

# **THE COLLEGE PROCESS**



**LONG REACH HIGH  
SCHOOL**

**SEPTEMBER 4, 2019**

# Agenda



**College Search: Criteria, Naviance**

**SAT/ACT**

**College Application Process**

**Financial Aid**

# ASSESSING WHERE YOU ARE



- Check off where you are:
  - Identified schools you like
    - Visited schools
  - Narrowed down your list
    - Taken SATs or ACTs
- Everyone must start **NOW**

# College Search



**IMPORTANT FACTORS**

**CRITERIA & RESOURCES**

**TYPES OF ADMISSIONS &  
APPLICATIONS**

# THE TOP 5 MOST IMPORTANT FACTORS



Factor	Considerable importance	Moderate importance	Limited importance	No importance
Grades in college prep courses	84.3%	11.9%	2.3%	1.5%
Strength of curriculum	67.7	20.4	5.8	6.2
Admission test scores (SAT, ACT)	59.2	29.6	6.9	4.2
Grades in all courses	51.9	39.2	6.9	1.9
Essay or writing sample	24.9	37.5	17.2	20.3

# WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOU?



- Work hard to identify colleges that are a good academic match
- Study for the SAT and ACT
- Be realistic about creating a list of schools where you will be accepted
- Visit schools to narrow down your list

# WHAT CRITERIA STUDENTS USE



- Size
- Location
  - Distance from home
  - Location of campus (suburb, city, rural)
- Academic programs
- Special programs
- Cost
- Reputation
- Dorms, food, culture of campus
- Extra Curricular Activities i.e. athletics, theater, music, art

# How do I find these schools?

## SuperMatch College Search

The screenshot displays the Naviance Student SuperMatch College Search interface. At the top, the Naviance Student logo is on the left, and navigation links for Home, Courses, Colleges, Careers, About Me, and My Plan are on the right. A pink banner below the header asks for feedback on the new SuperMatch feature, with a 'Provide Feedback' button. The main search area is titled 'SuperMatch College Search' and includes an 'About SuperMatch' link. A horizontal menu allows users to filter by various criteria: Choose Fit Criteria, Location, Academics, Admission, Diversity, Institution Characteristics, Cost, Student Life, Athletics, and Research. The 'Admission' filter is currently selected and expanded. On the left, the 'Your Fit Criteria' section shows one selected criterion, 'Location', and provides instructions on how to refine results. The 'Admission' filter panel contains several sections: 'YOUR GPA' with a GPA (4.0 scale) input field; 'YOUR SAT SCORES' with a SAT Composite input field; 'ACCEPTANCE RATE' with radio button options for 25% or Lower, 26%-50%, 51%-75%, 76% or more, and Open Admissions; and 'REGULAR APPLICATION DEADLINE'.

Naviance *Student* Home Courses Colleges Careers About Me My Plan

We want your feedback! What do you think about the new SuperMatch? [Provide Feedback](#)

SuperMatch College Search [About SuperMatch](#)

☰ Choose Fit Criteria Location Academics Admission Diversity Institution Characteristics Cost Student Life Athletics Re

Your Fit Criteria

1 selected criteria  
To refine your results, use the arrows to move your criteria into the "Must Have" and "Nice to Have" categories.

✕ Location

Search by College Name 0

**Admission**

**YOUR GPA** ⓘ

GPA (4.0 scale)

**YOUR SAT SCORES** ⓘ

SAT Composite

**ACCEPTANCE RATE**

- 25% or Lower
- 26%-50%
- 51%-75%
- 76% or more
- Open Admissions

**REGULAR APPLICATION DEADLINE**



# How do I find these schools?



## Admissions Tab on College's page in Naviance

The screenshot displays the Naviance interface for Towson University. At the top, a navigation bar includes 'family connection' and tabs for 'home', 'courses', 'colleges', 'careers', 'about me', and 'my planner'. Below this is a teal banner with the text 'What do you think of our college profiles?' and a 'Rate us!' button. The main content area features the Towson University logo and name, along with a 'Communicate' button. A horizontal menu below the header includes 'Overview', 'Studies', 'Student Life', 'Admissions', and 'Costs'. The 'Admissions' tab is highlighted with a red dashed box and a red arrow pointing to it. Below the menu, five data cards are visible: 'AVERAGE NET PRICE' (\$14,499), 'GRADUATION RATE' (68%), 'ACCEPTANCE RATE' (59%), 'COLLEGE OVERLAPS' (264), and 'SCHOLARSHIPS'. A search bar is located at the bottom left, and a 'Colleges:' section with buttons for 'I'm Thinking About', 'I'm Applying To', and 'Events' is at the bottom right.

family connection

home courses colleges careers about me my planner

What do you think of our college profiles? Rate us!

