

SENIOR COLLEGE PARENT NIGHT: FROM APPLICATIONS TO FINANCIAL AID



Fall 2026

Timeline

Exploration Phase (Junior/early senior year)

- Visit with college reps
- Visit college campuses
- Examine college websites
- Develop list of college options
- Consider college majors

Application Phase (now until Dec)

- Determine list of colleges where you will apply
- Follow application procedure as outlined today
- Continue college rep visits
- Continue campus visits
- Complete FAFSA and/or Profile

Decision Phase (Jan 1-May 1)

- Rank colleges where accepted
- Continue campus visits
- Assess official award letters
- Decide on final college choice

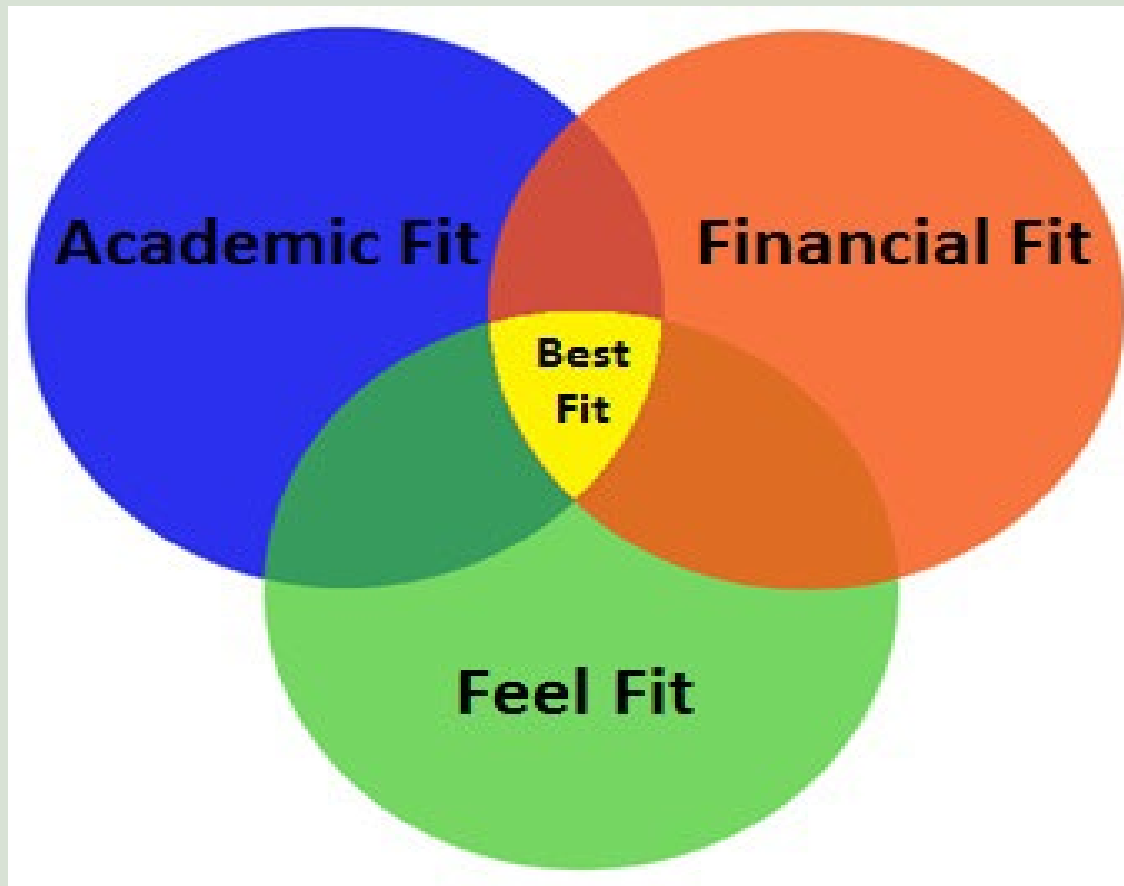


BLACKBAUD

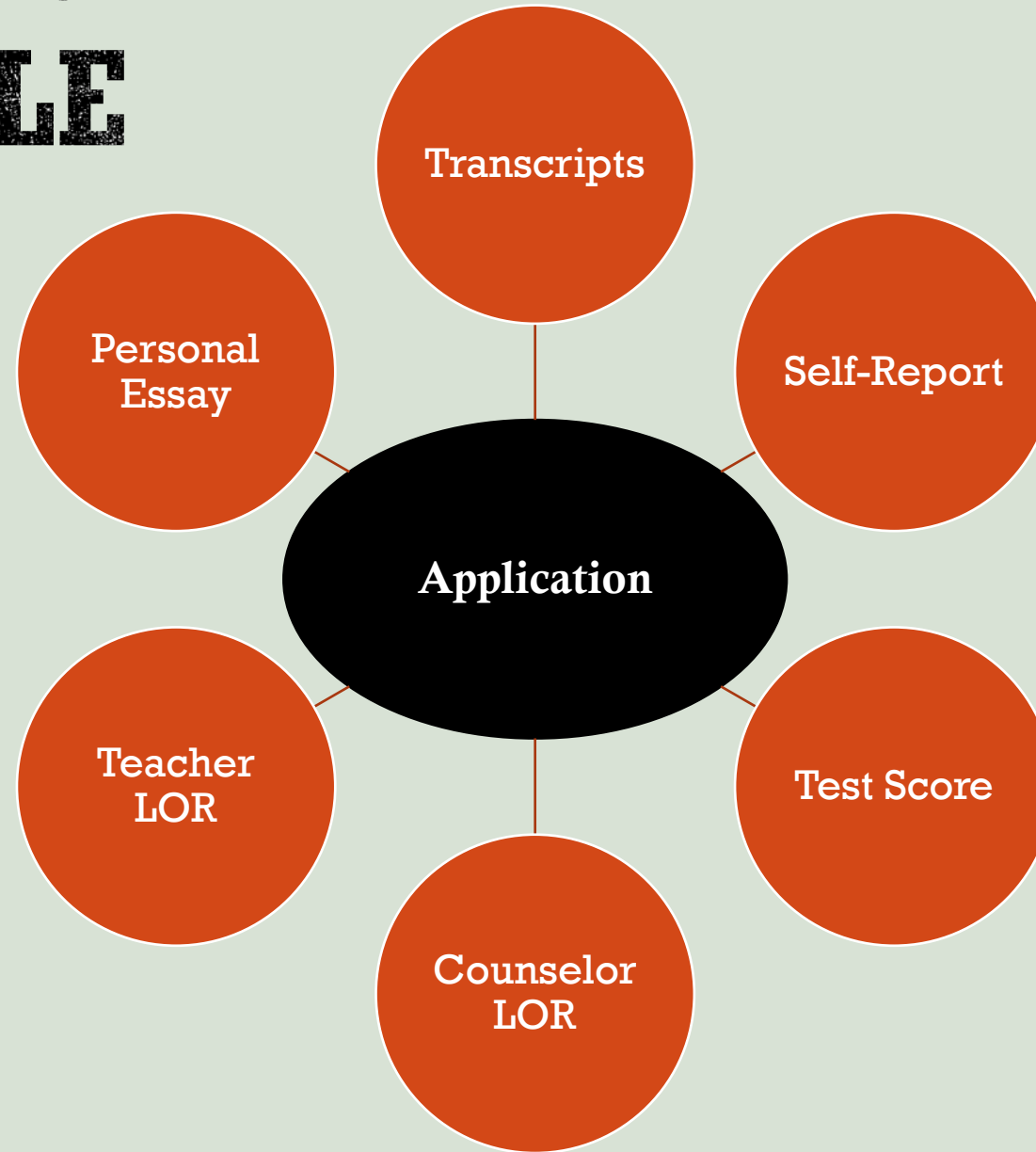
- Log in to Blackbaud
 - Performance Box
 - Transcripts
 - Click on PCHS Unofficial Transcript
 - Senior Advisory
 - New this year, updating as soon as possible
 - College Field Trip Sign Ups
 - Advisors assigned
 - Kristen Snyder- Social worker services all grade levels
 - Antonella Feyerer- Senior Counselor



FINDING THE RIGHT COLLEGE FIT



BUILDING YOUR COLLEGE FILE



TYPES OF APPLICATIONS

- **Direct Online Application**

- Typically used by smaller private schools and community colleges

- **Common Application (most Colleges/Universities)**

- Benefit of applying to multiple schools with the same application
- You will have one essay you send to all colleges
- You may also have additional essays for specific college (Supplement)



