible after this date.
- Retake SAT/SAT Subject Tests or ACT if necessary.
- If you are applying "Early Decision" your application may be due as early as November 1st.
- Apply for scholarships.
- Meet with your college counselor throughout the semester.
- Visit additional colleges you are interested in.
- Attend the Houston Catholic Schools' College Fair

November

- Submit the CSS Profile if required by your school.
- Retake SAT/SAT Subject Tests if necessary.
- November 1 and November 15: Deadlines to submit for Early Action and Early Decision.
- Continue submitting applications with rolling deadlines.
- Begin working on applications with January deadlines.

December

- Retake the ACT if necessary.
- Retake the SAT/SAT Subject Tests if necessary.
- Receive early decision/early action decisions.
- Begin submitting additional applications to schools with December 15 – February 1 deadlines.
- Thank teachers who wrote recommendations for you.

January

- Submit the CSS Profile if required by your school.
- January 1/ 15: Submit additional applications by required deadlines.

March/ April

- Colleges begin releasing admissions decisions.
- Inform your guidance counselor if you have been waitlisted or rejected by an institution you hoped to attend.
- Visit colleges where you have been accepted.

May

- May 1: National Candidates' Reply Date – Make your decision on where to matriculate by this date. Inform all schools where you have been admitted of your decision.
- Submit all acceptance letters to Counseling Department - Ms. Spells and/or Ms. Valbuena.
- Your final transcript will be mailed to your college choice.

SENIOR YEAR GENERAL OUTLINE AND TIPS

1. **College Counselor Meetings** – The college counselor will visit your English class to guide you through some important setup for your applications, including FERPA waivers, *Naviance Student*-Common App matching, and scheduling a meeting with the college counselor. Students, make it a priority to talk with your counselor, teachers, parents, and trusted mentors to determine the colleges that are the best fit for you.
2. **College Lists in *Naviance Student*** – By September 15, complete your prospective colleges list in *Naviance Student* and move your colleges to the “active application” stage. Always remember to update *Naviance Student* as you update your college choices, including requesting a transcript in the system. If you apply to a college without updating *Naviance Student* and requesting your transcript, we will not know to send documents on your behalf.
3. **Teacher Recommendations** – Be sure to complete the Senior Brag Sheet and ask a minimum of 3 weeks in advance for a recommendation! Teachers are not obligated to write a recommendation for you.
4. **Use of different college applications** – Use either Apply Texas, Common App, or the college’s application. The Common Application syncs with *Naviance Student* and is most effective when send your official SPX documents.
5. **Send ACT and SAT scores** – Contact ACT and SAT to send your scores to all your colleges at least 3 weeks before any deadline. SPX does not do this for you.
6. **Review Essays** – Remember to have your essays reviewed—by your parents, your English teacher, a counselor or tutor, etc. Proofread one last time before submission!
7. **Transcripts will be released to colleges starting on September 2** – These documents, as well as recommendations will be sent as requested. It is up to the college counselor’s discretion to not send a transcript if other required documents for that particular college are not complete in *Naviance Student*.
8. **Deadlines.** Keep track of your deadlines! Your goal is to have all applications completed and submitted before you leave for the Thanksgiving holiday.
9. **Scholarships and awards.** When a student is offered a scholarship or other award type (i.e. Eagle Scout or Gold Award) it must be reported to the Counseling Department.
10. **Students MUST notify Ms. Spells of all scholarship offers, admissions offers, denials, waitlists, etc. by May 1, 2020.**

CREATING A COLLEGE APPLICATION LIST

One of the most important steps in the college admissions process is deciding which schools you are interested in attending.

Where do I begin?

First, begin by thinking through the qualities, programs, and opportunities you want in a college. Ask yourself questions like these:

▪ Do you want to go somewhere close to home or far away?	▪ Do you know what you want to study?
▪ Are you a city person or a small town person?	▪ Do you want to study abroad?
▪ Do you want to go to a Catholic school?	▪ Do you want a large or smaller school?
▪ Do you want a school with a strong athletic program?	

Begin writing down a list of qualities that you want in a school. But remember to keep an open mind as you begin to do your research! You may think you know what you want, but that may change.

Colleges That Change Lives (www.ctcl.org): A book and a website! A curated list of 40 colleges, many of which you have probably never heard of. Organized by geographic region, every profile includes a wealth of vital information, including admissions standards, distinguishing facts about the curriculum, extracurricular activities, and what faculty say about their jobs.

Chronicle of Higher Education: College Peer Network (www.chronicle.com/interactives/peersnetwork): An interactive website that allows you to select a college or university and see what schools it chose as a “peer school”. A great way to expand your college search!

Big Future: College Board (<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>): Create a profile, can be synced to your SAT and PSAT results. Can research colleges, careers, and scholarship opportunities. An excellent, easy-to-use website.

FairTest (<http://www.fairtest.org/>): Keeps an updated list of schools that are test-optional or test flexible.

Consider purchasing one of the following college guides or borrowing them from the Counseling Department:

- *Fiske Guide to Colleges*: One of the best guides on the market! Updated every year. Available on Amazon.
- *Choosing the Right College*: published by the Intercollegiate Studies Institute: A very informative guide with a conservative slant. Last published in 2014/2015. Available through the Intercollegiate Studies Institute website.
- *Colleges that Change Lives*: A curated list of smaller, liberal arts colleges. Available on Amazon.

COLLEGE VISITS AND COMMUNICATION TIPS

College Campus Contact

Making regular, positive contact with your desired colleges can be helpful in your application process. Some colleges use detailed analytics and tracking to discern which students deserve the most positive attention when marketing, recruiting, and maybe even in admissions decisions. **So read your colleges’ emails, call their offices, and follow them using your clean, respectable social media accounts.** Being a “friend” to your colleges can’t hurt, and might make a small difference in your prospects.

College Representative Visits:

SPX hosts numerous college representatives throughout the year. Visits are held during Break on Monday, Tuesday, and Friday from 9:35am to 10am in the Learning Commons. Students interested in attending a college representative visit must get a permission slip signed by their 3rd period teacher in advance, as they will miss the first 5-10 minutes of that period. If slip is not signed, then the student will have to leave at the end of Break.

How to register and attend a visit:

1. Log on to *Naviance Student* to view “College Visits” or check email announcements
2. Add your name to the SIGN UP in *Naviance Student*

3. Get College Rep Permissions slip signed by 3rd period teacher. *If students does not have permission, they will not be able to stay for the duration of the visit.*

Other Opportunities for Contact

Email and/or call your prospective colleges and talk to the admissions representative. This is the person who may be reviewing your application, so it's a good idea to establish a dialogue with this rep.

Visit the college campus. If you are able to visit these campus, set up appointments to:

- Meet with admissions
- Sit in on a class or visit with a professor
- Visit with the financial aid office
- See the dorms
- Eat in the cafeteria
- Attend a campus or sporting event
- Talk with current students.

