



COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS

Upper Merion Area High School
January 2024



SCAN ME



9th & 10th Grade

Building GPA and exposure through course selections

Interest Inventories & Exploration via Naviance

PSAT (October 10th grade)

GET INVOLVED & build resume

11th Grade

PSATs (October)

College Research/Visits

SAT/ACT (late Fall/Spring)

Junior Conference

Teacher recommendations (Spring)

Leadership/ Internship experiences

12th Grade

Applications (Common App OPENS August 1)

Financial Aid (October)

Scholarship Applications (late Winter/early Spring)

Admitted Students Visits

Decision/Commit by May 1

Graduate in June

Build Your List



LOCATION



SETTING



SIZE



COST



ACADEMICS



SOCIAL

College Search Tools:

- SuperMatch College Search on Naviance
- [Princeton Review](#)
- [Big Future CollegeBoard](#)
- [NCES](#)

What's a good fit for YOU?

College Research

- **Campus Visits**
 - Register through admissions/visits website
 - Spring Open Houses - longer sessions with academic information and parent programming
 - Major days camps/special programs
 - Great way to see campus, talk with current students, learn about off-campus community
- **Virtual Visits & College Fairs**
 - Live & recorded programming
 - Self-guided tours
 - [Youvisit.com](https://www.youvisit.com)
- **Admissions Representatives Visits at UMAHS**
 - Each Fall, 100+ college reps visit to meet with 11 & 12th grade students
 - Typically, the admissions rep is responsible for the first read on application or school/student advocate
 - Visit dates/times posted in Schoology Guidance Pages



COLLEGE FAIRS
Neumann University
2024 College Fair
April 24: 6-8:30PM
Main Line Regional
College Fair
Villanova University
Wed, May 22nd; 6:00-8:30 PM



What Matters to Admissions?

Transcript

Courses/Rigor

Grades

GPA/Decile Rank

Test Scores

Specific
Programs/Majors:
Level of Math & Science

Personal

Involvement/Leadership

Essays

Letters of
Recommendation

Work & Family
Commitments

Volunteer or Shadow
Experiences

Supplementals

Architecture

Art

BS/MD

Performing
Arts/Theatre

Interview



Grade 9				Grade 10			
YEAR	COURSE NAME	GRD	CREDIT	YEAR	COURSE NAME	GRD	CREDIT
2015-2016	HUMANITIES/ENGLISH HON	A	1.000	2016-2017	REEL HISTORY	A	0.500
2015-2016	HUMANITIES/SW CULTURES HON	A	1.000	2016-2017	ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE HON VHS	A	0.500
2015-2016	GEOMETRY HON	A	1.000	2016-2017	PHYSICAL EDUCATION	ADV	0.200
2015-2016	BIOLOGY I HON	A	1.200	2016-2017	ENGLISH 10 HON	A	1.000
2015-2016	SPANISH II CP	A	1.000	2016-2017	MODERN EURO HISTORY AP	A	1.000
2015-2016	DIGITAL ACADEMY	A	0.500	2016-2017	PSYCHOLOGY	A	0.500
2015-2016	TEENAGE ISSUES	A	0.500	2016-2017	ALGEBRA II HON	A	1.000
2015-2016	PHYSICAL EDUCATION	ADV	0.200	2016-2017	CHEMISTRY I HON	A	1.200
2015-2016	PHYSICAL EDUCATION	ADV	0.200	2016-2017	SPANISH III CP	A	1.000
				2016-2017	PHYSICAL EDUCATION HEALTH	ADV	0.200
				2016-2017	HEALTH	A	0.500
Absent: 1.0	Tardy: 4	Earned Credits: 6.600		Absent: 1.0	Tardy: 0	Earned Credits: 7.600	
Cumulative Wgt GPA: 4.8000		Cumulative GPA: 4.0000		Cumulative Wgt GPA: 5.6000		Cumulative GPA: 4.0000	

