



# College Night for Families of Seniors

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August 23, 2023

joinpd.com



# ATTENDANCE

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We are so glad to have so many families with us this evening. Please take a brief moment to enter your attendance. QR code is also located on your handout.





**CLASS OF 2024  
WHAT'S NEXT?**

**OAK PARK and RIVER FOREST  
HIGH SCHOOL**

**POST HIGH SCHOOL  
GUIDEBOOK**



**Post-High  
School  
Guidebook**

# Trends in Admission

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- Test Optional policies continue 23-24
  - Optional Covid question remains on Common App
  - Application Numbers continued to climb in 22-23
  - More deferrals and longer college waitlists 22-23
  - Rising tuition and fees
  - Increased efforts to accommodate trans and non binary students
  - Colleges are offering more ED (2) options
  - Majors go under the microscope
  - Human part of the application is more important than ever
- ## Questions
- How will colleges respond to recent Supreme Court decisions
  - Chat GPT - how will colleges use it? Ethical implications?

# What Colleges Are Looking For...

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- Academic Rigor
- Grades – Upward Trend
- Competent Writing Ability
- Test Scores (Commensurate with Achievement and only if required)
- Student's Demonstrated Interest
- Degree of Involvement
- Evidence of Growth Throughout High School
  - Academic – Grades/Achievement
  - Personal – Student Essay/Counselor Recommendation
- Impact in Classroom (Teacher Recommendations)

# Still Researching?

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Recommended sites (page 6 of Guidebook):

College Board Big Future

College Results

College Vine

Fiske Guide

Know How to Go

Mapping Your Future

Naviance

Niche

Princeton Review

Peterson's Guide

Road Trip Nation

Unigo

# How to login to Naviance

## FAQ-Instructions for parent and student accounts



Welcome to Naviance  
Student.



**Please choose your user type.**

This allows Naviance to help you log in the way your school and district prefers.



Student



Parent or  
Guardian



Alumni

[I'm new and need to register!](#)



# OPRF Applicant, Top 50%

Ex. Student with a 2.9 GPA with a 1200 SAT score)

