

# THE COLLEGE ADMISSION PROCESS

- Congratulations seniors of 2023 (and Parents)!
- Plan for applying and getting into college



# DECIDING ON A COLLEGE WHAT DO YOU WANT IN A SCHOOL?

- Location
- Type of school (i.e. Liberal arts)
- Size of school
- Competitiveness/selectivity
- Course and major offerings
- Makeup of the student body
- Campus Life



# DECIDING ON A COLLEGE RESEARCH COLLEGES OF INTEREST

- College representatives visiting RVGS/Home Sch
- College websites
- Talk to former and current students
- Visit the campus (in person when possible)

# DECIDING ON A COLLEGE CAMPUS VISITS

- Contact college prior to your visit to make arrangements for a tour and/or information session or interview
- It is a good idea to bring a resume' or an unofficial transcript to an interview
- Talk to students
- Visit places of interest on the campus

# DECIDING ON A COLLEGE INTERVIEWING



- Arrive early
- Be prepared (resume', unofficial transcript)
- Anticipate responses to frequently asked questions (rehearse/role play)
- Know your strengths and weaknesses
- Ask questions of the interviewer
- Make yourself stand out as a desirable candidate

# APPLYING TO COLLEGE OBTAINING APPLICATIONS

- Find out the preferred application: common app? School specific?
- Begin the on-line application
- It is important to get all of your applications together now!
- Due Dates DO Matter....this is not the time to procrastinate
- Create a calendar/spreadsheet with all your college info and due dates – We will be helping you with this...

# THE COMMON APPLICATION

- Recommended form of over 950 Colleges and Universities
- Apply online
- [www.comonapp.org](http://www.comonapp.org)
- <http://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/>
- Make sure you complete all of the supplemental information for each college

# EARLY DECISION/ EARLY ACTION

- DEADLINE is usually NOV. 1 but some are earlier
- Make sure you want to attend the college that you apply to if early decision-the decision is binding!
- Gives the college a strong message of interest, but does not usually increase your odds of acceptance
- Make sure you have a backup plan if you do not get in
- Your specific major DOES affect admission decisions



# REGULAR DECISION

- Deadline is usually Jan. 1, Jan. 15, or Feb. 1 (but may range from Jan. 1 to April 1)
- You can apply to more than one college
- You are not required to make a commitment prior to May 1 (candidate's reply date)
- If your preferences change in the spring you will have several options to choose from

# CREDENTIALS COLLEGES FOCUS ON WITH ADMISSIONS

- Performance in rigorous secondary school program
- ACT or SAT - most schools still test optional
- Recommendations (Teachers, counselor)
- Extracurricular involvement and honors
- Writing (admissions essay) - PROMPT

# WHAT SCHOOLS TO SEND APPLICATIONS TO

- Go ahead and apply for a selective or reach school if you are interested
- Apply to 1 or 2 schools that are competitive but you meet their requirements
- Apply to 1 or 2 'back-up' schools (just to be safe—colleges you would be happy to attend)

# ONCE YOU HAVE YOUR APPLICATIONS GET ORGANIZED

- READ OVER THEM CAREFULLY
- GET A CALENDAR – mark all due dates
- MAKE SURE YOU WILL HAVE ALL OF THE NECESSARY COMPONENTS
  - Take the necessary Testing
  - Have these scores sent to the schools
  - Letters of Recommendations
  - Essays
  - Counselor forms
  - Transcripts (including VWCC)

# SAT & ACT

- Know what each school requires
- Sign up now if you need any of these tests
- October is usually the latest test date for early decision
- November is usually the latest test date for regular decision
- Even if the school is test optional, SAT/ACT scores can help with scholarships, honors, etc.

