



Class of 2018
College Application
Night

September 7, 2017

OBJECTIVES

- To understand the general college application process.
- To be attentive to the timeline of senior year.
- To be aware of the resources available on Naviance - Family Connection.
- To recognize the responsibilities of the student in this process.
- To recognize the responsibilities of the parent in this process.
- To understand the financial aid process.

Senior Year Timeline

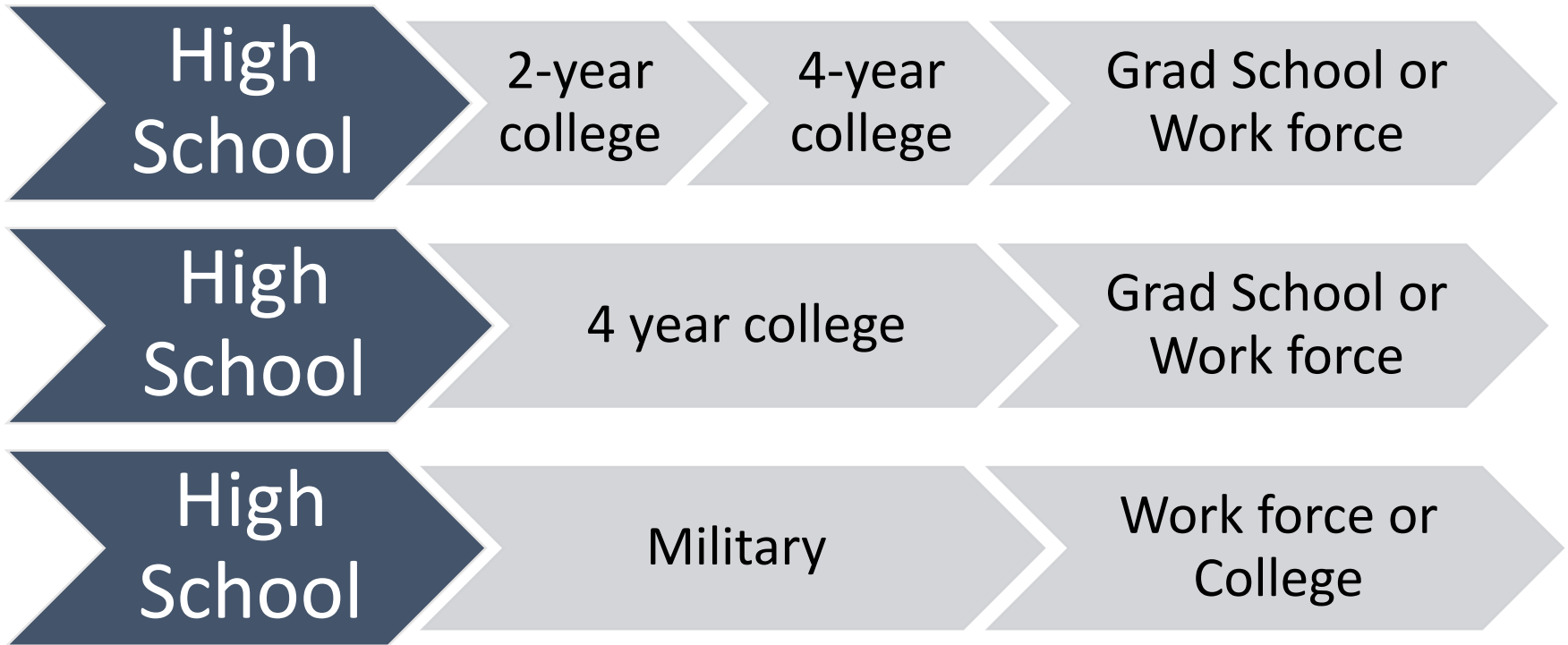
FALL

- Meet with high school counselor.
- Apply to colleges by priority deadline.
- Register for college entrance tests as needed.
- Visit college campuses.
- Search and apply for scholarships.
- Apply for financial aid.

SPRING

- Keep up grades
- Visit college campuses.
- Compare financial aid awards.
- Make final decision by May 1, 2018 and pay enrollment deposit.
- Request final transcript.

