

SENIOR COLLEGE PLANNING MEETING

Completing and Processing the College Application

1. Complete the Application: Each student is responsible for completing the college application. Make sure that once you have submitted the application electronically, you receive a confirmation that the application has been received. It is also a smart idea to print a hard copy of your application to keep for your files. If you do not receive some sort of confirmation from the college, contact them to be sure your application was submitted.

2. SAT/ACT Scores: It is the responsibility of the student to determine which colleges require which test scores and to request that scores be sent directly from the SAT (www.collegeboard.com) or ACT (www.act.org) testing services. **Standardized test scores do not appear on the TCHS transcript.** Students can request that scores be sent to up to 4 colleges when they register for the SAT or ACT. They may also indicate colleges on the Correction Form which is attached to their admission ticket. If you are requesting that scores be sent after the student has taken the SAT or ACT, keep in mind that it takes a few weeks for these scores to arrive at the colleges. For an additional fee, scores can be rushed.

3. Request A Transcript: Once the application has been submitted, students are to see their guidance counselor to be sure the transcript request has been received. [You must have a FERPA/Transcript Release Form on file to request a transcript.](#)

Information you may need when completing college applications

School: The Catholic High School of Baltimore
Address: 2800 Edison Highway, Baltimore, MD 21213
Phone: 410-732-6200
Fax: 410-732-7639
School Code (CEEB #): 210065
Counselor/Academic Advisor: Christine Filippou
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410-732-6200 x1233

Understanding College Application Deadlines

Regular Admission – Usually in January/February, Sometimes December

Applications are due by a certain date and decisions are sent out on a certain date. (ex. Applications are due to the college by January 15 and the decisions are mailed on March 15.)

Early Decision (Binding) – Usually in November, Sometimes October

- By selecting this option, you agree to attend the college if you are accepted and you receive adequate financial aid. Basically, if you are accepted, you will attend.
- You can only apply “Early Decision” to one college. You can apply to other colleges, but you can only use the Early Decision option once.

- Once you are accepted, you are to withdraw your applications from other colleges and your deposit will be due early.
- Advantage: You'll know your acceptance status in December or January.
- Concern: Need to be sure it is your first choice school and that you have examined your financial situation.

Early Action (Non-Binding) – Usually in November, Sometimes October

- You can apply to more than one college using this option.
- You will hear from the college by December or January
- You will not need to send your deposit until the spring
- Early Action Restricted: Some schools offer this, where students cannot apply using an early action option with any other school—you still have until the spring to send your deposit.

Rolling Admissions

Colleges with rolling admissions accept applications until they fill their spots. As each application comes in, it is reviewed and decisions are then made on a case by case basis and you will usually hear back within 4 to 8 weeks. Advantage: You can find out early if you have been accepted and adjust your application strategy accordingly.

Transcript Request Deadline Dates

Transcript requests are to be submitted at least two weeks before you wish them to be sent (if it is your first college application) and at least one week for any others. However, if you are trying to hit one of the following application deadlines, these deadlines apply:

- If the college has a November 1 deadline, the transcript requests should be submitted by October 22.
- If the college has a December 1 deadline, transcript requests should be submitted by November 26.
- If you would like your transcript sent BEFORE the Christmas break (to be somewhere by a January 1 deadline), the request should be submitted by December 10.

Teacher Recommendation Letters

Ask your teachers now about writing letters of recommendation if you haven't already. You cannot wait until the last minute to do this—remember the teacher will more than likely have several to write and the more time you give them, the better. Be sure to give them a copy of your **UPDATED** resume (include anything new that you did over the summer).

SAT/ACT Test Scores

SAT and/or ACT scores must be sent to colleges directly from the testing services if the colleges require them. Plan to take the SAT and/or ACT on one of the dates listed below. This will ensure that colleges will have your scores in time to make a decision. If you know you are going to need to meet an early application deadline, the sooner the better. Here are the upcoming SAT and ACT dates and deadlines. (There are dates after January, but these are the best choices for seniors.)

Remaining Testing Dates for Seniors:

<u>SAT Dates</u>	<u>Registration Deadlines</u>	<u>ACT Dates</u>	<u>Registration Deadlines</u>
November 6	October 8	October 23	October 1 (late registration)
December 4	November 4	December 11	November 5

(Register at www.sat.collegeboard.org/register.)

(Register at www.actstudent.org.)

