

Supporting Your Senior

CLASS OF 2019



Topic: Talking to your senior about college...



Ten Ways For Parents To Get On Top Of The College Admission Process

From Forbes:

- 1. Expect complications**
2. Become a mentor as much as a parent
3. Keep your own anxieties at bay
- 4. Talk about hopes and goals, not just colleges**
- 5. Present a unified front**
6. Listen to your school's counselor, not your neighbors
(sidenote: I say use all resources!)
- 7. Expect your student to accept others' advice he or she wouldn't take from you**
- 8. Educate yourself about the college process.**
- 9. High school still matters.**
10. Don't nag.

“Prepare yourselves for a wild ride testing your relationships with each other, with your children, and with the high school. It may not be fun, but it can be a valuable experience. Attending to the journey will make the goal that much easier to achieve.”

Things have changed...

A Rapidly Changing Postsecondary Landscape



Students Need More Support Than Ever Navigating Complexity of Options

Proliferation of Career and College Options



Occupations

Number of occupations
grew from

270 to 840

(1950 to 2010)



Programs of Study

Number of postsecondary
programs of study grew from

410 to 2,260

(1985 to 2010)



Institutions

Number of colleges and
universities grew from

1,850 to 4,720

(1950 to 2014)



College Students

Number of college
students grew from

2.4M to 20.2M

(1949 to 2014)

Acceptance Rates at Highly Selective Schools



College/University	2017
Stanford University	4.7%
Harvard University	5.2%
Columbia University	6.0%
Princeton University	6.1%
Yale University	6.9%
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	7.9%
University of Chicago	7.9%
Brown University	8.3%
Vanderbilt University	8.6%
University of Pennsylvania	9.2%
Duke University	10.4%
Dartmouth College	10.6%
Northwestern University	10.7%
Swarthmore College	12.5%
Cornell University	13.9%
University of California – Berkeley	14.8%
Georgetown University	16.4%
University of Southern California	16.5%
University of Notre Dame	18.3%

Some Harsh Realities

- For the colleges performing “holistic reviews”, there is no guarantee for anyone
- Colleges have budgets and run out of money, and sometimes begin denying qualified applicants, or offering no money
- Admission decisions can be very confusing
- Universities have annual “agendas” or strategic plans that are not usually public knowledge
- If the college is tracking demonstrated interest, this is usually a very subjective data point
- Selective universities do not have to provide financial incentives – the “reward” is being admitted
- There are colleges who invite students to apply and then deny them

A Favorite Quote

- “College is a match to be made, not a prize to be won.”
 - -Frank Sachs, Former President NACAC

- **Question to ask: It is a good fit academically, socially and financially?**

College Applications/Admissions

FAQs

First Step → Graduate 😊

- “We just received a letter about missing graduation requirements, what does it mean?”
- Don’t panic!
 - Lists all requirements and what your student still needs to earn by May
 - Should not be a surprise –created with your student in Jan!
 - Most seniors need 1.0 English and 2.0 electives
- Contact your student’s counselor
(Mrs. Spraggins, Mrs. Lange (Mrs. Tretter), Mr. Hussmann, Mrs. Greenwood)
 - Questions
 - Special circumstances
 - Correspondence courses

How Many Applications?

- **Reach school** – credentials may meet or are below published admission standards. (All “highly selective” schools should be considered a reach school for every student.)
- **Target school** – credentials are in published range
- **Academic safety** – credentials definitely meet or exceed published standards for the school
- **Financial safety** – school is an academic safety **and** meets your financial situation
- If you are planning appropriately, you should not need to apply to more than 7-8 schools.

Early Decision, Early Action, Priority, Regular Decision, Oh My!

- Biggest question...“Which one means I have to go if I’m accepted?”
EARLY DECISION
- “Is there benefit of applying one way over the others?”
EARLY ACTION/PRIORITY
- “Can I apply ED and then if I don’t get in, submit the rest of my applications RD?”

Who's Most Organized?

- Not always your 17-18 year old...
- Build a list of requirements and deadlines together, and then help them stay on track
- What is in the control of your household?
 - Completing and submitting the actual application
 - Sending official test scores
 - Requesting transcripts, forms, and recommendation letters
 - Providing friendly reminders to those letter writers 😊

Google Sheet Anyone?

