



Continuity of Education Plan: College Advising for Seniors

Seniors are reminded to take the essential steps necessary as they prepare for the transition to college. Mrs. Heidi Bonner, Director of College Advising, is available to offer continued guidance and support. She can be reached at hbonner@boyslatin.org or 215.983.1859. Please be mindful of the following guidelines and expectations in the college advising process:

1. Students attending a 4-year, 2-year, or trade school in the fall must complete the FAFSA as soon as possible if they have not done so already. Different colleges have different deadlines for FAFSA completion, and some have already passed. Completing the FAFSA is extremely time sensitive. But, please note, no matter what individual colleges' deadlines are, students planning to attend a 4-year college must have completed the FAFSA by May 1, or they will be ineligible to receive a PA State Grant.

The first step in completing the FAFSA is for both the student and parent/guardian (whichever parent will be signing the FAFSA) to obtain an FSAID. The FSAID is a username and password that the student will use to log into the FAFSA and to sign it. The FSAID will also be used to sign into www.studentloans.gov to complete loan entrance counseling and sign the Master Promissory Note (MPN). Students will need their FSAID for as long as they are enrolled in college. If a parent already has an FSAID they created for an older sibling, or when they themselves were in school, they will use that same FSAID for the FAFSA. To create the FSAID, go to fsaid.ed.gov. Seniors should not use their BL email address on this account unless it is their only email address. Students will need access to their email and phone to create the account. After creating the FSAIDs, please be sure to write them down in a safe location.

Once a student and parent have an FSAID, go to www.fafsa.gov to complete the FAFSA itself. The student will log in with his FSAID. The first section is information about the student. The student should check the box that registers them for the Selective Service if they are not already registered. It is mandatory for all males in the US to register for the Selective Service within 30 days of their 18th birthday, and if students are not registered, they will not be eligible for Federal aid. To complete the financial section, students will need a copy of their parent's 2018 tax form, as well as their own if they filed. Please contact Mrs. Bonner with any questions about which parent(s)' information should be included. The student should be sure to include all colleges to which they have applied in the list of colleges that should receive the information.

When the form is complete, both the student and parent should sign it with their FSAID and submit it. Within 48 hours, students should receive an email confirming it was processed. The email will have a link to the Student Aid Report (SAR). The SAR tells indicates how much Federal aid a student qualified for and what the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is. If there is an asterisk next to the EFC, the student has been selected for verification.

2. Once the FAFSA is complete, students must complete the State Grant application (also called the PHEAA grant). The easiest way to do this is to use the link that will appear on the confirmation page when submitting the FAFSA. If it is not done then, students will receive an email from PHEAA 7-14 days after completing the FAFSA, and the link in this email can be used to complete the State Grant application. If students cannot find that email, they should go to www.aessuccess.org, create an account, and then complete it. The State Grant application should be completed by May 1. When students complete it, they will automatically insert the college they listed first on the FAFSA as the college they will attend. If they do not end up attending that college, they will need to log back into their PHEAA account and change the college so that the funds go to the correct school.

When both the FAFSA and PHEAA have been completed, the student should send confirmation that they are done to Mrs. Bonner at hbonner@boyslatin.org. She will be tracking completion of those two components. Any senior who does not plan to enroll in a post-secondary option in the fall must schedule a conversation with Mrs. Bonner to discuss plans.

