

## **2020-21 FREQUENTLY ASKED COUNSELOR QUESTIONS**

**I will update this periodically as questions are asked!**

**Updated 10/14/2020**

### **Academic**

**Q. What is the difference between A.P. and College in the High School courses?**

A. A.P. courses are college-level courses taught at the high school by high school teachers using a nationally recognized curriculum approved by the College Board. AP students do not earn college credit by successfully completing the AP course. College credit is determined by whether or not the student takes the optional AP exam, his/her score on the exam, and how individual colleges treat these scores. Scores from these exams are considered by colleges for varying degrees of college credit. Some colleges use AP exam scores for only placement purposes and not college credit. All colleges and universities will have policies related to AP exams posted on their websites. Bottom line: It's an excellent option for students to complete rigorous coursework in preparation for post-high school studies.

College in the High School courses are college-level courses taught at the high school by high school teachers using college curriculum with oversight from college faculty and staff. Students earn college credit by passing the course and paying reduced tuition for the credits. Grades are recorded on a permanent college transcript. Bottom line: This is also an excellent option for students to complete rigorous coursework in preparation for post-high school studies. Also, it is imperative that students understand that their college transcripts officially begin.

**Q. I need wifi help! What do I do!?**

A. I have a comprehensive list of free wifi hotspots throughout the entire Tri Cities. You may access the list by going to my Counseling Office Team page (Files>Resources>Academic.) You may also find information helpful in (Files>Resources>Social\_Emotional\_Family.) Note: If you absolutely cannot get internet, please let me know, as we may be able to assist further!

**Q. How do I request a transcript?**

A. The form for requesting/ordering a transcript is on Delta's web page (school tab > College/Career Counseling)

**Q. How do I know if I'm on-track for graduation? How many credits do I need?**

A. Washington requires public high school students to complete a minimum number of credits to graduate. Many local school districts, however, require students to earn credits beyond the state minimum. Please visit my Counseling Office Team page (File>Resources>Academic) for the Core 24 Graduation Progress Checklist.

**Q. What do I do about P.E.?**

A. Provided a student remains at Delta all four years, I am able to access a waiver for your district's P.E. graduation requirement. I highly recommend, however, that you take advantage of the opportunities available to earn P.E. credit. It makes your transcript a bit more well-rounded and, especially during these difficult times, provides a wonderful self-care opportunity. While you may take a 0-hour class via your home high school, you may also consider Delta's Independent Study. Visit my Counseling Office Team page for more information (Files>Resources>Academic.) \*During distance learning, 0-hour PE is not accessible in the RSD and KSD, as it cuts into our synchronous time.

**Q. Do I HAVE to take Spanish 3 Senior year?**

A. While the Core 24 graduation requirement consists of 2.0 credits of a World Language, please consider your Year 13 & Beyond Plan. If you are university-bound, the top-tier schools are very clear that you need 3.0 credits or more to be competitive during the application cycle.

### **College/Career Planning**

**Q. What is a CSS Profile?**

A. The CSS Profile is different than the FAFSA. It is also only necessary if you are looking for financial aid from one of the organizations or colleges that requires it to be submitted. Unlike the FAFSA and WASFA, it is not free (some students may be eligible for a fee waiver, however.) The CSS Profile is used to award non-federal aid.

**Q. What is the difference between the FAFSA and the WASFA?**

A. The FAFSA is the Free Application for Student Aid. To be eligible to receive federal student aid, you must be a citizen or eligible non-citizen of the United States (eligible non-citizens include U.S. permanent resident with a Permanent Resident Card, Conditional Permanent Resident, or Refugee.)

You must have a valid Social Security Number. For more information, go to [www.FAFSA.gov](http://www.FAFSA.gov).

The WASFA is the Washington Application for State Financial Aid. It is a free application for non-citizens to apply for student financial aid in Washington State. For more information, go to [www.readyssetgrad.wa.gov](http://www.readyssetgrad.wa.gov).

**Q. How do I access the College Bound Scholarship?**

A. You must meet the CBS pledge requirements; file the FAFSA or WASFA; list every college that you plan on applying to on your financial aid application; and be admitted to and enroll in an eligible institution in Washington within one year of high school graduation.

Your college determines if your income meets the eligibility guidelines; calculates your financial aid award; sends you an Award Letter indicating how much financial aid you will receive; and disburses your financial aid (including your College Bound Scholarship) before classes begin.

College Bound matches your financial aid application to your College Bound application and identifies you as a College Bound student to the colleges you listed on the FAFSA or WASFA.

**Q. When should my student take the PSAT?**

A. Delta administers the PSAT to all 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders. We administer the PSAT/NMSQT to both grade levels. 10<sup>th</sup> graders have the opportunity to take it as practice only and then again during 11<sup>th</sup> grade when it counts for scholarship eligibility. Delta pre-registers and pays for all Delta sophomores and juniors to take it. While typically we administer the exam in October, due to COVID, College Board opened up a January administration. We will be taking advantage of the January administration this school year. The exam is held at Delta.

**Q. I'm worried that my scheduled SAT is going to be cancelled! What do I do!?**

A. Most colleges are not requiring a test score for the upcoming admissions cycle. Always double-check admissions' requirements for the schools you are applying to. Check out <https://pages.collegeboard.org/sat-covid-19-updates>.

**Q. What is the difference between Early Action vs. Early Decision?**

A. Early Action is non-binding. This means you are not bound to attend if you are accepted. You may also apply early action to multiple colleges. Early action deadlines usually fall at the same time as early decision. The obvious advantage of this is the opportunity it gives you to apply to, and ultimately compare, financial aid packages from several schools.

Early Decision is binding. This means if you are accepted through early decision, you are committed to attending that school, and will withdraw any applications you may have submitted for the regular deadlines at other schools. You may not apply to more than one college under early decision. Early decision deadlines are often in November and students are typically notified of the decision in December. If you are not accepted, you will either be rejected or deferred. Rejected applicants may not apply again that year. \*If you are considering applying Early Decision, please contact me to discuss first!

**Q. How do I ask for a letter of recommendation?**

A. Delta has a formal process for requesting a letter of recommendation. Please find the packet in my Counseling Office Team page (Files>Resources>College\_Career.)

**Q. How do I request a transcript?**

A. The form for requesting/ordering a transcript is on Delta's web page (school tab > College/Career Counseling)

**Q. When filling out a college application, do I complete the freshman application or the transfer student application? I took College in the High School courses at Delta!**

A. You would still fill out the freshman application.

### **Social/Emotional/Family**

**Q. Can I message you on Remind if it's really important?**

A. Absolutely!

**Q. My family is really struggling financially. Are there any resources available?**

A. Please take a look in the Resources folder within my Counseling Office Team page (Files>Resources>Social\_Emotional\_Family.) You will find a number of resources, including Washington State's COVID-19 Response.

**Q. I think I'd like to start seeing an outside counselor but don't know how to find one. Can you help?**

A. Yes! Within my Counseling Office Team page, you'll find a Behavioral Health resource document (Files>Resources>Social\_Emotional\_Family.) A great place to start, however, is to determine whether or not you have insurance. If you have insurance, on the back of the insurance card is a

customer care phone number. If you call that number, they will be able to tell you who, in your area, takes your particular insurance. If your family does not have insurance, message me, as there are other services we may be able to access!