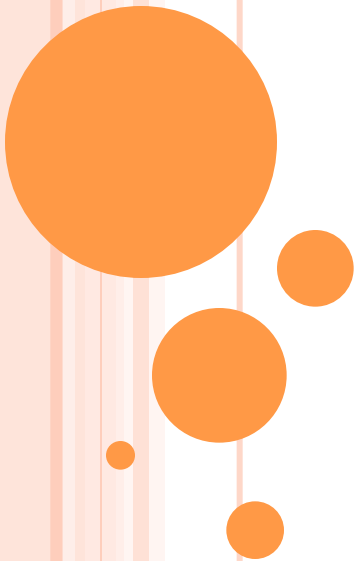


THE COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS



TOPICS TO BE COVERED

- College Selectivity
- Admissions Terminology
 - Early Action vs. Early Decision
 - Rolling Admission vs. Regular Admission
- Admission Requirements
- Application Fee Waivers
 - Who qualifies and where to get them?
- The Common Application
- Tips for writing the College Essay
- Where to get help



COLLEGE SELECTIVITY

○ Open Admissions

- These schools require only a high school diploma and accept students on a first-come, first-served basis. Many community colleges have this policy.
- Examples: City Colleges of Chicago, East-West University, American Academy of Art

○ Less Selective

- Less selective colleges focus on whether applicants meet minimum requirements and whether there's room for more students.
- Acceptable grades are often the only requirement beyond an interest in college study.
- The SAT and/or ACT may be required, but test scores are usually used for course placement, not admissions.
- Examples: Aurora University, DeVry University, Dominican University



COLLEGE SELECTIVITY CONTINUED

○ More Selective

- More selective colleges consider course work, grades, test scores, recommendations, and essays.
- The major factor may be whether your child is ready for college-level study. One could be denied admission because of a weakness or a lack of interest in higher education.
- Examples: Bradley University, Northern Illinois University, St. Xavier University

○ Very Selective

- Admissions officers look carefully at every aspect of a student's high school experience, from academic strength to test scores.
- Since many applicants are strong academically, other factors—such as the personal statement/essay may be critical.
- Examples: Harvard University, Northwestern University, University of Chicago



ADMISSION TERMINOLOGY

○ Early Decision

- This option is binding, meaning, you agree to attend the college if accepted. You can apply to only one college for early decision, but may apply to other colleges through the regular admissions process.
- However, if you are accepted to a college through early decision you must withdraw all other college applications.

○ Early Action/Fast-track

- If you have been accepted, you can choose to commit to the college immediately, or wait until the spring. Under these plans, you may also apply early action to other colleges.



ADMISSION TERMINOLOGY CONTINUED

- Rolling Admissions
 - While many schools have a “hard” deadline for applications (meaning they won’t accept those either postmarked or received after that date), colleges with rolling admissions accept applications until they’ve filled all the spots in their freshman class. (EX. North Central College, St. Xavier University, SIUE)
- Regular Admissions



ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Completed Application
- Official Transcript
- Test Scores
- Personal Statement/Essay
- Application Fee or Waiver
- Letters of Recommendation
- Interview
- Portfolio/Audition



APPLICATION FEE WAIVERS

- Qualifications for a fee waiver
 - Family income guidelines
 - Student participates in the free or reduced lunch program at their high school
 - Some schools will give fee waivers to academically exceptional students
- Where to get a waiver
 - High School counselor
 - College or University Admissions website
 - Some colleges/universities waive the application fee if students apply online (Ex. St. Xavier University, Chicago)
 - Educational services (ex. Ada S. McKinley)
 - National Association of College Admissions Counselors (NACAC) website



THE COMMON APPLICATION

- The Common Application is a common, standardized application form for use at any member institution and currently provides both online and print versions of its First-year and Transfer Applications.
- Nearly 400 institutions now accept the common application.
- Information is easily transferable to a college or university that DOES NOT accept the Common Application
- www.commonapp.org



TIPS FOR WRITING THE COLLEGE ESSAY

- Understand the topic that you are writing on
 - “About You” question
 - “Why us” question
 - “Creative” question
- Be yourself
 - Be honest and truthful
- Address any discrepancies on your transcript
- Talk about your major and why you have chosen that educational route
- Address any medical issues that could have impacted your grades



WHERE TO GET HELP

- Places to get help completing the college application
 - High school guidance counselors
 - Post secondary coaches
 - College and University admissions offices
 - Satellite Offices
 - College/University Support Services Offices (TRIO, Cultural Centers with Admission Units)
 - Parents



ANY QUESTIONS?

