College Guide Book
2021-2022
Your transition from high school to college or career is a very personal journey. The counselors in District 220 are here to assist you in the decision-making process. We will be as helpful as need be in our individual and group guidance, but will respect at all times the freedom and responsibility of a student, along with parents, to make personal decisions.

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*Class of 2022 Counselor Breakdown

BHS School Code
140205
# BHS College Guide Book

**A MAP TO THE FUTURE**

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**Post-Secondary Planning**

**WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS?**

**4-YEAR COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY**

Post-secondary, higher education options typically include public universities, private four-year colleges and highly selective colleges, as well as two-year or community colleges. Minimum course requirements for entrance into most four-year institutions include: 4 years of English, 3 to 4 years of math, 3 to 4 years of social studies, 3 to 4 years of lab science and 2 to 4 years of the same foreign language. Many colleges look for candidates who take the more rigorous high school curriculum, and the more selective a college, the more rigorous academic achievement they demand. Successfully completing studies at a 4-year institution typically culminates with a Bachelor's degree.

**2-YEAR COLLEGE OR COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Community colleges provide a cost-effective opportunity to begin college course work at a local institution while living at home, followed by a transfer to a 4-year residential institution, leading to a Bachelor's degree. Community colleges also provide the opportunity to complete one-year or two-year certificate or associate degree programs, tailored to a specific career field. BHS works closely with Harper College in Palatine, IL to provide affordable and practical educational opportunities for our students.

Visit [www.harpercollege.edu](http://www.harpercollege.edu) for more information.

**WORKFORCE AND JOB TRAINING**

On-the-job and/or occupational education is an alternative path to successful career placement. A variety of such training programs.apprenticeships are available through employers, trade unions and technical institutions that prepare students with the skills they need for specific occupations in fields such as Graphic Arts Print Production, Supply Chain Management/Logistics, and Electromechanical Technician, to name just a few. Some training programs can be completed in a relatively short time frame, while others may require longer term training.

Visit [https://www.barrington220.org/Page/20443](https://www.barrington220.org/Page/20443) for more information.

**ARMED SERVICES**

Opportunities in education and training are available in all branches of the Armed Services, including technology training in many diversified areas of specialization, and usually comes with a commitment to military service for a specified length of time. Military options include: Air Force, Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, National Guard and the Merchant Marines, as well as the 4-year service academies.

**GAP YEAR**

Some students will opt to take a year off after high school for personal growth and exploration, before going on to college or careers. Gap year programs vary widely and can be a structured or unstructured travel experience, an organized leadership or outdoor program, or an internship with a community or social service organization. For more information about Gap Year ideas, attend the Gap Year Fair, Saturday, January 25, 2020 at New Trier High School’s Gaffney Auditorium from 1:00-3:00pm.
NAVIANCE  [https://student.naviance.com/barrington](https://student.naviance.com/barrington)

Naviance is an online college search and selection program that presents updated admissions information and web links for hundreds of colleges and universities nationwide. Some of its key college search functions are:

- **Scatter Grams**: This popular feature will plot on a graph with GPAs and test scores, the admission decisions from previous BHS graduates at the various schools on your list. This data can help you assess your admissions chances at those same schools.
- **Super Match**: Use over 20 different search criteria to find the schools that are the best match for you and then add them to your list.

Naviance also incorporates several assessment tools to help students determine strengths, needs, career interests and long-term personal goals. Some of those assessments include:

- **Do What You Are**: This assessment uses personality types to suggest careers and clusters that might be a good match for a student.
- **Learning Styles Inventory**: This assessment allows students to boost academic potential by recognizing natural learning style, discover better learning strategies, and improve career development skills.
- **MI Advantage**: This assessment uses Multiple Intelligences theory to reveal students' intelligence strengths and challenges, then provides suggestions on ways to develop all intelligences.
- **Strengths Explorer**: This tool identifies ten talent themes for individuals and identifies each student's three strongest emerging talents.
- **Career Interest Profiler**: This career interest assessment is based on Holland's interest codes.
- **Cluster Finder**: This questionnaire helps students discover career clusters that are most interesting to them.

CAREER PATHWAYS

Multi-year programs of academic and technical study that prepare high school students for a full range of postsecondary options within each of the 16 clusters. These pathways provide a context for exploring career options at all levels of education and a framework for linking learning to the knowledge and skills needed for future education and employment.

*To learn more, see the [BHS Career Pathways Website](https://barrington220.org).*

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The student volunteer program at BHS connects students to volunteer opportunities in the community. Volunteering is an excellent means of exploring career interests. Students may specify which types of experience would be of greatest interest to them, while earning credit toward graduation by completing a minimum of thirty hours of community service. Colleges and employers view favorably a student's resume that includes community service.