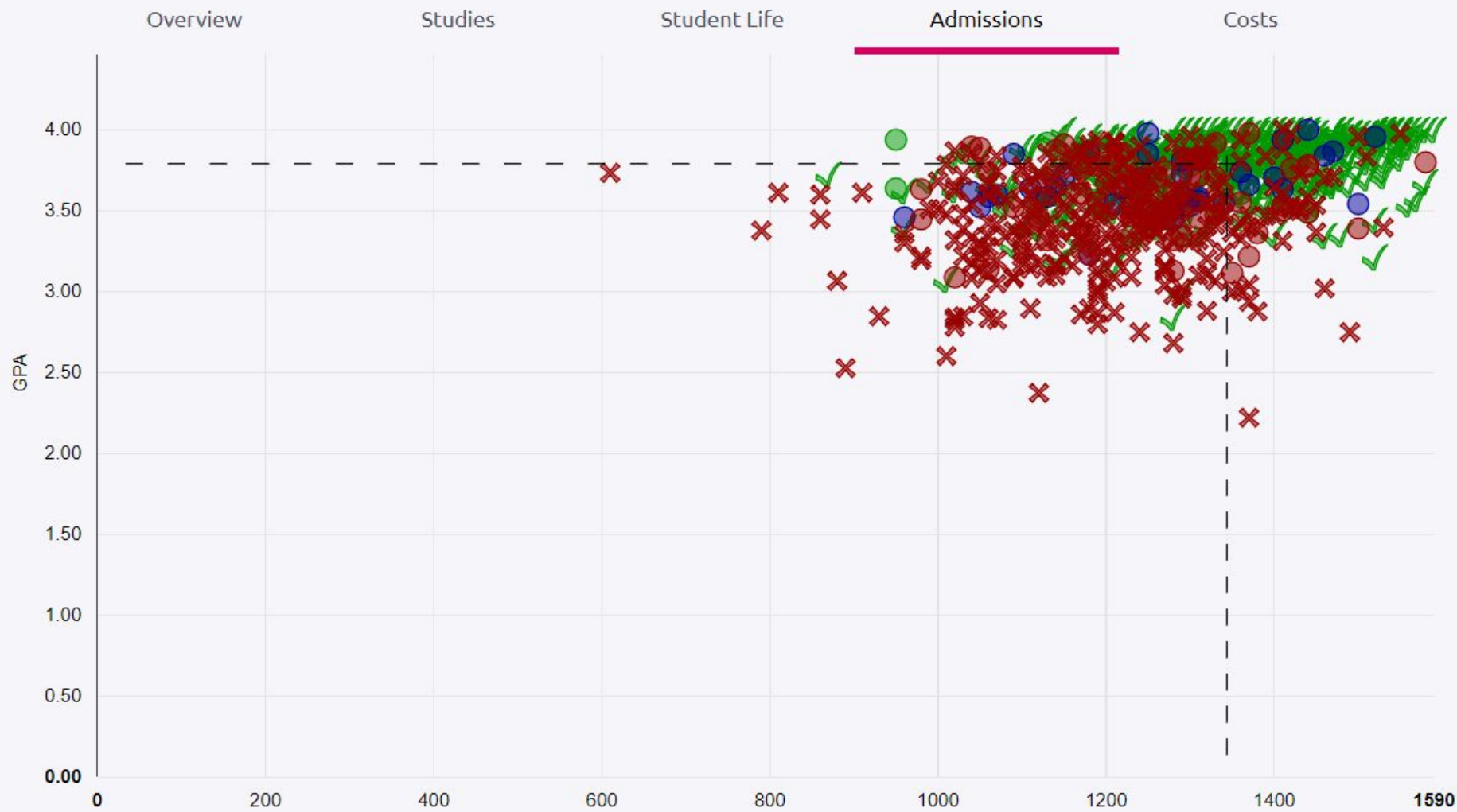
## U of Wisconsin - Madison

### Graph Legend

- Accepted
- Denied
- Waitlisted or Deferred
- Waitlisted or Deferred (Accepted)
- Waitlisted or Deferred (Denied)

University of Wisconsin-Madison ♡

Communicate ▾



# OPRF Applicant, Top 50%

Ex. Student with a 2.9 GPA with a 1200 SAT score)

## Illinois State University



Illinois State University ❤️

[Virtual Tour](#)

[Communicate ▼](#)

[Apply Online](#)

[Learn](#)

