RADNOR HIGH SCHOOL

COLLEGE APPLICATION NIGHT FOR PARENTS

A PARENT GUIDE TO SUPPORTING YOUR STUDENT THROUGH THE PROCESS

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TONIGHT'S FOCUS

- [x] Roles & Responsibilities
- [x] Building a healthy, balanced college list
- [x] Money, financial aid & Early Decision
- [x] The senior-year timeline
- [x] Your parent game plan
- [x] Resources



WHO DOES WHAT?

STUDENT

- SCHEDULE COUNSELOR MEETING!
- Application and fees
- Supplements
- Report test scores
- STARS record
- Junior Questionnaire
- Teacher Rec Letter Request & Rank
- Update Application List
- Communicate!

COUNSELOR

- Create “counselor bundle”
  - Transcript, SSR, School Profile, Senior grades
- Counselor Recommendation
- Submit school documents via Scoir

TEACHER

- Write and upload letter of recommendation to Scoir by communicated deadline

PARENT

- Support building a balanced application list
- Family financial decisions
- Financial aid documents
- ED agreement when applicable
- Logistical support and encouragement

THE APPLICATION ECOSYSTEM:

Common App or another application

SCOIR
Our school's platform for
communication and sending documents

STARS
Self-Reported Transcript and Academic Record



SATs & ACTs
Official scores are sent from www.collegeboard.org or www.act.org.
Unofficial scores may be accepted through the application or college portal.

FAFSA & CSS Profile (if required)
Financial aid requirements

Email & College Portals
Individual college communication
and portals.

Your student should bookmark these websites and all passwords on THEIR device.

RHS COUNSELOR PROCESS

WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW



Seniors must initiate a meeting with their College & Career Counselor based on their application deadlines:

Rolling/Early Deadlines: Schedule by October 1st.
December/January Deadlines: Schedule by November 15th

IMPORTANT: The senior meeting is **how** counselors know **what** documents need to be sent **where** and by **when**, and must occur BEFORE school documents can be submitted to colleges.

FINDING THE RIGHT FIT

01 Academic:
Can my student be successful here? Are the programs a good match?

02 Social:
What kind of community will help my student feel comfortable?

03 Geographic:
How far from home? What kind of setting?

04 Size & atmosphere:
What environment feels right?

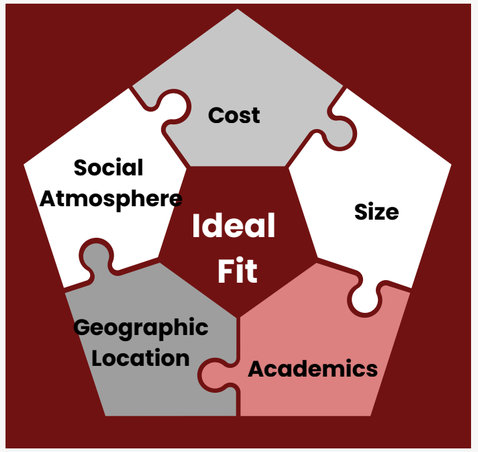
05 Cost:
Is this college a realistic financial option?

What is a preference—and what is a priority?

Is every school still a real option?

Have we talked honestly about cost?

If this were the only acceptance, would you be happy?



A COLLEGE LIST SHOULD CREATE OPTIONS...

Likely Schools

Likely schools are institutions where you are confident of gaining admission.

Target Schools

Target schools are those where your academic profile aligns well with the average admitted student.

Reach Schools

Reach schools are institutions where acceptance is less certain. Your academic profile falls below the middle 50% of admitted students.

High Reach/Unlikely

High reach schools are insitutions where your academic data is an outlier **OR** an institution with an acceptance rate less than 10%.

