



**Class of 2018
College Application
Night**

September 7, 2017

OBJECTIVES

- To understand the general college application process.
- To be attentive to the timeline of senior year.
- To be aware of the resources available on Naviance - Family Connection.
- To recognize the responsibilities of the student in this process.
- To recognize the responsibilities of the parent in this process.
- To understand the financial aid process.

Senior Year Timeline

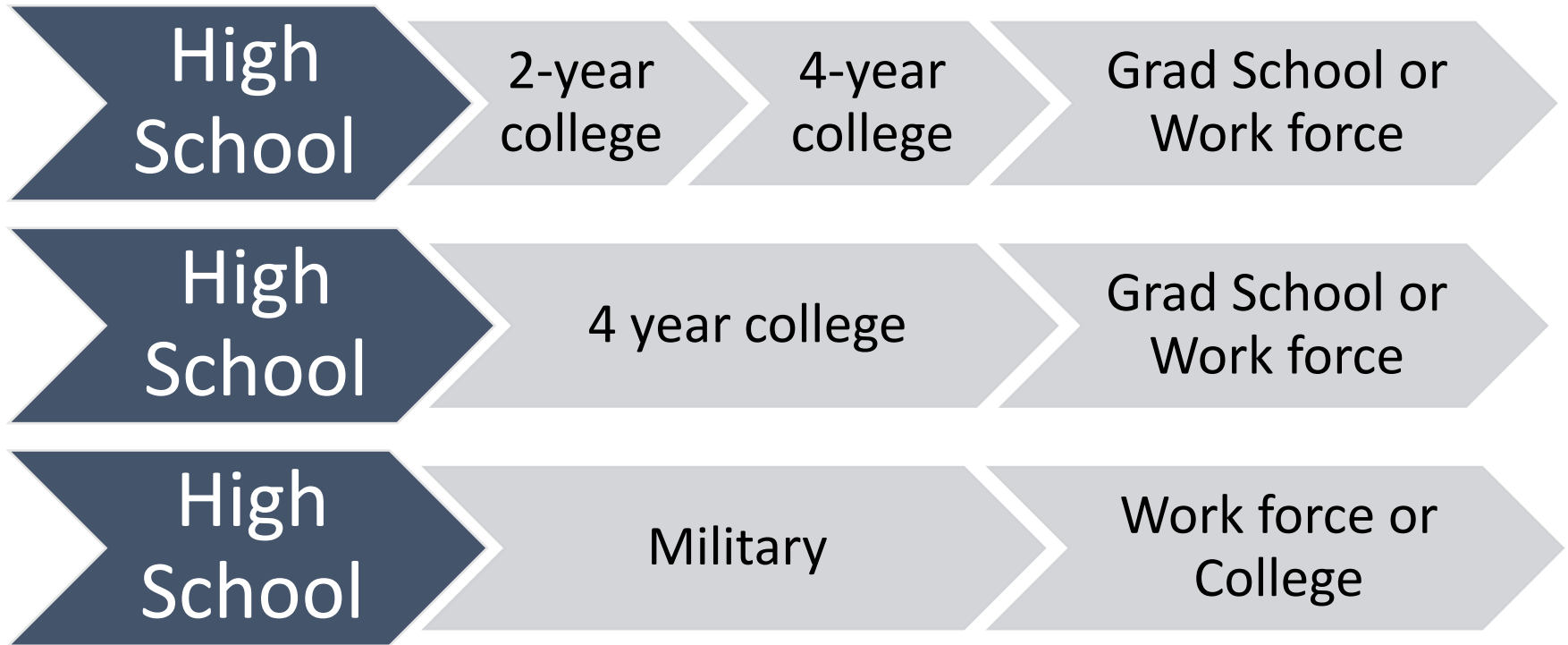
FALL

- Meet with high school counselor.
- Apply to colleges by priority deadline.
- Register for college entrance tests as needed.
- Visit college campuses.
- Search and apply for scholarships.
- Apply for financial aid.

SPRING

- Keep up grades
- Visit college campuses.
- Compare financial aid awards.
- Make final decision by May 1, 2018 and pay enrollment deposit.
- Request final transcript.