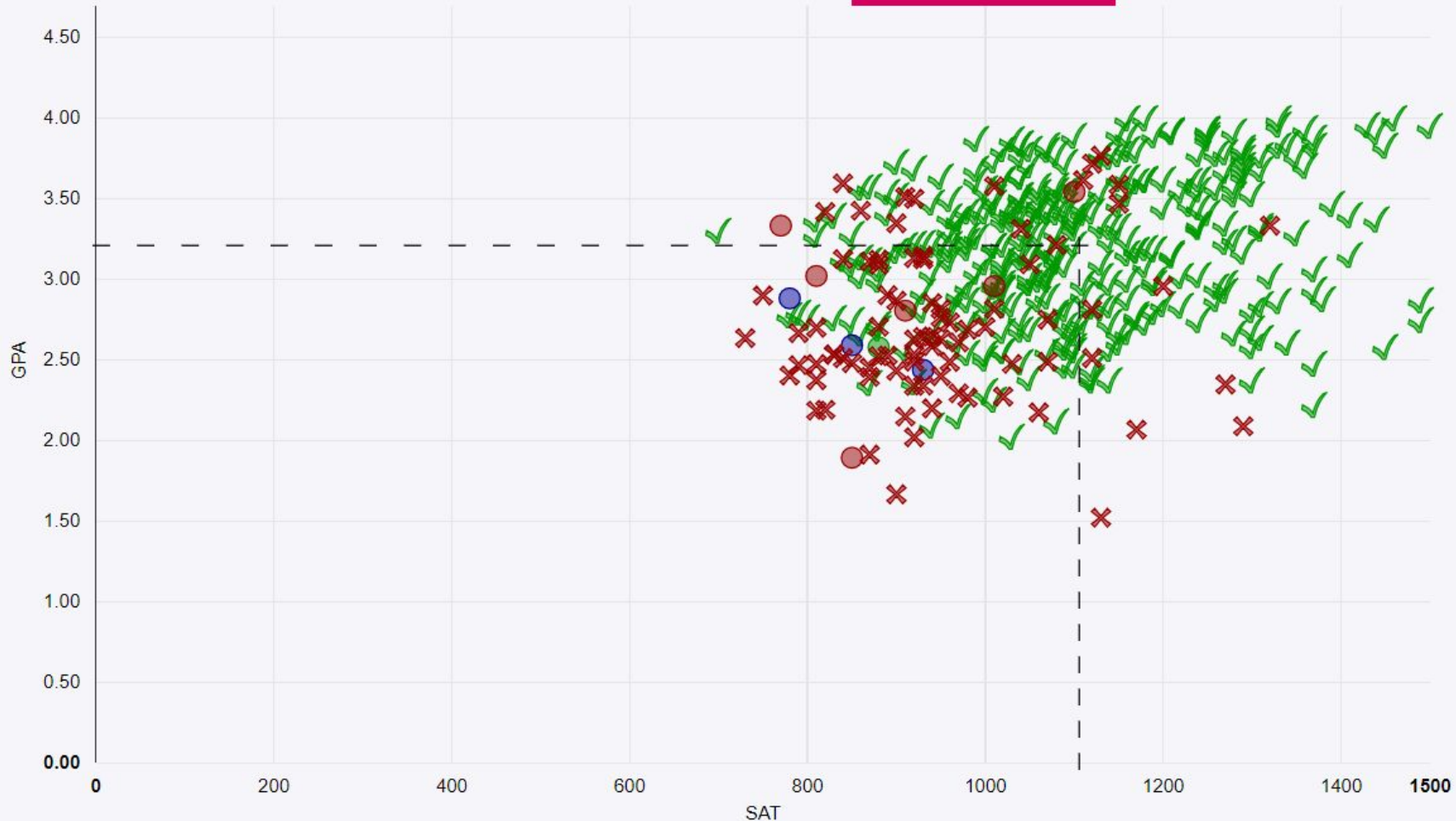
[Overview](#)

[Studies](#)

[Student Life](#)

[Admissions](#)

[Costs](#)



# OPRF Applicant, Top 50%

Ex. Student with a 2.9 GPA with a 1200 SAT score)

