

SENIORS CLASS OF 2021

“One last piece of advice: Don’t let college mania dominate the only senior year of high school you’ll ever have. Actively make meaning you’ll cherish for the rest of your life—and then go do the same in college.”

Daniel Porterfield, President,
Franklin & Marshall College

Agenda

- ⊗ Getting ready to apply
- ⊗ Applications
- ⊗ Transcripts
- ⊗ Recommendations
- ⊗ Essays
- ⊗ Test Scores
- ⊗ Deadlines
- ⊗ Advice/Support

Getting Ready to Apply

Resources

- ⊗ Undergraduate Admissions website (best info source)
- ⊗ “Like” the CCC on Facebook
- ⊗ Naviance
- ⊗ Talk to your counselor

Getting Ready to Apply

College Rep Visits

- ⊗ Calendar of visits is located in Naviance
- ⊗ Email from CCC went out 1st week of school
re: how to sign up
- ⊗ Visit the CCC website for sign-up details
 - ⊙ Sign up in Naviance
 - ⊙ At least 2 school days in advance

Getting Ready to Apply

College Events

- ⊗ Oct 18 - National Portfolio Day, Chicago/Milwaukee
- ⊗ Oct 20 – CHOICES College Fair, 6:00-8:30 pm @ Maine South (for students with 504/IEP)
- ⊗ Oct 22 - FAFSA Completion Night, TBD
- ⊗ Jan TBD - GAP Year Fair at New Trier High School

Getting Ready to Apply

Naviance

- ⊗ Research colleges and admissions data
- ⊗ Record your applications in the “Colleges” tab
- ⊗ Add “Colleges I’m Thinking About” for upcoming visit notifications
- ⊗ Record your admission decisions
- ⊗ Keep abreast of all college opportunities

Applications

Where to find them

- ⊗ Check the college's website
- ⊗ Go to www.commonapp.org
- ⊗ Go to www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org
 - ⊙ U of Washington (Seattle) only accepts Coalition App

NOTE: A college may have more than one way to apply.
Choose Only One.

Applications

How to Apply

- ⊗ Check college's website
- ⊗ Track user names/passwords
- ⊗ Track application status
- ⊗ Meet deadlines
- ⊗ Distinguish **Early Decision** vs. **Early Action** vs. **Regular Decision**
- ⊗ Inform others how to support you in a timely fashion

Transcripts

Review Before Sending

- ⊗ Check your transcript on Infinite Campus
- ⊗ Verify that you are on track to complete all graduation requirements
- ⊗ Verify Driver's Education completion

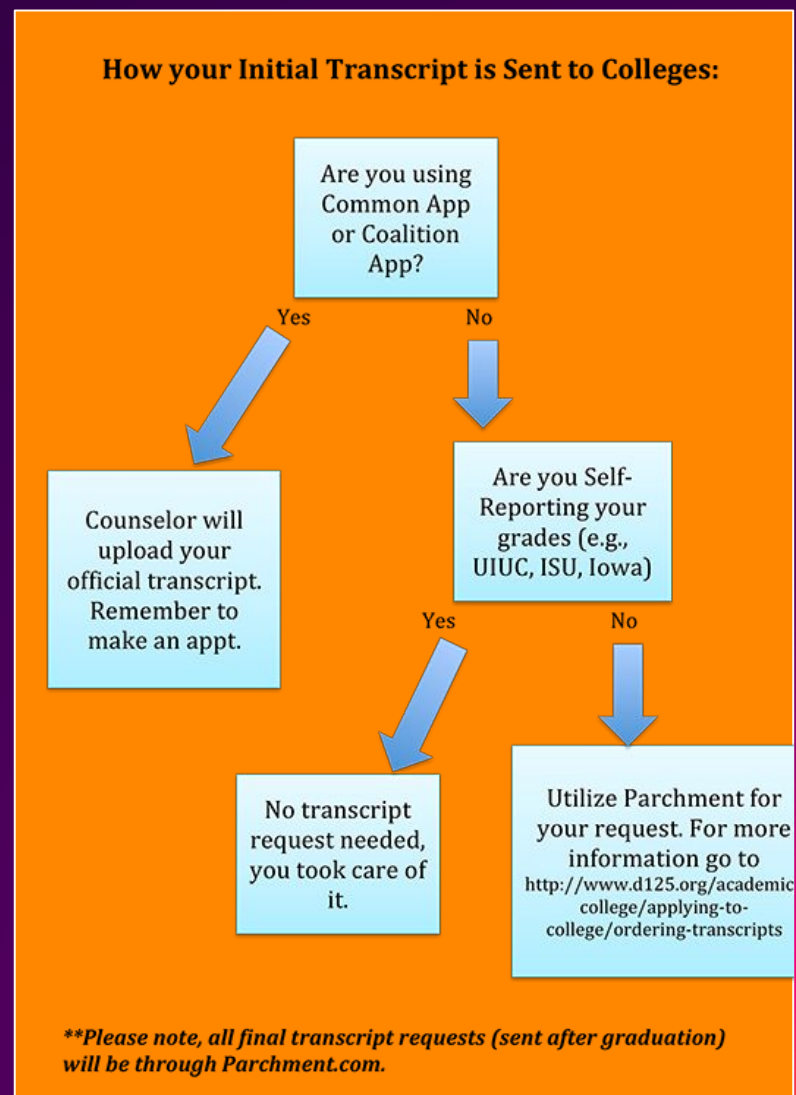
Transcripts

Methods for Sending

- ⊗ www.parchment.com
- ⊗ Common App or Coalition App
- ⊗ Self-report

Transcripts

Submitting to Colleges



Transcripts

www.parchment.com

- ⊗ Use Parchment when your transcript is not otherwise being reported via...
 - ⊙ Common App
 - ⊙ Coalition App
 - ⊙ Self-report

