



# THE COLLEGE SEARCH

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# AGENDA

- COLLEGE SEARCH PROCESS
- TIMELINE
- TESTING
- APPLYING

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There are 4,000 colleges in the country....where do you begin?

# What we can do....

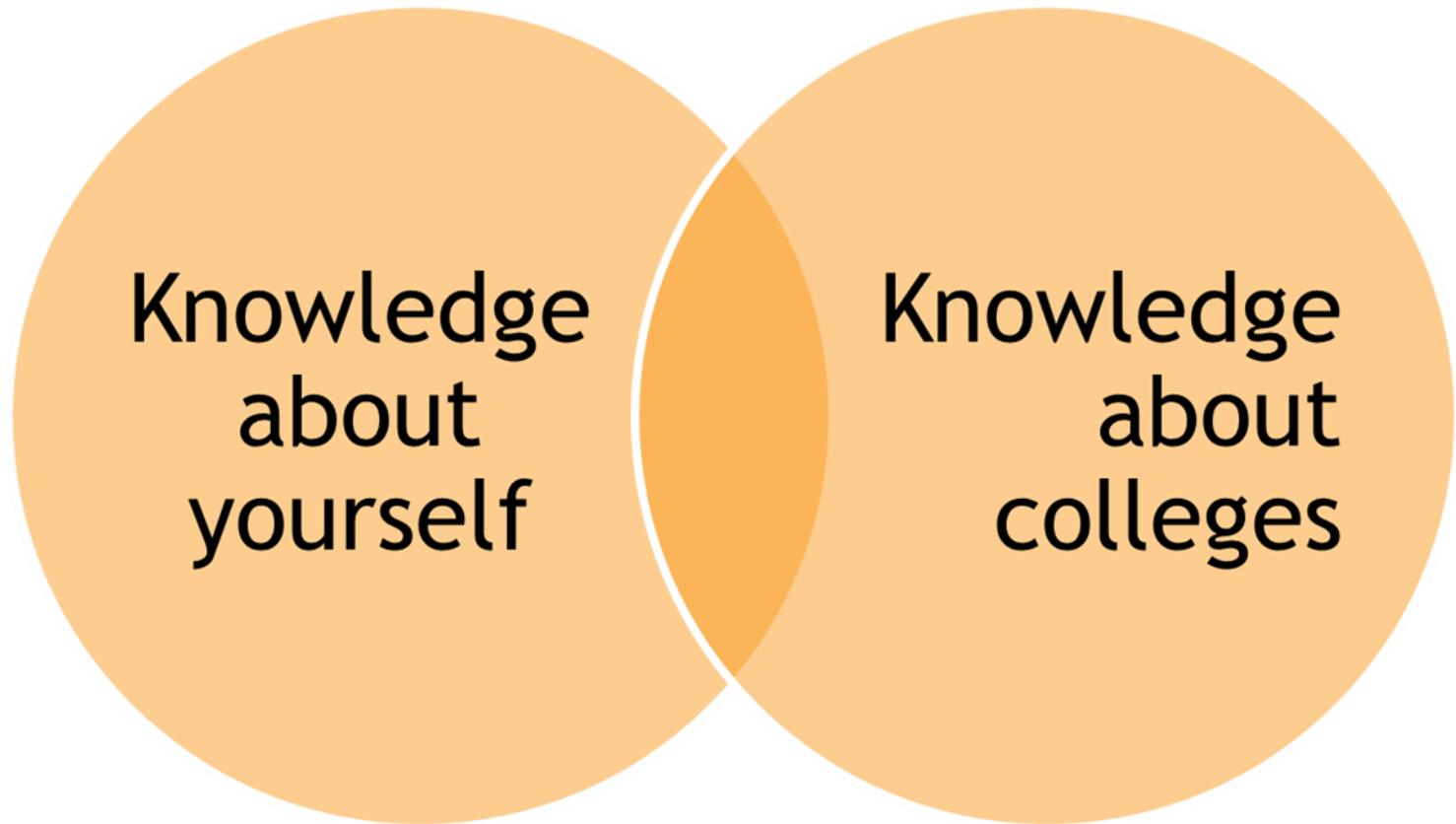
*School Counselors (Mrs. Boyd/Mrs. Kunkel/Mrs. O'Malley)*

- Advise students about course selection
  - Write counselor letter of recommendation
- 
- Provide information, support and guidance with the college application process

# The College Search Process

- 3 major decisions in the process  
The good news is you make 2 of them!
- The process is essentially one of research  
Self-exploration  
Learning about colleges
- The goal of the research is to find those colleges which “best fit” the needs of the student.