Grade 11				Grade 12			
YEAR	COURSE NAME	GRD	CREDIT	YEAR	COURSE NAME	GRD	CREDIT
2017-2018	CLIMATE SCIENCE	A	0.500	2018-2019	AP GOVERNMENT & POLITICS	A	0.500
2017-2018	ACCOUNTING I	A	0.500	2018-2019	AP SPANISH V	A	0.500
2017-2018	PHYSICAL EDUCATION	ADV	0.200	2018-2019	AP ENGLISH 12	A	1.000
2017-2018	ENGLISH 11 AP	A	1.000	2018-2019	PSYCHOLOGY AP	A	1.000
2017-2018	U.S. HISTORY AP	A	1.000	2018-2019	ECONOMICS HON	A	0.500
2017-2018	PRE-CALCULUS HON	A	1.000	2018-2019	AP STATISTICS	A	1.000
2017-2018	PHYSICS I HON	A	1.200	2018-2019	AP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE VHS	A	1.000
2017-2018	SPANISH IV HON	A	1.000	2018-2019	AP SPANISH V SPRING	B	0.500
2017-2018	PRINCIPLES MARKETING	A	0.500				
Absent: 6.0	Tardy: 3	Earned Credits: 6.900		Absent: 4.0	Tardy: 5	Earned Credits: 6.000	
Cumulative Wgt GPA: 6.4000		Cumulative GPA: 4.0000		Cumulative Wgt GPA: 7.1808		Cumulative GPA: 3.9808	

Graduated: 06/10/2019

ACADEMIC SUMMARY							
Computer Science	Elective	English	Health	Mathematics	Physical Education	Science	Social Studies
0.500					1.000	4.600	4.000
							Total
							27.100

ACT
 BO
 BO
 CL
 DE
 GIF
 NA
 OC
 SP.
 SP.
 STI
 WA

Major: Business
 4.0 GPA
 12 Clubs/Orgs with Leadership

	11	12
	VAR	VAR
	X	X
	MGR	MGR
	X	VP
	X	X
	TREAS	X
	X	X
	REP	VP
	VAR	VAR

School List:
PSU
 UMD, U of SC, James Madison, Arcadia (large scholarship)
UNC - Chapel Hill

Outcomes

Major: Undecided
 3.2 GPA
 Little involvement

Grade 9				Grade 10			
YEAR	COURSE NAME	GRD	CREDIT	YEAR	COURSE NAME	GRD	CREDIT
2018-2019	KEY ALG PREP FALL	P	0.250	2019-2020	INTRO TO BUSINESS	B	0.500
2018-2019	PHYSICAL EDUCATION	ADV	0.200	2019-2020	PHYSICAL EDUCATION	ADV	0.200
2018-2019	HUMANITIES/ENGLISH CP	B	1.000	2019-2020	ENGLISH 10 CP	B	1.000
2018-2019	DIGITAL ACADEMY	B	0.500	2019-2020	WESTERN CIV CP	B	1.000
2018-2019	HUMANITIES/SW CULTURES CP	B	1.000	2019-2020	ALGEBRA II CP	B	1.000
2018-2019	ALGEBRA IB CP	C	1.000	2019-2020	BIOLOGY I HON	B	1.200
2018-2019	SCIENCE & TECH HON	B	1.000	2019-2020	SPANISH II CP	A	1.000
2018-2019	SPANISH I CP	C	1.000	2019-2020	INTRO TO CULINARY ARTS	A	0.500
2018-2019	TEENAGE ISSUES	A	0.500	2019-2020	PHYSICAL EDUCATION	ADV	0.200
2018-2019	PHYSICAL EDUCATION	ADV	0.200				
Absent: 0.0	Tardy: 3	Earned Credits: 6.650		Absent: 1.0	Tardy: 4	Earned Credits: 6.600	
Cumulative Wgt GPA: 2.9500		Cumulative GPA: 2.7500		Cumulative Wgt GPA: 3.4400		Cumulative GPA: 3.0000	

