

Senior Guide

Planning For Your Future



Faribault High School

2022-2023

Class of 2023: Important Senior Information

1) Road to Graduation - Where do you stand? Verify your credits.

- 23 credits to graduate – minimum
- The Arts Standard

2) Deciding on a post-high school plan... Thinking about College? What criteria is important to you for continuing your education? What criteria do colleges review? Class Rank, Standardized Test(s), High School Coursework?

- Four-Year College: Public or Private
- Two-Year Community and Technical Colleges
- Career Schools (e.g. cosmetology, travel, culinary arts, music tech, etc.)

3) College Entrance Exams - SAT/ACT

- **IMPORTANT** - Faribault High School Code (CEEB Code) is **240-805**
- **Due to COVID many colleges are waiving the college entrance exam requirement. Check with the college(s) you are interested in.**

4) College Visits - How to make one!

- Most college offer in-person campus visits (Refer to college websites)
- Many colleges offer virtual visits via their website

5) Visiting with College Representatives at FHS

- College Reps are available in the Career Center regularly
- Check Schoology, posters near the Counseling Office doors, listen to the announcements for dates and times
- Check Naviance Student

6) Personal Data Sheets - Complete this for letters of recommendation

- For teacher recommendations, scholarships, job applications, college admission appeals, etc. (handout in back of this packet)

7) College Application Procedures

- Refer to this Senior Guide

8) Visit your School Counselor - We're not just here to change your schedule!

- Visit the Career Center. Mrs. McNelis is able to answer most questions.

9) Financial Aid

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (**FAFSA**) Available on October 1st.
- Many colleges have a priority deadline for financial aid consideration

10) Scholarship Information

- Scholarship file available in the Career Center and posted on Schoology
- Scholarships may be available through parent(s)/guardian(s)' work place, church, colleges/universities, and local organizations/businesses
- See Scholarship websites listed on pages 14-15 in this Senior Guide
- Naviance Student: "Scholarship lists" (local), and "National scholarship lists"
- Scholarship opportunities arise throughout the year - check regularly!

Senior Year Timeline

October

- Many colleges are providing **FREE Application** opportunities during this month, called "College Knowledge Month". Check it out: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rhx49tEoVt7xRd7Dc1sFmao9kbR2z6Kx/view>
- **FAFSA** application available - October 1st
- Be watchful of colleges that waive application fees
- Register for the appropriate college admissions test. ACT and SAT tests vary for each school: research this carefully. Community Colleges administer their own tests
- Determine if high school courses meet college/career/**NCAA** requirements
- Begin applications either by visiting college websites or start in the Career Center.
- Begin applying to colleges. Allow 2 weeks for processing of transcripts!
- Verify with your counselor that your schedule has the classes you need to graduate.
- Call the Admissions Office of the college to make arrangements for your visit
- Research private sources for scholarships
- Be aware of Early Action and Early Decision deadlines
- Request recommendations from teachers, if needed
- Attend a Virtual College Fair: www.virtualcollegefairs.org
- Attend the National College Fair at Minneapolis Convention Center, October 5&6.
- Some colleges will ask for you to fill out a second financial aid form called the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE. Minnesota colleges that use the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE are Carlton, Gustavus Adolphus, Macalester and St. Olaf.
- **ACT Test - October 22rd: Must register by September 16th**

November

- **Registration deadline for the December 10th ACT test is November 4th**
- Begin finalizing college choices
- Submit completed applications, recommendations, and application fees to the college(s) you are interested in attending
- Complete and submit Transcript Request in Naviance Student
- **A suggested goal is to have your college applications completed and submitted before November 1st.** Again, check each college for their application deadline. For example, Early Action Deadline for the University of MN is Nov. 1st
- Deadline for many Early Action/Early Decision Applications
- **Financial Aid Night - November 1st at 6:00pm** in the Media Center.
- **FAFSA Completion Night - November 15th from 4-7pm** in the Media Center.

December

- **ACT Test - December 10th**
- If you have not submitted your financial aid application, do so now. Some financial aid is given on a first come, first serve basis.