Post-secondary options



Transferring from a 2-year to a 4-year college

- Community college can be a stepping-stone to a 4-year college and a bachelor's degree. If you take this path, here's what you should do:
- Make sure that the credits you earn from your classes at the 2-year college will count at your 4-year college.
- Plan Ahead and ask questions
 - Communicate with the admissions office at the 2-year and transfer admissions advisor at the 4-year college.
 - Does the 2-year college have a special transfer relationship with any 4-year colleges?
 - Will the credits I earn be accepted at the 4-year colleges I'm considering?
 - What is the minimum GPA to get into the 4-year college?

What do colleges look for in the admissions process?

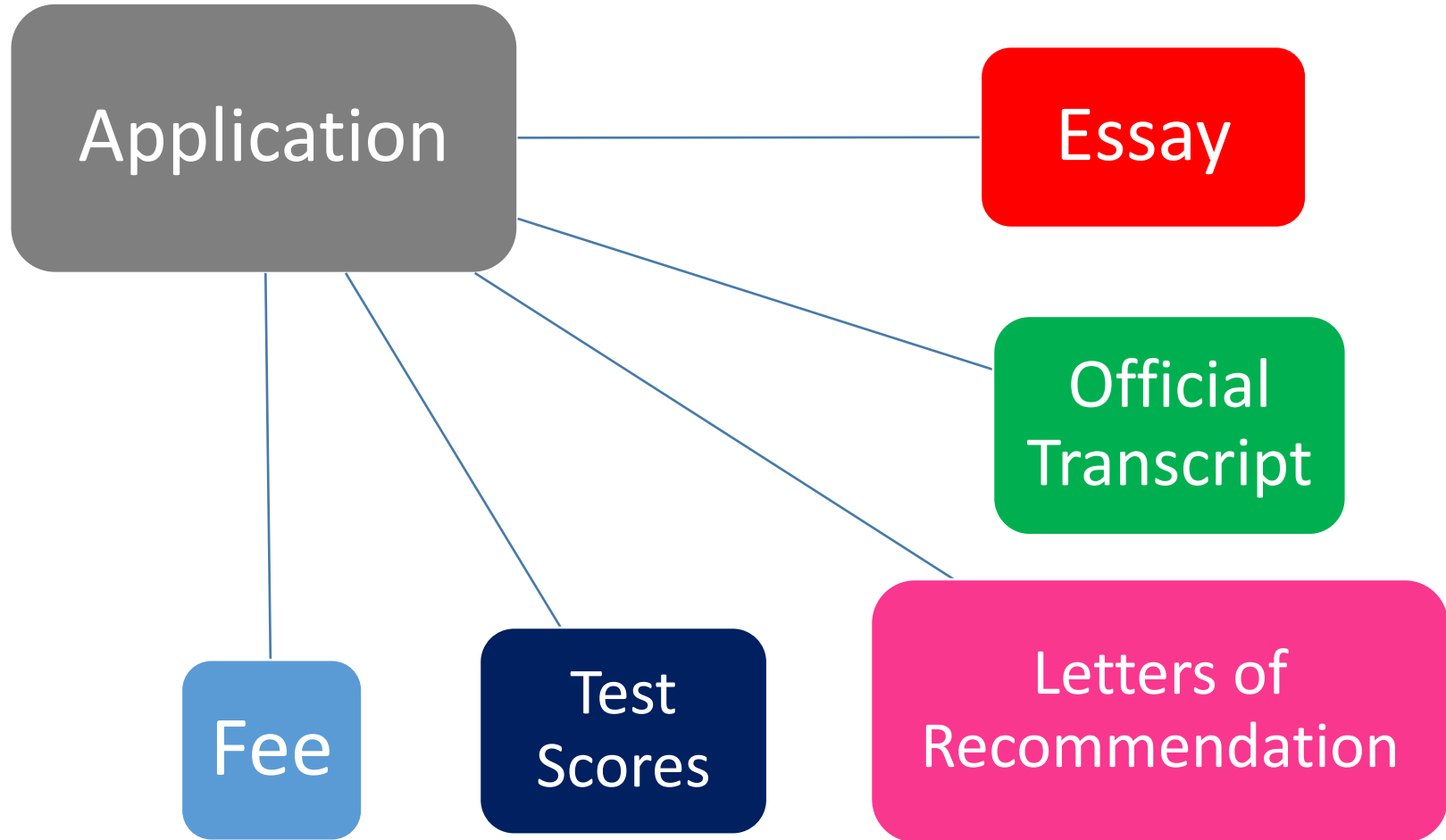
Most Important Criteria

- Grades
- Rigor of coursework
- Standardized test scores
 - ACT or SAT

Important Criteria

- Leadership
- Volunteer service
- Awards/honors
- Extracurricular Involvement
 - Jobs, Sports, Clubs

