The College Application Process & Naviance 2026

A Comprehensive Guide for Students & Families

🎓 HHS School Counseling & Post-High School Planning

Presentation Agenda

1. Search & Fit

Finding the right academic, social, and financial fit; planning college visits and meeting reps.

2. Applications

Understanding Common App, Coalition, direct portals, and admission decision options.

3. Naviance & Recs

Linking accounts, waiving FERPA, requesting transcripts, counselor and teacher recommendations.

4. Financial Aid

FAFSA key dates, PHEAA resources, local scholarships, and upcoming HHS completion workshops.

Finding Your Ideal Fit

Three Pillars of Fit

Academic: Specific majors, level of rigor, research, and internship opportunities.

Social: Campus culture, size, location, diversity, and extracurricular life.

Financial: Total cost of attendance, available merit scholarships, and financial aid options.

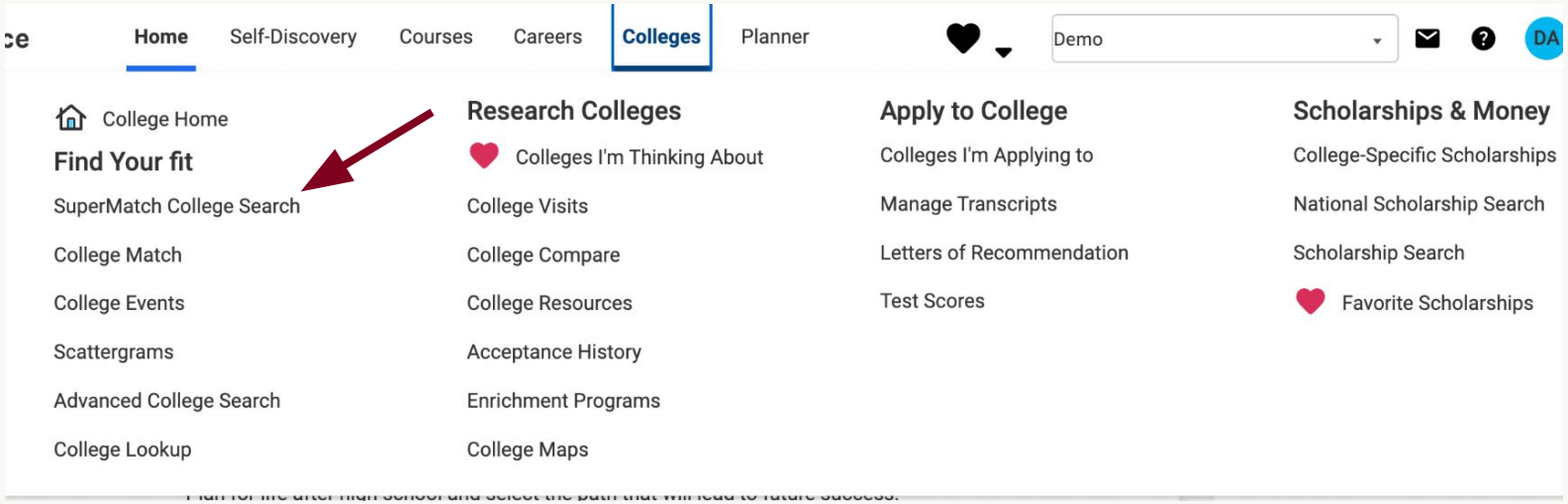
Naviance & Rep Visits

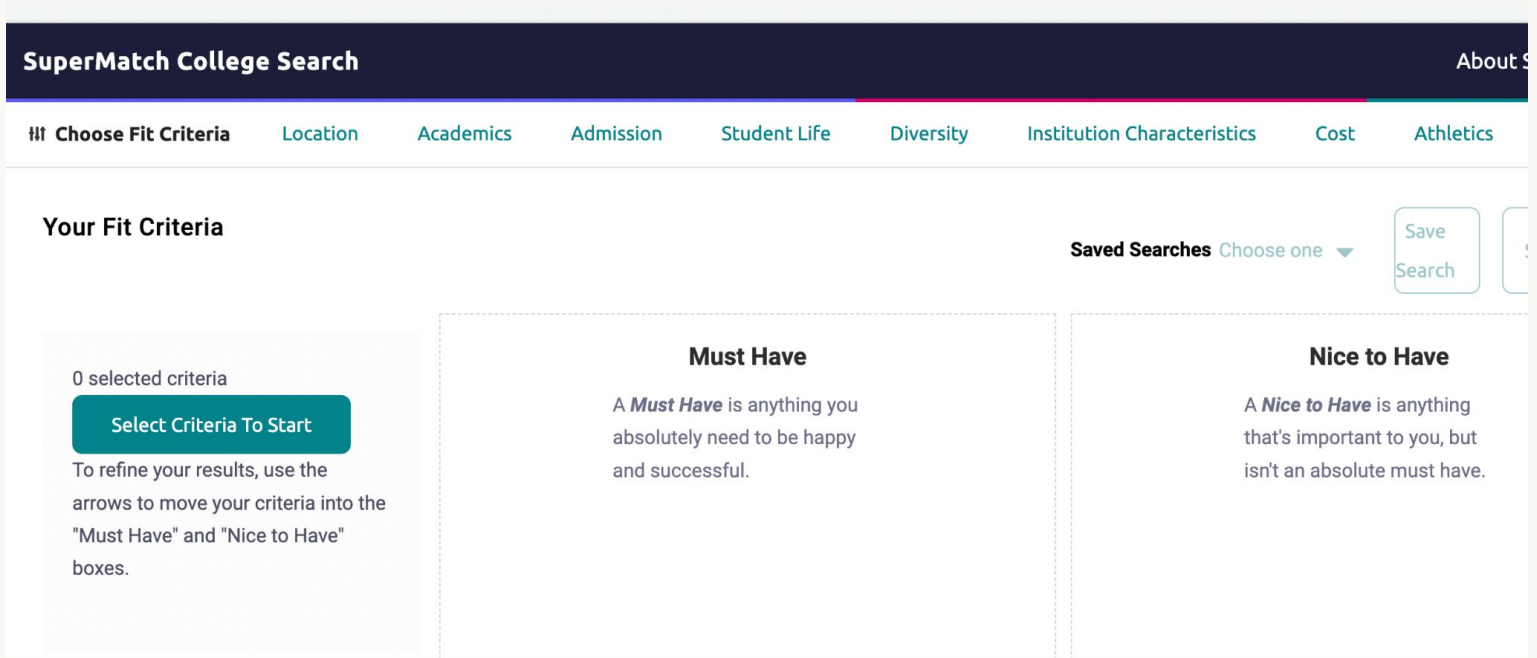
Scattergrams: Use historical HHS GPA and test data to evaluate realistic choices.

College Rep Visits: Sign up in Naviance under Colleges > College Visits (sign-up closes 24 hours prior).

Visits Allowance: Students are allowed up to 7 rep visits; pass required.

Searching for Colleges





Visit with Colleges

