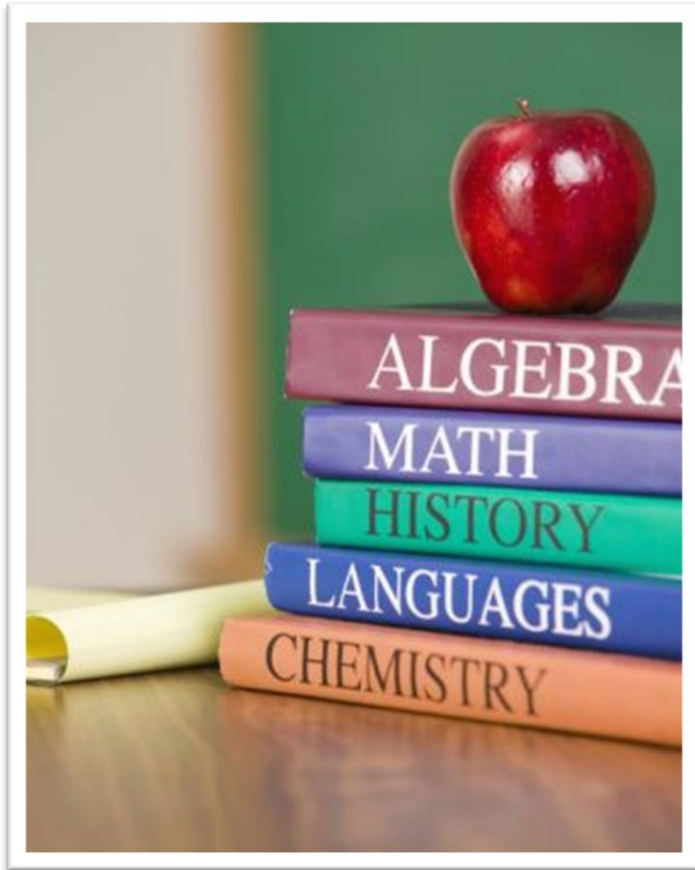


College 101

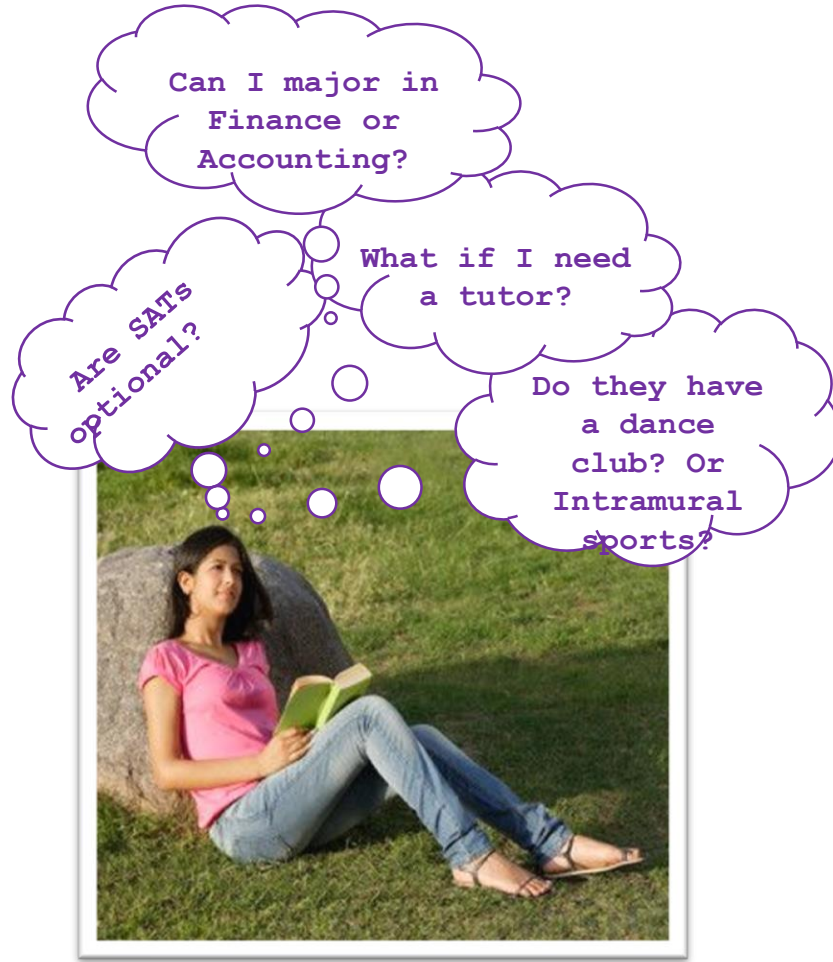
High School Courses Recommended for All Students



