# TABLE OF CONTENTS

A MESSAGE FROM THE COUNSELING CENTER .................................................................................................................. 1

JUNIOR YEAR TO-DO LIST ................................................................................................................................................ 2

SENIOR YEAR TO-DO LIST ........................................................................................................................................... 3

STEP 1: DEFINE ................................................................................................................................................................. 4

STEP 2: RESEARCH ............................................................................................................................................................ 5

INTERNET .......................................................................................................................................................................... 5

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES ............................................................................................................................................... 5

QUESTIONS TO ASK COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES ..................................................................................................... 7

CAMPUS VISIT CHECKLIST ............................................................................................................................................. 8

STEP 3: PREPARE ............................................................................................................................................................... 9

SAT AND ACT .................................................................................................................................................................... 10

TEST PREP ....................................................................................................................................................................... 10

TEST OPTIONAL SCHOOLS ............................................................................................................................................. 10

SAT/ACT TEST AND REGISTRATION DATES .................................................................................................................... 11

SAT SUBJECT TESTS ...................................................................................................................................................... 12

Compare the New SAT to the ACT .................................................................................................................................. 13

Old SAT/ACT EQUIVALENTS (New SAT To Be Determined) .......................................................................................... 14

STUDENT AUTOBIOGRAPHY ........................................................................................................................................... 15

PARENT FEEDBACK ...................................................................................................................................................... 16

COMMACK HIGH SCHOOL REQUEST FOR TEACHER RECOMMENDATION ................................................................. 17

ACTIVITIES ...................................................................................................................................................................... 18

SAMPLE ACTIVITY RESUME ........................................................................................................................................ 19

THE COLLEGE ESSAY .................................................................................................................................................... 20

INFORMATION FOR STUDENT ATHLETES ...................................................................................................................... 21

STEP 4: APPLY ................................................................................................................................................................. 22

GENERAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES ....................................................................................................................... 22

THE COMMON APPLICATION ......................................................................................................................................... 23

MATCHING COMMON APP TO NAVIANCE FAMILY CONNECTION ................................................................................... 24

APPLYING TO SUNY ........................................................................................................................................................ 25

APPLYING TO CUNY ...................................................................................................................................................... 29

COLLEGES CLOSE TO HOME ........................................................................................................................................ 30

COMMACK HIGH SCHOOL APPLICATION PROCESSING REQUEST ............................................................................. 32

MEETING COLLEGE COSTS ........................................................................................................................................... 33

FEDERAL STUDENT AID ................................................................................................................................................ 33

SCHOLARSHIPS ............................................................................................................................................................ 35

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES .......................................................................................................................................... 36

A WORD ABOUT SOCIAL MEDIA .................................................................................................................................. 37
A MESSAGE FROM THE COUNSELING CENTER

It's Not Complicated
If you take the college admission process step by step, stay organized, don't procrastinate, and have fun with it, everything will fall into place.

Step 1: Define
What are you looking for in a college?

Step 2: Research
Find schools that match your criteria.

Step 3: Prepare
Gather and organize information you need to complete applications.

Step 4: Apply
Submit applications online and complete your file.

Step 5: Decide
Compare admission and financial aid offers and decide where you will go.
JUNIOR YEAR TO-DO LIST
Adapted from NACAC Preparing for College: Junior Checklist (www.nacacnet.org)

August/September/October
- Enroll in high school courses that strengthen your academic record.
- Keep track of your accomplishments, activities, and work experiences. This will be part of your college application.
- Take the PSAT, given in school to all juniors in October.
- Begin to identify what you want in a college.

November/December/January
- Attend your Junior Class Meeting
- Attend Junior College Planning Night
- When you get your PSAT scores, use the access code found on your score report to sign in to My College Quick Start to review results and see projected SAT scores.
- Schedule a Junior Planning Conference so you, your parents, and counselor can discuss your specific goals.
- Meet with your counselor to plan your senior schedule. Enroll in the most challenging courses for which you are qualified.
- Register for the SAT and/or ACT.
- Attend NCAA Night if you are considering playing sports in college.

February/March/April
- Develop a preliminary list of colleges that interest you. Begin taking a more serious look at them and gather information about academics, financial aid, and campus life.
- Attend CHS College Day, CHS College and Career Fair, regional college fairs, and college open houses to learn as much as you can about colleges.
- Schedule campus visits and open house programs.
- Attend CHS Junior College Planning Workshops
- Take SAT, SAT Subject Tests (if applicable), and/or ACT.

May/June
- If you still need to do so, take SAT, SAT Subject Tests (if applicable), and/or ACT
- Review college applications to see what information they require.
- Ask two teachers (no more) if they agree to write a recommendation for you
- Submit autobiography, parent feedback, and activity resume to your counselor by the end of the school year.

Summer
- Continue examining potential colleges.
- Start working on applications. Common App and individual college applications are usually online by the beginning of August.
- Begin writing your essay(s).
SENIOR YEAR TO-DO LIST
Adapted from NACAC Preparing for College: Senior Checklist (www.nacacnet.org)

August/September
- Create a Common Application Account and complete the FERPA agreement
- Match your Naviance Family Connection account to your Common App account
- Review your transcript and report suspected errors to your counselor
- Register for the SAT and/or ACT if you did not take it as a junior, or if you want to improve your score.
- Attend your Senior Class Meeting to review college application procedures.
- Attend Scholarship Information Evening
- Meet with college representatives who visit CHS during the fall, attend CHS College Day, and visit campuses.
- Create a checklist and calendar to chart application, Counseling Center, and financial aid deadlines.
- Check Naviance to see if your teacher recommendations are on file. Follow up with them if they are not.
- Check to see if any of your colleges require the CSS/Financial Aid Profile and register for it if they do.

October/November
- Meet with you counselor to go over your progress and discuss any questions.
- Finalize your college essay and ask your counselor to review it.
- Check Counseling Center Scholarship Bulletins frequently to see if you are eligible for anything publicized and apply.
- Submit applications
- Follow the Counseling Center's application processing policies and procedures; pay special attention to deadlines!
- Go to SAT and/or ACT websites and request official score reports to colleges
- Notify your counselor as you receive admissions decisions.

December
- Attend NCAA Night if you are considering playing sports in college.
- The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) will be available this month, but you cannot complete it before January 1.
- Review it and compile information you will need to file.
- Register for the January SAT (If needed). It is the last SAT colleges will be able to consider for a senior.

January
- If necessary, register for the February ACT (some colleges will still consider it).
- See the CHS application processors to request mid-year transcripts for any college that requests them.
- Attend Financial Aid Night.
- File the FAFSA no later than Feb 1. The sooner you complete it, the sooner you will have an idea of your financial aid options. Your Student Aid Report (SAR) should arrive four weeks after the FAFSA is filed.

Feb/March/April
- No Senioritis! Colleges can, and do, revoke acceptances if your grades drop.
- Review your acceptances, compare financial aid packages, and visit your final choices..

May
- Send tuition deposit to the college you plan to attend by the postmark date of May 1 and notify other schools that you will not attend. Deposit to only one school!
- Complete your Senior Survey and indicate which college you will attend so the Counseling Center can send them your final transcript. Notify the Counseling Center if you change your mind after completing the survey to be sure the right college gets your transcript.
STEP 1: DEFINE

What are you looking for in a college?