*Contact: Lisa Horcher, lhorcher@barrington220.org*

NCAA (NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION)

[www.ncaa.org/divisions](http://www.ncaa.org/divisions)

The NCAA is an organization dedicated to providing opportunity for college-bound student athletes. More than 1,100 colleges and universities are members of NCAA. These members work together to support nearly a half million college athletes in pursuing higher education while participating in college sports. The organization provides a great deal of information for students and parents during the critical college search process and provides help and support during the transition from high school to college. If this is an option you think you may pursue, it is important to talk to your counselor to ensure that you are taking the right high school courses for NCAA eligibility.

*To learn more, see the [BHS College-Bound Student Athlete Brochure](http://www.barrington220.org).*

CAREER TREK PROGRAM

This is a unique career exploration opportunity available to BHS juniors and seniors. Students participate in virtual or in-person career-related field trips where they're able to observe and interact with professionals in their work environments, in order to gain critical insight into a particular field or profession.

*Contact: Marie Mirabella, mmirabella@barrington220.org*
## College Planning Timeline

### FALL — JUNIOR YEAR

- **Get off to a good start!**
  Not only are grades important, but a positive attitude in the classroom will enable you to have a positive relationship with your junior-year teachers. You may need to ask one or two of these teachers to write a letter of recommendation on your behalf as part of your college applications.

- **BHS College Evening Program**
  Attend the fall evening program for juniors and their parents for a detailed presentation of the college search and admission process. See the school calendar on the BHS website for exact date: [www.barrington220.org/bhs](http://www.barrington220.org/bhs)

- **Junior Advisory and Meeting with your Counselor**
  Attend the Junior Advisory in the fall, followed by small group sessions with your counselor to help formulate your post-secondary plans and learn more about Naviance. Watch school announcements and your BSD email for your scheduled time.

- **College List**
  Develop an initial list of colleges to consider by using Naviance and other resources. See Page 8 of this Guide Book

- **College Rep Visits**
  Add potential college names to your “Colleges I’m Thinking About” section of Naviance so that you will receive email notifications of college rep visits. These visits take place virtually. A list of college rep visits can be found on the BHS website, in Naviance and in Schoology.

- **SAT Subject Test Registration**
  Students applying to highly selective colleges may wish to sign up for SAT Subject tests. Students can check [www.compass-prep.com/subject-test-requirements-and-recommendations](http://www.compass-prep.com/subject-test-requirements-and-recommendations), but should also check the requirements of the schools they may be interested in. Register for SAT Subject tests at [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org).

- **NCAA & College Bound Student Athletes**
  Student athletes interested in pursuing athletic opportunities in college must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center. Complete details are available at [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org). Additional information is available on the BHS webpage.

- **College Campus Visits**
  Visit college campuses throughout your junior year. To make an official visit, students should contact the admissions office online to schedule an appointment or can access a virtual tour on the college’s website.

### WINTER/SPRING — JUNIOR YEAR

- **College Entrance Exam Registration and Preparation**
  Register online at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) or [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) for spring ACT and/or SAT exams. If you would like to enroll in a BHS test prep class, contact Debbie DaSilva, ACT/SAT Prep Program Coordinator, at ddasilva@barrington220.org or 847-756-2438. Prep classes are offered in the winter (Jan-Mar) and again in the spring (Mar-May).

- **College Planning Meeting**
  Make an appointment to meet with one of the college counselors starting in January to discuss your college options in light of your interests and academic profile. While your plans may be indefinite, it is helpful to be able to describe your general strengths and preferences. Students must complete the College Planning Worksheet which is available in Naviance under the ‘About Me’ tab, prior to scheduling an appointment. Appointments can be scheduled by emailing Kimberly Priola at kpriola@barrington220.org and run from mid-January through the end of the school year.

- **Ask the Experts, A College Admissions Panel**
  Attend the PTO-sponsored panel discussion featuring college admissions professionals who will answer your questions and provide valuable insight into the college admissions process. (March 2, 2021, 7:00PM).

- **BHS College Night/Illinois Regional College Fair**
  Attend BHS College Night to meet representatives from over 200 colleges and universities from around the country. (April 5, 2021, 6:00-8:00PM).

- **Academic Profile**
  Be aware that college applications require you to submit a transcript and/or report your academic record through six semesters. It is important to finish your junior year with grades as strong or stronger than your first two years of high school.

- **Senior Schedule**
  Meet with your counselor in January/February to select classes for your senior year. It is not only important to enroll in the most appropriately demanding schedule, but to be a serious candidate for most colleges you should have four or five academic courses your senior year.