English	4 Years
Mathematics (precalc/calc recommended)	4 Years
Social Studies	4 Years
Science (Biology, Chemistry, and Physics)	3-4 Years
Foreign Language (of the same language)	2-4 Years

- * colleges want to see students challenge themselves. Take as many Honors, AP, and DCC courses as you can!

Consider College Characteristics



- Majors & educational programs
- Type of school & degrees offered
- Admission policy
- Location & size
- Costs & financial aid
- College affiliation & accreditation
- Campus activities
- Support services: EOP, HEOP, SEEK, CD, etc.

List, Compare, and Visit Colleges



- Compile information from several resources:
 - Internet/Websites
 - College catalogs, view books, videos, and computer-based services
 - College representatives and college fairs
 - Counselors and teachers
 - Parents, students, and alumni
 - Directories (i.e. Petersons, College Board etc)

TIP: Create a folder or filing system for college materials.

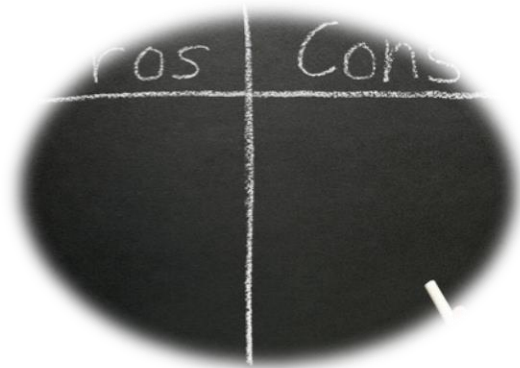


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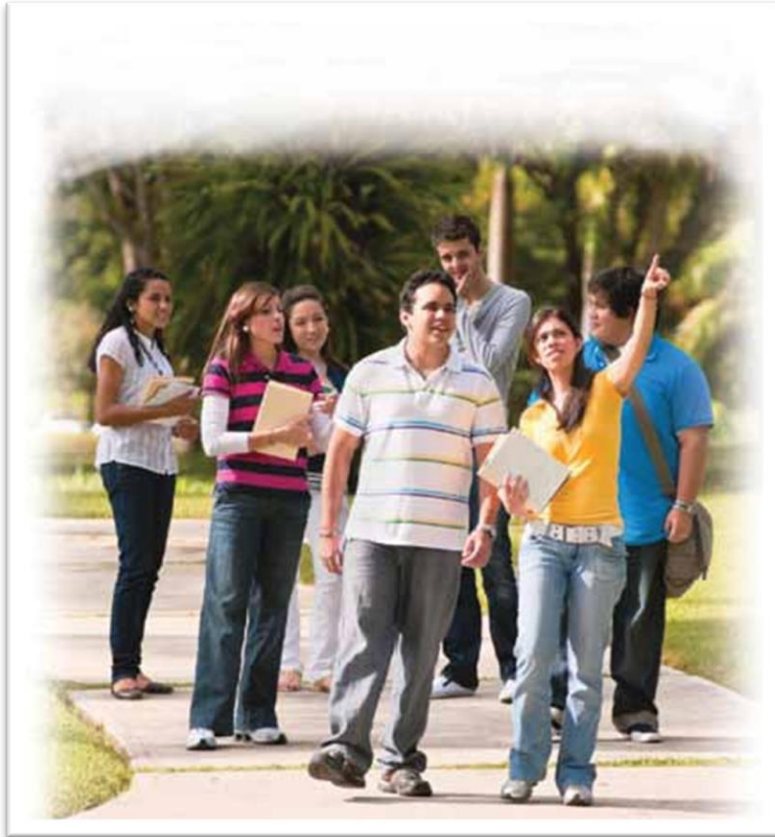
List, Compare, and Visit Colleges



