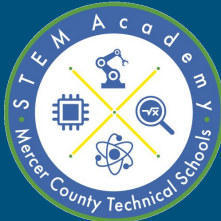


Mercer County Technical School

Junior Parent Night

Class of 2027



Welcome and Introductions



Counselors

CCC - Mrs. Ferdetta- mferdetta@mcts.edu

STEM/CAA- Mrs. Tanzini - dtanzini@mcts.edu

HSA- Ms. Stinger- gstinger@mcts.edu

Director of Student Services -Mr. Orfe

Principal Assunpink Center- Dr. Crisostomo

Principal of Sypek Center- Mr. Warren

-Quick Review

College Types and Timelines

Application Options

-Main components of Application

-Developing a Well-balanced List

-MCTS process overview

-Senior Year Requirements



Options After High School

College

Military

Trades

Workforce

Types of Colleges

2 - Year College

Apply in March

Application Day at end of year at MCTS

No SAT/ACT required

No Letters of recommendation

No Common Application needed

4 year College

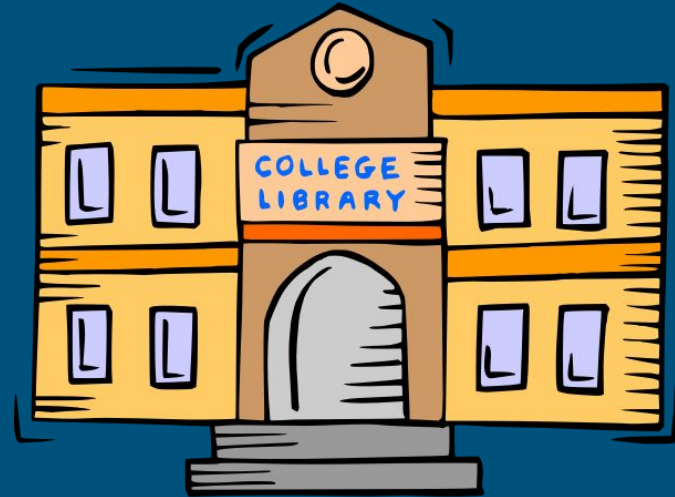
Apply November- Jan (mostly

MCTS needs to send letters of recommendation, school profile ,and transcripts

Student needs to send materials- essay, SAT/ACT scores, etc

Finding the Right Fit

- Competitiveness
- Size of campus and student body
- Student/Teacher Ratio
- Setting – City/Rural
- Geographical/Climate
- Majors Offered
- Campus Life/Clubs/Athletics/Intramurals
- Housing
- Tuition Costs
- Special Programs
 - Counseling
 - Honors programs
 - Study abroad
 - ROTC
 - Internships



Exploring Colleges

College Representatives on MCTS school campus

- Register on Naviance - HAVE TO SIGN UP
- During Lunch time
- District College Info Calendar

College Tours on Campus- (allowed up to 3 excused absences)

- Naviance
- [College Board](#)
- Chatgpt
- College Data
- [CollegeXpress](#) - is useful for links and rankings

UniTru

- What is UniTru?

- Live, unfiltered, virtual campus tours
- A college student (that your child can relate to) will give them a live virtual tour and an unfiltered perspective of any college.

- Why should I use it?

- It lets you visit schools regardless of resources
- You get an honest review from a real student

- How do I get started?

- Scan the QR code and enter your contact information
- Their CEO will schedule a call with you to get started!
- You get free, unlimited access



Safety

Safety Schools

- A college or university where a student is very likely to be admitted based on their academic credentials.
- The student's qualifications, such as GPA and standardized test scores, exceed the institution's average admitted student.
- Safety schools are considered "safe bets" because the chance of acceptance

Target

Target Schools

- A college or university that is a realistic and competitive option for a student.
- Their academic qualifications align well with the institution's typical admitted student profile.
- While admission is not guaranteed at target schools, the student has a reasonably good chance of being admitted based on their academic and extracurricular achievements.

Reach

Reach Schools

- A college/university where a student's academic credentials, such as GPA and standardized test scores, fall below the institution's typical admitted student profile.
- It's a more competitive option, and the chances of acceptance are lower compared to safety and target schools.

