

College Application Checklist
Class of 2021

- **Review Transcript** – The high school transcript is one of the most important pieces of information that colleges use in making admissions decisions. It's not just a high GPA that's gets you admitted – it's also the *strength* of your transcript. You will receive a copy of your transcript at the beginning of senior year to review.
- **Take SAT or ACT exams** – A college entrance exam (SAT/ACT) is another important piece of information that colleges use in making admissions decisions. Students are recommended to take each exam during Junior year, then re-take the one you score higher on. Colleges automatically consider your highest score. Please note that highly selective colleges also require SAT Subject Tests.
 - www.collegeboard.org – register for SAT and/or SAT Subject Tests
 - www.actstudent.org – register for ACT
- **Generate a College List** – Using the same username as your google classroom account, and the password given to you by your guidance counselor, log on to your *Naviance Family Connection* account. Once there, you can search for colleges that match your criteria. Your list should include safety, target, and reach schools.
 - <https://student.naviance.com/deerpark> – Naviance Family Connection (link is also on the Deer Park website under the “Parents/Students” tab)
- **Visit Colleges and meet with College Representatives in the College & Career Center** – Prospective student tour schedules posted on the college's website. You learn something important from every college you visit. College Reps also visit DPHS to meet you! Sign up for Rep visits on your Naviance account for any college that interests you, then visit the College and Career Center for a pass.
- **Fall of Senior Year**
 - Ask two teachers for letters of recommendation (give each teacher a Teacher Recommendation Form from the Guidance office)
 - Write your essay and have it reviewed by your English teacher
 - Create an Activity Resume if you choose
 - Keep track of **Deadlines!**
 - **Early Action:** Apply early and receive a decision early (typical EA deadlines are Nov. 1st or Nov. 15th)
 - **Early Decision:** Apply early and receive a decision early. If you are accepted, you **MUST** attend that school! You may only apply Early Decision to one college (typical ED deadlines are Nov. 1st or Nov. 15th)
 - **Regular Decision:** Apply with the regular applicant pool and receive a response by April 1st (typical Regular Decision deadlines are January 1st or February 1st)
 - **Rolling Admissions:** There is no deadline. Applications are reviewed and responses are sent out on a rolling, first-come, first-served basis (it is still recommended to apply early!)
 - Keep your Guidance Counselor informed, and keep yourself informed by joining the Guidance Remind
 - Attend **Financial Aid Night** on October 5, 2020 and file the FAFSA after October 1st
 - Attend **FAFSA Completion Night** if you need help filing your FAFSA (date in the fall TBA)

- **The College Application** – Start filling out college applications early in the fall. There is usually more than one method to apply to each college. We recommend using the *Common Application* when possible. Be sure to use your *personal* email account (not your school email account) when filling out applications.
 - www.commonapp.org – More than 800 colleges accept this application
 - www.suny.edu – All SUNY schools accept this application or the Common Application
 - www.cuny.edu – CUNY schools accept this application, but some now accept the Common Application
 - www.sunysuffolk.edu – Suffolk Community College accepts this application only
 - On-Site Admissions at DPHS – Many local 2-year and 4-year colleges host On-Site Admissions days in the College & Career Center where you will receive an admissions decision on the spot! Application fees are often waived. The schedule of these On-Sites will be available in the College & Career Center this fall.

- **Send Your SAT/ACT Scores** – Colleges require that students send their SAT and/or ACT scores themselves. Log on to your Collegeboard or ACTstudent account and follow the instructions for sending your scores to colleges. This CAN be done before you submit your college applications.

- **Financial Aid and Scholarships** – Families must file a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) in order to apply for financial aid for any college. This application will be available online in October of the student’s senior year. Some colleges require additional paperwork to be filed (such as the CSS/Profile) – check with each college. Students can also apply for private scholarships. Local private scholarship applications will be posted on the *Scholarships* eBoard, located on the left-hand side of the High School webpage.
 - Step 1 → <https://fsaid.ed.gov> – parent and student must apply for a Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID) online
 - Step 2 → www.fafsa.ed.gov – file the FAFSA form on-line after October 1st of senior year

- **Special Considerations**
 - Prospective Division I or II athletes must register at www.eligibilitycenter.org
 - Students with disabilities can self-identify to their college’s Disability Services Office if they are interested in utilizing their testing accommodations in college.
 - HEOP: <http://www.nysed.gov/postsecondary-services/higher-education-opportunity-program-heop>
 - EOP: <https://www.suny.edu/attend/academics/eop/>
 - SEEK Program: <https://www.cuny.edu/financialaid/seek>

- **Guidance Remind and College & Career Center Remind**
 - Please join the Guidance Remind and College & Career Center Remind to receive important updates throughout the school year:
 - Guidance Remind: Text @2021dphs to 81010
 - College & Career Center Remind: Text @dpccc2021 to 81010