- Prepare a college comparison checklist
- Weigh advantages & disadvantages
- Contact the Office of Admissions
- Schedule appointments for your campus visits

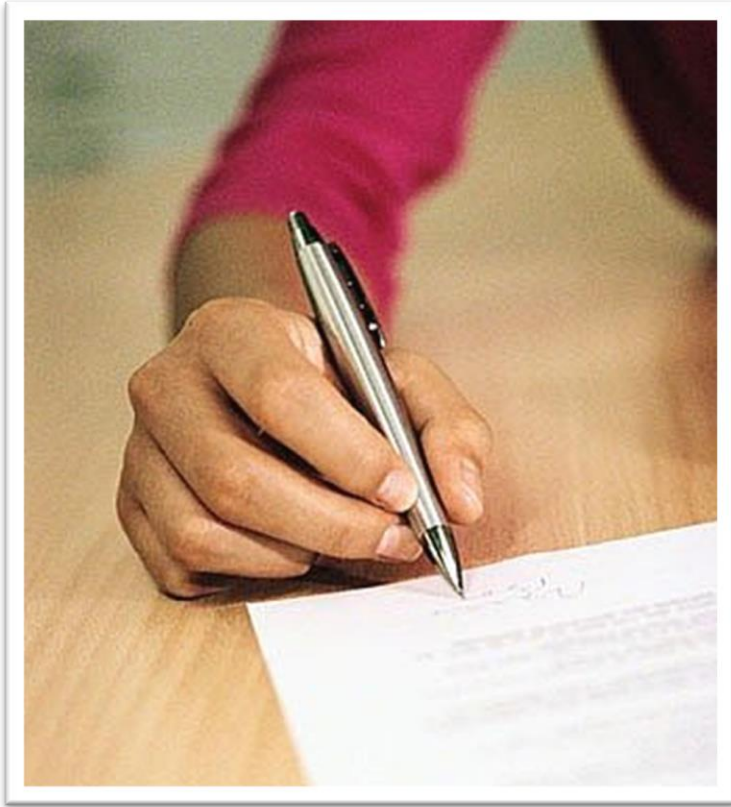


Tip: Checklist for a Campus Visit



- ✓ Meet with an admission counselor
- ✓ Verify admission requirements (SAT/ACT required, college essay/supplemental essays, interviews, etc.)
- ✓ Determine actual college costs (tuition, room & board)
- ✓ Ask about financial aid opportunities
- ✓ Take a campus tour
- ✓ Investigate your academic program(s)
- ✓ Attend a class
- ✓ Talk with students and faculty

Apply for Admission and Observe Deadlines



- Narrow your choices
- Review college admission test requirements (including the optional Writing Test)
- Know application fees and deadlines
- Submit application materials (paper/electronic)
 - Application for admission
 - High school transcript
 - Recommendations
 - Admission test results
- Know scholarship requirements

Develop a Plan to Pay for Your Education

ESTIMATED EXPENSES FOR A YEAR OF COLLEGE			
Budget item	Average annual range		
Tuition and fees	\$ 2,300 – 19,000*		
Room and board	\$ 3,000 – 7,000*		
Books and supplies	\$ 600 – 1,500*		
Transportation	\$ 300 – 1,200*		
Miscellaneous (clothing, laundry, entertainment, and recreation)	\$ 1,000 – 2,500*		
TOTAL	\$ 7,200 – 31,200*		
*These figures represent average tuition and fee costs for Midwestern states. Some schools will be lower in costs, while other schools will have higher costs. These figures should be used as a guide only. Students should check with the institution(s) in which they are interested to determine more specific costs.			
COSTS AT YOUR COLLEGE CHOICES			
Budget item	(1st choice)	(2nd choice)	(3rd choice)
Name of College			
Direct costs			
Tuition and fees			
Room and board			
Indirect costs			
Books and supplies			
Transportation (including car expenses)			
Miscellaneous			
TOTALS			

