

# Nuts & Bolts of College Planning

Pioneer High School Counseling Department

2022-23 School Year

# Agenda:

- Timeline
- College Search & Visits
- Common Terms & Definitions
- Questions

# Enlightened Definition of College (from MCAN)

College is any training or education after high school that provides a certificate or degree

COLLEGE:

IS A MATCH TO BE MADE,

NOT

A PRIZE TO BE WON

# Where You Go is Not who You'll Be

Where you go is not who you'll be

# 11th Grade - 1st Semester

- Take PSAT/NMSQT in October
- Consider taking SAT/ACT
- Explore & Research Colleges (students & parents)
  - Xello
  - Internet & Catalogs
  - Attend (virtual or in-person) College Visits

## 11th Grade - 2nd Semester

- MORE College Research
- On-Campus College Visits (while college is in session)
- Review High School Transcript for Graduation Requirements
- Course selections for senior year occurs in March
- Take SAT/MME in April
- Fill out and turn in completed Student Profile and Parent/Guardian Brag Sheet by May 1<sup>st</sup>
- Junior Meetings with Counselor
- Request Teacher Recommendations before end of year (if they're required for the application)

# Standardized College Admission Exams

- **SAT I – Reasoning Test** – The SAT is a three-hour, primarily multiple-choice test that measures reading; writing and language; and math reasoning abilities. The test taken with the essay will cover 3 hours and 50 minutes. The SAT is part of the Michigan Merit Exam (MME) taken in April of the junior year.
- **ACT – Assessment Test** – A group of tests administered by ACT and required or recommended by many colleges. The tests measure educational development in English, mathematics, reading, and science reasoning and are given at specified test centers throughout the year.
- **Advanced Placement (AP) Exams** – AP exams are available in May each year. They are not required for college admissions but may be used by some colleges for college credit or placement.



# Test Optional Schools and Superscoring

- A large number of colleges do not require a standardized test score. Many colleges are currently '*Test Optional*' due to the pandemic; other colleges, like the University of Michigan, are currently '*Test Flexible*'
- Some colleges will “superscore”, which involves taking the highest score from the sub-sections of multiple tests.

# Michigan Merit Exam (MME)

Part I : SAT (with essay)

Part II: ACT Work Keys

Part III: M-STEP  
(Science and Social Studies)

During the registration process, students can select up to 4 colleges for this specific SAT score to be sent to. NO FEE. MME for Class of 2024 is required for graduation.

# The SAT

4 parts: Reading, Writing & Language,  
Math, and Essay

Score Scale: 400-1600

3 hours and 50 minutes (w/essay)

# SAT Practice through Khan Academy

[www.khanacademy.org/sat](http://www.khanacademy.org/sat)

- \* 4 short, diagnostic quizzes that cover all the skills in a specific SAT subject
- \* 4 full length, timed SAT exams
- \* Students can write an essay and receive feedback
- \* Students can access through Clever Portal

# PSAT/NMSQT

- A Practice Test for the SAT
- Given to juniors Fall of 2022
- Students will receive results through their CollegeBoard account
- Results used by scholarship programs to look for eligible students (National Merit Scholarship Program)

# Summer Before 12th Grade

## Plan your work and work your plan

- Fill out applications for colleges - find them online
- Work on college application essays if they are required for the application
- Have a couple people check them before you push the send button—cannot revise after sending
- Read summer mailing from Pioneer HS
- Be aware of upcoming deadlines!

# 12th Grade - 1st Semester

- Students & Parents Attend Senior Parent Night in early September
- Complete college applications. Most applications will be done entirely online
- Retake SAT & ACT tests (optional)
- Remind teachers for letters of recommendation if required for the application. Make sure you give them at least 4 weeks before you need them
- Go to College Visits held at Pioneer HS. Admissions Officers will be presenting and are available for questions - very helpful to meet these people! On-Site Admissions at PHS is also an option with some colleges & universities

**\*Fill out the FAFSA on, or soon after, October 1st 2022--the earlier, the better**

# 12th Grade - 2nd Semester

- Use online scholarship search engines for scholarships, including Naviance
- Receive acceptance/rejection letters from colleges
- Continue to work hard academically: 2nd semester classes & grades count towards acceptance or “denial”!
- Contact Financial Aid offices at proposed colleges
- Develop a plan to finance college
- Send in your deposit to selected college by their required deadline (generally May 1<sup>st</sup>)



# Researching Colleges

The “best” college is the one that is  
best for your student!