January

- **Registration deadline for the Feb 11th-ACT is January 6th**
- Honor Graduates "Gold Cord" determined after Semester 1. (Cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher)
- Review your Financial Student Aid Report (SAR) based on your completed FAFSA

February

- **Keep up your grades!** If you are on a waiting list, your grades can become the determining factor. Colleges have the right to "rescind" an acceptance even after you have been accepted....this has happened!
- **ACT Test - February 11th**
- Check deadlines for financial aid applications and housing applications at all colleges still being considered.

March

- If you plan to begin full-time employment after graduation, you should begin applying for jobs.
- If possible, visit all colleges to which you have applied, if you have not already done so.
- Decide which school you will attend and return housing contracts and fees by the deadline.
- If you have not applied for admission to a post-secondary school, IT MAY NOT BE TOO LATE - DO SO NOW!
- **Registration deadline for April 15th ACT is March 10th**
- **Watch your mail for info on the Faribault Area Public Schools Educational Trust Association Scholarship** (FAPSETA) - Eligibility for a graduating senior is based on being a full time student and having taken a minimum of one semester of classes at Faribault High School, Falcon Online Academy, or Faribault Area Learning Center (ALC).

April

- Review college acceptance notices. Complete necessary forms. Finalize your choices.
- Review scholarship acceptance notices and rejection information. Complete forms.
- **ACT Test - April 15th**
- Complete applications for summer jobs, if you have not already done so.
- **Keep up with your academic work. Colleges will review your final grades.**

May

- Advanced Placement Exams
- **Senior Awards Night - Scholarships distributed - Wednesday, May 17th**
- Graduation Practice
- During graduation practice, Mrs. Fritz will be CONFIRMING where you would like your **FINAL TRANSCRIPTS** to be sent. **IF** you do not talk with her, **YOU** need to let her know where you are going to college next year.
- Graduation Day is June 4th, 2022

June

- Attend orientation meetings offered by the college you plan on attending ✓
REMINDER - Make sure Mrs. Fritz knows where she will be sending your FINAL TRANSCRIPT!!! 😊

CONGRATULATIONS. GOOD LUCK AND BEST WISHES in all that you do in the future! Come back and visit, we love to hear how and what you're doing!

ACT/SAT Exam Basic Facts

- College entrance exams may be taken more than once. Colleges will take your highest score.
- The ACT is an achievement test that measures English, math, science, and reading. The four tests are averaged together to determine an overall composite score, which can range from 1-36. Many colleges require the ACT Plus Writing Test. View www.act.org for an up-to-date list of colleges requiring the ACT Plus Writing Test. **Many colleges require that your ACT scores be sent electronically from ACT to your colleges of choice. You must upload a photo when registering online. There are deadlines to upload your photo! See the ACT website for instructions.**
- Students can register for the ACT online at www.act.org. You will be asked to provide a testing code for Faribault High School. Our testing code for all tests is **240-805**. The testing agency will communicate directly with you on items such as test location, test admission ticket, and any missing items or fees.
- The SAT is an aptitude test that measures critical reading, math and writing. Each test is scored on a scale of 400-1600. To register, go to www.sat.org/register.
- If you are taking the ACT or SAT for a second time, you can re-register online. Free practice test questions are available on the ACT and SAT website and additional materials can be found in the Counseling Office.

- Fairtest.org is a site that includes a list of colleges that are “test optional,” “test flexible” or otherwise de-emphasize the use of standardized tests by making admissions decisions without using ACT or SAT scores.

College Application and Transcript Procedure Faribault High School

1) Decide on the College(s) where you wish to apply and APPLY EARLY (early, meaning by November 1st). You may apply to just one college, or several. There is not a correct number of colleges to apply to. It needs to fit your goals. Many have early deadlines. Check them out. Many colleges will accept you late - BUT if you need to find a place to live - that can be a problem. Consider your dream school - and a back-up plan!