Academics
- Majors
- Programs
- Level of Challenge
- Style of Instruction

Campus and Community
- Location
- Setting
- Size
- Facilities
- Campus Life

Selectivity
- Admitted Student Profile
- Acceptance Rates

Results
- Retention & Graduation Rates
- Career Advising
- Job and Graduate School Placement
- Net Cost
STEP 2: RESEARCH

INTERNET

Naviance Family Connection

- Identify college preferences and career goals through surveys
- Complete a college search
- Develop a prospective college list
- Compare colleges
- Compare your qualifications to recent CHS application results
- View list of colleges visiting CHS
- Links to selected third party resources (College websites, Financial Aid, NCCA, etc.)
- To login go to: https://connection.naviance.com/family-connection/auth/login/?hsid=commack
  - Contact the Counseling Center for new account registration or help logging in to existing account.

Other College Research Websites

- College Score Card: www.whitehouse.gov/issues/education/higher:
education/college: score: card
- College Navigator: nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator
- College Data: www.collegedata.com
- Big Future: www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org
- College Prowler: www.collegeprowler.com
- In Like Me – www.inlikeme.com
- College Express – www.collegexpress.com
- College Majors – www.collegemajors101.com
- Petersons – www.petersons.com
- College View – www.collegeview.com
- College Results Online – www.collegeresults.org
- Unigo – www.unigo.com
- Best College Fit – www.bestcollegefit.com
- Youniversity – www.youniversity.com
- Fairtest – www.fairtest.org

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
CHS COUNSELING CENTER

- College Information Sessions
  - Small group presentations by college admissions representatives during school day
- Junior Planning Conferences
  - Student, parents, and counselor meet to discuss future plans
- College Days
  - October and March during school day
  - Approximately 50 colleges represented
- College and Career Fair
  - April evening program
  - Approximately 130 colleges and careers represented
- College Planning Workshops for Juniors
  - Spring semester during school day

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS OFFICES

- Campus Visits, Information Sessions, and Open House Programs
- Website, Publications, Blogs and Social Media
- Interviews (if available)
- Regional Information Sessions and College Fairs
- Virtual Tours

OTHER

- College alumni
- Current college students
- Guidebooks
QUESTIONS TO ASK COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES

Students
- How would you characterize the majority of students?
- What do students like most about the college? Like least?
- Has the student government made any real contribution to the school? How do you get into student government?
- What issues concerned students last year? How did the administration react? What was the resolution?

Social Life and Campus Activities
- What do students do for fun?
- What is the role of fraternities and sororities on campus?
- What role do team sports play in the social life of the college?
- Is there a good balance of academics, social life, and extracurricular activities?
- What were the social or cultural highlights last year?
- What is the role of the campus newspaper?

Campus Facilities

Housing and Dining
- Is there something I should know about housing that would help me in my choice?
- What are the types of food plans? All you can eat? Vegetarian? Kosher?

Activity Centers and Athletic and Recreational Facilities
- What kinds of facilities does the student center have? How would you rate the fitness center?

Health, Career Counseling, Special Student Services, and Security
- Is there a doctor, nurse, psychologist, or career counselor on campus? What is the waiting period for appointments?
- How good is the security on campus? Do students feel safe on campus?

Library
- What have been students’ experiences with the library? Is it well equipped?

The Community Off-Campus
- What is there to do in town? How would I get there?

Academics and Faculty
- What is distinctive about the education here?
- What is the most popular major on campus and why?
- Do you think that students are generally enthusiastic about their classes?
- How would you characterize the academic pressure and workload?
- Are there research possibilities with the faculty?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of the advising system?
- What is the quality of student and faculty relationships
- Are there any new programs next year? Are there any current programs that will not exist?

Source: College Counseling Sourcebook 2008, The College Board
How to Make the Most of Your Trip
When planning your campus visits, make sure to allow time to explore each college. While you are there, talk to as many people as possible. These can include college admission staff, professors and students. Below are some other things you can do while visiting. Note that some activities, such as meeting with an admission officer or staying overnight in a dorm, might need to be set up in advance.

Gather Information
- Find out what you need to do to apply and see if the college’s class and major offerings are what you want:
- Take part in a group information session at the admission office.
- If available, schedule an interview with an admission officer.
- Pick up financial aid forms.
- Sit in on a class that interests you. If classes are not in session, just see what the classrooms are like.
- Meet a professor who teaches a subject that interests you.
- Talk to students about what they think of their classes and professors.
- Get the names of the people you meet and their business cards so you can contact them later if you have questions.

Explore the Campus
- Get a feel for student life and see if this college is a place where you will do well:
- Take a campus tour.
- Talk to current students about life on campus and the college.
- Check out the freshmen dorms and stay overnight with a student, if possible.
- Visit the dining hall, fitness center, library, career center, bookstore, and other campus facilities.
- Talk to the coaches of sports that you may want to play.
- Walk or drive around the community surrounding the campus.

Check Out Campus Media
- Tune in to learn what’s happening on campus and what’s on students’ minds:
- Listen to the college radio station.
- Read the student newspaper.
- Read other student publications, such as department newsletters, alternative newspapers, and literary reviews.
- Scan bulletin boards to see what daily student life is like.
- Go to the career center and learn what services it offers.
- Browse the school’s website and any campus blogs.

Questions to Ask Students
- What are the best reasons to go to this college?
- What do you do in your free time and on weekends?
- What do you love about this college?
- What do you wish you could change about this college?
- Why did you choose this college?
- What is it like to live here?
STEP 3: PREPARE

- Choose challenging senior year courses
- Take SAT and/or ACT and SAT Subject Tests (if required)
- Submit Student Autobiography, Parent Feedback, and Activity Resume to counselor
- Identify schools to which you will apply
- Request two teacher recommendations
- Begin essay(s)
- Review activities and choose which to report on applications
- Gather information requested on applications
- If you plan to play NCAA Division I or Division II sports, register for the NCAA Eligibility Center
SAT AND ACT

It is the student’s responsibility to register for SAT and/or ACT Exams.

To register online:

SAT and SAT Subject Tests
• http://sat.collegeboard.org/register
• Commack High School CEEB Code: 331-453
• Commack High School Test Center Code: 33-336

ACT (Take with Writing)
• http://www.actstudent.org/regist/
• Commack High School Code: 331-453
• Commack High School Test Center Code: 181210

To register by mail
• SAT, SAT Subject Tests, and ACT paper applications are available in the Counseling Center.

It is the student’s responsibility to send official SAT and/or ACT Scores to colleges.

To report scores

SAT and SAT Subject Tests
• http://sat.collegeboard.org/scores for SAT and SAT Subject Tests

ACT
• http://www.actstudent.org/scores/send/ for ACT

TEST PREP

The following test prep opportunities are currently available to Commack High School students.

