



Welcome Senior  
Parents!

# ***CHESTERTON***

## **COUNSELING OFFICE**

Mrs. Bartow

A-CI

Mrs. Arthur

Co-Gr

Mrs. Snyder

Gu-La

Mr. Moore

Lb-Pap

Ms. Hess

Par-So

Mrs. Roytan

Sp-Z

Mrs. Smoker

Counseling Office Manager

Mrs. Blue

Career Center Assistant

# TOPICS COVERED

- School Counselors
- Applying to College
- Naviance and Requesting Transcripts/Test Scores
- Requesting Letters of Recommendation
- Deadlines
- Apprenticeships/Trades
- Military Options

\*Disclaimer - This information is general advice and specific policies should always be confirmed with each college's admissions office



# ROLE OF SCHOOL COUNSELOR

1. College and Career Advisement
2. Academic Advisement/Assistance
3. Social/Emotional Work and Support



# APPLYING TO COLLEGE

- Most applications are online
- Different types of applications:
  - Institutional Application
  - Common Application
  - Coalition Application
- Student should research application types for their colleges before deciding which will be best fit for them!



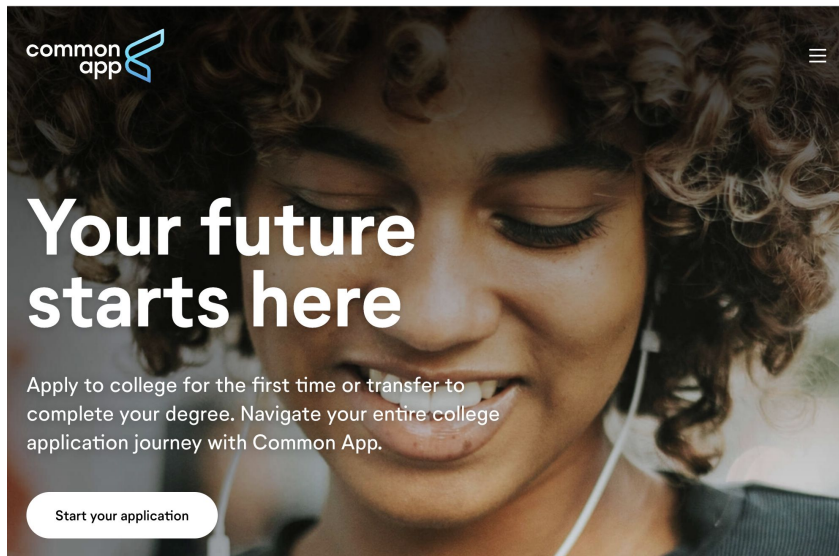
# INSTITUTIONAL APPLICATIONS

- The university's own application found on their admissions website.
- Example: Apply IU Application

(<https://admissions.indiana.edu/apply/freshman/step-one-get-ready.html>)



# COMMON APPLICATION



- One application that can be sent to multiple colleges
- Requires an essay
- Over 1,000 schools accept Common App

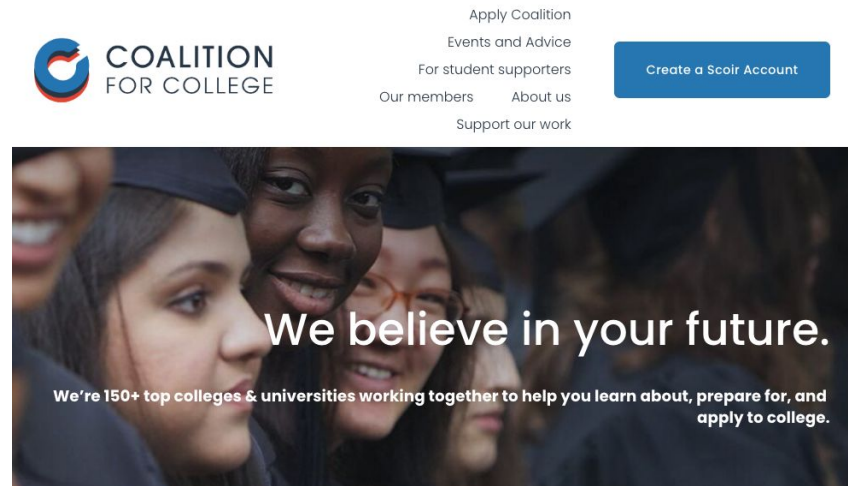
[commonapp.org](https://commonapp.org)