Post-secondary options



Transferring from a 2-year to a 4-year college

- Community college can be a stepping-stone to a 4-year college and a bachelor's degree. If you take this path, here's what you should do:
- Make sure that the credits you earn from your classes at the 2-year college will count at your 4-year college.
- Plan Ahead and ask questions
 - Communicate with the admissions office at the 2-year and transfer admissions advisor at the 4-year college.
 - Does the 2-year college have a special transfer relationship with any 4-year colleges?
 - Will the credits I earn be accepted at the 4-year colleges I'm considering?
 - What is the minimum GPA to get into the 4-year college?

What do colleges look for in the admissions process?

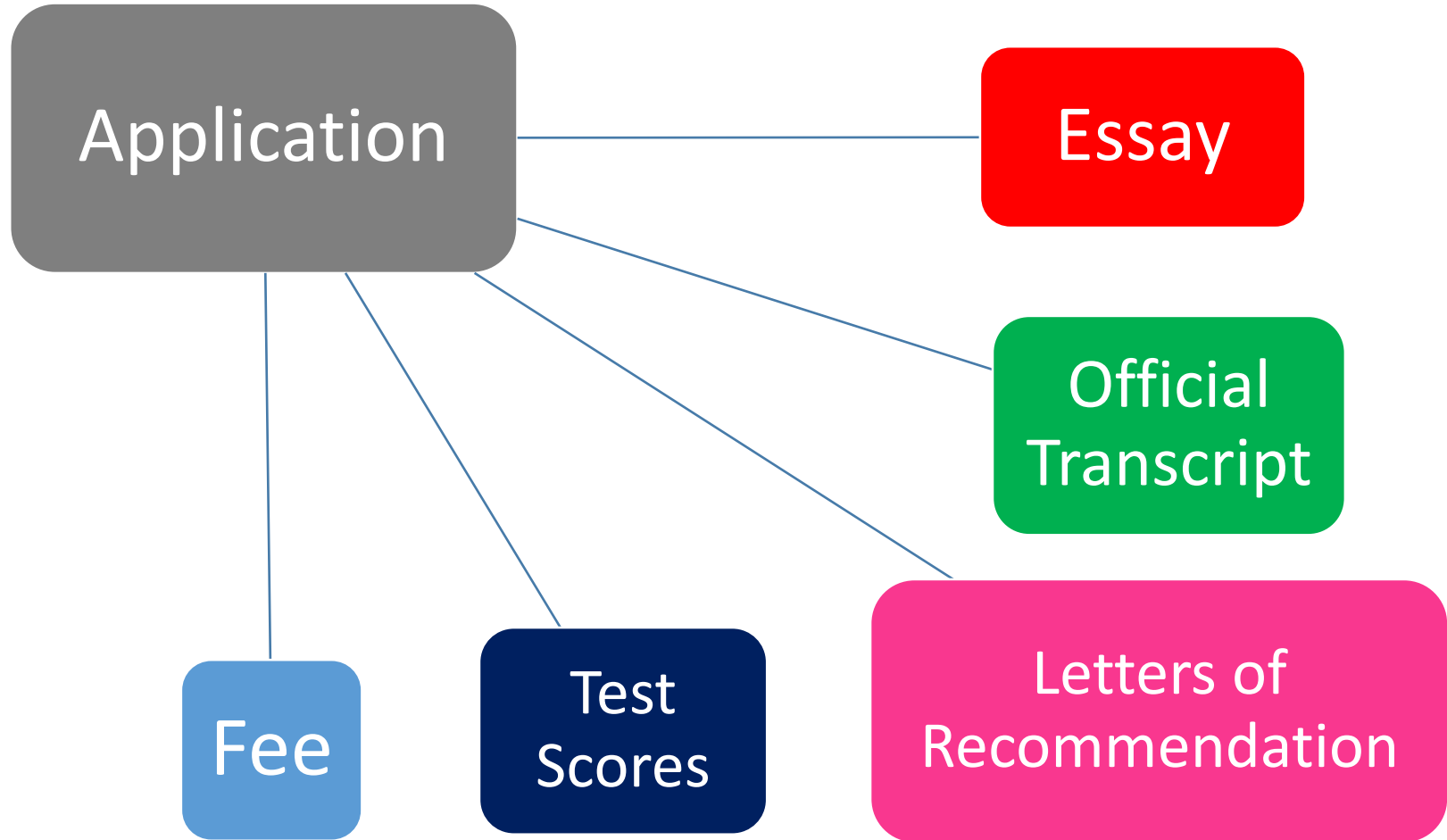
Most Important Criteria

- Grades
- Rigor of coursework
- Standardized test scores
 - ACT or SAT

Important Criteria

- Leadership
- Volunteer service
- Awards/honors
- Extracurricular Involvement
 - Jobs, Sports, Clubs