Transcripts

Common Application

- ⊗ Go to Recommender page on Common App
- ⊗ Invite your counselor to be a recommender (invite as "Counselor")
- ⊗ Counselor will submit transcript

Transcripts

Coalition Application

- ⊗ Invite your counselor to be a recommender
- ⊗ Counselor will submit transcript

Transcripts

Self-reporting

- ⊗ Access your transcript in Infinite Campus and enter grades yourself
- ⊗ Send a final transcript in June via Parchment
- ⊗ U Illinois, U Iowa, Illinois State, U of California, U Minnesota, U Nebraska, Northern Illinois, Iowa State, U Kansas, among others, use self-reporting

Transcripts

Please Note

- ⊗ Current senior year courses are listed on transcript
- ⊗ Resend transcript to reflect any senior year schedule changes

Recommendation Letters

Do Your Research/Plan Ahead

- ⊗ Is it required?
- ⊗ Ask early
 - ⊙ Minimum 3 WEEKS notice = no later than mid-September
- ⊗ Teachers can say “no”

Recommendation Letters

Do I Need One?

- ⊗ Check the college's application checklist
- ⊗ Many colleges do NOT want rec letters (e.g., UIUC)
- ⊗ Adhere to the minimum. If college asks for one or two, one is sufficient.

Recommendation Letters

Teacher Letter vs Counselor Letter

- ⊗ What is the purpose?
 - ⊙ Counselor - your overall development through high school
 - ⊙ Teacher - your academic functioning/learning

- ⊗ There are two forms
 - ⊙ Counselor "Brag Sheet"
 - ⊙ Teacher Reflection Form

Recommendation Letters

Where to Find "Brag Sheets"

- ⊗ Go to d125.org
- ⊗ Click on "Students"
- ⊗ Click on "Forms/Documents"
 - ⊙ [Counselor Recommendation Form/"Brag Sheet"](#)
 - ⊙ [Teacher Letter of Recommendation Reflection Sheet](#)

Recommendation Letters

The Counselor Letter

- ⊗ Schedule an appointment with your counselor at least 3 weeks prior to your deadline
- ⊗ Complete your “brag sheet” thoughtfully and thoroughly
- ⊗ The more specific examples of your awesomeness, the stronger the letter

Essays

Tips

- ⊗ Answer the essay question
- ⊗ “Optional” essays are NOT optional (write!)
- ⊗ Demonstrate genuine interest in that school
- ⊗ Highlight what makes you unique
- ⊗ If there was a problem, don't hide it; explain it
 - ⊙ UIUC has additional essay options for “Academic Challenges” if any apply to you

Essays

Resources

- ⊗ Use one source to help you ('too many cooks spoil the broth')
 - ⊙ Post-secondary counselors in the CCC
 - ⊙ ILC tutors
 - ⊙ Your counselor
 - ⊙ Teachers

Test Scores

- ⊗ Check admissions' website for 2020 test requirements
- ⊗ If required...
 - ⊙ Order official scores at www.act.org or www.collegeboard.org
 - ⊙ Some colleges now allow you to self-report

Deadlines

- ⊗ October 15
 - ⊙ Public universities
 - ⊙ Any early admission plan
- ⊗ November 30
 - ⊙ Other 4-year institutions
- ⊗ March 1
 - ⊙ CLC
 - ⊙ Other 2-year schools
- ⊗ May 1
 - ⊙ National Reply Day

Deadlines

Procrastinators Beware!

⊗ November 1



⊗ January 1 (winter break)



* If you wait until the last minute, you will likely need to submit information during non-school hours. Faculty cannot be assumed available during non-school hours. Plan accordingly.

FAFSA?

FAFSA Senior Graduation Requirement Flowchart

Start Here

Is the student attending a tech, trade, 2 or 4 year school and do you want access to federal based loans/grants/work study?

Yes

Is the student a US Citizen/Permanent resident or eligible citizen?

Yes

No

Is the student eligible for the financial aid form from Illinois? (certain undocumented or transgender students who are ineligible for federal aid due to not registered with selective service may qualify)

No

Yes

Complete the FAFSA

Complete the Alternative Application for Illinois State Aid

Complete the Opt out Form and submit it to counselor

No

Financial Aid/FAFSA

- <https://www.isac.org/students/before-college/financial-aid-planning/>
- Register with a free database (fastweb.com)

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Advice/Support

- ⊗ Connect with schools virtually
- ⊗ Electronic does not mean instantaneous
 - ⊙ Allow time for processing and outages
- ⊗ Not sure about something? Ask questions!
- ⊗ Enjoy your senior year!

Advice/Support

CCC Drop-In Days

- ⊗ Tuesdays
 - ⊙ Before school
 - ⊙ 8th hour

Helpful Links from our CCC

Click [here](#) for links to some of our most frequently-visited college application info sites

⊗ Questions?