

**WELCOME TO  
SENIOR PARENT NIGHT  
CLASS OF 2026!**

**AMITY COUNSELING  
DEPARTMENT  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2025**

# WELCOME

- Goals of the meeting – understand the college process/everyone's role and responsibilities
- Finalize the college list – Students may be at different points in the process
- No list? Students should make an appointment with me to start a search. IT'S NOT TOO LATE!!
- Be aware of limitations regarding geography and finances.
  - Return on investment: [US Dept of Ed Scorecard](#)  
→ [National Center for Education Statistics](#)
- Scholarships

## IMMEDIATE RESPONSIBILITIES

Review your student's transcript

Confirm that your student completed their Senior Brag Sheet and complete the optional Parent Questionnaire: both in Google forms

Students can develop a resume (list of activities) & attach to their Brag Sheet

Students should be working on their list of colleges

Students should be in process with their college essay

Determine student's fall testing needs (Deadlines)

# SHOULD MY CHILD TAKE THE SAT/ACT IN SENIOR YEAR?

| <u>SAT Test Date</u> | <u>Reg. Deadline</u> | <u>Late Reg. Deadline</u> |
|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Oct. 4               | Sept. 19             | Sept. 23                  |
| Nov. 28              | Oct. 24              | Oct. 28                   |
| Dec. 6               | Nov. 21              | Nov. 25                   |

| <u>ACT Test Date</u> | <u>Reg. Deadline</u> |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Oct. 18              | Sept. 20             |
| Dec. 13              | Nov. 7               |

- Visit [Collegeboard.org](http://Collegeboard.org) or [Actstudent.org](http://Actstudent.org) to register and send scores.

# WHO SENDS SAT, ACT, AND AP EXAM SCORES TO COLLEGES?

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YOUR STUDENT DOES.

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SCORES MAY BE SENT TO UP TO FOUR COLLEGES (NO ADDITIONAL FEE) THROUGH COLLEGEBOARD WHEN YOU REGISTER FOR SAT.

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SCORE CHOICE - BOTH SCORES SENT (BASED ON TEST DATE)

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SEND EXTRA SCORE REPORTS (FOR A FEE) ONLINE AT COLLEGEBOARD.ORG OR ACTSTUDENT.ORG.

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***\*KEEP IN MIND - MANY COLLEGES WILL REMAIN TEST OPTIONAL THIS YEAR\****

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**VISIT [WWW.FAIRTEST.ORG](http://WWW.FAIRTEST.ORG) FOR MORE INFO**

# Self-Reporting

SAT, ACT, AP or other standardized test scores - check with schools to see if they accept self-reported scores or if they want official scores

Some schools will ask students to self-report their grades through the Self-Reported Transcript and Academic Record System (STARS)

# CAN COLLEGE APPLICATIONS BE SENT IN BEFORE AN SAT OR ACT TEST IS TAKEN IN SENIOR YEAR?

- ABSOLUTELY! Don't hold up your application!
- The same thing goes for transcripts and letters of recommendation. Colleges match all materials; they do not need to arrive in synch.
- We kindly request 10 school days notice from the application deadline.

| →App Deadline | Material Request Date      |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| →October 15   | September 29 <sup>th</sup> |
| →November 1   | October 20 <sup>th</sup>   |
| →November 15  | October 31 <sup>st</sup>   |
| →December 1   | November 13 <sup>th</sup>  |
| →December 15  | December 1 <sup>st</sup>   |
| →January 1    | December 10 <sup>th</sup>  |
| →January 15   | December 22 <sup>nd</sup>  |
| →February 1   | January 16 <sup>th</sup>   |

## WHEN DOES YOUR STUDENT APPLY TO COLLEGE?



Deadlines range from mid October - March



Schools offer Early Action, Early Decision, Regular Decision, and Rolling Admissions



Apply early to competitive state universities or schools with rolling admissions. (Oct - Jan)



Know the admission policies and deadlines for the schools to which you are applying!



# DECIDING TO APPLY “EARLY DECISION” OR “EARLY ACTION”?

- Visit colleges early
- The commitment
- Sense of readiness
- Advantages & disadvantages:

[RESOURCES — BigJ Educational Consulting](#)

Class of 2025 early application statistics:

|                         |      |
|-------------------------|------|
| Total Applications      | 3048 |
| Early Action            | 1238 |
| Early Action II         | 37   |
| Restricted Early Action | 13   |
| Early Decision          | 69   |
| Early Decision II       | 16   |

# EARLY ADMISSION PROGRAMS DECISION VS. ACTION

## Early Decision

- Binding agreement
- Must be 100% sure
- Be able to pay the full cost set by the school
- May only apply to one ED program

## Early Action

- Non-binding agreement
- Find out in Dec./Jan.
- Compare financial aid packages
- Apply to as many as you like!

# HOW MANY COLLEGES SHOULD YOUR STUDENT APPLY TO?

- Average is 8 to 10
- Include:
  - “Reach” Schools
  - “Ballpark/Target” Schools
  - “Likely” Schools

# HOW DO YOU KNOW A COLLEGE IS A "GOOD FIT" FOR YOUR CHILD?

From:

- What you read about the school
- What you know about your child
- Visiting the campus
- Your child's meeting with the admissions representative at Amity
- The cost
- Some colleges allow students to attend a couple classes

# HOW DOES YOUR STUDENT COMPLETE COLLEGE APPLICATIONS?

- This is the student's responsibility.
- Online applications are available through:
  - [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)
  - college websites
  - Coalition Application

# WHAT IS THE COMMON APPLICATION? WHAT ARE ITS ADVANTAGES?

- One application for several schools  
\*\*Look for supplements\*\*
- Over 1,000 colleges accept it
- Reading directions is critical to success!