- Here is an example shared from a former senior parent:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1	College	App Type	Common App	Deadline	Transcript	Test Scores	Essays	Rec Letters	Cost of Attendance	Scholarship Offer	Final Cost
2	Cal Poly	RD	No	11/30	final only	Highest	No	No	\$36,000	\$9,000	\$27,000
3	UC Berkeley	RD	No	11/30	final only	Highest	Yes	No	\$44,000		\$44,000
4	Georgia Tech	EA	Yes	10/15	initial	Superscores	Yes	Will accept	\$46,000	\$3,000	\$43,000
5	Illinois -UC	RD	No	12/1	final only	Highest	Yes	No	\$50,500	\$12,000	\$38,500
6	Miami-Ohio	EA	Yes	12/1	initial	Superscores	Yes	Required	\$42,500	\$17,000	\$25,500
7	MO S&T	PRI	No	12/1	initial	Highest	No	No	\$23,000	\$5,500	\$17,500
8	Mizzou	PRI	No	12/1	initial	Highest	No	No	\$25,500	\$6,500	\$19,000
9	NC State	EA	Yes	10/15	initial	Superscores	Yes	No	\$39,000		\$39,000
10	Purdue	EA	Yes	11/1	initial	Highest	Yes	Recommended	\$44,000	\$500	\$43,500
11	Ohio State	EA	Yes	11/1	initial	Highest	Yes	Recommended	\$39,000	\$12,000	\$27,000
12	Virginia Tech	RD	No	1/15	initial	Superscores	Yes	Counselor Form	\$39,500		\$39,500
13	UVA	EA	Yes	11/1	initial	Recommend SAT Subject	Yes	Required	\$63,000		\$63,000

**Other ideas to include: acceptance rate, distance from home, student body size, student:faculty ratio, average GPA/ACT, personal notes from campus visit

Why Different Applications for Same College?

- Indiana University – Bloomington accepts
 - IU Application
 - Common Application
 - Coalition Application

WHICH ONE DO I PICK??



How is the transcript evaluated?

- Courses taken
- GPA earned
 - Only shows weighted GPA
 - Our scale is 4.0
 - We do not report or calculate unweighted GPA
 - But...some colleges recalculate GPA (core and/or unweighted)
- Level of rigor
- We do NOT rank, nor can we determine rank
 - 0 out of 0

How do we request/send transcripts?

- Step 1: Turn in “green sheet” → Authorization to Release Records
- Step 2: Use the handout on the Senior class page to walk you through the steps
- All requests must be submitted through Naviance (formerly known as Family Connection)
 - Tip: must be in the student Naviance account, not the parent account!


What is Naviance?

- Comprehensive college-readiness tool
 - Research colleges, view historical acceptance data, see college rep visit schedule, view scholarship opportunities, request transcripts, request recommendation letters, fill out counselor survey, and more!
- Students have been using since middle school
- Parent accounts available, but many have not activated
- If you do not have an active account, and would like one, just send me an email!
(If you can't remember your password, I can also do an auto-reset)

Naviance

- The link is on the [PCH Counseling](#) website

Naviance | Student



Welcome to Naviance Student

The registration code is your student number. You will need a valid e-mail address to proceed.

Email

Password

Remember me [Forgot your password?](#)

Are you new here?

[I'm a guest](#)
[I need to register](#)

Parkway Central High
369 North Woods Mill Road
Chesterfield, MO 63017-3329
p: (314) 415-7900
<https://www.parkwayschools.net/>
[Privacy Policy](#)

Login

What does self-reported transcript mean?

- This means that they do not need to send an initial transcript with the application
- All courses/grades taken in high school are typed directly into the application
- The college makes a decision based on what was reported
- If admitted and they decide to attend, the final transcript must be official from PCH
- Tip: Print the unofficial transcript from Infinite Campus and use it to enter coursework

How do we send test scores?