Parts of the College Application



The Application Process

- Establish an organization system
 - Checklists, folders, Keep a list of login information
- Apply to 4-8 colleges (thoughtful applications)
 - Target, reach, and safety colleges
- Beware of deadlines
- Request Transcripts and letters of recommendations

Standardized Testing Websites

- The [Common Application](#) is used by nearly 800 colleges.
- The [Coalition Application](#) is accepted by more than 90 institutions.
- The [Universal College Application](#) is accepted by more than 30 colleges and universities.

Deadlines

- **Early Decision (ED)** – is a *binding* contract between the student and the college. You can only apply to ONE school ED. If you are accepted you **MUST** attend.
- **Early Action (EA) and Priority** – is non-binding. You may apply early action to multiple schools. Pros – higher consideration for admission and scholarships and you find out by mid-December.
- **Restrictive Early Action (REA)** – is non-binding but restricts the student from apply Early Action or Early Decision to other colleges.
- **Rolling Admissions** – applications are evaluated as they are received.
- **Regular Decision** – This is a set deadline for applying to a college. Students find out in early Spring.

Naviance Family Connection

College Application Management

- Add colleges to *Colleges I'm Applying To*
- Request an official transcript
 - Electronic Transcript Processing
 - Takes 1-2 weeks for a college to receive and process transcripts
- Letter of Recommendation Processing
- College and Career Research and Planning
 - Sign up for College Rep Visits
 - Scholarship and Financial Aid Resources

College Entrance Exams

- Waiting to retake the ACT or SAT? – Do not wait to apply to college!
- Official transcripts include the April 2017 SAT and ACT scores prior to September 2017.
- Some colleges will require sending the official score report directly from ACT. You can do this from their website: www.actstudent.org
- It can take 2-3 weeks for the ACT score to be received at the college. SEND NOW!

| TEST | TEST DATE | DEADLINE |
|---|---------------|----------------|
| ACT www.act.org | Oct. 28, 2017 | Sept. 22, 2017 |
| | Dec. 9, 2017 | Nov. 3, 2017 |

| TEST | TEST DATE | DEADLINE |
|---|--------------|---------------|
| SAT www.collegeboard.org | Oct. 7, 2017 | Sept. 8, 2017 |
| | Nov. , 2017 | Oct. 5, 2017 |

College Application Tips

Common Mistakes

- Never use text language or slang when emailing an admissions counselor – Be professional with your communication
- Spell check everything.
- Slow down and read instructions carefully.
- What does that mean? Explain your school activity– they don't understand Link Crew, North Star, DECA, MSA, PRIDE, or URC.
- Are you 18 or 40? They know you can use the thesaurus feature on your laptop.. But use it sparingly. Your essay should not sound like it was written by a 40 year old.
- Parents should help students become self-advocates and avoid communicating directly with admissions.

The College Application Process



Erin Hoover
Augustana College
Assistant Director of Admission
Chicago Region





**KEEP
CALM
AND
GET READY FOR
COLLEGE**



Ready, set, apply!

- What could be included/required
 - Official transcript
 - Standardized test scores
 - Application form
 - Personal/educational data
 - Extracurricular activities/Resume
 - Essays
 - Fee
 - Secondary school report/Counselor recommendation
 - Midyear report
 - Teacher recommendation



Transcript: Grades & Rigor

- Most colleges look past just the numeric GPA
 - Review of coursework
 - School profile
 - What your school offers
 - What you took advantage of
 - Trends
 - FL is maybe not your thing
 - Progression
 - Study habits/skills are being mastered/improved



