



# DePaul Catholic High School College Guidance Presentation for Juniors

February 25, 2025 7:00pm

# Our Staff

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## **Director of School Counseling**

*10/11/12 students* (O-Z)

## **School Counselor**

*10/11/12 students* (G-N)

## **Advisor**

*8/9th grade advisor*

## **School Counselor**

*10/11/12 students* (A-F)

## **Administrative Assistant**




# DePaul Catholic Guidance Department Philosophy

- Our ultimate goal is to help our students find the college that is right for them (Academically, Socially, Athletically, ect.)
- We provide structure and focus in order to ensure that all aspects of the college search, application, and selection process are completed in a timely fashion.
- We assure that all components of the college search and application procedure (including standardized tests, course selections, recommendations, and essays) are explained.



# Important Questions to Ask...

## Students Must Know Who They Are


- What are my strengths and weaknesses?
  - What type of school do I see myself attending?
  - What have I done? Activities, sports, volunteer, work?
  - How do I measure up to the admissions criteria that the school I want to apply to has established?
  - Am I being realistic?
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# Role Of The Counselor

- Counselor = Your #1 Resource
- We are your main advocate! Trust us!
- Help students make tough decisions
- We work with the student, but do not do the work for them!
- Run workshops (Essays, Naviance, Common Application)
- “Other advice”....(college coaches, tutors)



# Role Of The Student

- **The most important piece!** The students need to be proactive and responsible. Take ownership of the process.
  - Must understand the college & DPCHS timelines...Time Management!
  - Must understand himself/herself and make informed decisions.
  - Needs to be prepared for all possible decisions from a college.
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# Role Of The Parent

- Offer support and advice
- Encourage them to work for themselves
- Be patient and supportive. Listen.
- TRUST YOUR COUNSELOR!



# Transcript

- **Initial Transcript:** sent with college application contains:
  1. All courses with final grade
  2. GPA through Junior year
  3. List of Senior Year courses
- Consider ***rigor of courses*** for senior year (Honors, AP, additional core subjects)
- Quarter 1 grades are often requested by a college or can be voluntarily sent to show progress
- **Mid Year Transcript:** Semester 1 grades are available in early February. Transcript shows recalculated cumulative GPA
- **Final Transcript:** Electronically sent through Naviance or mailed, if necessary to the college that the student will be attending.
- **School Profile:** school specific information sheet that is sent with the transcript; describes school characteristics like school size, grading scale and courses offered



# COLLEGE VISITS

Visiting a school is a key component of the overall process

- In-person visits: many are open for group tours and have self-guided tours through an app
- Get your feet on campus!
- Virtual Events
- DePaul admission representative visits. Student must sign up in Naviance.



# DPCHS College Programs

## Junior Year


- Initial Individual College Meeting with each student (March- May) on College Process and Naviance.
- Topics covered
  - College Search and Naviance
  - College Essay and Letters of Recommendation
  - College “fits”

## Senior Year

- Individual College Meeting with each senior student in September/October
- Financial Aid Night (Sept/Oct. 2024)
- College Representative Visits to DP (October-January)

# College Counseling Time Frame

## March / April / May

- Schedule your individual planning meeting with counselor and develop a preliminary college list for exploration. Discuss senior year course selection and schedule.
  - Research and visit colleges on your preliminary list
  - Prepare for the March, May, and June SAT and/or the April or June ACT
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# College Counseling Time-Frame cont...

## March / April / May

- Write first draft of college essay (English class)
- Take necessary standardized testing.
- Visit additional colleges (spring and summer)



# Standardized Testing

## Have you taken a test yet?

- The SAT and ACT?
  - SAT - December, March, May, June, August
  - ACT - December, February, April, June, July
  - Extended-time testing
- Test Optional Schools
  - [www.fairtest.org](http://www.fairtest.org)
- Test Prep?