2) Application Process:

- Check out the college’s website for application procedures and **READ CAREFULLY!**
- **Be prepared** to pay with a Debit or Credit card, upon completion of your application.
- If eligible for a fee waiver, please come to the Counseling office

3.) Application/Transcript Procedure:

- ****You must submit your college application(s) before requesting your transcript.**
- Visit the Faribault HS homepage. Go to the ‘**Student**’ tab and click on ‘**Clever**’
 - Username: Infinite Campus ID Number
 - Password: Infinite Campus password
- Once in **Clever**, click on the **Naviance** app
 1. From **Colleges I’m Applying To**, click the **Add** button (+ sign in upper right corner)
 2. From **Which College Are You Applying To?** Use the drop-down or type the name of the desired college and select from the matches.
 3. From **App Type**, click the drop-down to identify your answer.
 4. From **I’ll Submit My Application?** Click the drop-down to identify your answer.
 5. Check **I’ve Submitted My Application**. This must be done before requesting your transcript.
 6. Click **Add and Request Transcript**.
 7. From **What Type of Transcript Are You Requesting?** Select **initial**.
 8. Click **Request and Finish**.
 9. If you’re using Common Application, click **Colleges I’m Applying To**, then select **Match Accounts**.
 10. If your school requires a secondary school or teacher recommendation, make sure you notify your counselor or teacher.

DONE! After this procedure, Mrs. Fritz will be sent a message and she will be able to submit your transcripts electronically to your school(s).

College Recommendations: Whom and when to ask?

Many colleges require letters of recommendation. Some require that you obtain recommendations from teachers in specific subjects; others will allow you to make the choice. The teachers' recommendations should support the other data regarding academic and personal characteristics submitted in your application. Instructors who have taught you recently and know you well, regardless of the grade you earned in their class, are the best choices. Still other schools may ask for a personal recommendation from someone like your pastor, employer or someone for whom you did volunteer work.

There is often a space on the recommendation where you **may waive your legal right to see references** that are written on your behalf. We suggest that you waive this right. If you have chosen your "recommenders" wisely, there should be no reason for you to see what they have actually written. By waiving your rights, you show an admissions officer that you have confidence in what is being written on your behalf.

Asking for the Teacher/Counselor Recommendation:

The appropriate way to ask a teacher to write a recommendation will go something

like this: *"Would you feel comfortable writing a recommendation for me?"*

You should ask teachers for recommendations as early in the application process as possible (usually early Fall) and then provide them with the completed Personal Data form at least **two weeks** before the application is due. After you have asked your teacher/counselor, you will need to request the letter of recommendation in your Naviance Student account, in order for them to complete their process.

The Naviance Student process for requesting teacher/counselor recommendations (AFTER you have provided them with the completed personal data form) is as follows:

- ✓ **Colleges**
- ✓ **Apply to College**
- ✓ **Letters of Recommendation**
- ✓ **Add Request**
- ✓ Select Teacher/Counselor
- ✓ Select **Which colleges this request is for?**
- ✓ Include a personal note to the recommender (i.e. deadlines, specific instructions) ✓
Click **Submit Request**

Thank You Notes are Very Important

Once you have been informed that the recommendation has been written, **it is important** to write a thank you note. Someone, who is taking the time to do something this **special** for you, deserves a written thank you acknowledging your gratitude. Writing a recommendation often represents several hours of work on your behalf, so it is important to express your appreciation.

Tips to Help Make your College Selection and Application a Success **“Where am I going?”**

As you begin the college exploration process it is important to exercise a fair amount of self examination as well as examination of opportunities available to you. Few decisions you make in life will seem more important than your choice of a college. Your college choice may influence your future career path, where you live and work in the future, and may also provide you with an opportunity to make lifetime friendships. When entering this process it is important to understand that selecting a college is not an exact science. There is no **ONE** college that is the one “*perfect fit*” for anyone. The trick is not to get “hung up” on one school or to think of college as a prize, but rather to establish and identify your own unique criteria for selecting a college, then carefully research a range of those schools that fit your criteria. You should begin by asking yourself these general questions:

- What do I hope to achieve by a college education?
- Does the college offer the program of study I want?
- What is the college’s placement record in the major I have chosen?
- Do I want a large or a small school?
- Do I want to attend a public or private school?
- Do I want a specialized school or a liberal arts college?
- Is the location convenient?
- Do I want to stay at home, or live in a dormitory or apartment?
- What kind of social life do I want?
- What is the atmosphere of the campus?
- Does it offer any extra-curricular activities I’m interested in?
- How does my high school rank compare with other students who attend this college?
In other words, will I be able to compete?
- What will it cost ~ tuition & fees?
- Will I qualify for financial aid there?
- Do I want to work part-time while in school? Does the school help in part-time job placement?
- Why do I think this is a good fit for me?