Grade 11				Grade 12			
YEAR	COURSE NAME	GRD	CREDIT	YEAR	COURSE NAME	GRD	CREDIT
2020-2021	AMERICAN CULTURES CP FALL	A	0.500	2021-2022	ENGLISH 12 CP	B	1.000
2020-2021	CULINARY ARTS I	A	0.500	2021-2022	ECONOMICS CP	A	0.500
2020-2021	ENGLISH 11 CP	B	1.000	2021-2022	GOVT./POLITICS CP	B	0.500
2020-2021	AMERICAN CULTURES CP SPRING	B	0.500	2021-2022	STATISTICS AND MATH MODELING	B	1.000
2020-2021	GEOMETRY CP	A	1.000	2021-2022	PHYSICS CP	B	1.200
2020-2021	CHEMISTRY CP	B	1.200	2021-2022	PERSONAL FINANCE	C	0.500
2020-2021	SPANISH III HONORS	A	1.000	2021-2022	INTRO TO ENGINEERING	B	0.500
2020-2021	HEALTH	A	0.500	2021-2022	PHYSICAL EDUCATION	PRO	0.200
Absent: 4.0	Tardy: 3	Earned Credits: 6.200		Absent: 5.0	Tardy: 47	Earned Credits: 5.400	
Cumulative Wgt GPA: 3.8302		Cumulative GPA: 3.1902		Cumulative Wgt GPA: 3.7883		Cumulative GPA: 3.1483	

Graduated: 06/08/2022

ACADEMIC SUMMARY			
Business	Com	Science	Social Studies
0.500	0.500	4.600	4.000
			Total
			24.850

ACTIVITIES	
BOYS CROSS COUNTRY	
BOYS TRACK AND FIELD	
BOYS WINTER TRACK	
VIKING LINK CREW	

School List:
Kutztown
 Bloomsburg, Millersville, Albright, York, Jefferson
Pitt, PSU

Outcomes

Major: Undecided
 3.5 GPA
Late to apply!
 Little involvement

Grade 9			
YEAR	COURSE NAME	GRD	CREDIT
2018-2019	PHYSICAL EDUCATION	ADV	0.200
2018-2019	DIGITAL ACADEMY	A	0.500
2018-2019	TEENAGE ISSUES	A	0.500
2018-2019	HUMANITIES/ENGLISH HON	B	1.000
2018-2019	HUMANITIES/W CULTURES HON	A	1.000
2018-2019	GEOMETRY HON	A	1.000
2018-2019	SCIENCE & TECH HON	A	1.000
2018-2019	SPANISH II CP	B	1.000
2018-2019	PHYSICAL EDUCATION	ADV	0.200
Absent: 5.0		Tardy: 3	Earned Credits: 6.400
Cumulative Wgt GPA: 4.4667		Cumulative GPA: 3.6667	

Grade 10			
YEAR	COURSE NAME	GRD	CREDIT
2019-2020	INTRO TO CULINARY ARTS	A	
2019-2020	PHYSICAL EDUCATION	ADV	
2019-2020	ENGLISH 10 HON	B	
2019-2020	AP MODERN EURO HISTORY	B	
2019-2020	ALGEBRA II HON	A	
2019-2020	BIOLOGY I HON	A	
2019-2020	SPANISH III HONORS	A	
2019-2020	INTRO TO BUSINESS	A	
2019-2020	PHYSICAL EDUCATION	ADV	
Absent: 4.0		Tardy: 8	Earned Credit: 6.400
Cumulative Wgt GPA: 5.2721		Cumulative GPA: 3.6721	

Grade 11			
YEAR	COURSE NAME	GRD	CREDIT
2020-2021	AMERICAN CULTURES CP FALL	B	0.500
2020-2021	SPANISH IV HONORS FALL	A	0.500
2020-2021	INTRO TO ENGINEERING	A	0.500
2020-2021	PHYSICAL EDUCATION	ADV	0.200
2020-2021	AP LANGUAGE & COMPOSITION	B	1.000
2020-2021	AMERICAN CULTURES CP SPRING	A	0.500
2020-2021	PRE-CALCULUS HON	B	1.000
2020-2021	CHEMISTRY I HON	B	1.200
2020-2021	SPANISH IV HON SPRING	B	0.500
2020-2021	HEALTH	C	0.500
Absent: 5.0		Tardy: 5	Earned Credits: 6.400
Cumulative Wgt GPA: 5.9000		Cumulative GPA: 3.5000	