Test Scores

- ACT
- SAT
- Best Test
- Superscores
- Test Optional – www.fairtest.org

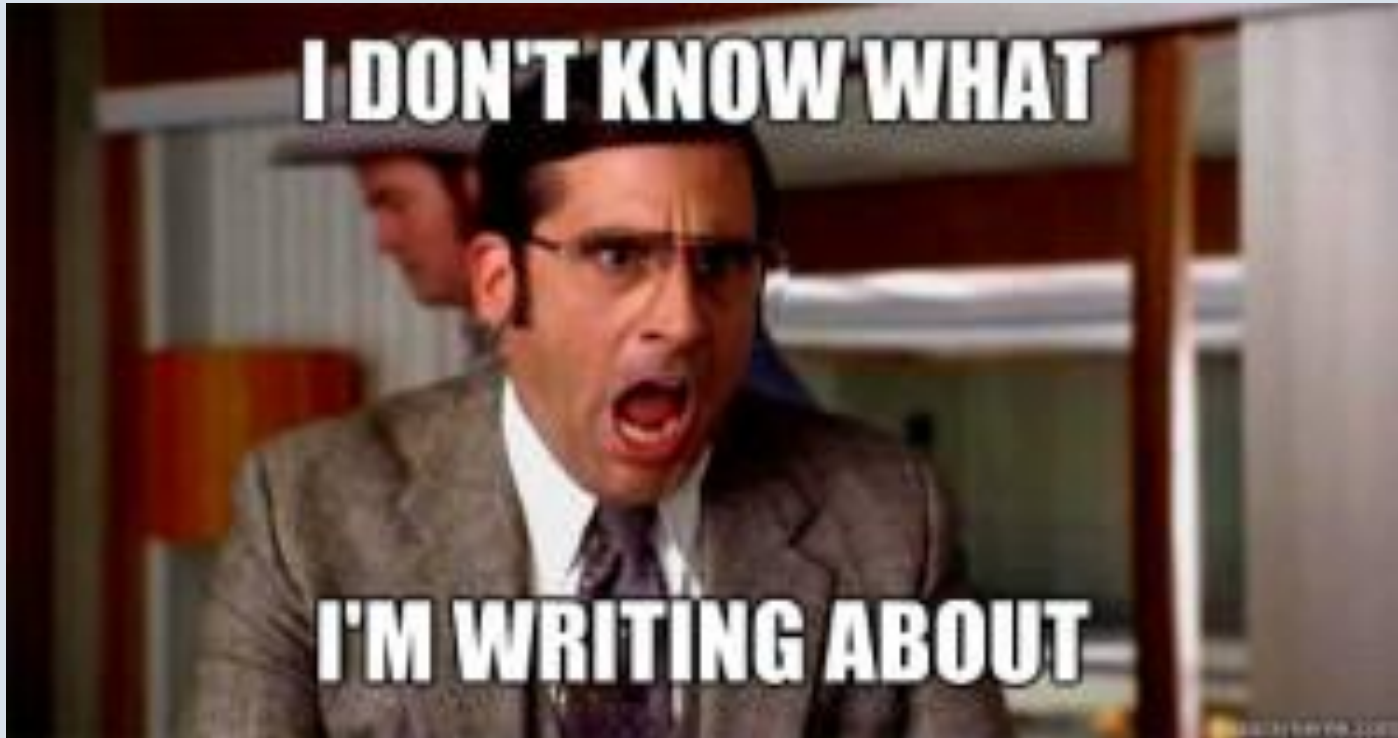


Extracurricular activities/Resume

- What do you do in your free time?
 - Athletics
 - Fine Arts
 - Leadership
 - Job
 - Volunteer work
 - Clubs
- Bottom line: Who are you in your current community? Who might you be within ours?



Essays/Personal Statements



Essays/Personal Statements

- Follow directions
- Some applications do not require or list as optional
- Proof and proof again
- Show your personality rather than just telling about it
- Don't "should" on yourself; be authentic
- Don't write it on your phone the night before it's due



Sample Essay Questions

- Why “X” College?
- What is so odd about odd numbers?
- Were pH an expression of personality, what would be your pH and why? (feel free to respond acidly! Do not be neutral, for that is base)
- Consider something in your life you think goes unnoticed and write why it’s important to you.
- What is the best advice you have received? Why is it important?
- Explain your interest in the major you selected.
- Tell us about one interest or experience of yours that allows us to get to know you better as an individual.



Recommendations

- Ask your teacher in person and early
- Provide your teacher with a resume
- Should be someone that knows you well and can speak about your recent (jr. or sr. year) academics, work ethic, and character
- Answer the question: “Why would professors want you in their class?”



