

PAHS Class of 2024

College Application Process



SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

MRS. BHALLA, COLLEGE AND CAREER COUNSELOR

Stay In The Know



- Emails via naviance
- Canvas > College & Career Counseling Course
 - PAHS Counseling Website
 - Principal's Newsletter

Students will access Naviance to:

- Add colleges that they are applying to
- Request transcripts & view transcript status
- Request teacher letters of recommendation
- View and register to attend college rep visits
- View scholarship opportunities
- Indicate which college student will attend



APPLY TO COLLEGE



4-Step Application Process

1. Request Rec Letters

Minimum of 1; Maximum of 2

- Ask your teacher in person.
- Once you ask and the teacher agrees, enter the request in Naviance.
- Once you enter the request in Naviance, there is nothing more you need to do.

**DO NOT ENTER TEACHER REQUESTS
IN COMMON APP.**

2. Apply

COMPLETE APPLICATIONS ONLINE

Apply online using either the Common App (commonapp.org) or the college's specific application, which is found on their admissions website. Each college has their own application deadline.

It is your responsibility to know the deadline for each college that you are applying to and be sure to get your app submitted prior to the deadline.

3. Request Transcript

You need to enter a request for **EACH** college you apply to.

Once you have finished and submitted an application, **request your transcript in Naviance**. The counseling office will then submit your transcript, rec letters and counselor eval (if required.)

DO NOT submit a transcript request prior to applying- your application must be submitted first.

Processing Time: 5-8 SCHOOL days.

4. Send SAT/ACT Scores

Most colleges are test optional again, but if you plan on submitting your test scores, YOU are responsible for sending your test scores directly to the college(s) from the testing agency. Test scores are not on your transcript & the counseling office does not submit scores.

Letters of Recommendation



1 minimum; 2 max

- One should be from core academic teacher; area of study if known

Student Will:

- ask teacher in person > add teacher(s) to Naviance

Teacher Will:

- upload the letter to Naviance

Counseling Office Will:

- Submit with transcript

* If students have not yet requested these; they should do so as soon as possible.*

Completing Applications



- Students will apply online using either the:
 - Common App OR
 - College Specific Application

It's usually one or the other, but some colleges have both- no preference if both are available.

(ex: PSU and Univ of South Carolina- have both- but don't care which one is submitted)

The Common Application



- www.commonapp.org
- One application- data is saved and sent to all colleges indicated in the students Common App dashboard
- Each individual college will have additional college specific questions and possibly additional short response questions or another essay
- Each college has its own application fee which is paid through Common App and sent to the college

College Specific Apps



- Found directly on the college's admissions page
- Create user name and password to save/exit app as many times as needed
- Payment is entered at the end of the application

Application Sections



- Profile/Student Information
- Education
 - GPA is in Naviance
 - GPA scale is 4.0
 - Class rank: NONE
 - Class size: 331
- Testing
- Extra-Curricular Activities
- Essay
 - Select essay topic from provided prompts; copy/paste into word document

When To Apply



- Start applications now (apps opened August 1st)
- Recommended to complete all applications by the end of November
 - If it's a January deadline- mid December at the latest
 - Earliest app deadline: 10/15 (UNC, Univ of South Carolina. Univ of Georgia, Clemson)
- Comprehensive list including target and safety schools

**All students should apply to at least 2 “safety” schools.
Students should review their list with Mrs. Bhalla.**

Types of Applications



Application deadlines vary- mark your calendars now!
It is the **STUDENT's responsibility** to know and meet ALL deadlines.