## Columbia College Chicago



Columbia College Chicago 

Virtual Tour

Communicate 

Apply Online

Learn

Overview

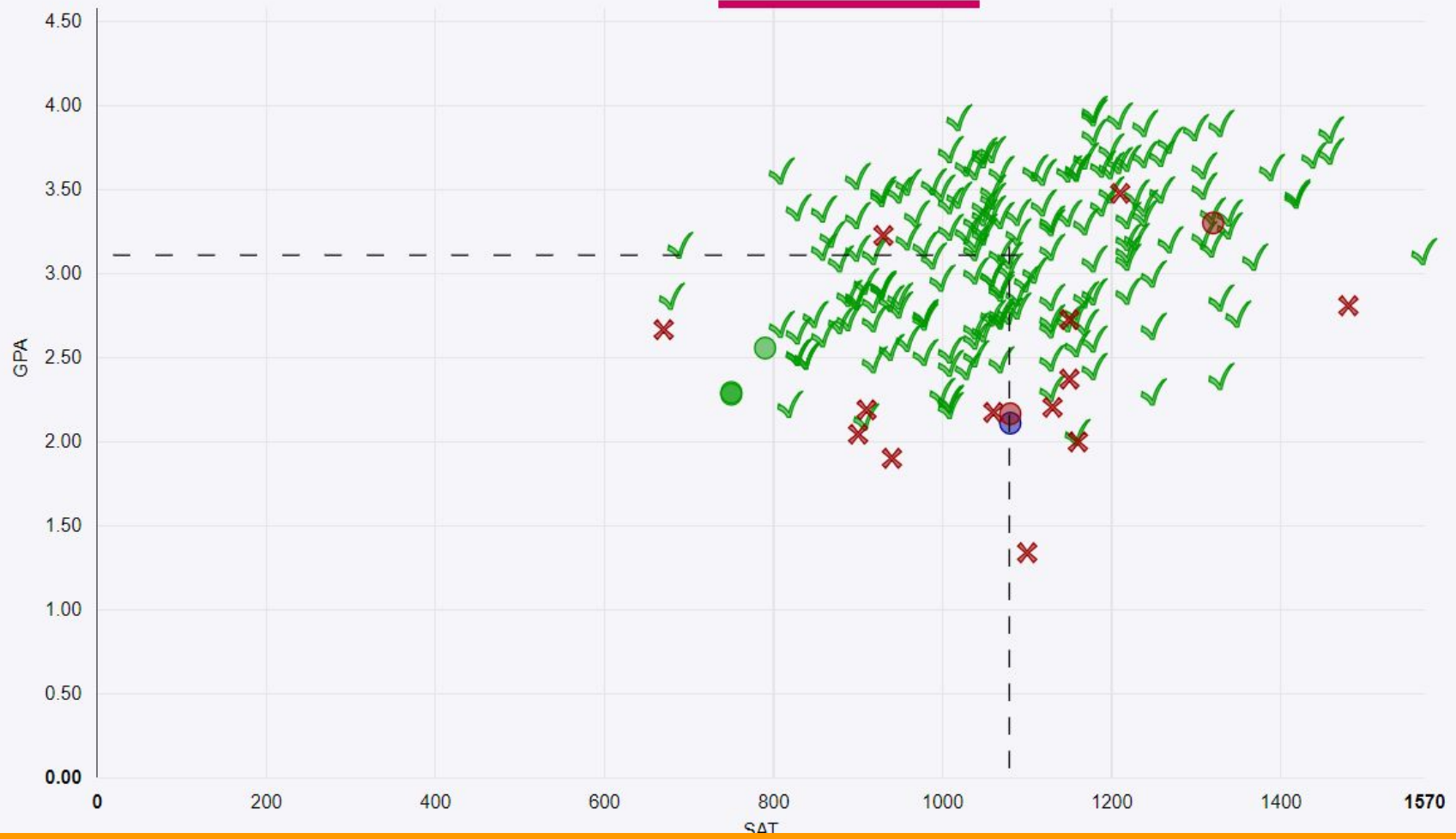
Studies

Student Life

Admissions

Costs

Spotlights



# TRITON and Community Colleges

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## Triton College

### Areas of Study

Triton Scholars - FREE In District Tuition, Fees and Books with GPA of 3.5/test scores

Triton Trustees - FREE In District Tuition and Fees with a 3.35 GPA/test scores

## College of DuPage

## City Colleges of Chicago

## Parkland Community College in Urbana/Champaign

# *Remind* Notifications for College Callers

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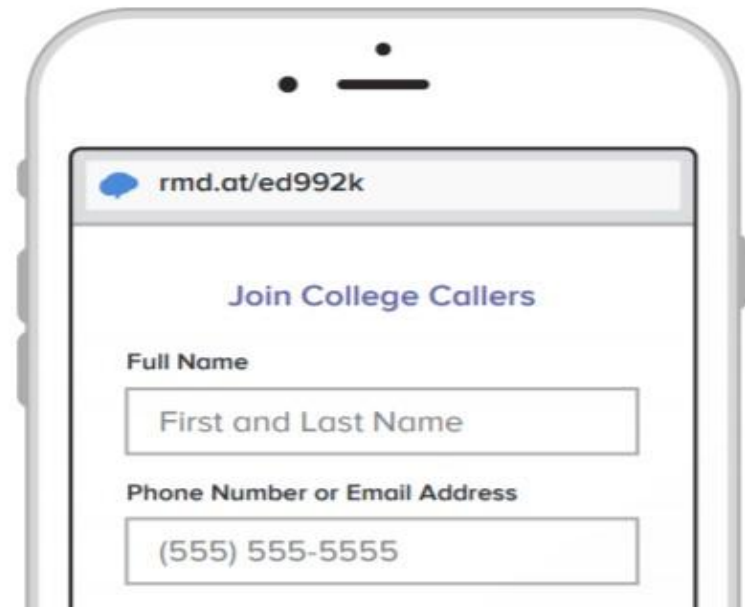
- To receive push notifications regarding the College Callers schedule, you will be prompted to download the Remind App.

