

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLEGE PROCESS

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2025-2026 Webinars

- ◆ **October – Overview of College Planning**
- ◆ **November – Military Options**
- ◆ **December – Admissions Panel**
- ◆ **January – Financial Aid**
- ◆ **February – Athletics and Recruiting**
- ◆ **March – Planning for Students with Disabilities & Gap Year Programs**
- ◆ **April – Postgraduate Year**
- ◆ **May – End of year/Summer Planning**

TIMELINE

🟢 JUNIOR YEAR

- **Counselors will be meeting with students in groups during flex block throughout the school year (already began in September)**
- **Topics covered include general timeline, standardized testing, SCOIR, college visits, building a list, essays, recommendations, and more**
- **Course selection in early February**
- **Individual meetings throughout the spring**
- **Maintaining good academics and involvement**

TIMELINE (cont.)

- **Standardized Tests**
- **College visits/Start developing list**
- **Teacher/Counselor recommendations**
- **Parent/Family meeting upon request**

TIMELINE (cont.):

- ◆ **SUMMER FOLLOWING JUNIOR YEAR**
 - Continue visiting colleges, interviews
 - Begin filling out **Common Application** (available August 1st), **Supplements, Essay, Resume**
 - Start narrowing down/finalizing list

TIMELINE (cont.):

SENIOR YEAR FALL

- Senior Seminar during flex blocks throughout Quarter 1
- Senior Night (parents and student)
- Finish applications, essays, supplements
- Finalize college list

TIMELINE (cont.)

- Touch base with teachers about recommendations-
let them know of earliest deadline**
- Take standardized tests again if desired**
- Remaining college visits and interviews**
- Submit Early Decision and Early Action
Applications**
- Financial Aid – FAFSA, CSS Profile, Scholarships**

TIMELINE (cont.):

🟢 SENIOR YEAR WINTER/SPRING

- Submit Regular Decision deadline applications
- Apply for scholarships
- Wait....☺
- May 1st is enrollment deadline

ALSO (misc.):

- ◆ **NCAA - If planning on playing a Div. I or II sport in college you must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center – see counselor for more information**
- ◆ **SCOIR – Online platform that assists with all aspects of the college search, Scattergrams for individual colleges**
 - **Students made accounts last spring. Invites were sent to parents last spring as well. Invites to parents will be sent out again tomorrow to create accounts**

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND:

- ◆ **Post-Secondary Planning does not have to mean traditional 4-year college (GAP Year, Community College, work, military)**
- ◆ **Parent vs. Student Involvement**

VARIABLES IN COLLEGE ADMISSIONS:

- ◆ **What are your priorities? What is most important to you?**
- ◆ **What are you looking to get out of your college experience?**
- ◆ **What type of learner are you?**
- ◆ **What type of school- University, Liberal Arts, Engineering, Research, Technical, Business, etc.**
- ◆ **Size, location/part of country, distance from home, majors, urban/suburban/rural, diversity, religious affiliation, four-year, two-year, public/private, etc.**
- ◆ **Activities on campus, internship opportunities, study abroad, academic support, class size, athletics, etc.**
- ◆ **Cost**

CREATING A LIST:

- ◆ **Have “parameters” conversation early on (cost, distance, etc.) and keep lines of communication open throughout process!**
- ◆ **Work with guidance counselor**
- ◆ **Talk with experts/mentors in your realm (coaches, music/art teacher, etc.)**
- ◆ **Use SCOIR to organize your list and gather info on colleges**
- ◆ **Research schools**
- ◆ **Keep options open**

CREATING A LIST (cont.):

- ◆ **Reaches, Targets, Safeties**

- What are they (can use SCOIR to determine where you fall- Scattergrams, Admit rate, etc.)

- Academic, Financial

- What should your list include

- ◆ **Keep lines of communication open with family, counselors**

- ◆ **Stay organized!**

- ◆ **Some considering particular majors, others looking for a “feeling”**

Expressed Interest

- ◆ **Visiting colleges/ Tour**
- ◆ **Interviews**
- ◆ **National & Local College Fairs**
- ◆ **Communication with Admissions Representatives**

VISTING A COLLEGE:

- ◆ **Importance- Getting feel for school, Expressed Interest**
- ◆ **Timing- best when students are on campus**
- ◆ **Setting up visit**
- ◆ **“College Visit Days” – Let main office know of absence**
- ◆ **Have list of questions**

VISTING A COLLEGE (cont.):

- ◆ **Immerse yourself as much as possible- dining hall, dorms, classes, visit departments of interest, coaches, support services, talk to students on campus!**
- ◆ **Let admissions know if can't get on tour**
- ◆ **Parents let your child develop their own impressions of schools**

INTERVIEWS:

- 🟢 **Importance- Gives colleges a more holistic view of applicant, expressed interest, relationship building**
- 🟢 **Take advantage if offered**
- 🟢 **Timing- find out what each colleges' process is for interviews, possibly start with a school not top on list**
- 🟢 **Setting up interview, follow up with email/thank you note**
- 🟢 **Have list of questions**
- 🟢 **Convey to them why school is a good fit for you, what you can bring with you to the school**
- 🟢 **Check out list of potential questions on Counseling website**

INTERVIEWS:

 **Remember:**

- Goal of college is to create an interesting, diverse and involved school community- how can you contribute to this?

