



**HOLY FAMILY  
HIGH SCHOOL**

# Monthly Newsletter

# College Counselor

November 2021

by College Counseling Department

Volume XXII Issue 3

**Freshman College Night for Parents & Students — December 4th. at 6 p.m. (Zoom Event)**  
**College Night for all Sophomores & Parents — January 8th at 6 p.m. (Zoom Event)**

## College Applications

Now is the time when applications should be completed!

Although a college may have a January or even later deadline for applications, it is important to realize that an application received earlier will often receive a quicker and sometimes a more favorable response. Colleges are often impressed with the student who demonstrates the initiative to get the paperwork done early. Furthermore, in order to be considered for an academic or merit-based scholarship, some colleges expect a student to have an admission application submitted well before the regular deadline.

Also, seniors must realize that when they turn in applications to us to be processed, they do not get sent out that day. At peak times, it may take us as many as fifteen school days to get the school recommendation report sent out. They must consider this fact in their planning. **We continue to tell students that applications should be completed by the end of Thanksgiving Break.**

## Online Applications

Almost every college prefers you apply online! The best way to do this is to submit your application online through the college's website or the Common-App. Follow through by requesting your transcripts and recommendations on Naviance Student. This will let us know that an application was submitted so that we can send your transcript and the school report.

The Common Application is accepted by over 900 colleges. It is a great way to apply to many colleges with only one application. [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)

## Test Scores

Students own their test scores. Going forward, HF students will be responsible for submitting scores to colleges. More colleges go test optional, test flexible, and superscore in a variety of ways every year, and we want to assure we are not sending scores.

## Counselor Contact

Has your senior kept us informed about his/her college plans? We had individual meetings with most of the seniors this fall, but not all of them have followed up that initial meeting. We usually find that lack of contact means lack of action. Encourage your son or daughter to take advantage of the assistance that we can offer, whether that be with filling out applications, deciding which ones to complete, or working on essays and resume. Every student has important decisions to make, and we want to assist them in every way we can. This is true for everyone regardless of GPA, etc.

## College Opportunity Fund

Register for in-state tuition if you are applying to our public colleges!  
<https://cof.college-assist.org/>

## Scholarships

Encourage your seniors to keep their eyes and ears open for scholarship opportunities. Each week, a list of scholarships for which we have application information is updated on the HF website, school bulletin boards and on Naviance Student. In addition, ALL SENIORS should do an online search. One the best scholarship search sites is probably [www.scholarsnapp.org](http://www.scholarsnapp.org), but there are many great websites.

## Have Questions?

Attend one of these programs:

*Zoom Links will be sent prior to Zoom Events*

### Conversation with the College Counselors (Zoom Event)

-November 4th, 6:00 p.m.

-March 3rd, 6:00 p.m.

-April 7th, 6:00 p.m.

### Freshman College Night (Zoom Event)

Wednesday, December 4th at 6 p.m.

### Sophomore College Night (Zoom Event)

Wednesday, January 8th at 6 p.m.

### Test Dates

#### SAT

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Deadline
Nov. 6	Oct. 8	Oct. 26
Dec. 4	Nov. 4	Nov. 23
Mar. 12	Feb. 11	Mar. 1
May 7	Apr. 8	Apr. 26
June 4	May 5	May 25

#### ACT

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Deadline
Dec. 11	Nov. 5	Nov. 19
Feb. 12	Jan. 7	Jan. 21
Apr. 2	Feb. 25	Mar. 11
June 11	May 6	May 20
July 16	June 17	June 24

Register on-line:

[www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) (SAT)

[www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org).

## FAFSA and Profile

Completing the FAFSA online ensures rapid processing. You can get a jumpstart on the process by registering for a FSA ID today at [fsaid.ed.gov](https://fsaid.ed.gov).

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) must be completed by every family who wishes to be considered for need-based financial aid. With college costs as they are, you are strongly encouraged to submit this application. Even some merit-based scholarships and on-campus jobs require that the FAFSA be filed. You are asked to complete the form as soon as possible after October 1. Most colleges have a priority deadline for the FAFSA of February 15th. It should be completed online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](https://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

In addition, some colleges, particularly private schools, will require that you also complete the *Profile*. This form requests additional information which the FAFSA does not. The *Profile* requires a fee. Registration for the *Profile* can be done online at [www.collegeboard.org](https://www.collegeboard.org).

Further financial aid information can be found on the Web at [www.finaid.org](https://www.finaid.org) and [www.studentaid.ed.gov](https://www.studentaid.ed.gov).

## Net Price Calculator

Colleges are required to have a Net Price Calculator on their website. The calculator will allow you to enter your grades and test scores then it will provide an estimate of merit-based scholarships you might receive. And, it will allow you to enter income and family information then provide you with an estimate of need-based financial aid.

## College Rep Visits

College admission representatives are scheduled to continue visiting HF through November. Many students find these meetings to be a great opportunity to learn more about colleges as well as make a personal contact. Colleges value these visits as a recruiting tool. Take advantage of these opportunities! They are listed on Naviance, the school webpage, and the bulletin boards.

## Campus Visits

Many seniors and juniors have taken advantage of the opportunities which colleges offer for open house programs, campus tours, and overnight stays. We encourage these as a great chance to get an inside look at the school. Be sure to make arrangements in advance and to complete an Application for Advanced Absence.

## ACT & SAT Registration

Any senior who did not take the ACT in October and/or SAT by November is strongly encouraged to do so in December. We recommend that students take both tests at least twice. Registration materials are available online and in the College Counseling Center.

Juniors are also *strongly* encouraged to start making plans to take both the SAT and ACT twice before the end of the school year. **We recommend that they wait until second semester.** A few highly selective colleges also require the SAT II. We recommend taking these in June and taking them in subjects in which the student is advanced.

Juniors will take the ACT in school on March 29th and the SAT in school on April 26th. The standard test fees apply; watch for an email requesting payment online.

## Juniors

It is never too early to start considering college choices. Many juniors have also sat in on the meetings held with the college reps when they visit. Much can be learned about college possibilities which can assist in some initial decision making. Issues such as size, prestige, location, and possible majors can guide some early searching.

The Internet is an especially valuable tool for juniors as they conduct their college search. Naviance Student is a great place to start. Specific favorite websites of ours can be found on the HF website and in the College Planning Handbook which is available in the main office.

Starting soon, we will meet with each junior and his/her parents to map a plan of action. We ask students to schedule these meetings directly with us.

## College Planning Seminar (Zoom Event)

All 10th and 11th grade students and their parents are expected to attend the College Planning Seminar at Holy Family. This program will occur on January 5th at 6 p.m. We will provide detailed information about the entire college selection process, including standardized testing, financial aid, and the college search. We are sure that you will find this evening valuable.

## Underclassmen

Even though college may seem like a long way off for freshmen and sophomores, much of the groundwork for that decision is being set right now. Good grades, strong curriculum, and serious involvement in activities are important factors in getting into the college of one's choice.

## Freshman College Night (Zoom Event)

On December 4th at 6 p.m., we host a college night for freshmen and their parents. Pre-ACT results will be returned to students at school. College admission will be covered in detail, including highly selective and military academy admission, athletic and other scholarships.