If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:

[rmd.at/ed992k](https://rmd.at/ed992k)

Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.



The illustration shows a smartphone screen with a web browser interface. The address bar at the top displays a blue Remind logo followed by the URL "rmd.at/ed992k". Below the address bar, the heading "Join College Callers" is centered. Underneath the heading, there are two input fields. The first field is labeled "Full Name" and contains the placeholder text "First and Last Name". The second field is labeled "Phone Number or Email Address" and contains the placeholder text "(555) 555-5555".

# College Callers at OPRF

## Attend OPRF College Caller Meetings

- All College Caller Meetings will be held various periods of the school day-choose accordingly!
- To receive weekly text message notifications regarding the College Callers schedule, send the following text message:

**B** If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications.

Text the message @ed992k to the number 81010.

If you're having trouble with 81010, try texting @ed992k to (404) 445-1453.

*\* Standard text message rates apply.*



# Virtual and In-Person College Fairs

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NACAC College Fairs

Strive Scan Virtual College Fairs

HBCU College Fair& Chicago HBCU Alliance

National Portfolio Days

National Unified Theater School Auditions

Princeton Review's Guide to Virtual Tours

You Visit

Here is a College Visit Worksheet your student can use to take notes and keep track:)



# Make a Final List

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- Select 6-10 schools, based on your child's criteria
- A mix of Safer/Likely, Match/Target, Reach/Dream (use Naviance Scattergrams to assess)
- Consider financial safety and also regional safety
- Make sure to list all intended schools in Naviance *Colleges I'm Thinking About* section



# Components of an Application

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1. Common App (or Coalition) or Direct to the University
2. [Link CA and Naviance](#)
3. The Transcript and other school forms. Here is the [Transcript Release Form](#) & [Instructions on how to complete the TRF](#)
4. Essay & Supplement (if required)
5. Test Scores (if required)
- 6 Recommendation Letters (if required)
7. [FAFSA](#) & [CSS Profile](#)
8. Audition? Portfolio?

# Staying Organized Is the Key

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- Here is an Application Organization Chart to keep track of deadlines and elements of the application. pg. 13 of Guidebook
- Make a copy of it and use it to keep track of everything:)

# Types of Admissions

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**Regular – Specific deadline (ex: Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>)**

**Admission decision in April**

**Rolling – Apply anytime**

**Admission decision in 4-6 weeks**

**Early Action-(Priority) Early deadline (ex. Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>)**

**Admission decision in December**

**Early Decision—Early deadline (ex: November 1<sup>st</sup>)**

**Admission decision in December**

**Binding agreement--Must attend**

# Essay Writing Tips

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- CA Essay prompts
- Answer the question asked in your authentic voice
- Have someone proofread your essay
- Chat GPT and the essay
- Help Available!! We have English teachers each period of the school day in the SRC for writing assistance. Also, Dr. Barbara Mirel, former college professor, can also help with college essays on Mondays and Tuesdays from 5-7 pm in the SRC.