Factors Considered in Admissions

**TRANSCRIPT/COURSES/
GRADES**

STANDARDIZED TESTING

**COMMON APP ESSAY/
SUPPLEMENTAL ESSAYS**

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

**EXTRA CURRICULAR
ACTIVITIES**

INTERVIEW/VIDEOS

DEMONSTRATED INTEREST

Application Timelines

REGULAR DECISION	ROLLING ADMISSIONS	EARLY DECISION	EARLY ACTION	RESTRICTIVE EARLY ACTION
Applications submitted late fall/early winter	No specific deadline	Binding agreement	Non-binding	Non Binding
January 1 deadline (usually)	Decisions released 4-6 weeks after submission if complete application	November 1 or November 15 deadline (usually)	November 1 or November 15 deadline (usually)	November 1 deadline (usually)
Decisions released in late March early April		Decisions released by end of December	Decisions released by end of December/early January	May not apply to another private school under ED, but can apply to public schools via EA
		Only 1 ED application is allowed		

Applications

- Common Application: More than 1,000 colleges
 - commonapp.org - Max is 20 schools
- School Specific Applications

Students should try to complete the fewest applications forms as possible!

Applications should be student driven

Transcript or STAR

- Official Transcripts are sent by the building level school counselor
- However,
 - Some schools no longer require a transcript (e.g. Rutgers, Penn State, CA system schools, Pitt...)
 - They require a STAR - Self Reported Transcript and Academic Record
 - Student needs to enter each course and each grade into the schools online application system
 - Students can get an unofficial transcript from counselor or guidance secretary
 - Community Colleges (MCCC) require transcripts only after graduation

STAR/Self Reported Academic Record

- Rutgers
- Baylor
- Clemson
- Florida Public Schools (most)
- Kean
- Louisiana State
- Montclair
- NYU
- Penn State
- SUNY Buffalo
- Texas A&M
- US Air Force Academy
- UCONN
- University of Delaware
- UMass Amherst
- UMinnesota
- UOregon
- UPitt
- UTampa
- UTennessee
- UTexas Arlington
- UTexas San Antonio

Sample STAR Entry

2019 - 2020 (10th Grade) (edit)

GPA: 95.20

Subject Area	Course	Actual Title	Type	Grade	Length (Credits/Units)	Term/Semester
English	ENGLISH 10	ENGLISH II H	Honors	94	Full Year (05.00)	N/A
Mathematics	ALGEBRA 2	ALGEBRA II H	Honors	90	Full Year (05.00)	N/A
Science	BIOLOGY	BIOLOGY H	Honors	94	Full Year (05.00)	N/A
World Language	LATIN 1	LATIN 1 CP	College Prep	99	Full Year (05.00)	N/A
History / Social Studies	AMERICAN/US HISTORY	US HISTORY I H	Honors	97	Full Year (05.00)	N/A
History / Social Studies	EUROPEAN HISTORY	AP EUROPEAN HISTORY	AP (Advanced Placement)	96	Full Year (05.00)	N/A
Phys. Ed / Health / Gym	PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH	H & PE 10	National SRAR Standard	97	Full Year (04.00)	N/A

Standardized Testing

Test Blind

- SAT/ACT scores are not reviewed, even if submitted
- May consider other tests as part of the holistic review, AP, Subject Tests
- Examples: Cal Tech, CUNY system, Catholic University, a few others

Test Optional (TO)

- SAT/ACT scores are considered if submitted
- Must be selected at the time of the application
- Check for details: some scholarships may require scores
- Scores may be helpful if they are strong or very strong (above average or if transcript is inconsistent)

Test Required

- Note: Some special programs and some scholarships at TO school may require scores
- MIT, some Ivies, CalTech
- Georgetown
- Purdue
- A handful of others

Counselor LOR

- Written by the student's building level counselor
- They use
 - Student Brag Sheet
 - Parent Brag Sheet
 - Teacher to Counselor Feedback forms
 - Activities Resume
 - Meeting with the student (when necessary)
- Brag sheet and forms must be submitted *at least* two weeks before the first deadline. Sooner the better!

