

The Class of 2021 College Night for Junior Families

FUTURE AHEAD

**Sara English
Dan Miller**

SHS Post Secondary Counselors

College Search Process

Goals for tonight:

- How to Choose a College
- How a College Chooses You
- Next Steps



Your Questions/Thoughts for Tonight

- Take a moment with your family
- On the reflection sheet:
 - Write down 1 – 3 expectations/questions you have for tonight



The process has changed since 80s/90s

- Online
- SAT = ACT (really!!)
- Holistic review
- Applications have skyrocketed
 - More selective/competitive
- Legacy plays less of a role
- Admission plans
- Students visit campuses more
- Demonstrated Interest



How is the process different in the U.S. than other countries

- Rankings are more subjective - not governmental
- There isn't a "best" school in particular areas
- Undergrad is typically 4 years
- In particular with highly selective schools, there is no GPA or test score that guarantees admission
- Admission is holistic
- Visiting is important
- Applications happen in the fall of senior year
- Accelerated programs are rare, and very competitive
- Undecided is okay (and common)



What is the best car?

Take 30 seconds to discuss...



How to Choose a College:

Find the Fit:

- Find the *right* school not *best* school.
- Fit varies from student to student.
- Factors may include:

Academic

Social

Emotional

Financial



How to Choose a College: Take a Moment



- Why College?
 - Student
 - What motivates you to go?
 - What are your personal goals for after SHS?
 - Parent(s)/Guardian(s)
 - What do you hope for your child?



How to Choose a College:

Academics:

- Internships, co-ops, study abroad, direct admit programs, support, etc.
- In many instances, you do not need to choose your major until the end of the 2nd year of college!
- Discover what interests you:
 - **Utilize your resources:** Naviance Assessments. Career Exploration Program, shadowing, events, programs and career panel - check out the website (<https://www.d125.org/academics/career-exploration>)



How to Choose a College:

Requirements for Admission

- Core Subjects
 - World Language
- Fine Arts (CA public schools, University of Washington in Seattle)
- Min. ACT/SAT and GPA



How to Choose a College:

Location, Distance, and Size

- Distance – consider logistics of coming home
- Setting: Rural, Urban, Suburban
 - Urban can be a defined or blended into the city.
- Size: Small (under 5,000) vs Large (15,000+)



How to Choose a College:

“I want something bigger than the size of SHS.”

- Value of smaller schools
 - Smaller class sizes
 - More personalized experiences
 - Closer relationships with professors
 - Resources and research opportunities may be easier
- No college is one building 😊
- Majority of colleges are smaller than SHS



How to Choose a College:

Take a moment...

- What is your reaction to this...
- What benefit(s) could a small school provide for you?



How to Choose a College:

Personal Factors

- Why do I want to go to college?
- How do I learn?
- How independent am I?
- What do I want to be involved in?
- Do I have special talents?
- Do I have special needs?

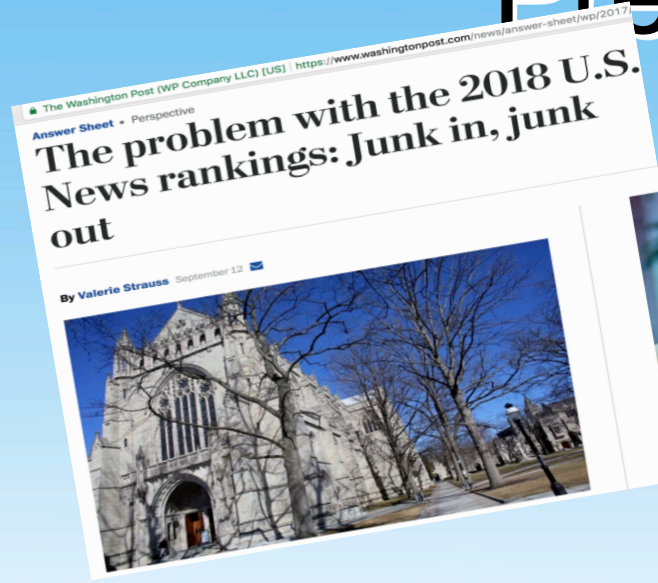


How to Choose a College: Cost

- Have “*the talk*” about cost
- Public vs. Private
- “Sticker Shock” - Use the Net Price Calculators
- Need vs. Want
- Ability vs. Willingness
- “Scholar”- ships (Merit)
 - How to look



