



**HOLY FAMILY
HIGH SCHOOL**

Monthly Newsletter

College Counselor

December 2021

by College Counseling Department

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Freshmen College Night for Parents and Students

December 1, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. (Zoom Event)

PreACT results have been returned to your student at school.

(If your student does not have them, please remind them to stop by the Counseling Center to pick their test results up.)

Sophomore College Night Parents and Students

January 5, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. (Zoom Event)

PreACT results will be returned to your student at school.

PSAT test results are available in your student's college board account

Seniors! App materials to be submitted before Christmas should be requested by December 13th, 2021

Seniors! It is time to search and apply for scholarships if you have not already begun!
www.scholarships.com

FAFSA and Profile

Completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is required in order to qualify for need-based financial aid at any college or university. Considering the high cost of attending college, everyone is encouraged to take the time to complete the FAFSA. www.fafsa.ed.gov

Apply for your FSA ID today and your FAFSA will be processed much quicker. <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>

As noted in previous issues, some colleges, typically private schools, will ask that you submit the *Profile* in addition to the FAFSA. Check the information which you have about each college to which your senior is applying. If the *Profile* is required, you can register at <http://profileonline.collegeboard.org/prf/index.jsp>. The *Profile* requires a fee. The *Profile* can and should be done now.

Some colleges also include a separate financial aid application as part of the admission application. Be certain to fill this out as well.

All forms should be submitted by February 15th.

Fortunately, most colleges are committed to being need-blind in admission and also meeting the demonstrated need of the family.

Feel free to call us if you have any questions about financial aid.

Net Price Calculator

All colleges should have a Net Price Calculator on their website. The calculator will allow you to enter your grades and test scores then 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.

Juniors

For juniors, the college search process begins in earnest with the start of the new year. As seniors will attest, the most difficult part of the college application process is deciding where to apply. The task of making appropriate choices from among over 3200 colleges may seem somewhat overwhelming. To keep the search manageable, it is important to be organized. As college counselors, we will help you understand what to do and when. It is essential that the students are

actively involved in the research and decision making. No one can do this for them.

Consider these activities in the coming months:

Just about everything you could possibly want to know about college selection is available on the Internet. Your computer is a direct connection to a wealth of information about college. We have compiled a list of valuable Websites for college information. Check Naviance, The HF College counseling web page, or the College Planning Handbook for this list and other valuable information.

Beginning in January, we will meet individually with juniors and their parents. In these meetings, we will examine the academic record and aspirations of the students and families and work with them to develop a college plan.

All juniors will take the ACT at HF on Tuesday, March 29th and the SAT on Tuesday, April 26th. The fee for both combined is \$100 payable to HF Facts Account, and we will register our students for that test. Students should take the SAT and/or ACT at least twice by the October test date of their senior

year. Registration for those tests should be completed online. **We encourage you to wait until spring of junior year to do your first testing and to complete testing by December of senior year.**

Free test prep links from test companies:

<https://www.khanacademy.org/SAT>

(Use Access Codes on PSAT)

<https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation/free-act-test-prep.html>

ACT - Free

In the College Counseling Center we have several worthwhile books with valuable information about college decision making, finding the right match, the application process, testing, and finding scholarships. We also have a collection of college guidebooks and catalogs. Students are welcome to borrow these materials overnight.

Throughout the months ahead, juniors will receive a barrage of information about colleges. They should make the most of the information they receive and consider some preliminary decisions about level of selectivity, size, location, setting, possible major, facilities, activities, cost, etc.

The spring is an excellent time to tour college campuses. A great deal can be learned by making a two hour visit to a college. Spring break is a great time to visit because most colleges are still in session. Try to include college visits in family travel plans.

Juniors and parents should also plan to attend College Fairs this spring. Either in-person or virtual It is a great opportunity to gather information and ask specific questions.

Underclassmen

We are often asked by parents of freshmen and sophomores, "What should we be doing about college?" Although it is certainly never too early to begin reading about and visiting colleges to learn about the possibilities, when it comes to college planning the most important thing that your student can do is get good grades and get involved.

Colleges unanimously indicate that the most important factor which governs an admission decision is the high school transcript: curriculum and grades. Colleges want to know where the student went to school, how did the student challenge him/herself within the available curriculum, how well did he/she meet those challenges. To a lesser extent, SAT and ACT scores, involvement in extracurricular activities, personal essays, and recommendations are considered. The academic record is always **number one**.

College is for every GPA

There are over 2200 four year colleges. Only 283 accept less than half of their applicants. 373 accept all high school graduates. The great majority of HF graduates are admissible to the vast majority of colleges!

And, there are over 1000 colleges that do not require ACT/SAT scores for admission!



Test Dates

SAT

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Deadline
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
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 (SAT)

www.actstudent.org.