

COLLEGE NIGHT FOR SENIOR PARENTS

**Jesuit Counseling Center
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College admission is a match
to be made, not a prize to
be won.

- Frank Sacks, The Blake School, MN



COLLEGE APPLICATION

Purpose: Information sharing and gathering. A place holder for objective and subjective information. An opportunity to be specific and detailed, and appropriate.

Types of Apps

Institutional Application: Accessed on college's website (UO, OSU, MIT, Georgetown)

Priority Applications: Sent directly to student via mail or email (UP and Creighton)

The Common Application: Around 700 colleges and universities subscribe. Online processing allows for multiple submissions. Need to account for supplemental forms. Standard essay questions often supplemented by colleges in own form.

The Coalition Application: Offered by a coalition of over 90 institutions that have joined together to "improve the college application process for all students." Examples of coalition colleges include College of the Holy Cross, Pomona, Reed, Stanford, Princeton. The

vast majority of Coalition colleges also accept either the Common Application or their own institutional application. University of Florida is the only institution that will only accept the Coalition application. Because the Coalition Application is new and relatively untested, and the document submission process is more time-intensive for teacher recommenders, College Advisors here (and at Jesuit high schools across the U.S.) strongly advise that students continue to use the Common Application or school-specific applications for the time being.

Action Item

Start Early: Do not wait until the last minute to submit. Be complete and thorough in your application completion. Keep track of application status and do not be afraid to call or email the admission office with questions.

DEFINITIONS OF ADMISSION OPTIONS IN HIGHER EDUCATION



STUDENTS: WHICH COLLEGE ADMISSION PROCESS BEST SUITS YOU?

Non-Restrictive Application Plans

Regular Decision

DEFINITION:

Students submit an application by a specified date and receive a decision in a clearly stated period of time.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Rolling Admission

DEFINITION:

Institutions review applications as they are submitted and render admission decisions throughout the admission cycle.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Early Action (EA)

DEFINITION:

Students apply early and receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Restrictive Application Plans

Early Decision (ED)

DEFINITION:

Students make a commitment to a first-choice institution where, if admitted they definitely will enroll. The application deadline and decision deadline occur early.

COMMITMENT:

BINDING

Restrictive Early Action (REA)

DEFINITION:

Students apply to an institution of preference and receive a decision early. They may be restricted from applying ED or EA or REA to other institutions. If offered enrollment, they have until May 1 to confirm.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Students are not restricted from applying to other institutions and have until May 1 to consider their options and confirm enrollment.

Students are responsible for determining and following restrictions.

For a copy of this flyer, please visit www.nacacnet.org

Flier is available at
www.nacacnet.org

APPLICATION PLANS

- University of Oregon
 - Early Action: November 1
 - Regular Deadline: January 15
- Baylor University
 - Single-Choice Early Action: November 1
 - Early Action: November 15
 - Regular Decision: February 1

University of Oregon and Clark Honors College

Early Action: November 1

Regular Notification Deadline: January 15

Baylor University

Early Action: November 1

Single Choice Early Action: November 1 - indication of intent

Regular Decision: February 1

APPLICATION PLANS

- Santa Clara University
 - Early Decision: November 1
 - Early Action: November 1
 - Regular Decision: January 7
- Western Oregon University
 - Rolling Admissions
 - Priority Deadline: March 1

Santa Clara University

Early Decision: November 1

Early Action: November 1

Regular Decision: January 7

Western Oregon University

Rolling Application Deadline.

Apply by March 1 for priority consideration for scholarships.

FACTORS IN ADMISSION DECISIONS

- Top four factors in the college admission decision
 - Grades in college prep courses
 - Math, English, History, Science, and World Language
 - Strength of curriculum
 - Test Scores (SAT, ACT)
 - Grades in all courses

As expressed in the Bruce Poch quote I opened with, in the search for the genuine student, both objective and subjective student elements are expressed in the application.

Top four factors in the college admission decision as a result of NACAC survey of college admission directors. The top four are fairly objective.