Parts of the College Application



The Application Process

- Establish an organization system
 - Checklists, folders, Keep a list of login information
- Apply to 4-8 colleges (thoughtful applications)
 - Target, reach, and safety colleges
- Beware of deadlines
- Request Transcripts and letters of recommendations

Standardized Testing Websites

- The [Common Application](#) is used by nearly 800 colleges.
- The [Coalition Application](#) is accepted by more than 90 institutions.
- The [Universal College Application](#) is accepted by more than 30 colleges and universities.

Deadlines

- **Early Decision (ED)** – is a *binding* contract between the student and the college. You can only apply to ONE school ED. If you are accepted you **MUST** attend.
- **Early Action (EA) and Priority** – is non-binding. You may apply early action to multiple schools. Pros – higher consideration for admission and scholarships and you find out by mid-December.
- **Restrictive Early Action (REA)** – is non-binding but restricts the student from apply Early Action or Early Decision to other colleges.
- **Rolling Admissions** – applications are evaluated as they are received.
- **Regular Decision** – This is a set deadline for applying to a college. Students find out in early Spring.

Naviance Family Connection

College Application Management

- Add colleges to *Colleges I'm Applying To*
- Request an official transcript
 - Electronic Transcript Processing
 - Takes 1-2 weeks for a college to receive and process transcripts
- Letter of Recommendation Processing
- College and Career Research and Planning
 - Sign up for College Rep Visits
 - Scholarship and Financial Aid Resources

College Entrance Exams

- Waiting to retake the ACT or SAT? – Do not wait to apply to college!
- Official transcripts include the April 2017 SAT and ACT scores prior to September 2017.
- Some colleges will require sending the official score report directly from ACT. You can do this from their website: www.actstudent.org
- It can take 2-3 weeks for the ACT score to be received at the college. SEND NOW!

TEST	TEST DATE	DEADLINE
ACT www.act.org	Oct. 28, 2017	Sept. 22, 2017
	Dec. 9, 2017	Nov. 3, 2017

TEST	TEST DATE	DEADLINE
SAT www.collegeboard.org	Oct. 7, 2017	Sept. 8, 2017
	Nov. , 2017	Oct. 5, 2017

College Application Tips

Common Mistakes

- Never use text language or slang when emailing an admissions counselor – Be professional with your communication
- Spell check everything.
- Slow down and read instructions carefully.
- What does that mean? Explain your school activity– they don't understand Link Crew, North Star, DECA, MSA, PRIDE, or URC.
- Are you 18 or 40? They know you can use the thesaurus feature on your laptop.. But use it sparingly. Your essay should not sound like it was written by a 40 year old.
- Parents should help students become self-advocates and avoid communicating directly with admissions.

The College Application Process



Erin Hoover
Augustana College
Assistant Director of Admission
Chicago Region





**KEEP
CALM
AND
GET READY FOR
COLLEGE**



Augustana College

Rock Island, Illinois

Ready, set, apply!

- What could be included/required
 - Official transcript
 - Standardized test scores
 - Application form
 - Personal/educational data
 - Extracurricular activities/Resume
 - Essays
 - Fee
 - Secondary school report/Counselor recommendation
 - Midyear report
 - Teacher recommendation



Transcript: Grades & Rigor

- Most colleges look past just the numeric GPA
 - Review of coursework
 - School profile
 - What your school offers
 - What you took advantage of
 - Trends
 - FL is maybe not your thing
 - Progression
 - Study habits/skills are being mastered/improved