- Determine college costs
- Investigate ALL possible resources
 - Parents
 - Savings
 - Summer earnings
 - Financial aid: scholarships, grants, loans, and work-study
 - Other sources
- Secure necessary forms and note deadlines
- Apply for financial aid as early as possible

Tip: Filling Out Applications & Writing Essays

APPLICATIONS

- Gather info in one place/folder
- Unofficial transcript
- Resume
- Check deadlines & submit on time
- Fee waiver incentives for applying online
- Read directions carefully
- Take time/care with all applications (esp. paper applications)
- Proofread, Proofread, Proofread
- Use appropriate email address

ESSAY/STATEMENT

- Puts face on application
- Know questions
- Take time to reflect
- Narrow topic
- Brainstorm
- Write first draft
- Review/Rewrite
- Proofread, Proofread, Proofread
- Does it convey who you are?



Tip: College Success Factors

Test scores and high school grades ARE important. However, they measure ONLY PART of your POTENTIAL.

■ Athletics

■ Community Service

■ Student Government

■ Admission's Interviews



■ Activities

■ Extra Curricular Activities

■ Clubs

■ Recommendations

■ Awards/Honors

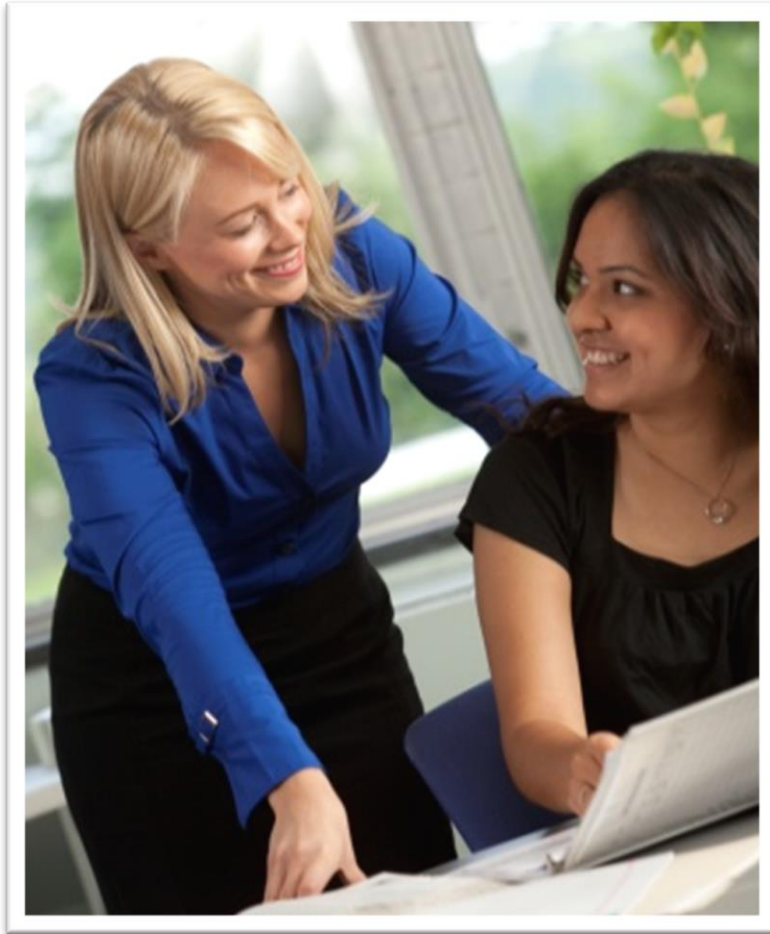
■ Personal Essays

Tip: How College Applications Are Reviewed



- Instructions were followed
 - No abbreviations for addresses
 - Deadlines were honored
 - All supplementary information was included
- No typos or spelling errors
- Authentic essays
- Sincere interest in the institution
- Extracurricular Involvement
 - Concentrated on 1-2 activities
 - Leadership or Competitive involvement
- Indication the student can be an asset
 - Unique skill or ability
- Challenge themselves academically
 - AP /Honors courses or accelerated courses