Kaplan Test Prep (www.kaplanatschool.com/commack)
• Free Online Test Prep
• Free SAT and ACT Mobile Flash Cards
• Discounted SAT and ACT Courses
• Discounted SAT and ACT Tutoring

The Princeton Review (www.princetonreview.com)
• Free Online Test Prep
• Discounted SAT and ACT Courses
• Discounted SAT and ACT Tutoring

Commack School District Continuing Education
http://www.commack.k12.ny.us/ourschools/continuinged.asp
• Evening SAT Prep Courses

TEST OPTIONAL SCHOOLS

For a complete list of colleges and universities that do not require SAT or ACT scores go to: www.fairtest.org
# SAT/ACT Test and Registration Dates

## SAT and SAT Subject Tests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spring 2016</th>
<th>Tests</th>
<th>Registration Deadline</th>
<th>Late Registration (Late Fee)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 23</td>
<td>Old SAT Subject Tests</td>
<td>December 28</td>
<td>January 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 5</td>
<td>New SAT Subject Tests</td>
<td>February 5</td>
<td>February 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Not Offered at CHS)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 7</td>
<td>New SAT</td>
<td>April 8</td>
<td>April 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 4</td>
<td>New SAT Subject Tests</td>
<td>May 5</td>
<td>May 25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Tentative Fall 2016**

- October 1
- November 5
- December 3

## ACT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spring 2016</th>
<th>Registration Deadline</th>
<th>Late Registration (Late Fee)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 9</td>
<td>March 4</td>
<td>March 5-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 11</td>
<td>May 6</td>
<td>May 7-20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Tentative Fall 2016**

- September 10 (Not offered at CHS)
- October 16
- December 10
SAT SUBJECT TESTS

What are SAT Subject Tests?
One-hour college admissions tests that give students the opportunity to demonstrate knowledge and achievement

Do all colleges require the SAT Subject Tests?
No, only a fraction of the colleges in the United States requires Sat Subject Tests.

Which schools require SAT Subject Tests?
Most selective and highly selective colleges usually require them.

How many SAT Subject Tests are required?
No school requires more than three tests. Often, only one or two are required.

What tests are available?

*English*
Literature

*History*
U.S. History
World History

*Mathematics*
Mathematics Level 1
Mathematics Level 2

*Science*
Biology E/M (Ecological/Molecular)
Chemistry
Physics

*Languages*

Reading Only
French, German, Italian, Latin, Modern Hebrew, Spanish

With Listening
Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Korean, Spanish
### Compare the New SAT to the ACT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Features</th>
<th>New SAT</th>
<th>ACT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Widely accepted</td>
<td>Almost all U.S. colleges</td>
<td>Almost all U.S. colleges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major redesign</td>
<td>2016 SAT is based on the latest research on the skills colleges value most.</td>
<td>No recent significant revisions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tests the vocabulary you'll use</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Everyday math formulas provided</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay is optional</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penalty for guessing</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free daily practice questions</td>
<td>Yes, the free mobile app, Daily Practice for the New SAT.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free comprehensive test practice</td>
<td>Yes, through Khan Academy®, with over 4,000 questions and video lessons.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free, downloadable practice tests</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile app that instantly scores paper tests</td>
<td>Yes, Daily Practice for the New SAT.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Testing time</td>
<td>3 hours + 50-minute essay (optional)</td>
<td>2 hours 55 minutes + 40-minute essay (optional)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structure</td>
<td>3 tests + optional essay</td>
<td>4 tests + optional writing test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of questions</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time per question</td>
<td>1 minute, 10 seconds</td>
<td>49 seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Score range</td>
<td>Composite 400–1600 (SAT Essay: reported in 3 dimensions, each 2–8)</td>
<td>Composite 1–36 (writing domain scores: 2–12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Test</td>
<td>65 minutes, 52 questions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing and Language Test</td>
<td>35 minutes, 44 questions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math Test</td>
<td>80 minutes, 58 questions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science Test</td>
<td>35 minutes, 40 questions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Old SAT/ACT EQUIVALENTS (New SAT To Be Determined)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SAT CR+M Range</th>
<th>ACT Composite Score</th>
<th>SAT CR+M Single Score</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1600</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>1600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1540-1590</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>1560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1490-1530</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>1510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1440-1480</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>1460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1400-1430</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>1420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1360-1390</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>1380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1330-1350</td>
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<td>1340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1290-1320</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>1300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1250-1280</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>1260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1210-1240</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>1220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1170-1200</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>1190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1130-1160</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>1150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1090-1120</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>1110</td>
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<tr>
<td>1050-1080</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>1070</td>
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<td>1020-1040</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>1030</td>
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<tr>
<td>980-1010</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>990</td>
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<tr>
<td>940-970</td>
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<td>950</td>
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<td>900-930</td>
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<td>910</td>
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<td>860-890</td>
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<td>870</td>
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<tr>
<td>820-850</td>
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<td>830</td>
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<td>770-810</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>790</td>
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<td>720-760</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>740</td>
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<td>670-710</td>
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<td>690</td>
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<tr>
<td>620-660</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>560-610</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>510-550</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>530</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
STUDENT AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Please complete this form as completely and honestly as you can. You do not have to answer a question if you feel that it does not apply to you. If there is anything that you would like me to include in my letter that you feel is important for the colleges to know about you, please feel free to add additional information.

Please type your responses on a separate sheet of paper and include in your heading:
• Your name
• E-mail address
• Counselor's name
• Names of the two teachers (no more) you will ask to write a recommendation for you. Colleges limit the number they will accept.

1. How would you describe yourself? What adjectives reflect your uniqueness?

2. How would your family & friends describe you?

3. How would your teachers describe you?

4. What do you consider to be your most significant or unique personal achievement?

5. What do you consider to be your most significant or unique academic achievement?

6. Has any summer activity, internship, job, and/or volunteer experience been of significance to you? Why?

7. Do you have any hobbies or specific interests?

8. What type of work do you hope to be doing 10 years from now? If you are not sure, what are some possible areas of interest?

9. What quote or motto best describes you or your philosophy of life?

10. Are there any special circumstances, background information, or other factors that may be relevant?
PARENT FEEDBACK

Very often, parental insight provides valuable information that is worth including in a comprehensive counselor recommendation for a student. Please take a few minutes to respond to the following questions. Your comments are appreciated.

Please type your responses on a separate sheet of paper and include in your heading:
• Student’s name
• Counselor’s name

1. What do you consider to be your child’s best personality traits? What should the whole world know about him/her?

2. If you had to describe your child with five adjectives, what would they be?

3. In what areas has your son/daughter shown the most development and growth during the high school years?

4. What do you consider unique accomplishments of your son/daughter over the past three years?

5. Are there any unusual personal or family circumstances or influences, which have affected your child’s educational experience?

6. In one sentence, summarize why a college would want your child as a part of their campus community.
COMMACK HIGH SCHOOL REQUEST FOR TEACHER RECOMMENDATION

Application Type

(Check one): Early Decision Early Action Regular Decision

Requested Due Date for Teacher to submit to Counseling Center:

Student Directions: To prepare for your teacher recommendation requests, please complete the following tasks:

- Meet with the teachers you are planning on asking and communicate why you think they should write you a letter. Complete this task at least four (4) weeks prior to the requested due date.
- Compose your responses to the following prompts/questions.
- Thank your teacher!
- Provide your teacher with the CHS Teacher Evaluation Form or the form specific to the college to which you are applying.

These questions must be answered completely to be considered for recommendation. Thorough responses demonstrate your ambition to be a successful college candidate. Choose at least three (3) of the questions below. Retype the question or use another sheet of paper and answer each one in a well-developed, organized paragraph.

