

# Everything You Need to Know About the COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS

Presented by the Arlington Catholic Guidance Department

Mrs. Delude  
Mrs. Dunn  
Mr. Gendron



The College  
Application  
Process starts.....

TODAY!!!!

## THE LIST

- Naviance
- Picking a College/ Post-Secondary Planning
- COMMON APPLICATION (Note all CAPS. Must be important)
- Brag Sheets
- Letters of Recommendation
- Application Deadlines
- Transcript Request Deadlines for College Applications
- Testing ( SAT, ACT, SAT Subject Tests, TOEFL)
- NCAA Eligibility

# Why is Naviance Important??



- Naviance is the gateway to information you need about the colleges you are applying.
- Most of your information (Transcripts, Common App *where applicable*, Scores, Etc.) are sent to colleges through Naviance.
- If you are undecided about a major or career path, Naviance has a Career Interest Profiler that will suggest careers/majors that will best fit your personality and interests.

## Information Found on Naviance

- Average GPA of accepted students
- Average SAT/ ACT scores of accepted students
- Cost and Financial Aid
- Majors
- Activities/ Sports
- High School Courses Required/ Recommended
- Admissions Contact Information
- Application Requirements
- Links to the School's Website
- Application Deadlines
- Applications Submission Type (Common App, School Website)

# Letters of Recommendation



- Most Colleges require 2 teacher recommendations and 1 guidance counselor recommendation.
- Your Guidance Counselor will automatically write you a letter.
- Recommended you ask JUNIOR YEAR teachers.
- You are required to ask a core teacher for one of your letters: math, science, English, history, foreign language.
- Second letter can be from a teacher from a core class or elective. (We recommend asking teachers you have a good rapport with).

YOU MUST ASK TEACHERS  
FOR A LETTER BY.....

JUNE 9th,

2017



# Letter of Recommendation (Cont.)

## Keep in Mind

- LOR are confidential and you will not be allowed to see them, unless the college you attend let's you, AFTER you graduate.
- Teachers are human, have lives, and most likely have multiple students asking for letters....They can say NO.
  - This is why you need to ask early.
  - Ask a teacher who will be glad to write you a recommendation.

Teacher you should ask...



.....maybe not

# BRAG SHEETS



- You must complete 2 forms of brag sheets
  - Brag sheet for teachers and counselors
  - Brag sheet for counselors
- A 3rd option is a Parent information Sheet
  - Hard Copies are available
  - Available through your Naviance account
    - Log in
    - Click “About Me” tab
    - Survey is on the left

ALL SURVEYS MUST BE  
COMPLETED AND  
RETURNED TO  
GUIDANCE AND 2  
TEACHERS WRITING FOR  
YOU BY...

JUNE 9TH

# Application Deadlines



- **Colleges will have a variety of deadlines for applications that you must be aware of.**
  - Regular Decision- candidates are required to submit their application by a specific date and are notified in the spring.
  - Rolling Admission- Institutions review applications as they are received.
  - Early Action- Option for early notification of acceptance. You are not obligated to attend unlike Early Decision.
  - Early Decision- Option for early notification of acceptance. If you are accepted as an Early Decision candidate you **MUST** attend this college, unless the financial aid provided is inadequate. Immediately upon acceptance you must withdraw any other applications.

\*EA and ED deadlines are typically are in November and December.

# Transcript/Letters of Recommendation Deadlines for College Applications



## COLLEGES I AM APPLYING TO -- TRANSCRIPT REQUEST FORM -- 2016-2017

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNSELOR: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher(s) Writing Recommendations: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted to Guidance	Application Due Date	Application Type (circle one)	COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY NAME	Common Application (circle one)	For Office Use Only	For Office Use Only
					Date Submitted Naviance/ Mail	Transcript Fee (\$5) Paid
		EA ED REG ROLLING		YES NO		
		EA ED REG ROLLING		YES NO		
		EA ED REG ROLLING		YES NO		
		EA ED REG ROLLING		YES NO		
		EA ED REG ROLLING		YES NO		



# Transcript Request /Deadlines for College Applications



**In order to have your high school transcripts sent to a college, you must complete a College Transcript Card in Guidance by the following dates...**

- November Deadline----- > request by October 2nd
- December Deadline----- > request by November 1st
- January Deadline ----- > request by December 1st
- Rolling Admissions ----- > request for transcripts must be a MONTH in advance

# Common Application



## THE COMMON APPLICATION

For Undergraduate College Admission

- Approximately 700 colleges accept the CA
  - Full list of colleges at [http://www.commonapp.org/files/component/step/files/Common%20Application%20Member%20Institutions%2020152016\\_o.pdf](http://www.commonapp.org/files/component/step/files/Common%20Application%20Member%20Institutions%2020152016_o.pdf)
- The 2017-2018 Application is available NOW!!
  - It is highly recommended students fill out the CA...ASAP.
- Essay Prompts can be found at [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)
- If a college you wish to apply to does not use the common app, you must apply through the college's website.