Sign up to meet with College Reps who are visiting HHS virtually in Naviance

SEPTEMBER Thu 17 08:15AM	Carnegie Mellon University Not Specified	Register Now View Details
SEPTEMBER Thu 17 08:15AM	Worcester Polytechnic Institute Not Specified	Register Now View Details
SEPTEMBER Thu 17 09:30AM	Lycoming College Not Specified	Register Now View Details
SEPTEMBER Thu 17 09:30AM	Northwestern University Not Specified	Register Now View Details
SEPTEMBER Thu 17 01:30PM	Hobart and William Smith Colleges Not Specified	Register Now View Details
SEPTEMBER Thu 17 01:30PM	Ithaca College Not Specified	Register Now View Details



Students can also view colleges that are visiting on the Visit Calendar located on the Counseling website

Understanding Modes of Admission

Admission Type	Deadline Window	Binding?	Key Considerations
Early Action (EA)	Oct 15 - Nov 15	**No**	Apply early, receive decision early; non-binding flexibility.
Restrictive EA	Nov 1 - Nov 15	**No**	Early decision without obligation, but restricted to ONE private school EA.
Early Decision (ED)	Nov 1 - Nov 15	**YES**	Binding contract. Must enroll if accepted and withdraw other applications.
Rolling Admission	Open / Ongoing	**No**	Applications reviewed as received; notification within 6-8 weeks.
Regular Decision	Jan 1 - Feb 15	**No**	Standard deadline; decisions released around late March/April.