**Essay Writing Workshop for students:**

**September 6, 2023**

**6:30 PM**


# Recommendation Letters

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- How many letters do students need? Rule of Thumb is TWO. But consult the school's application.
- Please DO NOT request letters through Common App
- Please ask for letters in person then follow up with requests through Naviance
- Counselors & Teachers require three weeks prior notice for rec letters (please complete the questionnaire)
- Students must choose which teacher/ for which college  
Teachers will see exact date and time of request
- Students can see on Naviance when letters have been submitted

# Teacher Letter Status

## (detailed in Naviance)

 connection

home | courses | colleges | careers | about me | my planner

Naviance | Student

HOME | Colleges | Careers | About Me | My Planner

You can track the most recent status of your teacher recommendation requests here.

Showing 17 requests [Add Request](#)

Recommendation For ▾	Deadline ↕	Recommender(s)	Status ⓘ	Cancel Request
Bates College 2 required / 3 allowed / 3 requested	Jan 01, 2017		<div><b>Letter of Recommendation Statuses:</b>  ✉ <b>Requested:</b> Student has requested a letter of recommendation  📄 <b>In Progress:</b> Teacher has written the letter of recommendation  📤 <b>Submitted:</b> High school faculty member has sent letter of recommendation to designated college(s)  ❌ <b>Cancelled:</b> Either the student, teacher, or counselor has cancelled the request</div>	✕ ○ ○ ○
George Mason University 2 required / 2 allowed / 2 requested	Dec 01, 2016			✕ ○ ○
Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising - Orange County 2 required / 3 allowed / 3 requested	Jan 01, 2017			✕ ○ ○
St. Lawrence University 2 required / 3 allowed / 2 requested	Jan 01, 2017	Virginia Dean Cheryl Rostad		✕ ○

# Senior Year Testing

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- Colleges determine score reporting.  
Superscore vs. Highest Composite
- More than two-thirds of colleges and universities won't require the SAT for 2023-24 admission.
- [Click here](#) for an up to date list of colleges that are test optional.

SAT

ACT

# What Does “Test Optional Flexible/Blind” Mean?

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- **Test Optional Fair Test** students are not required to submit their SAT/ACT scores as a part of the application process
  - Grades, Applicant Essay, Extracurricular Involvement and Recommendation Letters are assigned more importance (examples are Univ. of Chicago, Bucknell)
  -

- **Test Flexible**

- 'Test-Flexible' admissions policy allow applicants to submit various standardized test scores to support their application.
- Two examples include Wake Forest University and New York University.

- **Test Blind**

- Test scores will NOT be considered during the college application process
- Cal Tech, University of California system, Northern Il U is now test blind for admission and scholarship consideration



# Fall SAT National Test Dates

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Deadline for Changes, Regular Cancellation, and Late Registration
August 26, 2023	July 28, 2023	August 15, 2023
October 7, 2023	September 7, 2023	September 26, 2023
November 4, 2023	October 5, 2023	October 24, 2023
December 2, 2023	November 2, 2023	November 21, 2023
March 9, 2024 <b>**DIGITAL**</b>	February 23, 2024	Coming soon
May 4, 2024 <b>Not offered at OPRFHS</b>	April 19, 2024	Coming soon
June 1, 2024 <b>**DIGITAL**</b>	May 17, 2024	Coming soon

# Fall 2023 ACT Testing Dates

Test Date	Regular Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline (Late Fee Applies)
September 9, 2023	August 4	August 18
October 28, 2023	September 22	October 6
December 9, 2023	November 3	November 17
February 10, 2024	January 5	January 19
April 13, 2024	March 8	March 22
June 8, 2024 <i>Not offered at OPRFHS</i>	May 3	May 17
July 13, 2024 <i>Not offered at OPRFHS</i>	June 7	June 21

# OPRF Processing Deadlines

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**Student College  
Deadline:**

- **October 15**
- **November 1**
- **November 15**
- **December 1**
- **January 1 or 15  
2024**

