

Overview of Four-Year College Admissions



Public vs Private

PUBLIC

Receive some funding by State tax dollars

Offer reduced “in-state” tuition rates to students who reside within state boundaries

Often larger in size

No religious affiliation

May have a lower “sticker price”

UIUC, UIC, UI-Springfield, ISU, NIU, EIU, WIU, SIUC, SIUE, NEIU, Chicago State, Governors State

PRIVATE

Do not receive funding from State taxes

Do not differentiate tuition based upon student’s state of residence

Often smaller in size

May have a religious affiliation

“Sticker price” may appear higher

Northwestern, U of Chicago, Lake Forest College, DePaul, Loyola, Bradley, Knox, Illinois Wesleyan, St. Francis, Augustana, Elmhurst

Admission Plans

Early Decision (ED) - Binding, can only apply ED to one school, private schools

Restrictive Early Action (REA) - Non-binding, rules vary, but restrict what admissions plans that you can use at other schools.

Early Action (EA) - non-binding, non-restrictive, often tied to scholarships, public/private

Regular Decision - non-binding, later deadlines/decisions, public/private

Rolling Admissions - non-binding, ongoing, public/private

Admissions Selectivity

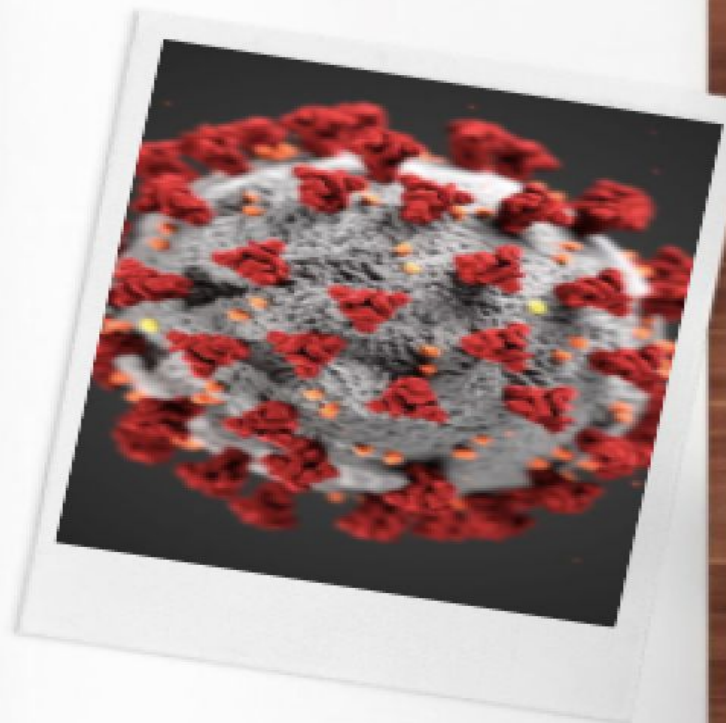
- Varies depending on the college/university and can even vary *within* the school
- Schools that admit fewer than 25% of applicants are unpredictable
- *Where You Go is not Who You'll Be*, Frank Bruni
- Where you start does not necessarily determine where you'll finish - a word about community colleges

Admissions Criteria

- ❑ Minimum course requirements (English, math, science, social studies, world language, etc.)
- ❑ Grades and grade trends
- ❑ Course rigor
- ❑ Standardized test scores (ACT/SAT)
- ❑ Extracurricular and community participation/leadership
- ❑ Essays
- ❑ Letters of recommendation
- ❑ Demonstrated interest

Optional COVID Essay

- ▶ Truly Optional.
- ▶ Consider keeping any COVID related essay in this section. Show more sides of "student" in the other essays.
- ▶ Keep big picture in mind, if nothing really to say, no need to write in this section.
 - ▶ Illness or loss within your family or support network
 - ▶ Employment or housing disruptions
 - ▶ Food insecurity
 - ▶ Toll on mental and emotional health
 - ▶ New obligations such as part-time work or care for siblings or family members
 - ▶ Availability of computer or internet access required to continue your studies
 - ▶ Access to a safe and quiet study space
 - ▶ A new direction for your major or career interests