# TEST OPTIONAL

This means that standardized test scores are not required for the college to make an admission decision. **BUT...**

- Does your major require testing?
- Will you be required to take placement tests?
- Do certain scholarships require test scores?

We recommend taking the SAT and ACT at least once.



# Naviance

## What is Naviance?

- College Search application; student and parent have a login
- Way to research schools and see student fit based upon prior DP student acceptance data (Scattergrams)
- Tool used to manage college applications and letters
- Students list ALL college applications in Naviance when applying; student updates list when an application is submitted
- This is **required** to communicate application submissions to College Counselor

# Application Basics

## College Applications

- Common Application: This is the most commonly used application. “One stop shopping”.
- Direct to the Institution: Done directly through the colleges website.

## Majors

- Different majors may have different entrance requirements: required courses, GPA minimums, even application deadlines
- Students that already have an intended major should choose senior courses accordingly
- Some majors are more difficult to get accepted into at certain schools such as Pre Med/Law, engineering, nursing, business or PT/OT programs.



# Recommendation Letters

- Letters of Recommendation can support student's application to college
- They can be beneficial and are usually required as part of the college application
- Letters can carry significant importance by colleges in the review process.

## Types of Recommendation Letters


1. Teacher Letters: We recommend requesting letters from 2 core teachers. Request in person and then in [Naviance](#). If student adds a new college they must make a request on Naviance again.
2. Counselor Letter: your counselor will automatically write this letter
3. Outside Recommendation: *Optional*  
Advisor, coach, employer etc.
  - a. Common App has a link
  - b. Mail hard copy or provide recommender email address to each college admissions office

# Other Admissions Factors to Consider in Admissions

- Athletic recruiting
- Legacies
- Special talents
- Development /VIP cases
- Faculty and trustee recommendations
- Diversity
- Gender



# Financial Aid

- Attend DPCHS fall workshop!!!
  - FAFSA (free application for Federal Student Aid)
  - CSS/Financial Aid Profile
  - Scholarships
  - Don't always let finances discourage your from applying/attending...
    - [Fastweb.com](https://www.fastweb.com)
    - [Finaid.org](https://www.finaid.org)
    - [Naviance](https://www.naviance.com)
    - [Scholarships.com](https://www.scholarships.com)
    - Community Resources
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# Types of College Applications

- **EARLY DECISION:** This is BINDING! If accepted, students must attend. Only apply if student is 100% positive they want to attend. Student can only apply to one school early decision and it can help improve chances of a student getting admitted into the school. Contract must be signed by student, parent and counselor.
- **EARLY DECISION II:** If offered, the application Deadline is usually **January 1 or January 15**. This means you must apply Regular Decision to the rest of the schools on your list. If you're admitted Early Decision 2, usually around **February 15**, you will withdraw your remaining applications.



# Type of College Applications

- **EARLY ACTION:** Not binding, but student applies early and get an admission decision earlier than regular decision. Can apply to multiple schools early action. Application is typically due November 1st, November 15th, or December 1st.
- **REGULAR DECISION:** Most common. Student applies by the deadline, typically January 1st and receives a decision by mid March or April.
- **ROLLING DECISION:** No true deadline, however, they are reviewing applications and making the decisions ongoing. Some schools that use rolling decision fill up early so do not wait last minute.



# Dates to Remember

- SAT Test Dates

<https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat/registration/dates-deadlines>

- ACT Test Dates

<https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/registration.html>

- Common Application opens August 1, 2025
- FAFSA application December 2025???



# What Now?

## End of Junior Year

- Keep up Grades!
- Request Teacher Recommendations
- Take/retake SAT and or ACT to improve score;
- Sign up for challenging courses that student qualifies to take senior year
- Start developing list of colleges to visit and apply to attend
- College Essay -4th quarter in English class

## Ideas for the Summer

- Get a job or volunteer
- Participate in a summer program
- Look for opportunities to get leadership experience, internship, or fill a gap on your resume
- After August 1st start the common application
- Write college essay

**THANK YOU!!!**