Application Platforms & Methods

- **Common Application:** Accepted by over 900 colleges nationwide. Recommended for streamlining multiple applications.
- **Coalition & Common Black App:** Additional options utilized by specific institutions.
- **College Websites:** Direct institutional applications required for select universities.
- **Supplemental Requirements:** Always consult individual college sites for essay prompts, portfolio needs, and major specs.





Connecting Common App to Naviance

Step 1: FERPA Waiver in Common App

Complete the **Education Section** in Common App.

Waive your FERPA Rights under *Recommenders & FERPA*.

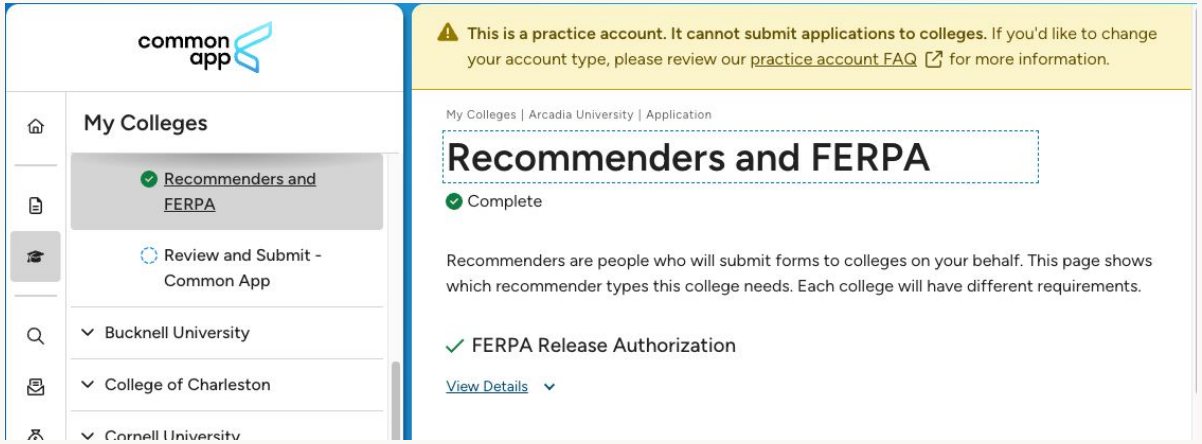
Why Waive? Reassures colleges that recommendation letters are confidential, candid, and authentic. Most teachers require this waiver.

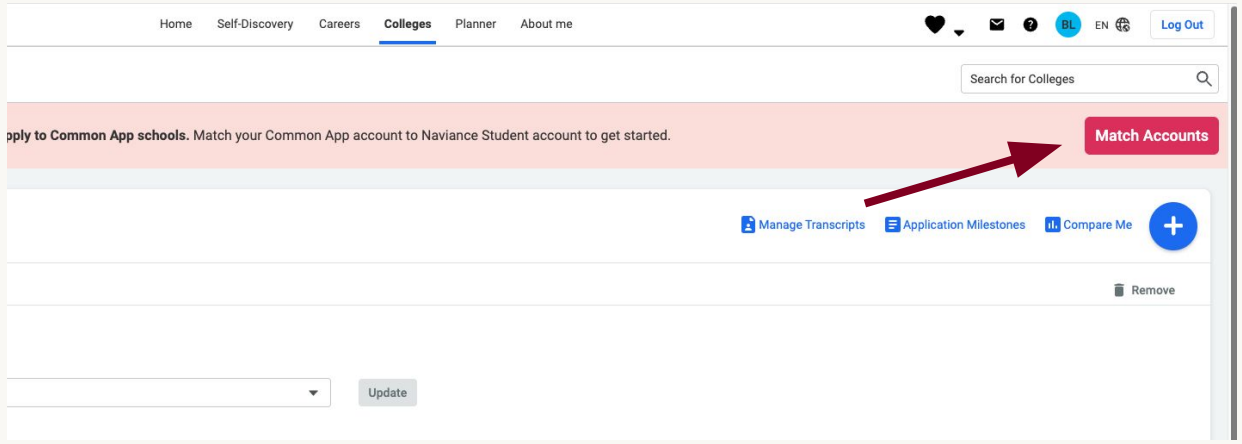
Step 2: Account Match in Naviance

Log in to Naviance via ClassLink portal.

