

St. John's Jesuit High School

College Planning Manual

A goal without a plan is not a goal at all

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Planning	5
FAQ	11
Naviance	15
Testing	24
Campus Visits	32
Athletics	40
Applying	43
Transcripts	50
Recommendations	56
Activities Resume	60
Essay	64
Financial Aid	68
Scholarships	87
Selective Section	90
Glossary	98

College Planning Manual

Saint John's Jesuit High School encourages you to seek a college or university that will challenge you intellectually, socially, and spiritually. We primarily are concerned that you will be admitted to, and then enroll in, a quality school which will best suit your academic and personal goals.

This information in this online handbook has been prepared to assist you and your parents during this year, when you will be making one of the most important decisions of your life.

The handbook serves as a complement to all the resources and links through Naviance, your Naviance Notebook and other pieces of information that we initially included in your College Planning Folder and that we will continue to distribute throughout the year.

Please scroll to the next page for the Table of Contents and familiarize yourself with all the information that is available.

We know that the college decision-making process can at times be confusing and frustrating. But we also know that in the end, it is exciting and rewarding!

We are here to help! Take advantage of our many years of experience and our sincere willingness and desire to help you, as you progress through this important journey!

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The Office of College Counseling at St. John's Jesuit High School originally produced this handbook in 1998. The staff members, in the Office of College Counseling at St. John's Jesuit High School, have continuously made updates and modifications every succeeding year.

All material in the handbook, not specifically identified as being reprinted from another source was authored by Margaret S. Warrick (lead author), Beverly Hartwig, or Inga Wood.

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Student Do's and Don'ts



Do

Work hard and keep grades up. Junior year is critical for admission decisions.

Have a system to organize admission materials you collect.

Register for ACT and SAT. Prep, prep, prep!

Take the ACT with writing at least once, and take the SAT at least once.

Send official scores to your college choices, directly from agency.

Research colleges and record those you are considering on Naviance.

Go on formal college visits.

Begin to work on 1st drafts of essays over the summer.

Start to create your Activities Resume. Follow directions in this manual.

Decide teacher(s) you will request letters of recommendation from and ask early.

Register this spring on The Common Application.

Prepare for a busy Senior Year!

Attend College Rep. visits at SJJ.

Determine the colleges you plan to apply to, by the first week of September.

Pay attention to deadlines. Note different deadlines for merit scholarships and admission. MOST college deadlines are December 1, many are now November 1.

Avoid "Senior Slide".

Enjoy the special moments of your Senior Year at SJJ.

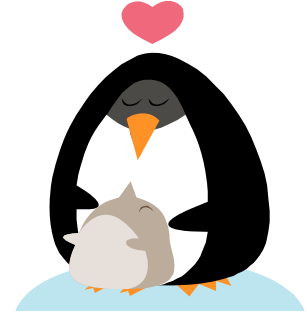
Don't

Wait until Senior Year starts to begin your college search and application process.

Be swayed for or against a college by your friends. This should be your collegiate choice and career.

Apply to so many schools you become overwhelmed and confused by the choices.

Parent Do's and Don'ts



Do

Support your son!

Encourage your son academically. A B in an Honors/AP class goes a lot further than an A in a regular class.

Help him remember deadlines.

Make sure he registers for ACT and SAT.

Take him on formal College visits.

Attend the Catholic High School College Fair at Lourdes University in October.

Allow your son to own the process.

Remember that college is a fit to be made, not a prize to be won.

Prepare for a busy senior year.

File a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) in January.

Allow your son to dream, but help him keep those dreams realistic!

Don't

Complete forms/applications for your son.

Write his college essays or hire someone to write them.

Limit choices due to cost.

Get caught up in “bumper sticker” mentality.

Call admission offices to check on the status of your son's application.
Admission officers prefer to hear from the applicant.

Call the College Counseling office and ask what the school code is.
It's 365 054

College Planning Calendar Checklist



Feb.–May (Junior Year)

- ☐ Schedule an appointment with Dr. Warrick for you and your parent(s). You **MUST** have had a Junior Jump Start session one week prior and have completed the *Parent Evaluation* and *College Planning Questionnaire* at least 48 hours prior to your appointment. *Appointments last approximately 45 minutes.*
- ☐ Register for standardized tests. **MAKE SURE YOU CODE IN COLLEGES YOU WANT TO RECEIVE YOUR SCORES.**
- ☐ Familiarize yourself with the on-line College Planning Manual (*a downloadable copy will be emailed to you*)
- ☐ Attend College Counseling programs, including the **College Launch** in May.
- ☐ Begin to research schools via Naviance, the Internet, and resource books.
- ☐ Begin drafting college essays in your English class.
- ☐ File NCAA Clearinghouse forms via the Internet if required.

June–August

- ☐ Visit colleges. Call ahead to schedule information session and tour.
- ☐ Continue working on your Activities Resume.

August (Senior Year)

- ☐ Attend “Boot Camp” (**MANDATORY**)
- ☐ Make sure you are registered on the CommonApp **by** August 1st.
- ☐ Register for the September ACT.
- ☐ Update your Activities Resume and upload it into your “*Journal*” on Naviance.
- ☐ Go online for applications and information from colleges.
- ☐ Plan fall visits to colleges and look on Naviance for college reps visiting SJJ.
- ☐ Complete formal Activities Resume and bring into CRC for proofing.
- ☐ Ask teacher for recommendation(s) **ONLY** if college application(s) requires and then process request through Naviance.

September

- ☐ Sign up for AND attend a “C.A.T. Session.”
- ☐ Complete applications online using the Common App or the Institutional App, if the Common App is not an option. *Check on Naviance that teacher letters of recommendation are on file if required.*
- ☐ Stay focused on your academics; Mid-Year Grades are **VERY IMPORTANT!** We automatically send mid-year grades to all the colleges you apply to.
- ☐ Be aware of **EARLY** application deadlines for scholarship opportunities.
- ☐ Consider Early Decision/Early Action options. Know the difference. Note deadlines.
- ☐ Register for October ACT/SAT.
- ☐ Create a schedule of admissions and financial aid deadlines. *Remember, in order to guarantee your application meets these deadlines, have application and CAPS form filed **at least 10 school days in advance**. No application is ever considered complete at a college until they have received the transcript from us.*

October

- ☐ Attend College Fair at Lourdes University.
- ☐ Meet with college reps when they visit SJJ.
- ☐ Submit applications for early decision/early action to CRC by **OCTOBER 15** for processing. (Most have a November 1 deadline).
- ☐ Complete CSS PROFILE (an additional financial aid form) for colleges that require it.
- ☐ Complete Applications!!!!

Remember - all applications and transcript requests MUST be turned into the CRC by October 30th. A CAPS form must be completed for all on-line applications. Allow 10 school days for the CRC to process the accompanying parts of your on-line application.

December

- ☐ Study hard for your finals - many colleges now wait to see your fall term senior grades before they make a decision.

January

- ☐ Have parent(s) attend Financial Aid Seminar.
- ☐ Complete FAFSA form online (www.fafsa.ed.gov). Make sure you and your parent apply for a PIN number.

February

- ☐ Work on scholarships and make sure your FAFSA (*and CSS PROFILE if required*) is complete .
- ☐ Visit college campuses again!
- ☐ Review your Student Aid Report (SAR) results from filing the FAFSA. Submit any changes necessary.

March

- ☐ Review Financial Aid Award Notices; Complete Financial Aid Comparison sheet from on-line College Planning Manual.
- ☐ Complete Financial Planning Grid (in Financial Aid section of planning manual) to compare financial packages.
- ☐ Call Financial Aid Offices at colleges of interest to discuss and possibly negotiate financial aid packages.
- ☐ Inquire about Advance Placement (AP) exams for college credit.

April

- ☐ Make the decision!
- ☐ Notify the schools you will not be attending.
- ☐ ***Pay enrollment deposit to college of choice by May 1.***
- ☐ Sign and return financial aid forms.
- ☐ Prepare for your final exams. **DO NOT LET UP!** Colleges can retract their offers of admission - and do!

May

- ☐ Take AP exams.
- ☐ Senior Project.
- ☐ Enjoy your final days at SJJ !!!!
- ☐ Baccalaureate and Graduation!

College Comparison

As you begin to narrow your choices, a great exercise is to conduct a college comparison. It is recommended that you complete at least three comparison charts - - one comparing your REACH schools, one comparing your COMPETITIVE schools, and one comparing your SAFETY schools. The following are factors to consider when conducting a comparison or when conducting a search.

Reach, Competitive, Safety:

Reach You are competitive to apply to this school, but you know you will be one of hundreds (thousands) who have similar credentials as yours and this school takes a relatively small Freshman class. OR This is a school you are extremely interested in, but you know from looking at statistics that you may be “on the bubble.” BUT you should “go for it!”

Competitive To the best of our collective knowledge of this school and the history of SJJ students applying to this school, you *should* have a very good chance of getting admitted.

Safety To the best of our collective knowledge of this school, your credentials are such that you should have no problem getting admitted. Remember that a safety school still needs to be a school that you would enjoy attending and that will still give you opportunities and challenges.

Location/Distance from Home Where is the school? What city, part of the country? Within a 3 hour drive, more than a 3 hour drive, need to fly?

Size Small (< 3,000) Medium (4 – 15,000) Large (15 – 20,000) Very large (over 20,000) *Remember to think in terms of undergraduate population*

Academics Does the school have the major you want, have opportunities to combine majors, have opportunities for co-op/ internships/ travel abroad? Level of academic reputation – if planning to go on to graduate or professional school - how well will this school position you; are there opportunities to do research? Will you be intellectually challenged; will you be among intellectual peers?

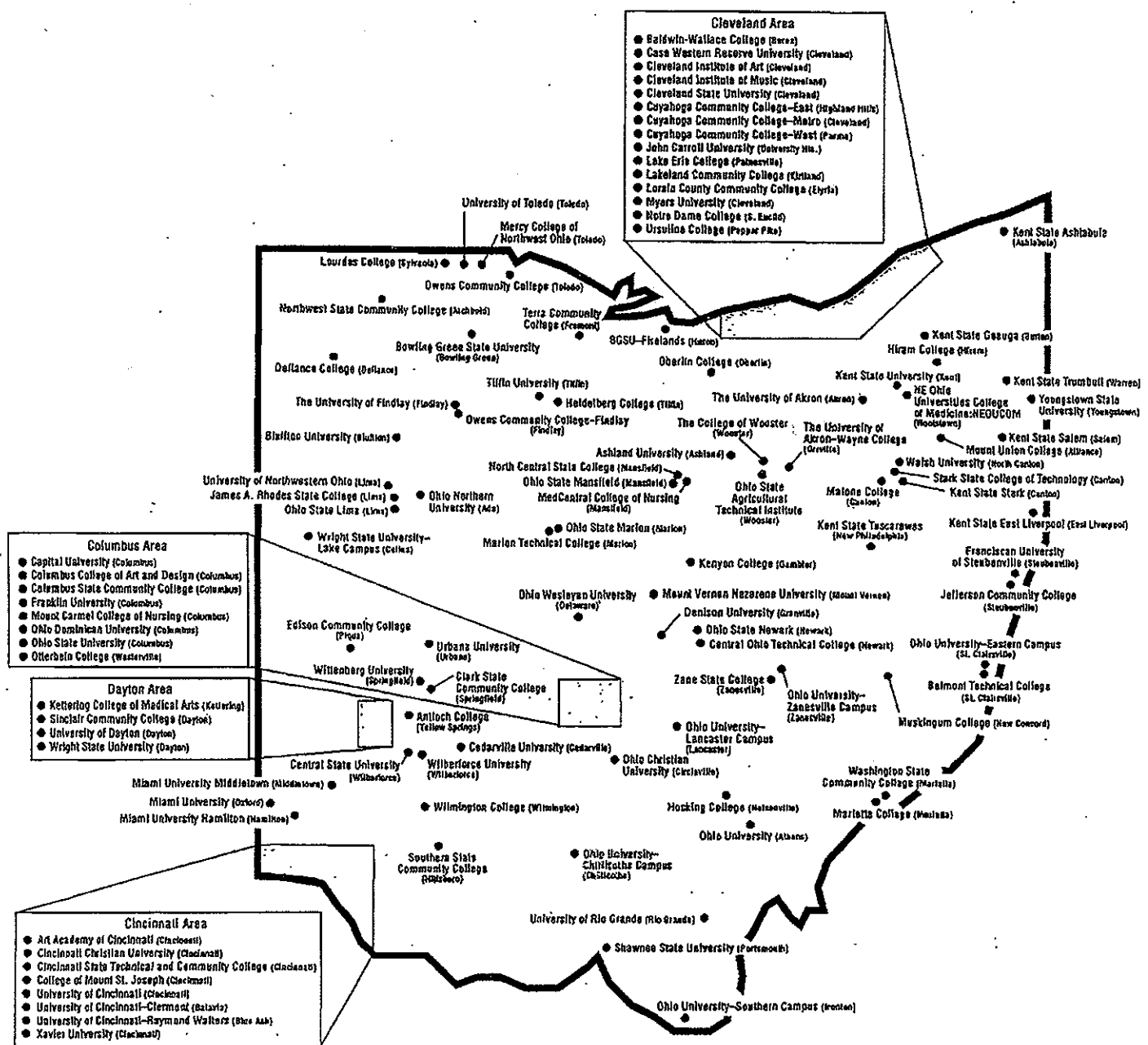
Social/ Campus Life Will you be able to continue a sport or activity you’ve been involved in at SJJ – e.g. theater, crew, campus ministry, student government? Is there a Greek system (fraternities)? Is the campus a “suitcase” campus i.e. dead on weekends OR is there a lot going on – concerts, sporting events, frat parties, etc.?

Why I like this school In general, what is it about this school that appeals to you?

Pro’s What are some compelling features about this school?

Con’s What are some concerns that you have about the school?

Ohio Colleges and Universities



Compliments of the ACT Midwest Region and the Ohio ACT State Organization

ACT[®]

United States of America



20 FAQ's Frequently Asked Questions



1. What is our CEEB code/the School Code?

365054

2. How many teacher rec's/ if any do I need?

Many schools do NOT require a teacher recommendation.

For Common App schools, go under the documents page and click on Deadlines and Requirements GRID. For all other schools check the application directions, again you might not need any or maybe you only need one?

3. What is the difference between Early Action and Early Decision and what should I do?

Early Action is a “gentleman’s agreement” between you and a college. You basically say, “Hey if I apply to your school early (e.g. by November 1) you’ll promise to tell me your decision early (e.g. by December 15). But I do not need to commit to attending your college until the National decision date, May 1.”

Early Decision is a LEGAL, BINDING agreement between you and a college. This time you say: “I am signing a contract that **commits** me to attend your college, if I am admitted. I make this commitment early in the admissions year; I can NOT change my mind. I will be attending your college next fall.”

4. I am going to take my ACT and SAT again in October. Should I wait until after I get scores to apply to my schools?

ABSOLUTEY NOT !! Apply to colleges right away, beginning in September. You want your colleges to have your application and know you are interested, start your file, and get you entered on their databases. They will hold for review pending the receipt of your scores. Make sure you code all the schools you want to receive your scores on your ACT/SAT registration, so that the schools get them automatically, around 2 weeks after you take the test.

5. I’ve heard some schools want ACT’s and some schools want SAT’s. Is this true?

NO NO NO. ALL schools accept both! ALL schools accept whichever test score is higher and most schools “super score” the Critical Reading and Math of the SAT. You owe it to yourself to take each test at least once to see which one you do better on. THEN re-take that one to improve your score for admissions and for scholarship competitiveness. Refer to the comparison chart in the test section of the manual.

6. Oops, I didn't take the Writing part on the ACT . . . now what do I do?

If/when you take it again make sure you take the writing. However, IF you took an SAT and had those scores sent to your colleges, you should be o.k. You may want to double check with the college, just to be sure.

7. Do I need SAT II's? And what are SAT II's anyway?

SAT II's are Subject tests that some colleges (usually highly selective) require in addition to the SAT and/or ACT. But here is where it gets interesting. Some schools who require SAT II's will take the ACT subset scores in lieu of SAT II's (like Yale and U Penn). Some only require 2 SAT II's and some require 3. Some are specific in which ones they want, and some are flexible. Make sure, if you are applying to a highly selective school, that you know exactly what the SAT II requirements are. SAT II's are administered on most Saturdays when the regular SAT is administered.

8. How do colleges look at SAT II's?

In most cases, SAT II scores are the last item in an application that gets considered-- they can be the "tie breaker" element. That is why it is usually o.k. to take SAT II's later in the application season, unless you have just finished an AP class and information is fresh in your head. SAT II's are primarily used for placement purposes, after you have been admitted.

9. Is it worth it to take an AP exam?

Oh yes! Why not? You've got every thing to gain (like college credit) and nothing to lose. You can then decide, if you score high enough (for Ohio colleges, it's a 3 or higher) to earn college credit, if and how you might use that credit when in college.

10. What is Score Choice? Should I do it?

Score choice is an option the College Board has that you can choose to send only ONE set of your SAT scores to a college. **DON'T** do it!! Virtually all schools mix and match (super score) your SAT scores. They will take your best Critical Reading score from any given test, and combine it with your best Math score from any given test. It makes a ton of sense to have a college get your whole test history so that they can glean your best scores to make you as competitive as possible.

11. My overall g.p.a. is not that great, but I've been improving since my junior year.

First – good for you – you've turned the corner! And you **WILL** have options! Keep those grades strong, especially second semester junior year and first semester senior year. Colleges tend to focus on the later part of your high school career, since it is more indicative of how you will perform in college. This type of scenario is often when Dr. Warrick, as your advocate, can come in handy!

12. I got a letter/e-mail from the college, saying that they didn't receive my transcript.

Things to check: 1) Did you request a transcript on Naviance AND file a CAPS Form? If yes, then 2) Go into Naviance under Transcript Status and see if and when it was sent. If the date is within days as to when you received your communication from the college, then things probably crossed in the mail. Remember, it can take a college up to 3 weeks from the time they receive credentials to the time they enter that receipt on their data base. HOWEVER, if you've done the above and it's been more than 6 weeks, come into the CRC and we'll contact the college.

13. My college needs an SSR. What the heck is that?

An SSR is a Secondary School Report. This is an official document that verifies that you are a student at St. John's Jesuit and also verifies things like your g.p.a. and facts about our school and about your class. The SSR also includes a letter of recommendation from Dr. Warrick.

14. My friend got into Alma Mater College and I didn't, and I have better grades. How come?

Well, colleges these days are moving more and more toward a holistic review. It is not just grades, but strength of curriculum, grade trends, the relationship between test scores and grades, essay responses, special circumstances, special talents, letters of recommendation and level of interest in the college. Although grades and curriculum are the most important factor, these other factors play into the decision too. Talk to Dr. Warrick.

15. I got deferred, now what do I do?

In most cases, this is a GOOD thing, so don't be sad! Hey you weren't denied and the college obviously is seeing things in your application that they like! So now, IF you are still interested in the school, you need to take some pro-active steps. Make sure you get SUPER grades fall semester and also 3rd quarter. If your grades drop, you're toast. Then write a letter, re-confirming your interest in the school and why you and that school are a mutual "good-fit." Make sure we send your most current grades and if you re-took an ACT or SAT make sure to send those update scores. Exploit Dr. Warrick and have her get in your corner! She'll write another letter, make calls and do e-mails advocating for you, IF you have maintained and improved your grades and if you truly want to go to that school.

16. My college wants me to pay my enrollment deposit way before May 1. What do I do?

Colleges can not require or pressure you to pay your enrollment deposit before May 1. (It is a National Association for College Admissions Counseling policy) However, they can encourage you to pay your deposit early, with the understanding that you can ask for a full refund of the deposit, IF you ask for it prior to May 1.

17. My friends are doing the “senior slide” thing . . . what do you think?

This is VERY risky. First, colleges will rescind an offer of admission if the final grades are not at the level they were when you were admitted. (This happens almost annually at SJJ). Second, often colleges will re-consider you for an increase in scholarship dollars if your grades go up. Third, you need to keep the momentum going - - your college freshman year will be here soon - - if you let yourself get out of the habit of “cracking the books”, you will have a more difficult time adjusting to college.

18. I am being recruited for my athletic talent and the coaches are telling me I don’t need to apply. True?

ABSOLUTELY NOT. You most definitely need to apply to that college where you intend to continue your sport. An application gets you entered into a college’s database system, which means you will be able to register for classes and have a room in a residence hall, among all the other necessities of being an enrolled student on a campus. In other words, if you don’t file an application with the admissions office, only the athletic department knows you “exist.”

19. My dad thinks we make too much money to qualify for financial aid - - so what’s the point in filing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)?

We HIGHLY recommend filing the FAFSA. Yes it is somewhat of a pain to do, but has great benefits. First, you really never know until you file a FAFSA what you may or may not qualify for. Let’s say your family income is quite substantial and the FAFSA results show that your family can contribute \$30,000 toward your freshman year at college. O.K. well, sure, if you plan to attend one of our state schools (e.g. Ohio University, University of Cincinnati, University of Toledo, Ohio State) your contribution exceeds the cost of attending that school, and you’re dad’s right, you won’t qualify for any *need based* financial aid (Of course you will still be considered for *merit based* aid.) BUT if you plan to attend a private school, and especially a high cost private school, you no doubt *will* qualify for aid. Remember aid is based on the Cost of Attending (COA) a school minus the family contribution. Example: Family Contribution = \$30,000
School A COA = \$25,000 Need = 0
School B COA = \$45,000 Need = \$15,000

Please review all the pertinent information in the Financial Aid Section of this notebook and have your parent(s) attend the Financial Aid Workshop in January.

20. How do I find out about scholarships?

Your best opportunity for scholarships lies with your colleges. Make sure you apply to the college by the priority for scholarships deadline. For MANY schools (esp. Ohio State, Miami, Michigan State) this is Nov. 1 or at the latest Nov. 1!

