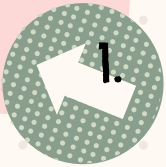# Navigating the College Application Process

Class of 2025

College Application Timeline:

1. Wrap up college exploration (September-October)

2. Apply, request letters of recommendation and transcripts, send test scores (if sending them) (September-December depending on deadlines)

3. Apply for Financial Aid (FAFSA) (December)

4. Apply for scholarships (September-May)

1

Wrap Up College Exploration and Testing

College Rep Visits at FHS:
- Schedule in Schoolinks
- All take place in room 138 (unless otherwise noted)

College Campus Visits:
- Schedule online on college website
- Get form from Mrs. Anderson and return with signature from college admission staff

Fall ACT and SAT Test Dates

ACT

Test Date: 10/26
Register by: 9/20
Late Reg. by: 10/7

Test Date: 12/14
Register by: 11/8
Late Reg. by: 11/22

act.org

SAT

Test Date: 10/5
Register by: 9/20
Late Reg. by: 9/24

Test Date: 11/2
Register by: 10/18
Late Reg. by: 10/22

Test Date: 12/7
Register by: 11/22
Late Reg. by: 11/26

collegeboard.org

2

Get Organized

Decision Deadlines:

- **Early Action**
  (Apply early. Get decision early. No commitment. More scholarships)
- **Early Decision**
  (Apply early. Get decision early. BINDING commitment to the college---you can only apply to one school ED)
- **Regular Decision**
  (Later application deadline. Usually Jan. or Feb. Less scholarship opportunities)
- **Rolling Admission**
  (No set deadline. Applications accepted until spots are full)

3
Apply

Ways to Apply

Common App

You can apply to multiple colleges using one common application

You MUST connect your account w/Schoolinks
commonapp.org

College Website

You can apply to an individual college via their website

Some schools don't use Common App

Considerations

If you are applying to schools with competitive admissions, here is what is considered:

- GPA and Strength of Transcript
- Test Scores (if submitting)
- Essay
- Work Experience or Extracurriculars
- Leadership and volunteer experience
- Recommendations (if using)

4

Set up Schoolinks and Send Documents

Application Documents to Send to the College

- HS Transcript (request in Schoolinks, sent by high school)
- CCP Transcript (request from college, sent directly from college)
- Test Scores (if sending, MUST Send through test agency website)
- Letters of Recommendation (request in Schoolinks, sent by high school)
- Essay(s) (submit in Common App or attach to application)

Letters of Recommendation

Things to consider:

1. Are letters of recommendation required? If so, how many?
2. Pick someone familiar with your work ethic and character (If more than one required, choose at least one teacher in a subject area similar to your major)
3. Always ask IN PERSON FIRST
4. Request a letter in Schoolinks and allow plenty of time (at least two weeks)
5. Outside Recommenders are allowed (coach, manager, youth pastor, etc.) THESE GET REQUESTED IN COMMON APP
6.

What should you write about?
- Something that matters to you
- Something that makes you uniquely you!
- Challenges and Strengths
- Something that you have overcome

Have someone PROOFREAD it!!!
Again, allow plenty of time if asking a teacher to proofread it!

Essays

Schoolinks

Go to app.schoolinks.com
➔ Login with Google

➔ You will choose Colleges from left-hand menu
   ◆ Choose College Applications
   ◆ You MUST fill out the information they ask before you can move forward (profile info, Fee Waiver questions, and FERPA Waiver)
   ◆ Connect Schoolinks to your Common App account (on left-hand side) or choose ADD APPLICATION on right-hand side if applied directly on college website

Steps for Applying w/Common App:

1. Complete Common App Checklist and Sign FERPA waiver (You will sign the FERPA waiver twice...once in Schoolinks and once in Common App)
2. Complete all required parts of the Common App
3. IF you are asking for a letter of recommendation from a coach, employer, clergy, family friend, etc, you will request in the "Other Recommenders" tab in Common App (all teacher recs will be requested from Schoolinks)
4. Your essay(s) and/or personal statement must be done in Common App
5. You must complete the questions tab for each individual school before submitting

Steps for Applying to Non-Common App Schools:

-
  - Select the Add application button at the top right and search for the school
  - Answer the questions about what kind of application, will you submit test scores, applying for financial aid, etc.
  - Apply via the school's website
  - Once all things have been complete, mark them as complete so that the application moves into the next column

Tips for Success:

- ❖ Get organized (keep all of your college info in one place)
- ❖ Know your deadlines and ALLOW PLENTY OF TIME for items to get completed on our end!
- ❖ Don't Procrastinate!!!
- ❖ Stay Calm...You've got this!!!

Questions? See Ms. Parente!

Need Help?

College App
Office Hours

Every Tuesday 1st Period

Every Friday L1/L2

Ms. Parente's office