



Senior Year: The College Application Process & Beyond

Leah O'Connor, Director of School Counseling

Topics Covered

College
Application
Timeline

SAT vs. ACT test
scores

Step by Step
College Process
Checklist

Naviance

Common
Application

Recommendations

The College
Essay

Scholarships

Event Calendar

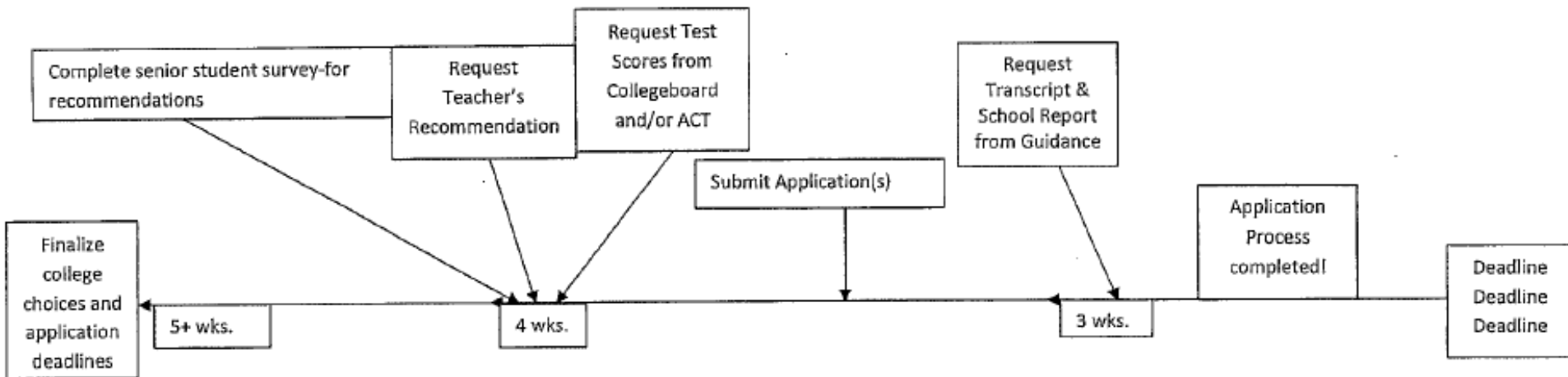
FAFSA

The Undecided
Senior

Resources Review

***Review of what your child's school counselor has done so far to assist your child in the post-secondary planning process**

College Timeline & The Application Process Check List



***Work backwards—
consider deadlines before
planning out other steps!***

Navigating Naviance

The screenshot displays the Naviance website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with tabs for 'home', 'colleges', 'careers', 'about me', and 'my planner'. Below this, the 'colleges' tab is active. On the left side, there are sections for 'my colleges' with links like 'colleges I'm thinking about' and 'colleges I'm applying to', and a 'links' section with links for 'sat registration', 'act registration', 'college scorecard', and 'common application'. The main content area features a 'what's new' section titled 'what's new' with a list of college visits: 'University of Hartford' on Friday, October 14th at 9:30 am, 'Newbury College' on Thursday, October 13th at 12:30 pm, and 'Roger Williams University' on Thursday, October 13th at 10:00 am. Each entry includes a small icon and a link to 'more info / register'. Below this list is a link for 'more since last visit'. On the right side, there is a banner for the 'Naviance Student' mobile app available on the App Store, and a notification box stating 'You have 3 new messages' with links to 'document library' and 'contact us'. At the bottom, a 'Welcome!' message is displayed, followed by a welcome text for the Waterford Guidance Office Family Connection page.

home colleges careers about me my planner

my colleges

- colleges I'm thinking about
- colleges I'm applying to

links

- sat registration
- act registration
- college scorecard
- common application

what's new

- University of Hartford will be visiting your school on Friday, October 14th at 9:30 am [more info / register](#)
- Newbury College will be visiting your school on Thursday, October 13th at 12:30 pm [more info / register](#)
- Roger Williams University will be visiting your school on Thursday, October 13th at 10:00 am [more info / register](#)

[more since last visit](#)

Welcome!

Welcome to the Waterford Guidance Office Family Connection page!

[https://connection.naviance.com/family-connection/colleges/](#)

Get the mobile app
Naviance Student
Available on the
App Store

You have 3 new messages

[document library](#)

[contact us](#)

An interactive Approach

<https://connection.naviance.com/family-connection/>

The Common Application

PRACTICE ACCOUNT



Welcome, Yuan-Yuan!

[Practice Applicant Usage Tips PDF](#)

CAID 14281040

lanceraction@gmail.com



Dashboard

My Colleges

Common App

College Search

Financial Aid Resources

Dashboard

Application Requirements

Sort by: College Name ▼

Adelphi University

[Add your term or admission plan](#)

Application – In progress



Show more details ▼

Babson College

[Add your term or admission plan](#)

Application – In progress

Writing Supplement – In progress



Show more details ▼

Bryant University

[Add your term or admission plan](#)



Instructions and Help



I already submitted, can I change some of my answers?

You can return at any time and change your answer to any question in the Common App tab for future [Read more](#)

How many colleges can I add to my Dashboard?

The Common Application member colleges have stipulated that applicants may add up to 20 colleges. [Read more](#)

How can I view a college's Writing Supplement, if they have one?

There are two ways you can access a college's Writing Supplement.