# Finding the best “fit” college



# What is “fit”?

- Academic fit
- Social fit
- Financial fit
- Fit happens over time
- Requires effort on the part of the student

# Finding Out About Yourself

- Career exploration
- Which courses really excite you?
  - What can I do with a “\_\_\_\_\_” major?  
<http://www.umass.edu/careers/majors/default.html>
- What do you like to do?
  - Occupational Outlook Handbook  
<http://www.bls.gov/search/ooh.asp?ct=OOH>
- What are your strongest skills?
- What kind of work can you see yourself doing?
- It's not necessary to have a major in mind  
UNDECIDED is a popular major!

A meme featuring a scene from the TV show Game of Thrones. Tyrion Lannister, played by Peter Dinklage, is shown from the chest up, looking down at a chessboard. He has a concerned or thoughtful expression. The chessboard is on a table, and several chess pieces are visible. In the background, there is a lit candle in a holder and some other objects on the table. The text "I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I'M DOING" is overlaid in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters on the right side of the image.

I HAVE NO IDEA  
WHAT I'M DOING



## **FACTORS TO CONSIDER**

- Geographic location/distance from home
- Geographic setting (urban/rural)
- Selectivity
- Size
- Type: Public or Private
- Majors
- Special Programs
- Cost/availability of financial aid
- Student organizations
- Athletics

# Internet Resources

- collegeboard.com
- princetonreview.com
- collegeview.com
- petersons.com
- usnews.com
- Colleges That Change Lives
  - www.ctcl.com
- naviance student
- Abet.org (engineering)
- Naab.org (architecture)
- Eligibilitycenter.org
- Fafsa.gov
- Websites of specific colleges
  - Fairtest.org

# VISIT CAMPUS!!!!

- Visit as many schools as possible
- If interested in a school, do an “official” visit
  - Take a campus tour
  - Open House, Information session, interview
- Three visits to college campuses during a school day permitted junior and senior year



# What Colleges Consider When Making Admissions Decisions

- ◉ Grades
- ◉ Strength of curriculum
- ◉ Test scores (SAT and/or ACT)
- ◉ Essay
- ◉ Letters of recommendation
- ◉ Demonstrated interest
- ◉ Class rank
- ◉ Interview
- ◉ Extracurricular activities

# TRANSCRIPTS

Official transcripts are sent from CV

- official they come from CV electronically
- hard copies have a seal and signature
- 99% of colleges require an official transcript
- 99% of the transcripts are sent electronically



# Getting into College: AN INSIDER'S GUIDE

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kKARNadxshU&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kKARNadxshU&feature=player_embedded)

# NEW SAT vs. ACT

All colleges accept either test

They are regarded as equally valid

1/3 perform better on SAT, 1/3 perform better on ACT, 1/3 perform the same

- SAT

- 3 Sections
- Critical Reading
- Math, up to Algebra II
- Writing (optional)

No penalty for wrong answers

- ACT

- 5 Sections
- Reading
- English
- Writing (optional)
- Math, up to trigonometry
- Science...(Interpretation)
- No penalty for wrong answers

# How Scores are Used

**Superscore** – Colleges will mix/match your test scores to make the highest score possible. Not all colleges superscore, but use the highest score from a “sitting.”

**Score Choice** – Option to choose which test scores to send to colleges

Students can choose scores from a **test date**, not individual sub-scores.

For the SAT subject tests, students can choose individual subject scores.

Colleges can choose, however, to require **all scores** from an applicant.

Students are required to comply with each college’s policy.



# Some colleges are TEST OPTIONAL

- Colleges not requiring the SAT or ACT test scores
- Other requirements may exist (example, must have a 3.5 GPA, graded writing sample required, interview required)
- [www.fairtest.org](http://www.fairtest.org)

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Sample of some Test Optional Colleges:

*Washington & Jefferson College, Gettysburg College, Franklin & Marshall, Chatham College, Loyola of Maryland, American University, George Mason University, Wittenberg University, Dickinson College, Connecticut College, Providence College, Roger Williams University*

# Test Prep?

- Khan Academy! Work at your own pace
- 3RPrep (SAT and ACT courses scheduled \$325)
- Huntington, CCAC, Mt. Lebanon Academy, Kaplan, Chyten \$

## What Works

- Recreational reading
- Being engaged in the Test Prep classes
- Familiarizing yourself with the test format
- Test prep should not come at the expense of school work

# The Essay

- Only time YOU have control
- Only time YOU can share with the colleges something that is not already in the application
  - Shows how well YOU can write
- Typically between 250-650 words
- Typically prompted with a question
  - Don't summarize your life
    - Keep the topic specific
- Proofread and accept criticism



**KEEP  
CLAM  
AND  
PROOF  
READ**

# Recommendation Letters

## Teacher Recommendation Letters

- Ask early. Teacher should have 3 weeks to write letter.
- Log into Naviance and....
- Go to “colleges” tab and click “Colleges I’m applying to” and request the teachers that are writing your letters.
- Write a thank-you note to your teachers