- **Self-reported scores?**
 - Type scores into application; submit official if you matriculate to that campus
- **Scores submitted with high school transcript?**
 - Mark to include when requesting transcript (entire test card is sent)
- **Directly from testing agency?**
 - Log into ACT and pay \$13 to send to each school (☹)
 - Takes 2-3 weeks to deliver!!!!
- Know what the college needs (ACT or ACT with writing, SAT Subject Tests)

Which scores do we send?

- Writing/No Writing
- Highest composite
- Superscore
 - Send the test date with the highest English
 - Send the test date with the highest Math
 - Send the test date with the highest Reading
 - Send the test date with the highest Science
 - Send the test date with the highest Writing

Example

	English	Math	Reading	Science	Writing	Composite
1	21	23	21	17	-	21
2	20	24	23	23	-	23
3	22	26	26	25	-	25
4	23	25	24	26	12	25
5	22	24	23	27	-	23

Highest composite → send test 3 or 4

ACT w/ Writing Required → send test 4

Superscore → send test 3, 4 & 5 → $(23+26+26+27)/4 = 25.5 = 26!$

What if a school is test optional?

- If your GPA/transcript alone makes you competitive for admission, but your test score is below average for their institution, you do not need to send a test score.
- And it's ok!
- Some do require another application piece to replace the test score, but most do not.
- Pay attention to scholarship requirements!
 - The test score might be competitive for admission, but prevent you from getting a higher scholarship that your GPA alone would have met!

FERPA?

- The colleges ask students to waive their FERPA rights to see their recommendation letters and forms
- Should mark **I waive my right** on the release form and on the college applications

Please select one: *

- I waive my right to review all recommendations and supporting documents submitted by me or on my behalf.
- I DO NOT waive my right to review all recommendations and supporting documents submitted by me or on my behalf.
- I have chosen not to waive my right to review my recommendations and supporting documents. I understand that my decision may lead my counselors or teachers to decline to write recommendations on my behalf. I also understand that my decision may lead colleges to disregard any recommendations submitted on my behalf. *
- I understand that my waiver or no waiver selection above pertains to all colleges to which I apply and that my selections on this page cannot be changed once I sign and click Save below. *

Signature *

Date * 08/30/2018



Speaking of letters...

- “I asked Mr(s). X to write for me 2 months ago and it still shows as ‘pending,’ what should I do?”
 - Teachers/counselors see college deadlines – make sure they are accurate in Naviance
 - Submission of the application is completely separate from the submission of the supporting documents
 - Everything just has to arrive on/before the deadline

Essays and more essays...

- Applying to Mizzou, MO State, STLCC, UMSL, Lindenwood, KU, Arkansas, Arizona State, etc...

NO ESSAY

- Main Common App essay required for around 75% of the schools using the Common App
- Supplemental essays can catch students off guard! Dig deep to know what is required.

What are the most important things to think about when they write their essays?

- Should sound like a 17-18 year old, not a 45 year old
- First-person, authentic voice
- Does not have to be a tragic or triumphant story, but it's ok if it is
- Reader should know more about the writer after finishing
- It should "sound like them"!

Is it important to visit campuses and/or meet with the reps?

- Less emphasize this year on “demonstrated interest” but might still be valuable
- If asked to write about why they are applying to that school, the more first-hand knowledge (versus research), the easier!
- Every website = marketing tool
- The rep visiting PCH/STL is most often the person reviewing your application and sometimes the one making decisions


How do we get/find scholarships?

- From the colleges:
 - Automatic scholarships → admissions application
 - Competitive scholarships → supplemental application; interview
 - MEET DEADLINES!
- From external resources:
 - Naviance → “scholarship list”
 - National databases → websites, apps, Naviance
 - NO SEASON...ON-GOING DEADLINES!

Naviance

- The link is on the [PCH Counseling](#) website

Naviance | Student



Welcome to Naviance Student

The registration code is your student number. You will need a valid e-mail address to proceed.

Email

Password

Remember me [Forgot your password?](#)

Are you new here?

[I'm a guest](#)
[I need to register](#)

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How do we get grants?

- Need-based aid from:
 - Federal government
 - State government (MO)
 - Individual college
- FAFSA
- CSS Profile

FAFSA

- www.fafsa.gov
 - Use this site ONLY! Applying is FREE.
- Use the 4caster tool to determine potential aid
- Apply for your FSA ID **now** (fsaid.ed.gov)
 - Electronic signature for **you and your student**, so you will both need ID
- FAFSA will become available on **October 1**.
 - Use income information from **2017** to complete.