How to Choose a College: Prestige/Rankings



View Washington Post's article [here](#)

View Boston Magazine's article [here](#)

View Inside Higher Ed's article [here](#)

How to Choose a College:

A school that is a reach for some, may be a target for others.

Safety Schools

- “Slam Dunk” for admission
- Financially reasonable

Target Schools

- Meet all admission requirements
- Financially attainable

Reach Schools

- May be deficient in some admission requirements
- May be a financial reach
- **All colleges with under 25% admit rate (regardless of students academics)**

*****Utilize Naviance Scattergrams to reference SHS admission data.**



Dispelling Rumors

- UIUC (or anyone else for that matter) does not have a SHS admission quota
- It is better to go in with a declared major(s)
- It is better to go in undecided



How to Choose a College:

Take a moment

- Students, share how you think you will choose a college?
- Parents/guardians:
 - If you attended college, share how you chose a college?
 - How do you hope to support your child in this process?



How A College Chooses You



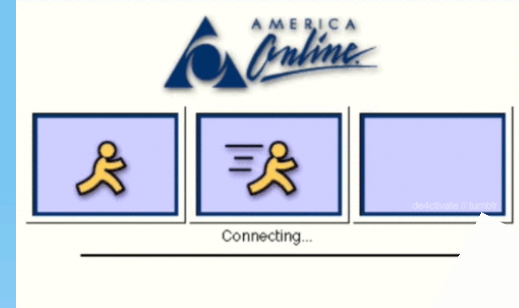
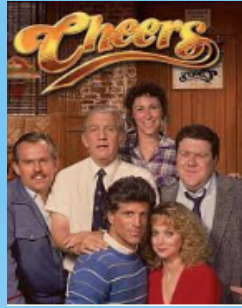
Parents/Guardians: How many colleges did you apply to in high school:



Students choose an option



Pear Deck Interactive Slide
Do not remove this bar



In 1990...

Price of gas \$1.08 a gallon

Ford Mustang Convertible \$15,000

UIUC total cost was \$6,500



Then and Now...

- 1990
 - Columbia U admit rate was 32%...in 2019 it was 5.1%
 - U of Michigan admit rate was 64%...in 2019 it was 23%
- 1997
 - Northwestern had a 32% admit rate...in 2019 it was 8.9%
 - Vanderbilt had a 66% admit rate...in 2019 it was 9.1%
- 2001
 - Tulane had a 61% admit rate, in 2019 it was 17%



Evolution of Applications

| College | 2007 | 2013 | 2019 |
|------------------------|--------|--------|---------|
| Northwestern U | 18,385 | 32,772 | 40,579 |
| U of Pennsylvania | 22,634 | 31,280 | 44,960 |
| U Chicago | 10,408 | 30,369 | ~35,000 |
| U Michigan | 27,474 | 46,813 | 64,972 |
| U Wisconsin Madison | 20,436 | 23,324 | 43,904 |



Take Away

- Things have changed...
- More applications by students and for schools
- Lower admit rates (higher selectivity)
- Harder to predict
- Under 25% admit rate = “reach/highly selective schools”
- Use Naviance to help gauge
 - Avoid those “other” sites



How a College Chooses You:

Holistic Admissions - *Highlights*

- High School Transcript
- ACT/SAT Scores – Writing/Essay?
- Essays/Writing Samples
- Counselor and/or Teacher Recommendations
- Demonstrated Interest
- Choice of Major(s)
- Co-curriculars/Work
- Diversity, Legacy, State or Country of Residence