College Visitation Policy

Junior and Senior students are allowed three college visit days approved by the Dean of Students per academic year to visit colleges. Students must return the college visitation form and anticipated absence form at least 3 days in advance. Forms can be accessed through *Naviance Student* or the Counseling Department. Students must be in good academic standing in order to attend a college visit. The student should obtain the college counselor signature, parent signature, and take the signed and approved copy to the Dean of Students' Office.

NAVIANCE STUDENT:

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

Naviance Student is a web-based service designed to connect student, parents, and counselors. It is a comprehensive website that students can use to help make decisions about colleges and careers. *Naviance Student* also provides up-to-date information that is specific to our school.

Students can access *Naviance Student* through the student portals, by clicking the "Naviance Single Sign-On" button in the portal.

Naviance Student Feature	Description
Links to Websites	This is a convenient listing of important websites. The links include college testing, financial aid and other helpful sites.
Manage My Account	Set up your profile information. Enter an email address that you check most often.
	College Features
Create a College List	This feature allows students, parents and counselors to add colleges to a list for ease of research and exploration. Each college in the prospective list provides updated information regarding deadlines, posts and general information. There is a hyperlink to the website of each college.
SuperMatch College Search	Set search criteria to yield a list of colleges to explore. It will help you match your preferences and compare colleges.
Build a Resume	This feature allows students to create a resume. Use the resume to apply for jobs.
Brag Sheet	This document provides student information to faculty. Seniors looking for a letter of recommendation should complete the brag sheet, print it, and provide to the recommender.
	Career Features
Career Interest Profiler	The career interest profiler surveys students in preferences for work activities. Use the results to explore suggested occupations
Do What You Are	This is a personality assessment. Use the results to explore suggested college majors and careers based on your preferences and strengths.
Strengths Explorer	This assessment helps to identify your talents. Use the results to learn your strengths and find out which careers fit your talents.

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS OVERVIEW

GPA and Top Ten Percent Guidelines

Texas law offers eligible Freshman applicants automatic admission to public colleges and universities. The initial legislation, passed into law in 1997, offered automatic admission to eligible students in the top ten percent of their high school class. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board establishes the rules that govern which students are eligible for automatic admission.

By July, the school will calculate “Top Ten Percent” using students’ updated cumulative Grade Point Average. The school will submit this list of students to the state public colleges and universities.

UT Austin: Top Six Percent

In 2009, the law was modified for The University of Texas at Austin. Under the new law, UT Austin notifies schools every year of the class rank that allows students to be automatically admitted. **For Fall 2019 applicants, this rank is Top 6%.**

If a student is in the top 6% or top 10%, they will be notified by July.

Students are still required to satisfy application procedures and deadlines for their chosen public colleges. Further, applications from students who are automatically admitted are often still subjected to holistic review to determine the major to which the applicant will be admitted.

GPAs for “Top Ten Percent” admissions will be calculated in accordance with the GPA-II computation process. GPA-II scale can be found in the Student Handbook.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR COLLEGE ADMISSIONS (SENIOR YEAR)

The following documents will be sent by SPX.*

1. Official transcript with Senior courses listed
2. Up to two teacher letters of recommendation with teacher evaluation forms
3. One Counselor recommendation with Secondary School Report (SSR)
4. St. Pius X High School Profile
5. Mid-year transcript (in January)
6. Final transcript (after graduation)

**The college counselor sends the above documents electronically through Naviance Student, except where colleges require a printed copy. The college counselor will send these documents to every college that the student requests in Naviance Student.*

Additional required documents sent by student:

7. ACT or SAT Scores
8. Supplemental Essays
9. Scholarship Application
10. Resume (appendix C)

Supplemental Essays and Scholarship Application: Check on the Common Application website and on university websites to determine if your colleges have additional essays and scholarship forms that must be completed. Be sure to check due dates.

Resume: You must fill out the activities section on the Common App and the extracurricular activities, community service, awards and honors, and employment sections on Apply Texas. UT and A&M highly recommend uploading a more detailed resume, and many other colleges will accept a mailed, emailed, or uploaded resume as well.

Once your application is accepted, you will need to create a student account on each college website.

TRANSCRIPT INFORMATION

A high school transcript is a record of your academic accomplishments in your high school curriculum. At the end of every semester, your transcript is updated with course taken and cumulative GPA.

There are two types of transcript: **official** and **unofficial**. The two versions look very similar in terms of content, but an official transcript is signed by a school official and imprinted with the school seal. This is so people reading an official transcript can be certain that it is 100% accurate.

Most colleges require you to submit an official transcript when you apply. **Official transcripts** have to be sent directly from St. Pius X to your college, either through an electronic documents system like Naviance Student or by mail.

IMPORTANT: Texas A&M University, University of Texas (Austin), and Texas Tech University will accept a student-submitted PDF copy of your transcript. These are referred to as “SPX Digital Copy Only” and are available in your student portal. Using your digital copy transcript will help you expedite your application and keep your online application portal current.

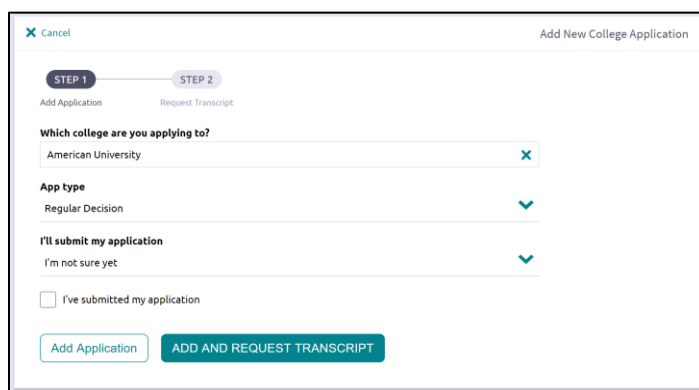
REQUEST A TRANSCRIPT: NAVIANCE STUDENT

[Click here for a video overview of Naviance Student.](#)

Transcripts and the Secondary School Report will not sent to colleges until September 2nd. In order to have transcripts sent students must have the **Transcript Release From** (appendix A) signed and submitted to the Counseling Department.

Request transcripts from the “Colleges I’m Applying To” list in *Naviance Student*. Link in Home Page in *Naviance Student*.

1. Click the **Add** button (+ sign). The Add New College Application, Step 1 Add Application displays.
2. From **Which college are you applying to?** Use the dropdown or type the name of the desired college and select from the matches.
3. From **App Type** click the drop-down to identify your answer.
4. From **I’ll submit my application?** Click the drop-down to identify your answer.
5. If you have already sent in your application, select the checkbox labeled I’ve submitted my application. If not, leave it unchecked.



If you currently do not need to request transcripts, select **Add Application**.

