



Junior Night: College 101

- Sign the Document Release Form
- Take a copy of the College Planning Handbook





Agenda Overview

1. Roles in the College Application Process
2. Scoir
3. Finding the Right College
4. The ACT/SAT
5. The Application Process
6. Application Timeline
7. Financial Aid and Scholarships



Students

- Research colleges and scholarships
- Complete career assessments
- Prepare for the ACT/SAT
- Build your resume
- Keep track of login information
- Take charge of his/her application process and complete applications
- Keep up with required supplemental materials
- Communicate with teachers and admissions reps
- Ask for help!

Parents

- Keep open dialogue with your child
- Encourage and remind!
- Plan campus visits
- Complete RDS and FAFSA
- Provide support and guidance through decision-making

High School Counselor

- Provide information, communicate events and deadlines
- Guide students through the college admissions process
 - Parent/student seminars in the fall and spring
 - 1:1 meetings with students in the spring, fall, and spring
 - Meet with parents and students as needed
- Review student applications as requested
- Submit school materials needed for college applications

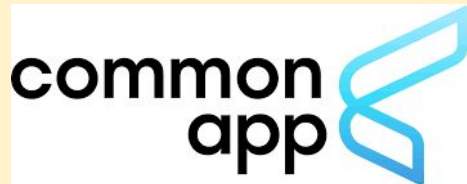


SCOIR

- **In 9th- 11th grade, students use Scoir to;**
 - ◆ Take career assessments, personality tests, and college matching quizzes
 - ◆ Research colleges and careers
 - ◆ See how many students at their school in the past were admitted to a school
 - ◆ Follow colleges they are interested in
 - ◆ Keep track of high school activities and awards and create a resume
 - ◆ See PSAT, PreACT, ACT, and SAT scores
- **In 12th grade, students use Scoir to;**
 - ◆ Track colleges they are applying to and have applied to
 - ◆ Stay organized with application deadlines and requirements
 - ◆ Request teacher recommendations and transcripts for college applications

(Although some colleges allow you to apply through Scoir, the Common App is usually more efficient for applications.)

SCOIR



Common App and Scoir are not linked. They are both needed for different purposes.

- The bulk of the student application

Supplemental materials:

- Letters of Recommendation
- Transcript
- Secondary School Report
- Counselor Evaluation
- FERPA Waiver (waives your right to view letters of recommendation or any evaluations about you)

Tracking progress of documents requested and sent.





Finding the Right College

Research

- Majors
- Size
- Location & surrounding area
- Student life
- Cost (not just sticker price)
- Academics
- Athletics
- Job placement
- Academic profile
- ...and more!

Build a balanced list

- Safety (at least 1)
- Target (2-3)
- Reach (2)

Visit

- In person or virtual
- Ask questions
- Scheduled tour or Open House
- 2 Excused Absences per year



Questions to Ask When Researching Colleges

- What is the average class size?
- What services does the school offer for the student who is undecided about a major?
- What are the most popular or strongest majors?
- Does the college offer my major of interest?
- Are there any unique programs (honors, certificate, accelerated, general studies, study abroad)?
- What is the academic profile of the college?
- Which tests (SAT/ACT/Subject Tests) are required?
- Are letters of recommendation required? How many?
- What is the surrounding community like?
- Is the college public, private, religious affiliated, HBCU?
- What are the campus security policies and procedures?
- Do most students commute or live on campus?
- What types of student activities are available?
- What opportunities are there for Christian fellowship and campus ministry?
- What athletic programs are available?
- What are the student housing options?
- How does the college offer scholarships to their students? What kinds do they offer?
- What percentage of students receive financial aid based on financial needs?



College Entrance Testing



- All juniors will take the ACT March 12th. You can retake it on your own on a Saturday.
- Scores range from 1-36 on each section. The composite score is the average of your scores on all sections. Optional writing section.
- Format
 - Reading: 35 minutes
 - Math: 60 minutes
 - Break: 15 minutes
 - Science: 35 minutes
 - English: 45 minutes
 - (Optional) Writing: 40 minutes

- Offered throughout the school year on a Saturday. Responsibility of the student to register online at collegeboard.org.
- Two sections are scored on a scale of 200-800. The overall SAT score is the sum of the two section scores and ranges from 400-1600. No writing section
- Format
 - Reading & Writing: Two modules, 32 minutes each
 - Break: 10 minutes
 - Math: Two modules, 35 minutes each (both with calculator allowed)





Notes about testing



Students can retake the ACT and/or SAT multiple times to raise their score. A suggested timeline to follow is; 1st attempt during the spring of junior year, 2nd attempt over the summer, 3rd attempt (if necessary) during the fall of senior year.

Plan ahead- Registration is about a month ahead of test date. About \$60 per test.