Rolling

- No specific app deadline
- Earlier you apply, the better!
- Decision typically within 4-6 weeks
- Decide & deposit by May 1

Early Action

- Apps usually due 11/1 or 11/15
- Decision mid-December or end of January
- Non-binding
- Decide & deposit by May 1

Regular Decision

- Apps typically due Jan 1st or Jan 5th
- Decision by end of March
- Decide & deposit by May 1

Early Decision

- Apps usually due 11/1 Decision mid-December
- **BINDING**
- Required to withdraw all other apps
- Deposit due within 2-3 weeks of decision

***If a college has rolling admissions- they won't have the other types.**

Requesting Transcripts



- Transcripts are requested in Naviance **AFTER** the student submits their application
- Submitted electronically through Naviance along with teacher recommendations
- Processed Mon-Fri when school is in session (7:30 am-3 pm)
 - Transcripts are not submitted when school is closed.
 - Transcripts will not be processed Dec. 23rd- Jan 1st

Transcript Processing Time



Non-CA Colleges:
1- 2 school days

1st CA College
Request:
5-7 school days

Subsequent CA
College Requests:
1- 2 school days

Transcript Deadlines



App Deadline: 10/15

Transcript Request

Due: 10/8

App Deadline: 11/1

Transcript Request

Due: 10/22

App Deadline: 1/1

Transcript Request

Due: 12/17

Transcript Information



Included

1. All courses and final grades (9th-11th)
2. Senior year courses
3. Credits earned
4. Credits to be earned
5. Cumulative GPA

NOT Included

1. Test scores
2. Activities

These items are included in the application or submitted separately.

Self-Reporting



- Some colleges require students to self-report courses/grades
 - Ex: PSU, Pitt, VT, Temple, Univ of Del, UF, FSU, Univ of Md, WVU, Univ. of South Carolina, Auburn
 - Some have their own reporting system; others use SRAR
 - Some self-reporting has to be done within the common app (ex: WVU and Univ of Maryland)
- Students will need an unofficial transcript in order to complete this
 - Student can email Mrs. Bhalla to get the unofficial transcript or stop into Counseling Office and secretary can provide hard copy to the student

Test- Optional Colleges



- Over 1,800 are test optional for the class of 2024
- Student's are responsible for knowing if the college is test optional or are requiring them
 - Check their admissions website or check FairTest
- Students will have to indicate on the application if they are going to submit test scores or if they will apply test optional

To Submit or Not to Submit?



SUBMIT

- If the college requires them for admission
- Scores are above the middle 50% range
- You feel they are a good indicator of your academic ability.

DO NOT SUBMIT

- If haven't taken any exams
- Your scores are on the lower end or below the middle 50% range

Sending SAT/ACT Scores



- Test scores are not listed on the transcript; student must send directly from testing agency
- With an upcoming registration, student can list 4 colleges to receive them for free
- If not testing again, log into collegeboard account or ACT account to send
 - View scores
 - Send scores
 - List the colleges

Financial Aid



Financial Aid

- Students will file the FAFSA in order to apply for government funded loans

The 2024-2025 FAFSA will be available December.

- Will use 2022 tax information
 - Allows family to use IRS Data retrieval for tax information that is already completed and correct
- FAFSA form is being revised by dept of education

CSS Profile



- Financial aid form used by approx. 300 colleges to award institutional aid (non-federal)
- Much more in depth compared to the FAFSA
- Complete and submit the CSS profile through the student's collegeboard account
- **Only do the CSS if the college requires it.**
 - Check the colleges website or view the [participating list](#)
- Be aware of submission deadlines for CSS profile

Scholarships



Outside Scholarships

- Posted in Naviance for students
- Most posted December- April, but others will be posted throughout the year
 - Should still check once a week during the fall for new listings

Other websites/resources:

- www.fastweb.com
- www.collegescholarships.com
- Parents employer
- Churches/youth organizations

College Application Meetings



Students

- Students are able to schedule individual meetings with Mrs. Bhalla to discuss apps, review list of colleges, discuss test-optional, deadlines, ask questions, etc.
- Stop by Counseling Office to schedule meeting during school day. Students will be scheduled during one of these times:
 - study hall
 - SR privilege
 - before school @ 7:40 am
 - 2nd half of lunch period

Q & A



any questions?