# COALITION SCOIR APPLICATION

- Similar to the Common Application - one application for multiple schools
- More limited base of colleges participating than Common App (approx. 150 to compared to 1,000)
- Partnering schools have made a commitment to graduating students on time with low or no debt

[coalitionforcollegeaccess.org](https://coalitionforcollegeaccess.org)





# FRESHMAN ADMISSION CRITERIA

- Admission committees use a variety of factors to determine whether the student is a good fit for their campus
- Factors include: transcript (GPA, course rigor), SAT or ACT scores, letters of recommendation, essays, etc.
- Availability in a program/department
- Time of year student applies



# NCAA/NAIA Eligibility

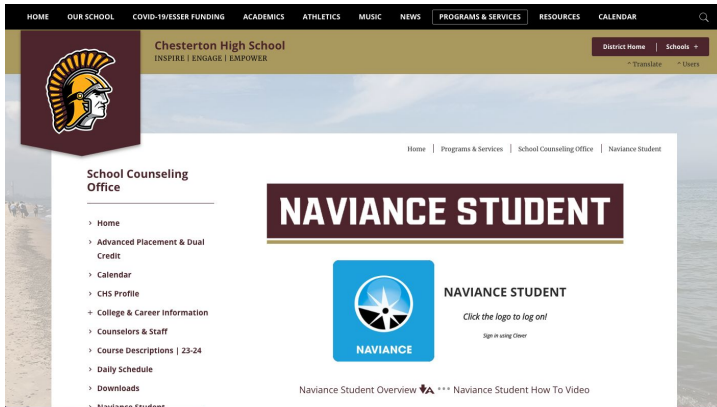
- Student-athletes who plan to continue playing college athletics have [additional eligibility requirements](#) beyond just the college's admission/state graduation requirements
- Must register through eligibility center to compete
- **Must work with school counselor as early as possible in the recruiting process to ensure student is in appropriate courses for eligibility!**

NCAA Eligibility Center (DI or DII only) - [eligibilitycenter.org](http://eligibilitycenter.org)

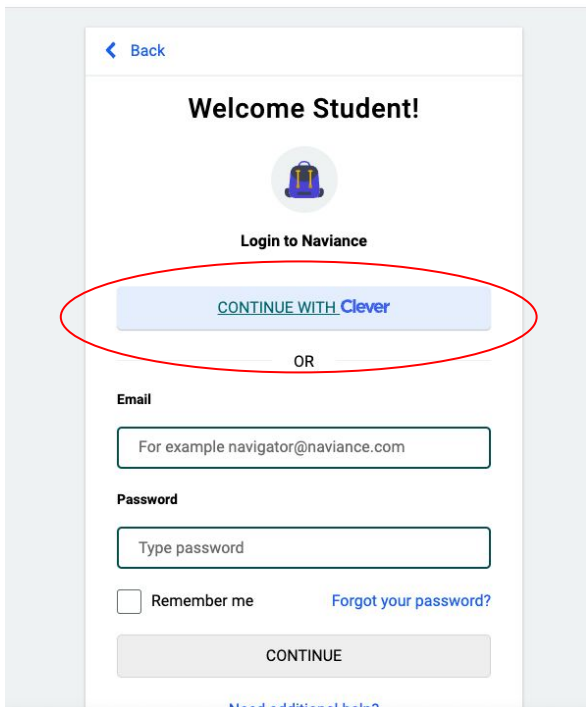
NAIA Eligibility Center - [play.mynaia.org](http://play.mynaia.org)



# NAVIANCE



- An online platform to manage post-secondary information.
- Examples: researching college, military, and career options, choosing where to apply, delivering electronic transcripts, learning about scholarship opportunities, and much more!
- SuperMatch College Search is a great jumping off point.
- Students use Clever to log-in
- Homepage will be customized to student's individual interests



# TRANSCRIPT

- The transcript gives the admissions committee a very good picture of the student's academic capabilities
- Grades/GPA from grades 9-11 and "in progress" senior classes are included
- Transcripts must be requested in Naviance
- [Instructions](#) will be e-mailed out to all seniors when transcripts are ready to send - remind them to check their e-mail regularly! They are also posted on the CHS website: <https://chs.duneland.k12.in.us/programs-services/school-counseling-office/transcript-requests>
- Recommend waiting to request transcripts until student is sure they're going to apply/has completed application