1. Explain why this recommendation should be written for you. List three adjectives to describe yourself as a student in this class. Provide examples to illustrate them. (You may not use hardworking, respectable, and dedicated.)
2. As you consider the required reading for this class, which did you enjoy? Why?
3. Describe the best piece of work (paper, lab report, oral presentation, group project, etc.) completed in this class.
4. Explain a particular moment or experience that challenged you in this class.
5. Describe a particular instance when you were a strong collaborator in a group project.
6. Cite an instance when you were an effective communicator in this class? In a written assignment? In an oral presentation?
7. Describe a particular assignment or skill in which you excelled during the year. Why do you think you reached success in these areas?
8. In retrospect, what could you have done to make this class more meaningful to you?
9. Write one paragraph about what makes you unique in comparison to other students with similar achievement.
10. Evaluate your time management skills and your daily preparation for this class.

Teacher Information: Your unique observation of this student is an integral component of the college application process. In accepting this task, please be aware that this student has a deadline for all application materials indicated above. Upon completion of your letter, please upload your letter and Teacher Evaluation in Naviance. Letters for upcoming year can be uploaded in August upon receipt of notification from the Counseling Center.
ACTIVITIES
Most college applications include a section for you to report your activities. If there is not enough room to tell them about everything, they may consider your Activity Resume as long as it provides meaningful information not found elsewhere in your application.

The Counseling Center asks you to submit a resume for your file. It will give your counselor information that may help with their recommendation and provide information for scholarship applications. The Counseling Center does not send resumes to colleges. Students must do so themselves.

Common Application
The Common Application includes a section to report Honors and another section to report Activities

Honors
Use this section to report up to five (5) honor society memberships, honors or awards and provide the following information for each.

- Title
- Grade Level
- Highest Level of Recognition (School, State/Regional, National, or International)

Activities
Students may report up to ten activities and must provide the following information for each. It may be necessary to group similar activities together to stay within the ten-activity limit.

Activity Type
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic</th>
<th>Debate/Speech</th>
<th>Music: Vocal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Art</td>
<td>Environmental</td>
<td>Religious</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athletics: Club</td>
<td>Family Responsibilities</td>
<td>School Spirit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athletics: JV/Varsity</td>
<td>Foreign Exchange</td>
<td>Science/Math</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career Oriented</td>
<td>Foreign Language</td>
<td>Student Government/Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Service (Volunteer)</td>
<td>Journalism/Publication</td>
<td>Theater/Drama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer/Technology</td>
<td>Junior R.O.T.C.</td>
<td>Work (Paid)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural</td>
<td>LGBT</td>
<td>Other Club/Activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dance</td>
<td>Music: Instrumental</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Position/Leadership

Participation
- Grade Level(s); Timing of participation (School, Break, or Year); Hours spent per week; Weeks spent per year; Plans to participate in college
- Details, honors won, and accomplishments (150-character limit)
- Club/activity name(s) and other pertinent details
## SAMPLE ACTIVITY RESUME

For Counseling Center use and scholarship application reference only

Earl Y. Action  
1 Main Street  
Commack, NY  
eaction@gmail.com

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<tr>
<td>Commack High School, Commack, NY</td>
<td>10-12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Northport High School, Northport, NY</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Honors and Awards</th>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Commack High School Honor Roll</td>
<td>10-12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology Honor Society Secretary</td>
<td>11-12</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>X</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Athletics</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHS Varsity Basketball Point guard</td>
<td>11-12</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christ the King Basketball League Point guard MVP</td>
<td>9-12</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Service</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gurwin Nursing Center Recreation volunteer; teach residents basic computer skills</td>
<td>9-12</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March of Dimes Annual Walk</td>
<td>10-11</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Island Harvest Food Bank Collect holiday turkeys, food, &amp; funds for the needy</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Work and Other Responsibilities</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friendly’s Busboy</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Responsibilities Weekly rotation to care for grandmother with Alzheimer’s</td>
<td>9-12</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE COLLEGE ESSAY

How Important Is It?
- The more competitive the school, the more important it is
  - Used to distinguish among equally qualified applicants
- Can “heal the sick” but it can’t “raise the dead”
  - Could make a difference for borderline applicants who don’t quite meet academic requirements
  - Will not help applicants significantly below requirements

What Do They Look For?
- Your ability to organize thoughts into a concise, coherent, and structured narrative
- Your personality, character, preferences, values, and thought process
- What you can bring to their campus
- Something they cannot learn about you from the rest of your application
- Your “story”, not a “standard 5-paragraph academic essay”

What To Avoid
- Plagiarism
- Poor grammar, usage, and spelling
- Using a generic essay the doesn’t answer the question
- Too much information
- Long list of accomplishments
- Exhaustive narrative of your hopes and dreams
- Recitation of reasons you want to attend their college
- Long-winded efforts to impress
- Words you never use in a conversation
- Flattery
- Bragging

Additional Resources
Tips for Writing an Effective Application Essay (College Board): https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org
Top Ten Tips for Writing a College Essay (National Association of College Admissions Counseling): www.nacacnet.org/studentinfo
INFORMATION FOR STUDENT ATHLETES

NCAA Eligibility Basics
Source:  http://professionals.collegeboard.com/guidance/prepare/athletes/clearinghouse

FAQs about the NCAA Eligibility Center
(http://web1.ncaa.org/ECWR2/NCAA_EMS/NCAA.jsp)

Student-athletes must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center to be eligible to play NCAA Division I or II sports in college. Athletes playing in Division III do not have to register.

What is the NCAA Eligibility Center?
The NCAA Eligibility Center certifies whether prospective college athletes are eligible to play sports at NCAA Division I or II institutions. It does this by reviewing the student-athlete's academic record, SAT or ACT scores, and amateur status to ensure conformity with NCAA rules.

What are NCAA Divisions I, II, and III?
The NCAA is the governing body of many intercollegiate sports. Each college regulated by the NCAA has established rules on eligibility, recruiting and financial aid and falls into one of the three membership divisions (Divisions I, II and III). Divisions are based on college size and the scope of their athletic programs and scholarships.

When should students register?
The NCAA recommends that student-athletes register at the beginning of their junior year in high school, but many students register after their junior year. There is no registration deadline, but students must be cleared by the Eligibility Center before they receive athletic scholarships or compete at a Division I or II institution.

How do students register?
Students must register online at the NCAA Eligibility Center. They will have to enter personal information, answer questions about their course work and sports participation outside of high school, and pay a registration fee.

Can students have the registration fee waived?
Students who have received a waiver for the SAT or ACT are eligible for a waiver of the registration fee. The student's counselor must submit confirmation of the student's test fee waiver. Go to the NCAA Eligibility Center High School Portal for more information.

What records does the Eligibility Center require?
Students should arrange to have you send their high school transcript as soon as they have completed at least six semesters of high school. The transcript must be mailed directly from their high school. They must also arrange to have their SAT or ACT test scores reported directly by the testing company to the Eligibility Center. Students can arrange this when they register for the tests.
STEP 4: APPLY

GENERAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- Create Common App account and match it to Naviance Family Connection account
- Submit applications online
- Print receipt that application was successfully submitted
- Attach receipt to Counseling Center Application Processing Request and submit to Counseling Center processors,
  - Respect Counseling Center deadlines
  - Requests processed chronologically by the date received and cannot guarantee late requests will meet college deadlines. If the
    processing deadline falls on a day when school is closed, the request is due the next school day.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College Application Deadlines is:</th>
<th>Requests Due to Counseling Center by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 1</td>
<td>October 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 15</td>
<td>October 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 1</td>
<td>November 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1</td>
<td>November 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After January 1</td>
<td>15 School Days in Advance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Processing Requests accepted Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday during designated hours. No requests accepted on
  Thursdays.
- No CHS processing fee for first 8 applications; $10 per additional; See your counselor for special circumstances waiver

Who Sends What?