Letters of Recommendations

- Counselor Letter
- Teacher Letter(s)
- Outside Letter
- Required by some (not all) colleges

Students should follow directions carefully...there are many schools (Rutgers, Penn State) that do not accept letters of recommendation

Students should first ask their teacher(s) in person, then put the request in Naviance

Essay(s)

- Must be the students own original work, written in the student's voice! Chat GPT is not your voice. Do not submit an essay written entirely by AI
- Some schools require many essays and/or short answers
- Have someone else read it over- teacher, friend, school counselor, or college counselor
- All students write their college essay senior year in English Class
- Online College Essay Guy resources are very helpful

Other Info

- AP Scores
 - Enter on the application
- Activities/Awards
 - Enter on the application. No copies of certificates or letters of verification
 - Resume recommended only if it's accepted AND its not a repeat of the Activities Section
- Outside letter of recommendation
 - Only some schools except
 - Common App- ONLY time you Request a letter on Common App
- Unofficial Copy of MCCC transcript

Financial Aid

- FAFSA opens October 1st
 - Used by most schools
- Some schools will require you to fill out a CSS Profile
- Always consider applying EOF
- Some schools require you to upload documentation
 - (W2s, tax forms, etc)

Deadlines are CRITICAL - and vary by school and decision plan

ALERT “Students are required to either file the FAFSA or complete the opt out form.

MCTS Process Overview

STEP 1: Get Organized Save time and effort

Visit each school's undergraduate admission webpage, and gather information

Type of Applications accepted, Deadlines, Items required, essay topics and supplementals, financial aid forms.

Organize using a spreadsheet - or whatever works best for you!

[You can download and modify this one](#)

This is something parents can help with- but encourage your child to lead the way! It's a good life skill!

STEP 2: Use all Resources

[STAR Tips and Hints](#)

[Brag Sheet](#) -

[MCTS website](#)

[College Essay Guy Resources](#)

[Program of Studies](#)

[College Transcript Form](#)

STEP 2: Understand Who Sends What

COUNSELOR SENDS

- Official Transcript (if required)
- School Report (if required)
- Counselor letter of recommendation
- Completed ED agreement
- Verification of free or reduced lunch

Teachers upload their own letter of recommendation into Naviance.

Step 4: Work On Applications

- Use a personal email, not a school email
- On common app DO NOT enter email address for school staff
- Common App- Must WAIVE rights again for FERPA
 - TOP 3 ISSUES
 - Only entering the colleges on Naviance- Must enter schools on common app first
 - Not checking emails or attending scheduled meetings (group or individual)
- Sending Test Scores- either by self report or through College Board

Step 5: Submit Application

- Can't change essays, activities etc after submission
- Submit when the student is ready!
 - Do not wait for counselor/teacher to be done
- Deadline is 11:59pm EST on deadline day
- Do not wait until the last few hours
 - Common App issues = lots of stress for everyone at home

Student Responsibilities

- Submit student/parent brag sheet to counselor
- Submit teacher brag sheets to teacher recommenders - recommend at least 2
- Submit college applications by their deadlines
- Submit your MCCC college transcript to your counselor
- Send official SAT/ACT tests from respective testing agencies to colleges if required
- Fill out the College Transcript Request Form
- Remember to fill in the STAR (Rutgers, Penn State, UPitt)
- Self-report AP Scores on CA (only 4's or 5's)
- Fill in the FAFSA and/or CSS

Timeline for Junior Students

1. Search for colleges that you may be interest in
2. Start Exploring Different Major Options
3. Attend College Fairs and visit college campuses throughout the year. Open houses are a great way to get to learn about the college life
4. College Rep and Military Visits on our campus scheduled visits are posted on our district calendar and sign student should sign up through Naviance
5. Sign up to take the ACT or SAT, preferably 2 times
6. Start your resume
7. Start writing your college essay
8. Hand in your brag sheet to your school counselor by June 13th.

A Few Tips for the Adults...

1. Give your child ownership of this process. Act as the “consultant”
2. Use this opportunity to teach your child how to navigate complex processes
3. Do not do applications and essays for your child. IT does not end well- for application results or for collegiate success. Don't contact colleges on their behalf. Help your child be reviewing their work (apps/essays/emails)
4. Consider setting aside a specific day/time each week to talk about the application process
5. Follow financial aid deadlines and file the necessary paperwork
6. Complete Net Price Calculators and be sure students have schools on their list they can afford
7. Remind students to check Naviance and Application Status to be sure the file is complete
8. Sometimes there are bumps in the process. It doesn't necessarily mean someone messed up.