# What Do I Look For?

- What do you know about yourself?  
(Likes, Dislikes, Interests, Values)
- Environment - location, size, etc.
- Admission Requirements
- Academics
- College Expenses & Financial Aid
- Housing
- Facilities
- Activities

# How Do I Search?

- Xello
- AAPS Virtual College Visits
- College visits at Pioneer
- On-campus college visits
- Online internet research (helpful websites on next slide)
- Helpful books
- Research - Research - Research!

# Helpful College Search Websites

- [www.bigfuture.com](http://www.bigfuture.com)
- Xello (via AAPS website)
- [www.gocollege.com](http://www.gocollege.com)
- [www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com)
- [www.smart.net/-pope/hbcu/hbculist.htm](http://www.smart.net/-pope/hbcu/hbculist.htm)
- [www.campustours.com](http://www.campustours.com)
- [www.cappex.com](http://www.cappex.com)
- [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

# On-Campus College Visits

- Sign up for an official college visit online through the individual college websites
- Try to plan visits while college classes are in session
- Try to attend a class or two & ask about eating in the dining hall
- Try to spend a night in the dorm or see a dorm room during a campus tour

# Scholarships

Students can begin applying for scholarships during their senior year. Check out the following websites:

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

[www.cappex.com](http://www.cappex.com)

[www.scholarshipowl.com](http://www.scholarshipowl.com)

[www.aaacf.org](http://www.aaacf.org)

# Financial Aid

Students seeking help with college costs will need to apply for financial aid. For a student to be considered for federal aid, he/she will need to complete an online application at:

[www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)

## Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

The FAFSA is processed free of charge. FAFSA is used by most state agencies and colleges to determine eligibility for financial aid. Students must complete this form in order to also be eligible for Work Study opportunities on campus.

**\*Registration opens October 1<sup>st</sup> of senior year.**

# Scholarship/Financial Aid

## AAPS Virtual Financial Aid/FAFSA Presentations

See “College Information for AAPS Students” on AAPS website

Facilitated by local universities’ admission offices



# College Athletics

Student athletes seeking to play a Division I or Division II college sport will need to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center

<https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/>

# Assisting Your Student in the Application Process:

How You Can Help the Most

# Selecting Prospective Colleges

- The initial list of prospective schools may be a long list with 12-15 schools
- After careful research, the larger list of prospective colleges should be narrowed down to 3-5 colleges

\*Students SHOULD NOT apply to a school if they would never attend there.

# Sending Standardized Test Scores

- Scores must be sent directly from the testing agency to the college as part of the application
- Students will have the opportunity to send scores directly to four colleges (for free!) when they register for the SAT or ACT
- There is a fee to send scores after test registration

# Types of Applications

Most applications are exclusively online applications

- 1) Applications directly to the college
- 2) Common App
- 3) Coalition App

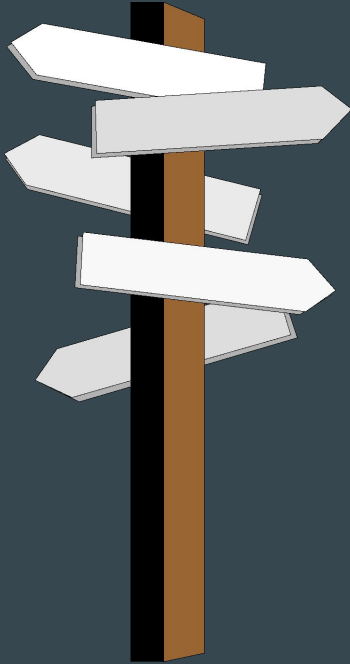
# Application Terms & Decision Plans

- **Early Action:** An application process which permits students to make application to an institution of preference and receive a decision during the senior year well in advance of the normal response dates in the spring. The candidate is not committed to enroll at that particular institution.
- **Early Decision:** An application process in which a commitment is made by the student to the institution that, if admitted, the student will enroll. Only a student who can make a deliberate and well-reasoned first choice decision should apply under an Early Decision plan because the institution will require a nonrefundable deposit well before May 1. This is a binding commitment from the student.
- **Regular Decision:** Students submit an application by a specified date and receive a decision in a clearly stated period of time.
- **Rolling Admission:** Institutions review applications as they are submitted and render decisions throughout the admission cycle.

# Important Deadlines

- Students need to be aware of their college application deadlines
- Many pieces need to come together, such as counselor recommendation, teachers' recommendations, student's essays, standardized test scores, transcript, etc.

# Where Do I Turn To Ask Questions?



- Pioneer H.S. Counseling Department website: <https://aapihicounseling.weebly.com/>
- AAPS website: College Information for AAPS Students
- Counselor
- College website
- Xello & online resources