- Upon receipt of Application Processing Request form and confirmation of online application submission the Counseling Center
  will send
  - Official high school transcript
  - Secondary School Report (SSR)
  - School Profile Information
  - Counselor recommendation
  - Teacher recommendations (subject to college limits)
- Student is responsible for reporting SAT and/or ACT scores to colleges.
- Student is responsible for sending any supplemental information required or accepted by the college (Ex. Portfolio, audition tapes,
  outside recommendations, activity resume)
- Upon student request the Counseling Center will send
  - Most recent grade report
  - Mid-year report (mid-February)
- In mid-July, the Counseling Centers sends a final transcript to the college the student indicated they would attend when they
  completed their Senior Survey. If their plans change after completing the survey, they must notify the Counseling Center.
THE COMMON APPLICATION

- (www.commonapp.org)
- Standardized first-year application form for use at any member institution
- Accounts valid for one academic year (August 1 – July 31); Accounts created in previous academic year are purged
- Over 500 colleges & universities
- All members: https://www.commonapp.org/Login#!PublicPages/AllMembers
- Exclusive Users - Common App only: https://www.commonapp.org/Login#!PublicPages/ExclusiveMembers

SECTION I: COMMON APP

Profile
- Contacts: Email address, phone number, mailing address
- Demographics: Religion, military service, race/ethnicity (all optional)
- Geography: Birthplace, countries lived in, language proficiency, citizenship

Family
- Household: Parent marital status, parent(s) with whom you reside
- Parent/Guardian: Name, birthplace, occupation, education, stepparent information
- Siblings: Age, grade, education

Education
- School: Current school, dates attended; counselor name, phone, and email
- History: Previous schools, dates attended, past/pending education interruptions, college courses, college assistance programs
- Academic Information: GPA, class rank, current year courses, honors and awards

Testing
- College Entrance: ACT and SAT
- English for Non-Native Speakers: TOEFL, IELTS, PTE
- Academic Subjects: AP, IB, SAT Subject Tests

Activities
- Principal Activities/Work
- Years of participation, hours per week, weeks per year, position/leadership held (50 characters), brief description (150 characters)
- Maximum 10 activities

SECTION II: COLLEGE PAGES (NOT ALL COLLEGES WILL ASK ALL QUESTIONS)

General
- Entry term, degree status, housing preference, test-optional preference,
- Scholarship and financial aid preference

Academics
- Academic interest, program(s) applying to

Contacts
- Interaction with the institution (campus visit, off-campus interview, etc.)

Family
- Family members who have attended or been employed by the institution

Evaluations
- Names of classroom teachers, coaches, other recommenders

Residence
- Required by some public institutions to determine in-state status

Signature
- Acknowledgments and affirmations

Writing Supplement
- Additional short answer or essay responses if requested by institution
MATCHING COMMON APP TO NAVIANCE FAMILY CONNECTION

- Create Common App account
- Add at least one college to Common App My Colleges
- Go to My Colleges and Complete FERPA
- Log on to Naviance Family Connection account
- Go to Colleges tab
- Click Colleges I am Applying to
- Enter e-mail address used to create Common App account
APPLYING TO SUNY

SUNY Common App Members (www.commonapp.org)
- Albany
- Binghamton
- Brockport
- Buffalo State
- Buffalo University
- Cortland
- Environmental Science & Forestry
- Fredonia
- Geneseo
- Institute of Technology
- Maritime College
- New Paltz
- Old Westbury
- Oneonta
- Oswego
- Plattsburgh
- Potsdam
- Purchase
- Stony Brook

SUNY Application (www.suny.edu)
- Alfred State
- Canton
- Cobleskill
- Delhi
- Farmingdale
- Morrisville
- Most SUNY Community Colleges (except non-participating campuses listed below)

Non-Participating Campuses
- Nassau Community College http://www.ncc.edu/admissions/apply/default.shtml
- Suffolk Community College http://www.sunysuffolk.edu/Prospects/692.asp
- Rockland Community College https://www.applyweb.com/apply/rockcc/
- Westchester Community College http://www.sunywcc.edu/admissions/admissions-application/
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campus Name</th>
<th>Early Admission</th>
<th>Early Action (EA)</th>
<th>Early Decision (ED)</th>
<th>Regular Admission</th>
<th>Total Admissions</th>
<th>Teaching Certificate</th>
<th>Honors Program</th>
<th>Time Required</th>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>ROTC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albany</td>
<td>12,929</td>
<td>1100-1350</td>
<td>24-28</td>
<td>88-94</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Grad level</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Binghamton</td>
<td>13,412</td>
<td>1240-1380</td>
<td>27-31</td>
<td>91-97</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>University at Buffalo**</td>
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<td>1080-1330</td>
<td>24-33</td>
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<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>Yes</td>
<td>Grad level</td>
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<td>Stony Brook**</td>
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<td>Yes</td>
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<td>SUNY Polytechnic Institute</td>
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<td>25-27</td>
<td>88-92</td>
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<td>Yes</td>
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<td>NYC Ceramic at Alfred University+</td>
<td>610</td>
<td>1000-1220</td>
<td>21-27</td>
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<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td>College of Optometry+</td>
<td>Graduate and Professional Degrees Only</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td>No</td>
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<td>Industrial &amp; Labor Relations</td>
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<td>29-32</td>
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<td>Downstate Medical Center (Brooklyn)</td>
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<td>--</td>
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<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Upstate Medical University (Syracuse)</td>
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<td>University Colleges</td>
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<td>Brockport</td>
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<td>20-25</td>
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<td>23-26</td>
<td>88-90</td>
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<td>New Paltz+</td>
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<td>22-26</td>
<td>84-91</td>
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<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oneonta</td>
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<td>89-94</td>
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<td>22-26</td>
<td>87-93</td>
<td>ED</td>
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<td>86-92</td>
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<td>Purchase+</td>
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<td>1010-1150</td>
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Abbreviations: A = Army, AF = Air Force, CG = Coast Guard, M = Marines, N = Navy

* Cross-registration (offered at neighboring institutions)
** Enrollment includes Health Science Centers
*** The SAT ranges above represent combined critical reading and math scores (the maximum possible total is 1600). While most campuses base admissions decisions on math and critical reading sections of the SAT, prospective students should consult with campuses of interest to determine policies regarding the SAT writing score and for students taking the ACT, if the ACT writing component is required.