...BUT THERE'S NO PERFECT FORMULA

BALANCE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE INSTITUTION

Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences

SAT Score	**1280-1440**
Reading & Writing	650-730
Math	620-720
ACT Composite	**29-33**
Weighted GPA	**3.74-4.34**
Test Optional	**60.5%**

Swanson School of Engineering

SAT Score	**1320-1470**
Reading & Writing	650-720
Math	670-740
ACT Composite	**30-34**
Weighted GPA	**3.97-4.46**
Test Optional	**36.8%**

BALANCE IN THE CONTEXT OF RADNOR: SCHOOL PROFILE

Five-Year Academic Profile: Classes of 2022–2026

Mean values by quintile

	Mean WGPA	Mean UWGPA	Mean SAT	Mean ACT
Top 20%	4.21	3.99	1529	35
20% - 40%	3.95	3.78	1430	32
40% - 60%	3.71	3.56	1333	29
60% - 80%	3.36	3.24	1221	26
Bottom 20%	2.60	2.51	934	21
Overall	3.58	3.44	1307	28.6

MIDDLE 50%

WGPA 3.3 - 4.0 **UWGPA** 3.2 - 3.8 **SAT** 1190 - 1450 **ACT** 25 - 33

Class of 2027 Snapshot

Mean values by quintile

	Mean WGPA	Mean UWGPA
Top 20%	4.23	3.98
20% - 40%	3.97	3.78
40% - 60%	3.65	3.51
60% - 80%	3.25	3.15
Bottom 20%	2.60	2.56
Overall	3.58	3.43