REMEMBER!

There is more than one school where a student can be happy and receive an excellent education. What you do in college is a better predictor of future success and happiness, rather than where you go to college.

The College Essay

Why do colleges require an essay?

- To learn more about the applicant. They want to know more about you, the person behind the list of credits and activities.
- To see if the applicant can write in a clear, concise and effective manner. They want to see if YOU are really capable of doing college-level work.
- To give the student a chance to shine. They want to afford you an opportunity to distinguish yourself from the other applicants.
- The more selective the college, the more importance they place on the essay. Selective schools expect you to be a good writer.

What do colleges look for in an essay?

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| A. Writing Ability | F. Intellectual Curiosity |
| B. Initiative and Motivation | G. Creativity |
| C. Self-discipline | H. Depth of Character |
| D. Capacity for Growth | I. Leadership Potential |
| E. Commitment to an Issue or Belief | J. Clarity and Organization of Thought |

For Athletes Only

NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association)

The NCAA purpose is to help student athletes succeed on the field and in the classroom. Student athletes should register with the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse after the completion of their junior year in high school. Students who are planning on participating in Division I or Division II athletics need to submit a transcript of their grades. These scores should be sent directly to the clearinghouse by entering code "9999" as a reporting selection when they register for the exam. The registration fee is \$100. NCAA forms and information are available at the NCAA Web site at www.ncaa.org. You may check our list of NCAA-approved core courses at any time by linking to the Clearinghouse page of the NCAA website at www.eligibilitycenter.org.

MILITARY

In addition to serving your country, the military offers many benefits to its enlistees. Excellent training, traveling, and GI benefits to help pay for college are a few of the perks. To enlist in the military you must be 18 years of age, meet the physical requirements, be a U.S. citizen, and a high school graduate. The ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) is a free assessment designed to determine an interesting field of study and place you in specialized training. The **ASVAB will be given** on November 15th at FHS. Please listen for announcements.

Investigate the branch of the military that would be of interest to you. Military recruiters are available to meet with you in the Career Center. See your counselor for more information or check out these websites:

www.airforce.com
www.navy.mil

www.goarmy.com
www.marines.com
www.uscg.mil (U.S. Coast
Guard)

www.ang.af.mil (Air
National Guard)
www.militarycareers.com

Military academies offer four years of college education leading to a bachelor's degree. Students must be nominated by their congressmen/women for an appointment to an academy. Tuition is covered and a military commitment follows graduation.

ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) is a program that trains men and women in college to become officers in the military. Students receive two to five hours of military training per week at specific colleges. Scholarships and stipends are an incentive for those interested in leadership roles in the military. Information is in the Career Center or see your local recruiter.

EMPLOYMENT/ON THE JOB TRAINING

Entering the workforce can provide you with on the job training. You can begin earning money right away and save on school expenses. Finding a job where you can continue to learn new skills and with it, more salary, is the best choice for employment directly out of high school.

Employment and training services throughout the State of Minnesota have been compiled and are available at Workforce Centers. These "one stop shops" provide all your employment needs. Each Workforce Center is designed to assist job seekers and has a resource center filled with materials to help you find the right job. To find the Workforce Center near you go to the following web site:

www.mn.gov/deed/job-seekers. A comprehensive web site,
<http://careerwise.minnstate.edu>, has a lot of information about careers, job openings, skills, financial aid, and more. It also connects to Minnesota's job bank that lists updated job postings daily.

Words to know to be an “in the know” Senior

A.A. degree: This stands for “associate of arts” degree, which can be earned at most 2-year colleges.

A.A.S. degree: This refers to an “associate of applied science” degree, which can be earned at some 2-year colleges. These are usually programs of study that are more technical in nature, but also involve courses in general ed, such as English, Social Sciences, etc.