 Towson University   
Towson, MD, US | towson.edu [Communicate](#)

Overview Studies Student Life **Admissions** Costs

**AVERAGE NET PRICE** ⓘ  
**\$14,499**  
Income: \$48 - \$75K ▾  
[More about Cost & Aid](#)

**GRADUATION RATE** ⓘ  
**68%**  
Within 6 years  
[More about Learning Environment](#)

**ACCEPTANCE RATE** ⓘ  
**59%**  
[Check out Scattergrams to see how this relates to you](#)

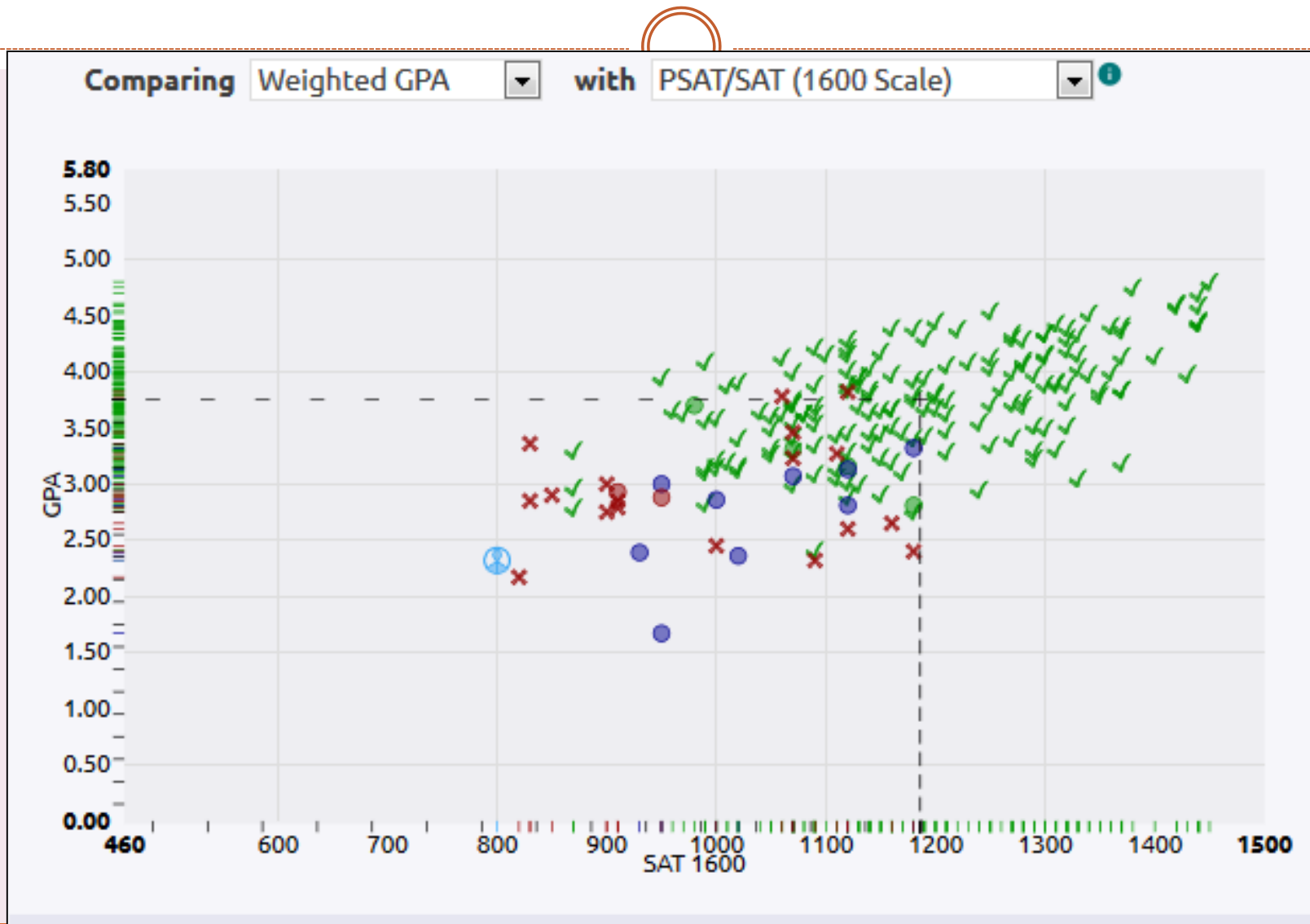
**COLLEGE OVERLAPS**  
**264**  
Students who apply to this college also applied to these 264 colleges  
[Learn more](#)