For private scholarships (i.e. those not administered by or through a college) refer to the Scholarship section of this manual. Make sure you are registered on **FASTWEB**, **finaid** or any other free web based scholarship search and you probably want to touch base with Mrs. Cabrera. Keep watching for her e-mails.

FOR Naviance New-bees !

Naviance, also known as Family Connection, is a Web-based service designed especially for students and parents. Family Connection is a comprehensive website that you and your parent can use to help make decisions about colleges, and guide you in your college application planning and processing. Family Connection is your link in Naviance, a service that we use in our office to track and analyze data about college, so it provides up-to-date information that's specific to our school.

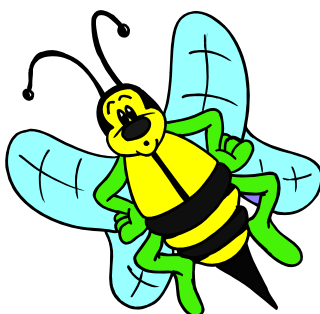
Family Connection will allow you to:

- **Get involved in the planning of your college decision** – Build a resume, complete on-line surveys, and manage timelines and deadlines for making decisions about colleges and careers
- **Research colleges** – Compare GPA, standardized test scores, and other statistics to actual historical data from our school for SJJ students who have applied and been admitted in the past to your colleges of consideration
- **Sign up for college visits** – Find out which colleges are visiting our school and sign up to attend those sessions

Family Connection (i.e. Naviance) lets us share information with you and your parent about up-coming college visits, critical application deadlines, scholarship opportunities, and other Web resources for college information. In addition, the site includes a link that you can use to send us an e-mail message. If for some reason, you and your parent are NOT registered on Naviance, as of February 1 of your Junior year, see your counselor immediately!

How to access Family Connection

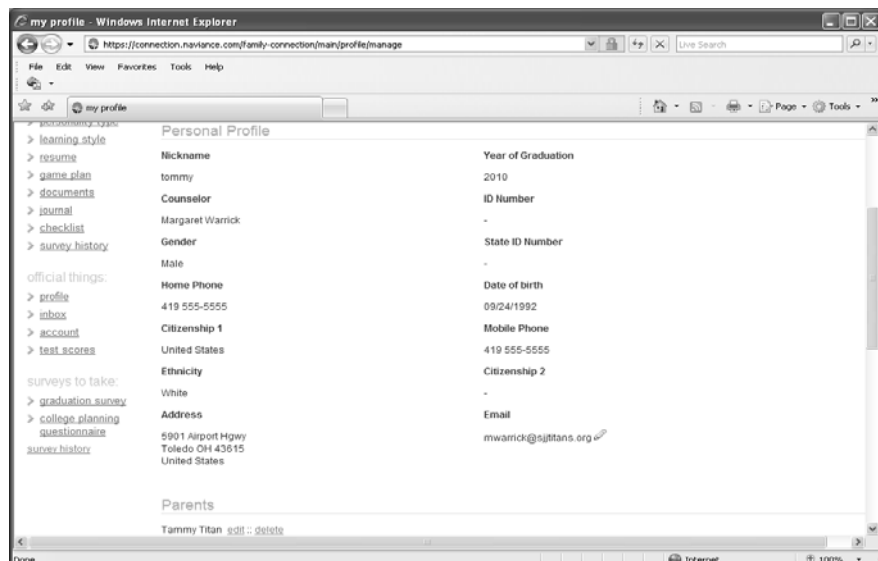
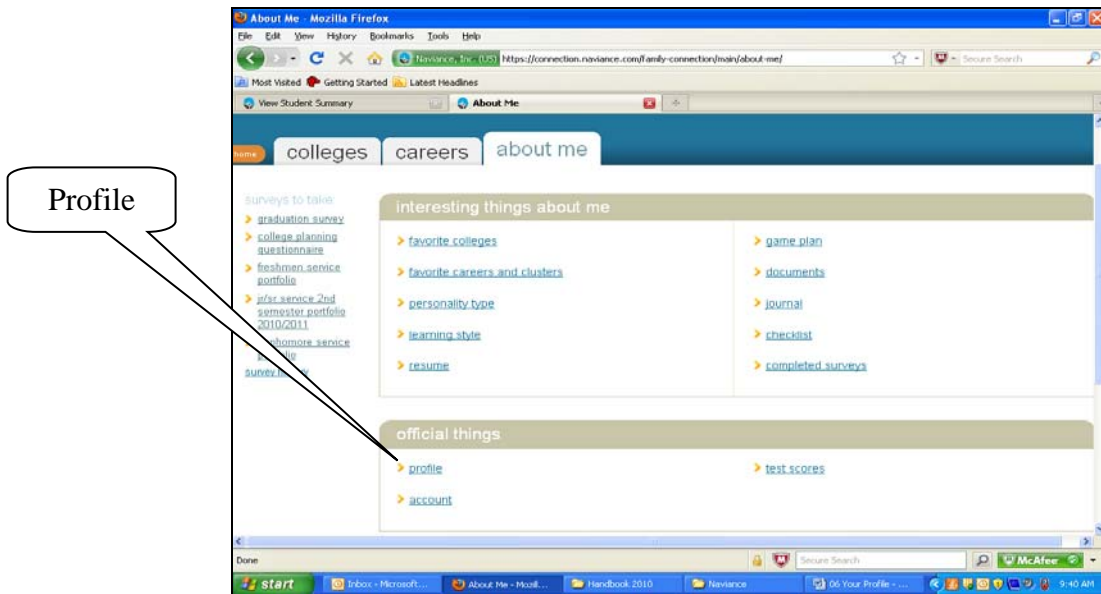
Go to the St. John's Jesuit H.S. homepage, scroll to the bottom of the screen to Quicklinks, and click on Naviance (in the middle column). Book-mark Family Connection/Naviance, as you will be accessing it a lot during the next year!



Your Profile

It is absolutely critical that all the information on your profile page is complete and accurate. You must have at least ONE parent registered, with their e-mail address and make sure your parent has his/her password.

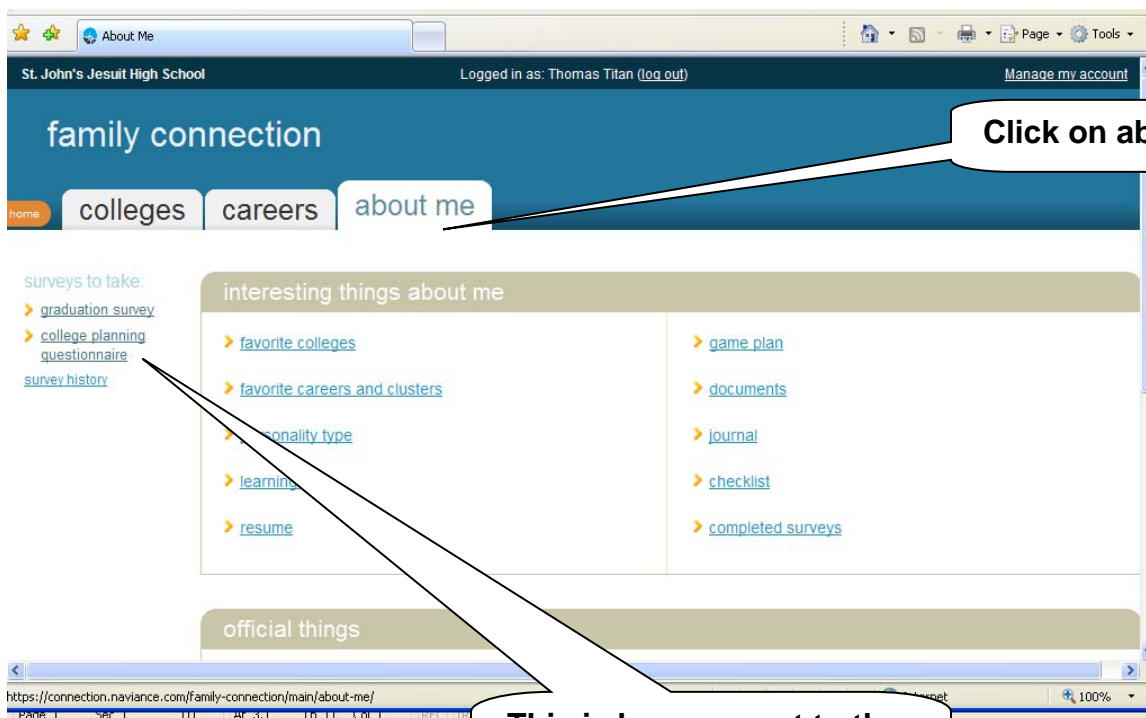
Click the “about me” tab, then click Profile and hit edit.



College Planning Questionnaire

This document **MUST** be completed prior to your college counseling appointment with Dr. Warrick

You will find it very useful for helping organize your thoughts about your college planning



St. John's Jesuit High School Logged in as: Thomas Titan (log out) Manage my account

family connection

home colleges careers about me

interesting things about me:

- > favorite colleges
- > personality type
- > learning style
- > resume
- > game plan
- > documents
- > journal
- > checklist
- > survey history

official things:

- > profile
- > inbox
- > account

College Planning Questionnaire

Please take some time to complete this questionnaire. It will facilitate your college planning appointment with Dr. Warrick and also: 1.) To assist her in completing report forms and recommendations for college admissions and scholarship aid. 2.) Assist teachers and other counselors or administrators in writing letters of recommendation for you which will be sent with a transcript, school profile, and other support material to colleges and universities. 3.) To start you thinking seriously about the many options available in your future, and to help you develop an organized strategy for selecting a college. The more you know yourself, the better you will be able to establish a framework to help make the important decisions that are only a few months away. This questionnaire will be treated as CONFIDENTIAL and will be available only to administrative officers of the school. The questionnaire MUST be completed by February 1st.

* = required question
Please save your answers periodically if you need longer than one hour to complete this form. Your session will expire after one hour if you have not changed the page.

*1. Your Name

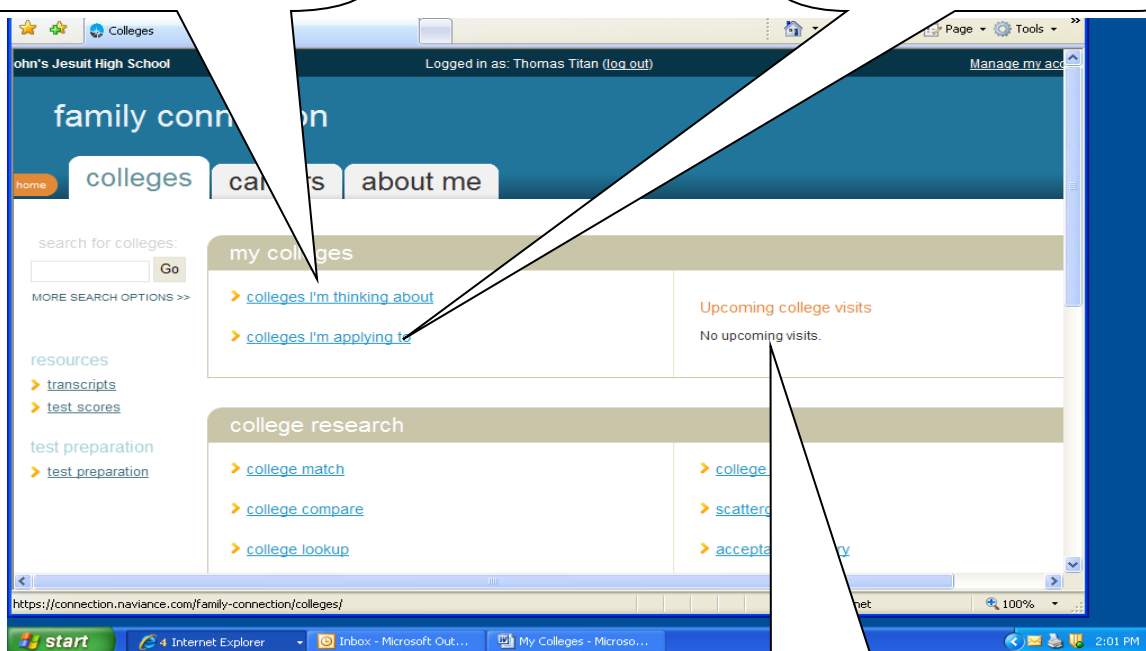
*2. Your e-mail

*3. Father's Name

My Colleges

JUNIOR~ List ALL the colleges you are thinking about

SENIOR~ List ALL the colleges that you will be applying to



Make sure you are checking this to see when college reps are coming to visit SJJ. These reps often make decisions about your admissibility when they visit!

Snapshot info about a college

Click directly on the college name from your list of
“Colleges you are thinking about” to get this snapshot

This screen gives you quick information about a college;
phone numbers, address, size of campus, how you compare with
previous SJJ applicants to that school
and other pertinent information

University of Toledo :: Toledo, OH :: U.S.

DOMESTIC ADMISSIONS
Phone: +1-(419) 530-8700
Fax: +1-(419) 530-5745
Financial aid: +1-(419) 530-2056
E-mail: [SEND E-MAIL](#)

INTERNATIONAL ADMISSIONS
Phone: +1-(419) 530-5757
Fax: N/A
Financial aid: N/A
E-mail: [SEND E-MAIL](#)

[VISIT WEBSITE](#) | [OVERLAPS](#) | [SCHOOL STATS](#) | [GRAPH](#) | [REMOVE FROM LIST](#)

How You Compare	GPA	PSAT to SAT 1600	PSAT to SAT 2400	Single SAT 1600	Combined SAT 1600	Single SAT 2400	Combined SAT 2400	PLAN to ACT	ACT	IB	Accept
Thomas Titan	3.30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28	-	-
University of Toledo*	2.95	1094	1605	1094	1099	1605	1615	23	23	-	367/444

GENERAL INFO

ADMISSIONS

FINANCIAL AID

MAJORS AND DEGREES

STUDENT LIFE

Application History

General Information

Class Apply Admit Enroll

School Type: Public

My Colleges

Features after you list the colleges you are thinking about

As a JUNIOR, use this page to easily get to a school's web site

Or to pull up a scattergram, which plots your gpa and test score(s) to get an idea of how competitive you are

colleges I'm thinking about

College	Common App	Added By	Expected Difficulty*	My Interest	Early Decision	Early Action	Priority	Regular Decision	CONTACT	GRAPH	WEB
<input type="checkbox"/> Ohio State Univ	-	student	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	2/1			
<input type="checkbox"/> Ohio Wesleyan Univ	Yes	student	N/A	N/A	-	11/30	3/1	3/1			
<input type="checkbox"/> U of Toledo	-	student	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-			

Update Interest Move to Application List Remove from List

* Difficulty of admission specifically for you as estimated by your counselor

†College information is provided by the colleges themselves. Costs, dates, policies, and programs are subject to change, so please confirm important facts with college admission personnel.

Or easily send a college an e-mail

As a SENIOR, easily move a college to your Application List.

(Check box next to the College name, and select "Move to Application List")

"My Colleges"

How to compare?

List the colleges you are considering

The screenshot shows the 'College Compare' website. At the top, there's a search bar with the text 'search for colleges' and a 'Go' button. Below this, the title 'college compare' is displayed. The main area contains a list of ten input fields, each labeled 'College 1:' through 'College 10:'. To the right of each input field is a small link that says ':: college picker'. On the left side of the page, there are several sections with links: 'my colleges' (with links for 'colleges I'm thinking about', 'colleges I'm applying to', and 'college visits'), 'college research' (with links for 'college match', 'college compare', 'college lookup', 'college search', 'college resources', 'college maps', 'scattergrams', and 'acceptance history'), and 'scholarships & money' (with a link for 'scholarship match'). At the bottom of the page, there is a button labeled 'Compare Colleges'. Two callout boxes are present: one pointing to the input fields with the text 'List the colleges you are considering', and another pointing to the 'Compare Colleges' button with the text 'After listing the colleges hit this button to "Compare Colleges"'.

College 1: :: [college picker](#)

College 2: :: [college picker](#)

College 3: :: [college picker](#)

College 4: :: [college picker](#)

College 5: :: [college picker](#)

College 6: :: [college picker](#)

College 7: :: [college picker](#)

College 8: :: [college picker](#)

College 9: :: [college picker](#)

College 10: :: [college picker](#)

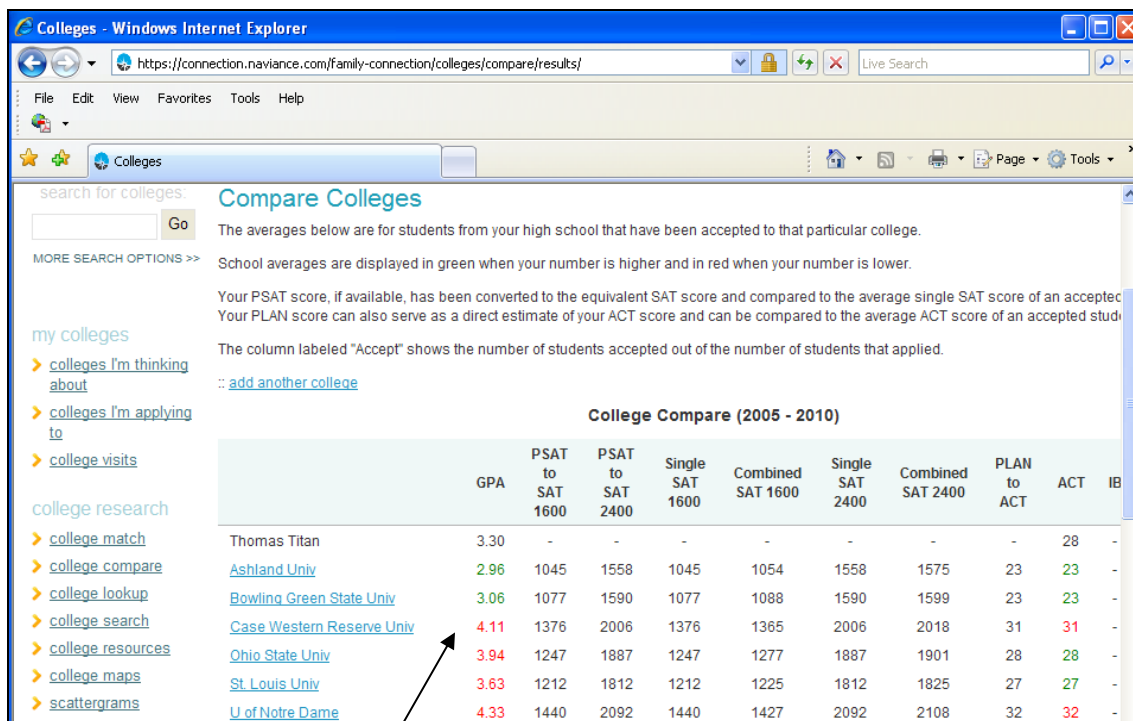
[Compare Colleges](#)

After listing the colleges hit this button to "Compare Colleges"

"My Colleges"

How I compare

Use this chart to get an idea of how competitive you are for a college. You may also want to run scattergrams - - see next page . . .



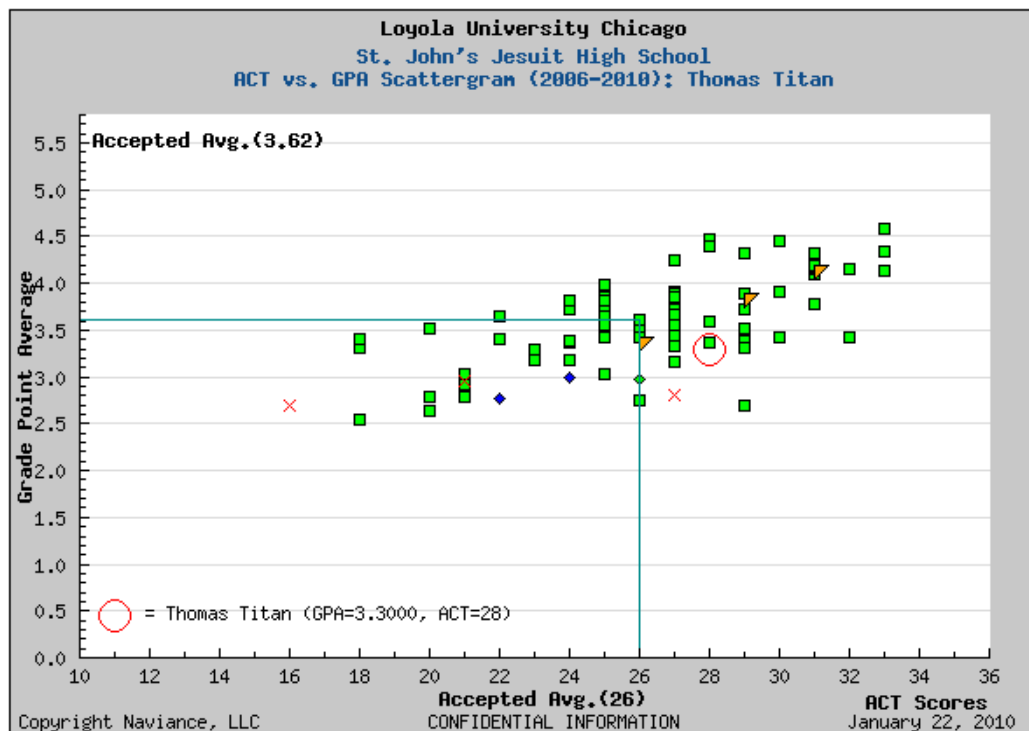
Color coded green/red to indicate where your g.p.a. falls in relation to the average for that college.

"My Colleges"

Scattergram

You can graph yourself using ACT or SAT. This is why it is **CRITICAL** that you code your test registration with the SJJ code: 365054

Test type: ACT



You will be the circle on the graph.

The green squares indicate SJJ students who have been offered admission over the past few years.

Graph Legend	
Accepted	Waitlisted
Denied	Waitlisted/Accepted
	Waitlisted/Denied
Accepted (Early Decision)	Accepted (Early Action)
Denied (Early Decision)	Denied (Early Action)
Deferred (Early Decision)	Deferred (Early Action)
Deferred/Accepted (Early Decision)	Deferred/Accepted (Early Action)
Deferred/Denied (Early Decision)	Deferred/Denied (Early Action)

TEST DATES 2016



These are the dates that we have
for testing thus far.

