

How Do I Get Where I Am Going?

Helpful tips for seniors applying to various colleges, SAT/ACT scoring, applying for scholarships, FAFSA, entering the military, and doing apprenticeships

Next Steps for Seniors

- APPLY TO COLLEGES NOW! If you are planning to attend college next fall you should be working on completing college applications at this time.
- This week September 23-27 is College Go Week!! Certain schools may waive their application fees. To see who is participating, go to: <http://www.in.gov/collegegoweeek/index.htm>
 - SAT/ACT
 - Don't wait for your SAT or ACT scores to be ready or perfect.
 - Even if you still plan to take the SAT/ACT again (you can send your scores after you have filled out the college application and schools will look at only the top scores out of everything you have given them).

Next Steps...

- **NOVEMBER 1st** is the deadline for most schools for scholarship consideration.
 - That means that if you want to be considered for scholarships from the schools you are applying to then you need to have them done by NOV 1st.
 - Also, your chances of acceptance are greater the sooner you apply.
 - Check the websites of the colleges to see if there are any other deadlines that you need to be aware of.

How do I Apply?

- Applications require you to provide them with the following info:
 - transcripts
 - personal info
 - official test scores
 - a counselor recommendation letter/evaluation
 - sometimes a teacher letter
 - sometimes an essay

Applying...

- Most colleges now use an online application in one of two forms:
 - Common Application
 - Application that is specific to that college found on the college website
- you can find out which type they use and how to get to the application by going to the college website that you are interested in.

Applying...

- **Common Application:** This is an all-inclusive application that many colleges use including Purdue, Notre Dame, and Saint Mary's. It collects all of your information and stores it in one application that includes your:
 - Transcripts (automatically requests that we send these),
 - Teacher Recommendations (let your teacher know you would like to have them write you a letter two weeks ahead)
 - Counselor Recommendations
 - College essays
 - Activity info
 - And Personal info
- **YOU STILL NEED TO HAVE YOUR OFFICIAL TEST/S SCORES SENT TO THE COLLEGES** from the testing agency either collegeboard.org or act.org

Applying Continued:

- Other schools, such as IUSB, IUB, and Ball State, for example, use their own online applications.
 1. **Access the application**=go to the college website that you are interested in and click on the “admissions” tab and then press “apply now”
 2. For these types of applications you must use an online service called **E-TRANSCRIPT** (NOT SEND-U) to have your transcripts and counselor evaluation/recommendation letter sent to those schools. **When you use this service you create an account and list which colleges you would like your counselor to send your transcripts and recommendation to (some states charge a small fee for the transaction)**
 3. To get there, go to the Penn website and click on the “e-transcript” link: <http://penn.phmschools.org/guidance>
Paper forms will only be needed for a school that will not take your information in a digital format or there is some other unusual circumstance.

Applying Continued...

- A note on recommendation letters from counselors:

Please give counselors (and teachers) at least two weeks to complete your application materials and letters of recommendation.

- Each counselor has roughly 130 seniors. Please keep in mind they are helping many students at the same time.
- If you find yourself in an application emergency situation please go and discuss it with your counselor.
 - If the counselor does not know that your application is in dire straits, do not expect immediate results.

If you have an application problem:

- Do not hesitate to contact your counselor via email or in person, but please keep in mind that counselors are not available in the evenings or on weekends.
- OR you may contact Mrs. Superczynski in the CCRC, Room 119, she can help you with many college related issues.

SAT/ACT

- If you have **not taken one of these tests** or you **need to re-take** it because you are unhappy with your score please see the testing websites for dates and locations and register soon!
 - The average SAT score is around 1500 and the average ACT score is a around 21
 - Check with individual colleges or specific departments to find out exactly what kind of score they might be looking for.
 - For example Purdue Engineering may be looking for a higher score in the math section, call them to find out!

SAT/ACT continued...

- Can I get my test scores sent for free?
 - When you register for one of these, you have the option to have scores sent free to a few schools.
 - Take advantage of this. Otherwise, it will cost around \$10.00 for every send after that.
- What if I already took a test, but did not have my scores sent to a school that I am applying to?
 1. Go to the website of the testing agency (collegeboard or ACT) and
 2. log in to the account you created when you registered for the test.
 3. Click on “send scores” (there is a fee)
collegeboard.org or act.org

SAT/ACT continued...

- FAQ: I am applying to a community college such as IVY Tech and heard I don't need to take the SAT or ACT, true? We recommend that you do take one of these tests because they may be useful for scholarships or you may end up changing your mind about where you wanted to apply and might need them later. However, some community colleges give their own placement tests. Check with the college that you are applying to.