PLEASE NOTE: Texas A&M University, University of Texas, and Texas Tech University do not use Naviance Student. Students, once their application has been submitted through Apply Texas, will receive an email within 48-72 hours with information for that university’s student application portal. In that portal, students can send their college counselor a link to upload their transcript. This is the most efficient way of sending documents to these three universities.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

If a student needs a letter of recommendation, **the request must be submitted to the teacher by Friday, October 5th, 2018.** Teachers and counselors can use this time to craft an excellent, personalized letter.

Tips for Recommendation Letters

- Students should ask their Junior year teachers. Because college admission offices review the 9-11th grade transcript, recommendation letters from the grade level most recently completed are most beneficial.
- Colleges recommend that only TWO recommendations be submitted. Please review the required documents for each college you are submitting an application as it may be optional.
- It is best to think of teachers in subject areas that will best help you for admission to the academic major you are most interested in. For example, a prospective engineering student should consider asking their Math teacher and Science teacher from their Junior year.
- Counselor Recommendations are required for Common Application schools. Be sure to ask your counselor for recommendation if applying to a Common App school

Request TEACHER Letter of Recommendation*:

Below are the THREE steps in requesting a recommendation letter from a teacher. Each step is to ensure teachers are able to write a personalized letter and that the Counseling department is aware of each request.

1. Complete Student Profile/ Brag Sheet in *Naviance Student* and Print to provide to your teacher(s).
2. The Teacher Recommendation Form (appendix B) should also be provided to teacher for their signature of agreement to write a recommendation letter for you. **Teachers will have to complete an additional form in *Naviance Student for Common Application schools*. Please indicate on the Teacher Recommendation Form if you are applying to a Common App school.**
3. Add teacher request to ***Naviance Student***. Your teacher will not be able to upload their recommendation letter to *Naviance Student* if you do not do this part.
 - a. Keep track of letter of recommendation requests from **Colleges > Apply to College > Letters of Recommendation**.
 - b. When adding a request, select a teacher to write the recommendation, a specific or all colleges from your Colleges I'm Applying To list, and any notes to share with your teacher.

Always say "Thank you" to your teachers and counselor writing your recommendations! Be sure to give a friendly reminder for them to upload your letter of recommendation as this ultimately is your responsibility.

STANDARDIZED TESTING

PSAT/NMSQT

The PSAT/NMSQT (National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) is a preliminary version of the SAT. All 10th and 11th graders take the PSAT/NMSQT test in mid-October. SPX will register students for the test. The results of the test reveal areas of strength and weakness and allow students to better prepare for the SAT. It covers three skill areas: Reading, Writing & Language, and Math. Scores on the PSAT/NMSQT are also used to qualify students for the National Merit Scholarship competition. See <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt/psat-10> for more information.

How does the National Merit Scholarship competition work? Junior year scores on the PSAT/NMSQT are used as an initial screen of entrants for the National Merit Scholarship. If you are a semifinalist, you will be offered the chance to apply for a National Merit Scholarship. You will be notified the September of your Senior year whether you are a semifinalist or commended. For detailed information on the National Merit Scholarship Competition see: http://www.nationalmerit.org/s/1758/images/gid2/editor_documents/student_guide.pdf.

ACT AND SAT TESTING

Colleges do not prefer the SAT to the ACT, so take the test that best suit your needs. Please list the SPX school code when you take the exam (443432), or we will not have your records. **SPX does not send test scores to colleges or register you for the exam. You must do this on their websites: www.actstudent.org and www.collegeboard.org/sat** When you register you can send your scores to four (4) colleges for free.

If you are on financial assistance at SPX or need financial assistance with test fees, please talk to Ms. Valbuena about ways she can help.

SAT Reasoning Test

The SAT is comprised of two sections: Evidence Based Reading & Writing, and Math. Students receive a score between 200 and 800 on each section, for a total score out of 1600. There is an optional Essay, which we encourage all students to complete since some colleges require the essay. The SAT is offered seven times a year. Students are responsible for registering for the SAT on their own. See <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat> for more information.

SAT Subject Tests

The SAT Subjects Tests are hour-long, content-based tests that allow you to showcase achievement in specific subject areas where you excel. Students receive a score between 200 and 800. Up to three subject tests may be taken on one day. **Students may not take the SAT Reasoning Test and a Subject Test on the same day.** While most colleges in the United States do not require Subject Tests, a small number of highly selective schools

require between 2 and 3 Subject Tests. It is important to carefully examine the admissions requirements of each college you are interested in to learn about their Subject Test requirements.

ACT – American College Test

The ACT is comprised of four sections: English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science. Students have the option to register for the ACT with or without Writing. We recommend that all students who register for the ACT, register for the ACT with Writing. Students receive a score out of 36 on each section of the ACT. The four section scores are averaged for a composite score out of 36. Students are responsible for registering for the ACT on their own. See <http://www.actstudent.org> for more information.

Direct Links for SAT, ACT and AP testing.

- Send SAT and/or ACT w/Writing test scores.

<http://www.actstudent.org/scores/send/>
<http://sat.collegeboard.org/scores/send-sat-scores>

- Send SAT Subject test scores if colleges require them.
- Send AP test scores to your yield college if the score is 3 or above.
<http://apscore.collegeboard.org/scores/>

**When planning to take the SAT, SAT Subject Tests, or ACT w/Writing, send test scores at least 3 weeks before deadlines, or you may need to rush scores.*

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR ACT AND SAT

Students may receive accommodations for the PSAT, SAT, ACT, SAT Subject Tests, or AP Tests if they have a documented service plan or receive accommodations in class. In order to request accommodations, contact the assigned counselor for your student well in advance of upcoming test dates. Accommodations requests can often take up to 7 weeks for approval.

For information on the accommodations process for all College Board tests (PSAT, SAT, Subject Tests, AP Tests) see: <https://www.collegeboard.org/students-with-disabilities>.

For information on the accommodations process for the ACT see: <http://www.actstudent.org/regist/disab>.

COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

ApplyTexas

ApplyTexas (www.applytexas.org) was created through a collaborative effort between the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the colleges and universities represented on the site. On ApplyTexas you can accomplish a multitude of tasks including:

- Apply for admission to any Texas public university, as well other participating Texas colleges.
- Copy a submitted application to another institution; after completion of page 5.
- Submit your application essays online.
- Apply for scholarships from participating universities.
- Search for and view both general and university specific information.

Please read through the informational pages of the ApplyTexas.org website before you begin.

St. Pius X High School hosts an ApplyTexas workshop in the summer, before school begins. Listen for announcements to register.

Special ApplyTexas Reminders When filling out an ApplyTexas application, do not check the box requesting that UT send your teachers online letters of recommendation. If you do so, your application will appear as deficient, even though it is not.

You must regularly check your application status online. Only by checking regularly will you be prompted to complete the section called “Self-Reporting Transcript/Courses,” which is required of all applicants.