3. Students applying to colleges must remember to request transcripts through Naviance. Mrs. Bonner and Ms. Tedesco, College Advisor, are still available to check applications and essays before they are submitted. Students should simply send Mrs. Bonner or Mrs. Tedesco their login information with a request for what should be reviewed. Students will also need to send their SAT scores from College Board directly. Please note, Community College of Philadelphia (CCP) does not require a transcript or SAT scores. However, when students apply, they must add CCP to the list of colleges to which they are applying in Naviance and check the box indicating they have applied so the college advisors are aware.
4. Students should email Mrs. Bonner when they have heard from a college with an admissions decision, whether it is positive or negative. The College Advising team must be made aware of these decisions by mid-May. Students can also list these decisions in their Naviance account.
5. Once students have completed their financial aid forms, they should receive aid award information from the colleges to which they have been admitted. This information could come via mail or email, or it might be available in the student's portal for the college if they have created one. If students do not have an award from a college, they should email the financial aid offices asap and check to see if there is a reason why it has not been sent. The contact information for all financial aid offices is available on their websites. Students and families should carefully review their aid award before they make a decision whether or not to enroll at a college. It would be wise for families to seek the support of Mrs. Bonner and Ms. Tedesco in interpreting aid awards.
6. Verification – If a student was selected for Verification on their FAFSA, they will need to send each financial aid office additional documentation before they can receive Federal aid. It is vitally important that students provide this information as soon as possible. Each aid office will be able to tell students what it requires.
7. Enrollment – While some colleges have extended their enrollment deadlines to June 1, most still are requiring students to decide where they will attend and secure spot by submitting a monetary deposit by May 1. After the enrollment deadline, students are no longer guaranteed a spot at that college. Many colleges will waive or delay the requirement for the fee if they are contacted, but the deadline to confirm enrollment is firm. Understandably, it is going to be significantly more

difficult to make final decisions this year when students and families cannot visit the colleges in person. Most colleges are offering online videos and other information for admitted students. Students are encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities. Students should also contact Mrs. Bonner or Ms. Tedesco if they want to discuss their options or potentially be connected with a Boys' Latin alumnus from a college. Students are reminded to make these decisions by the earliest enrollment deadlines of their schools. Lastly, as soon as students have sent a monetary deposit to a college, they should notify Mrs. Bonner of the decision and school. She will then send the student's final transcript to that school at the end of the year.

8. For CCP Only – Once students have applied to CCP, they will receive an email from their with their Student ID number, which CCP calls their *J Number*. Students will use this number to create a MyCCP account. Once they have this account, they will need to register to take their placement test. The campus is closed until May 6 at the earliest, so the test will have to happen at a later date. Once students have taken the placement test and passed into at least the remedial level classes, they will be considered “admitted’ and be able to register for classes.
9. If students will be accepting Federal loans to fund their education, they will need to complete the Entrance Counseling and sign their Master Promissory Note (MPN) before the Federal government will release that money to their college. Once students know which college they are attending, they should go to www.studentloans.gov and sign in with their FSAID. Students should click on “Complete Entrance Counseling.” Entrance counseling involves reading about what it means to borrow and completing a multiple-choice quiz about what they have learned. Once students have completed entrance counseling, they will be able to click on “Sign MPN.” The MPN is a legal document that indicates the student knows they are borrowing money and they will be required to pay it back with interest. Students will only have to complete the entrance counseling and sign the MPN once, even if they borrow every year they are in school.
10. If a parent/guardian intends to apply for a Federal PLUS loan to help fund their child’s education, he/she will do that on this same website: www.studentloans.gov. The parent/guardian signs in with his/her FSAID, not the student’s, and click’s on “Apply for PLUS Loan.” Whether or not the parent/guardian is approved for a PLUS loan depends on credit score, not income. If the parent/guardian applies for a PLUS loan and is denied for it (which will be known immediately), the student should contact their college’s student aid office and inform them. They will then be eligible for up to \$4,000 additional in Federal loans in their name.
11. Once students have deposited at a college, they will start receiving regular communication from that college. There will be health forms to complete, housing norms to complete, and other requirements. Students should be sure to read everything they receive carefully and take the steps the college requires. Every college will expect a final transcript. Students and families should not worry about this. As long as students have told Mrs. Bonner which college they are attending, she will send the final transcript to that college upon the student’s graduation. Most colleges will send instructions to set up their college hosted email account. Students must do this asap and check that email account often so they do not miss important information.