# LETTERS OF REC

- Student should be the one to make request
- Should be someone the student knows well, but should not be a family member
  - Please do not ask more than 2-3 teachers for recommendations; most colleges will put limits on how many recommendations they'll accept
- Give the person sufficient time to do a good job (at least 2 weeks) and return the letter to the student in ample time to meet their deadline
  - Requests must be made in Naviance
- Also tell the person writing a letter what criteria needs to be addressed in the letter
  - Complete the CHS Brag Sheet in Naviance to provide more details about yourself to your recommender
- Secondary school reports may be required - counselors will complete these when transcript request is made
  - If school requires a written letter from your counselor, notify them with as much advance notice as well



# TEST SCORES

- ACT and/or SAT scores may be required. Some colleges may be “test optional” or “test preferred” - student’s choice whether to share scores with those schools
- CHS does not list ACT/SAT scores on transcripts to colleges in accordance with recommendations from College Board and ACT. Students must request the scores themselves:
  - a) During pre-registration for exam (up to 4 free)
    - NCAA Eligibility Center is also destination
  - b) After the exam, within their student ACT/College Board account
- Some colleges superscore - research before deciding if/when to retake
  - ACT will now allow section re-takes, for this purpose
  - Many colleges/universities no longer require the writing section - check their admission requirements before deciding to register
  - Fee waivers available in the Counseling Office for qualified students

[sat.org/register](https://sat.org/register)

[actstudent.org/start](https://actstudent.org/start)



# MILITARY REPS

 <p><b>U.S. AIR FORCE</b></p> <p>United States Air Force</p>	 <p><b>AIR NATIONAL GUARD</b></p> <p>United States Air National Guard</p>	 <p><b>U.S. ARMY</b></p> <p>United States Army</p>
 <p><b>INDIANA NATIONAL GUARD</b></p> <p>Indiana National Guard</p>	 <p><b>UNITED STATES COAST GUARD</b></p> <p>United States Coast Guard</p>	 <p><b>UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS</b></p> <p>United States Marine Corps</p>
 <p><b>UNITED STATES NAVY</b></p> <p>United States Navy</p>	 <p><b>UNITED STATES NAVY</b></p> <p>United States Navy</p>	 <p><b>UNITED STATES NAVY</b></p> <p>United States Navy</p>

## SERVICE ACADEMIES

 <p><b>USCGA</b></p> <p>United States Coast Guard Academy</p>	 <p><b>UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY</b></p> <p>United States Merchant Marine Academy</p>	 <p><b>UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY WEST POINT</b></p> <p>United States Military Academy West Point</p>
 <p><b>UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY</b></p> <p>United States Naval Academy</p>	 <p><b>UNITED STATES RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS (ROTC)</b></p> <p>United States Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC)</p>	 <p><b>UNITED STATES RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS (ROTC)</b></p> <p>United States Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC)</p>

- Many CHS seniors plan to enlist in military service after high school. Branch info is located on our website:  
<https://chs.duneland.k12.in.us/programs-services/school-counseling-office/college-career-information/military-information>
- Recruiters often visit CHS to meet with students and will set up tables during lunch blocks
- Students interested in a Service Academy should work closely with their counselor during that application process



# APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS

- List of programs with contact information available on website:  
<https://chs.duneland.k12.in.us/programs-services/school-counseling-office/college-career-information/apprenticeship-programs>
- We Build Northwest Indiana:  
<https://www.webuildnwi.com/>
- Indiana Build Your Future:  
<https://indianaconstructionfoundation.com/build-your-future/>
- Skilled Trades Day
  - Date TBD at Porter County Career Expo
  - We will take a group of interested students as a field trip
- Career Pathways Fair (see next slide)





# CAREER PATHWAYS FAIR

October 3, 2024

Main Gym

During SRT

(students only - not open to the public)

Over 20 trade schools, military reps, apprenticeship, and career representatives will be available for students to explore working in fields of interest to them!



