



Junior College Information Night:

Class of 2025

*This presentation will be available on the
Chaminade website under the Student
Life - - College Placement section.*



Q & A



What do colleges look at?

- **GPA** (context: school, rigor of schedule)
- **ACT/SAT/AP exam scores** (sort of...)
- **Essay(s)**
- **Recommendations:** counselor & teacher letters
- **Other:** gender, location, athletics, full pay (?)
- **Extras:** club, sport, job, service, leadership
- **Demonstrated interest:** (sort of...)





Today's College Landscape

Applying to college is more competitive than ever.

- overcrowded applicant pools; mostly SAT/ACT optional
- hefty tuitions
- For some schools, even perfection isn't enough.



Applying from Chaminade

- Ultra-competitive applicant pool (37 current seniors & 38 current juniors have 97+ GPA unweighted)
- Students are not ranked
- Four years of rigorous courses
- No weights are added to student grades/GPA

These are **not necessarily bad** things!

What would my GPA be if I went to ____ High School?



What is Test Optional?

- Nowadays, **most** colleges **do not** require the submission of SAT, AP, or ACT scores. You can submit some, all, or none of your test scores for **most** schools.
- Most colleges use a superscore, or the combination of your best individual test sections. (It's like the highlight reel of your tests.) Take advantage of this by studying, testing, and re-testing.
- Good scores help. Low scores don't. *What's a good score? What's too low?* It depends on the school, so check with your counselor after you test.



Test Optional? We test.

1) Take diagnostic SAT & ACT

-- *You do not have to take both exams officially.*

2) Choose a test prep plan that fits budget, schedule, and needs.

-- *It's the student, not the test prep company, that matters most.*

3) Register for exams.

-- *SAT dates & registration: [CollegeBoard.org](https://collegeboard.org)*

-- *ACT dates & registration: [ACT.org](https://act.org)*



How does Chaminade guide applicants through today's college landscape?

We actively encourage the following from students:

- SAT/ACT prep, testing, re-testing
- A **balanced** list of prospective schools
- staying touch with your counselor
- communicating with your parents
- Naviance: Self-Discovery tools (career, strengths)
- Visiting campuses before senior year
- Communicating with admissions reps
- Chaminade summer workshops



A Balanced List of Schools

- **Safety** - very high probability to admit
- **Likely** - high probably to admit
- **Target** - could go either way
- **Reach** - less than 50% likely to admit
- **Far reach** - far less than 50% likely to admit

Avoid the “Hey, you never know...” trap.

Your counselor can help you identify all of these schools.



Military Academy Applicants

- Contact Mr. Auriemma - nauriemma@chaminade-hs.org
- Academics, physical preparedness, and commitment
- ***Plan on following an accelerated application/nomination schedule.***
- Academy Presentation (TBD)
- Hangar>Guidance>Academies/ROTC



Timeline: October-December

- Maintain or improve your grades
- Take diagnostic SAT and ACT; choose test prep strategy
- Register for winter SAT or ACT dates
- Increase involvement in school/community activities
- Explore Naviance Self-Discovery features
- Pay attention in College Prep 11



Timeline: January-March

- Get the best grades possible
- Continue SAT or ACT prep and testing
- Plan your summer: explore passions, get a job, visit college campuses, deepen your commitments
- ***Meet with your college counselor and start building a balanced list. Counselors will reach out with their availability in the coming months.***



Timeline: April-August

- Get the best grades possible
- Continue SAT or ACT prep and testing
- Research schools on the list you built with counselor. Visit campuses when possible
- **Chaminade College Fair - April 23**
- Submit resume and brag sheet (College Prep 11)
- Parent brag sheets
- Invite teacher recommender via Naviance in June (College Prep 11)



Who is my college counselor?

- Mr. Auriemma - Homerooms 3A, 3B
- Ms. Sloane - Homerooms 3C, 3D
- Mr. Meyfohrt - Homerooms 3E, 3F
- Mr. Armstrong - Homerooms 3G, 3H
- Ms. Cinnamo - Homeroom 3J, 3K
- Mr. Luisi - Homeroom 3L
- Mr. Giardina - Homerooms 3M, 3N
- Mr. Kaplan - assorted



College Prep 11

Juniors have this class once per cycle and will go over the following:

- Naviance; Scattergrams
- Building a balanced list of schools
- SAT/ACT prep (via Method)
- College terminology
- Researching colleges
- Demonstrating interest - fairs, visits
- Resume, brag sheet submission
- Requesting teacher recs
- College essay review



▶ Paying for College

We have a financial aid consultant, **Mrs. Carolyn Bianco**, on our College Placement Team. She will help you navigate financial forms, need-based aid, merit aid, etc.

*Do not wait for senior year to start discussing college finances: **cbianco@chaminade-hs.org***



College Apps Gone Wrong

- A “student” applied to Georgetown College, not Georgetown University.
- A student had no idea that he & Mr. Kaplan had an email exchange earlier that day about his essay revisions.
- A “student” incorrectly listed his courses on the application, and it did not align with the official transcript.

The impulse to take over for your son is strong because you want the best for him. Resist it. Let him take charge. Chaminade can help.



▶ Final Thoughts:

- Applying to college does not have to be stressful.
- It's not where you go, but **what you do once you're there** that really matters.
- GPA is most important, but it's not everything. Schools craft their incoming classes *however they see fit*.
- It's not about finding the right school; it's about finding a right school.





Hot Picks:

Schools that fly beneath your radar -- but shouldn't

Mr. Petruccio - Saint Anselm College

Mr. Auriemma - Denison University

Ms. Sloane - U. Rochester

Mr. Meyfohrt - UNC Wilmington

Mr. Armstrong - Stonehill College

Ms. Cinnamo - Union College

Mr. Luisi - Kenyon College

Mr. Giardina - Berry College

Mr. Kaplan - WashU in St. Louis