ACT

April 9, 2016

June 11, 2016

September 10, 2016

October 22, 2016

December 10, 2016

SAT

March 5, 2016

May 7, 2016

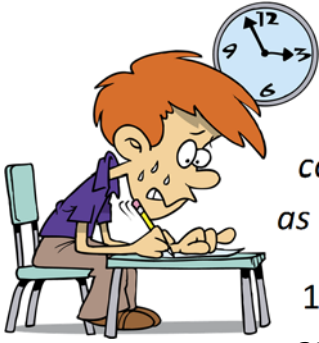
June 4, 2015

October 1, 2016

November 5, 2016

December 3, 2016

Testing Information



Next semester you will start taking your standardized tests for college applications. The following are tips and guidelines to help you as you approach these tests.

1. It is **STONGLY** recommended that you take at least one ACT and one SAT before mid-June. **ALL**, I repeat **ALL**, colleges take both! Colleges will take the higher score. In other words, if you score a 24 on the ACT and an 1130 on the SAT, the colleges will take the 1130 SAT score for admissions evaluation and scholarship consideration. By taking each test once this spring, you will know which one is the better test for you. Then, you repeat that test in the early fall to try for a higher score. You would only need (or want) to repeat one test in the fall – not both.
2. The ACT is curriculum driven and now the new/revised SAT is too. Therefore, I recommend that you wait until later in the spring to take these tests. You will have more coursework – especially math – under your belt.
3. The new/revised SAT will start in March. Please do not take an SAT prior to the March date. If you do, you will be taking the old SAT, and colleges prefer that you submit scores from the new/revised SAT. Also, if you want to then repeat the SAT, you will be taking an entirely different test, so your initial testing with the old SAT doesn't give you any insight as to how you will do when you take an SAT again.
4. Speaking of insight, Khan Academy is a great resource for prepping for the SAT:
 - a. The PSAT that you took in October is very much aligned with the new SAT. The College Board, in conjunction with Khan Academy is offering a **FREE** test prep service, where you can send your PSAT results to Khan and they will respond with a customized study plan, highlighting those areas that you missed, and provide you with tutorials to better understand the material. See the addendum with the instructions on how to access this.

- b. You can also just access the SAT test prep feature on Khan for a preview of the test's format and lots of sample questions, with accompanying tutorials to help you prepare. Again, this is all FREE. Click on the SAT test prep link on Naviance or Google "Official SAT practice"; you can practice online OR download the PDF of the practice exam. This resource allows you to not only practice, but also explains how to prepare, *and* you can do all this on your Smart Phone. Click this link for practice:
<https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/sat>

*For ACT prep, click on the ACT test prep link on Naviance or Google

<http://www.act.org/qotd/>

<http://www.actstudent.org/onlineprep/?alid=128993191>

5. Make sure when you complete your test registration form, you list colleges you wish to receive your scores. Also, make sure you code St. John's Jesuit (365054) so the school receives your scores. A large % of the fee you pay to take these tests goes for score distribution. Sending scores to colleges independent of those listed on a test registration form will cost you \$12 for each score sent.
6. Do NOT, do **NOT** take your first ACT or first SAT as a practice test! You can take practice tests on line and practice tests on your own. These tests are serious, with lots of serious implications. You don't want a low score, or a score that does not favorably represent your abilities permanently recorded with College Board, ACT and SJJ. In addition, you will save money!
7. Interpreting scores. A new concordance table will be out in May. I will send a link to that, once it is available. The concordance table compares ACT scores with SAT scores. It is the table colleges use to determine which score is higher, and consequently, which score they will use in their admissions evaluation and scholarship consideration.

*On the ACT, you will be given a chart to see how well you are meeting “benchmarks” for college preparedness. New this year is a STEM benchmark, which indicates your preparedness in math and science. This will be helpful as you consider pursuing a major in a heavily math/science oriented field.

Good luck to you on these tests. Be prepared, be confident. Please talk to any one of us in College Counseling if you have questions or need advice.

Dr. M. Warrick, Director of College Counseling

ADDENDUM

You can gain good insights on what you need to review for the SAT by evaluating your performance on the PSAT. Khan Academy has partnered with the College Board in offering a FREE customized self-tutoring opportunity.

Here is how it works:

1. When you receive your PSAT scores, you will receive an email with an access code.

The access code is what you link to a College Board account. Your access code is also on the paper copy you will receive from your School Counselor.

2. Then you need to set-up an account with the College Board (link is on Naviance).
3. Next, set-up an account with Khan Academy (link on Naviance). Once you do this, there are instructions on how to link your Kahn Academy account with your College Board account.
4. Then you will check a box to send your PSAT results to Khan. Khan in turn will give you a customized tutorial on those areas in which you need better preparation. Because the PSAT is very closely allied with the SAT, this is a good resource to get you started with your SAT prep.

Test Preparation Resources

There are a variety of resources available to help you prepare for a standardized test. KEY things to remember are:

- You **have** to prep for these tests !
- Prep for the SAT and prep for the ACT is DIFFERENT !!!
- There are plenty of FREE resources out there, you just need to have the motivation and self-discipline to benefit from them

FREE Resources

- The newsprint free booklets, available in the CRC. These are excellent preparation workbooks!!
- Khan Academy using the link on the Naviance homepage
- The ACT and SAT tutorials that are accessible through Naviance
- The ACT course offered here at SJJ !

Low Cost Resources

- Prep books available at bookstores (suggest purchasing College Board's prep book for the SAT, and ACT's prep book for the ACT).

Private Coaching

- ❖ Greg Owens www.starsprep.net
- ❖ Huntington Learning Center 419-867-4000
- ❖ Sylvan Learning Center 419-867-1331
- ❖ Carol Hall 419-332-4630
- ❖ Owens Community College 567-661-7357
- ❖ University of Toledo 419-530-2449
- ❖ Points ACT Prep www.morepoints.org 419-344-8914

Table 1
 Concordance between ACT Composite Score and
 Sum of SAT Critical Reading and Mathematics Scores
***Note: a new Concordance Table will be available Spring
 2016.**

SAT CR+M (Score Range)	ACT Composite Score	SAT CR+M (Single Score)
1600	36	1600
1540-1590	35	1560
1490-1530	34	1510
1440-1480	33	1460
1400-1430	32	1420
1360-1390	31	1380
1330-1350	30	1340
1290-1320	29	1300
1250-1280	28	1260
1210-1240	27	1220
1170-1200	26	1190
1130-1160	25	1150
1090-1120	24	1110
1050-1080	23	1070
1020-1040	22	1030
980-1010	21	990
940-970	20	950
900-930	19	910
860-890	18	870
820-850	17	830
770-810	16	790
720-760	15	740
670-710	14	690
620-660	13	640
560-610	12	590
510-550	11	530

Note: Derived using ACT sum.

Table 2
Concordance between ACT Combined English/Writing Score
And SAT Writing Score

SAT Writing (Score Range)	ACT English/Writing Score	SAT Writing (Single Score)
800	36	800
800	35	800
770-790	34	770
730-760	33	740
710-720	32	720
690-700	31	690
660-680	30	670
640-650	29	650
620-630	28	630
610	27	610
590-600	26	590
570-580	25	570
550-560	24	550
530-540	23	530
510-520	22	510
480-500	21	490
470	20	470
450-460	19	450
430-440	18	430
410-420	17	420
390-400	16	400
380	15	380
360-370	14	360
340-350	13	340
320-330	12	330
300-310	11	310

SAT vs. ACT

The SAT and ACT are two very different college entrance exams. Both are nationally administered and are used to help colleges evaluate applicants. The SAT is essentially a three-part aptitude test (Reading, Math, Writing) while the ACT is more of an achievement test with four core sections (English, Math, Reading, Science) and an optional Writing section. Many colleges will accept either test or both exams. Some colleges require one (typically the SAT). The chart below will help you understand the structure and content of the SAT and ACT.

	SAT	ACT
Length	3 hours, 45 minutes	3 hours, 25 minutes (includes optional 30-minute Writing Test)
Sections	10 Sections: 3 Critical Reading, 3 Math, 3 Writing (including Essay), 1 Experimental (not scored)	4 Sections (plus optional Writing Test): English, Math, Reading, Science, Writing
Subjects	Critical Reading Math Writing	English Math Reading Science Writing (optional)
Reading	Reading passages with questions pertaining to comprehension and sentence completion	4 passages, 10 questions per passage
Science	N/A	Science (analysis, knowledge, problem solving)
Math	Arithmetic, geometry, algebra, and algebra II	Arithmetic, algebra, geometry, and trigonometry
Essay	Required	Optional (final section)
Score Composition	$\frac{1}{3}$ Math $\frac{1}{3}$ Reading $\frac{1}{3}$ Writing	$\frac{1}{4}$ English $\frac{1}{4}$ Math $\frac{1}{4}$ Reading $\frac{1}{4}$ Science



THE CAMPUS VISIT

The single best way to learn about a college is to visit their campus. Much can be learned from a campus tour, attending an information session, and talking to current students and faculty. The more colleges you visit the easier it will be to compare and contrast.

The best visits occur when school is in session. This is not to suggest that visiting outside the regular school year is invaluable. But, certainly more resources are available to you when everyone is on campus. Visits should start now!

Campus visits are typically scheduled by calling or e-mailing the admission office. A two week advance notice is preferred. Campus visits are generally in two parts: an information session, given by an admissions professional, followed by a campus tour, led by a current student. Many colleges provide opportunities for overnight visits also.

Besides your scheduled information session and campus tour, you should make time to do a “stealth” visit – walk through the hallways and eavesdrop on classes going on; attend one if you can. Talk with professors in your chosen field of study if possible. If they weren’t on your tour, be sure to visit the library, bookstore, science labs, computer centers, and especially the student center, as well as other student gathering places. Make an effort to talk to other students. They are a great resource, and most will be very happy to answer your questions. What do they like and dislike about the school? How is their relationship with their professors? Try to have a meal on campus. And of course, make sure you see what a residence hall looks like and what resident life encompasses.

Notice posters and flyers posted around the campus, and see what types of events and opportunities are going on. Pick up a student newspaper, and read it. Take note of special issues on the campus. And again, spend time hanging around the student union, student center, or main student “hang-out.”

It is not necessary to visit every school in which you are interested, at the time of application. But, before you decide to attend a particular institution it is **critical** that you have visited!

You will need to have a note from your parent to bring into the AP office to be excused from school. You also need to check with all your teachers to see what you will be missing in class the day you take your college visit trip.

Keep notes! And take pictures! You'd be surprised, especially if you visit several campuses, how easy it is to mix up details about campuses.

Have Fun! Remember the colleges are trying to impress YOU !

Campus Visit Notes

Name of College _____

Location _____

Date of Visit _____

Name of Interviewer/Admissions Officer _____



Write a note to the admissions officer thanking him/her. Also mention his/her name in your application.

Campus Facilities: How did the campus strike me ?

Student Life: What are the students like, what's going on, what can I get involved in ? What about community service ?

Academic Factors: Does this college have the academic opportunities I am looking for ? What are classes like? Can I do research ? Is there study abroad ?

- OVER -

Overall Impressions:

What I liked best _____

What I liked least _____

Other Facts I Want to Remember About This College:

Overall Assessment of How Well I Think This College Fits Me:

Not Very Well **1** **2** **3** **4** **5** **Extremely Well**

The Interview



You may wish to set up an interview with a college admissions person (preferably the one who is the liaison for SJJ), to strengthen your application, and to better familiarize yourself with the college.

Many highly selective colleges suggest interviewing, either with a local alum, or on campus. If you have this opportunity, TAKE IT !!

The interview is your best opportunity to showcase yourself and to truly “bring to life” all the ingredients of your application.

To get the most out of your interview, remember the following:

Be Prepared ! Do your research on that college and have insightful, well thought-out questions ready.

Be on time

Dress appropriately. You don’t necessarily need to have a coat and tie on . . . your SJJ dress code (shirt pressed!) will be fine

Write a thank you note to your interviewer, immediately. A hand-written one is preferable and more impressive than an e-mail.

What to Expect

Interviewers want to put you at ease; they want you to feel comfortable in the interview. They will no doubt start out the interview asking you very general questions like: Tell me what you like to do for fun. What are your favorite classes in school? Tell me more about your family. Have you seen any good movies lately? Tell me about your sport/your volunteer work/your job/your artistic or performing arts experiences.

At some point they will ask you what your academic and career goals are and ask you why you are interested in their college.

Some interviewers may get a little more in depth. The following are possible interview questions, provided by one of our local Harvard interviewers, Mr. Rod McElroy:

If you had one hour to do anything you wanted to do – no strings attached – what would you do – and why?

If you could have a meal with anyone – dead or alive – who would that be and why?

Tell me about your best friend. Why is he/she your best friend?

Outside of the reading you do for school, what else do you read and why?

Of course all the standard advice applies. Be yourself! And make sure you ask your interviewer questions.

Hey, you're a Johnnie. You'll be great!



Each fall, high schools across the country host, sponsor, or co-sponsor college fairs. What an opportunity! Students can explore many colleges in one setting, while college representatives are able to meet dozens, if not hundreds, of prospective students, all in one night!

Attending a college fair is a great way for students to explore different colleges and universities, gather information and introduce themselves to an admission staff member. Whether a student has already narrowed down his or her list of prospective schools, or is just beginning to research, college fair attendance is an important step in the process. College fairs typically last no more than two hours, which doesn't give students a lot of time to talk to admission counselors and get their questions answered. Below are some tips to help students make the most of their limited time.

- **Create a plan.** Prior to the fair, check online or ask your guidance counselor for a list of colleges that will be present. Make note of any tables you want to visit and the questions you may want to ask. Keep in mind that most college fairs are ordered alphabetically, so it is easy to find the schools that interest you.
- **Do your research.** If you have some idea of what matters to you in a college – major, location, extracurricular activities – spend some time at a few schools' web sites to make sure they offer what you want. If a school doesn't offer your major, there's no point in stopping by their table!
- **Introduce yourself.** Once you stop at a table, introduce yourself with a firm handshake and confident eye contact to the admission representative standing there. You will impress the rep and he or she very well may remember you when you visit campus or e-mail with a question in the future.
- **Strike up a conversation.** Admission reps visit college fairs because they want to meet with *you!* Counselors want to get to know you and answer your questions, and they are a wealth of valuable information about their institution. Now is the chance to ask your questions!
- **But don't monopolize their time.** If you are attending a busy college fair and you notice a line of students waiting to talk to an admission counselor, ask your questions, but be respectful of their time and move along so others can ask theirs as well.
- **Gather materials.** Sure, it's okay to take one of everything on a table, but you don't have to if you don't want to. Look for the view book – that is typically the largest or thickest publication a counselor will have to offer, and it usually will give you the most valuable information. Or, ask the counselor what he or she would suggest you take.
- **Fill out the inquiry card – or, better yet, bring your own!** Inquiry cards sit on almost every table at a college fair, and it's the way that schools gather your contact information so that they can put you on their mailing list. Now, we realize that 1) filling out all those cards during a fair can be time-consuming and 2) you may already feel inundated with mail from colleges. However, if you are truly interested in a school, you really do need to make sure you're on their list.

The best way to save time at a college fair is to create your own inquiry cards. We've seen a number of students do this over the past few years, and it tends to work well. You can create your cards ahead of time, freeing you to talk to admission reps during the fair, rather than filling out a dozen similar cards. However, it's important to make sure you include all of the necessary information on your cards.

Full name:

Preferred name/nickname:

Home address:

High school:

Year of graduation:

Intended major(s):

Extracurricular activities:

E-mail address:

Parent's e-mail:

Good luck as you take steps toward achieving your goals and making important decisions!



THE NCAA

If you plan to play a varsity sport in college, you **MUST** be registered with the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Eligibility Center.

You need to complete your registration *via the internet* before the end of your Junior Year.

The registration materials and answers to all your questions are available through the NCAA link on Naviance.

Make sure, after you register, that you come into the CRC and request that your Junior Year transcript is sent. You will not be registered with the Eligibility Center, until your transcript is received.

Any questions? See our athletic director, your coach, or any one of us in the College Counseling Office.

REMEMBER: You **MUST** apply to the colleges who are interested in you for your sport, through the admissions office. Do not assume that the recruiting coach is going to do this for you, or some how “wave a magic wand” and get you automatically admitted. You need to make sure all the necessary components of an application are submitted to an admissions office by that college’s application deadline date. (In many cases this is December 1.)

NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE



Eligibility Center

Divisions I and II Initial-Eligibility Requirements

Core Courses

- **NCAA Divisions I and II require 16 core courses.** See the charts below.
- **Beginning August 1, 2016, NCAA Division I will require 10 core courses** to be completed **prior to the seventh semester** (seven of the 10 must be a combination of English, math or natural or physical science that meet the distribution requirements below). These 10 courses become "locked in" at the start of the seventh semester and cannot be retaken for grade improvement.
 - *Beginning August 1, 2016, it will be possible for a Division I college-bound student-athlete to still receive athletics aid and the ability to practice with the team if he or she fails to meet the 10 course requirement, but would not be able to compete.*

Test Scores

- **Division I** uses a sliding scale to match test scores and core grade-point averages (GPA). The sliding scale for those requirements is shown on Page No. 2 of this sheet.
- **Division II** requires a minimum SAT score of 820 or an ACT sum score of 68.
- The SAT score used for NCAA purposes includes **only** the critical reading and math sections. The writing section of the SAT is not used.
- The ACT score used for NCAA purposes is a **sum** of the following four sections: English, mathematics, reading and science.
- **When you register for the SAT or ACT, use the NCAA Eligibility Center code of 9999 to ensure all SAT and ACT scores are reported directly to the NCAA Eligibility Center from the testing agency. Test scores that appear on transcripts will not be used.**

Grade-Point Average

- **Be sure** to look at your high school's List of NCAA Courses on the NCAA Eligibility Center's website (www.eligibilitycenter.org). Only courses that appear on your school's List of NCAA Courses will be used in the calculation of the core GPA. Use the list as a guide.
- **Division I** students enrolling full time **before August 1, 2016**, should use Sliding Scale A to determine eligibility to receive athletics aid, practice and competition during the first year.
- **Division I** GPA required to receive athletics aid and practice **on or after August 1, 2016**, is 2.000-2.299 (corresponding test-score requirements are listed on Sliding Scale B on Page No. 2 of this sheet).
- **Division I** GPA required to be eligible for competition **on or after August 1, 2016**, is 2.300 (corresponding test-score requirements are listed on Sliding Scale B on Page No. 2 of this sheet).
- **The Division II** core GPA requirement is a minimum of 2.000.
- Remember, the NCAA GPA is calculated using NCAA core courses only.

DIVISION I 16 Core Courses

- 4 years of English.
- 3 years of mathematics (Algebra I or higher).
- 2 years of natural/physical science (1 year of lab if offered by high school).
- 1 year of additional English, mathematics or natural/physical science.
- 2 years of social science.
- 4 years of additional courses (from any area above, foreign language or comparative religion/philosophy).

DIVISION II 16 Core Courses

- 3 years of English.
- 2 years of mathematics (Algebra I or higher).
- 2 years of natural/physical science (1 year of lab if offered by high school).
- 3 years of additional English, mathematics or natural/physical science.
- 2 years of social science.
- 4 years of additional courses (from any area above, foreign language or comparative religion/philosophy).

Sliding Scale A		
Use for Division I prior to August 1, 2016		
NCAA DIVISION I SLIDING SCALE		
Core GPA	SAT Verbal and Math ONLY	ACT Sum
3.550 & above	400	37
3.525	410	38
3.500	420	39
3.475	430	40
3.450	440	41
3.425	450	41
3.400	460	42
3.375	470	42
3.350	480	43
3.325	490	44
3.300	500	44
3.275	510	45
3.250	520	46
3.225	530	46
3.200	540	47
3.175	550	47
3.150	560	48
3.125	570	49
3.100	580	49
3.075	590	50
3.050	600	50
3.025	610	51
3.000	620	52
2.975	630	52
2.950	640	53
2.925	650	53
2.900	660	54
2.875	670	55
2.850	680	56
2.825	690	56
2.800	700	57
2.775	710	58
2.750	720	59
2.725	730	59
2.700	730	60
2.675	740-750	61
2.650	760	62
2.625	770	63
2.600	780	64
2.575	790	65
2.550	800	66
2.525	810	67
2.500	820	68
2.475	830	69
2.450	840-850	70
2.425	860	70
2.400	860	71
2.375	870	72
2.350	880	73
2.325	890	74
2.300	900	75
2.275	910	76
2.250	920	77
2.225	930	78
2.200	940	79
2.175	950	80
2.150	960	80
2.125	960	81
2.100	970	82
2.075	980	83
2.050	990	84
2.025	1000	85
2.000	1010	86

Sliding Scale B		
Use for Division I beginning August 1, 2016		
NCAA DIVISION I SLIDING SCALE		
Core GPA	SAT Verbal and Math ONLY	ACT Sum
3.550	400	37
3.525	410	38
3.500	420	39
3.475	430	40
3.450	440	41
3.425	450	41
3.400	460	42
3.375	470	42
3.350	480	43
3.325	490	44
3.300	500	44
3.275	510	45
3.250	520	46
3.225	530	46
3.200	540	47
3.175	550	47
3.150	560	48
3.125	570	49
3.100	580	49
3.075	590	50
3.050	600	50
3.025	610	51
3.000	620	52
2.975	630	52
2.950	640	53
2.925	650	53
2.900	660	54
2.875	670	55
2.850	680	56
2.825	690	56
2.800	700	57
2.775	710	58
2.750	720	59
2.725	730	60
2.700	740	61
2.675	750	61
2.650	760	62
2.625	770	63
2.600	780	64
2.575	790	65
2.550	800	66
2.525	810	67
2.500	820	68
2.475	830	69
2.450	840	70
2.425	850	70
2.400	860	71
2.375	870	72
2.350	880	73
2.325	890	74
2.300	900	75
2.299	910	76
2.275	910	76
2.250	920	77
2.225	930	78
2.200	940	79
2.175	950	80
2.150	960	81
2.125	970	82
2.100	980	83
2.075	990	84
2.050	1000	85
2.025	1010	86
2.000	1020	86

For more information, visit the NCAA Eligibility Center website at www.eligibilitycenter.org.