ACT: This is a college admissions test published by American College Testing which measures a student’s achievement in English skills, mathematics, reading and science reasoning. Most 4- year colleges require scores from this test for admission. **Due to COVID, many schools are not requiring scores to be sent. Check college admissions websites.**

B.A. or B.S. degree: B.A. stands for “bachelor of arts,” and B.S. stands for “bachelor of science” degree. Both degrees are 4-year college degrees. It depends on what major you are in, as to what degree you earn. Ex. Teaching degrees are B.S. degrees, while a degree in English Literature would be a B.A. degree.

CEEB Number: The individual code that has been assigned to your high school. The CEEB Number for Faribault High School is **240-805**

Common Application: This is an undergraduate college admission application that people may use to apply to any of nearly 900 member colleges and universities.

CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE: This is an additional financial aid profile that select schools use in determining a total financial aid package.

Early Action: An admission plan used primarily in highly selective colleges. Under Early Action, you follow an accelerated process and usually apply by November 1. You will be notified of a decision sooner than Regular Admission, but, if you are accepted, you do not have to let the school know your decision until May 1.

Early Decision: An admission plan offered to well-qualified applicants who are definitely committed to their choice of college. Applicants will be notified of their acceptance or refusal in December. Acceptance under Early Decision requires you to withdraw applications at other colleges.

E.F.C: Expected Family Contribution: An amount given on your FAFSA results, determined by a formula that is specified by law, that indicates how much of a family’s financial resources should be available to help pay for college.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA): This is a form that can be prepared annually by current and prospective college students (undergraduate and

graduate) in the United States to determine their eligibility for student financial aid.

Financial Aid: Refers to money available from various sources to help pay for college.

Financial Aid Package: The total amount of financial aid a student receives. Federal and non Federal aid such as grants, loans, or work-study are combined in a “package” to help meet the student’s need.

Financial Need: A family’s EFC remains the same even when the price of the school increases: Examples: Price of College A = \$15,000, less EFC of \$3,500 = \$11,500.
Price of College B = \$35,000, less EFC of \$3,500 = \$31,500.

FSA ID: The username and password you use on federal student aid websites such as fafsa.gov and StudentLoans.gov

Grant: A sum of money given for college expenses that does not need to be repaid.

Loan: A type of financial aid available to students and parents that must be repaid, but, in many cases, not until after the education is complete.

Official Transcript: A certified copy of your transcript sent directly to the institution of your choice from Faribault High School. **This document is NOT hand carried by the student or parent.** It includes your classes and class grades, cumulative grade point average, class rank, ACT or SAT scores (if taken), and immunization records. Colleges require official transcripts with applications for admission.

Open Admissions: Means slightly different things at different schools, but generally means that a college will admit most or all students who apply to the school. This can mean anyone with a H.S. diploma, GED, or is over 18.

Post-secondary: This term means “after high school” and refers to all programs for high school graduates, including two and four year colleges, vocational and technical schools.

Proprietary: Term used to describe post-secondary schools that are private and are legally permitted to make a profit. Most offer technical and vocational courses.

Private Colleges/Universities: Schools are not publicly funded with taxpayer dollars. Costs are usually much higher than public colleges and universities.

Public Colleges/Universities: These schools are partially funded by taxpayer money, which keeps the cost down for students.

Reciprocity: This is an agreement between Minnesota, North and South Dakota and Wisconsin public colleges and universities to accept in-state tuition for students from those states. For example, if you were to attend the U of Wisconsin at Madison you would pay about the same as it would cost to attend the U of M- Twin Cities.

Some colleges on the Iowa/Minnesota border will allow this.

Regular Admissions: Most applications fall in this category. Applications are typically due in late fall or winter. Admission under this plan is not binding. This plan is best used for students who apply to several schools or who want to review multiple financial aid offers before making a final decision.

SAT: (Scholastic Aptitude Test) This college entrance test measures a student's aptitude in math, critical reading and writing. Many colleges on the East and West coasts require SAT test results for college admission. **Due to COVID, many schools are waiving the SAT requirement for admissions.**

Scholarship: A sum of money given to a student for the purpose of paying for at least part of college. Scholarships can be awarded to students based on the student's academic achievements, athletic achievements, volunteer experiences or on many other factors.