# Common Application 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 obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
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, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

# Common App General Information



- While every school has a different list of college-specific requirements, the general application information (*for the Common App*) will remain constant for all schools on your list.
- You'll be asked to list your high school grades and courses, along with your activities, entrance exam scores and exam dates, and parent or legal guardian information. Get a head start and save yourself time by collecting this information *before* you fill out the application. *You'll be glad you did.*

*\*This information was taken directly from the Common App website... Most of your questions can be answered on the Common App website...*

*[www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)*



# Common App Rollover

- Allows those with a CA account maintain it from year to year
  - [www.commonapp.org/ready](http://www.commonapp.org/ready)
- After the 2017-2018 Common App launches on AUGUST 1st, you'll be able to sign in using the same login name and password as 2016-2017.
- You will be asked if you want to Rollover your account and you will click "Yes"





# Common App Rollover (Cont.)

## Information that WILL Rollover

- Profile
- Family
- Education
- Testing
- Activities
- Writing



## Information that WILL NOT Rollover

- Any information you may have entered for college-specific questions or writing supplements.
- Your release Authorization and FERPA Selection
- Any recommender invitations, assignments, and forms
- PDF's of Common Applications and Writing Supplements submitted the prior year
- Responses to any questions that have been removed since the prior year
- Responses to any questions that may have different response options from the prior year (this will include the testing section this year)

All of this information and more can be found at

<http://www.commonapp.org/whats-appening/college-counseling/common-app-account-rollover>



# Standardized Testing (Tests and Dates)



## Tests to take

- SAT
- SAT SUBJECT TEST
- ACT
- ACT with WRITING
- TOEFL (international students)



# SAT ([www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)) VS. ACT ([www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org))



## SAT

- Colleges use the SAT for admissions and merit-based scholarships.
- Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and Math
- Essay is optional
- 3 hours without essay
- 3 hours and 50 minutes with essay
- 5 reading passages

## Math

- Arithmetic
- Algebra I and II
- Geometry, trigonometry and Data Analysis

\*some math questions do not allow you to use a calculator

- Scored 400-1600

## ACT

- Colleges use the ACT for admissions and merit-based scholarships.
- Math, Reading, English, Science
- Essay is Optional
  - Some schools that require the SAT Subject test will accept the ACT with Writing in replacement of SAT Subject test.
  - Must inquire through admissions
- 2 hours and 55 minutes without Essay
- 3 hours and 40 minutes with Essay
- 4 reading passages
- 1 science section testing your critical thinking skills (not your specific science knowledge)

## Math

- Arithmetic
- Algebra I and II
- Geometry and Trigonometry

\*A calculator can be used in all math sections



# TOEFL ( Test of English as a Foreign Language)

[www.ets.org/toefl](http://www.ets.org/toefl)



- The TOEFL iBT test measures your ability to use and understand English at the university level. And it evaluates how well you combine your listening, reading, speaking and writing skills to perform academic tasks.
- Sign up dates, registration, and test prep information can be found at.....
  - [www.ets.org/toefl](http://www.ets.org/toefl)

\* It is highly recommended that if you came from another country to go to High School in the United States, you take the TOEFL the summer going into your Senior Year.

# Important Test Dates



## SAT (Anticipated Test Dates)

- June 3, 2017
- August 26, 2017
- October 7, 2017
- November 4, 2017
- December 2, 2017

\* All test dates include a subject test

## ACT (Anticipated Test Dates)

- June 10, 2017
- September 9, 2017
- October 28, 2017
- December 9, 2017

\*Check [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) for registration dates.

\*Dates for the 2018 tests will be posted at a later date.

# NCAA Eligibility



- If you intend on playing a DI or DII sport you must...
  - Register with NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse.
  - Register before Junior Year is over
  - Register at [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org)
  - Bring a signed transcript release form to Guidance so your transcripts can be sent to NCAA clearinghouse

If you are interested in playing sports in college, talk to your coach.



# Picking the Right School for YOU



- Academically
- Financially
- Activities
- Area
- Culture

Make sure you are picking a school that best fits YOU! It is your education and happiness.

# General Reminders and Recap



## REMEMBER

- We recommend all of your college visits be done by the end of the summer
- If a college requires/ recommends a college interview, schedule it in the summer or early fall
- See your guidance counselor IMMEDIATELY when you come to school if you want Early Action or Early decision
- Check to see if colleges require SAT, ACT, SAT Subject test, or TOEFL

MAKE SURE YOU KNOW ALL DEADLINES!!

Guidance Counselors, Teachers, and Administration are here to give you the best opportunity for your post-secondary plans. Please feel free to ask us any questions about the college application process.

**WE ARE ON YOUR  
TEAM!!!**