# COLLEGE REPS AND FAIR

- Various college representatives visit CHS throughout the school year to bring students info
  - Students sign up in Naviance for these visits
- Other Opportunities:

## **Dunes Area College Fair**

10/9/24

Main Gym - During SRT

(students only - not open to public)

## **NACAC National In-Person and Virtual College Fairs**

(open to the public)

<https://www.nacacattend.org/>



# COLLEGE APP WEEK AND COLLEGE APP CAMP

**august**  
19th, 21st & 23rd  
**CHESTERTON**  
COUNSELING OFFICE

**FREE**  
for all students

**What is College Application Camp?**  
The college application process can be complicated and often stressful for a high school senior and their families!

**our goal:**  
Help decrease the overall stress level by providing a jump start for students  
Help students begin college applications, write application essays, and have their essays read by english teachers  
Help students complete many other parts of the college application process

**Session One**  
Understanding the full scope of the college admission process beyond test scores and GPA.  
The Great Starting Game: a participatory demonstration of how selective college admission works.  
Create a Common Application account and complete the application. Understand the submission process along with supplements and fee paying.  
Naviance account and Common Application Matching.  
Senior Brag Sheet.

**Session Two**  
Discover how to stand out in a college essay. Build an activities and honors resume.  
Read samples of good and bad essays and evaluate them as a group. Review the Common Application essay topics and begin to develop your own essay topics.  
Conduct a quality resume that can be used with any college or scholarship based on the Naviance brag sheet.  
Homework: Complete a rough draft of your application essay.  
Each student will learn the transcript request process in Naviance.

**Session Three**  
Receive professional feedback on your college essay and learn about the teacher recommendation process. Learn financial aid basics.  
What are the next steps you need to take?  
English teachers will conference with each student to review their essay.  
Students will learn what makes a good letter of recommendation, who to ask and how to ask.  
Financial Aid Basics and Final Checklist.

Scan the code  
  
to Register online!

Have Questions?  
CHS Counseling Office  
219.983.3730  
Mrs. Gretchen Arthur  
garthur@dunelandk12.us  
Ms. Johanna Hess  
jhess@dunelandk12.us



Indiana College Application  
Week  
9/23-9/27



# FAFSA COMPLETION NIGHT

December 5, 2024

CHS Large Group Instruction Room

- The 2025-2026 FAFSA opens in December
- Open to all senior parents, including students attending colleges, universities, and trade schools that offer financial aid
- Laptops will be available and representatives will be on-site to help you complete your student's application for financial aid

Net Price Calculator <https://collegecost.ed.gov/net-price>

INvestEd Indiana

<https://www.investedindiana.org/funding/completing-the-fafsa/>



# SCHOLARSHIPS

<https://chs.duneland.k12.in.us/programs-services/school-counseling-office/scholarships>

The screenshot shows the website for Chesterton High School. The top navigation bar includes links for HOME, OUR SCHOOL, COVID-19/ESSER FUNDING, ACADEMICS, ATHLETICS, MUSIC, NEWS, PROGRAMS & SERVICES (highlighted), RESOURCES, and CALENDAR. The school's logo, a yellow and black gladiator helmet, is on the left. The main header features the school name and the motto "INSPIRE | ENGAGE | EMPOWER". A secondary navigation bar includes "District Home" and "Schools +". The page content is titled "SCHOLARSHIPS" in large white letters on a dark red background. Below this, a "TIPS" section lists three guidelines: 1. Make your application stand out by typing information directly onto the application. 2. Pay close attention to due dates and where applications are to be turned in. 3. All scholarship applications must be turned in by 3pm on its due date. A "SEPTEMBER DEADLINES" section is partially visible, with a sub-section for the "LILLY ENDOWMENT COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP". On the left side, a "School Counseling Office" menu lists various services like Home, Advanced Placement & Dual Credit, Calendar, CHS Profile, and College & Career Information.