Things to Remember When Completing an Application

It's About YOU

Your application is a reflection of YOU. It is how a college gets to know YOU!

Your application is your opportunity to showcase yourself.

Your essay(s) should be an honest representation of you and reflect you.



Deadlines

Early Action, Early Decision, Early Consideration ~ Institutional deadlines are usually

November 1st which means your application needs to be submitted to the CRC for processing no later than October 15th.

December 1 is the priority deadline for scholarship consideration at most schools, and is the final deadline for admission at many schools.

October 31st is the deadline for all your applications to be completed and turned into the CRC.

Completeness

It is your responsibility that ALL the pieces of your application are completed.

This includes: The Secondary School Report, Teacher Recommendations, your Activities Resume, your Essay, the application fee, your test scores (see below.)

Test Scores

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTACT THE TESTING AGENCY DIRECTLY TO HAVE YOUR SCORES SENT TO ANY COLLEGE THAT YOU DID NOT CODE WHEN YOU REGISTERED FOR THE ACT OR SAT. You can do this by going online to ACTSTUDENT.ORG or COLLEGEBOARD.COM - - easily accessed through "links to other websites" on your Naviance homepage.

Transcript Request and Naviance

You MUST request to have your transcript sent from St. John's Jesuit H.S. through Naviance. It (and the necessary accompanying materials) will not be sent otherwise.

CAPS (The College Application Processing Sheet)

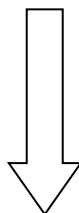
In addition to the above, you MUST complete a CAPS form for EACH college application. A college will NOT receive your transcript or other school documents, unless you register a transcript release on Naviance AND complete a CAPS form.

2 Step Process

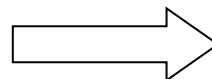


Go to www.commonapp.org
OR
The college's website
to find and complete an
application

Make sure you have
the SJJ CODE 365054
entered on your
Common App profile



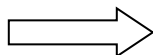
Review Application for ALL necessary components:
Essay/essays
Teacher rec's how many: 0, 1, 2 ?
Activities resume
Secondary School Report
Supplement
SAT II's
Application Fee
DEADLINES!!!!!! MOST ARE DECEMBER 1



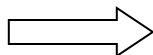
If you did not list the college on your
ACT or SAT Registration, contact
the ACT Corporation or the College
Board (SAT) and have your scores
sent to the college(s).

SJJ can NOT send your scores.

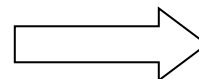
If possible, print out a
hard copy of your
application and
complete a draft prior
to submitting on line



Take draft of essay to
English teacher AND the
CRC for proofing



Complete
Activities Resume, then
upload to My Documents
on Naviance



Now, complete application,
make sure you pay the fee on-
line if requested, AND make
sure you press the send key.

Check to see if you get an
instant message or receipt that
the on-line application was
received.



Completing the On-line Application Part 2

Print out a hard copy for your files

Contact the testing agencies to have your scores sent, if you did not have them sent previously

Record the college in *Colleges I'm Applying To* on Naviance

Request Transcript = 2 STEPS!

1. Request a Transcript on Naviance
2. Complete a **CAPS form for EACH** college application (download the form from Naviance) or pick one up in the CRC.

The CRC requires 2 weeks (10 working days) to process an app!

Make sure you clearly indicate on the CAPS form the Deadline!

IMPORTANT! A college can take 4 to 6 weeks to enter you on their system and create a file, after receiving your credentials.

Do NOT panic if a college tells you within 2 weeks of your submitting your application that your h.s. transcript has not yet been received.

Always check Transcript Status, under the Colleges tab on Naviance. When you see Initial Materials sent (in green) you know it was sent!

Congratulate yourself - you've completed an application!

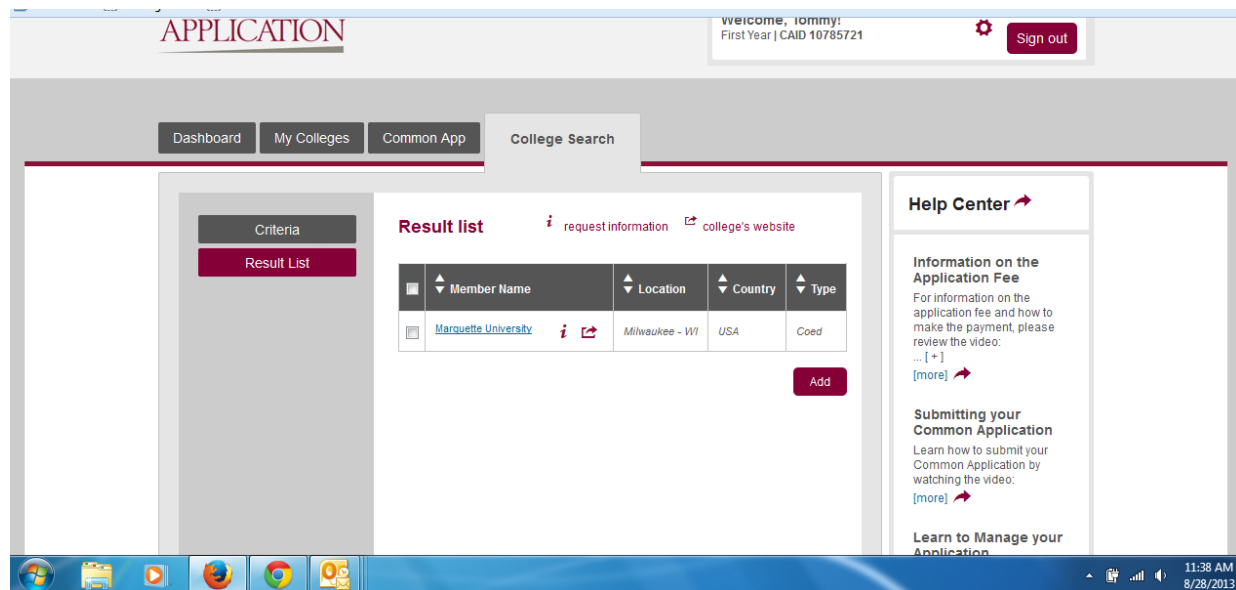
CREATE AN ACCOUNT

First, Create an Account. Any question with a red star next to it is required.

- Write down your password (must contain a number, capital letter and symbol) or store the information in your cell phone.
- If you have multiple email addresses, use your SJJ email. Your email is your username.
- Now look at the Welcome Message in top right corner of screen. You will see your Common App ID #. **Archive** this for future reference!

MY COLLEGES Tab

It's easy to add colleges, just type in the name of the school under the College Search Tab; you will learn quickly if it is not a CA school, because you will get a message informing you of that. But if it is a CA school, the school's name will pop up, check the check box and then hit the red **Add** button.



Sometimes the Search function is not great; i.e. if you type in a college name, it may not always locate it.

- You can search by “State” instead, and you’ll see a list of all Common App colleges in that state.
- You can add and delete colleges at any time.
- Once you add a college, you can see if they require a Supplement.
- Each time you add a College, complete their Term/Admission Plan section.

COMMON APP Tab

Under the *EDUCATION Section*

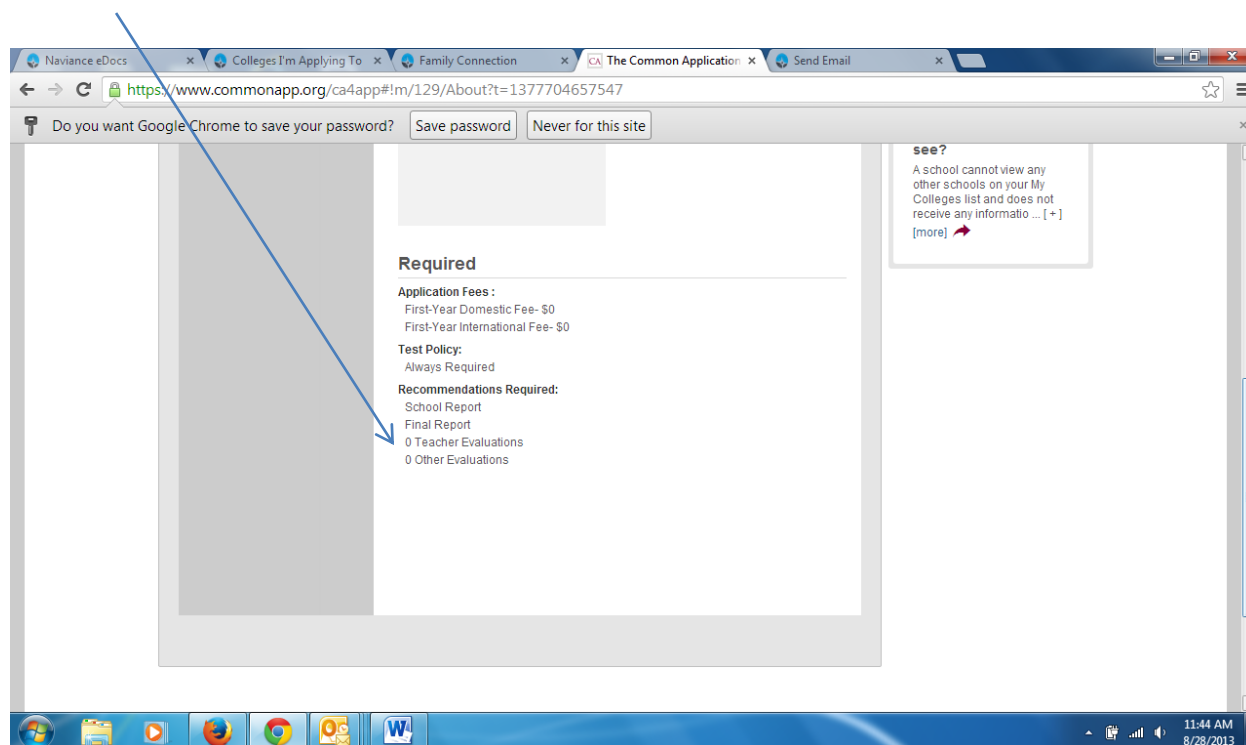
Here is information you'll need to fill it out:

- At the top of the screen click on Common App.
- Locate Education on the left.
- Most of you entered SJJ in 08/2013
- You will graduate in 05/2017
- Dr. Margaret Warrick, Director of College Counseling
- mwarrick@sjjtitans.org
- 419 865-5743, ext 0789 phone
- If you transferred to SJJ please fill out the Education Interruption section and Other School section.
- CBO section -- choose zero
- Under Grades, skip this section! Self-reporting is optional. We will send your transcript and report all this info officially.
- Class Rank click None
- GPA scale enter 4
- Choose Weighted GPA if you have had one or more H or AP classes
- List current year courses ONCE YOUR SCHEDULE IS FIRM. All full year classes are one credit.
- Honors: List Class honors, and also NHS goes here. Note the Help Section on the right hand side.

MY COLLEGES Tab

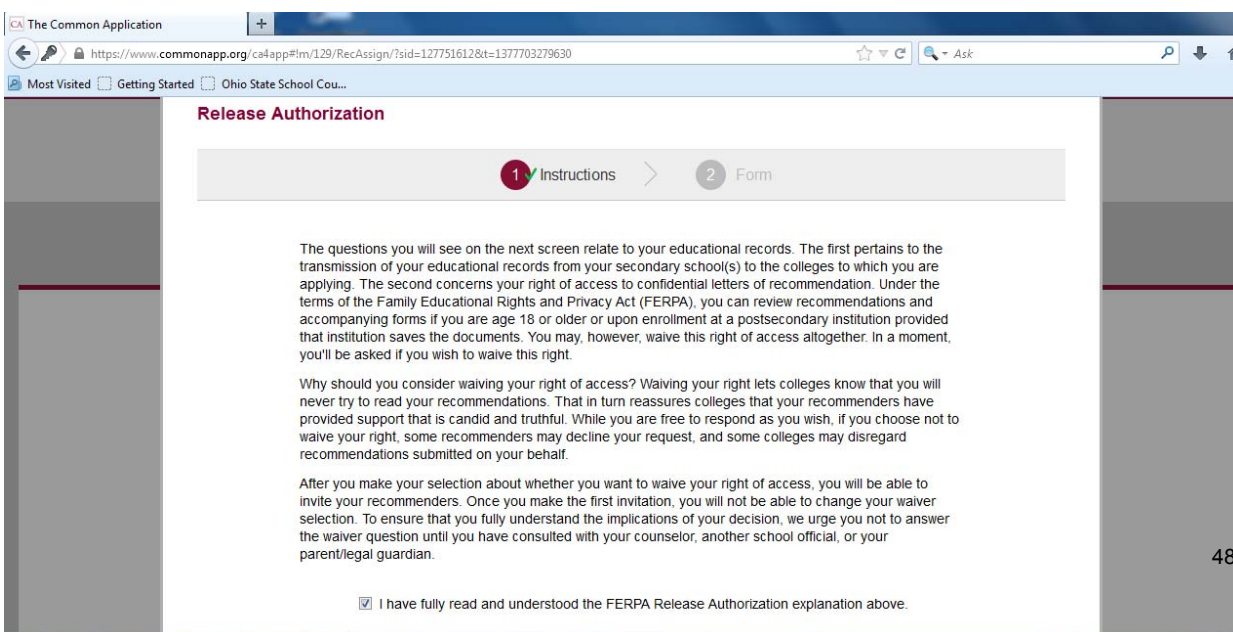
RECOMMENDERS and FERPA Section

Please check to see if you need a teacher recommendation.



- At the top of the screen, click My Colleges.
- On the left click Assign Recommenders
- Read, then sign the FERPA Release Authorization. Click Yes to waive your right to see the recommendations.

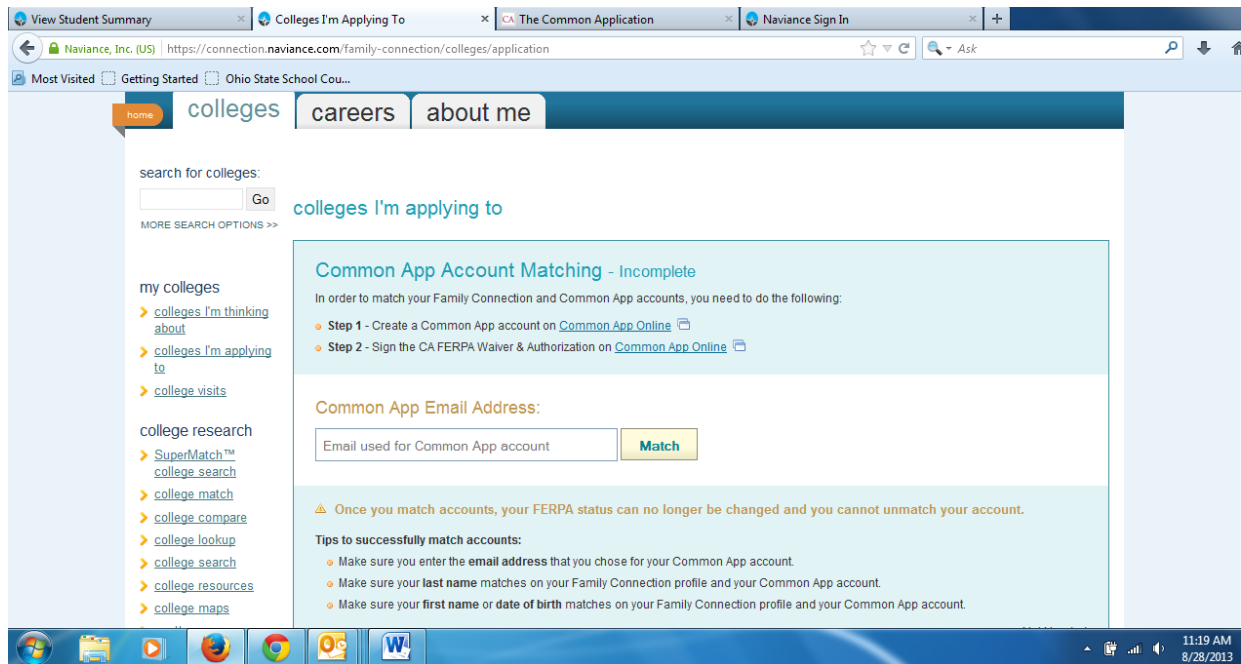
You MUST complete the FERPA form in order for your letters of recommendation to be sent.



The Common App Instructions will tell you that since we are a Naviance school, your teacher rec's will be processed through Naviance, so don't forget to email your teacher *through* Naviance to confirm that he/she has agreed to write for you.

MATCHING the COMMON APP with NAVIANCE

When you go into Naviance to add your college under *Colleges Applying To* This "Account Matching" form will pop up and you **MUST** fill this out, or else we can NOT send any of your credentials (e.g. transcript, the School Report, recommendations) to your Common Application colleges.



Make Sure you review your Common App !

- You'll see 4 tabs at the top: Dashboard, My Colleges, Common App, and College Search.
- Click on Common App. Look at the light-gray rectangular boxes on the left side of the screen. Each one is a separate part of the application.
- You can log into your application later and review it and edit it, up until the time you decide to submit the app to a college. Once you submit the app to any college you can NOT make changes!!!
- If you are applying to any colleges that are test optional, leave your scores blank in the Testing section.

Good Luck and remember we, in the Office of College Counseling, are here to help you!

About Your Transcript



Your transcript is the most important ingredient in your college application. It is the primary indicator for a college to assess your preparedness and potential for success at that particular college.

Colleges focus as much on strength of curriculum and grade trend, as they do on the actual grades.

Your application is NOT complete and will not be reviewed until the college has received your transcript.

Getting your transcript to a college involves 2 steps - -
(Think of it as the Transcript 2-step!)

1. Request your transcript on Naviance.
**See next page.*
2. Complete and file a CAPS (College Application Processing Sheet) form.
**See sample in this section.*

Why these 2 steps?

The first step in essence “permits” our Naviance system to send your transcript electronically. (i.e. securely)

The second step ensures YOUR permission, with your signature, for SJJ to send your transcript and all other accompanying documents, like teacher recommendations.

Requesting a Transcript

Your college application is NOT complete and will not be processed by a college, until the college receives your high school transcripts. To have your transcript sent, you need to do the following:

- Make sure the college is listed on your Common Application profile (unless the school is not a Common App School)
- Request a transcript through Naviance **SEE BELOW**
- Complete a CAPS form (College Application Processing Sheet) These can be printed from the Naviance Document File OR can be picked up in the CRC.

The screenshot shows the Naviance 'family connection' website. The user is logged in as Thomas Titan. The 'colleges' tab is selected. Under 'colleges I'm applying to', there is a table with columns: College, Type, Common App, Expected Difficulty, Deadline, Transcript Office Status, My Application, WL, Defer, Results, and Actions. The table lists four colleges: Adrian Coll, John Carroll Univ, Marquette Univ, and Xavier Univ. A callout bubble points to the 'request transcripts' link in the top navigation bar.

College	Type	Common App	Expected Difficulty	Deadline	Transcript Office Status	My Application	WL	Defer	Results	Actions
<input type="checkbox"/> Adrian Coll	RD	-	N/A	8/1/09	sent	Pending	app submitted		Unknown	
<input type="checkbox"/> John Carroll Univ	RD	Yes	4	2/1/10	sent	Initial materials submitted	have you applied?		Unknown	
<input type="checkbox"/> Marquette Univ	RD	Yes		12/1/09	sent	Pending	app submitted		Unknown	
<input type="checkbox"/> Xavier Univ	RD	Yes		2/1/10	sent	Pending	app submitted		Unknown	

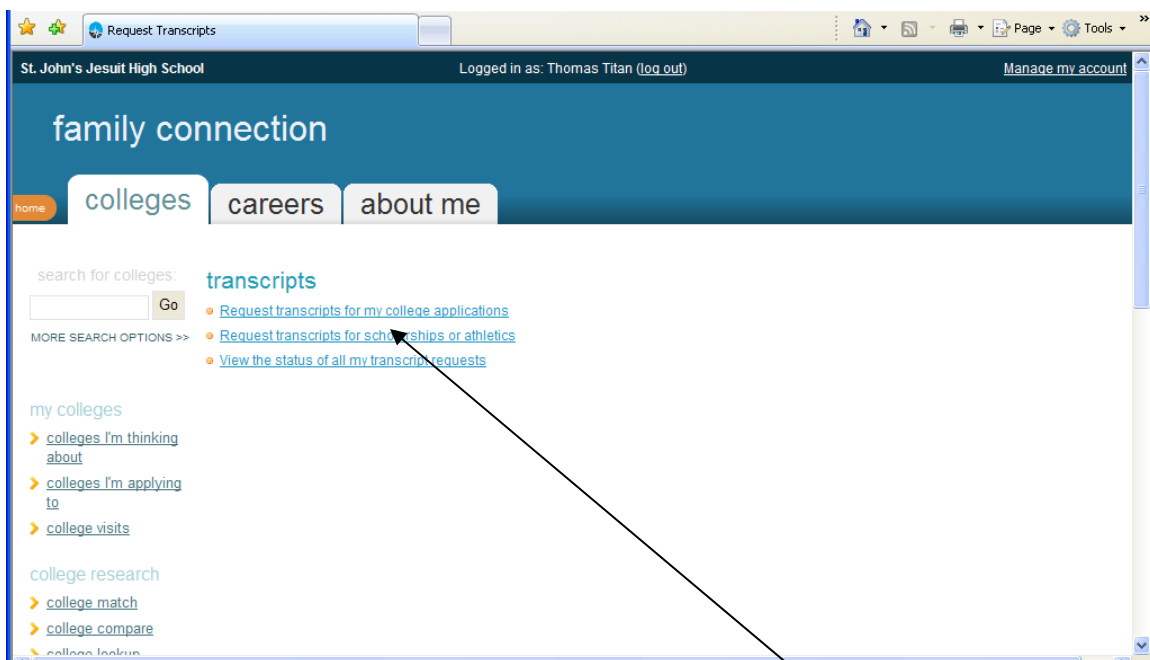
Click here and go from there. It is REALLY easy!

