

Welcome  
to

# COLLEGE 101

Riverview Jr. Sr. High School

Counseling Department

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# First things first...

Begin the process by having a conversation with your parents. Discuss items such as...

1. Location of College choices
2. Develop a list of Colleges to apply (min. 3)
  1. Private vs. Public Colleges
  2. Size of College
  3. Financial Responsibilities



# How to Narrow Down YOUR List...

In order to create your list of Colleges to which you will apply, please keep this in mind. Make two categories first. The first category being labeled your "Dream School" and the second category should be for your "Reality School".

**Dream School**



Find your "fit"!

- Academics
- Personality
- Social
- Financial

**Reality School**



“We don’t see things as they are, we see them as we are.”

# College Visits

It's best to visit the colleges before applying. Check online or schedule a visit for campus tours.

When scheduling a visit for campus tours, call ahead and speak with an admissions representative to schedule an appointment. You can have a private tour, or visit during an open house, etc.

- Obtain a College Visit Form from the front office.
- Return the form signed for an approved school absence.

At the college visit, make time to ask questions, meet specifically with an admissions counselor and learn about the colleges criteria for admission before applying.

**Admission**

# What are Colleges looking for



1. Difficulty of high school courses
2. High School GPA
3. SAT/ACT Scores
4. Class Rank
5. Applicant's Resume
6. Community Service Involvement

# SAT/ACT placement tests

[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

School Code: 393080

[www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)

<https://sat.collegeboard.org/>

# College Application (PART I)

1. Most Colleges will offer an application (free) at a visit.
2. Colleges vary on their application process
  1. Paper application
  2. Online application
  3. The Common Application

*<https://www.commonapp.org>*

An online undergraduate college *application* accepted by over 400 independent colleges.

# The Common Application (Forbes Nov 17, 2014)

## 10 Things You Need To Know To Successfully Navigate The Common App

- 1. Many schools use the Common App, but not all.** Out of the thousands of colleges in the United States and abroad, a little over 500 of them use the Common App. If any of the schools you want to apply to aren't on here, you'll need to submit a separate application directly with them.
- 2. It's worth double checking important application info.** The Common App has an [application requirements grid](#) with a bunch of information all in one place from its participating schools. This can be immensely helpful, but it's worth noting that info on here has been wrong in the past, like last year when they reported wrong deadlines for schools such as University of Colorado-Boulder and Colgate. This isn't the type of thing you want to get wrong. So once you've narrowed down your list, go line by line and check info against the school's website. Also, stay on top of your email since colleges might send updates and reminders about upcoming deadlines, says Anna Takahashi, Director of College Counseling at Eastside College Preparatory School and a previous Stanford admissions director.
- 3. Fill out application questions slowly and deliberately.** "Relevant questions will pop up based on your answers to previous questions," says Katherine Cohen, founder of New York-based college admissions consultancy IvyWise. For instance, once you select your intended major or program, a certain essay prompt might appear. "If you plan to apply to the engineering department, make sure you're not accidentally answering the college of arts and sciences prompt," says Cohen.
- 4. Prepare longer answers ahead of time.** For the activities section, personal statement and any writing supplements, you're best off writing and editing offline. One good reason: There isn't spellcheck on the Common App (although some browsers will provide this).
- 5. List your most impressive classes and activities first.**
- 6. Report your highest test scores where you can.**
- 7. Add recommenders.**
- 8. Review, pay and submit.**





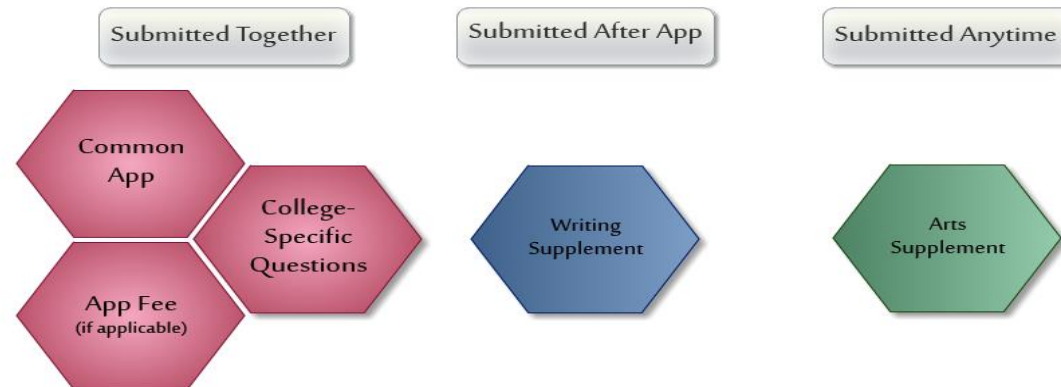
# The Common Application continued

## 9. Submit supplements separately from the application.

THE COMMON  
APPLICATION

### Materials for Submission

When submitting an application to a college, some materials must be submitted together, while others can be submitted independently and at different times.



## 10. Don't be caught off guard by technical glitches.

THE COMMON  
APPLICATION  
For Undergraduate College Admission

# College Application (Part II)

3. Complete all sections of the application (DO NOT LEAVE SECTIONS BLANK)
4. Be sure to include any documents that the college requires
5. Be sure to begin the application far enough in advance so that you do not miss the deadline to apply
  - A. Early Decision
  - B. Early Action
  - C. Regular Deadline

# College Application (Part III)

## **IMPORTANT Documents required for a Complete Application**

1. Resume- all students have a completed resume on Career Cruising software.

Update and proof please!

2. Essay- Make it error free! Draft-Rewrite-Proof-Rewrite (you are writing to an adult not a peer)

Have English teachers and/or counselors proof your work always!

3. Letters of Recommendation

Give teachers and counselors enough time to prepare your letters (2-3 weeks)

Provide personal data to "writer" (enclosed form)

If necessary, provide a self-addressed envelope and stamps

Follow-up with a Thank You note

# College Application (Part III) continued


## 4. Transcripts

All "Official" transcripts are sent through the Guidance Office

Transcript release form enclosed



# Mailing the Application for Acceptance Letter

- Mailing... 
- **Mail**
  - -Make certain the application is submitted in its entirety
  - -Check with college to ensure receipt of all parts of the application
  - -Check is possible mid-year report is required
- **Online**
  - -Be sure to click "SUBMIT"
  - -Make sure all documents are included or requested from others
- Wait for the Acceptance Letter!!!
  - Unless applying for early decision- MOST colleges begin sending letters of admission in January
  - Letters should include a summary of a financial aid package
  - Once accepted 😊 Begin discussing the financial aid offers and completing the FAFSA and financial paperwork

# All things to consider...almost there

- **Paying for College and Making the Final Decision**

- **FAFSA** (Free Application For Student Aid)

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

- **Grants**

- Need based aid
- FAFSA completion is required

- **Scholarships**

- National/Local- see guidance counselor/department
- Be mindful of deadlines!
- Check college financial aid department
- Tax return

- **Loans**

- Subsidized
- Unsubsidized



What's the Bottom Line?  
Make the final Decision...