Review and Finalize Your Plans



- Show initiative and be assertive
- Talk with your parents and counselor
- Select a college that meets your needs and preferences
- Follow up with colleges to which you have applied

Final Tips



- Do careful research on colleges
- Good applications take time to prepare
- Know all deadlines
- Proofread everything
- Apply online if possible



Completing the admissions application

- Students are encouraged to complete the common application at www.commonapp.org. The common app. is connected to hundreds of colleges across the country and it makes this process *a lot* easier for students to hold all of their applications in one spot.
 - Students will have to complete an application for *each college applying* to using one common app. username and password. *Be mindful of application fees.
- Students will complete an undergraduate application for the Fall 2026 semester. Once application is complete, they can submit application to school.

** Once student submits application they MUST tell Mrs. Bucher so she can submit their supporting documents.*

Supporting documents required and recommended

- School report- Official document that includes school and district academic demographics including but not limited to: average SAT/ACT scores, number of AP, Honors, College level courses offered. Sent by Mrs. Bucher
- Initial transcript- HS transcript including freshmen through end of junior year classes, grades, regents/final exam scores, etc. Senior year classes are included! Sent by Mrs. Bucher
- Mid-year report- HS transcript including freshmen through end of 2nd quarter senior year classes. Mid-year reports are sent to every school applied to (regardless of whether or not the student has heard back with an admissions decision) after 2nd quarter grades are finalized. Sent by Mrs. Bucher
- Final transcript- HS transcript including all years of HS including final grades, cumulative GPA, rank, etc. Final transcripts are only sent to college attending.
- Standardized test scores (if applicable).
- Report cards- Some colleges may request a copy of 1st quarter senior year grades. Pay attention to emails, student portals, etc. Colleges will only contact the student for these records. It is the students responsibility to let Mrs. Bucher that the colleges need them.
- Letters of recommendation- Mrs. Bucher recommends three letters (minimum). Some colleges may require additional and/or specific subject recommendations.
 1. Teacher
 2. Teacher
 3. School Counselor

**even if you don't need certain letters, it is wise to get them for scholarship applications. They will be required! Complete student activity sheet and have them ready to give to recommenders upon asking!*

What happens after your student applies?

- Students MUST let Mrs. Bucher know that the application(s) were submitted. Once notified, Mrs. Bucher will send all necessary supporting documents to the college via naviance. Supporting documents that are required can vary college to college. It is the students responsibility to find out what documents are required for each of their schools i.e how many letters of recommendation, standardized test scores, etc.
- *Ask your recommenders early; quality letters take time and our teachers receive multiple requests each year! Students don't have access to their letters of rec. If I see letters missing on their Naviance account, I will let them know however, it is also a good idea for them to check in with me to ensure all documents are uploaded and ready to go!*
- Transcripts, letters, & school report are sent!
- Now we wait.....

- Colleges receive all documents and everything goes under review.
- Depending on how student applies (early action, early decision, or regular decision), students can start hearing back from schools as early as a few weeks after the application was submitted.
 - rolling admissions: colleges review applications as they are submitted, making decisions on a rolling basis.
 - early action (EA): non-binding application deadline, typically earlier than regular decision, with decision released earlier.
 - early decision (ED): binding application process where students commit to attending the college if accepted.

How will my student hear back?

- Most colleges will post admissions decisions on each student portal OR send letter via standard mail.
 - It is important for students to check their emails often. This is the main source of communication between the student and college! *Colleges **will not** reach out to parents!*

Types of admissions decisions:

- Accepted
- Deferred: for early applicants, the decision is postponed to the regular decision round. (look at this as the application is getting a second look)
- Waitlisted: the colleges places the student on a list for potential admission if space becomes available. This typically happens after accepted students let college know they will NOT be attending. *A letter of continued interest* might be recommended or requested to stay on waitlist.
- “unable to offer admissions”: college is unable to offer admission at this time. Colleges might revisit this after midyear report is sent and/or major is changed.