Grade 12			
YEAR	COURSE NAME	GRD	CREDIT
2021-2022	AP LITERATURE & COMPOSITION	C	1.000
2021-2022	GOVT./POLITICS CP	B	0.500
2021-2022	ECONOMICS HON	B	0.500
2021-2022	CALCULUS AND APPLICATIONS HON	A	1.000
2021-2022	PHYSICS I HON	B	1.200
2021-2022	PERSONAL FINANCE	A	0.500
2021-2022	PRINCIPLES MARKETING	A	0.500
2021-2022	ENTREPRENEURSHIP	B	0.500
Absent: 16.0		Tardy: 6	Earned Credits: 5.700
Cumulative Wgt GPA: 6.5632		Cumulative GPA: 3.4232	

Graduated: 06/08/2022

ACADEMIC SUMMARY

Business 0.500	Computer Science	Elective	English	Health	Mathematics 4.000	Physical Education 1.000	Science 4.600	Social Studies 4.000	Total 25.100
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ACTIVITY

	School List:	
9TH BO	PSU (Summer Program)	12
BOYS L	WCU, MCCC, Ursinus (\$\$)	VAR
FOOTB	Pitt	VAR

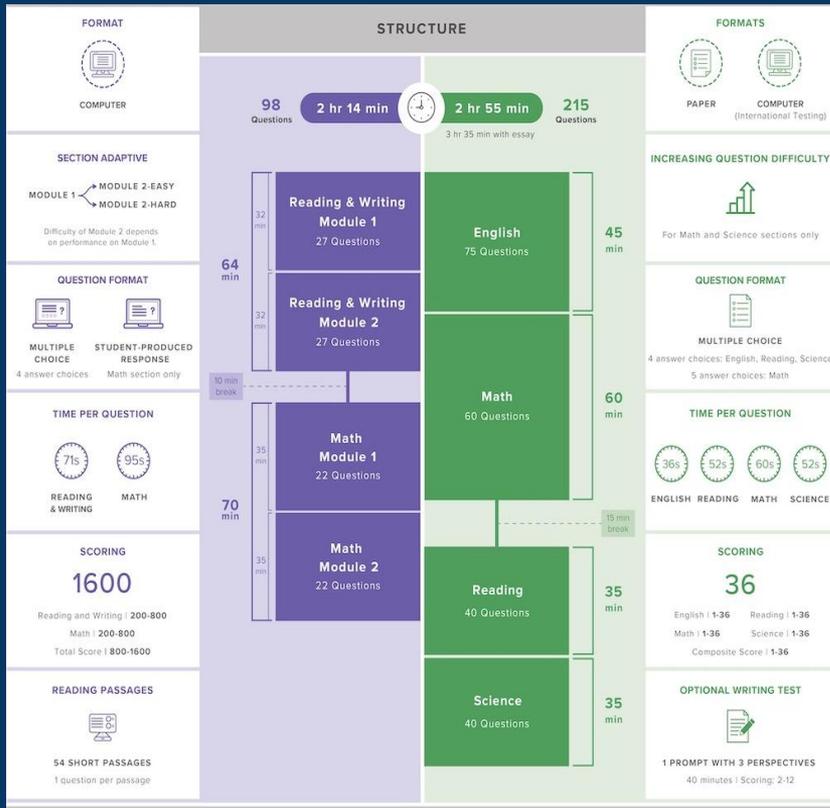
- Application Tips:**
- Apply early!
 - Create a balanced list
 - Keep track of deadlines
 - Stay organized
 - Research FIT