Click **Match Accounts** and enter your Common App email address.

Crucial Step: Matching automatically imports your college list and unlocks transcript and letter of recommendation requests!





Requesting Supplemental Materials

1. Release Form

Complete the Transcript Release Permission Form **once** in Naviance.

2. Surveys

Fill out Post-HS Reflection & Activities Record in Naviance for Counselor Recs.

3. Teacher Requests

Ask teachers in person first, then submit formal Naviance request.

4. Official Request

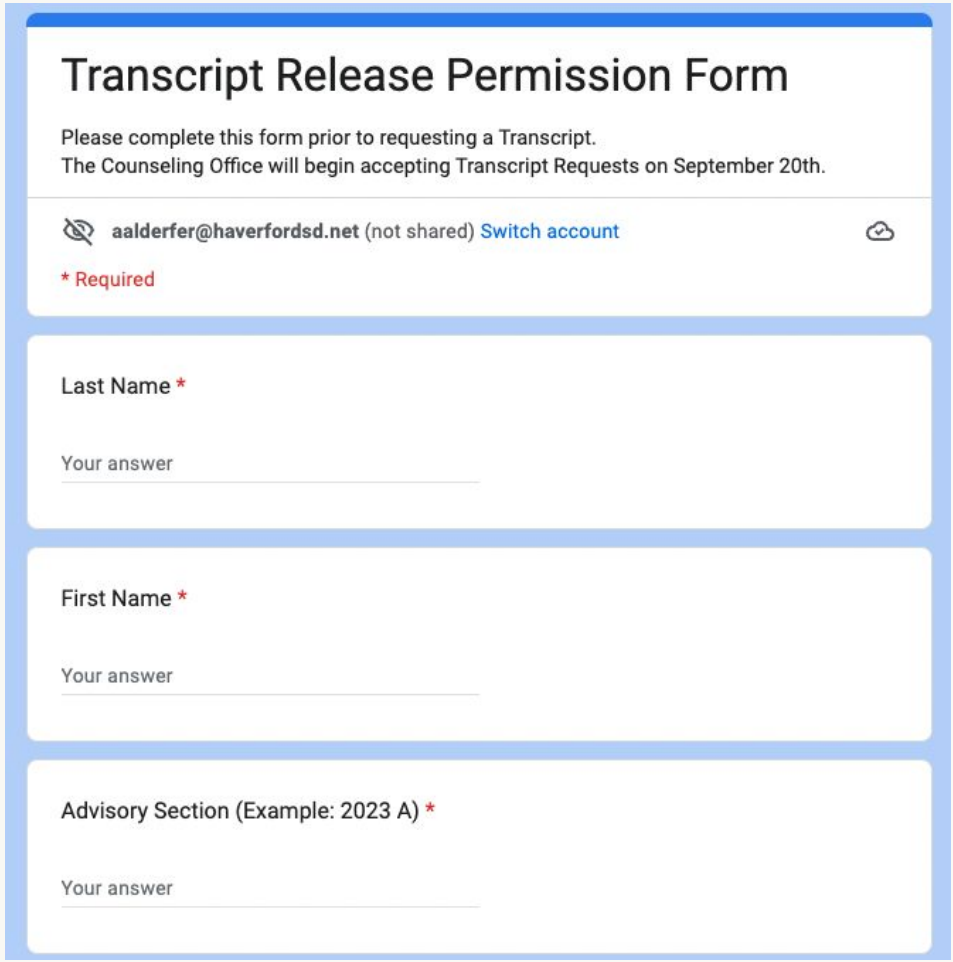
Submit transcript Google Form request at least **15 school days** prior to deadline.

Transcript Release Permission Form

Completed one time by each student prior to requesting transcripts.