# ESSAYS

- Compile all of your essays from different schools to know how many you have to write and what the topics are
- Read questions carefully and think about them
- Write so your points get across quickly and easily
- Focus on yourself so the readers can get to know you better
- Make yourself stand out- what makes you special and a good candidate for the school
- For extra help check out: [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) or [www.collegeapps.com](http://www.collegeapps.com) or use the PROMPT service



# LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

- Ask people who will give you a positive recommendation
- Give it to these people at least 2 weeks in advance and give them a copy of your resume'
- It is usually easier to give them all of your requests at once (if you have more than one)



# LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION (CONT.)

- Create a resume' and give to your recommenders
- Include the following:

Awards/honors

Volunteer work/ community service

Something you are proud of

Interests/hobbies

(anything that you think would make you sound like a good applicant)



# COUNSELOR FORMS

- Your home school counselor must fill out counselor report/school form!
- However, if you want me to do the recommendation portion, please communicate with me and your home school counselor and I can send it to them to upload with the form.
- Some schools will request a separate transcript (for non-City); I have sent your RVGS transcript and the RVGS profile to your schools
- It is important that the RVGS school profile is sent along with the other materials – check with your counselor

# SENDING IN APPLICATIONS

- Give requests to your counselor at least 2 working weeks before the deadline or by the deadline they set
- Double check to make sure all of the components are together
- Get your applications in early!

# ONCE YOU ARE ACCEPTED

- Make a decision about where you are going to attend
- Make preparations (room/board, visit the financial aid office)
- Notify all other colleges where you have been accepted of your choice

# FINANCIAL AID

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
  - You can begin in October
  - Check with your schools; some have March 1 due date
- CSS Profile



# FINANCIAL AID (CONT.)

- Federal Pell Grants
  - Does not have to be paid back
- Campus-Based Aid Programs
  - Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant
  - Federal Work-Study
  - Federal Perkins Loans
- Federal Family Education Loans and Direct Loans

# SCHOLARSHIPS

- Check the RVGS guidance bulletin and for emails from Mrs. Sebolt
- Look on the RVGS guidance Canvas/website
- Check with you home high school
- Contact the colleges you are interested in
- On-line
- Fast Web

# FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- The “sticker” price should not necessarily scare you – many private colleges give a large amount of financial aid and end up costing less than public colleges
- Think about future education and debt – finishing 4 years of college with large debt (especially if grad school is in your future) is not a good idea
- You can get a great education at **NUMEROUS** colleges – you get out what you put in

# A SNAPSHOT OF TUITION RATES

	In-State Public	Tuition	4 year Tuition
In-State Public	Virginia Tech	\$13,749	\$54,996
	UVA	\$18,960	\$75,840
	William & Mary	\$23,628	\$94,512
Out of State Public	UNC	\$36,159	\$144,636
	Georgia Tech	\$31,120	\$124,480
	Clemson	\$38,550	\$154,200
Private	Harvard	\$54,002	\$216,008
	Roanoke College	\$47,020	\$188,080
	Duke	\$57,633	\$230,532



