

# ARE YOU COLLEGE READY?

Navigating the College  
Application Process



# Acing the College Application Process

Applying to college used to be easy...you submitted an application form, and the school notified you if you were admitted.

But things have changed. These days, application requirements vary; most schools require that you submit more than just a form. The supporting documents help the admissions committee decide if you and the school are a good fit.

# DECIDING ON A LIST OF COLLEGES

- A realistic evaluation of each college's requirements for entrance (grades, standardized test scores, required high school courses)
- Location (Geographic: urban, suburban, or rural)
- Size and Type (small, medium, large)
- The availability of academic course work in which you are interested in.
  
- Make sure the school YOU decide on is a good fit for you. It should be your home for at least 4 years 😊

## Deciding on a list of colleges (cont.)

- How many schools should I apply?
- Students should submit multiple applications whenever possible. Students should apply to six schools or programs, two in each of the following:
- **Safe Schools** at which students are sure to be accepted.
- **Good Match Schools** at which students are likely to be accepted.
- **Reach Schools** at which your acceptance is not as likely.
- 3-College Visits per year. Use days off! (9/21, 10/19)
- College Representatives- Fall visits

# Application Form

- Most schools have gone to exclusively using on-line applications. Some schools allow you to submit the Common Application. The Common Application for college admission is an application you complete once and submit to several schools. Information about this form and schools that accept it is available at [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org). Make sure the information is correct and legible.

# Common Application...[www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)

- The *Common App* allows you to fill out one application and send it to any one of the 488 colleges who accept this application.
- If using the Common Application make sure you also fill out the Supplement(s) for the college you are applying to.....
  - 2 Teacher Evaluation Forms
  - Counselor School Report
  - Mid-Year Report
  - Final End of the Year Report-
  - **Senior Survey MUST be returned to guidance.**



# College Application Members

**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
OHIO WESLEYAN  
OTTERBEIN UNIVERSITY  
KENYON COLLEGE  
XAVIER UNIVERSITY**

# High School Transcript

- You must request copies of your high school transcript to be sent directly to the colleges to which you apply. If you earned college credit in high school you must request a transcript from the college you attended as well.
- Transcripts show classes you have taken and grades earned. Committees will look at your overall grades and the progress you have made.



# Procedure for Requesting a Transcript

- ALL college applications require a transcript!
- Go to the guidance office and see Mrs. Wallace.
- Mrs. Wallace will give you a transcript request form.
- Fill out the form and return it to her. For every transcript you request, there is a \$3.00 fee.
- All transcripts are then automatically mailed directly to the colleges of your choice.

# Standardized Test Scores

- Most colleges and universities require that you submit SAT/ ACT and AP test scores. Test scores help admissions committees measure your probable success in college. Some schools take your highest composite score, while others take the best combination of scores from different sections. Contact each school to which you are applying to see how they consider scores.
- In many instances, scores need to come from the testing company.

# ACT / SAT Dates

- ACT:
  - September 8th
  - October 27<sup>th</sup>- Required to upload a picture of yourself starting Oct.
  - December 8th
  - February 9th
  - April 13th
  - June 8th
  - \$50.50 with writing    \$35.00 without writing
  - The ACT test is knowledge based, and they do not penalize you if you guess.
  
  - Register on line at: [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) CEEB: 365431  
College Entrance Examination Boards

# ACT / SAT Dates

- SAT
    - October 6th
    - November 3rd
    - December 1st
    - January 26th
    - March 9th
    - May 4th
    - June 1st
- \$50.00 per test

The SAT Test is more reasoning, and they penalize you if you guess.

Register on line at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) CEEB:365431

# Letters of Recommendation

- Depending on a school's requirements you may need to get a letter of recommendation(s). The *Common App* requires that your recommender complete the evaluation on-line. You need to include the recommender's e-mail as part of your application.
- Give your recommender a resume' of your accomplishments so that he/she may write a letter of recommendation for you. Be sure to give your teacher/administrator advance notice of the application deadline. The letter should include your full name, in what capacity he or she knows you, and the length of time he/she has known you. The person should comment on your capabilities and character.

# Who Should Write Letters of Recommendations

- Administrators
- Teachers
- Guidance Counselors
- Coaches
- Employers
- Ministers
- Any adult that knows you well

# Personal Essay

- Writing a personal college admission essay may be the toughest and most time-consuming document to put together. It is important to find your voice because this is the chance for the committee to get to know you beyond numbers. Read the questions carefully and follow the directions.

# Choose Your College Admission Essay Topic Carefully ~ Get Noticed!

- You will want to brainstorm ideas
  - Talk about what makes you special
  - Elaborate on what you have learned or how you have changed because of the experience.
- Create rough drafts
- Have others proofread your essay. (English teachers are excellent resources)
- Writing Lab is available 3<sup>rd</sup> Pd. ~ Denney ~ 1325  
4<sup>th</sup> Pd. ~ Starkey ~ 1121



# Deadlines

- An important part of acing the college application is meeting deadlines.
- You will need to have a completed application file by the deadline, which means that all documents must be turned in by that date.
- Applications postmarked by the deadline should be fine; however, contact the school to find out what their policy is.
- Many colleges have a deadline of February 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Try to get applications done by Thanksgiving!!!

# Early Action / Early Decision Admissions

- Early Decision and Early Action both involve an earlier application deadline than the normal admissions process does and earlier notification of admissions decisions.
- An advantage of early admissions programs is that colleges and universities tend to admit a significantly higher percentage of the early applicants. So, your chances of being accepted as an early admissions candidate are better than they would be as a regular applicant.

# Early Decision

- Early decision programs are usually binding.
- Binding means that the applicant promises from the start that they will attend the school if their application is accepted. Penalties may occur if you break your commitment.

# Early Action

- Early Action programs do not ask applicants to commit to attending if they are accepted.
- Early Action gives students the benefits of early notification without the obligations of early decision.

# National Reply Date

- All students must notify each college that accepts them whether or not they are accepting or rejecting the college offer.
- National Reply Date – MAY 1, 2013

# SCHOLARSHIPS

Great websites:

[www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org) – A comprehensive web site.

[www.ed.gov/prog-info/SFA](http://www.ed.gov/prog-info/SFA) - The US Department of Education web site includes links to information about FAFSA and two web publications: Funding Your Education and The Student Guide.

[www.nasfaa.org](http://www.nasfaa.org) – The web site of the National Association of Student Financial Aid

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)-Financial - Aid Search through the web

# Financial Aid Package

- The financial aid package is contribution of gift aid, loans and work-study that a student receives.
- -Scholarships and grants are outright gifts of money. They are based on need and /or academic achievements.
- -Loans must be repaid, but most often not until after graduation. Interests rates are usually much lower.
- Work-Study is a part-time job on campus. Example, you might work in the library or as a resident advisor.

# Local Scholarships

- Local Scholarship applications will be posted on our guidance web page during the month of December.
- Please plan to come to the district's *Financial Aid and Scholarship Night* on Wednesday **December 12, 2012 at 7:00** in the South HS auditorium. Much info on financial aid, and the district's scholarship program!



# Student Meetings

- Each counselor has been meeting with seniors on an individual basis to begin/help the college process. Underclassmen are always welcome to stop in also!

# Guidance Communication

- Visit our guidance website for additional resources:
  - College information and deadlines
  - ACT / SAT Testing information
  - Scholarship information and deadlines