SENIOR PARENT COLLEGE NIGHT

ISIDORE NEWMAN SCHOOL
AUGUST 21, 2019
WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, HOW: NUTS & BOLTS OF COLLEGE ADMISSIONS
AGENDA

- Overview of the year
- How the College Counseling Office works with seniors
- College application process
- Financial aid & merit scholarship process
- Housing process
- Your unique role as parent
A student-centered and student-driven admissions process

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A successful college admissions process
OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR
# TIMELINE FOR COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Sept</th>
<th>Oct</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>Dec</th>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
<th>Apr</th>
<th>May</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Decision Plan Deadlines</td>
<td>- Continue researching</td>
<td>- EA/ED Deadlines Oct 15-Nov 15</td>
<td>- EA/ED decisions released</td>
<td>- ED2/RD Deadlines Jan 1-Feb 1</td>
<td>- ED2 Decisions released by Feb 15</td>
<td>- RD Decisions released by April 1</td>
<td>- Student final decision by May 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>College List</td>
<td>- Request rec by Sept 15</td>
<td>- Counselors submit recs to colleges</td>
<td>- Students confirm receipt of recs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher Recs</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Research test requirements</td>
<td>- Send scores to colleges</td>
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<td>Testing</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Finish testing by Nov/Dec test</td>
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<td>- Finish apps by Dec 2</td>
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<td>Apps/Essays</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Gather info</td>
<td>- Work on apps/essays</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- App-a-polooza in Oct</td>
<td>- Have apps/essays reviewed before sending</td>
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<td>School Docs</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Update Naviance College Planning Survey by Oct 1</td>
<td>- Counselors send transcript, school profile, forms, and recs by deadlines</td>
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<td>Need-Based Aid</td>
<td>- FAFSA &amp; CSS Profile open Oct 1</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Submit FAFSA &amp; CSS Profile by Feb 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Counselors send 1st sem grades to colleges</td>
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<tr>
<td>Merit Scholarships</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Aid decisions released</td>
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- Housing varies from college to college. Be sure to research housing applications at each college on your list.
- Independent & college-specific scholarships vary widely. Pay careful attention to these requirements & deadlines.
HOW COLLEGE COUNSELING OFFICE WORKS WITH SENIORS
WE HELP STUDENTS WITH...

- College list & strategy
- Selecting teacher recommenders
- Choosing test scores
- Completing applications
- Essay brainstorming & review
- Organizing workload
- Practice interviews
- Assisting with need-based financial aid
- Researching scholarships
- Any other part of the process!
COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS
# Parts Needed to Complete a College Application

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part of app</th>
<th>Application to College</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Testing</th>
<th>Teacher Recs</th>
<th>School Docs: Transcripts, Profile, School Letter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Who is responsible</td>
<td>Student</td>
<td>Student</td>
<td>Student</td>
<td>Student Teacher Counselors</td>
<td>Student Counselor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How is this done</td>
<td>Submitted online</td>
<td>Submitted with application</td>
<td>Via College Board or ACT</td>
<td>-Student requests letter&lt;br&gt;-Teacher writes rec&lt;br&gt;-Counselors submit recs</td>
<td>-Student maintains accurate Naviance list&lt;br&gt;-Counselor submits school docs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When is this done</td>
<td>By deadline</td>
<td>By deadline</td>
<td>Send at least 2 weeks prior to deadline</td>
<td>By deadline</td>
<td>By deadline</td>
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</table>
FINANCIAL AID & MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROCESS
STEPS TO APPLYING FOR NEED-BASED FINANCIAL AID

Who? – Parent-driven process

**Step 1:** Complete FAFSA
- Opens 10/1/2019
- Tied to IRS Data Retrieval, streamlined forms
- Send to each college on student’s list
- Pay attention to each college’s deadline

**Step 2:** Research any other needed financial aid forms by college
- Private colleges often require the CSS Profile (found at CollegeBoard.org)
- Some will have their own form

**Step 3:** Provide additional info to colleges if necessary
- Appropriate if you feel like the forms do not tell your family’s complete financial story
WHAT ABOUT TOPS?
“MERIT-BASED” FUNDING

• Most non-need based funding is awarded by individual colleges.
• “Millions of dollars go unclaimed!” is a myth.
• “Merit-based” should really be called “discount rate.”
• The most highly selective colleges give little to no merit-based aid.
• Other colleges will be very aggressive with merit-based aid, depending on market position, demographics within their region, etc.
RESOURCES

• FAFSA.gov – FAFSA form, required by all US colleges
• student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile – CSS Profile form, required by many private colleges
• osfa.la.gov/landing/TOPSindex.htm – info about TOPS
• Colleges’ websites and financial aid offices
• finaid.org – general financial aid info
HOUSING PROCESS
HOUSING APPLICATION PROCESS

• Varies from college to college
• Some, generally private and not huge, guarantee and require on-campus housing
• Some, generally public and larger, have limited housing options and do not guarantee housing for students
• UT & Alabama – require application for housing immediately after application for admission…DO NOT WAIT TO APPLY FOR HOUSING AT THESE TWO COLLEGES!
YOUR UNIQUE ROLE AS PARENT
JOBS THAT ONLY YOU CAN DO IN THIS PROCESS

• Support and love your child, no matter where they are applying or what the outcome.

• Limit talk about college with your student to one or two specific times during the week.

• Be honest about family finances and what you can/will pay for college.

• Complete and submit need-based financial aid forms.

• Protect your student from people, well-intentioned though they may be, who ask prying questions. And don’t be that person to your student’s friends. 😊
UPCOMING DATES (REMINDER)

• October 1: Completed college lists entered into Naviance; teacher recommendation requests completed.
• October 16: PSAT Day (application open house in College Counseling Office)
• October 17, 23, 30: App-A-Paloozas (from 6-8 pm each evening)
• December 2: Deadline for completed applications.
NEXT STEPS

• Have your son or daughter set up an initial meeting with their primary counselor (if they have not done so already).
• As needed, feel free to arrange a meeting with us, or to reach out via telephone or email.
QUESTIONS AND THANK YOU!!