Coalition Application

The “Coalition Application” was created by an “unprecedented coalition of diverse public and private colleges and universities” who sought to improve the college admission application process for all students. 59 colleges are already accepting the Coalition App for Seniors. However, there are still many questions about the use of the Coalition App, and therefore, ***we do NOT recommend that students use the Coalition Application and cannot support your application using their system, unless you are applying to a university where Coalition app is their exclusive app.***

Common Application

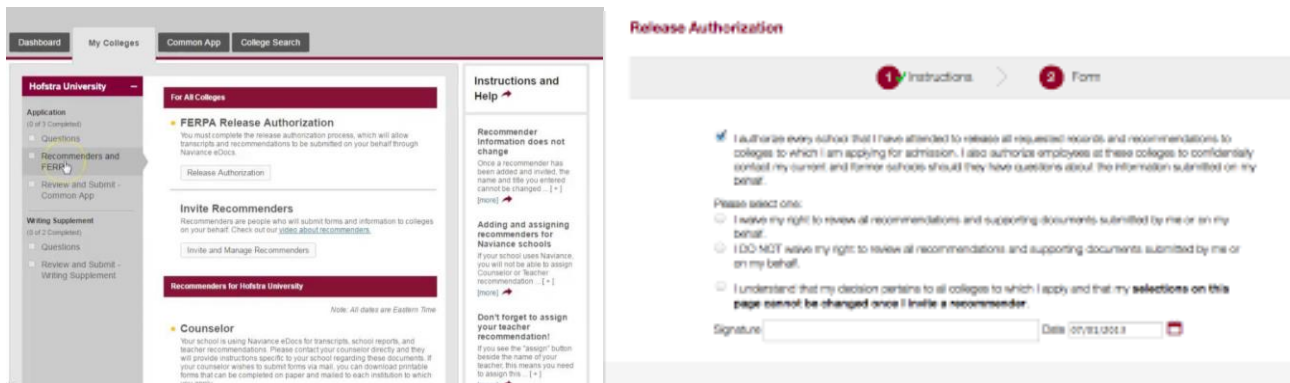
The **Common Application** (informally known as the **Common App**) is an undergraduate college admission application that applicants may use to apply to over 700 member colleges and universities.

- Member colleges may also require a Common App Supplement, and ask specific additional questions.
- Common app makes the application process easier for students, and SPX generally recommends using it.
- Create your account: Common App at www.commonapp.org.

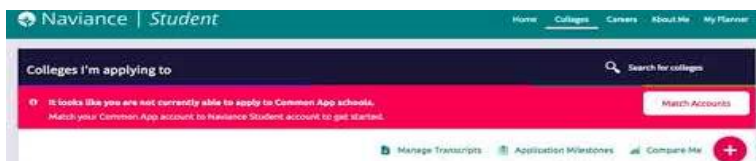
Matching Common App with Naviance Student

Please open the following video in order to help with the steps below. <https://vimeo.com/102639828>

1. Sign in to www.commonapp.org if you have already registered for an account. If you have not registered, click Get Started and create an account.
2. After completing the necessary information and signing in, you should complete the most recent school segment of the Education section under the Common App tab (Choose St. Pius X High School as your current school and complete all following questions).
3. Go to the College Search tab, choose at least one college, and add it to your college list. Then, switch to the My Colleges tab, click on FERPA tab on the left, read and sign the FERPA Release Authorization. You must waive your rights for us to send your transcripts and letters of recommendation.

The image contains two screenshots. The left screenshot shows the Common App 'FERPA Release Authorization' page. It includes a sidebar with navigation links like 'Application', 'Questions', 'Recommendations and FERPA', and 'Writing Supplement'. The main content area has sections for 'For All Colleges', 'FERPA Release Authorization', 'Invite Recommenders', and 'Counselor'. The right screenshot shows the 'Release Authorization' form with a '1 Instructions' and '2 Form' progress bar. The form contains a statement of authorization, a selection of rights to review recommendations, a signature line, and a date field.

4. Sign in to *Naviance Student* and click on the Colleges tab. Click on the link named Colleges I'm Applying To and enter your Common App email address along with your date of birth, and click match.

The screenshot shows the 'Naviance | Student' interface. The top navigation bar includes 'Home', 'Colleges', 'Careers', 'About Me', and 'My Planner'. The main section is titled 'Colleges I'm applying to' and features a search bar with the placeholder text 'Search for colleges'. Below the search bar, there is a red banner with a warning message: 'It looks like you are not currently able to apply to Common App schools. Match your Common App account to Naviance Student account to get started.' At the bottom, there are links for 'Manage Transcripts', 'Application Milestones', 'Compare Me', and a plus sign icon.

5. Review your Colleges I'm Applying To list in *Naviance Student*. Indicate whether or not you will be using Common App to apply. Click the link in the Applying via Common App column to indicate your choice. Remember you must apply to Common App schools through the Common App website!

A student is eligible to complete the Common App Account Matching process if they have:

- Created a Common App account on Common App.
- Added at least one college on Common App.

- Signed the Common App FERPA Release Authorization on Common App.

COLLEGE ESSAYS

College Essays are so IMPORTANT! Here are some tips to help you through your writing. REMEMBER, the best thing you can do is to be PREPARED. Be sure to research essay topics of your prospective colleges.

- 1) **Write about something that's important to you** – Experience, a person, a book, a food. – if it's important, it will easily reflect in your writing.
- 2) **Don't just recount – reflect!** What did you learn from the experience and how did it change you?
- 3) **Being funny is tough** – Please do not force jokes or comedy into your essay – unless it is natural.
- 4) **Start early and write several drafts** – Ask yourself: Is the essay interesting? Do the ideas flow logically? Does it reveal something about the applicant? Is it written in the applicant's own voice?
- 5) **No repeats** – What you write in your application essay or personal statement should not contradict any other part of your application—nor should it repeat it.
- 6) **Answer the question being asked.**
- 7) **Have at least one other person edit your essay** – A teacher or college counselor is your best resource.

College Essay Resources:

- <http://apps.carleton.edu/admissions/overview/apply/essay/>
- <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/apply/essay-skills/9406.html>
- <https://apply.jhu.edu/apply/essays-that-worked/>
- <http://admissions.tufts.edu/apply/advice/past-essays/common-application-essays/>
- <https://www.conncoll.edu/admission/apply/essays-that-worked/>

STUDENT ATHLETES

St. Pius X High School has been fortunate to have numerous graduates go on to play at the collegiate level. As you approach your next chapter in college, SPX wants to ensure that you are prepared academically and athletically. **As a college-bound student-athlete, you are responsible for your eligibility and recruitment!** That means planning ahead, taking high school classes seriously! Please reference the NCAA Handout in the SPX Portal under “Info and Forms”.