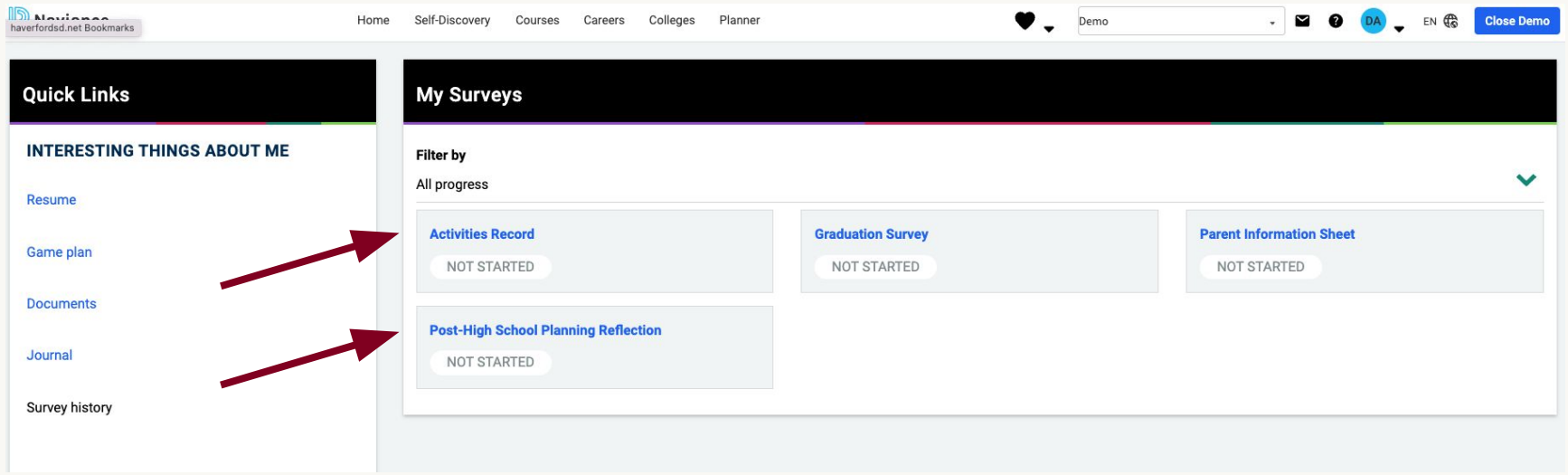
Google Form located 3 different places:

1. **Naviance > Additional Information from your school > Pages > Transcript Release**
2. **Home page of HHS Counseling website**
3. **Your school counselor's Canvas course.**