Students can have scores sent automatically to 4 schools for free, or you can send official score reports later for a fee.

Score choice: sending only your stronger test scores from one sitting

Super score: taking your highest section scores from different sittings and making a new composite score

Test-optional: scores are not required in order to apply

Colleges differ on score reporting policies. It is the student's responsibility to know what colleges will allow and accept at the schools where they are applying

Test Prep Resources are on page 14 of the HPCA College Handbook.

SAT and ACT Upcoming Test Dates

Test Date	Registration Deadline
Last paper SAT - December 2, 2023	November 2, 2023 (up until Nov. 21st with a \$35 late fee)
ACT - December 9, 2023	November 3, 2023 (up until Nov. 17th with a \$38 late fee)
ACT - February 10, 2024	January 5, 2024
Digital SAT - March 9, 2024	February 23, 2024
ACT - April 13, 2024	March 8, 2024
Digital SAT - May 4, 2024	April 19, 2024
Digital SAT - June 1, 2024	May 16, 2024
ACT - June 8, 2024	May 3, 2024
ACT - July 13, 2024	June 7, 2024





Types of College Application Deadlines



Early Decision

Enrollment is binding if accepted. Contract required.

October–November



Early Action

Non-binding. Decision December–February. Academic scholarships & honors colleges.

October–November



Regular Decision

Good option for students who want to retake the SAT/ACT. Decision around March.

December– February



Rolling

The earlier you apply, the earlier you hear back.

Year-round



The College Application; what is considered?

Academic rigor

- School transcript; GPA and class rank
- Rigor of curriculum; honors, AP, dual enrollment courses
- SAT and ACT scores
- Counselor evaluation (how do you fit in among your senior class?)

Personal Information

- Extracurricular activities; commitment, leadership, initiative (school activities, service, part-time job)
- Special awards or recognition
- Essay; who are you outside of your grades and activities
- Teacher letters of recommendation
- Uniqueness- how do you stand out?
- Interviews (typically only highly selective colleges)



Dual Enrollment Info Night February 8th

AP (Advanced Placement)	Dual Enrollment
<i>Both are great opportunities for students to challenge themselves and earn college credit!</i>	
AP courses are taken at HPCA and taught by HPCA faculty. Students meet with a familiar teacher in-person for 90 minutes every other day throughout the entire school year, with additional support available outside of class time.	Dual enrollment courses are often taken online with an unfamiliar instructor. Dual enrollment courses may be semester-long or year-long.
AP courses are limited to certain days and times dependent on the HPCA high school schedule.	Dual enrollment online courses offer more flexible scheduling. Online courses are often asynchronous allowing students to log on and complete work any time.
AP courses require a certain grade on the AP Exam in May for students to receive college credit.	Dual enrollment courses require a grade of a C or higher in the course to receive college credit.
AP Exams are a standard way to measure how well students have mastered the subject matter developed by the College Board.	Dual enrollment programs don't offer a standard way to measure whether students have mastered college-level work. This can make it difficult for college admissions officers to know the quality or difficulty level of any dual enrollment course.
The AP Exam fee is \$97.	Cost varies greatly depending on where students take dual enrollment courses. Classes at GTCC are tuition-free while other college courses can be \$200 or more.
Final grade is included in student's unweighted and weighted GPA calculation on high school transcript.	Final grade is currently listed on high school transcript, but not included in GPA calculation. Beginning in the 2024-2025 school year, final grade will be included in a student's unweighted GPA calculation on high school transcript.



Teacher Letters of Recommendation

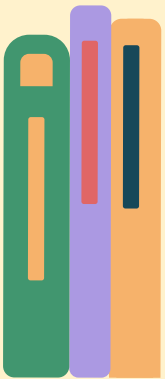
- Who should you ask?
- Give plenty of notice
- Ask in person whenever possible
- Be sure to provide recommenders with your resume
- Make sure they can speak to your character. Doesn't have to be a class where you earned an A.
- Should have at least one core academic class teacher





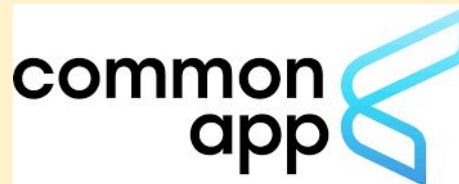
The College Essay

- Be authentic. Pick an essay topic that is important to you and demonstrates what you're passionate about.
- Essays take time. Start early and plan on several drafts. Brainstorm ideas with a teacher, parent, or friend and ask some trusted adults if they would be willing to proofread.
- Give personal anecdotes to help your writing come alive.
- Use your language and voice. Don't try to "smarten up" your essay because it is usually pretty obvious to readers.
- Be sure to address the question asked.
- Respect the length recommendations. The Common App essay needs to be between 250 and 650 words.
- Do not reiterate your resume.
- Avoid discussing drugs, alcohol, inappropriate behavior, relationship issues, etc.
- Some schools will ask why you chose to apply to their institution.
 - Be specific. They want to know how well you know the institution and if you are a good "fit"
 - Explain how you could benefit from the programs they offer-- and what you will bring to their campus. Do your research and show them you're applying for a reason.
 - Tell them briefly what you love about the school but don't use it as a chance to flatter the school and tell them what they already know.
 - If what you have written can be said about another school, it's too general.