Selective College: Colleges that are more restrictive in their acceptance of students. This usually means they are difficult to get into. GPA, class rank and ACT or SAT scores must be high.

Subsidized Stafford Loan: Available to students who demonstrate financial need. The U.S. Department of Education pays the interest while the student is in school.

Unsubsidized Stafford Loan: Students are not required to demonstrate financial need. The U.S. Department of Education does not pay interest on unsubsidized loans.

Tuition: This is the amount of money that colleges charge for classroom and other instruction and use of facilities, such as libraries. Tuition can range from a few thousand dollars per year to more than \$50,000; depending upon the school and the state.

Work-Study Programs: Many colleges offer these programs. They allow students to work part time during the school year as part of their financial aid package. The jobs are usually on campus and the money earned is used to pay for tuition or other college expenses.

Useful Websites for Seniors

The **MCIS** website is an occupational and educational information system to help students and adults in the process of career planning. You may research career information, education and training, and access assessment tools on MCIS. FHS students may access the program at home or anywhere the Internet is available.

How to access MCIS on the Internet: <http://mncis.intocareers.org>

USERNAME: faribaulths

PASSWORD: falcons

Once logged in, you can create your own account, which will save your information, help you build a resume, and give you access to test preparation (ACT, SAT, ASVAB, TOEFL, CLEP, GED). To login, go to "Create My MCIS," and once you have your account, click on "My Portfolio".

www.fastweb.com - Site for scholarship search recommended by colleges and universities

www.imfirst.org - Comprehensive site for students who will be first in their family to attend college

www.salliemae.com - This database includes undergraduate through post-doctorate scholarships, grants, tuition waivers, internships, fellowships and loans

www.scholarships.com - Free scholarship search and financial aid resource

www.fafsa.gov - This site is to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) online. **Note: you can file after October 1st of your senior year.**

www.myfuture.com - Provides students with information about alternatives to 4-year colleges, such as community/technical colleges, apprenticeships and military opportunities.

<https://www.usnews.com/best-colleges> - Includes college rankings, best college values, steps for admission, 2-year option, finding financial aid, hot careers, etc.

<http://careerwise.minnstate.edu> - Helps Minnesotans make smart choices about careers, employment, and education and training

<https://www.minnstate.edu/> - Links to all the state universities, community and technical colleges

www.twin-cities.umn.edu - Links to all the campuses of the University of Minnesota

www.uwhelp.wisconsin.edu - Includes information on all University of Wisconsin campuses and their home pages.

www.mnprivatecolleges.org - Links to all the private colleges in Minnesota

<https://www.ohe.state.mn.us/mPg.cfm?pageID=97> - This is a Minnesota site that has a financial aid estimator, prices for Minnesota and reciprocity colleges in Wisconsin and North and South Dakota, online reciprocity forms, and much more.

www.todaysmilitary.com/working - Gives explanations of military occupations and career information resources for the military world of work. Includes details on 152 enlisted and officer occupations, one by one.

www.sss.gov - All male U.S. citizens who are 18 through 25, are required to register with the Selective Service System. You can do so at this site.

www.collegequest.com - College Quest explores financial aid options. It includes a database of more than 800,000 scholarships and awards.

www.plato.org - A financial corporation site, which includes undergraduate through post doctorate scholarships, grants, tuition waivers, internships, fellowships and loans.

www.collegenet.com - College Net lets you search for scholarships. This database contains more than 600,000 awards totaling over \$1.6 million.

www.rwm.org - Business, Trade and Technical Schools

www.actstudent.org - ACT Assessment Homepage

www.collegeboard.org/ - SAT I and SAT II – College Board Online

www.collegeprowler.com - College reviews written by current students. Access insider guides to every aspect of campus life with thousands of unbiased student reviews and ratings.

www.collegeconfidential.com - College reviews written by current students. Access insider guides to every aspect of campus life with thousands of unbiased student reviews and ratings.

www.scholarshipmonkey.com – Comprehensive scholarship search site.

www.ohe.state.mn.us – Information about preparing, choosing and paying for college.

www.raise.me – Earn micro scholarships from colleges for your achievements.