Checking Transcript Status

YOU can easily check on Naviance to see that your transcript and other forms (teacher rec, Secondary School Report) were sent.

Do NOT call the CRC to ask when your transcript was sent, unless you know it has been at least 5 weeks since the CRC sent it. It takes most colleges 4 to 6 weeks (sometimes more) to enter you on their database, and then post that they have received your transcript. Don't panic if you get an e-mail from a college saying that they did not receive your transcript, especially when that e-mail is dated only days after the CRC sent it!

If your college has an application tracking system, please use it!



Under the *colleges* tab, scroll down to transcripts, (under resources) click and you'll get this page. Click on View the status . . .

Then you will get the following screen : (see *next page*)

Transcript Status

You have requested a transcript through Naviance AND by submitting a CAPS form.

You will see the date you requested a transcript, and then the date that it was mailed from St. John's Jesuit. That date appears in green.

Transcript Status - Windows Internet Explorer

https://connection.naviance.com/family-connection/colleges/transcript/status/

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Transcript Status

home colleges careers about me

search for colleges: transcript status

Go

MORE SEARCH OPTIONS >>

my colleges

- > colleges I'm thinking about
- > colleges I'm applying to
- > college visits

college research

- > college match
- > college compare
- > college lookup
- > college search
- > college resources
- > college maps
- > scattergrams

College Application Transcripts

Confirmation Number	College	Requested	Due	Mailed	Mid-Year	Final	Confirmed Receipt
2513990	Boston Coll	9/3/09	1/1/10	11/1/09	-	-	
2771089	Case Western Reserve Univ	10/20/09	1/15/10	11/1/09	-	-	
2513991	Marquette Univ	9/3/09	12/1/09	11/1/09	-	-	
2682070	U of Notre Dame	10/10/09	11/1/09	11/1/09	-	-	
2844838	Ohio State Univ	10/29/09	2/1/10	11/1/09	-	-	
2513989	St. Louis Univ (College of Arts & Sciences)	9/3/09	5/1/10	cancelled	-	-	
2513996	St. Louis Univ (College of Engineering & Aviation)	9/3/09	5/1/10	11/1/09	-	-	
2603004	US Air Force Acad	9/30/09	1/31/10	11/1/09	-	-	
3321813	US Merchant Marine Acad	1/4/10	3/1/10	1/19/10	-	-	

Other Transcripts

You do not have any other transcript requests.

When you see this in green you know your transcript and other stuff has been sent!

College Application Processing Sheet (CAPS)

You must file a CAPS form for EACH of your college applications.

DATE STAMP

Your Name _____ Due Date _____

College/University _____ City/State location _____



Before turning in this form you need to ensure that you have...

1. SUBMITTED your application to the institution (including essay and fees)
2. Had your test scores sent to the institution from the testing agency
3. Have the institution listed in "Colleges Applying To" on Naviance
4. Have your activities resume loaded into your Naviance journal.

APPLICATION: (Indicate which type of application you used to apply.)

____ Common Application ____ Institutional Application

I REQUEST THAT THE COLLEGE RESOURCE CENTER (the CRC) SEND:

- ____ My Transcript
____ My Full Activities Resume on Naviance
____ Teacher Recommendations that are completed (in green) as submitted on Naviance
 *Number of Recommendations needed for this college: 1 -or- 2 (circle)
 *Name of Teacher Recommender(s) for this application:

OTHER:

- ____ I have an important request on the back of this form. (SEE NOTE ON BACK OF FORM)
____ I give the CRC permission to send my transcript to the above school.

I understand that if this CAPS form is not submitted at least **TWO weeks prior to the application due date, the transcript and other necessary documents may not be processed and sent by the due date. Further, I verify that all parts of my application **reflect my own work** and that I have provided accurate and truthful knowledge on the application.*

Your Signature

Time stamp and place this completed form in the PROCESSING tray in the CRC.

***Office Use ONLY**

School Report Completed

Evaluation Uploaded

Transmitted/Mailed 54

Scholarship Application Processing Sheet (SAPS)

You must file a SAPS form for each scholarship application processed through the College Counseling Resource Center. Attach materials you want or need to have sent with your application (e.g. essays, Activities Resume). Place completed form, with attachments in the CRC processing tray, 2 weeks/10 working days prior to the Scholarship Deadline.

Your Name _____ Home Room _____

Scholarship Name _____ Due Date _____

Scholarship Address _____

CHECKLIST:

_____ **Teacher Rec's required:** yes no
*(If YES, have you asked the teacher to write the recommendation and given them required forms: yes no **OR** have you checked on Naviance to verify the recommendation was submitted: yes no)*

Include teacher rec's from: _____

_____ **Essay, if required, has been proofed and is included.**
 _____ **Official transcript required.**
 _____ **Additional materials/documents required as listed** _____

SUBMISSION OF YOUR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION:

_____ I give the CRC permission to send the requested documents to the organization listed above.

OR *(choose one)*

_____ I will pick up the above requested documents and deliver them myself.

I understand that if this SAPS form is not submitted at least two weeks prior to the application due date, the transcript and other necessary documents may not be processed and sent by the due date.

_____ **Your Signature**

_____ **Date**

Office Use:

Date submitted/picked up by student _____



Teacher Recommendations

How to Get One (or Two!)

An important ingredient in many college applications is a statement from a teacher, citing your abilities and performance in the classroom. Some colleges do not require any teacher recommendation, some require only one and some require two. Please carefully check the application instructions for each of your colleges to learn their requirement. It is helpful to have at least one teacher recommendation on file. It will be used by Dr. Warrick when she writes a letter for you and often times scholarship applications require a teacher recommendation. It is **STRONGLY** encouraged that you take care of having your teacher recommendation(s) confirmed before the end of your Junior year.

How Do I Do This ?

Step One Approach a teacher and politely ask if s/he is willing to write a letter of recommendation for your college application. Remember some of the strongest letters come from teachers who did not give you the highest grade. Academic subject teachers are preferred.

Step Two After a teacher has agreed to write for you, and only after a teacher has agreed to write for you, go to your Naviance Profile.

- Make sure your formal Activities Resume is posted under My Journal in Naviance and is up-to-date. Teachers will NOT write a letter, unless your Resume is available on Naviance.
- On Naviance, click on the **colleges** tab and scroll down to Teacher Recommendations. Click on add, then click on the pull-down menu and select the teacher who agreed to write for you. You will then see a window to write an e-mail message to the teacher. Your memo can be brief, basically thanking the teacher. Press send. (The teacher will then get your e-mail and know to write for you.)

What Then?

Periodically check Naviance to see if the teacher rec has been completed. If not, gently remind the teacher. When you complete a CAPS (College Application Processing Sheet) for an application, you will note if a teacher rec is needed and if so, the write the name of the teacher on the CAPS. Make sure that you have first checked Naviance to know that indeed the teacher has completed the rec.

Requesting a Teacher Recommendation

Here is the pull-down menu of teachers. Make sure you write a personal note, even though it says “optional.” Only send the e-mail thanking them AFTER you have their verbal agreement.

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "Colleges - Windows Internet Explorer" with the URL <https://connection.naviance.com/family-connection/colleges/application/request>. The page is titled "Add New Requests". On the left, there is a sidebar with navigation links: "to", "college visits", "college research", "college match", "college compare", "college lookup", "college search", "college resources", "college maps", "scattergrams", "acceptance history", "scholarships & money", "scholarship match", "scholarship list", "scholarship applications", "resources", "transcripts", "test scores", and "test preparation". The main content area has a table with two columns: "Teacher" and "Personal note to teacher (optional)". There are four rows in the table, each with a "Teacher" dropdown menu (currently showing "(select teacher)") and a text area for the personal note. A callout bubble points to the first "Teacher" dropdown menu.

It is **YOUR** responsibility to check on the status of these recommendations and follow up with the teachers. If they are complete, they will indicate “Complete” in green.

College Application Processing Sheet (CAPS)

DATE STAMP

You must file a CAPS form for EACH of your college applications.

Your Name _____ HR _____ Due Date _____
College/University _____ City/State location _____

APPLICATION:

- ☐ Common Application - applied **online**
☐ Institutional Application - applied **online**
☐ Institutional Application - paper copy attached

APPLICATION COMPONENTS I HAVE COMPLETED AND/OR SUBMITTED ONLINE:

- ☐ Supplement to Common Application
☐ Application Fees
☐ Essay(s)
☐ ACT/SAT scores sent directly from testing agency
☐ Activities Resume
☐ On **NAVIANCE**: This school is registered as **Applying To** and I requested my **Transcripts** to be sent

I REQUEST THAT THE COLLEGE RESOURCE CENTER (the CRC) SEND:

- ☐ My Transcript
☐ ~~A Secondary School Report (sometimes referred to as Counselor Recommendation)~~
☐ Teacher Recommendations that are recorded (in green) as submitted on Naviance
 *Number of Recommendations needed for this college 0 1 2 (circle)
 *Name of Teacher Recommender(s) for this application:

OTHER:

- ☐ I have an important request on the back of this form. (SEE NOTE ON BACK OF FORM)
☐ I give the CRC permission to send my transcript to the above school.

*I understand that if this CAPS form is not submitted at least **TWO** weeks prior to the application due date, the transcript and other necessary documents may not be processed and sent by the due date. Further, I verify that all parts of my application **reflect my own work** and that I have provided accurate and truthful knowledge on the application.*

Your Signature

Place this completed form in the PROCESSING tray in the CRC.

Office Use ONLY

**Please initial and date each step.*

Initial Forms Prepared

Evaluation Written

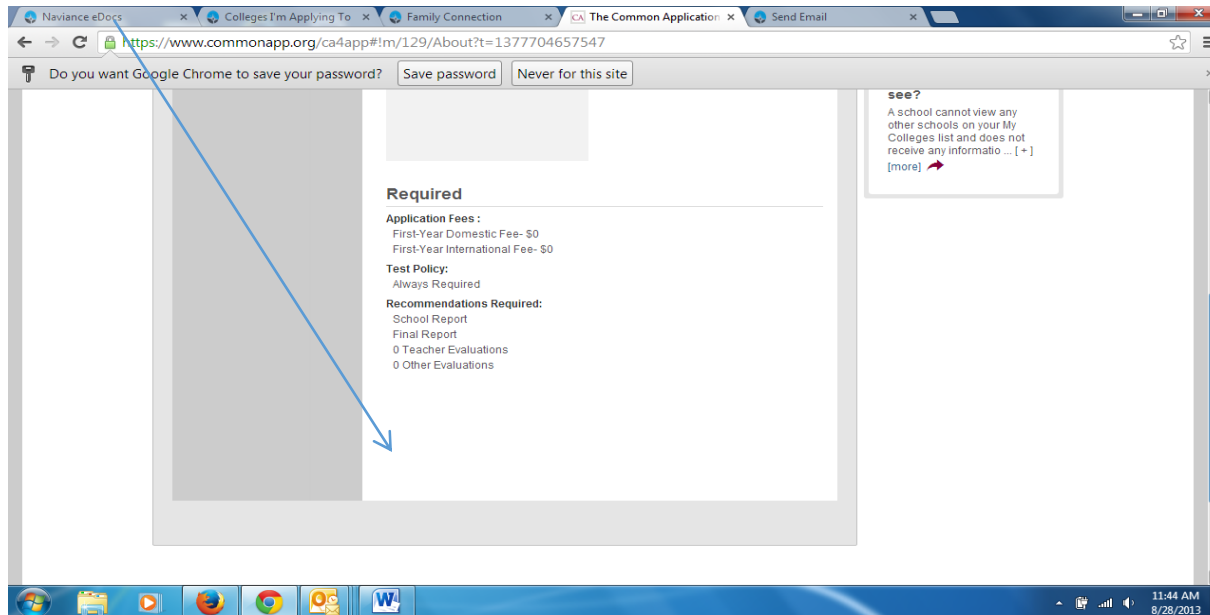
Transmitted/Mailed

Many students have multiple teacher recommendations. You will need to indicate which teacher rec/recs you would like to have sent to this college. It is also your responsibility to ensure that the rec is complete **prior** to turning in your CAPS form!

MY COLLEGES Tab

RECOMMENDERS and FERPA Section

Please check to see if you need a teacher recommendation.



- At the top of the screen, click My Colleges.
- On the left click Assign Recommenders
- Read, then sign the FERPA Release Authorization. Click Yes to waive your right to see the recommendations.
- You **MUST** complete the FERPA form for your letters of recommendation to be sent

A screenshot of the FERPA Release Authorization form on the Common App website. The browser address bar shows the URL: https://www.commonapp.org/ca4app#!m/129/RecAssign/?sid=127751612&t=1377703279630. The page title is 'Release Authorization'. There are two steps: '1 Instructions' (active) and '2 Form'. The main text explains the FERPA process and the importance of waiving the right to see recommendations. At the bottom, there is a checkbox labeled 'I have fully read and understood the FERPA Release Authorization explanation above.' which is checked.

How to Prepare your Formal Activities Resume

Your Formal Activities Resume, using the SJJ template, **MUST** be entered into your journal on Naviance. It's easy - - just follow these steps. Remember this is **YOU**. This is telling the college admissions person who you are, what you are about. Make sure you highlight leadership, service, and work experience. Your activities resume **MUST** be loaded on Naviance. By so doing, teachers

and Dr. Warrick can access it when they write a letter of recommendation for you, **AND** we can send it electronically, along with other application requirements.



HERE ARE THE STEPS

1. Sign onto your **Naviance** Account
2. Go to Document Library on your Home/Opening Screen (on far right of screen)
Click on the folder: Activities Resume
Click View, under Action, then open
3. Now that you've opened the template, **COPY** it to a WORD file
4. Complete the template, in WORD, modifying it so it works for you.
Be sure you replace *Your Name* and *Birthdate* with your own.
If you do not have Athletics, delete that section; if you have more Service than Leadership, move Service to the top.
Under Years Involved, put 9, 10, 11, 12, i.e. the h.s. years involved
Make sure you include good descriptions of your activities
e.g. what you do in Titan Pride, what your Eagle Scout project was
5. **SAVE** your work to a flash drive or your hard drive!
6. Now go back to **Naviance** and go to My Journal (under About Me)
7. Click Add New Entry - - follow prompts
Make *sure* you click - SHARE with Counselors and Teachers
(It's your decision if you want to share with Parent)
8. Click Browse to locate your file, then click Attach, to attach your resume that you saved in WORD.
9. **Click Add Journal Entry**

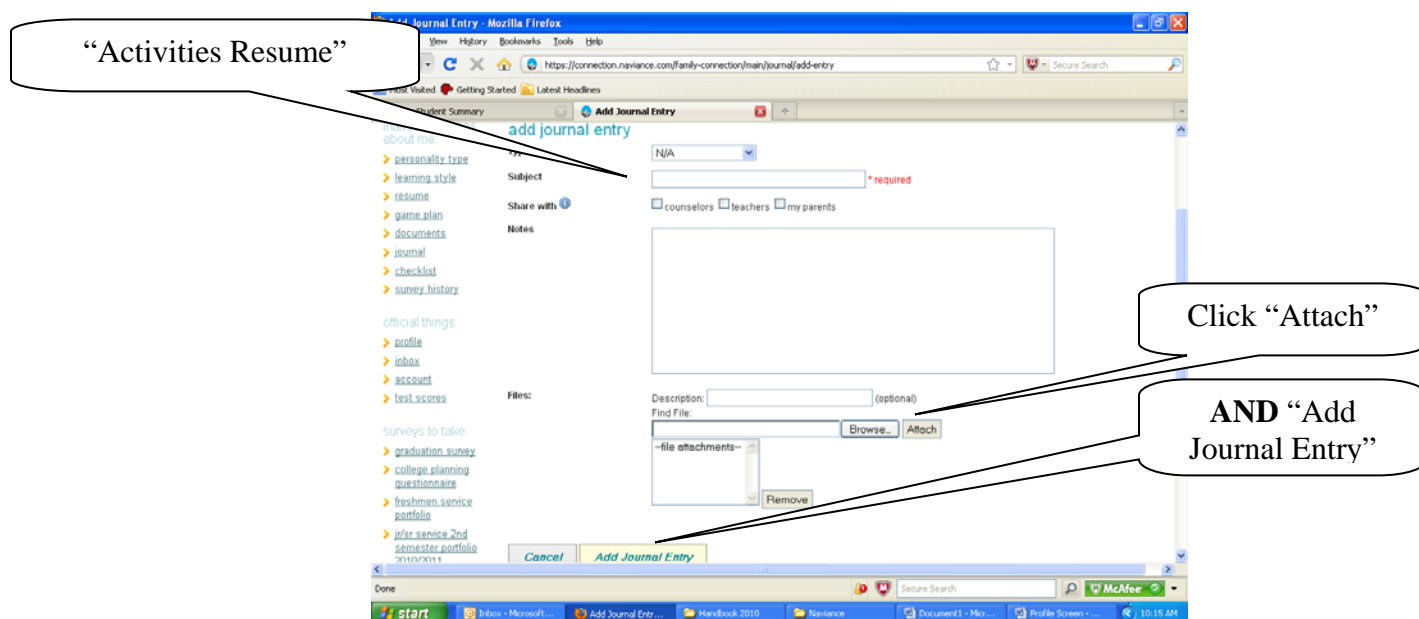
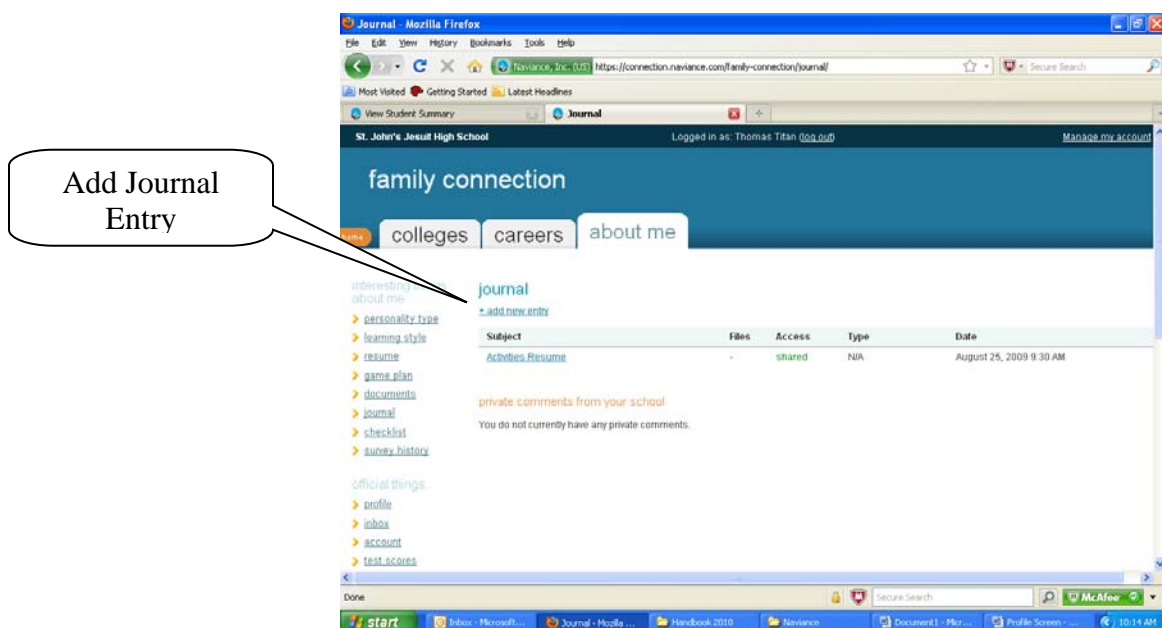
YAY! You're done! You can always go back - which you'll do once when you add Year 12 activities and update your resume. Just make sure you either replace your first Journal entry of your Activities Resume or title your most current resume in your Journal as such.

Uploading Your Activities Resume

Under the “About Me” tab, click on “journal” and “+ add new entry.” Type “Activities Resume” in the subject line.

Make sure you share this with counselors and teachers.

After browsing to retrieve your stored file, make sure that you click the *Attach* button AND the *Add Journal Entry* button at the bottom of the screen



Your Name, Birthdate			
Activity Resume			
Leadership, Involvement, Service			
In School Activities			
Type of Activity	Description	Years Involved	Time Dedicated
Leadership			
Kairos Leader	Lead Seniors on spiritual retreat	12	Intense 2 weeks
Service			
Athletics			
Performing Arts			
Out of School Activities			
Employment			
Employer	Type of Work	Dates of Employment	Hours Per Week

This format for producing a formal Activity Resume was developed by the Office of College Counseling at St. John's Jesuit in 1998.

