

The Nuts and Bolts of the College Admission Process

Senior Parent Night 2026



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 - De
 - Mr. Kevin McCaig: Di - K
 - Mrs. Rose Leo: L - R
 - Mr. Patrick Brennan: S - Z
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- Ms. Anna Maria Demonte: School & College Counselor
 - 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

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



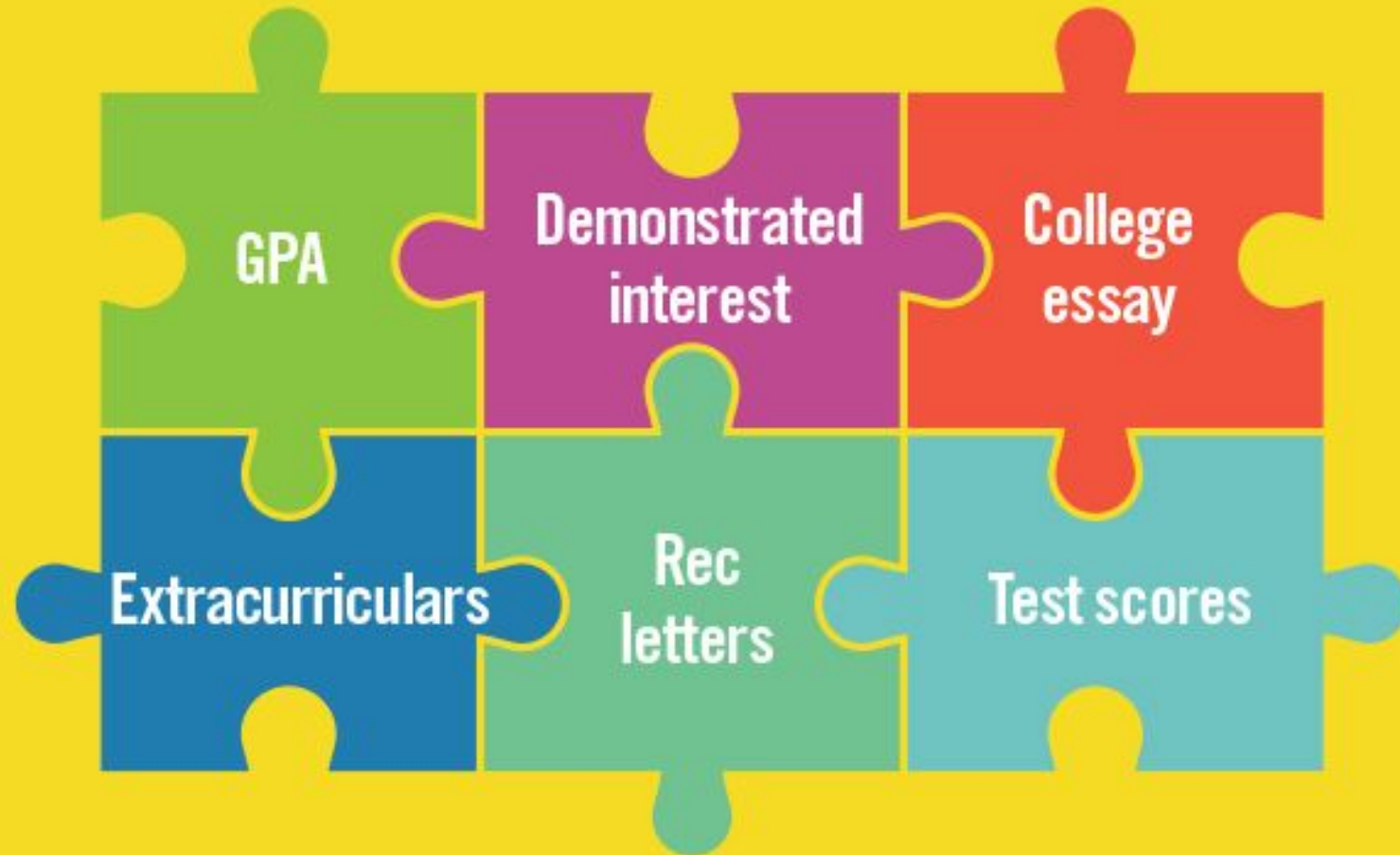
- Common Application

- 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. It features the letters "ACT" in a bold, serif font, with a small registered trademark symbol (®) to the upper right. A red swoosh underline is positioned beneath the letter "A".The CollegeBoard logo is shown in white on a dark brown rectangular background. It includes the CollegeBoard acorn icon to the left of the word "CollegeBoard" in a sans-serif font.The SAT logo is presented in white on a bright blue rectangular background. It consists of the letters "SAT" in a bold, sans-serif font, followed by a small registered trademark symbol (®).

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****

Did CBA send my documents?

