

The Nuts and Bolts of the College Admission Process

Senior Parent Night 2025



**CHRISTIAN
BROTHERS
ACADEMY**

Agenda

- Who We Are
- Admission Overview
- Applying to Colleges – Student and Counselor Responsibilities
- Financial Aid
- Tips
- Questions



School & College Counseling Staff

- Mr. David Frick: A - Di
 - Mr. Kevin McCaig: Do - Lo
 - Mrs. Rose Leo: Lu - Pi
 - Mr. Patrick Brennan: Po - Z
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- Mrs. Nicole Johnson: Freshman Class Counselor
 - Mrs. Bonnie Stahl - Administrative Assistant
 - Mrs. Gina Morisano - Counselor: SEL & Mental Health
 - Mr. Bryan Smith - Licensed Mental Health Professional

Different Roles

Primary Role: *Student*

- Drives the process
- Takes ownership over their college admission process
- Communicates with parents and counselor

Supportive Role: *Parents*

- Sets realistic goals/expectations
- Discusses costs/financial aid
- Facilitates conversations

Guiding Role: *Counselor*

- Develops partnership with student and parents
- Actively listens and shares information / feedback
- Serves as a sounding board

Admission Options

- Early Decision (I or II): 1st choice college, extremely competitive, binding
- Early Action: Applying typically by October 15 (southern schools), Nov. 1st and will hear by Jan. 1st, non-binding.
 - Restrictive Early Action
- Regular Decision: hear by April 1st
- Rolling Admission: apps reviewed as they are received, quick turnaround time

Early Decision



Early Action



Regular Decision

Apps typically due around Nov.
Decisions sent out in Dec.

Apps due sometime in fall
Decisions sent out Dec. - Feb.

Apps due between Jan. 1 - Feb. 1
Decision dates vary

PROS

- An early acceptance letter means the stressful process is over sooner!
- Schools know your commitment, so your chances can be (slightly) increased.

PROS

- You'll get an early decision, but it's not binding
- You don't need to withdraw your other applications if you're accepted

PROS

- Later deadlines mean you have longer to perfect your applications
- You aren't committed to any school, so it's perfect if you want to keep your options open



CONS

- An acceptance is binding, and you must withdraw applications from other schools.
- Beware of senioritis: don't let your grades slip just because you got in early!



CONS

- You still have to prepare your other applications, just in case—the Regular Decision deadline falls right after decisions are mailed out.



CONS

- A large, general applicant pool means stiff competition
- You won't receive a decision until later, so you'll be on pins and needles for longer!

DO THIS IF...

You have one dream school

DO THIS IF...

You love one particular school, but still want to keep your options open

DO THIS IF...

You like a lot of schools, and want to weigh all of your options

How Many Applications?

General: Students should apply to roughly 8 Colleges

on average CBA students apply to 10 schools

- 2 -3 = Reach/Dream
- 3-4 = Target
- 2-3 = Likely (Admissions & Financial)

Application Types



- Common Application

- www.commonapp.org

- Students have already created a common app account and completed certain sections during Junior College and Career Planning

