

College Application Session

Spring 2023

What Should You Be Doing RIGHT NOW!

- Sign up SAT's/ACT's in the summer/fall if you need to retake them but watch your COLLEGE DEADLINES!
- Visit www.collegeboard.com or www.actstudent.org to register.
- Visit colleges over the summer but definitely go back in the fall.
- Attend Open Houses and go on college tours (even if they are “virtual”).
- Visit college websites for more information.

What you Should Be Doing RIGHT NOW!

- Talk to teachers now about writing your letter of recommendation
 - Decide who will write your letters of recommendations
 - 1-2 teacher recommendations (once confirmed add them to Naviance)- confirm requirement with college.
 - 1 School Counselor recommendation
 - Brag Sheet must be completed so letters can be written

Over the Summer

- DO NOT BEGIN ANY COLLEGE APPLICATIONS that are on Common App until August 1st.
- Start to work on any college application essays so that you won't be bogged down in the Fall.
- Make sure you have a challenging senior year schedule. Colleges DO care!

More Over The Summer

- Complete your Senior Brag Sheet on Naviance
- Visit Colleges
- Volunteer! Internships!
- Get a summer job.
- Find something productive to do with your time!

Points to Consider:

- Quality of Schedule
- Grade point average
- SAT/ACT scores
- SAT II's (when required)
- Student Credentials

Timeline: Senior Year

- September-December

School Counselor will meet with you.

Senior Meeting

Brag Sheets should be finished

Attend College Fairs and Open Houses

Take last minute SAT's/ACT's, if necessary

Attend Financial Aid Night at BHS in November

Apply to Colleges

- Jan-March 1: Complete the FAFSA and/or CSS Profile

College Visits at BHS

- Always visit the college/university when school is in session.
- Do an overnight visit, if you can
- Meet with college reps at BHS: Sign up in Naviance
- Attend College Fairs

How Many Applications Are Enough?

- Apply to 1-2 dream schools
- Apply to 3-4 “realistic schools” which will likely accept you and which you would be happy to attend
- Apply to at least one “safety school” which you know will accept you.

College Application Terms

- **Early Decision** -- An option that allows you to apply early (usually in November) to your clear, first-choice college. You pledge to attend if accepted. If you're a competitive candidate, you stand a statistically better chance to be admitted under Early Decision.
- **Early Action** -- Similar to Early Decision in timing (November due date for applications) but nonbinding. If accepted, you do not have to enroll and you may take until May 1 to decide. Early Action is fading in its popularity due to the move by colleges to seek an enrollment commitment from their applicants. Acceptance percentage is higher than that of regular-decision pool.
- **Rolling Admissions:** Students' applications are considered when all required credentials have been submitted. There is either no deadline or a very late deadline; qualified students are accepted until classes are filled. Applicants are notified of admission continuously throughout the enrollment period.

Watch For Deadlines!

- Keep track of your college deadlines (as you are entering them into Naviance and as you do your research this summer).
- Keep in mind that **PRIORITY** Deadline means that you will be considered for scholarship opportunities if you make the deadline. IE. University of Maryland

What to Do?

- Start your research
 - Name of College
 - Application type
 - Application Due Dates
 - Letters of Recommendations (How many are needed? Which teacher(s) recommendation will be sent to which school(s)?

SUBMITTING SCORES

- Many schools are test optional
 - If you did well, think about submitting your scores (adds value to your application)
 - Other application sections scored-GPA, college essay, awards and achievements, letters of recommendation, extracurricular activities
- If you are submitting your test scores (ACT/SAT)
 - You are responsible from submitting directly from act.org or collegeboard.org
 - WE ARE NOT ABLE TO SUBMIT TEST SCORES ON YOUR BEHALF

Counselor Documents

- Copy of your transcript
- School Profile
- School Counselor Letter of Recommendation
- Counselor Evaluation Form

Mid Year and End of Year Reports

- Your counselor will complete the mid-year report automatically through Naviance only.
 - We do have to report any schedule changes that occur after the initial transcript was sent during midyear and end of year (we always recommend talking directly to college before switching classes especially AP/Honors/FCC)
- Any paper form requests would go through Mrs. Wilton

College Admissions Key Terms

- **Admit:** Congratulations, you're in! You've been offered admission to the college you selected.
- **Deny:** This unfortunately means you weren't accepted.
- **Waitlist:** You're not in yet, but you've been placed on a waitlist in case an opening becomes available. Waitlists are ranked by priority and there are some years when more competitive schools never draw from theirs.
- **Deferred Admission:** A student's option to defer an offer of admission for up to two years.
- **Deferred:** Most likely, if you've been deferred your credentials are in the ballpark for getting accepted. If they weren't, you'd be rejected. However, your application wasn't so far above average that the college wanted to give up a spot in the entering class until they could compare you to the full applicant pool. The percentages vary from college to college

How much does it cost to apply to college?

- While some colleges may charge an application fee, others have no fee to apply. And, many will waive their fees under certain circumstances, including financial need, veteran status, and more.
- You may qualify for an application fee waiver. There are certain requirements that you must meet to qualify. Speak with your School Counselor.
- Ask the colleges you're applying to about any college-specific waivers they offer, and be sure to check out the Common App fee waiver in the Profile section of the application.

Scholarships

- Research Scholarships
 - Scholarships are listed on NAVIANCE. Start checking in early September
 - Refer to the list of financial aid and scholarship websites (like www.fastweb.com) given to you by your guidance counselor.
 - Community Foundation Scholarships available March 1 – March 30
 - BHS scholarship common application