

- 1. Will the presentation be shared? When will the school profile be ready?**
 - a. Yes! Here is a link to the [Pioneer Counseling Website](#) to find the presentation and other helpful materials!
 - b. The school profile will be uploaded to Common App as soon as possible.
- 2. Who can students use to help them through the college application process?**
 - a. We recommend the student use their counselor to help them through the college application.
 - b. Mr. Griggs is our college and career coordinator that helps students coordinate college visits.
 - c. Teachers are a great resource to learn about specific content related to colleges. They may also be helpful for recommendation letters.
- 3. How many letters of recommendation are needed for the Common App?**
 - a. This largely depends on which school your student is applying to. Some colleges ask for a teacher recommendation, some ask for a counselor, some ask for both and some ask for none (or are optional).
 - i. We strongly encourage students to view each Universities admissions requirements to find out what they expect.
 - ii. If your student is applying through the Common Application it will let you know how many recommendation letters are required.
- 4. Who are the Rising Scholars at Pioneer?**
 - a. Rising scholars is a District Program designed to create access and opportunity for underrepresented, yet high achieving students to address achievement gaps and prepare students with leadership and college preparatory skills for post-secondary success.
- 5. Should students send requests to teachers through Common App for letters of recommendation before or after submitting an application to a particular college?**
 - a. Students can send the request at any time before the deadline. However, we strongly recommend giving teachers and counselors AT LEAST three weeks notice so they have adequate time to write you the best letter possible!
- 6. For in person college visits to Pioneer, are those more for students to get info and ask questions or does it help students meet admissions people who may remember them?**
 - a. Both! This is a great chance for students to learn about schools they may not know much about AND for them to connect with schools they may want to be recognized by. Please [see this link](#) for when the colleges will be visiting our A2 Schools this fall.

7. Where can students request transcripts and how does it get to Common App?

- a. Students request transcripts by creating a profile in [Parchment](#). Be sure to use a non AAPS email when creating your account
- b. When in parchment a student can request that their transcript be sent by Common App First Year Student

8. How does a student access a Pioneer transcript after they leave high school and/or end up transferring from schools later on?

- a. Students can still request transcripts through [Parchment](#). This is why it is very important to use a non AAPS email address when creating your parchment account.

9. If a student wants to take a gap year, do they still apply to college this year?

- a. Most students who take a gap year will wait until the year they are ready to attend the college or university. Remember each college is looking for a decision about attendance on May 1 preceding fall semester.

10. Is U-M truly test-optional? Is it risky to not include them?

- a. University of Michigan is a test flexible school. Students can apply without test scores and be evaluated on the strength of their application, grades, extracurriculars and essay.

11. Do AP scores help in getting admitted to all schools (ie: 4/5s vs 3s) or should you wait until admitted and then send to schools for credit?

- a. AP scores are not considered as a part of the admissions process. However if a student scores a 4 or 5 they can be used for credit at their attending university.

12. Does not taking the AP exam impact college decisions? Does the grade impact GPA different from other classes?

- a. The AP exam does not impact some admissions decisions. Some colleges will have a space for a student to self-report scores, so they could possibly be looked at during the process. Any self-reported scores must be followed up with official reports if they are a part of the admissions process.

13. Are counselors highlighting that Pioneer was remote during 9th grade?

- a. Students will have an opportunity to express in their applications how the 9th grade year was impacted by COVID-19 .

14. When will FAFSA be available?

- a. FAFSA is currently going through a redesign process. At this time, we have been told that FAFSA will open in December of 2023.

15. Where can students find their weighted GPA?

- a. All GPAs at Pioneer are weighted GPAs. You can find this in powerschool, via the audited transcript that was sent home over the summer or via your counselor.

16. What can a student do to help a counselor write their letter of recommendation?

- a. To help counselors write the best recommendation letter, we strongly suggest students fill out the student profile and parents/guardians fill out the brag sheet (optional). You can find them linked below:
- b. [Student Profile Sheet](#)
- c. [Parent/guardian Brag Sheet](#)

17. Do you submit/ask for letters of recommendation if they are optional?

- a. Optional letters of recommendation have a very low chance of being read by college admissions staff. Any optional letters of recommendation would have to highlight something exceptional about a student that is not mentioned in the regular admissions materials.

18. Should recommendation letters only come from core subject teachers?

- a. Many colleges will specify which type of person they would like the letter to come from. We first recommend that students get recommendation letters from core teachers but also from teachers who are able to provide beneficial information to the college.

19. For TIP scholarship, if a student or family has received Medicare assistance over 15 years ago, would they qualify?

- a. Information about the TIP Scholarship can be found [at this website](#).
- b. We also encourage students to look at information about the [Michigan Achievement Scholarship](#)

20. When do you apply for scholarships?

- a. Scholarships will begin opening at all times of the year. We recommend continuing to check websites and organizations for deadlines and details. However, the majority of scholarships will open up in the winter and early spring.

21. Does Pioneer offer support, workshops, or guidance for Personal Statements/Essays?

- a. We encourage students to use our Pioneer Writing Center for support with college essays. We do not have a formal program. Teachers also support students with essay assistance.

22. Do Schools have to receive your official test scores before you submit your application?

- a. Test scores can be submitted at any time. However if a student submits a self reported score they will have to submit an official test score.

23. Are extracurricular activities outside of school acceptable to colleges or only high school sponsored activities?

- a. Yes! Colleges are looking for skills such as involvement, commitment, dedication, organization, leadership and more. This can be shown in extracurriculars (sports, clubs, volunteering, work etc) both in and outside of school.

24. With Early Action applications, does it matter if you apply earlier or just by the deadline?

- a. A student must apply by the deadline to be considered. Nov. 15 is the deadline to submit SAT or ACT test scores to Michigan if you indicated you want them considered as part of your applications to the University of Michigan.

With the FAFSA deadline being March/June but college decisions being May, can you explain how/when financial aid packages become available relative to acceptance/decision dates?

- b. Financial aid packages are completed based on when the college or university receives the FAFSA information and any additional financial information.

25. What is Coalition Application?

- a. Coalition Application is another platform that some universities use in order to track applications (much like Common App). Each specific university will specify which program you should utilize.

26. How do they enforce early action?

- a. Most Early Action deadlines are November 1, 2023 unless otherwise stated by a college or university. Please check the deadlines on the university website to determine the EA deadline.

27. How do students submit the parent brag sheet?

- a. Students can submit the parent brag sheet directly to the counselor or send it via email to their counselor.

28. Where can I find more out about senior deadlines (ie: Cap and Gown, etc?)

- a. The Senior class office and Dr. Hyliard will continue to make announcements via school messenger as we go through the school year. Some of the dates and deadlines are still being sorted out.

29. Does FAFSA account for having multiple kids in college?

- a. The FAFSA now determines the SAI (Student Aid Index) by considering how many students are in a family, but it does not discount the monies that parents are to contribute to their students' cost of attendance. Most students will have unmet needs after it is determined how much aid the family will receive.

30. If denied for Early Decision, can a student apply to the same college for general admission?

- a. No, if denied Early Decision a student **can't** apply again during that same year.

31. Can counselors advise students on appropriate schools to apply to?

- a. Counselors support students exploring a range of post-secondary options.