



Session 4: College Paperwork

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A few quick notes on specific pieces of college paperwork:

Applications

- Applications do have fees. They vary by school.
- The Common Application asks about your family's educational background.

Transcripts

- SCLA takes care of sending senior students' transcripts to colleges when requested.
- Some schools do require the applicant to report their own courses and grades.

Letters of Recommendation: Look for the number of letters a school would like. Some schools only want one (and they mean that they really do *only* want one). Some schools will take up to 10.

Student Essay(s):

- Committees *do read* the essays.
- Encourage your student to work on these essays during the summer between junior and senior year. A committee can tell if the essay was rushed or thrown together. A good essay may take time.
- SCLA encourages students to use their creativity to make their essay stand out from, possibly, hundreds of others.

FAFSA and other financial considerations

- SCLA typically holds a presentation by Jeff Younge, a financial aid director from Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, each year. We were not able to hold this in the fall of 2020, but look for future updates.
- Access a [previously recorded presentation](#) by Jeff. Use the *passcode: 5zfU9@6M*

NCAA/NAIA eligibility and registration

- Official visits to colleges cannot happen till after you have registered with the NCAA
- Only verbal offers are allowed before registration (these are not official)

Course Selection at SCLA

- February/March of 2021: students will meet with their academic advisor to select courses for next year.
- Large-group guidance meetings will also occur at this time to ensure students are aware of necessary college credits.

Admissions Testing

- Many schools have temporarily gone test-optional. Students should research their schools' requirements.
- ACT Prep Class at SCLA begins Sun, Jan 10. \$200 for three sessions includes practice ACT test. Register at StCroixLutheran.org/ACT. SAT and TOEFL (English proficiency test) classes are also available.

Miscellaneous

- Volunteer Hours
 - We use a software called [x2VOL](#) to track service hours.
 - Service hour transcripts can be requested through x2VOL. (Service hours are not listed on the SCLA transcript.) This can help differentiate one student from another, especially in our test-optional world, as it shows student's activities outside the academic world.
- Advanced Placement (AP)
 - Classes include taking the test, not just the course itself
 - Different colleges accept different test scores - check to see if credit has been gained
- PSEO
 - Not every college or university accepts these credits.
 - SCLA belongs to the "[Advantage Partner School](#)" program at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato.
 - Students also take courses from colleges and universities from all around MN and Concordia (Mequon & Ann Arbor).

[SCLA College Guidance webpage](#)

How can we better help your student and family?

Email your thoughts to Anna Biedenbender (Domestic Admissions Counselor) at ABiedenbender@StCroixLutheran.org.