TYPES OF APPLICATION DEADLINES

- **Early Action (can be as early as Oct 15)**
 - **Regular Decision**
 - **Early Decision (Binding)**
 - **Rolling**
-
- **80% apply by Nov 1 Early Action**



TEST SCORES

- ACT is a graduation requirement
- ACT and SAT scores must be sent directly from the testing agency. You can do so using the following websites. Each score report request will incur a fee. Keep in mind scores are not sent immediately following request from agency.
- Some schools super-score so you should send all scores that impact the super-score.
- **Most schools are opting for test-optional admission.** This means you do not have to send in a test score (ACT/SAT). Be aware of what each school is requiring.
- **ACT:** www.actstudent.org
- **SAT:** www.collegeboard.com



REQUESTING TRANSCRIPTS

On Naviance:

1. Match Naviance and Common App account in Naviance (if you used Common App)
 2. Add college that you applied to (will automatically be added after you match account)
 3. Request transcript
- *If you do not follow these steps, your transcripts and supplemental materials will **NOT** be sent to the college.



TEACHER LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

- To get a teacher letter of recommendation (if applicable)
 1. **Ask teacher to write you letter of recommendation**
 2. **If they consent, please request the letter through the “Letters of Recommendation” page on Naviance and follow these steps (see Application Procedures):**
 - Add request – Choose teacher – general request – include personal note to teacher that includes what you enjoyed and learned about in their class
 3. **Teacher will upload letter of recommendation to Naviance** (Your counselor will transmit your letter through Naviance)
 - You can check the status of the letter through Naviance letter of recommendation request
 4. **Give teacher 2 weeks to write letter**



COUNSELOR LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

- **Please check the school's admissions page to see what the requirements are for applying**

- To get a counselor letter of recommendation (if applicable)
 1. Must complete a resume and turn it in to your college counselor
 2. Your counselor will transmit your letter through Naviance
 3. You will be unable to view the letter on Naviance



COLLEGE REP VISITS

- **In person (in the BLC)**
- **Check Naviance and the daily announcements for list of when Colleges are visiting as well as Teams**
 - Check weekly as the list is continually updated through Fall
- **Sign-up through Mrs. Brassil in the Counseling Office**
 - Your pass must be signed at least one day in advance of the visit by the teacher of the class you will miss.



COLLEGE FIELD TRIPS

9/3-University Of Illinois

9/16- Northwestern

10/22- Illinois State University

11/4- St. Francis (Sign up coming soon)

Open to Juniors and Seniors

Space is Limited

- **Sign up via Microsoft Forms**

- Can be found:

- Class of 26 Teams

- Senior Advisory under Topics College Field Trips



ATHLETES

- If you are participating in a sport at the collegiate level, you must register with the NCAA or NAIA.
- After registering, contact your counselor to inform him that you registered.
- Please let your counselor know if you commit to a college.
 - The Athletic Department will host multiple college signing days throughout the school year
- **NCAA:** [NCAA Eligibility Center](#)
- **NAIA:** [PlayNAIA - NAIA - National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics \(mynaia.org\)](#)
- *NCAA Division III and NJCAA (junior colleges) do not require athletes to register with an eligibility center



NAVIANCE

- Log in to Naviance
 - Career Tab
 - Colleges Tab
 - College Rep Visits
 - SuperMatch
 - Transcripts
 - Letters of Rec
 - Scholarships



NEW TO COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

■ Glimpse

ROSE-HULMAN
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

ACADEMICS

[Home](#) [Why ND](#) [Visit & Engage](#) [Aid & Affordability](#) [Apply](#) [Contact](#) [Search](#)

6. Essay: Reflect, have fun, show us who you really are.

The essay portions of both the application and the Notre Dame Writing Supplement provide our Admissions Committee with the opportunity to get to know you.

Your essays are our favorite part of the application reading process. Why? Because we learn about important decisions you've made, communities you're a part of, lessons you've learned, your family traditions, tough moments you've faced, and the values that guide your life.