Filling out College Applications

- Opens August 1st
- Gather materials ahead of time (transcript, resume, test scores)
- Avoid careless mistakes
- No need to rush
- Stay organized and monitor your email
- Digital Footprint- “Check yourself before you wreck yourself”
- College Application Week

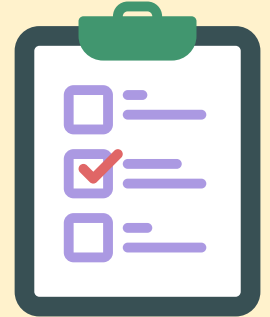


- Time efficient
- Some schools have supplemental questions
- Activity Section
 - ◆ Activity type
 - ◆ Organization name
 - ◆ Position
 - ◆ Details, honors won, accomplishments
 - ◆ Hours spent per week
 - ◆ Weeks spent per year





There are many parts to the college application. Stay organized with school-specific required materials and deadlines.





Residency Determination Service



- In order to receive in-state tuition at UNC system schools, you must complete the RDS.
- Students and parents will go to ncresidency.org and answer questions based on parents residency. Parents need to provide 3 legal documents to prove residency for the last full year (tax information, pay stubs, vehicle registration, drivers license, voter registration).
- You will receive a 9-digit RDS number.
- Students need to add this number to college applications to ensure eligibility for in-state tuition and certain scholarship opportunities.



Timeline: Junior Year- FALL

- ❑ Keep your grades up
- ❑ Take the PSAT in October
- ❑ Begin ACT/SAT test prep
- ❑ Begin building your resume
- ❑ Use Scoir for career assessments, college research and matching tools, and personality tests





Timeline: Junior Year– SPRING

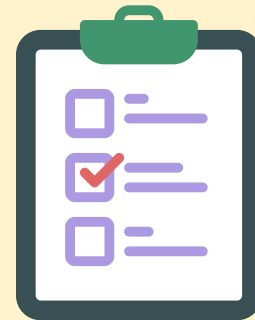
- Take the ACT March 12th at HPCA
- Schedule the SAT in March, May, or June
- Build and/or begin to narrow down college list
- Plan college visits
- Think about teachers who will write your letters of recommendation
- Choose challenging courses for senior year
- Update resume for recommenders





Summer between Junior and Senior Year

- ❑ Finalize list of colleges you plan on applying to
- ❑ Go on campus tours (in person or virtually)
- ❑ Study for and retake the SAT and/or ACT
- ❑ Brainstorm and complete first draft of college essay (see resource in HPCA College Handbook)





Fall of Senior Year

- Know application deadlines and application requirements
- Create Common App account
- Update Scoir with colleges applying to
- Schedule the SAT/ACT one last time if needed
- Ask teachers to write letters of recommendation and make request through Scoir
- Complete the FERPA waiver in Scoir
- Finalize essays
- Send score reports
- RDS
- Submit applications and celebrate!
- FAFSA





Financial Aid & Scholarships

FAFSA- Free Application for Federal Student Aid- Families report income and tax information from two years prior. Students become eligible for federal student aid programs. Some colleges use the FAFSA to determine if a student is eligible for other school-sponsored need-based scholarships.

School Specific and Merit-Based Scholarships. Check websites for applications.

Outside scholarships- local, regional, national. Scholarship search websites in HPCA College Handbook.

NC Promise- \$500 per semester at Elizabeth City State University, Fayetteville State University, UNC Pembroke, and Western Carolina University.

Reduced Tuition Programs- UNC Chapel Hill, Duke, Warren Wilson College

FELS, Teaching Fellows- forgivable loans for students who commit to working in a high-need area

ROTC- up to 100% of tuition with an obligation to serve in the military after graduation. Each branch's program requirements vary.





College-bound Student Athletes

- Focus on academics
- Research colleges to ensure a good match
- Create highlight videos and build a social media presence
- Email coaches
 - ◆ Introduce yourself
 - ◆ Share resume and highlight video
 - ◆ Share upcoming game schedules
 - ◆ Ask about camps
- Recruiting Questionnaires on college websites

- NCAA.org. Students must create an account with the NCAA Eligibility Center for Division I and II colleges
- Varsityedge.com- a useful resource for the recruitment process





THANKS!

Questions?

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