NCAA Clearinghouse

If you intend to play Division I or Division II athletics in college, you must add NCAA to your transcript request form so that an official transcript is submitted to them on your behalf. You must also order and send official test scores to NCAA Clearinghouse. Talk with your college counselor about this, and keep your eyes open for special College Counseling information events for prospective NCAA athletes.

U.S. SERVICE ACADEMIES & TEST OPTIONAL COLLEGES

For some students, their college application process will be different due to the types of college admission or processes at specific institutions. Military academies and test optional colleges are two examples that are important to highlight.

U.S. Service Academies may present an exception to some timelines and procedures above. Senators often require materials for congressional nomination requests, including letters of recommendation, to be delivered by October 1. If you will be applying to a US Military Academy, please notify your two teacher recommenders and your college counselor via email as soon as possible. Your college counselor can be very helpful in preparing and arranging the procedures for your application.

Test Optional Colleges include top tier colleges and universities across the U.S. These colleges allow students to apply without an ACT or SAT; meaning it is not required for admission. Typically, a student who has a strong GPA (3.5+) and a weaker test scores, should consider this application method to more competitive colleges. Here is a website to review the list of colleges with this admissions practice: www.fairtest.org

FINANCIAL AID

1. FAFSA

FAFSA stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Their website is www.fafsa.ed.gov.

FAFSA is required at EVERY college or university. Even if you don't qualify for federal aid, you may qualify for institutional aid and scholarships which requires a completed FAFSA.

This year, FAFSA is available starting October 1. You will need your 2017 tax information to complete the form. It is wise to finish FAFSA as early as possible.

- **FSA ID** **Both parent and student need FSA ID. Watch this video for more info:*
<https://youtu.be/QdaGZASwjZU>

Create the FSA ID at <https://fsaid.ed.gov/>

An FSA ID gives you access to Federal Student Aid's online systems and can serve as your legal signature on the FAFSA. Both parents and students need to create an FSA ID.

2. CSS Profile (College Scholarship Service)

Visit www.profileonline.collegeboard.com. Some private colleges require this form because they have more money to disburse, and they need more information from the student and parents to determine aid. A list of schools requiring the CSS Profile can be found online.

3. Institutional Forms

Some schools require additional information beyond the FAFSA and the CSS Profile. Make sure to review the requirements for each of the schools to which you are applying.

Determining Financial Need

A need analysis formula established by Congress determines the student's Expected Family Contribution (EFC). It is used to determine a student's eligibility for most federal and state assistance.



Resources:

College Board's Net Price Calculator

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/tools-calculators>

Over 200 institutions use the College Board's Net Price Calculator to help students calculate their college costs. This tool helps estimate your "net price" to attend a particular college or university.

Remember, "Financial fit" is just one of many factors you will want to consider in choosing a college

SCHOLARSHIPS

There are many ways to earn a scholarship. Scholarships can be awarded through a student's prospective college or through a third party such as a local nonprofit, corporate foundation, or business. The counseling department will also email scholarship opportunities to Senior students and nominate students for scholarship opportunities.

Prospective College Scholarships:

These are typically awarded automatically dependent on the student's application- GPA, Test Scores, and Essays. It is important to understand that scholarship structure of each college you are applying. If the scholarships are not awarded automatically, then a separate application is required which is usually "attached" to the main application for admissions" or on the college's admissions website.

Third Party Scholarships

The websites below are helpful in funding additional scholarship. Make sure to indicate your interests when creating your account with one of these scholarships website as the system will find scholarship that best fit the student.

RaiseMe: www.raise.me

UNIGO: www.unigo.com

Student Aid: StudentAid.gov/scholarships

Cappex: www.cappex.com

Tips for Scholarship Applications:

- Have FAFSA information ready; so file the FAFSA as soon as it becomes available
- At least one letter of recommendation from a teacher, counselor, or someone else familiar with your academic achievements.
- A professional picture of you – It's not always a requirement. Your Senior picture would work perfectly.
- Your latest transcript and GPA.
- Sort your applications by due date and do them in the order they're due; but keep in mind that some require more work (letters of recommendation, a longer essay, etc.) and may take more time.
- Make sure your essay follows the instructions and is within the word limit.
- Have several people (preferably people who have recent experience with essay writing/reviewing) look over your essay to make sure it's good.
- Present yourself as worthy of a scholarship.
- Make sure you include all the required materials and submit everything properly.

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR STUDENTS

Reporting of disciplinary action

Many colleges will ask students to report their disciplinary record. At SPX, we expect students to answer this question honestly and thoroughly. Please speak with your counselor if you have had any disciplinary action on your record at school or if you have specific concerns about this issue. SPX does not report disciplinary records to colleges; instead we rely on students to self-report honestly and ethically. Consequences are severe for students who do not honestly report this information; colleges may withdraw an offer of admission if a student is found to be dishonest.

Change in courses during Senior year

If there is a change to your schedule during Senior year, you are responsible for informing the colleges to which you have applied, whether a decision has been rendered on your application or not. Colleges evaluate students' academic programs and need to be kept aware of changes. Informing the college reflects personal responsibility and honesty.

Do your own work

Colleges want to admit students who are sufficiently mature and independent to be successful in a college environment. To demonstrate your maturity and independence, make sure that your college applications are your own work. Counselors, teachers, parents, independent college counselors, and others should only serve as resources and sounding boards. Admission officers are often able to tell when pieces of your application have been authored by someone else, and it is a poor reflection on you.

Early decision commitments

The Early Decision (ED) plan is a BINDING agreement between the student and the college. If you apply ED, you and your parents must sign a commitment form for the college and bring a copy of that form to your College Counselor. If you are accepted Early Decision, you must attend that college, and you must withdraw your applications to other colleges upon notice of acceptance. Please see your College Counselor to discuss this option.

Double deposits

Students are not allowed to submit an enrollment deposit to more than one college, a practice known as "double depositing." A final college choice must be made by May 1 – the National Candidate's Reply Date. Double depositing prohibits waitlisted students from having the opportunity to attend their first choice college. SPX will send out only one final transcript for each student to ensure that students have not held a spot at more than one college after May 1.

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS VOCABULARY

Accelerated study — This program allows you to graduate in less time than is usually required. For instance, by taking summer terms and extra courses during the academic year, you could finish a bachelor's degree in 3 years instead of 4.

Admissions decisions:

Admit — You're in! You are being offered admissions to the college to which you applied. Let Ms. Spells and your college counselor know the good news.

Deny — You are not in. The decision is made by the college or university admissions committee and is sent to you. You should report this decision to Ms. Spells and your college counselor.

Wait list — You are not in yet but have been placed on a waiting list in case an opening becomes available. Usually you have the option to accept a spot on the wait list or not. Some colleges admit many students from the wait list, some admit a few, and some admit none. Sometimes colleges will notify waitlisted students once they have finished drawing from that list. You should report this decision to Ms. Spells and your college counselor.