We use your essays to hear your authentic voice—we want to know the real you beyond lists of courses, numbers, and activities. [You can view the current essay questions here.](#)

While we don't conduct interviews, applicants from U.S. high schools are welcome to record an optional [Glimpse video](#), and international high school applicants can access a similar opportunity through [InitialView](#). These 60-90 second videos are a valuable way for us to gain a deeper understanding of your personality and perspective beyond your written application. Please note that a fee applies; fee waivers can be obtained from Glimpse and you are able to send your video to multiple schools.

7. Examples of Talent (Optional)

If you intend to pursue a first or second major in the Department of Art, Art History, and Design or the School of Architecture, you are welcome to submit examples of your talent in a creative portfolio. Additionally, the Department of Music invites any applicant, regardless of intended major, to submit talent samples (video examples required). All portfolios should be submitted via [SlideRoom](#).



FIRST-YEAR APPLICATION & DEADLINES

You are invited to apply for admission to Rose-Hulman in the fall prior to the year you wish to be admitted - for incoming first-year students, that's the fall of your senior year.

A completed application for admission should include:

- Submitted application
- High school transcript
- Letter of recommendation from a teacher, counselor or principal (homeschooled students must have a recommendation from someone other than the parent)
- A non-refundable application fee of \$65 or a qualified fee waiver
- International applicants must also supply an affidavit of financial support and official TOEFL, IELTS, or Duolingo scores.

Optional: Domestic students attending high school in the US can submit a 60-90 second Glimpse video (<https://initialview.com/glimpse/>) allowing us to get to know you better. Students who choose not to submit a Glimpse video are at no disadvantage in the review process. For International students and domestic students attending high school abroad, Rose-Hulman will accept interviews from InitialView (<https://initialview.com/>). Similar to Glimpse videos, InitialView interviews are not required and applicants without one are at no disadvantage in our review process.



NEW TO COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

- **One Click College Admit**
 - gives high school students **automatic admission offers** to participating Illinois colleges and universities based on their **Unweighted GPA**
 - No essays or test scores needed



NEW TO COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

One Click College Admit

■ Participating Colleges 2026

- Chicago State University
- Eastern Illinois University
- Governors State University
- Northern Illinois University
- Northeastern Illinois University
- Southern Illinois University Carbondale
- Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
- Western Illinois University

■ Participating Colleges 2027

- Illinois State University
- University of Illinois Springfield (UIS)



NEW TO COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

- University of St. Francis
 - Automatic acceptance for students attending Providence
 - Joliet Franciscan Scholars Award- \$3000
 - May stack with other merit based scholarships
- Contact Araceli Manzo for more information
 - amanzo@stfrancis.edu



COMMON APP

- College Search
 - Adding/Removing Colleges
- My colleges
 - Information on individual colleges
 - Requirements
 - Supplemental Essays
 - My Common Application
 - Main part of application to be filled out first



FINANCIAL AID

- **Helps families cover the cost of college**
- **Comes from federal, state, school, and private sources**
- **Types**
 - **Grants** – Free, need-based aid.
 - **Scholarships** – Merit or need-based.
 - **Work-Study** – Part-time campus jobs.
 - **Loans** – Must be repaid, often with interest.



FAFSA

- **Free Application For Federal Student Aid**
- Required for most **federal, state, and school-based aid**
- Free to file → fafsa.gov
- Opens **October 1** (except **December** for Class of 2025 due to updates)
- Priority deadlines vary by school and state
- Apply early — **some funds are first-come, first-served**



FAFSA

WHAT YOU NEED TO FILE

- FSA IDs for **student and parent**
- Social Security numbers
- Tax returns and W-2s (from 2 years prior)
- Bank account balances & investment info
- List of colleges to send results to



FAFSA TIPS

- Use the **IRS Data Retrieval Tool** for accuracy
- Don't leave fields blank — use “0” if not applicable
- List **all colleges** you're considering
- Submit early



FAFSA

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER YOU FILE

- Receive **Student Aid Report (SAR)**
- Schools calculate aid packages
- Watch for **verification requests**
- Review and compare offers
- Accept grants and scholarships first, then loans



GRANTS

- Based on **financial need**.
- No repayment** required.
- Examples:
 - Federal Pell Grant up to \$7,395
 - State MAP Grant vary from \$300 to \$8,064
 - TEACH Grant up to \$4000
 - Commitment to teach for four years in a high need field
- Awarded after filing the **FAFSA**.