**SCHOLARSHIPS** DE/ De/ See all

Search for a college 🔍

Colleges: [I'm Thinking About](#) [I'm Applying To](#) [Events](#) [U](#)

# How do I find these schools?



# HOW DO I KNOW WHAT I LIKE IN A SCHOOL?



- **VISIT! (PSAT DAY: 10/16)**
- Take a tour
- Talk to students on campus
- Watch an athletic event or academic event
- Talk to admissions counselors
- Visit with the admissions rep that come to Long Reach (sign up on Naviance)
  
- **ASK YOURSELF: HOW DO I FIT INTO THIS CAMPUS?**

# MAKING A LIST



- 1-2 Reach Schools
  - Long shot for admission; your academics are below admission averages
- 3-5 50/50 Schools
  - Good candidate; your academics are exactly within admission averages
- 1-2 Likely Schools
  - Strong candidate; your academics are above admission averages

**Be sure to have likely schools academically and financially on your list!**

# TYPES OF ADMISSIONS



- **Early Decision**
  - Early deadline, early response, BINDING
- **Early Action**
  - Early deadline, early response, NON-BINDING
- **Priority Deadline**
  - Students apply by an earlier deadline, and receive priority over students who do not meet the deadline. Decisions are also made earlier.
- **Rolling Admission**
  - Students are accepted/denied as applications are received.
- **Regular Admission**
  - Apply by regular deadline (usu. Jan 15) and hear a response by April 1

# TYPES OF APPLICATIONS



**School's Application**  
**Common App**  
**Coalition App**

**How do I know which application to use?**













**DO YOUR  
RESEARCH**



# Applications/Delivery Icons

## colleges I'm thinking about

[+ add colleges to this list](#) | [compare me](#)

College	Delivery type	Added By	My Interest	Application Deadlines†				Con
				Early Decision	Early Action	Priority	Regular Decision	
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Baylor Univ</a>		student	N/A ▼	-	Nov 01	-	Feb 01	
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Bowie State Univ</a>		parent	N/A ▼	-	-	-	Feb 15	
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">UC Santa Barbara</a>		student	N/A ▼	-	-	-	Nov 30	
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Capitol Technology University</a>		parent	N/A ▼	-	-	Mar 01	-	
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Dartmouth Coll</a>		student	N/A ▼	Nov 01	-	-	Jan 01	
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Drexel Univ</a>		student	N/A ▼	Nov 01	Nov 01	-	Jan 15	
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Gonzaga Univ</a>		student	N/A ▼	-	Nov 15	Feb 01	Feb 01	
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Howard CC</a>		parent	N/A ▼	-	-	-	-	
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Johns Hopkins Univ</a>		student	N/A ▼	Nov 01	-	-	Jan 02	
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">U of Kansas</a>		student	N/A ▼	-	-	Nov 01	-	