MIDDLE 50%

WGPA 3.23 - 4.04 **UWGPA** 3.11 - 3.84

ACADEMIC RIGOR

75%
≥1 Honors course in Grade 9

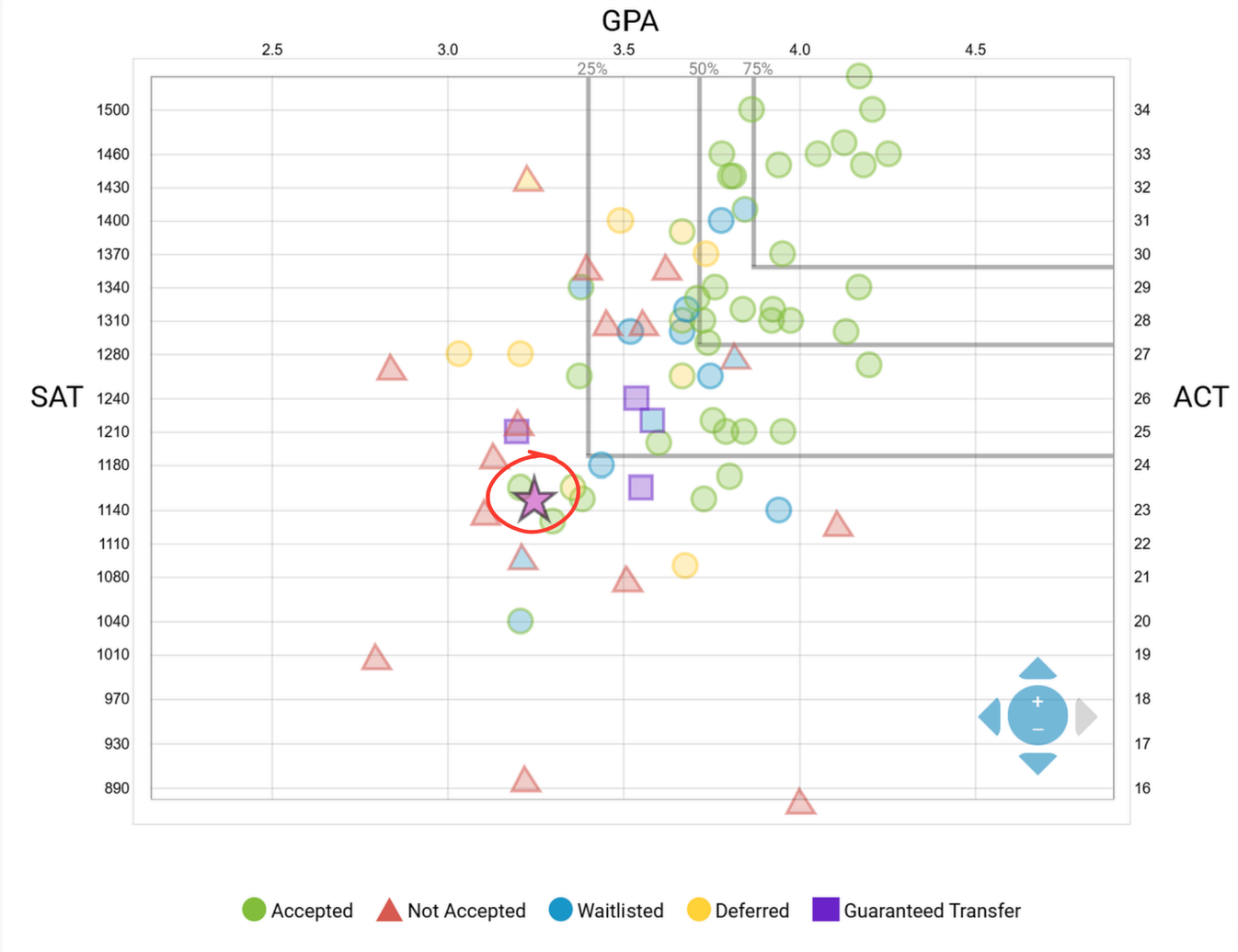
40%
≥1 AP course in Grade 10

31%
11+ Honors courses by Grade 12

11%
10+ AP courses by Grade 12

BALANCE IN THE CONTEXT OF RADNOR: SCOIR DATA

University of Tennessee
2022-2026



A BALANCED LIST = CHOICE

DON'T BUILD A LIST AROUND ADMISSION PROBABILITY ALONE

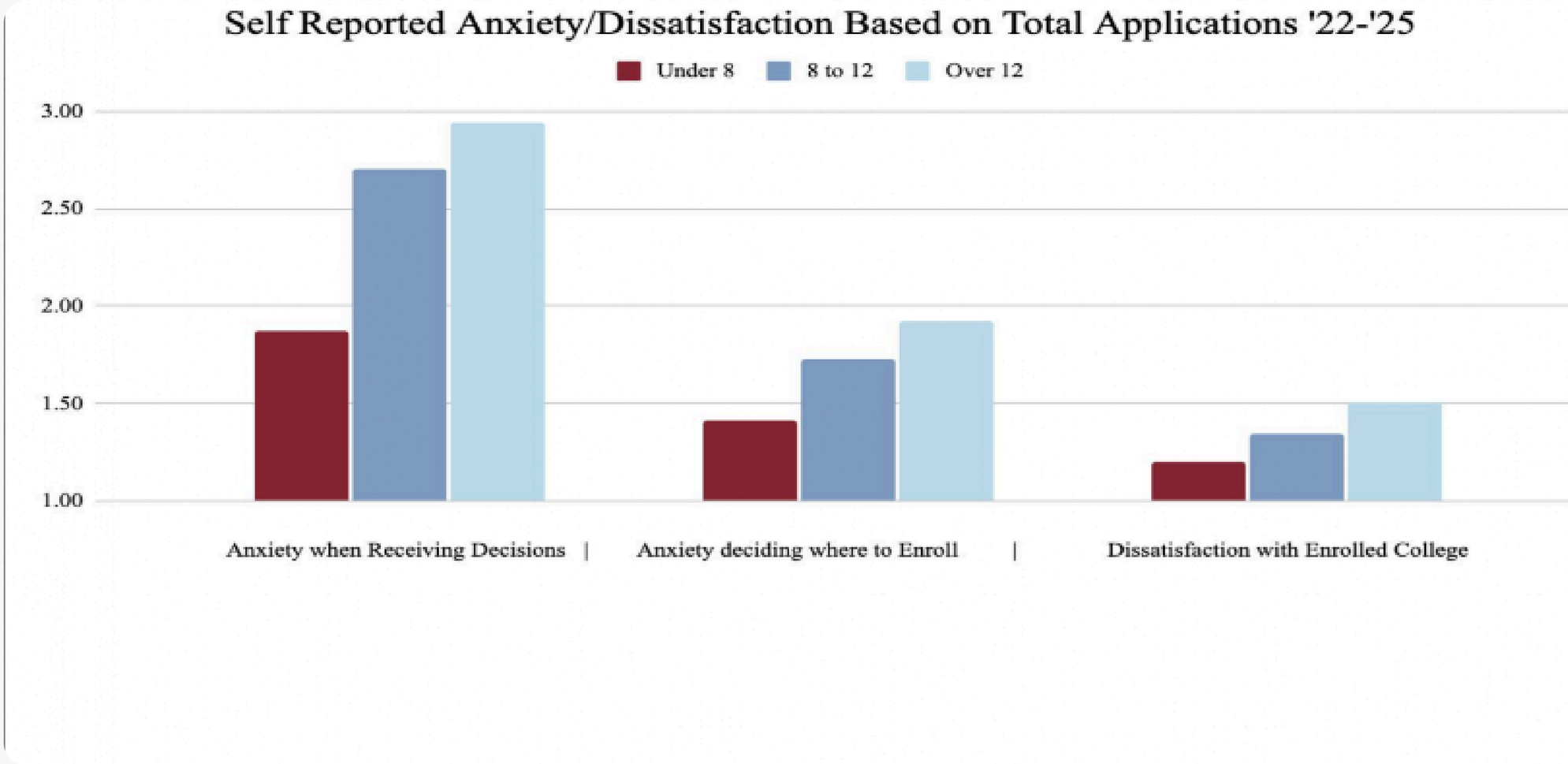
Every school on the list should be a place your student could genuinely see themselves attending