How a College Chooses You:

A Tale of Two Transcripts

Student A

3.54 wtd (9th)

3.50 wtd (10th)

↓ 3.08 wtd (11th)

3.37 wtd

Cumulative GPA

3.25 wtd

Student B

3.00 wtd

3.12 wtd

↑ 3.57 wtd



How a College Chooses You:

High School Transcript

- Many colleges admit on 6 semesters
- Weighted GPA
- Looking for a college prep curriculum:

English: 4 years

Math: 3-4 years

Science: 3-4 years

Social Studies: 3-4 years

World Language: (same) 2+ years

Fine Arts: 1 year (?)

- Grades in college prep classes most important
- Grade trends
- Senior classes



How a College Chooses You:

SAT/ACT Scores

- All colleges will accept SAT or ACT
- Colleges will look at the best Composite Score
- Superscore? ACT Section testing?
- “not a co-curricular activity”
- SAT subject tests may be required or recommended by highly selective colleges (www.compassprep.com and college sites)
- Some schools require all testing history
- Self-reporting scores may be an option





SAT Practice Exam for JUNIORS

Cost: FREE

Date: February 8, 2020

Time: 7:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Location: SHS Field House

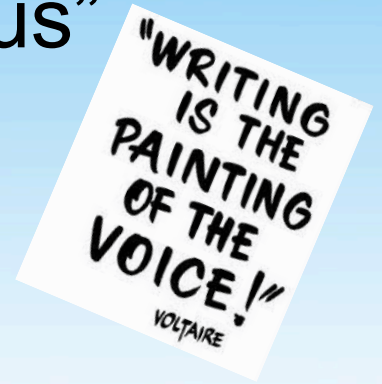
**Why: Detailed Itemized Score Reports,
Endurance, Opportunities to Improve Score**

**Registration Process: Begins in late November-
Details to follow.**



How a College Chooses You: Essays and/or Writing Samples

- Hear *student's* voice
- Personalize to the college – “why us”
 - Take notes during visits
- Summer School Workshops
- Save a graded paper- sometimes a college will ask for one



How a College Chooses You:

Teacher vs. Counselor Recommendations

Teacher

- Usually a “core” academic teacher often junior year.
- May ask before summer, but know requirements, and avoid “over” asking.

Counselor

- Big picture perspective of your time during high school.
- Hiccups, challenges, personal circumstances.
- You in context of your high school.
- SCoPE Meetings



How a College Chooses You: Demonstrated Interest



Students can “demonstrate interest”:

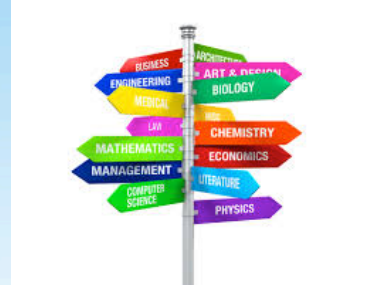
- Schedule an official campus visit
- Visit with reps at SHS and/or in the Chicagoland area.
- Email/call colleges with questions
- Respond to emails that ask for a response
- Essays
- Interviews (if offered)



How a College Chooses You:

Majors

- Some colleges directly admit students to certain programs
- Some programs are often direct admit (“more selective”):
 - Nursing
 - Engineering
 - Architecture
 - Business
- Undecided is okay!!!