**Student transcript Release Form  
Due to Counselor Secretary by:**

**Friday, Sept 22, 2023**

**Wed., Oct 11, 2023**

**Wed., Oct 25, 2023**

**Friday, Nov 10, 2023**

**Mon., Dec 4, 2023**

# How to submit TRANSCRIPT RELEASE FORMS

hard copies in all counselor offices

## Instructions on How to Fill out a Transcript Release Form



### Oak Park and River Forest High School TRANSCRIPT RELEASE FORM *FOR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Counselor: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Carrier: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send my transcript to the following college(s):	Type: EA, ED, Pri., Reg., Rolling	How are you applying? <i>Please circle one</i>	Deadline Date:	Non- U.S. School?
1. _____		CA or Direct		
2. _____		CA or Direct		
3. _____		CA or Direct		
4. _____		CA or Direct		
5. _____		CA or Direct		
6. _____		CA or Direct		
7. _____		CA or Direct		
8. _____		CA or Direct		
9. _____		CA or Direct		
10. _____		CA or Direct		

**Please *initial* the following items upon completion:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ I have listed the above schools in Naviance under "Colleges I'm Thinking About" and have also indicated above whether I am applying via the Common Application or direct to the college/university.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I have marked the Decision Type (Early Decision, Early Action, Priority, Regular Decision, or Rolling) for each college, along with the correct corresponding deadline date.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I have completed my counselor's preferred Questionnaire for Letters of Recommendation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ If applying to an **INTERNATIONAL** school, I have already submitted my application to this institution.

**If applying via the Common Application:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ I have listed the above schools on my Common Application.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I have completed the FERPA section of the Common Application and checked that I have waived my rights.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I have completed the "Common App Account Matching" in the "Colleges I'm Applying To" section of Naviance.
- \_\_\_\_\_ If applying **EARLY DECISION**: I have completed the Early Decision (ED) agreement in Common App. (See your Counselor before applying ED.)

# Enrollment Decisions

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- Accepted
- Denied
- Deferred
  - Put into the regular pool from an early action/decision program
- Wait-Listed
  - May be admitted after May 1st
- May 1<sup>st</sup>: your decision due to college

# Financial Aid

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- Free Application for Federal Student Aid FAFSA accepted on or after December 1, 2023 it is also a graduation requirement (or waiver)
- Student Aid Estimator
- CSS Profile some schools require this
- Please reach out and contact our Illinois Student Assistance Commission Representative, ISAC [Salma.Uribe@Illinois.gov](mailto:Salma.Uribe@Illinois.gov)

# In-State Financial Aid Opportunities

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- Many Illinois State Colleges/Universities offer opportunities to in-state students for those who qualify
- Northern Ill U. has the Huskie Pledge-A 3.0 GPA Illinois families with household incomes of under \$75,000
- Southern Ill U has The Saluki Commitment for families making under \$63, 575
- University of Illinois has the Illinois Commitment-Family Income less than \$67,100 and Illinois Promise-free tuition for those who qualify

# Athletics

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- Division 1 & II athletes must register with the NCAA
- If not already registered, complete registration asap
- Complete Transcript Request Form for NCAA and submit to your Counselor's Secretary



# Resource Packets Available:

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- Class of 2024 What's Next? Guidebook: timeline, checklists, test scores, the college search, Naviance, community colleges, world of work, college organization charts and more!
- Local and National Scholarship Opportunities & Financial Aid  
(Don't assume private colleges cost more—Parents/Students: Define affordability/select a Financial Safety School.)
- Trades and Apprenticeships
- Alternative Admissions
- Essay Writing tips
- Colleges in Illinois
- Note: GAP Year Fair @ OPRFHS on January 27th 2024
- Note: OPRFHS Financial Aid Night-Sept. 27th, 2023 6:30 PM-virtual (Mary Ann Nucciarone-Director of Financial Aid University of Notre Dame)



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**POST HIGH SCHOOL  
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[Post-High  
School  
Guidebook](#)



# ATTENDANCE

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We are so glad to have so many families with us this evening.  
Please take a brief moment to enter your attendance. QR  
code is also located on your handout.



# Thank You For Being Here!

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This is an exciting time filled with so much  
possibility!

Counselors are here to support the needs of  
each of our seniors as we navigate this process  
together!

Questions?

The OPRFHS Counseling Department