-Colleges are concerned about their yield – how will you convey to them that they are top on your list?

ESSAY:

- ◆ **Will work on this towards the end of the school year in English class**
- ◆ **Another opportunity to convey something about yourself, max of 650 words**
- ◆ **Write about something that is important to you**
- ◆ **Make sure your voice comes through**
- ◆ **Show to an English teacher for grammar**
- ◆ **Have someone read for content**

Supplements

- ◆ **Additional writing required, specific questions asked by each individual college**
- ◆ **Typically much shorter than the main essay**
- ◆ **Why are you interested in our school? Why are you interested in your major? How will you contribute to our community?**
- ◆ **Organization is very important**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

◆ Who to ask

- Teachers who really know you – not just the best grade
- Cannot be two teachers from the same academic department
- Optional- character/talent reference

◆ When to ask

◆ Ask in person

◆ Follow up with thank you note

◆ Counselor Letter

Standardized Testing

◆ PSAT

◆ SAT

◆ ACT

PSAT

- ◆ **Was offered to students at CCHS on Friday, Oct. 24**
- ◆ **Primarily a test for juniors though some sophomores may take it**
- ◆ **Results will be back in November**
- ◆ **Using results to prepare for future standardized tests**
- ◆ **Students will find out if they are eligible for National Merit Scholarship consideration in Sept. 2026**

SAT

- ◆ Offered MAR, MAY, JUN, AUG, SEP, OCT, NOV, and DEC
- ◆ Digital as opposed to paper and pencil
- ◆ 2 hours 14 minutes as opposed to 3 hours
- ◆ Just two sections: Reading & Writing and Math
- ◆ Adaptive test that generates answers based on previous choices
- ◆ Much shorter reading passages and only one question per passage

SAT (cont.)

- ◆ **May use calculator for entire math section**
- ◆ **Exam tools**
 - ◆ **Digital countdown clock**
 - ◆ **Ability to flag questions to come back to later**
 - ◆ **Built-in calculator**
 - ◆ **Digital reference sheet for math**

ACT

- ◆ **Compare and contrast to SAT**
- ◆ **English (1-36)**
- ◆ **Math (1-36)**
- ◆ **Reading (1-36)**
- ◆ **Science (1-36)**
- ◆ **Composite Score (1-36)**
- ◆ **Offered FEB, APR, JUN, JUL, SEP, OCT, DEC**

Changes to ACT (Fall 2025)

- ◆ Reduced number of questions – 44 fewer
- ◆ Test length decreased from 195 minutes to 125 minutes
- ◆ More time per question
- ◆ Four answer choices instead of five for math section
- ◆ Can choose to take ACT with or without Science section
- ◆ Will get STEM score if student takes both Math & Science
- ◆ Will be offered both on a computer or paper & pencil

SAT/ACT Prep

- ◆ **Class**
- ◆ **Private Tutor**
- ◆ **SAT/ACT Prep Books**
- ◆ **Do nothing**

Accommodations

- ◆ College Board approves ahead of time for all of their tests (PSAT, SAT, & AP Exams)
- ◆ ACT requires students to register for a test first
- ◆ CCHS does not make decision – each company decide on their own
- ◆ Any questions? Contact Dr. Nowicki, SSD Coordinator
anowicki@concordcarlisle.org

College Application Process – Student's Responsibilities

- ◆ **Application**
- ◆ **Payment**
- ◆ **Standardized tests scores**
- ◆ **Outside letters of recommendation**
- ◆ **Supplemental material**

College Application Process – School's Responsibilities

- ◆ **FERPA Release Forms**
- ◆ **Transcripts**
- ◆ **School Profile**
- ◆ **Teacher letters of recommendation**
- ◆ **Counselor letter of recommendation**
- ◆ **Senior year classes**

College Admissions Policies

- ◆ **Early Decision (ED)**
- ◆ **Early Action (EA)**
- ◆ **Early Action – Restrictive**
- ◆ **Rolling**
- ◆ **Regular**

College Admissions Policies (Cont.)

- ◆ **Possible Outcomes**
 - ◆ **Accepted**
 - ◆ **Denied**
 - ◆ **Deferred**
 - ◆ **Wait List**

Financial Aid

- ◆ **Forms**
 - ◆ **FAFSA**
 - ◆ **CSS Profile**
 - ◆ **Institutional forms**
- ◆ **Types of Aid**
 - ◆ **Grants**
 - ◆ **Loans**
 - ◆ **Work Study**

Financial Aid (cont.)

- ◆ **Resources**

- ◆ **MEFA – www.mefa.org**

- ◆ **Financial Aid Office at colleges**

Additional Resources

- ◆ **SCOIR**
- ◆ **Guidance Dept. website at www.concordcarlisle.org**
- ◆ **Post-Secondary Planning Guide**
- ◆ **College Board at www.collegeboard.org**
- ◆ **ACT at www.act.org**
- ◆ **Guidance Counselor!!**