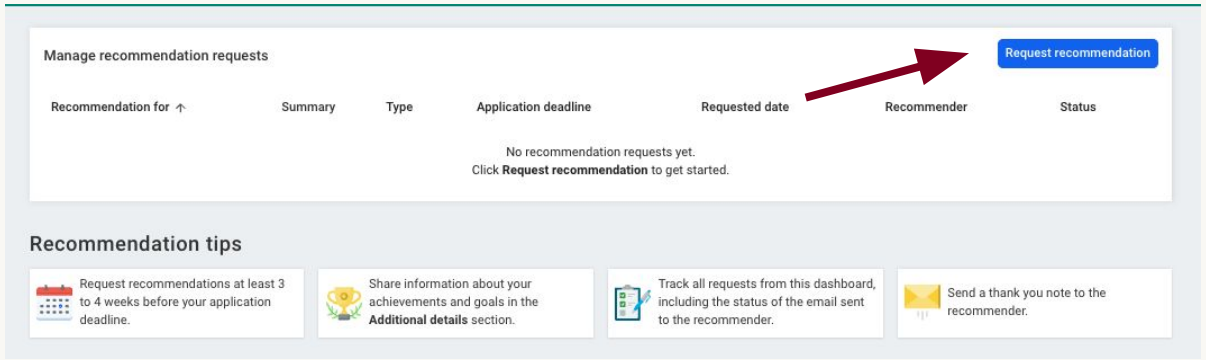
Surveys

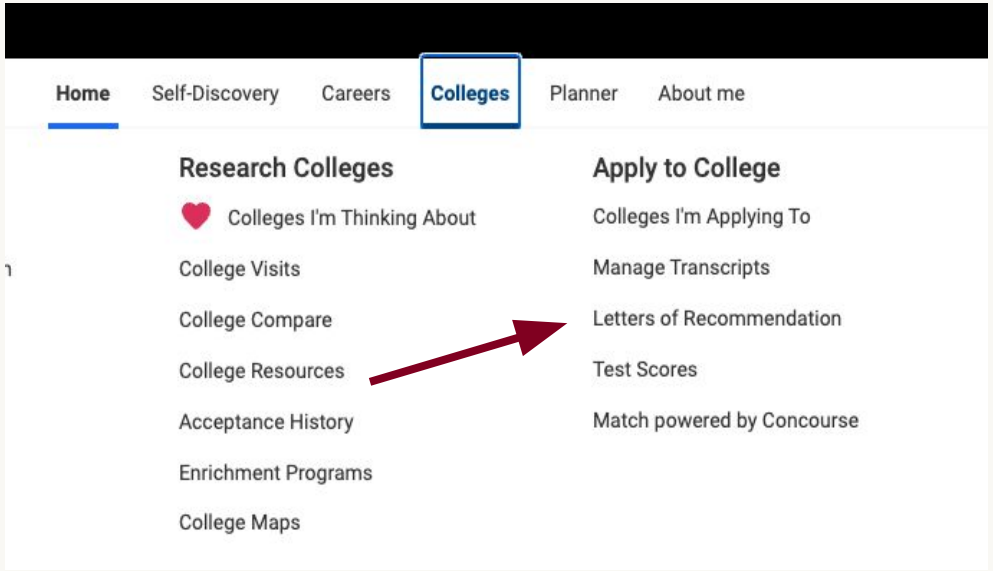
- Students must complete the Post High School Planning Reflection and Activities Record prior to requesting a letter (*About Me > Surveys from your schoo*l)
- Counselor letter of recommendation is requested with transcript on the google form.

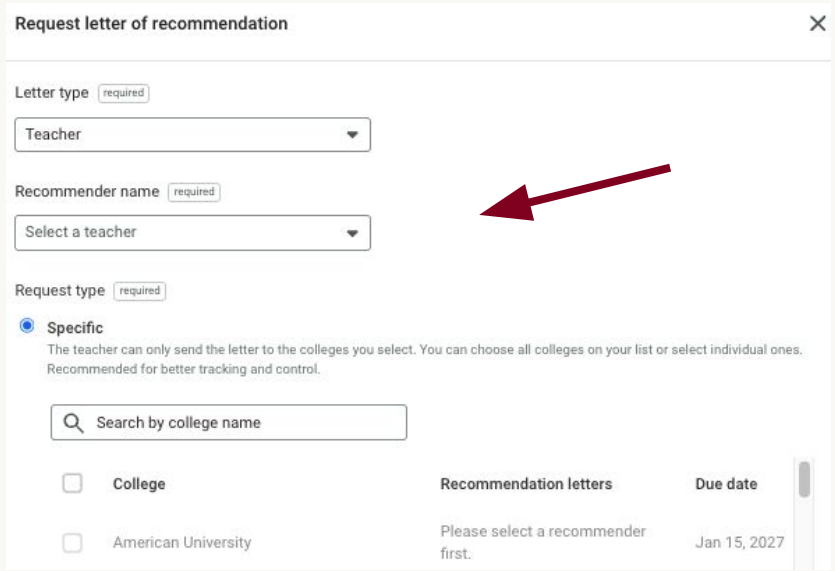


Teacher Recommendation Requests

- Student requests in Naviance after they have made a face-to-face request and have colleges listed in Naviance.
- Students should request specific schools where they would like their information to be sent.