Test Scores

- ACT
- SAT
- Best Test
- Superscores
- Test Optional – www.fairtest.org

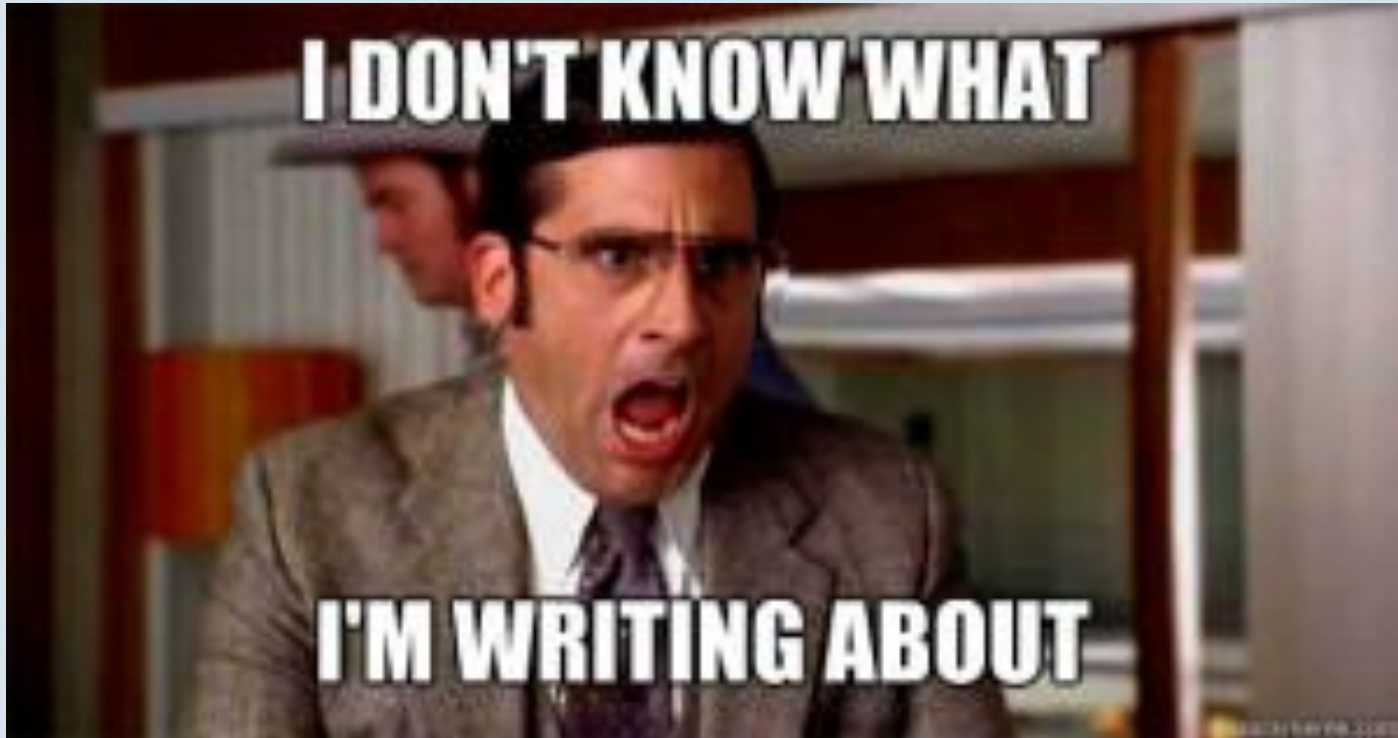


Extracurricular activities/Resume

- What do you do in your free time?
 - Athletics
 - Fine Arts
 - Leadership
 - Job
 - Volunteer work
 - Clubs
- Bottom line: Who are you in your current community? Who might you be within ours?



Essays/Personal Statements



Essays/Personal Statements

- Follow directions
- Some applications do not require or list as optional
- Proof and proof again
- Show your personality rather than just telling about it
- Don't "should" on yourself; be authentic
- Don't write it on your phone the night before it's due



Sample Essay Questions

- Why “X” College?
- What is so odd about odd numbers?
- Were pH an expression of personality, what would be your pH and why? (feel free to respond acidly! Do not be neutral, for that is base)
- Consider something in your life you think goes unnoticed and write why it’s important to you.
- What is the best advice you have received? Why is it important?
- Explain your interest in the major you selected.
- Tell us about one interest or experience of yours that allows us to get to know you better as an individual.



Recommendations

- Ask your teacher in person and early
- Provide your teacher with a resume
- Should be someone that knows you well and can speak about your recent (jr. or sr. year) academics, work ethic, and character
- Answer the question: “Why would professors want you in their class?”