+ 2014 Data
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Campus Name</th>
<th>Enrollment (full-time)</th>
<th>Honors Program</th>
<th>Phi Theta Kappa</th>
<th>ASC Participating Campus</th>
<th>Student Housing</th>
<th>ACT or SAT Scores Used for Placement</th>
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<th>English Language Options</th>
<th>RTC</th>
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* With neighboring institutions
** SUNY by Campus Foundations or Son.Structure Corporations
*** Privately owned for college students only

- 2014 Data

DEER
## APPLYING TO CUNY

### CUNY Admission Profile: Freshman Fall 2015

<table>
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<th>FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES</th>
<th>General*</th>
<th>Opportunity Programs ( SEEK/College Discovery)**</th>
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* Includes students admitted to Macaulay Honors College.  
* The mean SAT score only includes Critical Reading and Mathematics.  
* Based on students admitted to both associate and bachelor degree programs.  
* Based on the first step of a three step admission review process.  
** Available to New York State Residents only.
COLLEGES CLOSE TO HOME

Adelphi University
Stewart Ave.
Garden City  NY

Briarcliffe College (Patchogue)
22 W. Main St.
Patchogue  NY

Briarcliffe College (Bethpage)
1055 Stewart Ave.
Bethpage  NY

CUNY Brooklyn College
P.O. Box 350136
Brooklyn  NY

Dowling College
Idle Hour Blvd.
Oakdale  NY

SUNY Farmingdale
Rte. 110
Farmingdale  NY

Five Towns College
305 North Service Rd.
Dix Hills  NY

Hofstra University
100 Fulton Ave.
Hempstead  NY

LIU Post
720 Northern Blvd.
Brookville  NY

Molloy College
1000 Hempstead Ave.
Rockville Centre  NY

Nassau Community College
1 Education Dr.
Garden City  NY

New York Institute of Technology
Northern Blvd
Old Westbury  NY

New York Institute of Technology (Central Islip)
211 Carleton Ave.
Central Islip  NY

SUNY Old Westbury
Route 107
Old Westbury  NY

CUNY Queens College
65-30 Kissena Blvd.
Flushing  NY

St. John's University
8000 Utopia Parkway
Jamaica  NY

St. Joseph's College
155 West Roe Blvd.
Patchogue  NY

SUNY Stony Brook
100 Nichols Rd.
Stony Brook  NY

Suffolk Community College Ammerman Campus
533 College Rd.
Selden  NY

Suffolk Community College Eastern Campus
121 Speonk Riverhead Rd.
Riverhead  NY

Suffolk Community College Grant Campus
Crooked Hill Rd.
Brentwood  NY

Touro College of Health Sciences
1700 Union Blvd
Bay Shore  NY

Webb Institute
Crescent Beach Rd.
Glen Cove  NY
### Local College Admissions Data

**URAGHCE 2014-15 College Info/Admissions Data**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Institution</th>
<th>Admissions Test Requirement</th>
<th>SAT (Aptitude)</th>
<th>ACT (Composite)</th>
<th>SAT Subject Test</th>
<th>SAT Writing</th>
<th>SAT Evidence-Based</th>
<th>ACT Writing</th>
<th>ACT Composite</th>
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1) FEES Fall Collection 2014 (Figure are preliminary and may change prior to reporting)

2) SATs scores include SAT Reasoning, SAT Subject Test, and SAT Math scores

Key:
- A: Associate Degree (2-year degree)
- B: Bachelor’s Degree (4-year degree)
- M: Master’s Degree
- D: Doctoral Degree

---

**URAGHCE**
160 North Road, Psychology D-141, Stony Brook, NY 11794-5087

[Website] [Contact Information]
COMMACK HIGH SCHOOL APPLICATION PROCESSING REQUEST

Name (Last, First)  Counselor

E-mail Address Used on Common App  CHS Student ID

TEACHER RECOMMENDATIONS
List no more than two (2) teacher recommenders in priority order. Colleges limit the number of recommendations they accept.

1. Name
2. Name

PROCESSING DEADLINES, POLICIES, & PROCEDURES
We process requests chronologically by the date received and cannot guarantee late requests will meet college deadlines. If the processing deadline falls on a day when school is closed, the request is due the next school day.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College Application Deadlines is:</th>
<th>Requests Due to Counseling Center by</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>November 1</td>
<td>October 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 15</td>
<td>October 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 1</td>
<td>November 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1</td>
<td>November 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After January 1</td>
<td>15 School Days in Advance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

STUDENT CHECKLIST

☐ Autobiography, parent feedback, and activity resume submitted to counselor
☐ Common App Account set up and FERPA Agreement completed; Naviance account matched to Common App
☐ Teacher recommendations complete on Naviance
☐ Student is responsible for reporting SAT and/or ACT scores to colleges.
   For SAT, go to http://sat.collegeboard.org/scores. For ACT, go to http://www.actstudent.org/scores/send/
☐ Student is responsible for sending any supplemental information required or accepted by the college (Ex. Portfolio, audition tapes, outside recommendations, activity resume)
☐ No CHS processing fee for first 8 applications; $10 per additional; if financial hardship exists, see your counselor.

Please send official transcript, school report, counselor recommendation, and teacher recommendations to each of the following colleges. THE ATTACHED RECEIPT CONFIRMS THAT I SUBMITTED MY APPLICATION.

*App Type: ED = Early Decision; EA = Early Action; PRI = Priority; REG = Regular; ROLL = Rolling

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>City/State</th>
<th>Common App Y/N</th>
<th>App Type *see above</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>App Fee Charge/Check/Mailed</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I understand the policies and procedures listed above. I authorize every school that I have attended to release all requested records and recommendations to colleges to which I am applying for admission. I also authorize employees at these colleges to confidentially contact my current and former schools should they have questions about the information submitted on my behalf.

Student Signature:  Parent Signature:

Received by:  Date:
MEETING COLLEGE COSTS

FEDERAL STUDENT AID

Source: www.studentaid.gov

WHAT is federal student aid?
Federal student aid comes from the federal government—specifically, the U.S. Department of Education. Its money that helps a student pay for higher education expenses (i.e., college, career school, or graduate school expenses).

Federal student aid covers such expenses as tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, and transportation. Aid also can help pay for a computer and for dependent care.

There are three main categories of federal student aid: grants, work-study, and loans. Check with your school to find out which programs your school participates in. Information about the federal student aid programs is on page 2 of this document.

WHO gets federal student aid?

Our most basic eligibility requirements are that you must

- demonstrate financial need (for most programs—to learn more, visit StudentAid.gov/how-calculated),
- be a U.S. citizen or an eligible noncitizen,
- have a valid Social Security number,
- register (if you haven’t already) with Selective Service, if you’re a male between the ages of 18 and 25,
- maintain satisfactory academic progress in college or career school, and
- show you’re qualified to obtain a college or career school education by
  - having a high school diploma or General Educational Development (GED) certificate or
  - completing a high school education in a homeschool setting approved under state law.

Find more details about eligibility criteria at StudentAid.gov/eligibility.

HOW do you apply for federal student aid?

1) Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSASM) at www.fafsa.gov. If you need a paper FAFSA, you can get one from
   a) our website at www.fafsa.gov, where you can download a PDF, or
   b) our ED Pubs distribution center at www.edpubs.gov
   c) or toll-free at 1-877-433-7827.

2) Review your Student Aid Report (SAR). After you apply, you’ll receive a Student Aid Report, or SAR. Your SAR contains the information reported on your FAFSA and usually includes your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The EFC is an index number used to determine your eligibility for federal student aid. Review your SAR information and make any corrections or changes, if necessary. The school(s) you list on your FAFSA will get your SAR data electronically.