Ask: **'If this were the only acceptance, would you be happy?'**



Be sure you **LIKE** your **LIKELIES**

MORE ≠ BETTER


Self Reported Anxiety/Dissatisfaction Based on Total Applications '22-'25
Under 8
8 to 12
Over 12
3.00
2.50
2.00
1.50
1.00
Anxiety when Receiving Decisions
Anxiety deciding where to Enroll
Dissatisfaction with Enrolled College

HAVE THE MONEY CONVERSATION EARLY

- What can our family comfortably afford?
- What are we willing—or unwilling—to borrow?
- Have we looked at each college's **Net Price Calculator**?
- Are there colleges we would not be able to afford regardless of admission?
- Have we discussed how merit scholarships may affect the overall cost?

MAKE AFFORDABILITY PART OF THE COLLEGE LIST CONVERSATION—NOT AN AFTERTHOUGHT



FINANCIAL AID

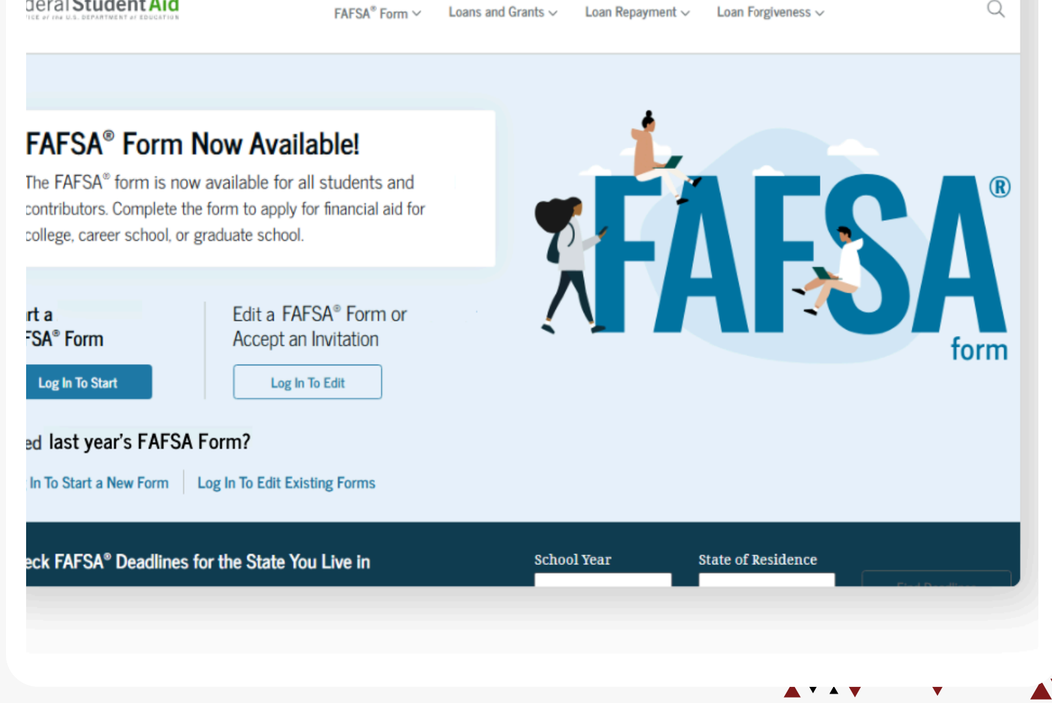
REVIEW REQUIREMENTS

- Review deadlines & requirements for each institution

- **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**
  - www.studentaid.gov
  - Required by every college for need-based aid.
  - Required by some colleges for merit-based aid.