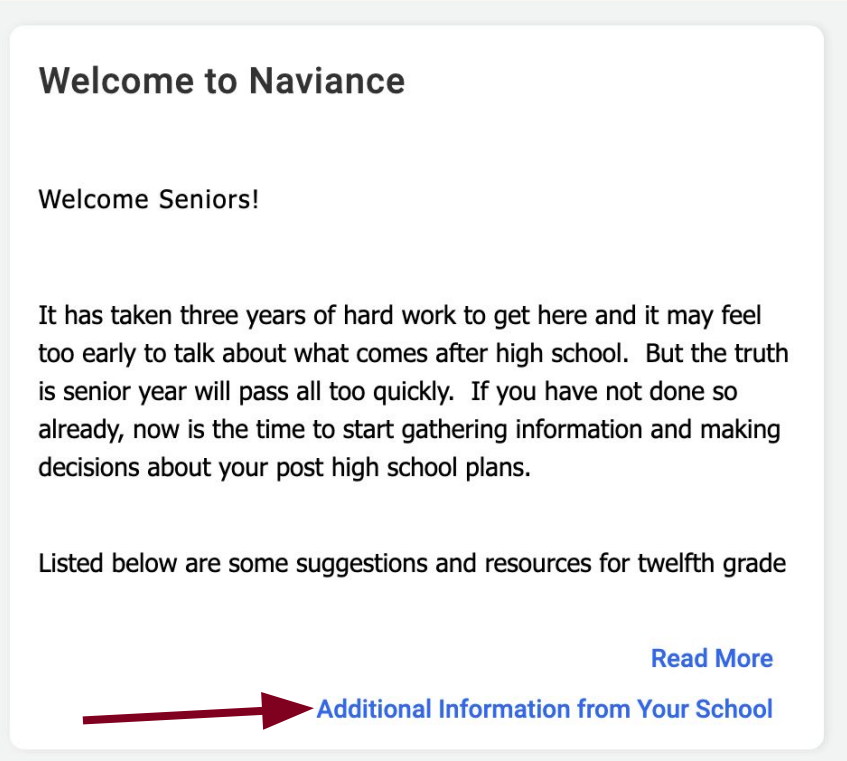


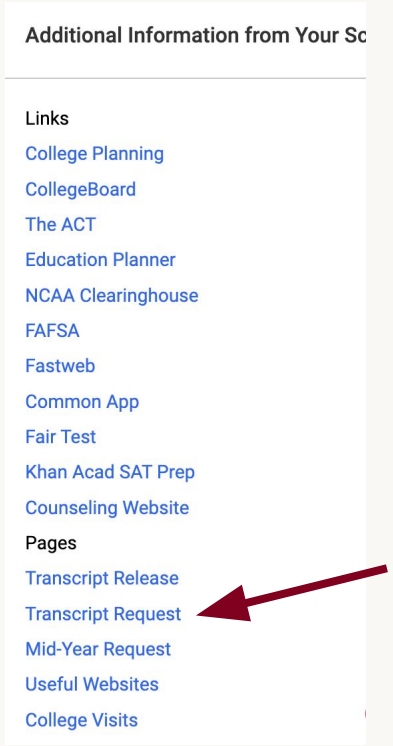


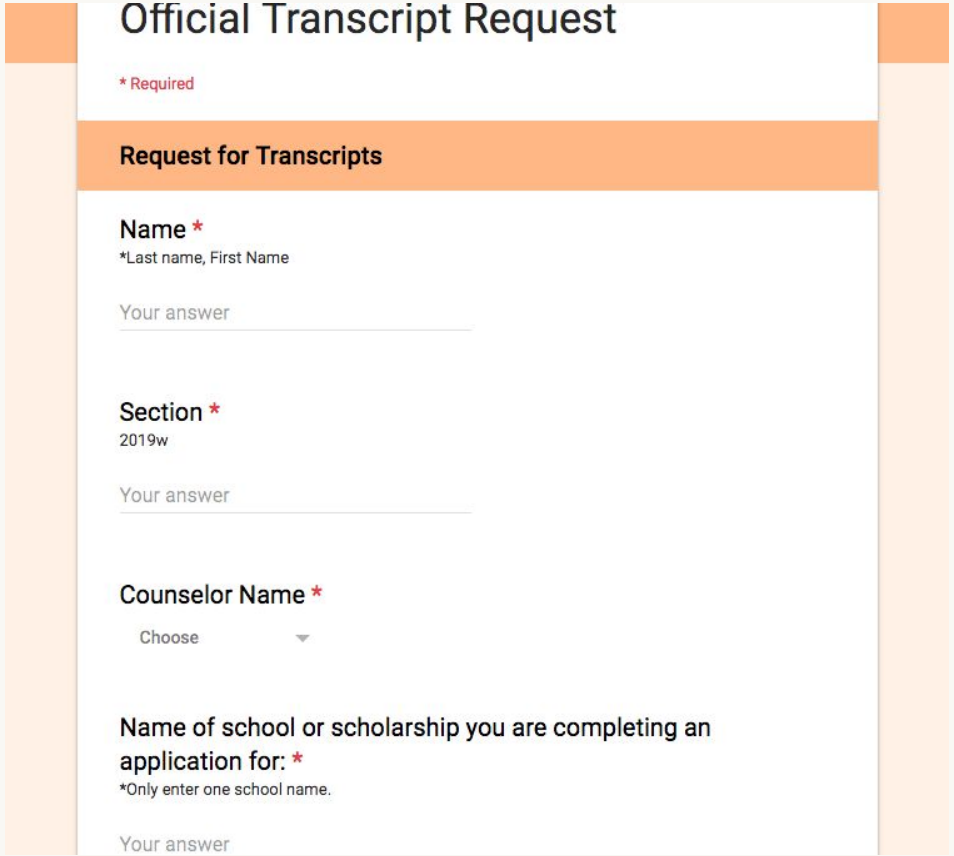


Official Transcript Request

- **Once all previous steps are completed, students can request an official transcript.**
- **Must complete one for each college.**







Processing Timeline

Transcripts and Letters of Rec

There is a 15 school day processing timeline for all transcripts and letters of recommendation. It is important to plan ahead.

Common Deadlines

You can access this chart on the Counseling website.

College Application Deadline	Transcript Request Deadline
October 15, 2026	September 23, 2026
November 1, 2026	October 8, 2026
November 15, 2026	October 20, 2026
December 1, 2026	November 5, 2026
December 15, 2026	November 19, 2026
January 1, 2027	December 1, 2026
January 15, 2027	December 14, 2026
February 1, 2027	January 6, 2027

Standardized Testing & STARS

SAT & ACT Score Reporting

Direct Sending: Test scores MUST be sent officially from CollegeBoard.org or ACT.org directly to universities.

Timeline: Processing takes up to 3 weeks. Plan early!

HHS School Day SAT: Hosted October 1st. Register via email invitation link.

STARS (Self-Reported Record)

Concept: Select universities require students to self-report grades instead of sending initial transcripts.

Process: Submit main application > Create STARS account > Log unofficial transcript grades.> link STARS to college application

Prospective College Student-Athletes

Division I and Division II

NCAA Eligibility Center: NCAA prospective student-athletes preparing to enroll at a Division I or Division II school and/or take officials to DI or DII schools must register here.

Division III

Prospective Athletes: Create a free profile page account on NCAA Eligibility Center website (provides an NCAA ID and helps prepare for the academic and athletic journey)

HHS Counseling Office

Transcripts: The counseling office will submit transcripts to the eligibility center:

1. At the time of registration