College Visits

College Visits at Catholic High:

Several colleges will be visiting Catholic High in the fall. These visits will take place during the lunch periods. We will have tables set up for the college reps and the seniors are encouraged to meet with them, gather information and ask questions. This is a great time for the student to make that personal connection with the college representative. [View the Calendar on the College Planning website.](#)

Visiting a College Campus:

Seniors are allowed two college visits with no impact to perfect attendance. A letter from the college registrar/admissions office is required to verify the visit. A copy of the invitation is not acceptable as verification of attendance. Students are responsible for making up any work that is missed. [View the College Visit Guide on the College Planning website.](#)

Here are some dates to consider for scheduling a college visit:

Friday, October 8	(School Closed)
Monday, October 25	(School Closed)

Common Application

More than 400 colleges use the Common Application. This allows students to complete one application and send it to more than one college. For a listing of schools who offer this application, visit <https://www.commonapp.org/>. Some schools accept the common application but also require a supplement. These instructions would be listed clearly on the school's web-site.

Coalition Application

The Coalition Application is a technology platform for applying to schools within the coalition (similar to the Common App in that a group of schools use the Coalition Application platform). There are currently about 100 member schools. For more information visit <http://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/>.

Academic Common Market

The Academic Common Market is a group of schools among 16 southern states that allow non-residents to enroll in specific degree programs at in-state tuition rates provided the academic program they are pursuing is not offered in the student's home state. A list of undergraduate programs that Maryland students can take advantage of can be found at www.mhec.state.md.us.

Fair Test

There are many colleges that make admission decisions without using the SAT or ACT. Some schools exempt students who meet grade-point average or class rank criteria while others may still require scores after the student has been accepted (used only for placement purposes and/or research studies). A full list of schools that do not require SAT or ACT can be found at www.fairtest.org.

Sports in College?

If you are planning to play for a Division I or II school in college, please make an appointment with your guidance counselor to discuss requirements, etc. You will also find helpful information at www.eligibilitycenter.org.

College Resources

College Search Links

<http://www.collegeboard.com/>

College Board: Search for colleges, sign up for the SAT, practice the SAT, and learn about financial aid information

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search>

Excellent college search site.

<http://student.naviance.com/tchs>

Link to the Naviance website. Naviance assists students with the college search, resume writing, transcript requests and teacher recommendations. Contact Mrs. Filippou if you need your registration code or forgot your password.

www.princetonreview.com

Provides college search tools and college ratings from current college students.

<http://collegexpress.com>

Provides college search, scholarship search, college profiles and interesting articles about the college admission process

<http://www.catholiccollegesonline.org>

National Catholic College Admission Association: Provides information about Catholic colleges and universities.

<http://www.collegeresults.org/>

Provides an interactive web-tool that allows students to learn more about graduation rates from four year colleges and universities

<http://www.campustours.com/>

Provides students the ability to visit colleges without leaving home

<http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

Provides college search and information on many colleges and universities, including retention rates, financial aid information, and SAT scores for admitted students

<http://www.edonline.com/cq/hbcu/>

Provides information and a listing for Historically Black Colleges and Universities

SAT/ACT Links

www.collegeboard.com

Allows students to register for the SAT, site provides registration information, deadlines, and more.

www.actstudent.org

Allows students to register for the ACT, view sample questions and more

<http://www.fairtest.org>

Lists the colleges and universities that waive the SAT/ACT requirement in their application process

Financial Aid Links

<http://www.finaid.org/>

Provides information about scholarships and loans

<http://www.fastweb.com/>

Provides information about scholarships

<http://www.ed.gov/finaid.html>

US Department of Education: Provides information on financing a college education as well as information on loans and grants

<http://www.mhec.state.md.us>

Maryland State Department of Higher Education: Provides information on financial aid in Maryland including state sponsored scholarships and grants, Delegate and Senatorial Scholarships, and information on colleges and universities in Maryland.

www.mdelect.net

Allows you to find your state representatives

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/filling-out/fsaid>

Allows students and parents to set up their ID for federal aid

www.fafsa.gov

Provides information about financial aid, families may apply for federal financial aid on-line

<https://student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile>

Some private schools require the CSS Profile form to award financial aid. This site provides the list of schools which require the Profile. Families may access form at this web-site.

www.collegeboard.com/student/pay/add-it-up/401.html

Provides families a way to estimate their financial need when it comes time to pay for college

NCAA/Athletics in College

www.eligibilitycenter.org

NCAA: Students interested in participating in Division I or II athletics in college should log on the NCAA Initial Eligibility Website by the spring of their junior year.