Interviews



Interviews

- How is the interview used?
- Tell your story
- Describe what you're passionate about
- Check interview requirements
- Informational vs. Admissions
- More often, it will help you



Sample Interview Questions

- How did you become interested in “X” College?
- Do you have an interest in a major yet? When and how did you become interested in that?
- What’s your biggest academic challenge and how do you tackle that challenge?
- What was an event or experience that impacted you significantly?
- Do you have anything you’d “do-over” in HS?



Demonstrated Interest

- How is it used?
- Connect with your Admissions Counselor
 - Phone, email, text, Skype/Facetime
 - High School Visit
 - College Fair
 - Campus Visit
 - Social Media



Financial Aid



©Zits Partnership



Augustana College
Rock Island, Illinois

Financial Aid

- Timeline
- FAFSA
 - Available Oct 1st, use 2016 tax information
- Institutional forms
- Types of aid
 - Federal
 - State
 - Institutional



Cost Considerations

- What is a good financial fit for your family?
- Don't let cost restrict applications
- Open and honest **family** discussions about finances
- Open and honest discussions **with college or university** about finances
- Have a back-up plan



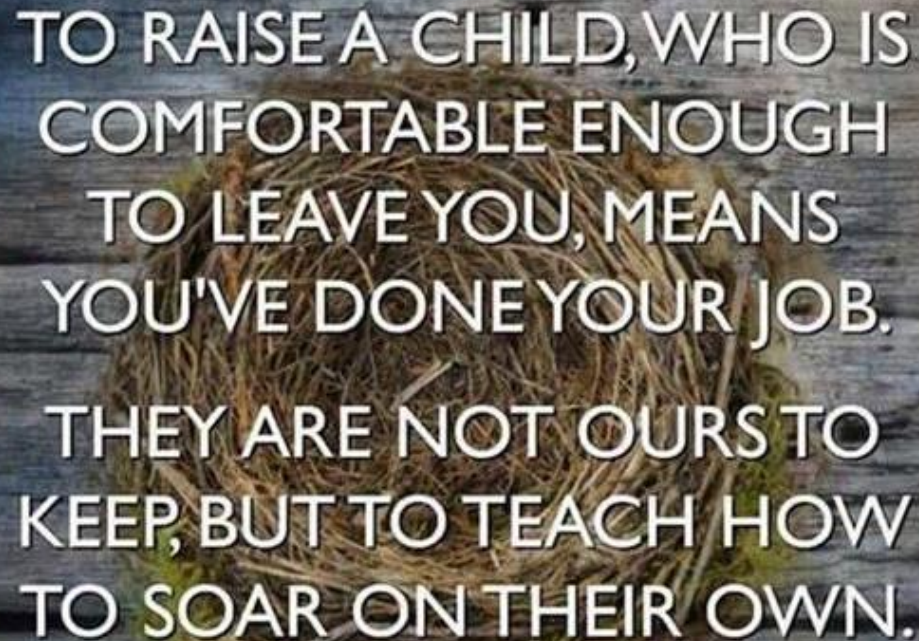
Parental Support



Parental Support



Parental Support



TO RAISE A CHILD, WHO IS
COMFORTABLE ENOUGH
TO LEAVE YOU, MEANS
YOU'VE DONE YOUR JOB.
THEY ARE NOT OURS TO
KEEP, BUT TO TEACH HOW
TO SOAR ON THEIR OWN.

- AUTHOR UNKNOWN -

PRAISE



Augustana College

Rock Island, Illinois

Parental Support

- Guide your student through the exploration process
- Encourage your student to dream as well as be realistic
- Help them with the deadlines but do not fill out the admission application for them



Upcoming Events

- District 202 College Fair
 - 9/20 @ 6:30-8 pm
 - PNHS
- Financial Aid Night
 - 9/27 @ 6:30 pm
 - PEHS
- JJC College Fair
 - 10/18 @ 6:00 – 8:00 pm



Takeaways

- Meet deadlines/Plan ahead
- Visit, visit, visit
- Even if it's optional, do it anyway
- Consider how you fit related to these areas: academic, co-curricular, social and financial
- Get to know your admissions counselor
- Ask questions



TO ALL THE HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS:



**GOOD LUCK ON YOUR
COLLEGE APPLICATIONS!**

imgflip.com



Augustana College

Rock Island, Illinois

Questions/Contact



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