# Application/Delivery Icons

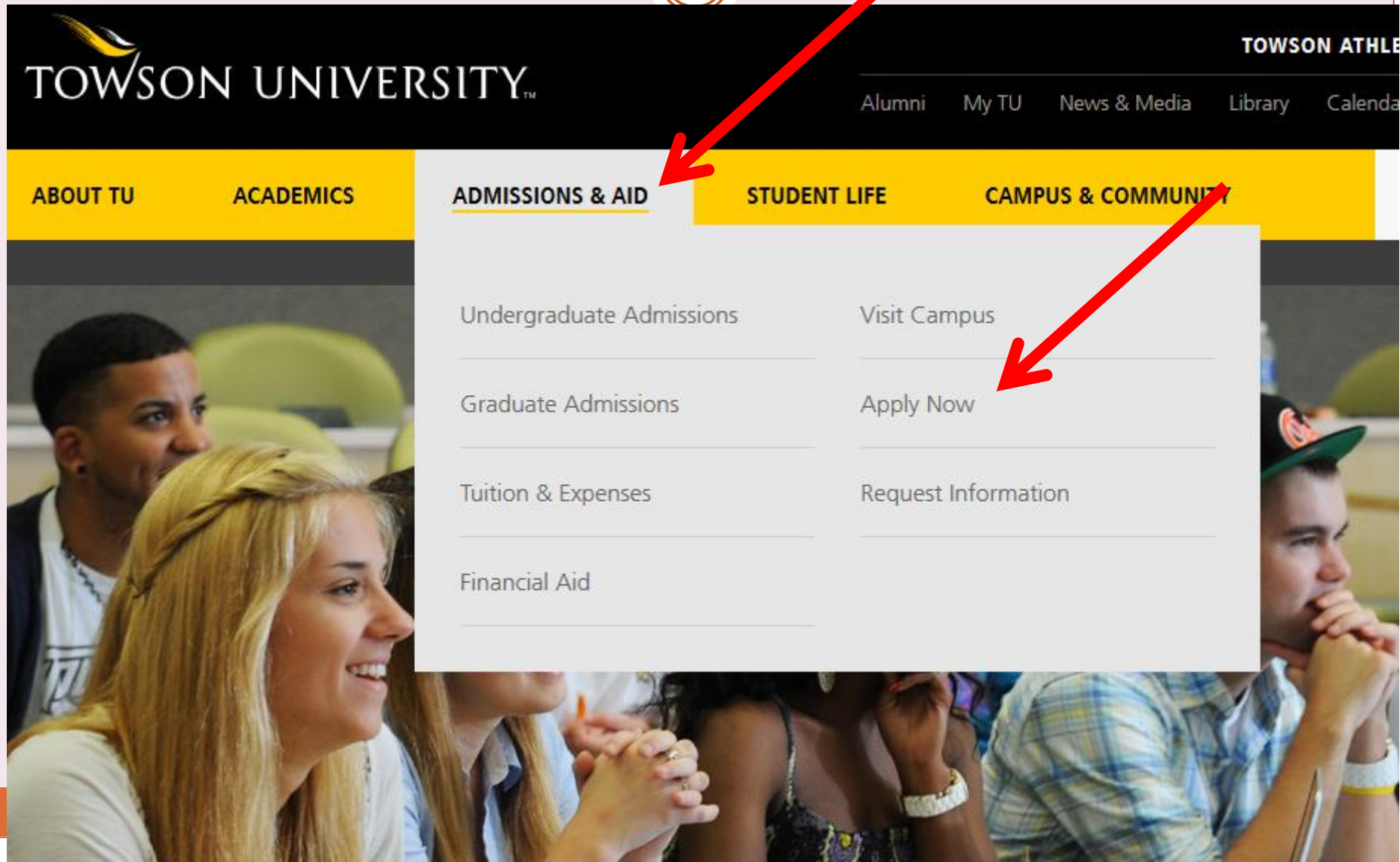


**This college accepts the Common Application. Your school may submit transcripts and recommendations electronically.**



**Your school may submit transcripts and recommendations electronically.**

# SCHOOL APP SCREEN SHOT



 TOWSON UNIVERSITY™

TOWSON ATHLE

Alumni My TU News & Media Library Calenda