- 1) Grades in college prep courses - Math, English, History, Science, and World Language
- 2) Strength of curriculum
- 3) Test Scores (SAT, ACT)
- 4) Grades in all courses

Many public universities and minimally selective private colleges will primarily consider objective criteria in the admission decision.

In a selective environment or if the student is shy of the colleges admission profile, both objective and subjective elements are used to

discern institutional fit and future academic and personal contributions to the campus community. This is often referred to as “Holistic Review” or “Holistic Admissions”.

We’ll now review some of the objective elements of the students application.

HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPTS

Most important: A true window into the student's academic choices and ability. Your course choices are the foundation toward your college success. HS academic challenge encourages good habits & preparation for the demands of college course work. Transcript rigor is always favorably considered in the admission review.

What an Admissions Officer will consider...

- 1) Did the student truly take advantage of the academic opportunities available to him or her?
- 2) Does the student meet our admission profile (middle 50% is available)?
- 3) How many years and grades in core academic subjects?
- 4) Did the student persist in a foreign language throughout their high school career?
- 5) Does the overall GPA approximate the level of the student's standardized test scores?
- 6) If the student presents a modest academic record, they may ask

if there are extraneous circumstances that may have impacted a student's academic progress (could result in contact by admission officer with college counselor).

- 7) In a selective environment: was the student able to take an aggressive course load and achieve exemplary grades?

Grade Trend

Colleges will look favorably upon an upward grade trend. Did the student experience personal and academic growth over the course of their early high school career? Reinforced in recommendation letters.

School Profile

The transcript is evaluated within the context of Jesuit High School and its school profile/grading scale. The school profile gives the college admission officer an insight into the grading structure, course availability, quality of faculty. The profile clearly explains the schools grade weighting policy and how a weighted cumulative GPA is configured.

Remember: In an early admission environment, it is your grades through your Junior year (as well as your senior year course selection) that are being considered in the admission decision.

Consider: Would providing the senior year first semester grades be helpful?

Action Item

SHOW TRANSCRIPT REQUEST FORM

Provide the counseling office at least two weeks notice for transcript requests. Forms on Jesuit College Advising website, Family Connection Document Library and in Counseling Center.

STANDARDIZED TESTS

ACT vs SAT: Colleges accept both. Tests are more similar now than they've ever been.

Tests are just one piece of the puzzle. Rarely do test scores alone admit or deny a student. Test scores provide a way for admission officers to compare applicants from different schools around the country. Test scores are often used in conjunction with the cumulative GPA to determine merit scholarship eligibility.

Action Item

Do not wait too long to send test scores to your prospective colleges. Sending multiple scores can benefit students with score trends and “super scoring”. Most applications, including Common Application, provide space to self-report, super score and notify of pending scores. When in doubt, call the colleges to verify if testing date is in time for receipt of score before deadline.

FACTORS IN ADMISSION DECISIONS

- Second set of factors
 - Essay or writing sample
 - Teacher recommendation
 - Extracurricular activities
 - Counselor recommendation

Second Set of Factors in Admission Decisions: expand into subjective elements of the file. Used by most private colleges and selective public universities.

