**SENIOR ADVISORIES**

**VISIT BY COUNSELORS**

TOPIC: COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

College Applications

* Visit each college’s admission website for accurate information for what is needed.

(type of application, testing requirements, supplemental forms, deadlines)

* A college may use the **Common Application** ([www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)); or the

Common Application plus supplemental forms; or their own application.

* Recommend applying to 3-6 colleges. Research these colleges!

Naviance

* Log into **Naviance** through Clever using school google email. You can

start at the District’s website to do this (<https://www.a2schools.org/domain/48>).

* Click on “My Favorites” and then “Colleges I’m Applying To”
* Match Common Application to Naviance.
* Add non-common application colleges.
* Request **transcripts**.
* Request **teacher letters of recommendation**.
* No need to request **counselor letter of recommendation**.

Outside Recommenders

* Naviance is unable to send letters from people outside of PHS staff.
* Outside recommenders should mail their letter directly to each college.
* Your full name, date of birth, and some type of application i.d. # should be at top.

Send Test Scores

* SAT, SAT II, and AP Exam scores: ( [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) )
* ACT : ( [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) )

Test Optional Schools

* Many schools are not requiring an ACT or SAT for admission.
* Check each college’s admission website to verify if test is needed.
* Website for Test Optional Colleges: ( <http://www.fairtest.org/university/optional> )
* Without scores, other parts of your application will become important (GPA, essay,

recommendations, and extra-curricular activities.) Particularly for competitive schools.

* Many colleges use SAT and ACT to award merit scholarships.

Writing Your Essay

* Select a few people to proofread/edit it.
* Too many people editing your essay(s) will send you into doubt and confusion.
* Answer the prompt, do your best, give details/specifics, let it go and move on.
* Avoid perseverating about your essay.

Early Action and Early Decision

* **Early Action** is non-binding and students receive an early response to their

application but do not have to commit to the college until the normal reply

date of May 1st.

* **Early Decision** is binding and the student must attend that college. A student

can only apply to one college for early decision. Some ED colleges will allow you

to apply to other colleges through EA and some do not. Look at their admission

website for specifics. Almost all ED colleges will allow you to apply to other

colleges through regular or rolling admissions.

Deadlines

* Be aware of application deadlines. Students: It is your responsibility!
* If you are submitting a college application for an early action/early decision deadline of **November 1st,** then please make sure to request your letters of recommendation

and transcripts in Naviance by **Monday Oct. 12th** to give adequate time for your counselor and teachers to complete their parts.

* If you are submitting a college application for an early action deadline of

**November 15th,** then please make sure to request your letters of recommendation

and transcripts in Naviance by **Monday Oct. 26th** to give adequate time for your

counselor and teachers to complete their parts.

* All other deadlines: please request transcripts and letters in Naviance at least

15 business days ahead of your deadline.

FAFSA

* The **FAFSA (**Free Application for Student Aid) will open up on **October 1st**.

We encourage ALL students to complete this even if your parents have a high income.

The **FAFSA** isn't just for people who want or need federal student loans. It's also used to determine aid you won't have to pay back, like college scholarships, grants, and even work-study funding. Finally, some private scholarships require a **FAFSA** as part of their application process. (source: salliemae.com)

Financial Aid Events

* Please look to the Pioneer Counseling Website for upcoming Financial Aid Events

from the University of Michigan and other local resources which will offer webinars

and videos on the basics of the FAFSA, tips for completing it, connecting it to

scholarships, and other college financial planning wisdom. For some of these, you may need to sign up to attend.

Scholarships

* Scholarship Search Engines: **fastweb.com**

**scholarships.com**

**finaid.org**

* Most **local scholarships** and **Pioneer scholarships** will not be posted until

early in the second semester. You can view these at the PHS Counseling Website

as well.

* Students can log into their **Naviance** account and review 117 **scholarships** both local and national. This is where you can also apply for WCC scholarships as well (available

2nd semester). Once logged into Naviance, click the “scholarship” tab.

Other Post-Secondary Options:

* Military
* Gap-Year
* Service Project Programs: Americorp and CitiYear
* Work

WCC (Washtenaw Community College

* Great place to start.
* Variety of associate degree programs.
* Save tons of money compared to starting at 4-year college.
* Easily transfer to 4-year university after 2 years.

Pioneer Counseling Website: [**https://aapihicounseling.weebly.com/**](https://aapihicounseling.weebly.com/)

Please go to the PHS Counseling Website if you want more information about the college application process, financial aid, scholarships, and senior timeline updates.