Testing Updates

- **What IS Test-Optional?**
 - Students can CHOOSE to include test scores in their evaluation to NO disadvantage.
 - Students will send scores from CollegeBoard or ACT directly to their school.
 - SAT scores can be added to transcript upon request during counselor meeting prior to being sent to colleges.
- Many colleges are reviewing their **testing policies and haven't made decisions** if they will remain TEST-OPTIONAL for Class of 2025 & beyond
 - Some majors/programs (Nursing, Engineering) may require, despite school being test-optional
- If NOT sending test scores - GPA & level of courses biggest data point. May affect some scholarship qualifications.
- **PSAT and SATs are DIGITAL**
 - Test will be shorter in length - 2 hours 14 mins
 - Shorter reading passages
 - Non-Calculator section removed



Digital SAT vs ACT



SAT Schedule 2023 - 2024

TEST DATE	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	LATE REGISTRATION DEADLINE
*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	February 23, 2024	February 27, 2024
May 4, 2024	April 19, 2024	April 23, 2023
June 1, 2024	May 16, 2024	May 21, 2024

AT
UMAHS
March &
June

ACT Schedule 2023 - 2024

TEST DATE	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	LATE REGISTRATION DEADLINE
September 9, 2023	August 4, 2023	August 18, 2023
October 28, 2023	September 22, 2023	October 6, 2023
December 9, 2023	November 3, 2023	November 17, 2023
February 10, 2024	January 5, 2024	January 19, 2024
April 13, 2024	March 8, 2024	March 22, 2024
June 8, 2024	May 3, 2024	May 17, 2024
July 13, 2024	June 7, 2024	June 21, 2024

General Testing Information

- **Fee waivers** are available for students on Free/Reduced Lunch - See Elaine Berman
 - 2 FREE SAT & 2 ACT tests
 - Application fees waived through Common App
- **Accommodations:** Students who have documented accommodations in school through IEP, 504 or ESL may be eligible for testing accommodations (EX: extended time, small group)
- More information about **Test Optional:** www.fairtest.org





01

Naviance

UMASD platform where you add colleges you're applying to. Teachers and counselors submit materials to your colleges here!



02

Schology

UMASD platform where information will be posted on your CLASS OF 20XX GUIDANCE page



03

College Board

STUDENT account with SAT, PSAT and AP Test Scores.



04

Common App

Account YOU create to apply to colleges (900 + colleges use this platform). 1 application for MAX of 20 schools.

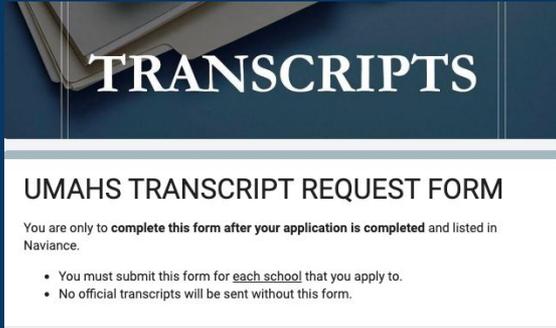


05

FAFSA

Application YOU and parent(s) file to apply for FREE aid for college.

Application Information



- Most UM students apply via Common App (1 FORM application for multiple schools)
 - Opens August 1st
 - Supplemental essays, questions, application fees and deadlines are school specific
- Common App connects with Naviance for UM materials to be sent with application
 - UM requires 10 school days to process material requests
- Some institutions (Pitt, PSU, Temple) require students to self-report grades

APPLYING TO COLLEGE



Applying with Common App

Account STUDENT
creates using
personal email.

****Fee waiver
eligibility**

Matches with UMASD
Naviance platform for
materials to be sent.

Apply to Georgetown



Direct to Institution

Account STUDENT
creates to apply.

Will need to add
college to UMASD
Naviance Manually

APPLICATION TYPES

Early Action

An admission application deadline that takes place during Fall and is non-binding (meaning you can still choose to go to another school upon receiving an offer of admission).

Early Decision

A student who is accepted as an ED applicant must attend the college, regardless of financial aid packages. Most ED deadlines are early November.

Rolling Admissions

Once your application is complete, you will be notified of your decision on a rolling, space-available basis.