ABOUT TU

ACADEMICS

ADMISSIONS & AID

STUDENT LIFE

CAMPUS & COMMUNITY

Undergraduate Admissions

Visit Campus

Graduate Admissions

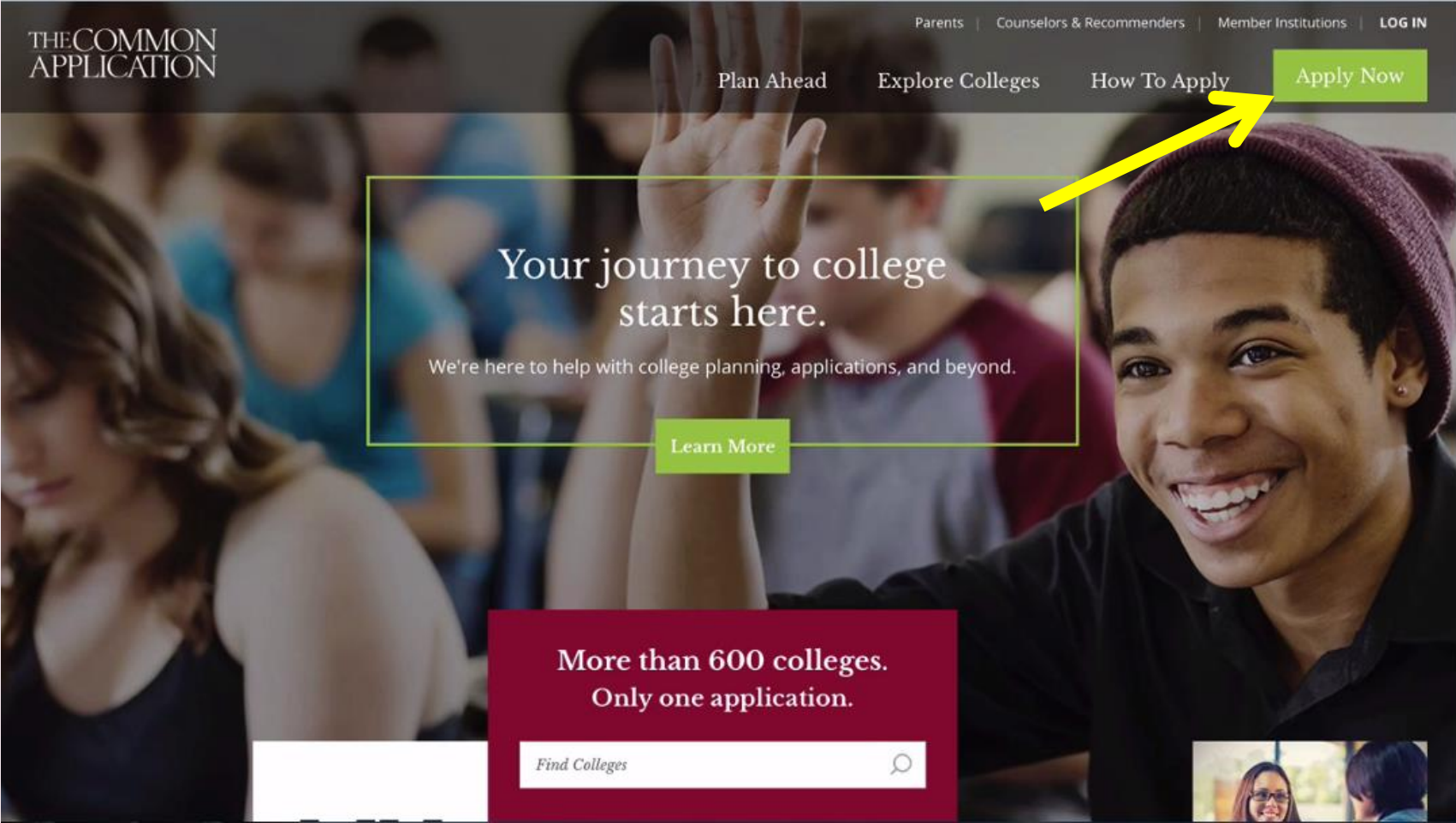
Apply Now

Tuition & Expenses

Request Information

Financial Aid

# COMMON APP SCREEN SHOT



# COALITION APP SCREEN SHOT



## www.mycoalition.org



CREATE ACCOUNT

LOG IN

Welcome!