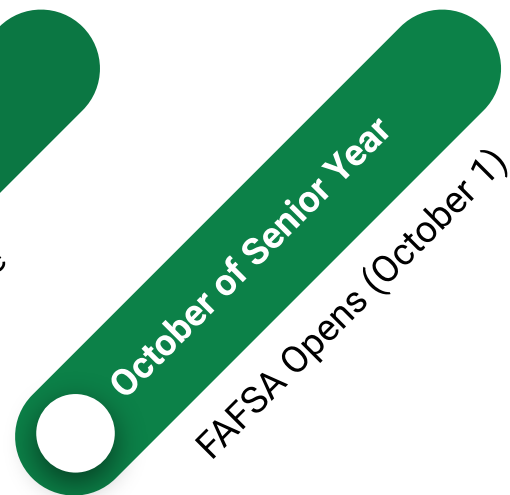
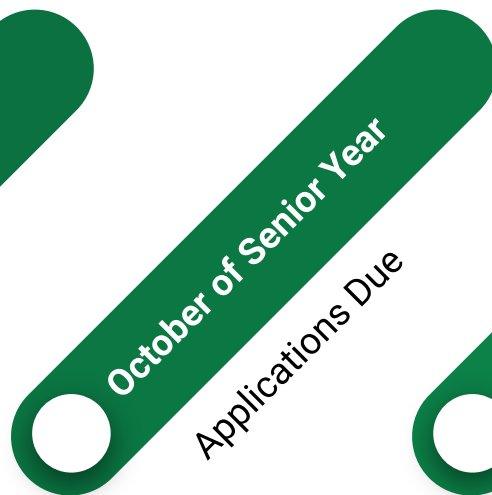
Suggested Coursework

- ❑ English- 4 years
- ❑ Math- 3-4 years
- ❑ Science- 3-4 years
- ❑ Social Studies- 3-4 years
- ❑ World Language- 2-4 years
- ❑ Fine Arts- 1 year

Standardized Testing

- SAT and/or ACT are accepted at all colleges/universities
- Tests are designed to be taken in spring of junior year
- Many (even most) universities are **test optional**
 - **Fairtest.org**
 - **Go to specific school website**
- **April 13, 2021: all juniors will take SAT + essay during the school day**

Important Dates



Timeline: Sophomore year

- ❑ Seek opportunities for career/interest exploration
- ❑ Seek support from your counselor during course selection to help you find appropriate academic coursework and rigor to meet educational and career goals (November, 2020)
- ❑ Link your College Board and Khan Academy accounts in preparation for the PSAT and SAT
- ❑ Begin to explore colleges and admission criteria
- ❑ Attend sophomore SCoPE meeting with your counselor (spring)
- ❑ CCC event for sophomore families (spring, 2021)

Timeline: Junior Year

- ❑ Continue to explore interests
- ❑ Attend college fairs and college rep visits
- ❑ CCC event for junior families (December 9, 2020)
- ❑ Seek support from your counselor during course selection to help you find appropriate academic coursework and rigor to meet educational and career goals (January, 2021)
- ❑ Schedule a junior P-SCoPE meeting with post-secondary counselor (spring)
- ❑ SAT exam - (April 13, 2021)
- ❑ ACT exam (optional)

Timeline: Senior year

- ❑ **October 1** - FAFSA opens (recommended completion by end of October)
- ❑ October - Attend FAFSA Completion Night and Financial Aid Night at SHS
- ❑ Retake ACT/SAT no later than end of October (optional)
- ❑ **October 15** - “recommended” application deadline for all public universities and all ED/REA/EA applications
- ❑ **November 30** - “recommended” deadline for all other four-year universities
- ❑ Fall - attend college rep visits in the CCC
- ❑ Fall - attend college fairs
- ❑ Visit college campuses
- ❑ **May 1** - Commit to one college

Questions?