Deferred acceptance — Your admissions decision is being moved to a later date. Usually you applied Early Action or Early Decision, but will be moved to the Regular Decision pool, and may be accepted or denied from there. You should report this decision to Ms. Spells and your college counselor.

Award package — This is the way colleges and universities deliver their news about student eligibility for financial aid or grants. The most common packages include Pell Grants, Stafford Loans, and Work Study (see below).

Bachelor's or baccalaureate degree — The degree received after the satisfactory completion of a full-time program of study or its part-time equivalent at a college or university. The Bachelor of Arts (B.A) and the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) are the most common baccalaureate degrees.

"Best Fit" — The college search is not about getting into the best college. There is no school that is best for all students. Some students do best at large public universities; some do best in small liberal arts colleges; still others want to study far from home. Students should look beyond the big name schools or the ones friends are excited about and do their own research.

Candidates Reply Date Agreement (CRDA) — If admitted to a college, a student does not have to reply until May 1. This allows time to hear from all the colleges to which the student applied before having to make a commitment to any of them. This is especially important because financial aid packages vary from one school to another, and the CRDA allows time to compare packages before deciding.

College Scholarship Service (CSS) —The College Board created this program to assist postsecondary institutions, state scholarship programs, and other organizations in measuring a family's financial strength and analyzing its ability to contribute to college costs. CSS processes the PROFILE financial form that students may use to apply for nonfederal aid. This form is submitted to many private colleges and universities along with the FAFSA when seeking financial aid from these institutions. Participating colleges and universities indicate whether they require this form.

Common Application — The Common Application is presently accepted by nearly 700 independent colleges and some public universities. The colleges and universities that accept the Common App gives it equal weight with their own application forms; many colleges use only the Common App. Students complete the information on the Common App and then submit it to any of the schools listed as accepting it. Some schools will require supplementary information to be completed by the applicant; these supplements are usually accessed through the Common App. The Common App is online.

Cost of Attendance (COA) — This includes tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, transportation, and miscellaneous expenses. A student's financial aid eligibility is the difference between the cost of education and the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) as computed by the federal government using the FAFSA.

Course load — The credit hours a student takes in each semester. Twelve credit hours is usually the minimum to be considered a full-time student. The average course load per semester is often 16 credit hours.

Credit hours — The hours per week that courses meet are counted as equivalent credits for financial aid and used to determine your status as a full- or part-time student. One college level course typically is three (3) credit hours.

Double major — Available at most schools, the double major allows a student to complete all the requirements to simultaneously earn a major in two fields.

Application Types:

Early Action (EA) — Many colleges offer the EA option. A student applies to a school early in the Senior year, usually between October 15 and January 15, and requests an early application review and notification of admission. The answer usually takes 3 to 4 weeks after application. If accepted, the student is not obligated to attend that institution but can bank this and still apply to other colleges during the regular admission cycle. Some selective colleges offer **Single Choice Early Action (SCEA)** or **Restricted Early Action (REA)** which allow students to apply to only one college early. Please read the fine print to be sure you are in compliance with all restrictions, and discuss early applications with your counselor.

Early Decision (ED) — Sometimes confused with Early Action, the Early Decision plan allows students to apply to an institution early in the Senior year, usually between October 30 and January 15, and request an early notification of admission. The student and college counselor sign a contract with the school at the time of application that indicates that if accepted, the student is obligated to attend that institution. Some colleges and universities offer both ED and EA options.

Rolling admissions — A college begins admitting students as soon as applications are received. There may or may not be an application deadline. This concept is used most often by state universities. Responses are received within 3 to 4 weeks. If admitted, a student is not required to confirm until May 1. Out-of-state residents applying to state universities should apply as early as possible.

Expected Family Contribution (EFC) — The amount of financial support a family is expected to contribute toward a child's college education. This amount is part of the formula used by the federal government to determine financial aid eligibility using the FAFSA form.

Federal Pell Grant Program — This is a federally sponsored and administered program that provides grants based on need to undergraduate students. Congress annually sets the appropriation; award amounts vary based on need, and the maximum award for is approximately \$5,550. This is "free" money because it does not need to be repaid.

Federal Perkins Loan Program — This is a federally run program based on need and administered by a college's financial aid office. This program offers low-interest loans for undergraduate study. Repayment does not begin until 9 months after the borrower drops to less than halftime enrollment status. The maximum loan amount is \$5,500 per year.

Federal Stafford Loan — This federal program provides low-interest loans for undergraduate and graduate students. The maximum annual loan amount depends on the student's grade level and on whether the loan is subsidized or unsubsidized. The interest is currently 4.66%. Repayment does not begin until 6 months after the borrower drops to less than halftime enrollment status. Several repayment options are available.

Federal Work-Study Program (FSW) — A federally financed program that arranges for students to combine employment and college study; the employment may be an integral part of the academic program (as in cooperative education or internships) or simply a means of paying for college.

FERPA- The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education.

FERPA waiver- allows colleges to treat parts of your application as confidential. Colleges recommend and prefer that you waive FERPA rights to your application, and St. Pius X High school requires that you do so before we collect your letters of recommendation. You will do so in several ways during the application process, including online waivers for colleges and services like Common App, and also on paper on your Transcript Release Form.

Grants/scholarships — These are financial awards that are usually dispensed by the financial aid offices of colleges and universities. The awards may be need- or merit-based. Most are need-based. Merit-based awards may be awarded on the basis of excellence in academics, leadership, volunteerism, athletic ability, or special talent.

Greek life — This phrase refers to sororities and fraternities. These organizations can have great impact on the campus social life of a college or university.

Honors program — Honors programs offer an enriched, top-quality educational experience that often includes small class size, custom-designed courses, mentoring, enriched individualized learning, hands-on research, and publishing opportunities. A handpicked faculty guides students through the program. Honors programs are a great way to attend a large school that offers enhanced social and recreational opportunities while receiving an Ivy League-like education at a reduced cost.

Internship — This is an experience-based opportunity, most often scheduled during breaks in the academic calendar, whereby a student receives credit for a supervised work experience related to his or her major.

Major — The concentration of a number of credit hours in a specific subject. Colleges and universities often specify the number of credits needed to receive a major, the sequence of courses, and the level of course necessary to complete the requirements.

Merit awards, merit-based scholarships — More "free" money, these awards are based on excellence in academics, leadership, volunteerism, athletic ability, and other areas determined by the granting organization, which can be a college or university, an organization, or an individual. They are not based on financial need.

Minor — An area of concentration with fewer credits than a major. The minor can be related to the major area of concentration or not; for example, an English major may have a minor in theater.

Need blind — Admissions decisions made without reference to a student's financial aid request, that is, an applicant's financial need is not known to the committee at the time of decision.

Non-matriculated — A student who has either not been admitted yet but is taking classes or has been academically dismissed. Under this category, a student may neither receive financial aid nor participate in an athletic program at that school.