CSS Profile

- College Scholarship Service
- Utilized by several hundred **private** institutions.
- Use institutional methodology which differs from the calculation performed by the federal government.
- The CSS collects data and sends it directly to the college.
 - student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile

Need More Info?

- **PCH Financial Aid Night**
 - PCH Theater
 - September 12 from 6:30-8 pm
- **The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis**
 - www.sfstl.org



How does the A+ scholarship work?

- If your student meets all A+ requirements by May 10, their transcript will have a special stamp/seal.
- When the final transcript is sent to STLCC, they will initiate the process of getting the funds to cover the tuition.
- If a 4-year college offers an A+ scholarship, they might have an additional form/application to submit (ie MO State)

Dual Credit/AP Credit – Now What?

- **Dual credit** – same course at UMSL is listed on your PCH transcript. They will not need for admissions review, but will need for matriculation/course placement. (Send in June only to the school attending!)
 - To see your credits earned, you have to log in to your UMSL account (eek!)
- **AP credit** – can be listed as resume-type items, but official scores need only to be sent in June to the school attending.

Will the credits earned in high school work?

- If only we could know the answer...
- [“College Credits Earned in High School”](#) page on the PCH Counseling site provides the most in-depth explanation
- You’re really just guessing if you don’t know where you’re attending, or haven’t met with an advisor for your major at that school 😞

They Got In!!! Now What? 😊

- Have conversations with financial aid offices
- Complete housing application
- Submit enrollment & housing deposits
 - Check the refund policy
- Compare offers and make final decision by May 1st
- Inform all other colleges of your choice and asked to be removed from the enrollment list
- Inquire about college course placement exams
- Register for a summer orientation
- Send final transcripts
 - PCH in May
 - Dual-credit (UMSL, MO Bap, MO State) in June

They are Denied...Now What 😞

- May be first time in their lives they have been told “no” about anything major
- Hard not to take personally
- Many tie their admissions decisions to their personal worth
- Talk through how they are feeling
- Explore and evaluate other options

- Much of the disappointment can be decreased if they have a fantastic plan B!

“I’ve already been admitted, so this year doesn’t matter, right?”

- WRONG! I’ve told the seniors, but they might need reminders...
- Offers of admission are dependent upon final transcript
- Some ask for midyear transcript (*or 6 week*)
- Some re-evaluate GPA and ACT scores through the end of the year for admission and/or scholarships!

Senior Planning Calendar

- Seniors received last Wednesday
- Provides a list of monthly things to check in with them about
- Posted on the “Senior class” page of the PCH Counseling site

Twitter

- Follow us on Twitter so you don't miss out on important dates, college visits, and more!

@PCH_Counseling

FINAL 2 FAQs

1. “What are the most important things I need to ask my senior about doing now?”
 - Have they turned in their “green sheet” to request transcripts, and did they “waive their rights” to view their recommendations?
 - Do they have all of their colleges in the “colleges I’m applying to” section of Naviance?
 - Are their deadlines accurate in Naviance?
 - Have they submitted their transcripts?
 - If using Common App (CA)...
 - Is their CA account matched with their Naviance account?
 - Have they talked with a counselor about completing the CA school forms?
 - Have they invited the proper number of teachers to write for them (ask first, then invite in Naviance)?
 - Did they “waive their rights” to view their recommendations in CA?
 - Did they add all of their colleges in CA and preview all of the college-specific supplemental questions/essays?

FINAL 2 FAQs

2. “What are some things I can be doing to help?”
 - Make sure they know their SSN
 - Create FSA IDs (one for them, one for you)
 - Be prepared for fees (application fees, fees to send scores).
Waivers available for families who qualify for meal benefits!
 - Keep them on track without doing everything for them
 - Build in time for bumps in the road!
 - Monitor their well-being
 - Help them find scholarships that are good for them to fill out
 - Encourage submission of the safety school application – it really helps to start with an acceptance!!
 - Try to get them on campuses if you haven't already

Your turn...

Q&A