



**SENIOR GUIDANCE**

**THE COLLEGE**

**APPLICATION PROCESS**



# What are colleges looking for?

- **Strength of curriculum**
- **GPA**
- **SAT/ACT score**
- **Personal statement/Standout factor**
  - Time to show why you should be accepted
    - What makes you stand out from the other applicants?
  - Watch spelling, grammar, punctuation – Needs to be perfect!!!
    - Have someone proofread for you
- **Everything else**
  - Extracurricular activities, resume, volunteer or work experience, demonstrated interest, interview, recommendations, etc.
- **Authentic individuals – What makes you stand out from the other applicants?**

# UNDERSTANDING COLLEGE VOCABULARY

## ➤ Early Action/Priority Filing

- Student applies early
- Considered first
- If accepted, not obligated to attend
- Often, scholarships are tied to this deadline

## ➤ Early Decision (DEFINITE if accepted)

- Student applies to first choice of school
- If accepted:
  - Can only apply to one school Early Decision
  - Must attend - Ethically obligated
  - Must withdraw applications to all other schools
  - If not accepted placed in regular pool of applicants

\*\*\*There are more terms with definitions in the Using Naviance handout

# COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS

## What to consider before applying:

- **5-7 Schools (thoughtful applications)**
  - Applications are done either through school's website, Common Application, or the Coalition Application
- **Research the application requirements**
  - Does the college want:
    - Letters of recommendation?
    - Personal Statement/Essay?
- **Beware of the deadlines**
  - Priority filing (Early Admission)
    - Common dates: Nov. 1, Nov. 15, Dec. 1, Dec 15
  - Complete applications and components by at least the day before the deadline, just to be sure
- **Waiting on SAT/ACT scores?**
  - If you are re-taking your SAT/ACT, do not wait to apply

# Application Essays

## PERSONAL STATEMENT

- ▣ Typically utilized for further review beyond GPA, course rigor, and test scores
  - Fit for academic goals
  - Academic strengths/weaknesses
  - Explanation of circumstances

## ESSAY PROMPT

- ▣ Typically utilized to assess writing skills, as well as identify unique applicants
  - i.e. University of Illinois
  - i.e. University of Chicago

# USING NAVIANCE

**\*\*\*\*All transcripts must be requested through Naviance**

**There are three ways to request transcripts in Naviance:**

- 1. When moving colleges from Thinking About to Applying To**
- 2. From the Colleges I'm Applying To page**
- 3. From the Colleges Home page, Manage Transcripts under Apply to Colleges**
- 4. Instructions are in the Using Naviance handout and in the following video: <http://www.screencast.com/t/LMtSIif3e1>**

# USING NAVIANCE

## Continued

1. If you are using the Common Application, you must match your Common Application to your Naviance Account
2. You can learn to do this by:
  1. Following the instructions in the Using Naviance Handout
  2. Watching the video on the Homepage of Naviance under “Common App Matching”
  3. Utilizing the College Career Center starting September 12 during your Lunch Study Hall

# USING NAVIANCE CONTINUED

## LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

1. Letter of Recommendation Survey (About Me tab in Naviance)
  1. You should have started this last year
  2. Recommenders in the building will be able to see this in Naviance and will use this to write a comprehensive letter about you
  
2. Ask your Recommender
  1. Your recommender could be a teacher, counselor, coach, social worker, dean, etc. – NOT family or friends
  2. Before making the request in Naviance, ask your recommenders in person
    1. If you have tried multiple times and cannot connect with your recommender in person, at least send a polite email.
  3. Give your recommenders at least two- or three-weeks notice



# USING NAVIANCE CONTINUED

## LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

### Continued

3. Make the request in Naviance:
  1. Instructions can be found in the Using Naviance handout or in the following video: <http://www.screencast.com/t/yFlgLhUy>
  2. You will NOT make requests for counselors through Naviance
  
4. IF YOU ADD ANOTHER SCHOOL and want letters for that school after you submitted your original recommender requests, be sure to:
  1. Go back in and update your Letters of Recommendation requests
  2. Notify your recommenders through email and/or in person

# FINANCIAL AID/FAFSA

- **Types of Financial Aid:**
  - Grants
  - Loans
  - Work Study
- **Application Opens October 1:**
  - Uses parent/guardian tax information
  - **THE EARLIER, THE BETTER.**
- **Federal Student Aid website: [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)**
- **Apply for FSA ID: <https://fsaid.ed.gov>**
- **Net Price Calculator:**
  - On each college website
  - Calculates overall cost to attend the school minus grants and scholarships

# Financial Aid Timeline for Senior Year

August to December	Admission applications and college visits
By October 1	Create FSA IDs
Beginning October 1	Submit FAFSA
November through March	Receive and review award letters
May 1	Submit deposits and accept financial aid
May through August	Register for classes, finalize payment arrangements, move-in!