- If a school uses Common App that is the preferred and easiest way to apply

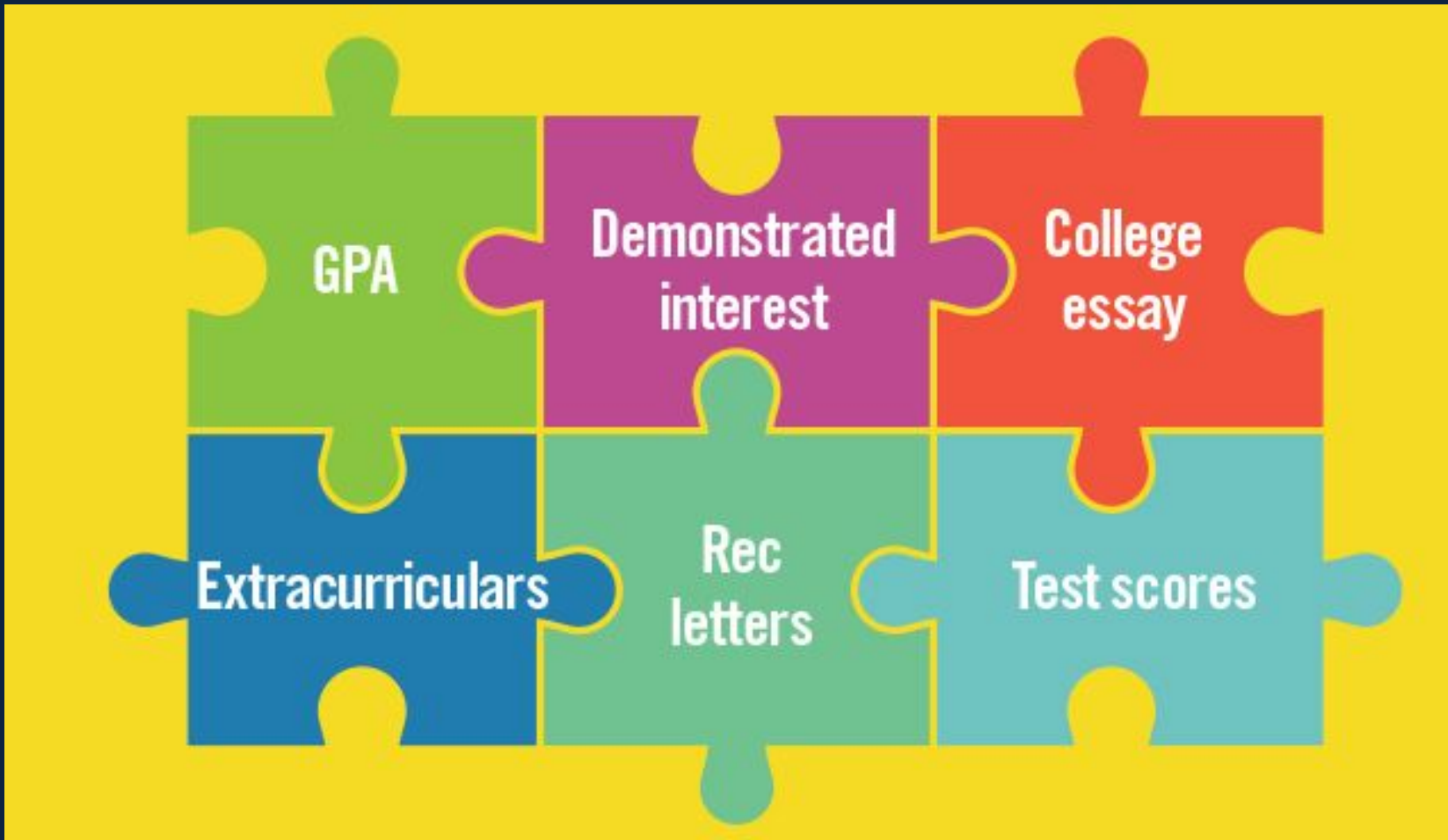
- Other Applications

- Coalition

- School Specific Applications

- Only used when absolutely necessary- ex: Georgetown or Military Academies

Admission Review



Who writes the Letters of Recommendation?

Type 1: Counselor

- Required
- Purpose: Floodlight
 - Context- The Whole Person
 - Academic, Personal, Community

Type 2: Teacher

- 2 Required
 - Students Choice
 - Preferably Junior Year
 - Class of Interest and/or Class they WORKED for
- Purpose: Spotlight
 - In Class
 - How did you contribute to class? What would the class have been like without you?

Type 3: Other

- NOT Required
- Additional recs (coach, mentor, boss, etc.) are the EXCEPTION because schools may not accept and may not add something significant to the picture

Should I Submit My Test Scores?

Test Optional Policy

- Student has ability to determine best path
- 1800+ colleges have adopted this policy
- Application review vs. Merit Scholarship review
- May be in student's best interest to apply test optional

Submitting Test Scores

- Test Scores are NOT on your transcript
- Submit OFFICIALLY
- Self-report

The ACT logo is displayed in white on a dark blue rectangular background. The letters 'ACT' are in a bold, sans-serif font, with a red horizontal line underlining the letter 'A'.The CollegeBoard logo features a white acorn icon to the left of the text 'CollegeBoard' in a white, sans-serif font, all set against a dark brown rectangular background.The SAT logo consists of the letters 'SAT' in a bold, white, sans-serif font, centered within a bright blue rectangular background.

Niche Processes

Athletic Recruitment

- Division I or II - must be cleared by NCAA clearinghouse
- Test scores
 - NOT required
 - If sending use clearinghouse code 9999
- Division III



Fine Arts

- Music, Art or Theater
- Audition - could be required
 - part of admission and scholarship review
- Portfolio - could be required
 - part of admission and scholarship review



Student vs. Counselor Responsibilities

• Student:

- Application
- Fee
- Essay – including optional essays
- Request for CBA documents
- Submit Test Scores (if applicable)
- SRAR
- Financial Aid
- Checking status on college's portal

• Counselor:

- Transcript
- Counselor Letter
- Teacher Letter(s)
- School Profile
- All documents will be submitted by application deadlines

****Seniors must request documents in Maia at least 2 weeks ahead of their 1st deadline****

Application Portal

Student can track their application checklist on each college's portal

Your checklist tells:

- Next steps
- What is received
- Missing pieces
- Admission Decision

Application Checklist

Your application is now complete and under review. You will receive an admission decision by late March.