Thomas Titan, 01/01/1997			
Activity Resume			
Leadership, Service, Athletics, Employment			
In School Activities			
Type of Activity	Description	Grade Levels Involved	Hours Dedicated
Leadership			
National Honor Society	Award based on academic strength and involvement	11, 12	1/week
Student Government	Director of Values Committee and Class Representative	11,12	6/week
Integrity Committee	Peer to peer reflection/counseling for students who are caught cheating or lying	11,12	1/week
Ambassador Society Core Team	Organize and run admissions and alumni functions	10,11,12	1/week
Big Brothers	Mentor for a student in SJJ Academy	11,12	1/month
Peer Mediation	Peer to peer counseling. Work to resolve conflicts between students	11,12	As needed
Retreat Leader	Lead Freshman, Sophomore, and Senior Retreats	12	6+ days
Peer Tutor	Tutor students in Math, Spanish, and English (writing)	12	1/week
Service			
Guatemala Service Trip	Worked at Francisco College School and Santa Clara Nursery in Zone 3, Guatemala City. Took school supplies, painted, and acted as teacher aid	11	10+ days
Chicago Mission Trip	Painting, flooring, plumbing jobs in homeless center and run down houses	9,11	4+ days
Queen of Apostles	Helped 3 rd graders develop reading skills and acted as teacher aid	11	2.5/week
Kingston Rehabilitation Center	Worked with elderly patients. Assisted them with everyday tasks	10	2.5/ week
Easter on Campus	Sponsor an inner city student to visit St. John's for a day of fun. The theme of the day is Easter.	11	1 day
Athletics			
Varsity Rowing	Participate in Fall and Spring seasons. Captain Senior Year	9,10,11,12	22/ week
Out of School Activities			
Epworth United Methodist Church Youth Group	Meet every Sunday to discuss faith based topics	9,10,11,12	1/week
St. Joseph Sylvania Youth Ministry	Teacher for Sunday Youth Ministry for grades 1-4	9,10,11,12	1/ week
Employment			
Employer	Type of Work	Dates of Employment	Hours Per Week
St. James Club	Lifeguard	5/16-8/16	30-40

The College Essay

Do's and Don'ts

The purpose of the college essay is to bring all those numbers and facts about you “to life” so to speak. The essay in a way replaces a face to face interview. It is a chance for you to introduce yourself to a college, enlighten them as to who you are, what makes you tick, what your experiences have been that have shaped you, what your dreams and goals are. Please read all the tips and ideas we have provided in this section. Here are some quick Do's and Don'ts.

DO

Start EARLY! – start making notes in the back of a notebook – keep jotting down thoughts as they occur to you. Start formulating ideas on what you could write on. Do this spring of your Junior year and over the summer before Senior year.

Be yourself – write honestly, concisely, clearly.

Focus on one aspect of yourself or one event. Make sure you are telling the admission committee facets about YOU.

Write lean and clean and avoid writing in the passive voice. EXAMPLE: “I have always been someone for whom sports have been easy.” Would be better written as “Sports are easy for me.”

Speak positively – even if you're relating something negative about yourself.

Make hard copies and keep drafts in your Journal on Naviance

Have your English teacher and/or Dr. Warrick, Mrs. Hartwig, or Mrs. Cabrera proof-read

Proof read yourself by reading the essay OUT LOUD.

Provide details in your essay that truly capture your personality and strengths.

Grab the reader's attention in the opening paragraph

Write down your goals and how you hope the college will meet them.

DON'T

Repeat information that's already apparent in your application.

Write about a general topic unless requested. The college wants to know about YOU!

Use the essay to explain a drop in performance or low test grades unless it is an integral part of the essay. It is usually better to use a separate sheet to explain how you had mono first semester, junior year, parents divorced sophomore year – etc.

Use clichés or slang. Avoid quotes unless the quotation truly enhances your essay

Be cute and gimmicky. Don't go to extremes or be outlandishly creative.

Be melodramatic. Don't use the essay as a "whining" session or therapy session.

Write about girlfriend issues

Writing a great essay starts with a strong opening sentence

Examples from previous SJJ essays:

I was fired from my first job.

I was born in Toledo, India.

The tension built inside me as I stepped onto the court.



Let's say your prompt is to write an essay on a person who has had a great influence on your life. You write:

The person who has most influenced me in my life is my grandfather.

Your opening statement would be MUCH stronger if you began your essay with:

"Keep a steady focus and be patient." These words of wisdom echo in my head, as I remember the man who taught me them - - my grandfather.

Common App Essay Prompts

1. *Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.*
2. *The lessons we take from failure can be fundamental to later success. Recount an incident or time when you experienced failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?*
3. Reflect on a time when you challenged a belief or idea. What prompted you to act? Would you make the same decision again?
4. *Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma—anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.*
5. Discuss an accomplishment or event, formal or informal, that marked your transition from childhood to adulthood within your culture, community, or family.

Financial Aid 101

Figuring out financial aid can be one of the most complicated parts of the entire college application process. Simply knowing the types of financial aid are available to students can go a long way toward helping you understand your options. Here's a quick overview.

Need-Based Aid: Need-based aid is money awarded based on the ability of you and your family to pay for college. The first step to applying for most need-based aid is to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), available at www.fafsa.ed.gov. All federal aid, including grants and loans, is based on FAFSA. Most colleges use it as a guide for awarding their own need-based grants and scholarships. Some private scholarships are also based on your financial circumstances.

Merit Aid: This type of financial aid, generally awarded as a scholarship, recognizes your individual achievements and accomplishments, be they academic, athletic, artistic or otherwise. Money received as merit aid does not need to be paid back. Many states sponsor merit-aid programs for residents who meet minimum requirements for GPA and test scores. Most colleges offer merit-based aid for students with strong academic track records as well as leadership qualities, community involvement or other talents and interests. Unlike competitive scholarships, which are typically one-time awards, merit aid can often be renewed for several years, providing the student meets academic benchmarks. Merit aid is also often less competitive than other awards that choose a single "winner." Most often, merit aid goes to any student who qualifies.

Scholarships: Simply put, scholarships are "free" money for college, meaning you don't have to pay it back. They can come from any number of sources, including colleges, the government, corporations, individuals, religious groups, non-profits, civic organizations, employers and professional organizations. Most are awarded based on specific criteria, such as your academic performance, extracurricular activities, community involvement, ethnic heritage or religious affiliation. Some scholarships are also need-based. Regardless of the criteria, there are typically many applicants for only one award. A small batch of students with 4.0 GPAs and high test scores may win a disproportionate number of scholarships.

Grants: Like scholarships, grants give you money for college that doesn't have to be repaid. Most are need-based and are awarded by the government, be it at the state level or through a federally sponsored program such as the Pell Grant. Grants can also be given based on your academic performance or the major or career you're pursuing. These are often sponsored by private organizations, companies or other institutions, including the college you plan to attend. Depending on the source, grants might come with a few extra conditions, like what degree program you pursue or even what type of job you take when you graduate.

Student Loans: Just like any other loan, loans for college incur interest and eventually have to be repaid. But since the federal government caps the interest rate charged on student loans, they are usually very affordable. Plus, many programs don't require you to start paying back your loan until after you graduate. When you fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) you'll find out

what federal student loan programs you qualify for. Some, like a Perkins loan, are need-based, while others, including unsubsidized Stafford loans and Parent PLUS loans, don't consider need at all. If you still need more money after exhausting federal opportunities, you can also investigate private student loans offered through banks and credit unions, although the conditions for private loans may be different than federally sponsored loans.

Work-Study: Work-study programs literally let you work your way through college, with financial aid given in exchange for work, typically at a job on campus. Funding for work-study programs can come from the federal or state government or directly from your college.

TERMS USED IN FINANCIAL AID

COA Cost of attendance. This includes tuition, fees, books, supplies, room and board, transportation, and personal expenses.

EFC Expected Family Contribution. This is the amount of money determined by your FAFSA results that your family can contribute toward your son's first year of college (no matter what college he plans to attend). The EFC is based on the income of both the parents and the student.

FAFSA Free Application for Federal Student Aid, is available on the Web (www.fafsa.ed.gov) and takes up to 2 weeks for the results to be available. This form determines your eligibility for financial aid. Many colleges use the information from the FAFSA to make not only financial aid awards, but also scholarship awards. This is a CRITICAL document to complete!

Financial Aid Award Letter Usually sent out in March - - this letter states the amount of gift money (grants and scholarships) and self-help money (loans and work-study) that your son is being offered by a college.

Gift Money - Grants and Scholarships Financial aid that does NOT have to be repaid.

PIN Electronic signature for filing the FAFSA online and also to gain access to other Department of Education systems. Apply online at www.pin.ed.gov.

PROFILE This is a financial aid form used by some colleges (predominately Eastern and selective private schools) to determine eligibility for aid offered by the college. The form is administered by the College Scholarship Service of the College Board and procures additional information, not available through the FAFSA process. You can register for the Profile via (www.collegeboard.com).

Promissory Note The contract between you (the borrower of money) and a lender (the federal government via the college) that includes all the terms and conditions under which you (the borrower) promise to repay the loan.

SAR Student Aid Report. The document you will receive after you file the FAFSA. Check the information over carefully and make any necessary corrections.
Hint: your EFC will be printed in the top right hand corner of the Student Aid Report.

Self Help Money - Loans and Work/Study Financial aid that has an obligation. *Loans* of course need to be repaid. *Work/Study* is on-campus employment, usually 10-15 hours a week. Your son earns a paycheck every two weeks.

Stafford Loan:

Subsidized The federal government pays the interest while your son attends school, for six months afterward, and during any deferment periods. You will qualify for this loan if you demonstrate financial need as determined by the FAFSA process.

Unsubsidized Your son, the borrower, is responsible for interest payments while in school, although that interest can be “capitalized” or added to the principle when your son is ready to enter repayment. This federal loan is available to most students.

Myths About Financial Aid “I’m not going to bother filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid because ...” “... my parents make too much money, so I won’t qualify for aid.”

Reality: There is no income cut-off to qualify for federal student aid. Many factors besides income— from the size of your family to the age of your older parent—are taken into account. Your eligibility is determined by a mathematical formula, not by your parents’ income alone. And remember: when you fill out the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSASM), you’re also automatically applying for funds from your state, and possibly from your school as well. In fact, some schools won’t even consider you for any of their scholarships (including academic scholarships) until you’ve submitted a FAFSA. Don’t make assumptions about what you’ll get—fill out the application and find out.

“... only students with good grades get financial aid.”

Reality: While a high grade point average will help a student get into a good school and may help with academic scholarships, most of the federal student aid programs do not take a student’s grades into consideration. Provided a student maintains satisfactory academic progress in his or her program of study, federal student aid will help a student with an average academic record complete his or her education.

“... you have to be a minority to get financial aid.”

Reality: Funds from federal student aid programs are awarded on the basis of financial need, not on the basis of race. The FAFSA doesn’t even collect this kind of information about an applicant.

“... the form is too hard to fill out.”

Reality: The FAFSA is easier than ever, especially if you fill it out online at www.fafsa.gov. There are detailed instructions for every question, and the form walks you through step by step, asking only the questions that apply to you. If you need help, you can access real-time, private online chat with a customer service representative. If you’re filling out the paper FAFSA, you can get help from a high school counselor, from the financial aid office at the school you plan to attend, or from our toll-free number: **1-800-4-FED-AID**. And remember, the FAFSA and all these sources of advice are FREE.

So what do I do now?

Go to www.fafsa.gov, fill out the application, and see what you get!

For more information about federal student aid, see www.studentaid.ed.gov or contact the Federal Student Aid Information Center:

1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243)

TTY: 1-800-730-8913

For inquirers without access to the toll-free number: **319-337-5665** E-mail:

studentaid@ed.gov



Filing the FAFSA On-line

1. The 2016-2017 FAFSA on the Web will be available in October 2016 at www.fafsa.gov.
2. Students and parents can apply for their PIN (personal identification number) any time before filing the FAFSA. Register for your PIN at <http://www.pin.ed.gov>. The PIN allows the student and parent to electronically sign the FAFSA and will be needed for your 2015 and all future FAFSA forms.
3. You will want to attend the **Financial Aid Night** here at SJJ the first week of **October**. If you start the FAFSA on the Web before the program you can save your work and continue to work on it at a later time. Please note though, after 45 days of inactivity, all your work will be deleted.
4. If after you attend our Financial Aid Night in January and you still have questions, plan to attend **College Goal Sunday**. This February event offers you the opportunity to have financial aid professionals from area colleges walk you and your family through the financial aid process and completing of the FAFSA.

College Goal Sunday is held at Owens Community College, on the second Sunday of February, beginning at 2:00 p.m. You should register in advance to secure an appointment at www.ohiocollegegoalsunday.org.

IMPORTANT NOTE: www.fafsa.gov is the official, free government website, www.fafsa.com is a private, for profit website that will charge you for filing your FAFSA!

FAFSA Frequently Asked Questions

Q. When should I apply for financial aid?

A. You should complete the FAFSA as soon as possible after October 1. Make sure to have your FAFSA results sent to all colleges to which you applied, as well as any colleges that you may be interested in attending. You will not be awarded with aid at any college, however, until you have been admitted. You should also complete whatever applications are required for institutional scholarships when applying for admission to a particular college or university. Once you have enrolled, make sure to complete the FAFSA by your school's priority deadline, and have your FAFSA results sent to the college you are attending.

Q. What if my parents are divorced? Which parent provides his/her financial information on the FAFSA?

A. If you are a dependent student, the parent with whom you lived the most during the past 12 months would provide their information on the FAFSA. If you lived with both parents an equal amount of time, the parent who provided you the most financial support during the past 12 months would complete the FAFSA.

Q. My parents are divorced, but I live with my mom and my stepfather. Does my stepfather have to provide his income and tax information on the FAFSA?

A. Yes, if you are a dependent student and you live with a birth parent and stepparent, the stepparent's financial information must be reported on the FAFSA under the parental income section, even if they file taxes separately.

Q. I actually live with my aunt and uncle, rather than my parents. Should their financial information be reported on the FAFSA?

A. Generally, no—you would report your birth or adoptive parents' financial information. You would report on the FAFSA any cash support that you received from your aunt and uncle as untaxed income, excluding food and housing. If your aunt and uncle have legally adopted you, then you would report their information on the FAFSA.

Q. Is it better to wait until after our tax returns are completed to complete the FAFSA?

A. No, it is best to complete the FAFSA as soon as possible after October 1. You may use estimated financial information on the FAFSA. Many colleges and universities have priority deadlines for the FAFSA, and these are usually in February or March—make sure to check with your school and complete the FAFSA by their deadlines. After you have submitted your FAFSA to your school, you may update the financial information once you have completed your tax returns.

Q. Does the EFC number represent exactly what my family will have to pay for college?

A. No, think of the EFC as more of an index that colleges use to determine the amount of financial aid, from federal, state, and institutional sources, that you would receive if you attended that particular school.

Q. What should I do if my family has unusual circumstances that the FAFSA does not account for?

A. If you or your family experienced an unusual circumstance (such as a job loss, loss of benefits, a divorce, death of a wage earner, excessive medical expenses not covered by insurance, etc.), complete the FAFSA as is and then contact the financial aid office at the college you are attending or plan to attend, and let them know of your special circumstance.

Q. How do I know if either of my parents is a dislocated worker?

- A.** Generally, a person may be a dislocated worker if he or she:
- is receiving unemployment benefits due to being laid off or losing a job and is unlikely to return to the previous occupation;
 - has been laid off or received a lay-off notice from a job;
 - was self-employed but is now unemployed due to economic conditions or natural disaster;
 - is a displaced homemaker—a displaced homemaker is generally a person who previously provided services to the family, is no longer supported by the husband or wife, is unemployed or underemployed, and is having trouble finding or upgrading employment.

Note: *If a person quits a job, generally he or she is not considered a dislocated worker, even if that person is receiving unemployment benefits.*

Q. My parents do not believe I will qualify for any need-based aid. Why should I complete the FAFSA?

A. You should complete the FAFSA because, regardless of income level, all students who complete the FAFSA are eligible for at least an unsubsidized federal student loan. Also, some colleges and universities award institutional financial aid based upon the FAFSA; so, even though you may not qualify for any federal or state grants, you may still be eligible for some institutional awards from your school. Also, if your family is interested in applying for a federal Parent PLUS loan, you must first complete a FAFSA to be eligible for this loan.

Q. How does a 529 savings plan affect my FAFSA results?

A. If owned by either you or your parent(s), the value of a 529 plan will need to be reported under the parent asset section of the FAFSA if you are a dependent student (and under the student asset section if you are an independent student per FAFSA guidelines). This has a relatively low impact on the EFC and your eligibility for need-based aid.

If owned by a third party—for instance by a grandparent—any distributions from a 529 plan are not reported as an asset on the FAFSA, but rather as untaxed income for the student. This can have a high impact on the EFC, and could reduce eligibility for need-based aid.

Q: Is the FAFSA- IRS Data Match Retrieval required?

A: Although the FAFSA- IRS Data Match Retrieval is not required, the U.S. Department of Education is very strongly encouraging the use of the feature and may be required in the future.

Q: What happens if I do not use the FAFSA- IRS Data Match Retrieval option?

A: In general, all applicants who have already filed but elect to not use the retrieval process will be subject to being selected for verification based upon the risk they pose to federal funds and, if they are selected, will be required to

support their reported FAFSA data with information obtained directly from the IRS and not through providing copies of their tax returns. Per the U.S. Department of Education, applicants who choose not to use the FAFSA-IRS Data Retrieval process, or who retrieve IRS data but then change it, will be informed that they will need to explain to their institutions why information they provided is more accurate than the information that would have been obtained directly from the IRS, and depending on their responses, may need to provide information obtained directly from the IRS.

Q: If I use the FAFSA- IRS Data Match Retrieval option, does that mean I will not be selected for verification?

A: You can still be selected for verification, even if you use the FAFSA- IRS Data Match Retrieval option. However, because the use of the FAFSA- IRS Data Match Retrieval option is considered acceptable documentation for the majority of verification items, the amount of documentation you would need to provide to your school would be much less, and should help speed up the verification process for you.

Q: What happens if I do not use the FAFSA- IRS Data Match Retrieval option, and I am selected for verification? What types of documentation will I be expected to provide?

A: Although verification documentation can vary from school-to-school, every school will require you to complete a verification worksheet (usually provided by the school), and an IRS Tax Return Transcript. Per the U.S. Department of Education, since most applicants can quickly and easily access IRS data through the FAFSA-IRS Data Retrieval process, the U.S. Department of Education will no longer consider it reasonable for a school to accept anything less reliable than direct IRS-supplied evidence for verification of income data. Therefore, if an applicant selected for verification has not successfully transferred information from the IRS, or one who did transfer the information but then changed it, the Department expects the institution to require the applicant, and if necessary the applicant's parents, to provide an official IRS transcript of their Federal income tax information. IRS transcripts can be obtained through the IRS's website at <http://www.irs.gov/individuals/article/0,,id=232168,00.html> or by calling the IRS at (800)908-9946. **Copies of tax returns are no longer considered acceptable documentation by the U.S. Department of Education.**

Q: Why is the U.S. Department of Education pushing so hard for families to use the FAFSA- IRS Data Match Retrieval option?

A: Per the U.S. Department of Education, the changes to the FAFSA-IRS Data Retrieval process and the noted enhancements to the verification process will improve the administration and integrity of the Federal Pell Grant Program by ensuring that applicants receive the correct amount of a Pell Grant for which they are eligible and that Pell Grants go to the neediest applicants, as required by the law.

*******PLEASE REMEMBER THAT COMPLETING THE FAFSA IS FREE!!
FAMILIES SHOULD NEVER PAY TO COMPLETE THIS APPLICATION!!*******

FEDERAL STUDENT LOAN PROGRAMS

StudentAid.gov

Will you need a loan to attend college? If so, think federal aid first. Federal student loans usually offer borrowers lower interest rates and have more flexible repayment terms and options than private student loans.

1. What is a federal student loan?

Federal loans are borrowed funds that you must repay with interest. A federal student loan allows students and their parents to borrow money to help pay for college through loan programs supported by the federal government. They have low interest rates and offer flexible repayment terms, benefits, and options.

2. What is a private student loan?

A private student loan is a nonfederal loan issued by a lender such as a bank or credit union. If you're not sure whether you're being offered a private loan or a federal loan, check with the financial aid office at your school.

3. Why are federal student loans a better option for paying for college?

Federal student loans offer borrowers many benefits not typically found in private loans. These include low fixed interest rates, income-based repayment plans, cancellation for certain employment, and deferment (postponement) options, including deferment of loan payments when a student returns to school. Also, private loans usually require a credit check. For these reasons, students and parents should always exhaust federal student loan options before considering a private loan.

See the next page for the types of federal student loans available.

4. How much should I borrow?

Borrow only what you need and consider the earnings potential in your chosen profession to determine how easily you can repay your debt. You can find career salary estimates at the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Outlook Handbook at www.bls.gov/ooh. Your student loan payments should be only a small percentage of your salary after you graduate.

Federal
Student
Aid

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HAVE QUESTIONS?

Contact or visit the following:

- StudentAid.gov
- a college financial aid office
- studentaid@ed.gov
- 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243) toll free
- 1-800-730-8913 (toll-free TTY for the hearing impaired)

What kinds of federal student loans are available?

Federal Loan Program	Loan Details (subject to change)	Annual Award (subject to change)
Federal Perkins Loan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For undergraduate and graduate students Eligibility depends on student's financial need and availability of funds at the college Interest rate is 5% College is the lender; payment is owed to the college that made the loan 	Undergraduate students: up to \$5,500; graduate and professional students: up to \$8,000 Total amount may not exceed \$27,500 for undergraduates and \$60,000 for graduate students (including amounts borrowed as an undergraduate)
Direct Subsidized Loan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For undergraduate students who are enrolled at least half-time* and demonstrate financial need Loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2014, and before July 1, 2015, interest rate is 4.66% Student is not usually charged interest on the loan during certain periods The U.S. Department of Education (ED) is the lender; payment is owed to ED 	\$3,500–\$5,500, depending on grade level For total lifetime limit, go to StudentAid.gov/sub-unsub
Direct Unsubsidized Loan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For undergraduate and graduate students who are enrolled at least half-time; financial need is not required For loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2014, and before July 1, 2015: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ 4.66% interest rate for undergraduate students, and ◊ 6.21% interest rate for graduate and professional students Student is responsible for interest during all periods ED is the lender; payment is owed to ED 	\$5,500–\$20,500 (less any subsidized amounts received for same period), depending on grade level and dependency status For total lifetime limit, go to StudentAid.gov/sub-unsub
Direct PLUS Loan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For parents of dependent undergraduate students and for graduate or professional students; financial need is not required Student must be enrolled at least half-time and must be either a dependent undergraduate student for whom a parent is taking out a Direct PLUS Loan or a graduate or professional student who is receiving a Direct PLUS Loan For loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2014, and before July 1, 2015, interest rate is 7.21% Borrower must not have negative credit history Borrower is responsible for interest during all periods ED is the lender; payment is owed to ED 	Maximum amount is cost of attendance minus any other financial aid student receives; no minimum amount

The interest rates shown above are fixed rates for the life of the loan.