3) Contact the school(s) you might attend. Make sure the financial aid office at each school you’re interested in has all the information needed to determine your eligibility. If you’re eligible, each school’s financial aid office will send you an award letter showing the amount and types of aid (from all sources) the school will offer you. You can compare award letters from the schools to which you applied and see what aid you can receive from each school.
### Types of Federal Aid

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Type of Aid</th>
<th>Program Details</th>
<th>Annual Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal Pell Grant</td>
<td>Grant: does not have to be repaid</td>
<td>Available almost exclusively to undergraduates</td>
<td>2012–13: up to $5,550 (2013–14 amount not determined as of this document's publication date); Total amount may not exceed the equivalent of six years of Pell Grant funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Supplement Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)</td>
<td>Grant: does not have to be repaid</td>
<td>For undergraduates with exceptional financial need; Federal Pell Grant recipients take priority; funds depend on availability at school</td>
<td>$100–$4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant</td>
<td>Grant: does not have to be repaid unless student fails to carry out service obligation, in which case student must repay TEACH Grant as Direct Unsubsidized Loan with interest accrued (accumulated) from date grant was disbursed (paid out to student)</td>
<td>For undergraduate, post baccalaureate, and graduate students who are or will be taking course work necessary to become elementary or secondary teachers; recipient must sign Agreement to Serve saying he or she will teach full-time in designated teacher shortage area for four complete years (within eight years of completing academic program) at elementary or secondary school serving children from low-income families</td>
<td>Up to $4,000 a year; total amount may not exceed $16,000; Graduate student: Total amount may not exceed $8,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant</td>
<td>Grant: does not have to be repaid</td>
<td>For students who are not Pell-eligible due only to having less financial need than is required to receive Pell funds; whose parent or guardian died as a result of military service in Iraq or Afghanistan after the events of 9/11; and who, at the time of the parent’s or guardian’s death, were less than 24 years old or were enrolled at least part-time at an institution of higher education</td>
<td>Maximum is same as Pell Grant maximum; payment adjusted for less-than-full-time study; Total amount may not exceed the equivalent of six years of Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Work-Study</td>
<td>Money earned while attending school; does not have to be repaid</td>
<td>For undergraduate and graduate students; jobs can be on campus or off campus; students are paid at least federal minimum wage</td>
<td>No annual minimum or maximum amounts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Perkins Loan</td>
<td>Loan: must be repaid with interest</td>
<td>For undergraduate and graduate students; must be repaid to school that made the loan; 5% rate</td>
<td>Undergraduate students: up to $5,500; graduate and professional students: up to $8,000; Total amount may not exceed $27,500 for undergraduates and $60,000 for graduate students (including amounts borrowed as an undergraduate)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct Subsidized Loan</td>
<td>Loan: must be repaid with interest</td>
<td>For undergraduate students; U.S. Department of Education pays interest while borrower is in school and during grace and deferment periods (if you receive a Direct Subsidized Loan that is first disbursed between July 1, 2012, and July 1, 2014, you will be responsible for paying any interest that accrues during your grace period); student must be at least half-time and have financial need; 6.8% rate</td>
<td>$3,500–$5,500, depending on grade level; For total lifetime limit, see StudentAid.gov/sub-unsub</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct Unsubsidized Loan</td>
<td>Loan: must be repaid with interest</td>
<td>For undergraduate and graduate students; borrower is responsible for all interest; student must be at least half-time; financial need is not required; 6.8% rate</td>
<td>$5,500–$20,500 (less any subsidized amounts received for same period), depending on grade level and dependency status; For total lifetime limit, see StudentAid.gov/sub-unsub</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct PLUS Loan</td>
<td>Loan: must be repaid with interest</td>
<td>For parents of dependent undergraduate students and for graduate or professional students; student must be enrolled at least half-time; financial need is not required; Borrower is responsible for all interest; 7.9% rate</td>
<td>Maximum amount is cost of attendance minus any other financial aid student receives; no minimum amount</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SCHOLARSHIPS

Finding and Applying for Scholarships
(Source: www.studentaid.gov)

What kinds of scholarships are available?
Some scholarships for college are merit-based. You earn them by meeting or exceeding certain standards set by the scholarship-giver. Merit scholarships might be awarded based on academic achievement or on a combination of academics and a special talent, trait, or interest. Other scholarships are based on financial need.

Many scholarships are geared toward particular groups of people; for instance, there are scholarships for women or high school seniors. And some are available because of where you or your parent work, or because you come from a certain background (for instance, there are scholarships for military families).

A scholarship might cover the entire cost of your tuition, or it might be a one-time award of a few hundred dollars. Either way, it's worth applying for, because it'll help reduce the cost of your education.

How do I find scholarships?
You can learn about scholarships in several ways, including contacting the financial aid office at the school you plan to attend and checking information in a public library or online. But be careful. Make sure scholarship information and offers you receive are legitimate; and remember that you don't have to pay to find scholarships or other financial aid. Check out our information on how to avoid scams.

Try these free sources of information about scholarships:
• the financial aid office at a college or career school
• a high school counselor
• the U.S. Department of Labor's FREE scholarship search tool
• federal agencies
• your state grant agency
• your library's reference section
• foundations, religious or community organizations, local businesses, or civic groups
• organizations (including professional associations) related to your field of interest
• ethnicity-based organizations
• your employer or your parents' employers

When do I apply for scholarships?
That depends on each scholarship's deadline. Some deadlines are as early as a year before college starts, so if you're in high school now, you should be researching and applying for scholarships during the summer between your junior and senior years. But if you've missed that window, don't give up! Look at scholarship information to see which ones you can still apply for now.

How do I apply for scholarships?
Each scholarship has its own requirements. The scholarship's website should give you an idea of who qualifies for the scholarship and how to apply. Make sure you read the application carefully, fill it out completely, and meet the application deadline.

How do I get my scholarship money?
That depends on the scholarship. The money might go directly to your college, where it will be applied to any tuition, fees, or other amounts you owe, and then any leftover funds given to you. Or it might be sent directly to you in a check. The scholarship provider should tell you what to expect when it informs you that you've been awarded the scholarship. If not, make sure to ask.