Welcome to the Coalition for Access, Affordability, and Success, a consortium of diverse public and private colleges and universities that has come together to improve the college admission application process for all students.

The Coalition has developed a free platform of online tools to streamline the experience of organizing and refining your academic skills, discovering your college options, and preparing your college applications. For more information about the Coalition, please visit <http://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/>.

Thank you for using the Coalition Platform.

Email

Password

[? Forgot your username or password?](#)

Log In

Or, if you are new, please

[Create Account](#)

[Contact our Help Desk](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Terms of Use](#)

[CollegeNET Corporate](#)

# SAT/ACT



**DATES**

**HOW TO SEND SCORES**

# UPCOMING DATES



## SAT Dates

SAT Date	Reg. Deadline	Late Reg. Deadline
10/6	9/7	9/26
11/3	10/5	10/24
12/1	11/2	11/20

COLLEGE BOARD sends scores.

9 days after test to send 4 free score reports. \$11.25 per report after that.

## ACT Dates

ACT Date	Reg. Deadlines	Late Reg. Deadline
10/27	9/28	9/29-10/14
12/8	11/2	11/3-11/19

ACT sends scores. \$12 per report.

# COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS



COLLEGE APPLICATION CHECKLIST

TRANSCRIPT REQUEST

WAIVER OF RIGHTS

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

TIMELINE

# Transcript – What is that?

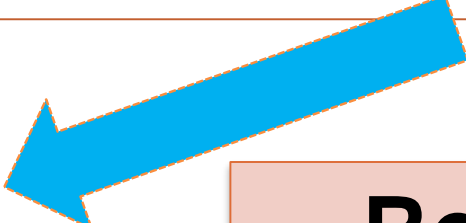


- A transcript is an official copy of a student's academic record
- It includes the following:
  - Course names from 9<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup> grade
  - Final grade for each course
  - Senior courses listed by name
  - Weighted and unweighted GPA and Class Rank – after Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>
  - No PSAT, SAT, ACT, HSA or AP scores will be included





## Transcript/Student Records Request Form




Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Counselor: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Teachers Writing Your Letters of Recommendation: \_\_\_\_\_

College/University, Armed Forces, Scholarship, Employer, Trade/Technical School, NCAA, Internship Program, Other (List below)	City in which College is Located	Application Deadline Date	Early Decision (Y or N)	Are you using the Common Application (Y or N)	Do you need your transcript mailed? Write Y if your college has a stamp icon in Naviance: 	Do you need a Counselor Letter of Recommendation (Y or N)	For Office Use Only
							Electronic Submission or Mailed Date
Date of Request: _____						Paid? _____	

**Return to Student Services 20 days prior to college deadline**

**1-3 schools= \$0**

**4+ schools= \$2**

### Release of Student Records

The law requires that schools receive written permission signed by the parent/guardian before transcripts, including mid year reports and other student records can be released to a third party.

I give approval to have transcripts and other student records sent by U.S. Mail or transmitted electronically to those listed above when a request to do so is made by my son/daughter.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Transcript Fee: \$4.00 per transcript should be paid at the time of request.  
Please allow 20 school days for transcript requests.

Colleges and universities prefer that teacher evaluations and recommendations be confidential. Colleges generally believe that recommendations written with this understanding are candid and honest. Therefore, those recommendations have more validity and carry more weight in the admissions process than recommendations that parents and students provide.

In light of this, we request that students/parents requesting letters of recommendation complete and return the waiver form below to the counseling office. If you choose not to waive your right to access letters of recommendation, a copy of this form will accompany each transcript package.

### Waiver of Right to Access School/Teacher Letters of Recommendation

We request that school employee(s) at \_\_\_\_\_ High School complete a letter of recommendation(s) and/or other evaluations associated with my/my child's college application. We authorize the release of student information in this letter and other application forms.

We do waive our rights       We do not waive our rights

to examine or obtain a copy of the letter(s), rating sheets, and other evaluations.