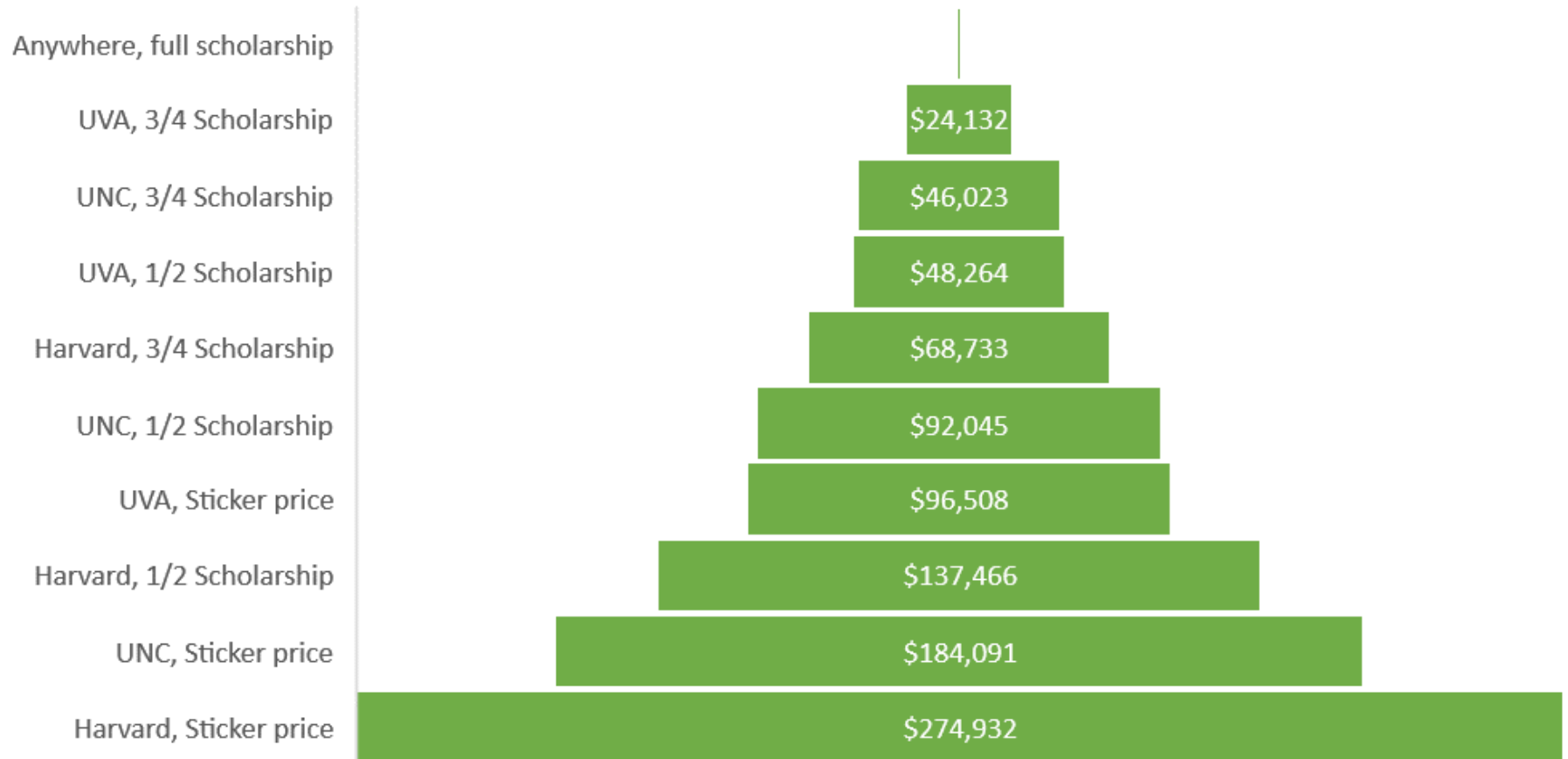
# TRUE PRICE AFTER LOANS AND IMPACT OF SCHOLARSHIPS

College	"Sticker Price"		After 10 years of Loans (5%)		
	Annual Tuition	4 year Tuition	Full Price	½ Tuition Scholarship	¾ Tuition Scholarship
UVA	\$18,960	\$75,840	\$96,508	\$48,264	\$24,132
UNC	\$36,159	\$144,636	\$184,091	\$92,045	\$46,023
Harvard	\$54,002	\$216,008	\$274,932	\$137,466	\$68,733

Note: ½ and ¾ scholarships values above are to simulate tuition after a mix of financial aid and scholarships that would cover that portion of annual tuition. Significant scholarships and financial aid offers aren't typical, which is why they are important to consider carefully when they are offered.

# LOVE THE COLLEGE THAT LOVES YOU BACK

## Impact of Scholarships on Total Student Loan Payments



Note:  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{3}{4}$  scholarships values above are to simulate tuition after a mix of financial aid and scholarships that would cover that portion of annual tuition.

# COLLEGE APPLICATION PLANNING WORKSHEET

- This tool will help you in a number of ways:
  - Help you chart out your due dates
  - Help you prioritize schools
  - Allows Mrs. Sebolt to easily know what your options/preferences are for advising
  - Allows Mr. Levy to more easily advocate on your behalf at the schools you care about the most or are on wait-list for
  - Makes it easier to share information we'll ask for later in a simple format
- This also helps Mrs. Sebolt and Mr. Levy assist future students by noticing patterns in admissions rates under different conditions
- **Let's look at this tool together so you know how it works!**



# FINAL THOUGHTS

- Balance is important
  - SLEEP
  - Down Time
  - Family
- Avoid Senioritis!!!!
  - The habits you end with are the ones you carry to college with you

# THE END

- STAY ON TOP OF THE COLLEGE PROCESS
- Get started now and turn in applications early
- ENJOY YOUR SENIOR YEAR!