HOME OUR SCHOOL COVID-19/ESSER FUNDING ACADEMICS ATHLETICS MUSIC NEWS PROGRAMS & SERVICES RESOURCES CALENDAR

Chesterton High School  
INSPIRE | ENGAGE | EMPOWER

District Home Schools +

^ Translate ^ Users

Home | Programs & Services | School Counseling Office | Scholarships

## SCHOLARSHIPS

**TIPS**

- \*Make your application stand out! Type your information right onto the application. This makes it look more professional than a handwritten application.*
- \*Pay close attention to due dates and where applications are to be turned in or postmarked.*
- \*All scholarship applications that are due to the Counseling Office must be turned in by 3pm on its due date. No late applications will be accepted.*

### SEPTEMBER DEADLINES

LILLY ENDOWMENT COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP

Must reside in Porter County, Indiana

School Counseling Office

- > Home
- > Advanced Placement & Dual Credit
- > Calendar
- > CHS Profile
- > College & Career Information
  - > Apprenticeship Programs
  - > Career Exploration
  - > College Planning
  - > Financial Aid & Scholarship Resources
  - > Military Information
  - > NCAA & NAIA
  - > Postsecondary Resources



# LIFE SKILLS PREP

01. Have paid work experience
02. Able to make a financial budget
03. Able to pay a bill online
04. Have a savings account
05. Able to balance a checkbook
06. Able to use a credit card responsibly (i.e. pay off each month; pay on time; don't incur debt)
07. Able to file your own taxes
08. Registered to vote
09. Able to cook a healthy, hot meal for yourself without a microwave
10. Eat breakfast daily
11. Able to wake yourself up in the morning (with an alarm)
12. Able to launder your own clothes
13. Able to iron clothes
14. Clean your room regularly
15. Wash your own dishes
16. Able to unclog a toilet
17. Able to find and use a fire extinguisher
18. Able to take your own temperature when you might have a fever
19. Able to know which over the counter medicines to take for head aches, body aches, colds, coughs
20. Able to tell (or suspect) when someone is lying/manipulating you
21. Able to have a conversation with an adult for at least 20 minutes
22. Know what a healthy vs. unhealthy relationship looks like
23. Able to start a conversation with a stranger
24. Know how to change a tire
25. Know how to jump a dead car battery
26. Able to navigate your way to a new place
27. Able to drive or use public transportation
28. Regularly use an agenda/planner
29. Have an "appropriate" email address
30. Have an "appropriate" voicemail greeting
31. Have a resume
32. Punctual for your obligations (school, work, commitments)
33. Able to stick with something until it's finished
34. Able to admit your mistakes
35. Able to ask for help
36. Meet due dates for your obligations





Counselors will be available in  
the Counseling Office throughout  
Open House for questions!

# CHESTERTON

## COUNSELING OFFICE

### Tips for the College Application Process

#### 1. Understanding the Common Application

- **Familiarize Yourself:** The Common Application is a centralized platform used by many colleges. Encourage your student to explore the website and understand the various sections, such as personal information, academic history, and extracurricular activities..
- **Check College Requirements:** Not all colleges use the Common Application. Students should research each college's application requirements to ensure they are using the correct application platform for each institution.

#### 2. Understanding Application Types

- **Early Action (EA):** Students apply early (usually by November 1st or 15th) and receive a decision earlier (typically by December or January). This is non-binding, meaning students can apply to other schools and are not obligated to attend if accepted.
- **Early Decision (ED):** Students apply early and receive a decision earlier. This is a binding commitment, meaning if accepted, students must attend that college and withdraw all other applications. It's important to be certain about your first-choice school before choosing this option.
- **Restrictive Early Action (REA):** Similar to Early Action, students apply early and receive a decision earlier. However, this option limits students from applying early to other private colleges (though they can still apply to public colleges or other schools with non-restrictive early options). REA is non-binding.

#### 3. Meeting Deadlines

- **Specific Deadlines:** Meeting deadlines is crucial for ensuring that applications are reviewed on time. For example, Purdue University and Indiana University have a priority deadline of November 1st to apply. Missing these deadlines could impact admission decisions and/or eligibility for certain scholarships.

#### 4. Completing the Application

- **Student Responsibility:** Encourage students to complete their own applications. This helps them develop important life skills and ensures the application reflects their voice and experiences.



- **Essay Writing:** The essay is a significant part of the application. It's important for students to write in their own voice rather than trying to impress with elaborate language. Authenticity is key—colleges are looking to understand who the student is and what makes them unique. Advise your student to start early, brainstorm topics that genuinely interest them, and seek feedback from teachers or counselors.