Note: Find interest rates on loans disbursed before July 1, 2014, at **StudentAid.gov/interest**.

*For definitions of these and other terms, visit **StudentAid.gov/glossary**.

July 2014

FEDERAL STUDENT GRANT PROGRAMS

StudentAid.gov

The federal government provides grant funds for students attending colleges, career schools, and universities. Grants, unlike loans, do not have to be repaid. The major federal student grant programs are briefly described below.

Federal Grant Program	Program Details	Annual Award (subject to change)
Federal Pell Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awarded to undergraduate students who have exceptional financial need and who have not earned a bachelor's or graduate degree; in some cases, however, students enrolled in a postbaccalaureate teacher certification program might receive a Federal Pell Grant Federal Pell Grant lifetime eligibility is limited to 12 semesters or the equivalent 	Up to \$5,730
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awarded to undergraduate students who have exceptional financial need and who have not earned a bachelor's or graduate degree Federal Pell Grant recipients receive priority Not all colleges participate in the FSEOG program Funds depend on availability at the college; apply by your college's deadline 	Up to \$4,000
Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For undergraduate, postbaccalaureate, or graduate students who are or will be taking coursework necessary to become elementary or secondary teachers Must agree to serve, for a minimum of four years (within eight years of completing academic program), as a full-time teacher in a high-need field in a school or educational service agency that serves low-income students Must attend a participating college and meet certain academic achievement requirements Failure to complete the teaching service commitment will result in the grant being converted to a Direct Unsubsidized Loan that must be repaid 	Up to \$4,000
Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For students whose parent or guardian was a member of the U.S. armed forces and died as a result of performing military service in Iraq or Afghanistan after the events of 9/11 Must be ineligible for a Federal Pell Grant due only to having less financial need than is required to receive Pell funds Must have been less than 24 years old or enrolled at least part-time at an institution of higher education at the time of the parent's or guardian's death 	Up to \$5,311.71 For grants first disbursed on or after Oct. 1, 2014, and before Oct. 1, 2015

Looking for more sources of free money? Try [StudentAid.gov/scholarships](https://studentaid.gov/scholarships) for tips on where to look and for a link to a free online scholarship search.

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Contact or visit the following:

- StudentAid.gov
- a college financial aid office
- studentaid@ed.gov
- 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243) toll free
- 1-800-730-8913 (toll-free TTY for the hearing impaired)

July 2014

Steps to Federal Student Aid

STEP

1

Get free information and help from a school counselor, the financial aid office at the college or career school you plan to attend, or the U.S. Department of Education at www.studentaid.ed.gov or **1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243)**. Free help is available any time during the application process. You should never have to pay for help.



STEP

2

Collect the documents needed to apply, including income tax returns* and W-2 forms (and other records of income). A full list of what you need is at www.fafsa.gov. Tax return not completed at the time you apply? Estimate the tax information, apply, and correct information later.



STEP

3

Complete the 2015–2016 FAFSASM between Jan. 1, 2015, and June 30, 2015 (no exceptions to either date!). BUT, apply as soon as possible after Jan. 1 to meet school and state aid deadlines (see note at bottom of page). Apply online at FAFSA on the WebSM (the faster and easier way) by going to www.fafsa.gov.

STEP

4

Within a few days, the U.S. Department of Education will send you your Student Aid Report (SAR)—the result of your FAFSA. Review your SAR and, if necessary, make changes or corrections and submit your SAR for reprocessing. Your complete, correct SAR will contain your Expected Family Contribution (EFC)—the number used to determine your federal student aid eligibility.



STEP

5

The college or career school that you plan to attend might request additional information from you. Be sure to respond by any deadlines, or you might not receive federal student aid.



STEP

6

All applicants: The college or career school will tell you how much aid you can get at that school. Contact the financial aid office if you have any questions about the aid being offered. **First-time applicants:** Review award letters from schools to compare amounts and types of aid being offered. Decide which school to attend based on a combination of (a) how well the school suits your needs and (b) its affordability after all aid is taken into account.

Note:

You also might be able to get financial aid from your state government, your school, or a private scholarship. Research nonfederal aid early (ideally, start in the spring of your junior year of high school). You can find a free scholarship search at www.studentaid.ed.gov/scholarship. Be sure to meet all application deadlines!

*If you file your taxes before filling out your FAFSA online, you might be able to have your tax information automatically retrieved from the Internal Revenue Service and inserted in your FAFSA. The FAFSA will walk you through the process.



Sample for Completing Comparison Worksheet

COLLEGE	A: State College	B: Alma Mater College	C: Prestige College
1. Total Budget	22,000	42,000	60,000
2. Your EFC	12,000	12,000	12,000
3. Your Financial Need (subtract line 2 from line 1)	10,000	30,000	48,000
4. College Scholarship	2,000	15,000	30,000
5. College Grant	0	3,000	6,000
6. Other Grant	0	0	4,000
7. TOTAL Gift Money (add lines 4, 5, 6)	2,000	18,000	36,000
8. Perkins Loan	1,800	1,800	1,800
9. Stafford Loan	5,500	5,500	5,500
10. Unsubsidized Loan	0	3,500	3,500
11. Work Study	700	1,200	1,200
12. TOTAL Self-Help (add lines 8 - 11)	8,000	12,000	12,000
13. TOTAL Package from College (add line 7 and 12)	10,000	30,000	48,000
14. Unmet Need? (subtract line 13 from line 3)	0	0	0
15. Scholarships from Private/Independent Source (will lower self- help)			

Worksheet for Comparing Financial Aid Awards

COLLEGE	A:	B:	C:
1. Total Budget			
2. Your EFC			
3. Your Financial Need (subtract line 2 from line 1)			
4. College Scholarship			
5. College Grant			
6 Other Grant			
7. TOTAL Gift Money (add lines 4, 5, 6)			
8. Perkins Loan			
9. Stafford Loan			
10. Unsubsidized Loan			
11. Work Study			
12. TOTAL Self-Help (add lines 8 - 11)			
13. TOTAL Package from College (add line 7 and 12)			
14. Unmet Need? (subtract line 13 from line 3)			
15. Scholarships from Private/Independent Source (will lower self- help)			

Ohio Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
FINANCIAL AID: IMPORTANT ADDRESSES, PHONE NUMBERS, AND WEB ADDRESSES

www.oasfaa.org

Federal Student Aid Information

www.studentaid.ed.gov

Information and links to Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), PIN registration, MyFSA!
1-800-433-3243 (1-800-4 FEDAID)

Use above number for checking application status, ordering a duplicate Student Aid Report (SAR), adding or changing college listed on SAR, provide change of address, help in filing application, and general information on aid eligibility. Also visit: www.federalstudentaid.ed.gov

Financial Aid Information

www.finaid.org

Links and information about scholarships, loans, college savings plans, military aid, EFC calculator, loan calculators and more

Internal Revenue Service - IRS

www.irs.gov

Frequently Asked Questions
1-800-829-1040 (request individual tax transcript)

Ohio Assoc. of Student Financial Aid Administrators

www.oasfaa.org

State and Federal Student Financial Aid information and links, resource materials and downloadable handouts for students, parents, and high school guidance counselors

Ohio College Access Network (OCAN)

www.ohiocan.org

One West Fourth Street, Suite 350
Cincinnati, OH 45202
1-866-941-6133

Ohio Tuition Trust Authority (OTT A)

CollegeAdvantage Savings Plan

www.collegeadvantage.com

580 South High Street, Suite 208
Columbus, OH 43215-5644 1-800-233-6734 (1-800-AFFORD-IT)

College Access Information Hotline

Maintained by the Ohio Board of Regents (OBR)
Available from 10am - 6 pm Mon-Fri
1-877-428-8246 (1-877-I-ATTAIN)

Ohio College Access Portal

www.OhioCAP.org

Ohio State Grants & Scholarships Department

<http://regents.ohio.gov/sgs/>

O[G estimator and state grant/scholarship information
Ohio Board of Regents, State Grants and Scholarships
P.O. Box 182452
Columbus, OH 43218-2452
1-888-833-1133 or 1-614-466-7420
Fax: 1-614-752-5903

Selective Service System

www.sss.gov

Register for selective service and check registration status Data Management Center
P.O. Box 94638
Palatine, IL 60094-4638
1-847-688-6888 or TTY: 1-847-688-2567
email: Information@sss.gov

Social Security Administration

www.ssa.gov

Office of Public Inquiries
Windsor Park Building
640 I Security Blvd.
Baltimore, MD 21235
1-800-772-1213

Other Helpful Financial Aid Web Resources:

AmeriCorps	www.americorps.org
American College Testing (ACT)	www.actstudent.org
College Goal Sunday	www.ohiocollegegoalsunday.org
College Savings Plan Network	www.collegesavings.org
College Scholarship Service	http://profileonline.collegeboard.com
SAT Testing	www.collegeboard.com
Tax Credit Information	www.ed.gov/offices/OPE/PPI/HOPE/

OASFAA provides this list as a resource. This is by no means a complete list, nor is it an endorsement by OASFAA for any of these specific companies/organizations.



Ohio Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE

Better data for better financial aid decisions

Institutional resources are precious and need to be sensitively targeted to the right students. **How can you identify the students who really need your financial aid resources in order to enroll?**

PROFILE provides you with accurate, timely, and complete financial information about your applicants on a schedule that works for your institution. By using PROFILE you can:

- Identify students who need your institutional funds to enroll
- Utilize the College Board's Institutional Methodology (IM) to award your private funds
- Receive comprehensive information about financial aid applicants according to **your** institutional calendar so you can make effective aid decisions on a tight schedule
- Estimate eligibility for federal and state funding so that you can understand the student's complete need for assistance
- Communicate early with applicants about potential eligibility for aid

The College Board's College Scholarship Service (CSS) has pioneered need-based financial aid solutions for over 50 years. **PROFILE is designed by and for aid administrators** to help manage the financial aid process efficiently and cost effectively. To determine eligibility for financial aid, PROFILE uses [Institutional Methodology](#). And students benefit from the PROFILE's unique customization. Each application is tailored to the student, offering a streamlined, easy-to-use application.

PROFILE benefits

- [Online application access](#) virtually 24 hours a day, 7 days a week so students can meet your institutional deadlines
- Flexible options that allow you to adjust the formula for need-based aid
- An optional [Noncustodial PROFILE](#) application that provides information about the divorced or separated parent
- Information about special circumstances helps you evaluate the need for additional funds **before** an appeal
- Early information about students from low-income backgrounds
- An automated fee waiver process that allows qualified students to submit their application without payment

Over [350 institutions](#) and organizations use PROFILE to award their aid funds equitably to the right students at the right time.

To learn more about PROFILE and how to register for the service call (800) 927-4302 or email enrollmentsolutions@collegeboard.org.

CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE®

Student Guide

This guide provides the basic information you need to complete your PROFILE application at <https://student.collegeboard.org/profile> beginning Oct. 1, 2015.

WHAT is the PROFILE? The **PROFILE** is an online application that collects information used by certain colleges and scholarship programs to award institutional aid funds. (All **federal** funds are awarded based on the **FAFSA**, available after Jan. 1 at www.fafsa.ed.gov.) Some colleges may require additional information, such as tax returns or an institutional application. If your parents are divorced, some colleges will also require your noncustodial parent to complete the Noncustodial PROFILE.

WHEN do I file the PROFILE? You may file the **PROFILE** as early as Oct. 1, 2015. However, you should file no later than two weeks before the **EARLIEST** priority filing date specified by your colleges or programs.

WHO must file the PROFILE? Check your colleges'/programs' information to determine whether they require the PROFILE. A list of colleges that require the PROFILE from at least some of their applicants is found on the back of this page. The most up-to-date list, including search capabilities and additional information, can be found by clicking on "list of colleges, universities, and scholarship programs" on the PROFILE Home page.

HOW do I file the PROFILE? You file the PROFILE online at <https://student.collegeboard.org/profile>. If you do not have a computer at home, register for PROFILE at your high school or local library, print the Pre-Application Worksheet and Instructions, and review them with your parents. Return to your high school or library and enter the information by logging back in to your application using your secure username and password.

WHAT does the PROFILE cost? The fee for the initial application and one college or program report is **\$25**. Additional reports are **\$16**. Payment may be made via credit or debit card.

Fee waivers are granted — based on use of an SAT fee waiver or on the information entered on the PROFILE application — to students who are first-time college applicants and are from families with low incomes. International students are not eligible for fee waivers. This waiver covers the application fee and the reporting fees for up to eight colleges or scholarship programs.

Information to have available when you register:

- Type of tax return you and your parent(s) will file for the current year (e.g., 1040, 1040 EZ, foreign return)
- If your parents receive TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) or SSI (Supplemental Security Income)
- If your parents are self-employed or own business(es) and/or farm(s)
- Your parents' housing status (e.g., own, rent)
- Your personal information, including your Social Security number

Once you register, you will find detailed instructions and an extensive Help Desk, including Frequently Asked Questions, online.

The Process: Three Easy Steps

- 1. Register** — Your PROFILE application is tailored to your family situation, based on your registration answers and the colleges or programs you select. After registering, you can securely save your application and return to complete it at any time, 24/7, using your collegeboard.org username and password. If you created a College Board account for the SAT, we recommend you use the same user name and password for your PROFILE application.
- 2. Complete the Application** — Use the customized Pre-Application Worksheet and Instructions to help you complete the PROFILE. As you answer questions, the system provides online help and edits to minimize mistakes.
- 3. Submit the Application** — The date and time you submit your completed application will be recorded based on **Eastern Time**. You pay online and will receive an online PROFILE Acknowledgment as a record of your payment and application information. The Acknowledgment may include your next steps to complete your financial aid application process, so be sure to print a copy for your records.

At any time, you may **add** a college or program by going to the PROFILE home page and clicking "Add Colleges to Submitted Application." You will be charged \$16 for each college or program you add. Any unused fee-waiver eligibility will be automatically applied to your charges. You may not **delete** any recipients once you have submitted your application.

Questions? Contact customer support at **305-420-3670** (Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Eastern Time, with extended hours from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., January through April) or email help@cssprofile.org.

The colleges below all accept the PROFILE application. Instructions distributed by their financial aid offices will describe their application requirements in detail. A college with an asterisk (*) next to its name uses PROFILE for early decision or early action applicants only. For the most up-to-date and comprehensive list, go to <http://student.collegeboard.org/profile>.

CSS CODE	INSTITUTION	STATE	CSS CODE	INSTITUTION	STATE	CSS CODE	INSTITUTION	STATE	CSS CODE	INSTITUTION	STATE
1001	Adrian College	MI	5150	Davidson College	NC	2396	Manhattan School of Music	NY	6619	St. Edward's University	TX
5002	Agnes Scott College*	GA	1166	DePauw University	IN	2400	Marist College*	NY	5598	St. John's College	MD
2013	Albany College of Pharmacy*	NY	2186	Dickinson College	PA	1452	Marygrove College	MI	4737	St. John's College	NM
7041	Albany Law S of Union U	NY	2194	Drexel University*	PA	3514	Massachusetts Inst of Tech	MA	2805	St. Lawrence University	NY
2995	Albert Einstein C of Medicine	NY	5156	Duke University	NC	0935	McGill University	QC	6638	St. Olaf College	MN
2004	Albright College	PA	2704	Eastern Baptist Theo Sem	PA	3526	Middlebury College	VT	0265	Stanford U: Grad Sch of Bus	CA
2005	Alfred University	NY	2224	Eastman School of Music U of R	NY	6033	Minerva Schools at KGI	CA	4704	Stanford University	CA
1010	Alma College	MI	1202	Edgewood College	WI	5327	MIUAD: Fine Arts College	FL	5630	Stetson University	FL
7363	Amer Assoc of C of Osteo Med	MD	0042	Eliot School Fine Applied Arts	MA	1484	Monmouth College	IL	2819	Stevens Institute Technology	NJ
5007	American University	DC	2226	Elmira College	NY	3529	Mount Holyoke College	MA	3770	Stonehill College	MA
0866	American University of Paris	CO	5183	Elon University	NC	1490	Mount Mary College	WI	2820	Susquehanna University	PA
3003	Amherst College	MA	3367	Emerson College	MA	2424	Muhlenberg College	PA	2821	Swarthmore College	PA
1029	Athenaeum of Ohio	OH	0140	Emory U: Sch of Medicine	GA	0085	National Merit Schol Corp	IL	2823	Syracuse University	NY
3075	Babson College	MA	5187	Emory University	GA	4546	New College Franklin	TN	6820	Texas Christian University	TX
2037	Bard College	NY	1192	ETSU: Quillen C of Medicine	TN	3657	New England ColleH	1809	Trevecca Nazarene University	TN	
3795	Bard College at Simon's Rock	MA	3390	Fairfield University	CT	2504	New York C of Podiatric Med	NY	3899	Trinity College	CT
2038	Barnard College	NY	2259	Fordham University	NY	2785	New York University	NY	6831	Trinity University	TX
3076	Bates College	ME	2261	Franklin & Marshall College	PA	3667	Northeastern University	MA	8865	Tufts U: Sch of Dental Med	MA
6032	Baylor University	TX	0922	Franklin College: Switzerland	NY	1561	Northland College	WI	3901	Tufts University	MA
1059	Beloit College*	WI	5222	Furman University	SC	6490	Northwestern College	IA	6832	Tulane University	LA
3080	Bennington College	VT	5246	George Washington University	DC	1565	Northwestern University	IL	3936	U Mass: Medical School	MA
3098	Bentley U: Mccallum Graduate	MA	5587	George Washington Univ	DC	2060	NY State College Ceramics - AU	NY	7152	U of California: San Francisco	CA
3096	Bentley University	MA		Law School	DC	1587	Oberlin College	OH	2920	Union College	NY
3107	Berklee College of Music	MA	7306	Georgetown U: Law Ctr	DC	4581	Occidental College	CA	4832	Univ of Arizona	AZ
1064	Birmingham - Southern College	AL	5244	Georgetown University	DC	1594	Ohio Wesleyan University	OH	1832	Univ of Chicago	IL
3083	Boston College	MA	5248	Georgia Institute of Technology	GA	1595	Olivet College	MI	4841	Univ of Colorado Boulder	CO
3087	Boston University	MA	2275	Gettysburg College	PA	2804	Patrick Henry College	VA	6868	Univ of Dallas	TX
3089	Bowdoin College	ME	3417	Gordon College	MA	4620	Patten University	CA	4842	Univ of Denver	CO
9785	Boyce College	KY	5257	Goucher College	MD	4619	Pitzer College	CA	5815	Univ of Miami	FL
3092	Brandeis University	MA	3418	Green Mountain College	VT	4607	Pomona College	CA	1839	Univ of Michigan	MI
3269	Bridgton Academy	ME	6252	Grinnell College	IA	2672	Princeton University	NJ	3663	Univ of New Haven*	CT
3189	Brown University	RI	6253	Gustavus Adolphus College	MN	1630	Principia College	IL	5816	Univ of North Carolina Chapel	NC
2049	Bryn Mawr College	PA	2662	Gutenberg College	OR	3693	Providence College	RI	1841	Univ of Notre Dame	IN
2050	Bucknell University	PA	2286	Hamilton College	NY	0949	Queen's University at Kingston	ON	2933	Univ of Pennsylvania	PA
1073	Butler University	IN	3447	Hampshire College	MA	3712	Quinnipiac University	CT	4067	Univ of Puget Sound*	WA
4034	California Institute of Tech	CA	3434	Harvard College	MA	4654	Reed College	OR	5569	Univ of Richmond	VA
4049	California Institute of the Arts	CA	3454	Harvard Kennedy Sch Government	MA	6202	Reformation Bible College	FL	2928	Univ of Rochester	NY
1100	Cardinal Stritch University	WI	3441	Harvard U: Dental Sch	MA	2757	Rensselaer Polytechnic Inst	NY	4850	Univ of San Francisco	CA
6081	Carleton College	MN	3455	Harvard U: Grad Sch of Design	MA	3726	Rhode Island School of Design	RI	4852	Univ of Southern California	CA
2074	Carnegie Mellon University	PA	4341	Harvey Mudd College	CA	1730	Rhodes College	TN	5820	Univ of Virginia	VA
1105	Case Western Reserve University	OH	2289	Haverford College	PA	6609	Rice University	TX	2931	Ursinus College	PA
5104	Catholic University of America	DC	1344	Hebrew Union College	CA	3729	Roger Williams University	RI	1871	Vanderbilt University	TN
4054	Claremont McKenna College	CA	2290	Hebrew Union College	NY	2763	Rosemont College	PA	0670	Vanderbilt U: Sch of Medicine	TN
3279	Clark University	MA	1305	Hebrew Union College*	OH	3780	Sacred Heart University	CT	2956	Vassar College	NY
1124	Cleveland Institute of Music	OH	5293	High Point University	NC	6629	Saint Louis University	MO	2959	Villanova University	PA
2894	Cochran School of Nursing	NY	1295	Hillsdale College	MI	1702	Saint Mary's College	IN	1895	Wabash College	IN
3280	Colby College	ME	2294	Hobart and William Smith Coll	NY	4744	San Francisco Conservatory		5084	Wake Forest U Sch of Medicine	NC
2086	Colgate University	NY	1309	Holy Cross College	IN		of Music	CA	5885	Wake Forest University	NC
2519	College of New Jersey, The	NJ	5854	Holy Spirit College	GA	4851	Santa Clara University	CA	6964	Washburn U: Sch of Law	KS
3282	College of the Holy Cross	MA	1320	Illinois Wesleyan University	IL	2810	Sarah Lawrence College	NY	5887	Washington and Lee University	VA
5115	College of William and Mary	VA	2325	Ithaca College	NY	4693	Scripps College	CA	6929	Washington Univ St. Louis	MO
1134	College of Wooster	OH	5332	Johns Hopkins University	MD	0097	Seabury-Western Theo Sem	IL	3957	Wellesley College	MA
4072	Colorado College	CO	0274	Kamehameha Schools	HI	1842	Sewanee: The University		3959	Wesleyan University	CT
4075	Colorado State University	CO	1370	Kenyon College	OH		of the South	TN	1901	Western Kentucky University	KY
1135	Columbia College	IL	2361	Lafayette College	PA	1717	Shimer College	IL	4950	Westmont College	CA
5117	Columbia College	SC	1392	Lake Forest College	IL	1719	Siena Heights University	MI	1905	Wheaton College	IL
2174	Columbia U: Business School	NY	1398	Lawrence University	WI	2815	Skidmore College	NY	3963	Wheaton College	MA
2116	Columbia University	NY	2365	Lehigh University	PA	3762	Smith College	MA	4951	Whitman College	WA
3284	Connecticut College	CT	4384	Lewis & Clark College	OR	3775	Smith College: Sch Social Work	MA	3965	Williams College	MA
2097	Cooper Union Science and Art	NY	1405	Lincoln Christian University	IL	9856	Southern Baptist Theo Sem	KY	4950	Woodbury University	CA
2822	Cornell U: C of Vet Med	NY	5370	Loyola University Maryland	MD	4392	Southern Calif C of Optometry	CA	3969	Worcester Polytechnic Inst	MA
2098	Cornell University	NY	5437	Lynn University	FL	6660	Southern Methodist University	TX	3987	Yale University	CT
3351	Dartmouth College	NH	6390	Macalester College	MN	3763	Springfield College	MA			
3355	Dartmouth College: Thayer Sch	NH	1753	Madonna U: St Mary's College	MI	3748	St. Anselm College	NH			

Scholarship Savvy !!