Open admissions — A policy of admission that does not subject applicants to a review of their academic qualifications. Many public junior/community colleges admit students under this guideline; that is, any student with a high school diploma or its equivalent is admitted.

Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) — Each branch of the military sponsors an ROTC program. In exchange for a certain number of years on active duty, students can have their college education paid for up to a certain amount by the armed forces.

Residency requirement — The term has more than one meaning. It can refer to the fact that a college may require a specific number of courses to be taken on campus to receive a degree from the school, or the phrase can mean the time, by law, that is required for a person to reside in the state to be considered eligible for in-state tuition at one of its public colleges or universities.

Retention rate — The number and percentage of students returning for the Sophomore year.

Student Aid Report (SAR) — Report of the government's review of a student's FAFSA. The SAR is sent to the student and released electronically to the schools that the student listed. The SAR does not supply a real money figure for aid but indicates whether the student is eligible.

Student-designed major — Students design their own majors under this policy offered at some (usually private) colleges. It offers students the opportunity to develop nontraditional options not available in the existing catalog of majors.

Transfer program — This program is usually found in a two-year college or in a four-year college that offers associate degrees. It allows a student to continue his or her studies in a four-year college by maintaining designated criteria set down at acceptance to the two-year program. It is not necessary to earn an associate degree to transfer.

Virtual visit — This is the use of the Internet to investigate various colleges by looking at their home pages. A student can "tour" the college, ask questions via e-mail, read school newspapers, and explore course offerings and major requirements on line. It is not a substitute for a live visit.

Yield — The percentage of accepted students who will enter a college or university in the Freshman class; these students have received formal acceptance notices and must respond by May 1 with their intention to enroll. The more competitive the school, the higher the yield percentage.



ST. PIUS X HIGH SCHOOL
Dominican Sisters of Houston ★ 1956

AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE RECORDS Transcript Release Form

This form will serve as authorization for St. Pius X High School to release and/or exchange of student information including requested transcripts and recommendations to all colleges, universities, scholarship and/or summer enrichment programs, as well as outside organizations (e.g. NCAA Clearinghouse, NAIA Eligibility Center) to which the student is applying for admission.

LAST NAME		FIRST NAME		M.I.	
FRESHMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	SOPHOMORE	<input type="checkbox"/>	JUNIOR	<input type="checkbox"/>
				SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/>

By signing below I authorize St. Pius X High School to release my transcripts and recommendations.

STUDENT SIGNATURE	DATE
-------------------	------

STUDENT EMAIL

PARENT SIGNATURE	DATE
------------------	------

PARENT EMAIL

In addition to our consent and release of student information as described above,

☐ We DO waive our rights to inspect, review or obtain a copy of recommendations and supporting document. *This is a Best Practice by colleges and preferred method for college admissions.*

☐ We DO NOT waive our rights to inspect, review or obtain a copy of recommendations and supporting document

NOTE: Standardized test scores are not included as part of a student's transcript. Students will need to contact the testing agency, ACT (www.actstudent.org) or College Board (www.collegeboard.org/sat) directly to have test scores submitted to a college. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that test scores have been submitted to the college.

SPX COLLEGE COUNSELING

REQUEST FOR TEACHER RECOMMENDATIONS (Applications and Scholarships)

Student Name: _____

Date: _____

It is the student's responsibility to complete this form and return it to the Counseling Department. The student **MUST** complete the **Student Profile/Brag Sheet Survey** under the About Me tab in *Naviance Student* and give a paper copy to their recommender. Students must provide 2-3 weeks' notice from when the letter should be submitted. Be sure to make the request in *Naviance Student* as well to follow the progress of your application.

**Each college has different requirements. Please review the required documents for each college you are submitting an application as it may be optional.*

**Counselor Recommendations are required for Common Application colleges.*

**Teachers will have to complete an additional form in Naviance Student for Common Application colleges.*

1. Teacher's Name: _____ Teacher's Signature: _____

Student Profile/Brag Sheet received: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Date Requested: ____/____/____ Due Date: ____/____/____

Applying to any colleges using the Common App? ☐ Yes ☐ No

List of Colleges for the Teacher to submit Recs

1.	2.
3.	4.
5.	6.

2. Teacher's Name: _____ Teacher's Signature: _____

Student Profile/Brag Sheet received: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Date Requested: ____/____/____ Due Date: ____/____/____

Applying to any colleges using the Common App? ☐ Yes ☐ No

List of Colleges for the Teacher to submit Recs

1.	2.
3.	4.
5.	6.

3. Counselor Recommendation: *Only if applying with the Common Application*

Counselor's Name: _____ Counselor's Signature: _____

Student Profile/Brag Sheet received: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Date Requested: ____/____/____ Due Date: ____/____/____

List of Colleges for Counselor to submit Recs

1.	2.
3.	4.
5.	6.

Sample Resume - Student Name

Home Address

Email address

EDUCATION

St. Pius X High School (08/2015 – 05/2018)

Houston, Texas

- 3.5/4.00 GPA
- Advanced Coursework: Honors English II, AP US History, AP Spanish AP Statistics, AC World History

EXTRACURRICULARS

National Honor Society – President (12th), Member 10th-11th)

35 hours/year

- Led, planned, and organized a school-wide book drive, food drive, and the induction ceremony
- Planned meetings and prepared agendas for the club and officers; delegated responsibilities as necessary

St. Pius Council – Senior Class President (12th) Class Representative (10th-11th)

2 hours/week

- Represent Saint Pius class of 2019 by working with the administration to address relevant aspects of student life.
- Plan and organize numerous school functions including Junior/Senior Prom, Homecoming, and coordinate support for all SPX sports.

St. Pius Key Club – Senior Class Director (12th), Member (9th-11th)

1 hour/week

- Organize and recruit volunteers for service activities
- Volunteer work included beach clean-up in Galveston, fundraising for Ronald McDonald House Charities, Habitat for Humanity, and volunteering at various school events.

St. Pius Honor Board – Member (11th-12th)

4 hours/semester

- One of eight Junior/Senior students selected to serve on the Board, which assists the Principal, Dean of Students, and two faculty advisors in meeting with a student, reviewing the student's disciplinary issue, and recommending specific disciplinary actions

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

St. Pius Freshman Retreat – Group Leader (11th)

130 hours/1st semester

- Attended weekly meetings for 4 months to prepare for the responsibility of leading a group of eight Freshman students for a 3-day weekend retreat to introduce the Freshmen to the philosophy of a Dominican school and guide Freshmen in exploring their faith and individual beliefs.
- Activities included visiting a nursing home, discussion between parents and students, group talks, and individual meetings with each Freshman regarding faith, Dominican philosophy, and prayer

St. Pius Freshman Orientation – Team Leader (10th-12th)

12 hours/summer

- Led Freshmen through their academic schedules, gave them a tour of the campus, and helped introduce them to Saint Pius X

Rebuild Houston – Volunteer (9th-12th)

12 hours/summer

- Repaired a home for a low income elderly woman. Consisted of clean up, painting, and rearing siding from outside of the house.