Interviews



Interviews

- How is the interview used?
- Tell your story
- Describe what you're passionate about
- Check interview requirements
- Informational vs. Admissions
- More often, it will help you



Sample Interview Questions

- How did you become interested in “X” College?
- Do you have an interest in a major yet? When and how did you become interested in that?
- What’s your biggest academic challenge and how do you tackle that challenge?
- What was an event or experience that impacted you significantly?
- Do you have anything you’d “do-over” in HS?



Demonstrated Interest

- How is it used?
- Connect with your Admissions Counselor
 - Phone, email, text, Skype/Facetime
 - High School Visit
 - College Fair
 - Campus Visit
 - Social Media



Financial Aid



©Zits Partnership



Augustana College
Rock Island, Illinois

Financial Aid

- Timeline
- FAFSA
 - Available Oct 1st, use 2016 tax information
- Institutional forms
- Types of aid
 - Federal
 - State
 - Institutional



Cost Considerations

- What is a good financial fit for your family?
- Don't let cost restrict applications
- Open and honest **family** discussions about finances
- Open and honest discussions **with college or university** about finances
- Have a back-up plan



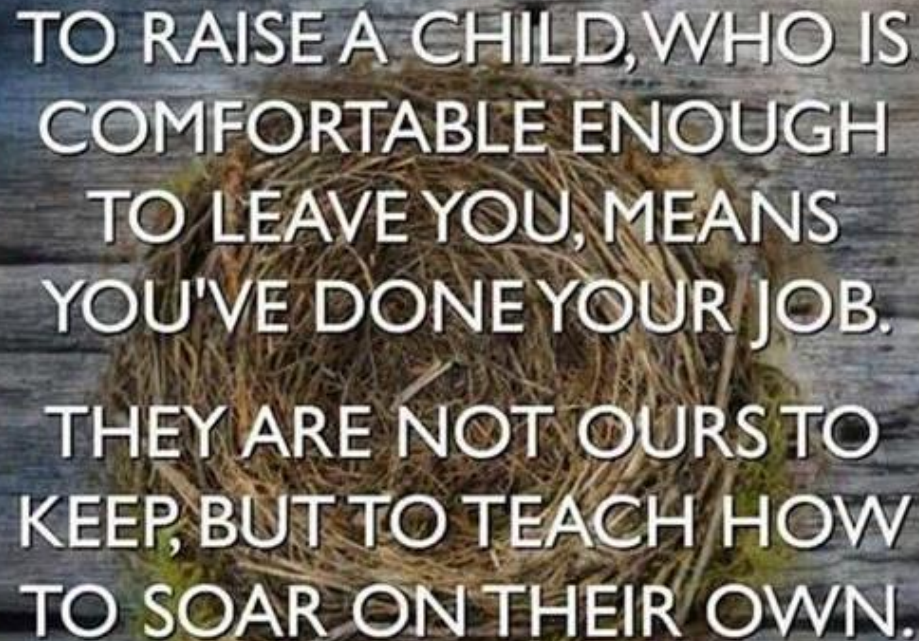
Parental Support



Parental Support



Parental Support



TO RAISE A CHILD, WHO IS
COMFORTABLE ENOUGH
TO LEAVE YOU, MEANS
YOU'VE DONE YOUR JOB.
THEY ARE NOT OURS TO
KEEP, BUT TO TEACH HOW
TO SOAR ON THEIR OWN.

- AUTHOR UNKNOWN -

PRAISE



Augustana College

Rock Island, Illinois

Parental Support

- Guide your student through the exploration process
- Encourage your student to dream as well as be realistic
- Help them with the deadlines but do not fill out the admission application for them



Upcoming Events

- District 202 College Fair
 - 9/20 @ 6:30-8 pm
 - PNHS
- Financial Aid Night
 - 9/27 @ 6:30 pm
 - PEHS
- JJC College Fair
 - 10/18 @ 6:00 – 8:00 pm



Takeaways

- Meet deadlines/Plan ahead
- Visit, visit, visit
- Even if it's optional, do it anyway
- Consider how you fit related to these areas: academic, co-curricular, social and financial
- Get to know your admissions counselor
- Ask questions



TO ALL THE HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS:



**GOOD LUCK ON YOUR
COLLEGE APPLICATIONS!**

imgflip.com



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Questions/Contact



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