Senior Year Scheduling

Q1

Continue
With
Academic
Rigor

Q2

Check
Graduation
Requirements

Q3

Review
Application
Requirements on
Respective
college websites

Senior Year Requirements

- Every student will need to complete English and PE on campus at MCTS
- Seniors will be required to take an additional two courses that fulfill their Academic Pathway
- Pass Math/ELA NJSLA
- Complete FAFSA or Waiver Form

Senior Scheduling

MCTS

English- required

Gym - required

AP Pre-Calculus

Spanish II

Program of Studies

MCCC

Take as many classes as you can!

Must take a rigorous schedule I recommend min of two classes. Do not take on more than you can handle

Follow the pathway of your academy:

STEM

CAA

HSA

Things to know about MCCC

- **You must go through your school counselor to register for MCCC classes-**
- Attendance Policy: You will fail the course at three absences.
- Transportation: MCTS provides transportation during school hours (seniors) (9:20 AM - 2:30 PM).
- Financial Responsibility - students are responsible for classes not covered under the articulation agreement - paper on how to pay for classes is in guidance counselor office
- Students will need to be able to seek out resources if they are stuck- ie. logging in, tutoring, IT issues, questions about class assignments.
- If you take the course and fail- **MCTS will not pay for this course again**
- If you do not drop the course correctly you will have an F on your transcript
- You need to know the start of your class and be able to log into your account before your class starts
- Most of all your questions can be found on the MCCC webpage or on MCTS webpage

Who can I go to for Support?

- Mrs. Ferdetta, College & Career Counselor
- Your School Counselor

Please email for an appointment

Megan Ferdetta
College and Career
Counselor
E: mferdetta@mcts.edu
P: 609-325-4309

Appendix B

ASL 101- American Sign Language I

ASL 102- American Sign Language

HIS-109 -African American History

ART-101- Art & Culture

ECO-103 -Basic Economics

BIO-101 -Biology I

MAT-251 -Calculus III

MAT-152- Calculus II for Math & Physical Science

MAT-126 -Elementary Statistics II

BIO-114- Enviro Science Concepts

ART-103-Freehand Drawing for Architects

HIS-215-Holocaust & Other Genocides

BUS-101-Intro to Business

ENG-131 -Journalism I

ENG-241-Journalism II

MAT-201- Probability & Stats for Sci. &
Engineering

PHY-101-Physics (lecture & lab)

MAT-200-Stats for Social & Hlth Sciences

HIS-107-The Civil War

← → ↺ 🏠 📄 student.naviance.com/colleges/applying-to

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College Visits

College Compare

College Resources

Acceptance History

Enrichment Programs

College Maps

Apply to College

Colleges I'm Applying To

Manage Transcripts

Letters of Recommendation

Test Scores

Scholarships & Money

College-Specific Scholarships

National Scholarship Search

Scholarship Search

Favorite Scholarships

Search for Colleges

Application Milestones

Compare Me

= extended profile available

College	App Type ⓘ	Deadline	Expected Difficulty*	Transcripts	Office Materials	Submission ⓘ Type	Application
American University	Regular Decision - Fall 2024	Jan 15	N/A	Requested	Initial materials submitted	CA	Unknown ▾ More ⋮
Boston University	Regular Decision - September - September	Jan 4	N/A	Requested	Initial materials	CA	Unknown ▾ More ⋮



Pennsylvania State University-
Penn State Main Campus
University Park, PA, United States
psu.edu



Virtual Tour Communicate Apply Online Learn More

Overview

Studies

Student Life

Admissions

Costs

Spotlights



AVERAGE NET PRICE

\$21,514

GRADUATION RATE

67%

ACCEPTANCE RATE

56%

COLLEGE OVERLAPS

10

NEXT DEADLINE

November
1

Search by College Name

152 INTERESTED IN YOU 6 THINKING ABOUT 12 APPLYING TO MORE



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