- **CSS Profile**
  - cssprofile.collegeboard.org
  - Required by some institutions (mostly private) as an additional financial aid form.

- Students should initiate both forms and invite their parent/guardian.



New! for the Class of 2027

Pennsylvania Act 47 requires every senior to either submit a FAFSA OR an opt-out form.

FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMMING

9/28
7 PM
Financial Aid 101 with College Aid Pro

10/14
7 PM
How to File the FAFSA/CSS Profile with College Aid Pro

10/22
5 PM
FAFSA Completion Event at RHS

1/12
7 PM
Private Scholarships & IDOC with College Aid Pro

2/4
5 PM
FAFSA Completion Event at RHS

3/16
7 PM
Understanding Your Award & How to Appeal with College Aid Pro

5/19
7 PM
How to Pay the Bill with College Aid Pro

LOOK FOR AN EMAIL WITH MORE DETAILS AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION SOON!

A NOTE ABOUT EARLY DECISION

- This should be the student's unequivocal first choice.
- Use the institution's Net Price Calculator (and save the results!) before committing.
- Discuss financial implications as a family.
- Understand that ED may limit the ability to compare financial aid offers

EARLY DECISION SHOULD BE A THOUGHTFUL CHOICE—NOT SIMPLY AN ADMISSIONS STRATEGY



After an Acceptance:

- Review the financial aid package, if applicable.
- Pay the enrollment deposit.
- Withdraw ALL other applications in a timely manner.

SENIOR YEAR:

TIMELINE

September
- Finalize priorities/list
- Begin applications
- Establish family calendar

October - November
- Early deadlines
- Financial aid applications open

December - February
- ED/EA decisions
- Regular Decision deadlines
- Mid-Year grades sent
- Scholarship opportunities

March - April
- Regular admission decisions
- Financial aid offers: compare options

May - June
- Make final decision: May 1st!
- Waitlist updates
- Enrollment steps



YOUR JOB:

SUPPORT, DON'T MANAGE



- Help your student create a realistic timeline
- Ask questions instead of giving constant reminders
- Help with logistics—visits, transportation, scheduling
- Encourage your student to communicate directly with counselors, teachers and colleges
- Celebrate progress, not just outcomes
- Provide perspective when the process becomes stressful

LET YOUR STUDENT USE THEIR COUNSELOR

- Students should schedule and attend their own counselor meetings
- Students should ask questions and communicate when plans change
- Students should learn to advocate for themselves
- Parents are always welcome to reach out when a situation truly requires adult support

LEARNING TO COMMUNICATE WITH A COUNSELOR NOW IS GOOD PREPARATION FOR COLLEGE



WHAT HELPS (AND WHAT DOESN'T)

HELP

- Establish a family calendar
- Have honest conversations about cost
- Review the list and ask thoughtful questions
- Encourage breaks and perspective

DON'T

- Write or heavily edit essays
- Complete application sections for your student
- Manage every deadline
- Communicate for your student

KEEP THE STUDENT AT THE CENTER

- College admission is important—but it is not a measure of your student's worth.
- Protect sleep, exercise, friendships, and family time
- Don't let every conversation become a college conversation
- Normalize uncertainty, waiting, and disappointment
- Model calm when the process feels overwhelming
- Keep the focus on options and possibilities—not just outcomes

THEIR COLLEGE LIST MATTERS. THEIR WELL-BEING MATTERS MORE.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP

STUDENT RESOURCES AT RHS

- Individual Meetings
- Friday Drop-In Days for Seniors
- Schoology: Counseling Department Group
- Essay Writing
  - College Essay Guy Summer Boot Camp Recording
  - English ELP - details coming soon!
- Lunch & Learn Workshops
- College Visits & Fairs



THE BIG PICTURE

WHAT ACTUALLY MATTERS

- Your student's goals, interests and priorities
- Finding colleges where your student can learn, contribute and thrive
- Building a balanced list with choices
- Understanding what your family can realistically afford
- Helping your student become a confident self-advocate
- Keeping the process—and the outcome—in perspective