Second set of factors

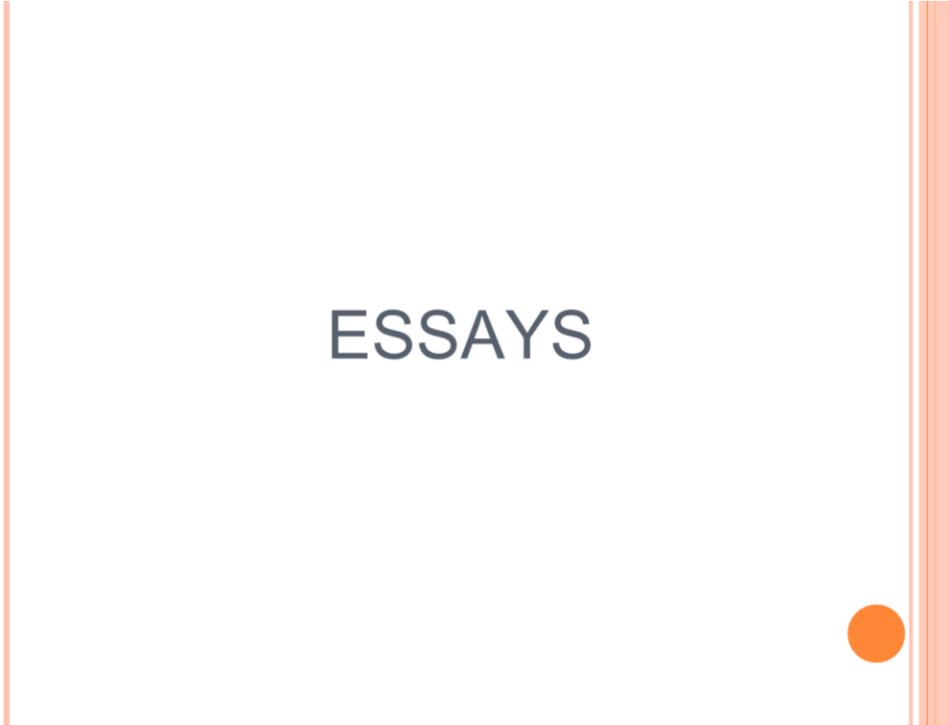
Essay or writing sample

Teacher recommendation

Extracurricular activities

Counselor recommendation

For tonight's presentation, I am going to focus on the first two admission decision factors, essays and teacher recommendations.

The page features a minimalist design with two vertical orange lines on the left and right sides. On the right side, there is a solid orange circle positioned in the lower half of the page.

ESSAYS

The essay is a wonderful opportunity for the student to apply a personal touch to their application. Many of the standardized parts of the application are well established – academic profile, standardized test scores.... The college essay – both short and long submissions – allows the student to apply a human and personal affect to their application. It is an opportunity for the student to show who they are beyond their accomplishments and academic successes.

COLLEGE ESSAYS

- Understand the Prompt
- Answer the Prompt
- Show Reflection
- Write about Themselves

Generally it is important that the student

Understand the Prompt

Answer the Prompt

Show Reflection

Write about Themselves

As parents, you can help your student reflect and articulate their personal attributes and characteristics. It is possible that from such conversations, a personal story will emerge that truly reflects those characteristics.

Rather than start with the prompt, perhaps start with the story, and then see how it might match a provided prompt.

TEACHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Not all colleges require teacher recommendations. General undergraduate applications to UO and UW do not require teacher recommendations; Most Common Application colleges require both a counselor and teacher recommendation.

Teacher recommendations provide a comprehensive insight into the students academic ability; intellectual curiosity and classroom strengths.

Teachers are asked to address what they think is important about the student including a description of academic and personal characteristics.

Students have been instructed to:

Choose carefully: Students should ask teachers from classes where they have been most engaged intellectually. Could include sophomore as well as junior/senior year. Students should consider the work they did in class, their relationship, and how their experience in the class

could fit with their college choices (was it demanding, does the subject matter reflect an intended major?). More is not better. Submit the number of recommendations required.

Ask early: This is the time to be approach teachers about recommendations. Students should be sensitive to their case load and have back up instructors in mind in the case that they are not able to accommodate your request. An affirmative conversation should include discussion regarding timing of sequence with early applications.

How can parents help? Production and organization. Provide a supply of thank you notes

SHOW ENVELOPE + RECOMMENDATION CHECKLIST + STUDENT INFORMATION SHEET

Forms on Family Connection Document Library and in Counseling Center.

OTHER FACTORS IN THE ADMISSION DECISION

- Institutional Priorities
 - Gender
 - Legacy
 - Athletics
 - Program of Study
 - Geographic Diversity
 - Contribution to Campus Community

In addition to the subjective review flavored by the admission officer's lens...other institutional priorities come into play. Parents can help students understand that many aspects of the admission process are unfortunately beyond their control.