How does a scholarship affect my other student aid?
A scholarship will affect your other student aid because all your student aid added together can't be more than your cost of attendance at your college or career school. So, you'll need to let your school know if you've been awarded a scholarship so that the financial aid office can subtract that amount from your cost of attendance (and from certain other aid, such as loans, that you might have been offered). Then, any amount left can be covered by other financial aid for which you're eligible. Questions? Ask your financial aid office.
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Web Sites
- Federal Student Aid: www.studentaid.gov
- FAFSA: www.fafsa.gov
- CSS Profile: http://student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile
- New York State Higher Education Services: www.hesc.ny.gov
- Fastweb: www.fastweb.com
- National Association of College Admissions Counseling: www.nacacnet.org
- National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators: www.nasfaa.org
- SallieMae: www.collegeanswer.com
- FinAid: www.finaid.org
- Fresch: www.freschinfo.com
- Hispanic Scholarship Fund: www.hsf.net
- FastAid: www.fastaid.com
- Carpedm: www.carpedm.com

Counseling Center

Information Programs
- Scholarship Information Evening (October)
- Financial Aid Night (January)

Scholarship Bulletins
- Posted on the Counseling Center web page
- Distributed in senior English classes
- Available in the Counseling Center and Library
- Available through E-Mail Notification

Sample Bulletin

<table>
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<tr>
<th>scholarship</th>
<th>amount</th>
<th>requirements</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>College Prowler</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>No essay or GPA requirement, based on a random drawing every month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MInd on my money</td>
<td>$7,500</td>
<td>If you register for a workshop you could win $7,500 just for signing up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondhand Smoke is a Killer Scholarship</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>No essay, due November 14th, <a href="http://www.dosomething.org/social-scholarshipsmoking">www.dosomething.org/social-scholarshipsmoking</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cell Phone Donation Scholarship</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
<td>Donate old cell phones, all proceeds will go toward domestic violence programs, no GPA or essay, register by November 21st, <a href="http://www.dosomething.org">www.dosomething.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recycling Scholarships</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
<td>Due by December 13th, no GPA or essay, collect at least 50 aluminum cans, <a href="http://www.dosomething.org">www.dosomething.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A WORD ABOUT SOCIAL MEDIA

The New York Times

November 9, 2013

They Loved Your G.P.A. Then They Saw Your Tweets.

By NATASHA SINGER

At Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Me., admissions officers are still talking about the high school senior who attended a campus information session last year for prospective students. Throughout the presentation, she apparently posted disparaging comments on Twitter about her fellow attendees, repeatedly using a common expletive.

Perhaps she hadn't realized that colleges keep track of their social media mentions.

"It was incredibly unusual and foolish of her to do that," Scott A. Meiklejohn, Bowdoin's dean of admissions and financial aid, told me last week. The college ultimately denied the student admission, he said, because her academic record wasn't competitive. But had her credentials been better, those indiscreet posts could have scuttled her chances.

"We would have wondered about the judgment of someone who spends their time on their mobile phone and makes such awful remarks," Mr. Meiklejohn said.

As certain high school seniors work meticulously this month to finish their early applications to colleges, some may not realize that comments they casually make online could negatively affect their prospects. In fact, new research from Kaplan Test Prep, the service owned by the Washington Post Company, suggests that online scrutiny of college hopefuls is growing.

Of 381 college admissions officers who answered a Kaplan telephone questionnaire this year, 31 percent said they had visited an applicant's Facebook or other personal social media page to learn more about them — a five-percentage-point increase from last year. More crucially for those trying to get into college, 30 percent of the admissions officers said they had discovered information online that had negatively affected an applicant's prospects.

"Students' social media and digital footprint can sometimes play a role in the admissions process," says Christine Brown, the executive director of K-12 and college prep programs at Kaplan Test Prep. "It's something that is becoming more ubiquitous and less looked down upon."

In the business realm, employers now vet the online reputations of job candidates as a matter of course. Given the impulsiveness of typical teenagers, however — not to mention the already fraught nature of college acceptances and rejections — the idea that admissions officers would covertly nose around the social media posts of prospective students seems more chilling.

There is some reason for concern. Ms. Brown says that most colleges don't have formal policies about admissions officers supplementing students' files with their own online research. If colleges find seemingly troubling material online, they may not necessarily notify the applicants involved.

"To me, it's a huge problem," said Bradley S. Shear, a lawyer specializing in social media law. For one thing, Mr. Shear told me, colleges might erroneously identify the account of a person with the same name as a prospective student — or even mistake an impostor's account — as belonging to the applicant, potentially leading to unfair treatment. "Often," he added, "false and misleading content online is taken as fact."

These kinds of concerns prompted me last week to email 20 colleges and universities — small and large, private, and public, East Coast and West Coast — to ask about their practices. Then I called admissions officials at 10 schools who agreed to interviews.

Each official told me that it was not routine practice at his or her institution for admissions officers to use Google searches on applicants or to peruse their social media posts. Most said their school received so many applications to review — with essays, recommendations and, often, supplemental portfolios — that staff members wouldn't be able to do extra research online. A few also felt that online investigations might lead to unfair or inconsistent treatment.

"As students' use of social media is growing, there's a whole variety of ways that college admissions officers can use it," Beth A. Wiser, the director of admissions at the University of Vermont, told me. "We have chosen to not use it as part of the process in making admissions decisions."
Other admissions officials said they did not formally prohibit the practice. In fact, they said, admissions officers did look at online material about applicants on an ad hoc basis. Sometimes prospective students themselves ask an admissions office to look at blogs or videos they have posted; on other occasions, an admissions official might look up an obscure award or event mentioned by an applicant, for purposes of elucidation.

“Last year, we watched some animation videos and we followed media stories about an applicant who was involved in a political cause,” says Will Hummel, an admissions officer at Pomona College in Claremont, Calif. But those were rare instances, he says, and the supplemental material didn’t significantly affect the students’ admissions prospects.

Admissions officials also said they had occasionally rejected applicants, or revoked their acceptances, because of online materials. Often, these officials said, a college may learn about a potential problem from an outside source, such as a high school counselor or a graduate, prompting it to look into the matter.

Last year, an undergraduate at Pitzer College in Claremont, Calif., who had befriended a prospective student on Facebook, notified the admissions office because he noticed that the applicant had posted offensive comments about one of his high school teachers.

“We thought, this is not the kind of person we want in our community,” Angel B. Perez, Pitzer’s dean of admission and financial aid, told me. With about 4,200 applications annually for a first-year class of 250 students, the school can afford to be selective. “We didn’t admit the student,” Mr. Perez said.

But colleges vary in their transparency. While Pitzer doesn’t contact students if their social media activities precluded admission to the school, Colgate University does notify students if they are eliminated from the applicant pool for any reason other than being uncompetitive candidates.

“We should be transparent with applicants,” says Gary L. Ross, Colgate’s dean of admission. He once called a student, to whom Colgate had already offered acceptance, to check whether an alcohol-related incident that was reported online was indeed true. (It was, and Colgate rescinded the offer of admission.)

“We will always ask if there is something we didn’t understand,” Mr. Ross said.

In an effort to help high school students avoid self-sabotage online, guidance counselors are tutoring them in scrubbing their digital identities. At Brookline High School in Massachusetts, juniors are taught to delete alcohol-related posts or photographs and to create socially acceptable email addresses. One junior’s original email address was “bleedingjesus,” said Lenny Libenzon, the school’s guidance department chairman. That changed.

“They imagine admissions officers are old professors,” he said. “But we tell them a lot of admissions officers are very young and technology-savvy.”

Likewise, high school students seem to be growing more shrewd, changing their searchable names on Facebook or untagging themselves in pictures to obscure their digital footprints during the college admission process.

“We know that some students maintain two Facebook accounts,” says Wes K. Waggoner, the dean of undergraduate admission at Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

For their part, high school seniors say that sanitizing social media accounts doesn’t seem qualitatively different than the efforts they already make to present the most appealing versions of themselves to colleges. While Megan Heck, 17, a senior at East Lansing High School in Michigan, told me that she was not amending any of her posts as she applied early to colleges this month, many of her peers around the country were.

“If you’ve got stuff online you don’t want colleges to see,” Ms. Heck said, “deleting it is kind of like joining two more clubs senior year to list on your application to try to make you seem more like the person they want at their schools.”