<http://www.commonapp.org/>

The Essay

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story. [No change]
2. The lessons we take from *obstacles we encounter* can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a *challenge, setback, or failure*. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience? [Revised]
3. Reflect on a time when you *questioned* or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your *thinking*? What *was the outcome*? [Revised]
4. Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma - anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution. [No change]
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or *realization* that *sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others*. [Revised]
6. *Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?* [New]
7. *Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.* [New]

Scholarship Search

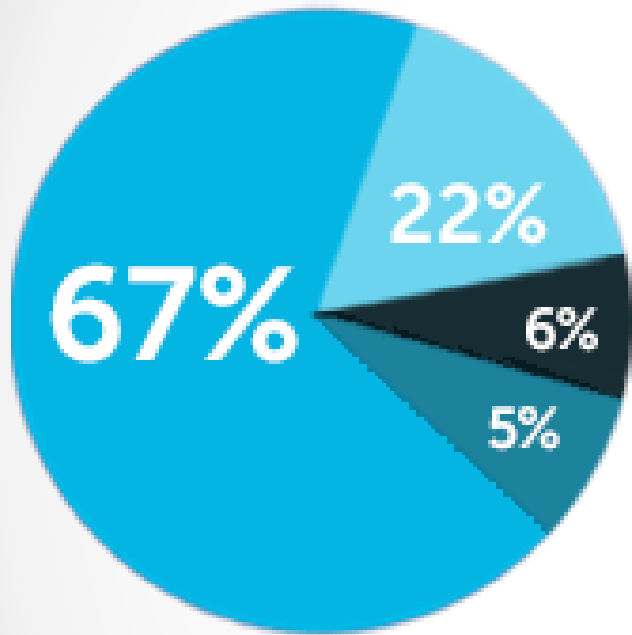
Browse by category: (select category) ▼

Go

☐ Only show scholarships added or updated

<u>Name</u>	<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Maximum Award</u>	<u>Merit Based</u>	<u>Need Based</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Elks National Foundation Most Valuable Student Scholarship	12/6	Various	X	X
<input type="checkbox"/> JOE CLERES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP	3/1	\$500 to \$1,500	X	
<input type="checkbox"/> 100 Years of Women Scholarship Award	2/26	\$1,000	X	X
<input type="checkbox"/> 2016 CT BBB Student Ethics Award	-	N/A	X	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2016 Student -View Scholarship Program	4/22	4000		
<input type="checkbox"/> Abbott & Fenner Scholarship Program	6/10	1,000		
<input type="checkbox"/> ACT HS Poster Concept Contest	1/30	5,000	X	
<input type="checkbox"/> AES Scholarship	10/6	N/A	X	
<input type="checkbox"/> AFT Connecticut - Scholarship Program	4/1	N/A	X	X
<input type="checkbox"/> AGC/CT Scholarship	3/31	5,000	X	
<input type="checkbox"/> Aimetti Award	4/30	500.00		
<input type="checkbox"/> Air Force ROTC High School Scholarship Program	12/1	Full tuition and expenses		
<input type="checkbox"/> AL NEUHARTH FREE SPIRIT SCHOLARSHIP	10/15	50,000		

Sources of Financial Aid



More than \$183.8 billion in financial aid was available to undergraduates in 2016-17. Financial aid comes from many sources:

- Federal government grants, loans and other aid: 67%
- College grants/ scholarships: 22%
- Private and employer grants/scholarships: 6%
- State government grants/scholarships: 5%

What if my senior is undecided?

- **A GAP year?**
 - Savings on college tuition, loans, etc.
 - Internship or job exploration with a plan
 - 72% of American workforce is disengaged from their jobs ('A Parent's Guide to the Gap Year') → a planful Gap year
 - Mark Lindquist (Ted Talk): "the most uniformed decision we'll ever make is where we're forced to choose our college major"
 -
- **The "more doors open" concept: apply to a 'back-up' *now* and *decide later* in the spring**
- **Employment**
- **Military**
- **Trade related training (e.g. New England Tech, Lincoln Institute, etc.) – benefit of student "seeing" a trade**



How Counselors Support Seniors

- Senior Application Lesson (September)
- “Remind” & Naviance communications (ongoing)
- Activity Thursday
- Announcements of College Visits
- Helping seniors destress, decompress, and get through the deadlines – focus on Coping Tips (handout)
- E-docs support
- Individual check-ins - ongoing



Additional Resources

Financial Aid & Paying for College

- FAFSA
www.FAFSA.ed.gov
- Big Future through Collegeboard
<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/financial-aid>
- College Goal Sunday
<http://www.collegegoalsundayct.org/>

Scholarships

- Naviance (great for local & CT based \$)
www.fastweb.com
- Tuition Break for CT residents
www.nebhe.org/tuitionbreak
- Specialized scholarships...
 - it can't hurt to Google it!



Event Calendar & Important Dates

Three Rivers Field trip – due tomorrow

- “Student for a Day” experience, see a class, meet students! Nov. 8th –lunch and t-shirt included. Permission slips due tomorrow in Counseling to Mrs. Leslie, counseling secretary
- Students will apply on site to Three Rivers

Counselor Coffee Chats - dates upcoming

- *your input on topics wanted!*

LTS opportunities for seniors

- Ongoing - many upcoming holiday related volunteer opportunities and amnesty period– students should see Ms. Cairns

Closing

- **Resources/tonight's handouts review**
- **Questions & Answers**
- **Thank you for coming tonight!**