Institutional Priorities

Gender

Legacy

Athletics

Program of Study

Geographic Diversity

Contribution to Campus Community

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FERPA

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

On all applications, students will confront questions related to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act or FERPA. The federal government has given students the right of access to confidential documents in the application process – namely teacher recommendations – that will eventually reside at the college where they will matriculate and enroll. Acknowledging the integrity of the application process, colleges give students the opportunity to waive their right of access to such confidential documents.

From the Common Application:

"Waiving your right lets colleges know that you do not intend to read your recommendations, which helps reassure colleges that the letters are candid and truthful.

Some recommenders may refuse to write a letter for you unless you waive your rights. Check with your counselor or teachers to see if any of them follow such a policy."



Why would a student choose to waive their FERPA right? From the Common Application....

The majority of Jesuit students will waive their right of access to their recommendation letters.

Parents can help students understand what FERPA is. Help them trust the process and their teachers.

THE ADMISSION DECISION

A selective decision is human, not humane.

Admission Results

Admit – Letter of admission with instructions for confirmation

Deny – welcome to follow-up with college and find out why, often precluded from sharing details

Defer – opportunity provide updated information; In a regular decision environment

Waitlist – your choice if you want to hang on, requires feedback from student, make sure you communicate, you can ask what the college's history is re: waitlist; varies from year to year.

A student's admission results will reflect their academic profile, the strength of their application, and the selectivity of the university or college. Know that as college advisors, we desire that students apply to a balanced list of colleges, including colleges where the student is likely to be admitted. College advisors can assist in that determination.

Parents can help students provide some realism to their application process by making sure that they are ready and willing to attend any college that admits them.

May 1: Aside from ED, May 1 is the commitment deadline. Hopefully by May 1 you have a nice complement of schools to review: safety, local, selective, distant, independent, public, etc.

FINANCIAL AID FOR 2017-18

- Early financial estimates from Net Price Calculators
- 2017-18 FAFSA available October 1 at fafsa.ed.gov
- Use income information from 2015 Federal taxes
- Encouraged to file during month of October
- Be aware of priority filing deadlines
- CSS Profile for some colleges

Parents can help students understand the affordability factor and if that impacts their future college choice. It is better to have that conversation now, than to wait until the admission results have been conferred.

Parents can use the Net Price Calculators at individual college websites to determine if need-based financial aid, or in some cases merit scholarships, are possibly available at the student's intended colleges. The NPC will help parents and students to determine the potential Net Price after need and/or merit scholarships have been conferred. If the student is not eligible for need and/or merit scholarships, then the Net Price will be abundantly clear.

The first step in the need based financial process is to complete the FAFSA which will now be available on October 1. Parents who have completed the FAFSA for older children may remember when the FAFSA came live on January 1. The government has moved the FAFSA release date up to October 1, now allowing families to complete

the FAFSA initially utilizing income information from the Prior Prior tax year. For the class of 2017, families can use income information from their already completed 2015 Federal taxes. A general message coming from colleges is that students and families are encouraged to file the FAFSA during the month of October to maximize federal, state and institutional funding sources.

We do encourage all first time college families to complete the FAFSA to fully explore potential aid eligibility.

In addition to the FAFSA, some colleges require a supplemental financial aid form called the CSS Profile. A review of the CSS Profile website will help you identify colleges that may require this form, in addition to the FAFSA.

COLLEGE RESEARCH

- At Jesuit
 - College Visits (Sept-Dec)
 - College Financial Aid Night (Nov 17)
 - College Planning Brown Bags (year-round)
 - College 101 (April)
- In Your Community
 - College Financial Aid Night at UP (Oct 20)
 - Receptions, Presentations, Interviews
 - College Fairs

In addition to individual visits with college advisors, there are a number of college research opportunities throughout the school year.