Counselor

Student

Admin

Dashboard

Character

Careers

Academics

Universities

Financial Plan

Portfolio

Maia Drive

Resources

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Send Summary

Search Considering Applying Recommendations STARS Decisions Milestones Essays Prepare Docs Send Docs **Send Summary**

XLS CSV

College Name	Application Type	Application Plan	Deadline	Documents	Status	Sent Date
Coastal Carolina University	Common App	Early Action	11/15/2025	Common App School Report <a>	Success	10/31/2025
				Counselor Recommendation <a>	Success	10/31/2025
				Common App Mid Year Report <a>	Success	01/13/2026
				Common App Final Report	Available Doc	--
				Common App Teacher Evaluation <a>	Success	10/31/2025
				Common App Teacher Evaluation <a>	Success	12/15/2025
				Initial Transcript <a>	Success	10/31/2025
				School Profile <a>	Success	10/31/2025
				Written Evaluation (Frick, Dave) <a>	Success	10/31/2025
				Letter of Recommendation (Meehan, Matthew) <a>	Success	12/15/2025
College of Charleston	Common App	Early Action	11/01/2025	Letter of Recommendation (Tomaino, Michael) <a>	Success	10/31/2025
				Mid-year Transcript <a>	Success	01/13/2026
				Optional Transcript <a>	Available Doc	--
				Final Transcript <a>	Available Doc	--
				Common App School Report <a>	Success	10/31/2025