Exploring Common App

Opens
August 1

The screenshot shows the Common App user interface. At the top left is the 'common app' logo. A navigation bar contains 'Dashboard', 'My Colleges', 'Common App', 'College Search', and 'Financial Aid Resources'. A top right message reads: 'Welcome, Aman Practice Applicant CAID 32092449 agarro@umasd.o'. A left sidebar lists menu items: 'Common App', 'Profile', 'Family', 'Education', 'Testing', 'Activities', 'Writing', and 'Courses & Grades 0 college(s) require'. The main content area is titled 'Profile' and features a 'Preview' button. Under the 'Personal Information' section, there are two input fields: 'First/given name*' with the value 'Amanda' and 'Middle name' which is currently empty.

- 1 application for a maximum of 20 colleges
- Report classes, grades, honors/activities - reference your transcript to complete!
- Need parental information & education levels
- Upload personal essay (some schools do NOT require)
- If you qualify for free/reduced lunch application **fees are waived** - see Mrs. Berman for eligibility.
- Application requirements: test scores, supplemental materials, deadlines

Fall 2024 Timeline (Seniors)

August 1:

Common App
Opens



**Late
August/
Early Sept:**
Day 1
Senior Year

- Schedule Senior meeting
- Review & request transcripts
- Finalize College List
- Revise Common App Essay
- Visit college campuses & reps
- Start FAFSA

October 18:

Application submitted



November 1:

Early Decision/Early Action Deadlines

November 1:

Application submitted



November 15:

Early Action/CSS Profile Deadlines

Financial Aid



Application STUDENT and PARENT(s) file to apply for FREE aid for college. Evaluates family income/assets/size.
*Must be US Citizen



Application STUDENT and PARENT(s) file to apply for FREE aid for college ONLY eligible for PENNSYLVANIA institutions.
*Must be US Citizen

Merit/Need based aid can be very school specific. Use **Cost Calculators**



This financial aid form form is administered by the College Scholastic Service – the financial aid division of the College Board.

The Profile is used by over 600 private universities & colleges to help determine need & non-government financial aid.

Financial Aid

- Check the financial aid website for EACH school you are applying to.
 - Is CSS Profile needed?
 - Do you need to file by a certain date?
- Contact the college/university for specific financial aid information
- FAFSA opens after October 1st

Sample Information

Students Applying for the 2022-2023 Academic Year

- Complete the CSS Profile online at <https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org>
- Villanova University CSS Profile Code 2959
- The deadline to submit the CSS Profile is:
 - November 15, 2021 for Early Decision I Applicants
 - December 1, 2021 for Early Action Applicants
 - January 15th for Early Decision II & Regular Decision Applicants
 - May 1st for Returning Undergraduate Students
 - June 1st for Fall 2022 Transfers
 - November 1st for Spring 2023 Transfers
- Per College Board, you are eligible to receive a fee waiver if you are a Domestic undergraduate student and you meet at least one of the following criteria:
 - You received a SAT waiver
 - Family adjusted gross income is up to \$100,000
 - You are an orphan or ward of the court under the age of 24
- Complete the entire financial aid process by the deadline which can be viewed on our [Key Dates Calendar](#)

RESOURCE LIST

- ❑ Student's Guidance Schoology Pages & Naviance Accounts
- ❑ UMAHS Counseling & College and Career Websites
- ❑ College Board: www.collegeboard.org
- ❑ SAT Prep: www.khanacademy.org
- ❑ ACT : www.act.org
- ❑ College Essay: <https://www.collegeessayguy.com/>
- ❑ First Generation: www.firstinthefamily.org
- ❑ Federal Grant Application: www.studentaid.gov
- ❑ PA State Grant & Loans: www.PHEAA.org
- ❑ Estimated Cost of College: <https://collegecost.ed.gov/net-price>

QUESTIONS & CONTACT



Amanda Staehle
College & Career Counselor
astaehle@umasd.org
(610)205-3839

Schedule an appointment:
<https://calendly.com/astaehle>