SCHOLARSHIPS

- Based on **merit, need, or special criteria**
 - talent, major, background, etc.
- Offered by **colleges, local organizations, & national programs.**
- Can be **stacked** with other aid.
- Apply early and often — deadlines vary.
- May need to submit: Transcript, Test Scores, Essay, FAFSA



SCHOLARSHIPS

- **Renewable**- Can be renewed year to year usually based on maintain a GPA and being enrolled in a certain amount of classes
- **Non-renewable**-Awarded one time
- **Where to start**
 - Upon acceptance
 - Each school will give you access to their specific scholarships
 - Scholarship Apps and Websites
 - Going Merry
 - Fast Web
 - College Greenlight
 - Scholly,
 - **Naviance (November)**



WORK-STUDY

- Part-time **campus jobs** funded through your aid package.
- Flexible hours to fit academic schedules.
- Earnings help cover **books, supplies, or daily expenses.**
- Must indicate interest on **FAFSA** to be considered.



LOANS

- **Always max out federal loans first** – safer terms and repayment options.
- **Borrow only what you need** – to keep future debt manageable.
- **Understand repayment options** – like Income-Driven Repayment (IDR) plans, Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF), and deferment/forbearance options.
- **Check interest rates and fees** carefully if considering private loans
- **Start repayment after graduation** (for most federal loans)



Loan Type	Who Can Borrow	Interest	Key Features	Pros	Cons
Direct Subsidized (Federal) up to \$5,500	Undergrads with financial need	Fixed, low (set annually by Congress)	Gov. pays interest while in school, grace, or deferment	No interest during school, flexible repayment, forgiveness options	Annual/aggregate limits; must show need
Direct Unsubsidized (Federal) up to \$20,500	Undergrads, grads, professionals	Fixed, low	Interest accrues immediately	No need-based limit, flexible repayment	Interest builds during school; limits lower than PLUS loans
Direct PLUS (Parent or Grad)	Parents of undergrads; grad/professional students	Fixed, higher than other federal loans	Credit check required	Can borrow up to full cost of attendance, federal protections	Higher interest, origination fee, requires credit approval



Loan Type	Who Can Borrow	Interest	Key Features	Pros	Cons
Private Student Loans	Undergrads, grads (often with co-signer)	Fixed or variable, credit-based	Flexible lender options	Can cover gaps beyond federal limits, competitive rates for good credit	No federal protections, harder repayment terms, variable rates can rise
State-Based Loans	State residents, sometimes specific schools	Usually fixed, often lower than private	State-specific terms	Local forgiveness options, sometimes better terms than private	Limited availability, may still require credit check
Institutional /University Loans	Students at that school, usually need-based	Varies (often low)	Issued directly by the college	Low interest, flexible repayment	Limited funds, eligibility varies, less standardized



IMPORTANT DATES

- ACT @ Providence – **September 6**
- Chicago National College Fair - **September 13 11am-3pm @Navy Pier**
- College Panel Night- **September 16 @ 6pm Commons**
 - Villanova, Michigan State, SLU, & Elmhurst
- Senior College Planning Days – **October 14-15**
- JJC College Fair (150+ colleges) – **October 22 6-8pm**
- Early Application Deadline for many colleges – **October 15 or November 1st**



Have More Questions?



QUESTIONS.... ANSWERED

■ Is it better to apply via CommonApp?

- It depends on how many schools your student is applying for. If they are only applying to 2 or 3 schools, it may be worth to just do the Direct Applications. If they are applying to more than that Common App will be easier. In terms of if colleges give preference to one application over the other, it will NOT affect admission if they apply one way or the other.

■ If our students takes a gap year, does this impact his application the following year?

- Depending on the school it can. Most schools not only will want to know why and what you did during your gap year, but also, would like you to continue your education in some way. This can be one core class. If your student chooses to not write about the gap year they will most likely not get into the school.



QUESTIONS.... ANSWERED

- Is there a downside to submitting the FAFSA?
 - No
- Is the Superscore or Individual scores sent from the ACT?
 - When in the ACT portal, you will indicate which scores you would like to send you can send individual scores or the superscore.
- How do you enter any fee waiver codes you've received through the CommonApp?
 - You will need to go to the general section for the college you have a code for, then look for the fee related questions, within that section you will be able to enter the code