WORK EXPERIENCE

St. Laurence Catholic Church, Sugar Land, TX – Sacristan (10/2015 - Present)

10 hours/week

- Serve as liturgical organizer for the celebration of Saturday/Sunday Masses; coordinate and oversee the logistics of all the liturgical ministries; responsibilities include set-up for and clean-up after Mass and providing instruction to Eucharistic Ministers, Greeters, Altar Servers, and Ushers

House/Pet Sitter (1/2014 – Present)

4 weeks/year

- Provide house and pet sitting services to families while out of town

AWARDS/CERTIFICATES

St. Pius Honor Roll (9th-12th)

- Maintained at least a 3.33 GPA

SPX Announcer of the Year (10th)

- Top award for devotion and performance as a morning announcer

ATHLETICS

JV Baseball Team (9th)

(18 hours/week)/(20 weeks/year)

Varsity Soccer Team (10-12th)

(15 hours/week)/(35 weeks/year)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Guitar, Bass, and Drums (5th-12th)

- Play guitar, bass, and drums as a hobby, gave private lessons, and played shows

TX College Admissions Criteria for Class of 2019					
Information was gathered from each university admissions office. Please be sure to do your own research as admission requirements change					
TX College/University	TOP 10% (4.2+ GPA)	4.15 GPA - 3.8 GPA	3.75 GPA-3.4 GPA	3.39 GPA-3.0 GPA	2.9 GPA & Below
Lamar University	New SAT/ACT Auto-Admit	New SAT/ACT 930 / 18	New SAT/ACT 1010 / 20	New SAT/ACT 1080 / 21	New SAT/ACT 1080 / 21
Prairie View A&M University	Auto-Admit	800/ 15	800/ 15	800/ 15	800/ 15
Sam Houston State University	Auto-Admit	930/17	1010/19	1100/20	1110/22
Stephen F. Austin University	Auto-Admit	930 / 17	1030 / 20	1170 /24	Individual Review
Tarleton State University	Auto-Admit	No Minimum	880/16	Individual Review	Individual Review
Texas A&M University	Auto-Admit	Academic Admit: SAT: 1360+ [EBRW 660 & Math 620] or ACT: 30+ [MTH & ENG 27+]	Individual Review	Individual Review	Individual Review
Texas A&M Corpus Christi	Auto-Admit	No Minimum	1080/ 21	1170/ 23	1270/ 27
Texas A&M Galveston	Auto-Admit	Academic Admit: SAT: 1360+ [EBRW 660 & Math 620] or ACT: 30+ [MTH & ENG 27+]	Individual Review	Individual Review	Individual Review
Texas A&M Kingsville	Auto-Admit	830/15	830/17	1030/20	1140/23
Texas Southern University	Auto-Admit	900/ 17	900/ 17	900/ 17	900/ 17
Texas State University	Auto-Admit	1000/ 20	1090/ 22	1250/ 26	1330/ 29
Texas Tech University	Auto-Admit	1180 / 24	1260 / 26	1290 / 27	Individual Review
Texas Woman's University	Auto-Admit	No Minimum	1080/ 21	Individual Review	Individual Review
University of Houston-Main	Auto-Admit	1080 / 21	1170 / 24	Individual Review	Individual Review
University of Houston-Downtown	Auto-Admit	No Minimum	930/ 18	930/ 18	930/ 18
University of Houston-Clear Lake	Auto-Admit	1030/ 20	1130/ 23	Individual Review	Individual Review
University of Texas at Austin	Top 6%	Individual Review	Individual Review	Individual Review	Individual Review
University of Texas at Dallas	Auto-Admit	1270/ 26	1270/ 26	1270/ 26	1270/ 26
University of Texas at San Antonio	Auto-Admit	No Minimum	980 /19	1080/ 21	1100/ 24
University of Texas at Tyler	Auto-Admit	1030/ 20	1070/ 21	1110/ 22	1140/ 23
University of North Texas	Auto-Admit	1030/ 20	1130/ 23	1250/ 26	Individual Review
University of Texas at Arlington	Auto-Admit	No Minimum	1130/ 22	Individual Review	Individual Review
Abilene Christian University	Best chance with SAT: 1090+ or ACT: 21+, with 3.5+ GPA. Last year, 9,400 applicants applied and 50% were admitted.				
Austin College	Best chance with SAT: 1110+ or ACT: 22+, with 3.5+ GPA. Last year, 3,000 applicants applied and 54% were admitted.				
Baylor University	Best chance with SAT: 1190+ or ACT: 24+, with 3.4+ GPA. Last year, 33,000 applicants applied and 55% were admitted.				
Incarname Word University	Best chance with SAT: 980+ or ACT: 19+, with 3.0+ GPA. Last year, 4,200 applicants applied and 90% were admitted.				
Our Lady of the Lake University	Best chance with SAT: 900+ or ACT: 18+, with 2.8+ GPA. Last year, 3,300 applicants applied and 50% were admitted.				
Rice University	Best chance with SAT: 1440+ or ACT: 31+, and 4.0+ GPA. Last year, 15,000 applicants applied and 17% were admitted.				
Schreiner University	Best chance with SAT: 980+ or ACT: 19+, with 2.7+ GPA. Last year, 1,200 applicants applied and 90% were admitted				
Southern Methodist University	Best chance with SAT: 1310+ or ACT: 28+, with a 3.7+ GPA. Last year, 12,000 applied and 52% were admitted.				
St. Mary's University	Best chance with SAT: 1050+ or ACT: 20+, with 3.2+ GPA. Last year, 4,300 applicants applied and 60% were admitted.				
St. Edward's University	Best chance with SAT: 1100+ or ACT: 22+, with 3.4+ GPA. Last year, 4,200 applicants applied and 63% were admitted.				
Southwestern University	Best chance with SAT: 1140+ or ACT: 23+, with 3.7+ GPA. Last year, 3,500 applicants applied and 49% were admitted.				
Texas Christian University	Best chance with SAT: 1200+ or ACT: 25+, with 3.5+ GPA. Last year, 18,500 applicants applied and 48% were admitted				
Texas Lutheran University	Best chance with SAT: 1060 or ACT: 20+, with a 3.4+ GPA. Last year, 1,600 and 56% were admitted.				
Trinity University	Best chance with SAT: 1280+ or ACT: 27+, with 3.5+ GPA. Last year, 5,500 applied and 48.5% were admitted.				
University of Dallas	Best chance with SAT: 1180+ or ACT: 24+, with 3.6+ GPA. Last year, 3,300 applicants applied and 50% were admitted.				
University of St. Thomas	Best chance with SAT: 1050+ or ACT: 20+, or 3.0+ GPA. Last year, 950 applicants applied and 77% were admitted.				