Transcript Requested: 10/30/2025

Teacher Rec Min: 0

Teacher Rec Max: 3

Counselor Rec: Not Required

Minimum Required Docs

- ✓ Common App School Report
- ✓ Initial Transcript
- ✓ School Profile

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) ▼

Choose File

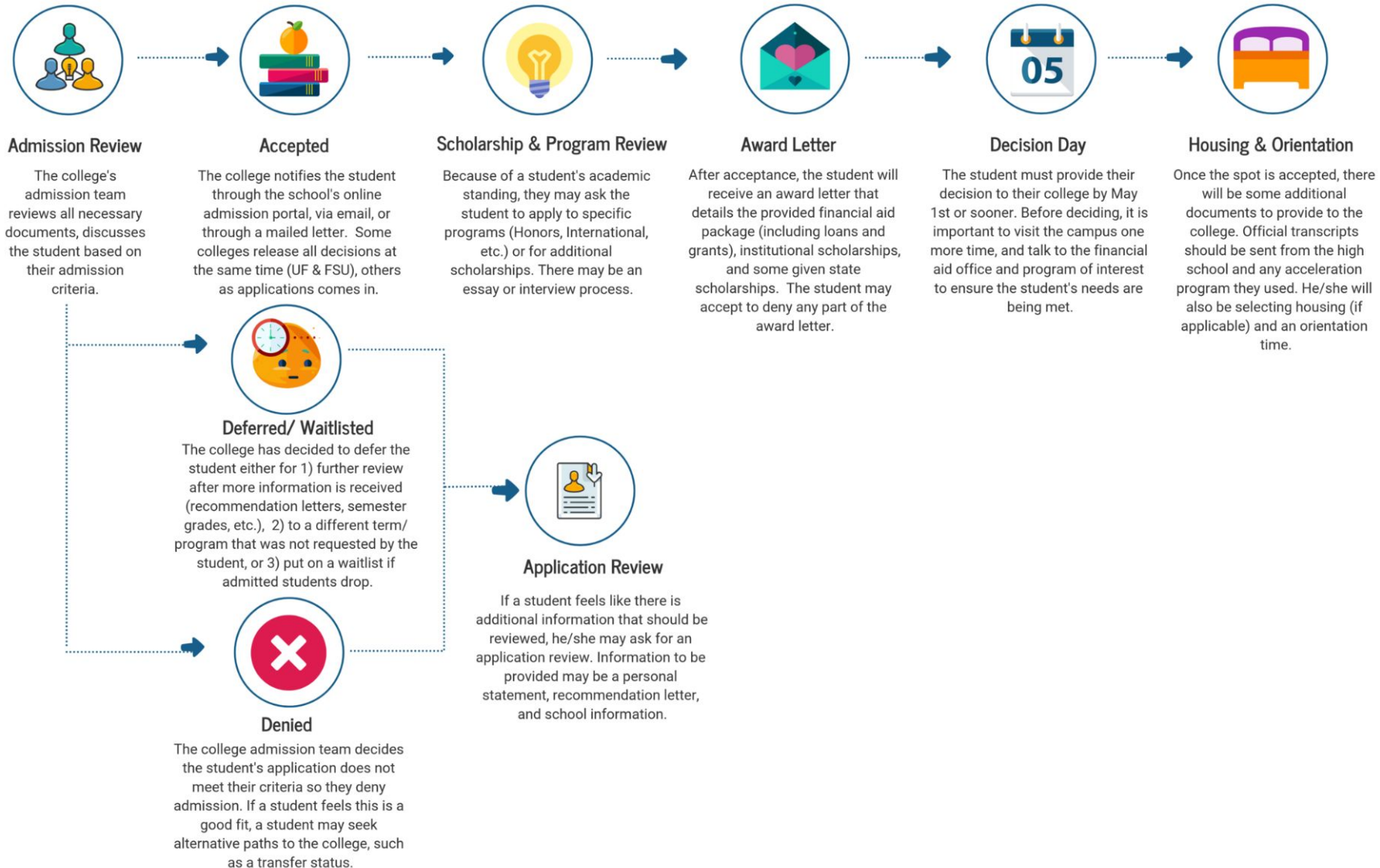
No file chosen

UPLOAD

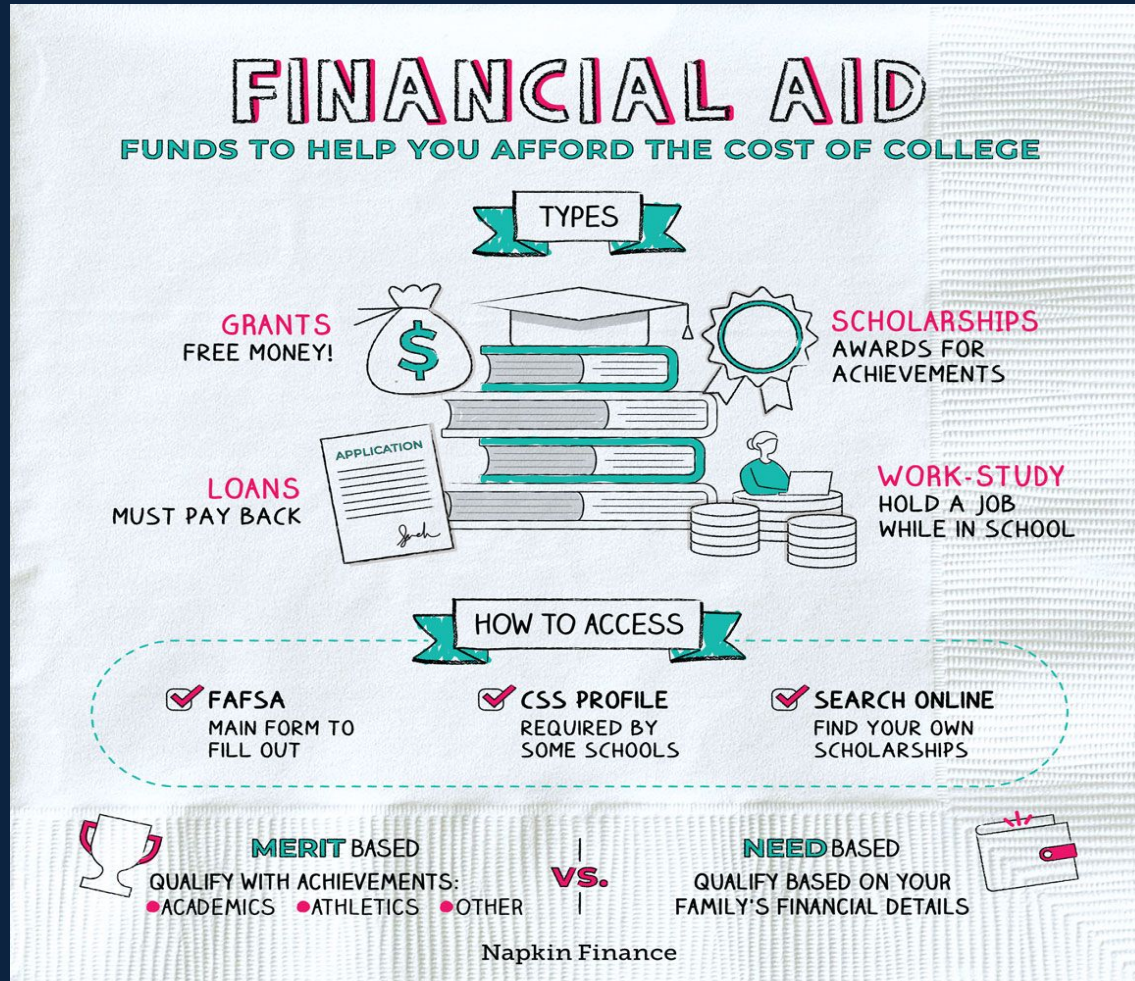
Student can submit application before counselor submits supporting documents. These do not have to occur at the same time!

Admission Outcomes

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS PROCESS



PAYING FOR COLLEGE



- 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, 10/1

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 1, 2026

CBA Mini-Fair - October 16, 2026 (during school)

NJACAC College Fair at Monmouth U - October 18, 2026

College Athletics Info Night- November 19, 2026