## **NO MORE THAN TWO TEACHER LETTERS**

## Counselor Recommendation Letters

- Same as above, but complete the “counselor letter of recommendation”

# JUNIOR YEAR

## **SPRING SEMESTER**

- Take the other standardized test in March, April, May, or June.
- Schedule meeting with your school counselor
- Attend the Pittsburgh National College Fair.
- Register for senior year carefully, reviewing post-secondary admissions requirements.
- Visit college campuses
- Participate in summer programs in your area of interest
- Take SAT subject tests in June if required
- Before summer break, request (2) teacher letters of recommendations and if needed (1) counselor letter

# SENIOR YEAR

## **FALL SEMESTER**

- Visit college campuses
- Finalize list of 4-8 colleges to apply
- Retake the SAT or ACT
- Sign-up to meet with post-secondary representatives as they visit Chartiers Valley
- Research and apply to scholarships
- Submit applications according to deadlines
- Attend Financial Aid Night
- Complete the FAFSA after October 1st

## **SPRING SEMESTER**

- Respond to post-secondary offers of admission and financial aid
- Submit required deposit, due by May 1<sup>st</sup> (do not double deposit)
- Request your final transcript

# How many schools should you apply to:

**Generally you should apply to 4-8 colleges**

- **Reach:** Selective schools that typically admit students with higher grades and scores than you have. Decision is unknown.
- **Target/In range:** Schools that admit students with grades and scores that are about the same as yours. No guarantee.
- **Likely/Safety:** Schools that typically admit students with grades and scores that may be lower than yours and price is not a factor. Reasonably certain admissions and financial affordability.

**APPLY ONLY TO COLLEGES THAT YOU  
ACTUALLY WANT TO ATTEND!**

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“College is a match to be made, not a prize to be won.” -Frank Sachs, Director of College Counseling, The Blake School, Hopkins, MN



# DEFINITIONS OF ADMISSION OPTIONS IN HIGHER EDUCATION



National Association for  
College Admission Counseling  
*Guiding the way to higher education*

## STUDENTS: WHICH COLLEGE ADMISSION PROCESS BEST SUITS YOU?

### Non-Restrictive Application Plans

#### Regular Decision

##### DEFINITION:

Students submit an application by a specified date and receive a decision in a clearly stated period of time.

##### COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

#### Rolling Admission

##### DEFINITION:

Institutions review applications as they are submitted and render admission decisions throughout the admission cycle.

##### COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

#### Early Action (EA)

##### DEFINITION:

Students apply early and receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date.

##### COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Students are not restricted from applying to other institutions and have until May 1 to consider their options and confirm enrollment.

### Restrictive Application Plans

#### Early Decision (ED)

##### DEFINITION:

Students make a commitment to a first-choice institution where, if admitted they definitely will enroll. The application deadline and decision deadline occur early.

##### COMMITMENT:

BINDING

#### Restrictive Early Action (REA)

##### DEFINITION:

Students apply to an institution of preference and receive a decision early. They may be restricted from applying ED or EA or REA to other institutions. If offered enrollment, they have until May 1 to confirm.

##### COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Students are responsible for determining and following restrictions.

# Commonapp.org

www.commonapp.org/Login



Chartiers Valley School Distri...

Fwd: Announcing our full-tu...

The Common Application



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## MISSION

The Common Application is a not-for-profit membership organization that, since its founding over 35 years ago, has been committed to providing reliable services that promote equity, access, and integrity in the college application process. We serve students, member institutions, and secondary schools by providing applications that students and school officials may submit to any of our over 500 members. Membership is open to colleges and universities that promote access by evaluating students using a holistic selection process.

## SEARCH FOR COLLEGES

Type college name here

Search

## SIGN IN

Applicants

Members

Recommenders

Applicant Email Address

Password

[Forgot your Password?](#)

Sign In

HELP CENTER

Go

CREATE AN ACCOUNT

Go

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FEATURED

You'll use naviance Student for the following:

- VIEW ADMISSIONS DATA (SPECIFIC TO CV)
- SEARCH COLLEGES
- VIEW AND REGISTER TO MEET WITH COLLEGES
- TEST PREP (PREPME)
- LIST OF SCHOLARSHIPS
- PERSONALITY and CAREER SURVEYS

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Add your e-mail address to receive important information – CHECK YOUR EMAIL!

# *AFTER ACCEPTANCE*

- WAIT FOR ALL OF YOUR FINANCIAL AID PACKAGES
- DO NOT DOUBLE DEPOSIT
- YOU HAVE TILL **MAY 1** TO MAKE A DECISION AND PAY THE TUITION DEPOSIT, UNLESS YOU APPLIED EARLY DECISION

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CONGRATULATIONS!



# HOW WILL YOU AFFORD COLLEGE?

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- Complete the FAFSA
  - Apply to different and several types of colleges
  - Apply for “outside” scholarships



# QUESTIONS?

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