Fee Waivers

- Fee waivers help students, who qualify, with expenses such as taking the SAT or ACT and paying for college application fees.
 - You may qualify for one if you are on a “free or reduced” lunch program.
 - Ask your counselor for the fee waiver forms if you think you might qualify
- Anyone can sign up for IUSB's On-Site Registration Day in the CCRC and the application fee will be waived! For this process, you need to pick up a paper application in the CCRC as well as sign the book for an appt. to be seen by IUSB's admission's counselor. October 15th!

Scholarships...show me the MONEY!

- You can apply for scholarships throughout your entire senior year!

Scholarships....

- How do I go about hunting for scholarships?
 1. Some scholarships are available through the colleges that you are applying to and you may be considered for them **automatically if you apply by Nov. 1st**.
 2. Other scholarships, from the colleges that you apply to, may require you to apply for them separately. You should **search for the “scholarship page”** of the college’s website and see if there are any like this that you may qualify for.

Scholarships...

3. Look for scholarships through your parents' place of work...
4. Do online scholarship searches with some website we have provided on the handout...(be careful not to give out you SS# unless it is for a college application.)

Scholarships...

5. Another great resource is the Penn High School Guidance Website: <http://penn.phmschools.org/guidance>, hover over counseling and then scroll down to scholarships. Here you will find a listing with links of scholarships currently available in the CCRC, Rm. 119.

- We get new scholarships in every couple of weeks and update our info, so keep checking back throughout the year!
- You can also physically walk into the CCRC and see paper copies of the scholarships.
 - Ask your counselor or Mrs. Super for help if needed!
 - And while you're in the CCRC, why not sign up for a college visit or two? You never you know what you might find out that sounds interesting!

Penn Students Were...

Offered: \$11 million

Accepted: \$8.4 million

In scholarships last
year...do not doubt that
you could qualify for
something!

Scholarships are the Best, but how can I get other forms of FINANCIAL AID?

- FAFSA= stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid= money to pay for college in the form of either loans, grants, or both!

Here is the link: <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>

- This application is through the Federal Government and is based on your family's income, so your parents must help you fill it out.
- Must initially be filled out between 1/1/14-3/1/14 this year and, while in college, you must update it every year in the same time frame.
- We recommend that everyone file this form in case you need emergency money someday, while going to school.

And We Offer FAFSA Help!

- Financial Aid Night: 1/23/14, 6:30-8pm in LGIA
- Online FAFSA Help Night: 2/20/14, 6:30-8pm in IMC

Other Important Date:

- College Fair at Century Center-Oct.2 (Wed. from 6 p.m.-8p.m.)

I Am Interested In Serving in the Military!

- Talk with a recruiter from the branch/es of the military that you are interested in joining during your lunch.
- Talk with family members or family friends that have served in the military
- ALWAYS discuss important decisions such as this with a parent or guardian before signing any paperwork.
 - Once the papers have been signed the decision can not be reversed.

I want to go to college *and* join the military at the same time, how?

- ROTC is for me!
- What is ROTC?
 - It is an elective curriculum you take along with your required college classes.
 - It prepares you with the tools, training and experiences that will help you succeed in any competitive environment. Along with great leadership training.
 - It can pay for your college tuition, too. You will have a normal college student experience like everyone else on campus, but will also commit some of your time to serving on weekends, usually once a month.
 - Colleges that offer ROTC usually only offer one branch of the military at that specific school
 - For example: Purdue's ROTC program is for the U.S. Army.
- Sign up in the CCRC to talk with an ROTC Recruiter (similar to a college visit)

I would like to go into a technical field and do an apprenticeship, how?

- Contact a local union for the specific technical field you would like to work with such as an electrical worker's union
- Call a local business and see what they can offer you in terms of internships or apprenticeships. Paid or unpaid?
- Sometimes you actually have to apply and be hired to work at the company that you are interested in before they will provide you with “on the job training”.

It sounds like a good idea now, but...

- Students could lose their admission to a college and/or scholarships because of poor decision-making, such as dropping certain classes or slacking off after you have applied/been admitted, during your senior year. Talk with your counselor.



- You think it doesn't happen?
 - It does.
 - Choose wisely.
- Most colleges request mid-year and final transcripts from students. You will send these through E-transcript, or if it is a common app, we send it for you.

This Presentation:

- Was brought to you by Your Guidance Team
 - Go Penn Seniors!!! Save the world!
- Will be available online for reference at:
<http://penn.phmschools.org/guidance>
- Don't forget to take your handout!