Status	Details	Date
✓ Received	Application (Common Application or Coalition Application)	12/16/2018
✓ Received	Counselor Evaluation	12/18/2018
✓ Received	High School Transcript or GED	12/18/2018
✓ Received	SAT or ACT scores	12/16/2018
✓ Received	School Report Form	12/18/2018
✓ Received	Teacher Evaluation	12/18/2018
Optional	TOEFL or IELTS	

Upload Materials

Please feel free to submit additional information or materials using the available document types listed below.

Additional Applicant Info (self-upload) No file chosen

Student can submit application before counselor submits supporting documents. These do not have to occur at the same time!

Admission Outcomes

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS PROCESS



Admission Review

The college's admission team reviews all necessary documents, discusses the student based on their admission criteria.



Accepted

The college notifies the student through the school's online admission portal, via email, or through a mailed letter. Some colleges release all decisions at the same time (UF & FSU), others as applications comes in.



Scholarship & Program Review

Because of a student's academic standing, they may ask the student to apply to specific programs (Honors, International, etc.) or for additional scholarships. There may be an essay or interview process.



Award Letter

After acceptance, the student will receive an award letter that details the provided financial aid package (including loans and grants), institutional scholarships, and some given state scholarships. The student may accept to deny any part of the award letter.



Decision Day

The student must provide their decision to their college by May 1st or sooner. Before deciding, it is important to visit the campus one more time, and talk to the financial aid office and program of interest to ensure the student's needs are being met.



Housing & Orientation

Once the spot is accepted, there will be some additional documents to provide to the college. Official transcripts should be sent from the high school and any acceleration program they used. He/she will also be selecting housing (if applicable) and an orientation time.



Deferred/ Waitlisted

The college has decided to defer the student either for 1) further review after more information is received (recommendation letters, semester grades, etc.), 2) to a different term/program that was not requested by the student, or 3) put on a waitlist if admitted students drop.



Denied

The college admission team decides the student's application does not meet their criteria so they deny admission. If a student feels this is a good fit, a student may seek alternative paths to the college, such as a transfer status.



Application Review

If a student feels like there is additional information that should be reviewed, he/she may ask for an application review. Information to be provided may be a personal statement, recommendation letter, and school information.

PAYING FOR COLLEGE

FINANCIAL AID
FUNDS TO HELP YOU AFFORD THE COST OF COLLEGE

TYPES

- GRANTS**
FREE MONEY!
- LOANS**
MUST PAY BACK
- SCHOLARSHIPS**
AWARDS FOR ACHIEVEMENTS
- WORK-STUDY**
HOLD A JOB WHILE IN SCHOOL

HOW TO ACCESS

- FAFSA**
MAIN FORM TO FILL OUT
- CSS PROFILE**
REQUIRED BY SOME SCHOOLS
- SEARCH ONLINE**
FIND YOUR OWN SCHOLARSHIPS

MERIT BASED
QUALIFY WITH ACHIEVEMENTS:
• ACADEMICS • ATHLETICS • OTHER

VS.

NEED BASED
QUALIFY BASED ON YOUR FAMILY'S FINANCIAL DETAILS

Napkin Finance

- FAFSA opens on 10/1
- Utilize the Net Price Calculator
- CSS may be required
- No reason you shouldn't fill out the FAFSA.... unless

CBA Financial Aid Night, Thursday, 10/2

College Rep Visits

- Roughly 100 colleges will visit CBA in the fall
 - Parents can see the calendar of scheduled College Visits in their Maia Account
- Students sign up for visit on Maia 24 hours in advance
 - Seniors may sign up during free period, lunch, class with teacher permission (may not be excused from a test)

******Per the Student Handbook: Seniors are given 3 EXCUSED absences for in person College Visits******

Helpful Tips for Students and Parents

- Trust your kid!
- Be aware of DEADLINES!
- Read your email
- Proofread
- Be honest
- Set realistic expectations
- Be yourself
- Pursue happiness
- Know your strengths
- Trust the process
- Get excited about college and your future home
- Celebrate every acceptance

Our department is available to provide support and guidance to both your son and you throughout this process to hopefully reduce stress and anxiety. Please utilize us as a resource as you continue to navigate this process as a family. We are available and willing to help.

Upcoming Events

Financial Aid Night- October 2, 2025

CBA Mini-Fair - October 8, 2025 (during school)

NJACAC College Fair at Monmouth U - October 12, 2025

College Athletics Info Night- November 20, 2025

