

Class of 2023

# College Admission Process

2-year and 4-year colleges



## TOPICS IN THIS PRESENTATION

- College Research
- 2 year vs. 4 year colleges
- Application Timelines
- Ways to Apply
- Financial Aid/Scholarships
- Naviance Training

# College Research

## College Searches

There are many ways to research colleges online. We recommend using your Naviance account as they have multiple tools for college research - including the SuperMatch College Search where you can enter criteria you want in your dream school and it lists schools that match you!

## College Tours

Many colleges offer virtual and in-person college tours. Check each schools admissions webpage to find out what they are offering. We have started a list of schools that have virtual tours available on our NFHS Guidance website -

[https://nfhs.fortmillschools.org/guidance/senior-focus-12th\\_grade/virtual\\_college\\_tours](https://nfhs.fortmillschools.org/guidance/senior-focus-12th_grade/virtual_college_tours)

# 2-year vs. 4-year colleges

## 2-year colleges

- Offer students the option to take courses in preparation for a transfer to a 4-year college OR the option to complete a course of study to earn an Associates degree or trade certification
- Admissions is based on completion of high school graduation requirements
- Students with a GPA of less than 3.0 may be required to take a placement exam before enrollment

## 4-year colleges

- Provide students hundreds of different options for Bachelors degree programs to prepare you for careers that require a 4-year degree
- Most provide on-campus housing for incoming freshman
- Often have more campus organizations and clubs than 2-year colleges

# SENIOR YEAR APPLICATION TIMELINE

Begin narrowing down your list of colleges to 3-5 choices (recommended). Sign up to take the SAT/ACT if you wish to take it again (many schools test optional this year). Begin requesting transcripts on August 30th on Naviance

Early applications that were not due in October will likely be due this month. Continue to check your admissions portals to be sure the colleges have all your materials.

Application decisions will start coming in! If you are deferred or waitlisted, request midyear transcripts to be sent. Start applying for scholarships

September

October

November

Dec/Jan

Feb-April

May

Early application deadlines will start to come up this month. FAFSA opens October 1st for financial aid.

Most regular application deadlines will fall in these months. Last chance for additional SAT/ACT test to be added to you applications

Finish applying for scholarships. Most colleges require your decision of attendance by May 1st!

# Ways to Apply to College

## Common Application

This is a great way to apply to many schools at once!

Almost 900 colleges are part of the Common App.

You will fill out the application once and then each school may have additional questions.

## Directly to a College

Find the colleges admissions website and create a portal. This is the most direct way to apply and for some schools, the only way. You will receive communications from admissions counselors at the college/university

## Coalition Application

This is a free college admissions tool to help you plan, prepare, and apply to college. Helps you store and organize your essays, documents, and more. 150+ college participants

# Financial Aid/Scholarships

## Financial Aid

- Loans/Grants from Federal Government awarded based on financial need
- Loans must be paid back after college graduation
- Grants are free money
- All students should fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to see if you qualify
- FAFSA opens October 1st and is usually due in March
- Parent will need to provide tax information

## Scholarships

- South Carolina offers the Hope, Life, and Palmetto Fellows scholarships to students who stay in-state and meet certain GPA/Rank/Test Score requirements.
- Colleges offer a variety of scholarships that you will need to review on their websites
- NFHS has a scholarship blog where we post scholarship opportunities throughout the year.

# Naviance Training

- Naviance will be your lifeline this year! Get familiar with the layout and the tools it provides.
- Website: <https://student.naviance.com/nfordhs>
- Login by selecting “Continue with Clever” and entering your FMSD Google login credentials
- Watch **this video** for step-by-step instructions



# THANKS!

Do you have any questions?

Email your counselor!

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