# WHERE CAN YOU FIND THE COMMON APPLICATION?

- [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)
- Early Decision (ED) - must complete agreement
- No disadvantage to the Common Application
  - Be aware of supplements and deadlines.

# HOW DO APPLICATION MATERIALS GET PROCESSED?



Student submits the application materials online



Be sure to send all standardized test scores as needed (directly through College Board and ACT websites)



Student adds college to Schoolinks no later than 10 school days before the FIRST application deadline!!!





- Our platform for college and career planning
- Guardian Claim account emails went out junior year
- Limited access to things your child has on SchooLinks
- Track documents
- Research Schools

# HOW DO TRANSCRIPTS GET SENT TO COLLEGES?

- Electronically
- Complete the Transcript Permission form in the Forms section of PowerSchool. This gives permission to release records to the schools in a student's Schoollinks list (10 school days prior to 1st application only).

## Transcript fees:

- One time flat fee of \$20.00, made payable via My School Bucks (on school website)
  - MUST BE PAID BEFORE TRANSCRIPTS ARE RELEASED

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\*Complete Form on PowerSchool first. \$20 fee will then be posted to My School Bucks\*

\*Allow for processing time

# HOW DOES MY CHILD KNOW IF COLLEGES HAVE RECEIVED APPLICATION MATERIALS?

- The student will receive an email from the college/university with access to their application status
- Counselors receive confirmation of receipt of electronic school materials
- History is recorded in Schoolinks

# DOES MY CHILD NEED TO SEND MID-YEAR GRADES?

- We will send midyear grades to each school listed in Schoolinks. Therefore, midyear report forms are not needed
- For EA/ED, 1st Quarter Grades:
  - Students must request them to be sent. There will be a Google Form set up for this.

## SHOULD MY CHILD SCHEDULE AN INTERVIEW IF IT IS RECOMMENDED BUT NOT REQUIRED?

- Yes. Getting acquainted with admissions representatives is important!
- Make a contact! Check Career Center for Amity-specific contact information.
- Mrs. Cocco, our College & Career Counselor, offers mock-admission interviews for seniors.



## HOW CAN MY CHILD CHECK TO SEE IF A COLLEGE REP IS VISITING AMITY?

- The college visits are posted in Schoolinks, on the College & Career Center webpage, and in the Community Happenings.
- All students are welcome! Please register in Schoolinks to receive a pass at the time of the event.

# HOW DOES MY CHILD REQUEST LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION FROM TEACHERS, COACHES & OTHERS?

- The student should speak to teachers directly about their willingness to write a letter.
- The student should provide the writer(s) a resume if requested.
- Your child will request teacher recommendations in Schoolinks.
- Your child should convey their thanks through a note.
- Outside letters- student should provide a stamped envelope, add them in Common App, or add them in Schoolinks.

## HOW MANY LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION SHOULD BE REQUESTED?



Visit college website or Schoollinks



Preferably two from academic teachers and one from your counselor.



Recommendation overkill is not a good idea.



# WHAT ARE SOME OTHER OPTIONS IF YOUR CHILD IS UNDECIDED ABOUT COLLEGE?

## □ Taking a year off

- GAP Year Program
- Service Programs
- Work

## □ Apply to school and defer attendance

## □ Military

## □ Other resources are available to make a plan

- Mrs. Cocco (Career Counselor)

# CAREER CENTER

## Services for Seniors this fall:

- ↴ College representative visits
- ↴ Mock interviews (for college admissions and employment)
- ↴ SAT and ACT testing information
- ↴ FAFSA and CSS PROFILE information
- ↴ Mini-Workshops - resume writing, college essay writing, using Schoollinks, sending SAT or ACT scores
- ↴ Community service info & listings of sites
- ↴ VISIT [OUR WEBPAGE](#) on the ARHS site!

# WHAT IF YOUR CHILD WANTS TO PLAY SPORTS IN COLLEGE?

- Student athletes should apply online at [ncaa.org](http://ncaa.org) if they are considering athletics in college.
- Each division has different requirements for eligibility – equation of SAT and grades.
- YOUR CHILD MUST make sure that your classes meet the NCAA requirement for core courses.

# REVIEWING RESPONSIBILITIES

*“WHO SENDS WHAT?!”*

## Student sends:

- Application
- Essay(s)
- Application fee
- Test scores
- Supplemental information (art portfolio, video, required forms)
- ED agreement (if applicable)

## Amity HS sends:

- AHS transcript
- School profile
- GPA distribution chart
- 3 Recommendation letters (1 counselor and 2 teachers)
- Common App or AHS Secondary School Report

# Parent Responsibilities

- ▶ Encourage your child to check his/her email
- ▶ Open Houses and college visits
- ▶ Help with deadlines
- ▶ Have conversations about financial availability and distance

# **TOGETHER WE WILL MAKE THIS YEAR A SUCCESS!**

- Contact your student's counselor with questions  
We are here to help!
- FINANCIAL AID NIGHT – September 30 at 6:30 p.m.  
in the Brady Center
- Have a great evening!