# Types of Financial Aid

Federal Student Aid Program	Type of Aid	Other Information	Annual Award Limits	Disbursement
Federal Pell Grant	Grant: does not have to be repaid.	Available to undergraduates only. Limited to or the equivalence of 12 semesters	Up to \$6,195 for the 2019-2020 award year	School acts as the U.S. Department of Education's agent.
FSEOG	Grant	Not all schools participate in campus-based programs. For undergraduates only.	Up to \$4,000 a year	School disburses funds to students.
Federal Work Study	Money is earned; does not have to be repaid.	Not all schools participate in all campus-based programs.	No annual maximum.	School disburses earned funds to students.
Subsidized Stafford Loan	Loan: must be repaid.	Subsidized: the Department of Education pays interest while the student is in school and during grace and deferment periods.	Up to \$5,500, depending on grade level. Interest rate is set at 4.53%	Direct Loans: the federal government provides funds to schools to disburse to students.  FFEL: Private lenders provide funds to schools to disburse to students.
Unsubsidized Stafford Loans	Loans: must be repaid.	Unsubsidized: the borrower is responsible for interest during the life of the loan.	\$5,500 to \$20,500, depending on grade level. Interest rate is set at 4.53%	Same as above.
PLUS Loan	Loan: must be repaid.	Available to parents of dependent undergraduate students.	Cost of attendance minus any other financial aid received. Interest is set at 7.08%	Same as above.

# SCHOLARSHIPS

- PEHS scholarships are for Seniors and will be available in Naviance in December
  - We will let you know via Remind and announcements
- Available now: National Scholarship Search in Naviance
- Four reliable websites in booklet
  - [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
  - [www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com)
  - [www.schoolsoup.com](http://www.schoolsoup.com)
  - [www.scholarshipexperts.com](http://www.scholarshipexperts.com)
- Be careful of hoaxes
- Contact college you plan to attend for their scholarship options
- Also check places of employment (you, your parents, etc.)

# WHAT SHOULD YOU DO NOW?

- MEET WITH YOUR COUNSELOR FOR YOUR SENIOR INTERVIEW
  - You will be getting a pass from your counselor.
- SHARE THESE RESOURCES WITH YOUR PARENTS
- START COMPLETING APPLICATIONS
- TAKE YOUR CLASSES SERIOUSLY SENIOR YEAR:
  - Remember, colleges can see all the classes you took and grades you earned in all your classes from grade 9 on
  - REGISTER TO RETAKE SAT/ACT IF NECESSARY -

# THE CCC - ROOM 107

Opens Thurs., Sept 12

DURING YOUR SENIOR  
LUNCH/STUDY HALL PERIODS 4, 5  
AND 6

\*\*\* BE ON TIME

\*\*\* YOU WILL NEED YOUR ID

# THE CCC - ROOM 107 - continued

SCHEDULED COLLEGE VISITS  
BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER.

- ALLOWED 3 PER SEMESTER
- SIGN UP IN NAVIANCE
- A PASS WILL BE SENT TO YOU



# DATES TO REMEMBER

- **WED, SEPT. 18 – District College Fair and Financial Aid Night at Plainfield North**
- **WED, OCT. 2 – National Hispanic College Fair (Sign up in Student Services)**
- **WED, OCT. 23 – Conquering College Costs here at Plainfield East**

# REMEMBER

1. COLLEGES WILL SEE YOUR MID-YEAR AND END OF YEAR GRADES
2. COLLEGES ARE INTERESTED IN ACADEMIC COMMITMENT AND COURSE COMPLETION

# SENIORITIS

DEFINITION: Slacking off during the spring semester of your senior year or after being accepted to college.

**This can result in:**

- College admissions denied
- College level academic probation
- Altered financial packages

THE ONLY  
DIFFERENCE  
BETWEEN A  
DREAM AND A  
GOAL IS A  
PLAN...



DO YOU  
KNOW  
YOUR  
PLAN?