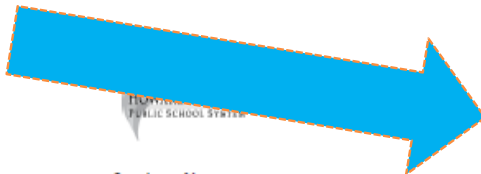
\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Student

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature      Date

**Complete and  
return to  
Student  
Services with  
your Transcript  
Request form.  
ONLY NEED  
ONE.**



Date Received from Student \_\_\_\_\_

CLARK COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

### Teacher Recommendation Request Form

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Complete & submit to two teachers 20 days prior to college deadline!**

Name of College/University	Due Date	Electronic Submission	Common Application	For Teacher Use: Date Letter Sent
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

#### Release of Student Records

Law requires that schools receive written permission signed by the parent/guardian before transcripts and other student records can be released to a third party. I give approval to have transcripts and other student records sent by U.S. Mail or transmitted electronically to those listed above when a request to do so is made by my son/daughter.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_



Note for teachers: You can pick up a pre-printed and stamped envelope from the registrar if your letter of recommendation needs to be mailed via US Mail. Keep this form for your records. If student requests additional recommendations from colleges not on this list, they must provide you with another Teacher Recommendation Request form with appropriate signatures.  
HCPSS.The Office of School Counseling.LB.12.13

# Teacher Rec. Request



Go to the “Colleges” tab and click the “Letters of Rec” link



<b>Apply to Colleges</b>	<b>Scholarships and Money</b>
 COLLEGES I'm applying to	 SCHOLARSHIPS I'm Applying To
<a href="#">Letters of Recommendation</a>	<a href="#">Scholarship List</a>
<a href="#">College Events</a>	<a href="#">Scholarship Match</a>
<a href="#">Manage Transcripts</a>	<a href="#">National Scholarship Search</a>
<a href="#">Test scores</a>	<a href="#">Show less</a>
<a href="#">Show less</a>	
<b>College Visits</b>	

# Teacher Rec. Request cont'd



Click “Add Request”

Atholton High School Logged In as: Kami Wagner ( [log out](#) ) [Manage my account](#)

family connection

[home](#) [courses](#) [colleges](#) [careers](#) [about me](#) [my planner](#)

**Letters of recommendation**

**Your Requests**

You can request new letters of recommendation and track the most recent status of your requests here.

Showing 0 requests

[Add Request](#)

Recommendation For -	Deadline -	Recommender(s)	Status ⓘ	Cancel Request
----------------------	------------	----------------	----------	----------------

# Teacher Rec. Request cont'd



Select Teacher (ARL teachers not on list) & select school

Atholton High School      Logged in as: Kami Wagner (log out)      Manage my account

family connection

home    courses    colleges    careers    about me    my planner

### Letters of recommendation

#### Add new request

Here you can ask a teacher to write you a letter of recommendation for schools in your *Colleges I'm applying to list*. Make sure you give your teachers plenty of time to write your recommendations!

1. Who would you like to write this recommendation?\*

2. Select which colleges this request is for:\*

<input type="checkbox"/> All	Colleges -	Due -
<input type="checkbox"/>	The University of Alabama -- required / -- allowed / 0 requested	

3. Include a personal note to remind your recommender about your great qualities and any specifics about your request:

# IMPORTANT NOTE!



Can't request teacher's rec  
in NAVIANCE until:

1) You have submitted your Transcript  
Request Form

AND

2) The registrar has added your colleges to  
your "Colleges I'm Applying to List"

## To Do: Summary



### **20 Days Before College App. Deadline:**

- Submit Transcript request form to student services.
- Submit FERPA Waiver to student services.
- Submit Teacher Recommendation Request form to two teachers.



# **Help us Help you!**



- Teacher Information Form
- Counselor Information Form

# Help us Help you!



[Home](#) [Courses](#) [Colleges](#) [Careers](#) [About Me](#) [My Planne](#)

## My Surveys

### Filter by

Not started



Counselor Information Form - Cl...

NOT STARTED

Parent Information Form - Class...