2. At the end of six semesters (close of junior year)
3. Upon graduation

Website: https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/

Financial Aid & Funding Opportunities

FAFSA

Opens October 1st

Funding Sources & Platforms

FAFSA (studentaid.gov): Qualifies students for federal and PA state grants (PHEAA), work-study, and federal student loans.

CSS/Financial Aid Profile: Used by specific private institutions for non-federal institutional aid.

Naviance Scholarships: Access the local scholarship list and build a profile on SallieMae platform.

fastweb!

SCHOLARSHIPS.COM
You Find Money. Colleges Find You.

NICHE

SCHOLLY

SallieMae Let's Make College Happen

scholarship monkey

CareerOneStop
your source for career exploration, training & jobs

Upcoming Workshops & Events

Event Name	Date & Time	Location	Highlights
College App Help Days	9/30 Lunches	HHS Mezzanine	Hands-on Common App & essay writing support.
Paying For College	10/21 @ 6:00 pm	HHS Library	Presented by Elite Collegiate Planning.
Financial Aid Night	10/7 @ 6:00 pm	HHS Auditorium	PHEAA representative overview of aid options.
FAFSA Completion Night	11/12 @ 6:00 & 7:00 pm	HHS Library	Hands-on FAFSA completion with PHEAA experts.

Post-Submission Best Practices

- **Check Email Daily:** Set up applicant portals immediately upon receiving verification emails from colleges to track missing documents.
- **Maintain Senior Rigor:** Admissions offers are conditional upon maintaining strong academic standing in senior courses.
- **Prospective Student-Athletes:** Register with NCAA Eligibility Center (web3.ncaa.org) for DI/DII sports and submit transcript requests.
- **Clean Social Media Footprint:** Maintain professional online profiles as admissions committees may review them.

Questions & Next Steps

We are here to help! Let's work together for a successful application season.

Haverford High School Counseling Department

Schedule counselor meetings via Canvas • Visit the Post High School Planning tab on HHS Website