## 5. Letters of Recommendation

- **Selecting Recommenders:** Students should choose recommenders who know them well and can speak to their strengths, character, and achievements. Typically, teachers who have taught the student in academic subjects are preferred, but other mentors or supervisors from extracurricular activities can also be valuable.
- **Requesting Letters:** Encourage students to ask for recommendations well in advance. Provide recommenders with as much information as possible to help them write a detailed and personalized letter.
- **Follow-Up:** Remind students to follow up politely with recommenders to ensure that letters are submitted on time. A thank-you note to recommenders is also a nice gesture of appreciation for their support.

## 6. NCAA and NAIA Eligibility for College-Bound Athletes

- **NCAA Eligibility:** Students interested in playing sports at the NCAA Division I or II level must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center. They need to meet specific academic and amateurism standards, including a minimum GPA, standardized test scores, and completion of required core courses. It is the student's responsibility to know these requirements and communicate with their school counselor early in the recruiting process to ensure all requirements are met.
- **NAIA Eligibility:** For NAIA schools, students must meet academic requirements set by the NAIA, including a minimum GPA and standardized test scores. They should also register with the NAIA Eligibility Center. NAIA eligibility criteria are generally less stringent than NCAA, but it's important to understand the requirements for each school.
- **Maintaining Communication:** Encourage students to stay in touch with coaches and their school counselor. Being proactive in providing updated academic and athletic information is crucial for maintaining eligibility.

## 7. Additional Tips

- **Proofreading:** Encourage students to review their applications for errors and completeness before submission.
- **Utilize School Counselors:** Encourage students to seek guidance from their school counselors throughout the application process. Counselors are a valuable resource for accurate and personalized advice, and relying on information from other students may lead to misunderstandings or missed deadlines.

# **CHESTERTON**

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## **COUNSELING OFFICE**

### **Common Myths and Misconceptions**

#### **1. Myth: “The More Colleges I Apply to, the Better My Chances.”**

- **Fact:** Quality over quantity is key. Focus on schools that fit your student’s academic, social, and financial needs. Applying to too many schools can be overwhelming and may not improve chances of acceptance.

#### **2. Myth: “A High GPA Guarantees Admission to Top Colleges.”**

- **Fact:** While a strong GPA is important, admissions decisions are based on a holistic review. This includes essays, recommendations, extracurricular activities, and other personal achievements.

#### **3. Myth: “Only the Most Extracurricular Activities Matter.”**

- **Fact:** Depth and leadership in a few activities often outweigh a long list of superficial involvements. Colleges look for genuine passion and commitment.

#### **4. Myth: “Financial Aid is Only for Low-Income Families.”**

- **Fact:** Financial aid and scholarships are available for a range of income levels. It’s important to complete the FAFSA and explore other financial aid options.

#### **5. Myth: “It’s Too Late to Apply for Scholarships After Senior Year Begins.”**

- **Fact:** Most scholarships have deadlines throughout the senior year. Encourage students to continue searching and applying for scholarships even after school starts.

#### **6. Myth: “The College Application Process is Just About Getting Into College.”**

- **Fact:** The process is also about finding the right fit for your student’s personal and academic growth. It’s important to consider factors like campus culture, location, and available resources.

### **7. Myth: “Parents Should Handle the Application Process.”**

- **Fact:** While parental support is crucial, students should take charge of their applications. This helps them develop independence and responsibility, and ensures the application reflects their own efforts.

### **8. Myth: “Athletes Don’t Have to Meet the Same Admission Requirements as Other Applicants.”**

- **Fact:** While athletes may receive special consideration in the admissions process, they are still required to meet the same academic standards as other applicants. For instance, Purdue University and Indiana University require all applicants, including athletes, to have completed at least 2 years of a world language, even if they are not on the Academic Honors Diploma track. Meeting these academic requirements is essential for admission, regardless of athletic status. Colleges often have minimum GPA and test score requirements for all students, including athletes. It’s important for student-athletes to understand and meet these academic requirements in addition to excelling in their sport.

### **9. Myth: “The College Admission Selection Process is a Secret.”**

- **Fact:** The college admission process can seem confusing, but it doesn’t have to be. Reach out directly to college admissions staff with any questions or concerns. Most colleges are happy to provide clarity on their admissions criteria, application procedures, and deadlines. Getting information straight from the source can help demystify the process and ensure that students and parents have accurate and up-to-date information. If your student has questions about their admission decision from a particular college or university, reach out to the admission counselor for information on why a decision was made and what their next steps might be.