NOT STARTED

Teacher Information Form #1

NOT STARTED

Teacher Information Form #2

NOT STARTED

## family connection

[home](#)[colleges](#)[careers](#)[about me](#)[my planner](#)

## interesting things about me:

- > [personality type](#)
- > [resume](#)
- > [documents](#)
- > [journal](#)
- > [survey history](#)

## official things:

- > [profile](#)
- > [inbox](#)
- > [account](#)
- > [test scores](#)

## surveys to take:

- > [11th grade survey](#)

## Counselor Information Form

Please complete this survey as completely as possible. This information will only be seen by your counselor and anything that you write may be used in a letter of recommendation. If there are things that you are unsure if you want shared with colleges, please discuss in person with your counselor.

\* = required question

Please save your answers periodically if you need longer than one hour to complete this form. Your session will expire after one hour if you have not changed the page.

1. Birthdate  
 (MM/DD/YYYY)
2. Phone Number where you can be reached during the summer
3. Email address that you will check during the summer
4. What are your academic interests?

**Please answer with  
great DETAIL!!**

# Connecting Your Naviance Account & Common App



In order to send transcripts and recommendations electronically, you must connect your Common App account and Naviance.

You must do this if you are using Common App for one or more applications.

# Matching Common App to Naviance



The screenshot shows the Naviance Student interface. At the top, the header includes the Naviance logo and 'Student' on the left, and navigation links for Home, Courses, Colleges, Careers, About Me, and My Planner on the right. Below the header, the main content area is titled 'Colleges I'm applying to' and includes a search bar. A prominent pink message box states: 'It looks like you are not currently able to apply to Common App schools. Match your Common App account to Naviance Student account to get started.' A 'Match Accounts' button is located in the top right of this message box. Below the message box, there are links for 'Manage Transcripts', 'Application Milestones', and 'Compare Me'. A legend indicates that a star icon means '= extended profile available'. At the bottom, there is a section for 'College that I'm attending:' which currently shows 'N/A'. Three red arrows are overlaid on the image: one points to the 'Colleges I'm applying to' header, another points to the 'Match Accounts' button, and a third points to the 'Colleges' navigation link in the top header.

# CLOSING THOUGHTS



- Use multiple resources when researching colleges
  - Cross reference different websites and utilize print publications
- Even if you don't think you want to apply to HCC
  - Apply to HCC by January so you can be considered for scholarships and Honors programs.

# ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS



- Admissions counselors caution families from using the term “safety school”
  - Entrance requirements are becoming more demanding
- There is no such thing as the “perfect college”
  - There are more than 3000 colleges and with effort and guidance you can find multiple colleges where you will be happy and successful.
- Be realistic when you are creating your list of schools
  - Be sure to include an appropriate range of schools and an appropriate number.

# Financial Aid



**FAFSA BASICS**

**FSA ID**

**FAFSA 2019-20**



# FAFSA Basics



- **Free** Application for Federal Student Aid
- Online application is filed by 99% families at **[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)**
- Average completion time-21 minutes

COMPLETE THIS, even if you think you won't be eligible.  
Just completing it makes you eligible for federal, state aid &  
institutional aid!

# FSA ID



HAVE to have an FSA ID to fill out the FAFSA

- The **FSA ID** is a username/password for students and parents.
- Used to e-sign the FAFSA, make corrections, apply for loans
  - Requires a valid email address  
(cannot be the same for student and parent)

[www.fsaaid.ed.gov](http://www.fsaaid.ed.gov)

# FAFSA 2020-2021



- FAFSA available October 1, 2019
  - Earlier Income Info Required
    - ✦ 2018 tax/income information required
    - ✦ IRS Data Retrieval Tool available immediately
- Deadline for State of Maryland is still March 1, 2020

**Take Away: It is in your best interest to apply early!**

# FAFSA Resources



MEOC @ LHRS every Tuesday, beginning October

FAFSA Federal Student Aid Youtube Channel

**Bring: 2018 income tax returns, SS numbers,  
and valid photo ID**

# CSS Profile



- Determines your financial need differently than the FAFSA
- CSS PROFILE asks for more detailed info than FAFSA
  - Examples:
    - ✦ Requires minimum student contribution
    - ✦ Whether or not you own a house
- Greater reliance on professional judgment: Gives financial aid counselors greater freedom to grant aid
- Cost to CSS Profile a cost to filling out the CSS Profile, though some families may qualify for fee waivers