

Senior Guide

Research and Visit

- The best way to know if a school is a good fit is to get on campus and ask questions.
- If you are not able to visit, research as much as possible (website) and call if you have specific questions.
- Every college is different so it's important to ask questions!
- Pay attention to application and/or scholarship requirements, deadlines, majors available (Does your major have specific requirements?), tuition and fees, etc.
- Look up your potential major's four year plan. What courses are required?
- Types of visits-Group, Special Events, Individual
 - Group visits (i.e. Senior Days) are general and with many other students.
 - Individual visits are specific to you and you are typically able to set up meetings with faculty in academic majors/colleges as well as financial aid and admissions representatives. More time to ask specific questions and get more detailed information.
- Setting Up a Visit
 - Many colleges allow you to set up visits online. Visit their website to learn more.
 - Call the admissions office.
- Colleges and different branches of military will visit TCHS. Great time to hear general information and ask questions.
- When going on a visit, call the office like any other absence to excuse your son/daughter. The absence does not count towards total number of absences for the semester.
- See the handout "Top Questions to Guide You to the Perfect College"
- Social Media-Like their Facebook page or follow them on Twitter to get updates. Sometimes students have earned scholarships from following them.

Application Information

- Review admissions requirements (GPA, test scores, curriculum, etc)
- Deadlines!!! Pay attention to priority scholarship deadlines as well.
 - KU/KSU-Nov. 1, FHSU Nov. 15, WSU-Dec. 1
- Fill out the general first-time freshmen application for admissions.
 - Do they have an essay? (see essay rubric handout)
 - Do they require letters of recommendation?
 - It's helpful to have a resume and transcript with you when filling it out.
 - Many schools will require an official transcript to be sent to them.

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- Is there a separate scholarship application?
- Apply even if you plan to take the ACT again. Most colleges will honor new scores up to a certain date for scholarship consideration.
- Application Fees! Fee waivers may be available for those on free/reduced lunch. Check with your potential school to see if they are available.
- Update your application at semester if needed or required (i.e. GPA or test scores)
- Early decision vs. early action (typically for selective schools)
- Common Application-used by many out-of-state schools.

Transcripts

- Many colleges require you to send official transcripts once you apply.
- Request them through the guidance counselor by filling out a request. You may find and print the request from the guidance counselor's web page.
- A final transcript will be sent at the end of the school year to the school you plan to attend.
- ACT scores are printed on the transcript.
- Don't forget to request copies of college transcripts if you took online or dual credit courses. (Contact the college you took the courses through)

Letters of Recommendation

- Do not ask for one unless you know for sure you need one.
- Give the information to recommender ahead of time and make sure you give them at least 2 weeks to complete it.
- It's helpful to give them a copy of your resume. This is done at the beginning of the year in English class.
- Give them any other important information? Anything to focus on? Deadline?

ACT/SAT

- All schools will accept the ACT or SAT
 - Some may require SAT subject tests or the ACT with writing.
 - Research your school to know which one you will need!
- Ask potential schools what test dates can be used for possible scholarship consideration as well as admissions.
- ACT scores are printed on the transcript.
 - Some schools will accept them from the transcript and others will want a score report directly from ACT or CollegeBoard.

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- Every college views scores differently. Some may take the highest composite. Some look at subscores for departmental scholarships. Some may look at all the tests taken.
- Should I take it again?
 - How close am I to the next scholarship level? For admissions?
 - How many times have you taken it?
 - Are you will to take a workshop or study to improve your score?
 - ACT Test Method Prep-Career Cruising
- Some colleges will grant subject credit if ACT score is high enough.
 - WSU will grant 3 hours of English 101 if they receive a 31 on the English section of the ACT.
 - Contact the college to find out what policies they have in place for granting credit.
- Test Prep-ACT Test Method Prep
- Fee Waivers are available for those on free/reduced lunch. Please see the counselor.
 - Students register for the ACT online at www.actstudent.org

Scholarships

- Looking for scholarships can be time consuming. They are available all year long so you may begin at any time.
- Most scholarships you earn come directly from the college.
 - Merit based, athletic/activities, service, leadership, departmental, etc.
 - Search the college and department website to see what is available .
- Many outside agencies have local and national scholarships available.
- Check with your employer and church
- Local scholarships will be updated by the middle of February and are posted on the website. www.tregoeagles.com
- Most popular search engines include fastweb.com and scholarship.com
- Make sure you read the requirements needed for the scholarship and turn it in ON TIME!
 - Proofread your application and make sure it is neat and organized.
- Social Media-follow your school on Twitter and Facebook

FAFSA (Federal Financial Aid) www.fafsa.ed.gov

- Students may receive grants, loans, or work study opportunities
- Applications are available beginning October 1.
- You will use your 2017 tax information when filing on October 1, 2018

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- Many resources are available to help. Career Cruising is an excellent resource.
- Check with your school to see deadlines.
- Contact your school's financial aid office for help with any questions you may have.
- Fill out even if you won't qualify.
 - Some colleges have specific grants or scholarships available to students that have filled out the FAFSA
- Award letter typically come in March/April from each school you applied to.

Transfer Credit

- Every school accepts transfer credit differently.
- Talk with your school to make sure your classes will transfer.
- Many schools have a transfer equivalency link on their website to search courses and how they will transfer to their school.
- Will the grade transfer or just the credit?
- Does it count towards your GPA at your new school or is it listed separately?
- Be careful of certain departments/majors not accepting credits. (ie Engineering degrees may not take CCC Calculus)
- CLEP Exams-Students may take these to possibly test out of certain classes
 - Check with your school

NCAA/NAIA

- Make sure you have registered on one or both sites if you are hoping to be recruited to play a sport in college.
- Certain GPA and course requirements must be met (links on the website)

Military

- If you are interested in any branch of the military, make sure you are talking with a recruiter to see what needs to be completed.
- Search for ROTC programs offered at colleges.
- National guard vs. Active Military

Career/Major

- It is okay not to have a set career in mind when going to college!
- Utilize career cruising to help guide you.
- Colleges have career centers on campus.

ENJOY YOUR SENIOR YEAR!!!!

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