How a College Chooses You: **After 3:25 pm, Weekends, and Summer**

- What do you like to do?
- How have you furthered your interests?
- Quality over quantity - meaningful engagement
- Looking for activities from Grades 9 – 12



How a College Chooses You:

Other Admission Factors

- Athletics/Talent
- Legacy
- Diversity (in all areas)
- Admission plan used and deadlines



How a College Chooses You:

Admission Plans

- Early Decision (ED) – binding agreement, student is committing to enroll if admitted and must rescind all other applications
 - ED I or ED II are possible
- Restrictive Early Action (REA) or Single Choice Early Action – not binding, but restricts how a student can apply to other colleges (will vary from school to school)



How a College Chooses You:

Admission Plans

- Early Action (Priority) – non binding, “no strings attached” plan. Scholarship money is often tied to this deadline. Strong preference given to these applications.
- Regular – later in cycle
- Rolling – Notifications are rolled out through the cycle
- Open Enrollment – Community Colleges

Outcomes: Admitted, Denied, Deferred, Waitlisted.



College Search Process

Goals for tonight:

- How to Choose a College
- How a College Chooses You
- Next Steps



Next Steps:

Perhaps Consider a “Gap Year”

- A gap year is a year for students to explore other interests between high school and college.
- Gap Year Fair – New Trier High School, Saturday, Jan 25th, 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.



USA Gap Year Fairs



Next Steps:

Military, Community College, & Trades Expo

- Week of Dec. 2nd: Community College Week
- Trades Expo: February 6th



Next Steps:

Role of Community College

- Potentially earn transferable college credits.
- Significantly reduced tuition.
- Pathway for transfer to four-year institution.
- Opportunity for fresh start.
- Gain classroom knowledge/skills within challenging academic areas.




Next Steps: How To Do Research

- Create a list of essential questions for you to have answered.
- Naviance and other search tools (College Board/Big Future).
- Use the CCC and the individual college websites.
- College fairs.
- College rep visits.
- Visit college campuses.
- Speak to friends and family about their experiences.



Next Steps: CCC Website

 **STEVENSON**

[Find It Fast](#) [Calendar](#) [Visitors](#) [Translate](#) [f](#) [t](#) [i](#) [u](#)

[STUDENTS](#) [PARENTS](#) **[ACADEMICS](#)** [ATHLETICS](#) [ARTS](#) [ABOUT](#)

College

[The CCC](#) [Naviance](#) [Rep Visits](#) [ACT/SAT Info](#) [CCC Calendar](#)

[COLLEGE REP VISITS 2019](#)

The College Career Center is located in Room 1123 (West Building) just south of the Wood Commons. The CCC is best accessed from the outside by way of the Forum ("point") entrance, off parking lot B.

Follow the CCC on Facebook →

Stevenson High School welcomes colleges to visit our students during the fall semester. Colleges wishing to schedule a rep visit can contact us at shs_collegecareer@d125.org.

College Career Center Staff

Postsecondary Counselors
Sara English
senglish@d125.org / 847-415-4505

[2019-20 Academic Calendar](#)
[Advanced Placement](#)
[Career Exploration](#)
[College](#)
[Freshman Focus](#)
[Sophomore Focus](#)
[Junior Focus](#)
[Community Colleges](#)
[Demonstrated Interest](#)
[First-Generation Families](#)
[IEP/504 Resources](#)
[Post-Secondary SCoPE Meeting](#)

Next Steps: **Upcoming CCC Events**

Feb – June – Post Secondary SCoPE Meetings

April – Junior Seminars – students will come into CCC out of math classes.



Next Steps:

Programming for next year

- Senior Groups (August – English Classes)
- Senior Parent Night (Late August)
- Financial Aid Night (Early October)
- FAFSA Completion Night (Early-Mid October)
- Workshops for students (Drop-In Tuesdays, Essays, Common App, UIUC, Coalition App)



Next Steps:

Take a moment

- On your reflection sheet:
 - 3 Action Steps between now and spring break



Next Steps: Parting Thoughts

- It is all about finding the fit, and expanding options at first. There is not *only* one college that is a right fit.
- College rankings do not equal student success.
- Be optimistic, and realistic - diversify list.
- Explore Careers
- Set up time to communicate as a family.
- This is a journey, and time for students to learn more themselves, about self-advocacy, and adulting.