College Scholarships

Most colleges will consider you for their scholarships based on your application. This is why it is critical that you have your application in early and meet any scholarship deadline. For example, The University of Toledo and Ohio State, among many schools, have a strict December 1 deadline for applications for admission if you want to be considered for scholarship money. If you are applying for a particular program (e.g. Philosophy, Theater, Engineering), make sure you see if the college has any additional or specific scholarships, just for that major. Sometimes, there is an additional application for departmental/academic emphasis scholarships. Also check the merit aid link on Naviance for a good listing of college scholarships. Remember MOST Jesuit colleges give scholarships, specifically to Jesuit High School graduates!

Private Scholarships

Naviance Keep checking the scholarship listing that is updated daily, for scholarship opportunities for which the College Resources Center has information and applications.

Read your E-mail Mrs. Hartwig and Mrs. Cabrera send e-mails alerting YOU (specifically) when she has a scholarship opportunity for which you qualify.

FASTWEB/Finaid Get registered on either one of these search engines (they access the exact same database) and keep checking your mailbox on a weekly basis.

Your parent(s)'s place of employment Often times the company that your parent(s) works at has scholarships. Ask your parent to check into this.

Reference books The CRC and your local public library have several reference books on private scholarships.

Google an accomplishment or talent (i.e. Eagle Scout Scholarships) to find listings of specific scholarships.

FAFSA Whatever you do, make sure you and your parent(s) complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in January! Many MANY college-based scholarships require that the FAFSA information be on file. In January we host a meeting about filing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

SCAMS Avoid Scholarship Scams! Don't pay someone to search for scholarships for you and don't pay to apply for a scholarship. Check with someone in the CRC if you are not sure.

DON'T FORGET If your scholarship application needs a transcript and/or a letter of recommendation, you need to give the CRC a two week (2 week!) processing timeframe!

Are you looking for scholarship opportunities?

1. Free scholarship databases like www.fastweb.com, www.scholarships.com and www.FindTuition.com can help you find scholarship granting organizations and specific scholarships based on your individual profile. The website www.toledocf.org is a great local one! We have these links on Naviance for you.
2. Look online or request from college financial aid offices listings of available scholarships and grants for entering freshman. You can also visit MeritAid.com which offers a free listing of college specific merit aid for over 2,000 colleges.
3. Ask your parents about possible scholarships from employers, church or any service organizations to which they belong (Elks, Rotary Club, Unions, etc.).
4. Check at local banks, credit unions, car dealerships and stores (Target, Walmart) for any scholarship competitions.
5. Read the emails Mrs. Cabrera sends when new scholarship information hits the CRC.
6. Check the internet for scholarships you may qualify for (for example, *Google* – Eagle Scout Scholarships).
7. Check your local Public Library or in the CRC for scholarship publications.
8. *Google* an accomplishment or talent (i.e. debate) to find listings of specific private or institutional based scholarships.
9. Check the college's website for scholarships they recognize.
10. Attend the SJJ Financial Aid Night (in depth explanation about FAFSA - Free Application for Federal Student Aid) in January and College Goal Sunday in February.

Scholarship Application Processing Sheet (SAPS)

You must file a SAPS form for each scholarship application processed through the College Counseling Resource Center. Attach materials you want or need to have sent with your application (e.g. essays, Activities Resume). Place completed form, with attachments in the CRC processing tray, 2 weeks/10 working days prior to the Scholarship Deadline.

Your Name _____ Home Room _____

Scholarship Name _____ Due Date _____

Scholarship Address _____

CHECKLIST:

_____ **Teacher Rec's required:** yes no
 (If YES, have you asked the teacher to write the recommendation and given them required forms: yes no **OR** have you checked on Naviance to verify the recommendation was submitted: yes no)

Include teacher rec's from: _____

_____ **Essay, if required, has been proofed and is included.**
 _____ **Official transcript required.**
 _____ **Additional materials/documents required as listed** _____

SUBMISSION OF YOUR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION:

_____ I give the CRC permission to send the requested documents to the organization listed above.

OR (choose one)

_____ I will pick up the above requested documents and deliver them myself.

I understand that if this SAPS form is not submitted at least two weeks prior to the application due date, the transcript and other necessary documents may not be processed and sent by the due date.

_____ **Your Signature**

_____ **Date**

Office Use:

Date submitted/picked up by student _____

Things to Remember when Applying to a Selective School

O.K. So you're going to apply to a highly selective school. Why not? You've earned the right - - you've worked hard, taken challenging classes, done well on standardized tests, and been highly involved in activities. But as you know, applying to one or more highly selective schools can be daunting and the results uncertain. Here are some things to keep in mind as you throw your hat into the ring.

Selective schools are shaping a class. They are not so much evaluating you, as they are evaluating how someone with your background, your intellectual ability, your extra-curricular interests, and your potential contributions to their academic community, will add to building a freshman class that will reflect and sustain their traditions of excellence.

Within that shaping is a bit of "social engineering." A school may decide that this is the year that they admit more students from the Midwest, especially Ohio (so you would be advantaged automatically) but by the same token, a school may decide that this is the year that they admit more students from the South and fewer from the Midwest (now, through no fault of your own, you are disadvantaged automatically.) This may be the year the school admits more women, or this may be the year they admit more men. This may be the year the school is rebuilding its orchestra and not its ice hockey team, or vice versa.

Bottom line to remember is that there are many variables that impact the decision on your application for which you have no control. These variables may be in your favor, or they may not. However, you **SHOULD** apply to these schools. Again, you have earned the right to!!

Some strategies to keep in mind when applying to a selective school:

- **Apply early.** Even if you don't apply through a formal Early Decision option, you still should apply early. Applying early shows your interest.
- **Keep taking the toughest courses.** Your curriculum is the key element considered in the admissions decision. Selective schools intently review the number and type of AP and Honors courses you have taken.
- **Choose your school well.** Selective schools easily dismiss applications from those who have not really thought out why they are a good match for a certain school.
- Along those lines . . . **is this school truly a match for you?** Are you **TRULY** interested in this school or are you just applying to say you applied to _____? Trust me, these schools can tell who is a serious applicant, and who is not, and you will quickly be eliminated if a school thinks you are not sincere in your interest.
- **Make sure your essay addresses their essay question.** Schools can readily spot the generic essay. As noted in the Essay section of this notebook **PROOF READ** your essay!

- **Ask only those teachers for recommendations from whom you are confident you will get enthusiastic support.** A lukewarm recommendation can kill your chances. Also, it is best to get a recommendation from an academic teacher who can speak to your intellectual capacity and potential. A recommendation from your Honors Physics teacher, citing your insight in conducting original research, will serve you far better than a recommendation from your summer employer or from a non-academic teacher.
- **Make sure Dr. Warrick knows you.** She should know all about all your accomplishments and your reasons for wanting to attend a particular school; not only can she then write a strong letter for you, but also advocate for you on the phone, through e-mails, and personal contact with the respective college admissions staff.
- **Schedule a personal interview,** on campus, or take advantage of the opportunity for an alumni interview. You can make a favorable, lasting impression. In addition, doing an interview signals that you are serious about the school. See the tips on having a strong interview in the Essay section of this manual.
- **Don't fall into Senior Slack.** Schools DO look at first quarter and first semester grades --- especially if you are placed on a wait list. Your first semester grades can make or break you. Actually, many also look at third quarter grades, senior year, too.
- **Make sure you have safety schools.** If you apply to several highly selective schools, make sure you have competitive and safely schools in your mix too. It may turn out, that when all is said and done, you really prefer your competitive or safely school to the highly selective school. And of course, because the admissions decision at a highly selective school is somewhat capricious, you need to have some *definites* in your list.

TIPS FOR GETTING INTO MEDICAL SCHOOL

Are you thinking about pursuing a career in Medicine? You are at an advantage if you are a resident of the State of Ohio! Ohio is the home to 7 Medical School: Case Western Reserve University, University of Cincinnati, Northeast Ohio Medical University, The Ohio State University, Ohio University (osteopathic), Wright State University and the University of Toledo (formerly Medical University of Ohio). Most medical schools depend on some state and federal funding making in-state residents important candidates for admission.

Here are a few tips to help you prepare for the rigorous process of applying and getting accepted to medical school.

1. Grades- Competitive grades are a must. Minimum class requirements for most medical schools include one year of the following classes:

- *Biology with lab
- *General (inorganic) chemistry with lab
- *Organic chemistry with lab
- *Physics with lab

Many schools also require English, math (Calculus) and biochemistry courses. Research the schools you are interested in early. You want to have time to fit in all their particular prerequisite classes with confidence. You can major in whatever subject you prefer but your science and math GPA (referred to as BCPM) will be considered separately and most strongly. The majority of medical students major in biology but it is not necessary to do so. Many 1st and 2nd year medical students feel that majoring in science made the first 2 years of medical school easier. Others believe that they received a well rounded education majoring in a different discipline. Whatever you decide, think long and hard before testing out of a class you took as AP in high school. A collegiate introductory calculus class may cover different material than your high school AP class did. A low grade in a college class, where you are competing against undergraduate sophomores and juniors, could be disastrous to your GPA.

2. MCAT-Medical College Administration Test. Taking the MCAT is a requirement to being admitted to medical school. Applicants are allowed to take the MCAT three times per calendar year. The MCAT is a standardized exam used to predict future success on required Medical Board exams. Multiple test dates are available and most students take the MCAT during the second semester of their junior year. Plan early to have a lighter academic load the semester you take the MCAT to allow for the additional time you will need to prep. You can prepare for the exam by purchasing self study guidebooks, using online study guides or courses, hiring a private tutor, or taking a Kaplan or Princeton Review class. These classes are generally offered close to most universities. A typical review class has 6 hours of class during the week and additional 5 hour sessions on Saturdays where you practice taking the 4.5 to 5 hour exam. Try to take the MCAT during Feb., March or April (register early to assure a space in a convenient test location).

This will allow you to apply early and interview early. Medical schools admit students on a rolling admission basis.

3. Health Care Experience and Extracurricular Activities: Outside activities are an important way to demonstrate effective time management, interpersonal skills, and initiative. Commitment to these experiences is very helpful to your admission chances.

Join your premed club and get to know your premed advisor. The advice you get will be invaluable. Premed clubs often offer or assist in obtaining opportunities to volunteer, intern or do research in a health field. These experiences help you to understand the challenges in medicine and give you a window to the demands of a medical profession. Part-time (after your freshman year of primarily focusing on grades) or summer employment in a health related job or research activity has become an important admission requirement for many medical schools. Also, membership, leadership and public service involvement in other activities looks impressive and is often a requirement for admission.

Pay attention to current health care issues and trends and seek out opportunities to learn more about them. Medical schools cite knowledge of current issues and experience in health care settings as extremely important in considering applicants for admission.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS- Start early to foster relationships with professors, advisors, physicians, community leaders, employers or others who can provide you with letters of recommendation. The better they know you, the better letter of recommendation they can compose.

Is it difficult to get into one of the 141 medical schools in the United States? Yes! It takes hard work and commitment. That is why it is imperative to have a clear view and definite plan when starting your undergraduate career. Time management is a must. A premed student will experience many extra constraints on his time. Maintaining superior grades, preparing for the MCAT and participating in extracurricular, research, and medically related activities is extremely time consuming. Senior year is busy with applications and interviewing (by the way, most interviews are conducted during the week so you will be juggling class responsibilities). It is worth it! Surveys of practicing medical doctors show a very high degree of satisfaction and fulfillment with their profession.

Beverly Hartwig
St. John's Jesuit High School
Updated January, 2014

Engineering

The following is a guide to schools with engineering programs.

IN OHIO

- Private:** Case Western Reserve
University of Dayton
Ohio Northern University
- State:** University of Akron
University of Cincinnati
Cleveland State University
Kent State University
Miami University (limited)
The Ohio State University
Ohio University
University of Toledo
Wright State University
Youngstown State University

OUT OF STATE

- Private: Most Selective**
Brown
California Institute of Technology
Carnegie Mellon University
Columbia
Cornell
Dartmouth
Duke University
Johns Hopkins
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
Northwestern University
University of Pennsylvania
Princeton University
Rice University
Southern California, University of
Stanford University
Swarthmore
Washington University, St. Louis

OUT OF STATE

Private:

Selective

Boston University
Bucknell University
University of Denver
George Washington University
Kettering University
Lafayette College
Lehigh University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Inst.
Rochester Inst. Of Technology
University of Rochester
Rose Holman Institute
Trinity College (CT)
Tufts University
Tulane University
Vanderbilt University
Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

JESUIT

Four Year Programs

University of Detroit Mercy
Gonzaga University
Loyola College Maryland
Loyola Marymount (California)
Marquette University
St. Louis University especially Aeronautical
Santa Clara University
Seattle University

3-2 Programs

Boston College (with Boston U and Tufts)
Fairfield (with Columbia, Connecticut and Rensselaer)
Fordham (with Columbia, and Case Western
College of the Holy Cross (with Columbia, Dartmouth, or Wash U.)
John Carroll (with Case Western)

CATHOLIC

Catholic University
University of Dayton
Gannon University
University of Notre Dame
St. Joseph's College, Indiana (3-2 program with Notre Dame)
Villanova

The college that rejects you

By **Mitch Albom**

Detroit Free Press

Published: March 22, 2011, 12:00 AM

Dear High School Seniors, I know you weren't expecting a commencement address. It's still March, and you haven't even gotten to throw up at the prom yet.

But you are at a crossroads. In a matter of days, you will get letters from colleges you applied to. Some will be thick. You will like those. Some will be thin. You won't like those so much.

I am here to say: Don't fret if that letter is thin. You will survive. You may even prosper.

It seems incredibly hard to get into colleges these days. You wouldn't think so, given what they charge. You can run an airport on their room and board bills.

Yet last year, places like Princeton and Brown had nearly 20 percent increases in applicants from the year before. The University of Chicago jumped 42 percent. You'd think they were giving away diplomas, instead of asking for your house, your keys and your firstborn.

But even worse than the financial burden is the implied standards they are setting for you kids. When we were applying to college, you needed good grades, a decent test score and one teacher willing to forget the time you pulled the fire alarm and write you a recommendation.

Today, you need to cure cancer. Preferably before your junior year.

As an uncle to 15 nieces and nephews, I have been seeing my share of these applications. I have to say, I don't know how you do it.

First of all, when do you have the time? Your nightly homework is as much as we got the entire ninth grade.

And the application itself? Some universities use the "common app," which permits millions of kids to stuff their credentials into the same essay question.

But let's talk about those questions. They ask you to write about an experience that changed or influenced you. And instead of writing what really comes to mind (a first kiss after soccer practice), you feel compelled to write about saving manatees from extinction off the Gulf Coast. Even if you never did save manatees. Because you heard about some

kid who actually did save manatees, and he also carried 100 pairs of pajamas to victims of Hurricane Katrina, and he also plays jazz bass (upright) and in his spare time finished a sequel to “Catcher in the Rye.”

I’m not sure such uber-students really exist. But people talk about them. You hear about them getting in to Harvard, Princeton, Stanford. So much so, that good, intelligent, ambitious kids don’t even want to apply to those places, because they don’t feel “special” enough. It’s as if schools today put out a vibe: “What, you don’t know how to reconstruct a hydraulics system? You should have studied harder — in grade school.”

Never too young for the fast track? Well, relax. Because here’s the thing: When you get older, you realize college doesn’t make you, you make college. Many an Ivy Leaguer is now lying on a couch, and many a community college grad is running a profitable company.

Ironically, just as elite universities have become so precious in their selection, they are being debunked as the only way to success. The Internet has changed everything about information flow.

Remember Matt Damon’s character in “Good Will Hunting” who taunts a Harvard student by saying in 50 years he’ll realize he “dropped a hundred and fifty grand on a (bleeping) education you coulda got for a dollar fifty in late charges at the public library”?

Of course, you don’t remember. You were 4 years old. But there was truth in those words, more today than ever.

So believe in yourself. You can springboard from any decent school. Open those mailboxes. And if choice No. 1 doesn’t come through, just remember, even Michael Jordan watched two players picked ahead of him in the NBA draft.

GLOSSARY

ACT

American College Test. A college entrance exam for upperclassmen accepted by ALL colleges. Consists of English, Mathematics, Reading, Science Reasoning, and Writing sections. Each academic section is scored on a 1 - 36 point basis, the Writing is given a score between 1 and 6 and combined with the English subset score. Scores from each section are averaged to give a Composite score.

AP

Advanced Placement. Tests available to students who have taken AP courses in high school. College credit may be awarded by an institution of higher education dependent upon your scores. Scores are based on a 1 - 5 scale, 5 is high.

Application

A formal document – in paper form or completed electronically on-line -acquired from a specific institution that must be completed by the student, signed, and returned by a specific deadline in order to gain admission. Read carefully; a deadline may require the application to be in the Admission Office or postmarked by a specific date.

Candidate Notification Date

The date by which a college notifies a student of the admission decision.

Candidate Reply Date

The date by which the student must notify the college of his enrollment intention- (May 1).

CEEB

The College Entrance Examination Board is the group that administers the SAT.

CEEB Code

The six digit number used to identify each high school. St. John's is **365-054**.

Class Rank

A measure of academic performance determined by grade point average as compared to other members of the entire class. St. John's does **not** rank. A college may postpone its admission decision pending more information on the student or a clearer differentiation among applicants.

Deferred

The Admission Office is deferring a decision on your application until they determine how competitive you are once their application pool is increased. The college will usually request first semester grades. Additionally, if you have any updated information which will strengthen your app, make sure you submit it.

Early Action

An admission plan whereby a student can submit an application by a particular deadline earlier than the college's regular deadline and receive a decision much earlier also. The early action student, if accepted, is not bound to enroll. Students accepted early action still have until May 1 to determine and notify the school of their enrollment status.

Early Decision

An admission plan whereby a student can submit an application to his first choice school by a particular deadline earlier than the college's regular deadline and receive a decision much earlier also. The early decision student agrees to enroll if accepted and to withdraw any applications to other colleges. A student may only apply to one college as an early decision applicant. Students not admitted under early decision are usually reconsidered with the regular decision applicants.

EFC

Expected Family Contribution. The amount of money your family can afford to contribute toward your college education for the next academic year. This amount is determined by completing the FAFSA.

FAFSA

Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Financial aid form or online application, required by all colleges, to be completed by the student and his parents and sent to the federal government for processing. Form must be completed between January 1st and February 15th. It is used to determine EFC.

Financial Aid Package

Financial aid award to a student in the form of a combination of *gift money* (scholarships and grants) and *self-help* money (loans and work/study)

GPA

Grade Point Average. Calculated by multiplying number grade (A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, F=0) by amount of credit in each class and dividing that by total number of credits attempted. Many colleges recalculate your high school GPA, using only academic coursework, and generally weight for Honors and AP courses.

NMSQT

The National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. This is the PSAT taken the Junior year at SJJ. If you score in the top 99 percentile you may qualify for a national scholarship or special scholarships at your college of choice.

PIN

Electronic signature for filing the FAFSA online and also to gain access to other Department of Education systems.

PLAN

Preliminary ACT. This test is given to all sophomores at SJ. It also includes an interest inventory.

PROFILE

Financial aid form used by a small number of institutions to provide information in addition to that which is provided by the FAFSA. A processing fee is charged.

PSAT/NMSQT

Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Slightly easier and shorter version of the SAT. SJJ students take this test as sophomores and juniors. Only as a junior is this test the NMSQT.

Rolling Admission

Colleges with this procedure make a decision on your application as soon as it is received. Notification of their decision usually takes four to six weeks.

SAT

Scholastic Aptitude Test. A college entrance exam for upperclassmen accepted by all institutions. It consists of a Reading and Writing, and a Mathematics section. Each section is scored on a 200 - 800 point basis.

Wait Listed

Usually, if you are on a wait list, you are competitive for admission. However, at the time of your application, the college had already made offers to enough applicants to fill their freshman class. As admitted students turn down their offers, you may be pulled from the wait list. To strengthen your position on the wait list send first semester grades and any other new info.

Work Study

A federal program providing on campus jobs for students who demonstrate financial need. The award amount depends on the family's financial need and on the amount of money the school has for the program. Wage rates depend on the type of job being performed, but the maximum earnings for the academic year are specified in the financial aid package.