- **Extracurricular and Volunteer Activities**
  Colleges evaluate students for well-rounded life experiences. Involvement with your school and community are expected by many colleges. Begin compiling your list of extracurricular and volunteer experiences. See a sample resume in the ‘Useful Forms’ section, page 25.
## College Planning Timeline

### WINTER/SPRING — JUNIOR YEAR

- **Summer School Registration**
  A student may retake a BHS class during the summer to improve their grade point average. Please check with your counselor before enrolling if you want to replace a grade.

- **College Campus Visits**
  Prepare now for college visits you would like to make in the summer and on days when school is not in session. Students should make reservations online with college admissions offices or access a virtual tour through the college's website.

- **Writing Samples**
  Some colleges/universities request writing samples. Keep junior-year graded essays on file which could be submitted if necessary; senior-year papers are preferred if completed by application deadlines.

- **Summer Enrichment Opportunities**
  These programs are a great opportunity to explore your interests while gaining hands-on experience. An application may be required. You can find a list of these opportunities in Naviance (go to Colleges tab then Enrichment Programs) and by visiting individual college websites. You can also view the Virtual College Resources doc on our Post-Secondary Counseling website.

### SUMMER — JUNIOR YEAR

- **Organize College Information / College Visits**
  Continue to gather and evaluate college information as well as visit schools virtually or in-person that interest you. Organize a file of college information with application requirements and due dates clearly marked. A sample organizational chart can be found in the ‘Useful Forms’ section, page 24.

- **Senior Resume & Parent Survey**
  Some colleges require a letter of recommendation from your counselor. In order to write a meaningful letter, your counselor would like some more information about you. Summer is the time to prepare your senior resume and parent recommendation survey. A copy of each of these documents should be submitted directly to your counselor at the start of the school year. See Senior Resume and Parent Survey in the ‘Useful Forms’ section.

- **Essay Outlines**
  Because your senior year application season can get busy, it is helpful to outline or draft responses to college essay questions by reviewing applications online in advance. Suggestions for essay writing are posted on the Post-Secondary Counseling page of the BHS website.

- **Begin College Applications**
  Many applications will be available online as of August 1st. You don't have to complete your applications, but it will be helpful for you to get the ones started that you can. It will give you a better sense of how much work each application will take. This will help you to better manage/budget your time in the summer as well as fall of your senior year.
# College Planning Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FIRST SEMESTER — SENIOR YEAR</th>
<th>FIRST SEMESTER — SENIOR YEAR continued</th>
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</table>
| **• Senior Advisory / Evening College Program for Parents of Seniors**  
Students should attend the Senior Advisory to learn important details about the college application process. The Evening Program for Parents will address the same topics related to the application process. Check the school calendar for date and time.  
**• Naviance**  
If you are not registered in [www.naviance.com](http://www.naviance.com) or have misplaced your login information, stop in to the Student Services Office for assistance or email Caroline Hille at chille@barrington220.org.  
**• Senior Assessment Appointments**  
Attend an appointment with your counselor to review your academic record, graduation credits and post high school plans.  
**• College Representative Visits**  
Attend small group meetings with college reps who visit in the CRC or virtually during the fall. This is an excellent way to demonstrate interest in a school. Rep visits are posted on the BHS website, in Naviance, in Schoology and on the electronic bulletin board outside the CRC.  
**• Begin/Continue the College Application Process**  
Seniors should continue or begin applying to colleges in September. Check your specific schools for application dates and deadlines.  
**• Teacher/Counselor Recommendations**  
Request recommendations as soon as you know that you need them. College applications will indicate whether teacher and/or counselor recommendations are required. BHS has a Teacher Recommendation Questionnaire (see ‘Useful Forms’ section, page 26-27) that we encourage students to use when requesting letters of rec from teachers. It is also important to share the application deadlines with your recommender. In consideration of teachers and counselors, please be sure a recommendation is required before requesting one.  
**• Application and Transcript Deadlines**  
Students should pay careful attention to deadlines; they are absolute! Many ‘Priority’, ‘Early Decision’ and ‘Early Action’ deadlines fall in November. October is the time to complete and submit those applications. Also, applying early to schools with ‘Rolling’ admissions can be advantageous in terms of choice in majors, housing options and consideration for financial aid and scholarships.  
|  | **• Financial Aid/FAFSA Application**  
Attend the BHS “Paying for a College Education” program in the fall. See the school calendar on the BHS website for exact date: [www.barrington220.org/bhs](http://www.barrington220.org/bhs). FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is available October 1st, 2021 for the Class of 2022 using Prior-Prior Year (PPY) tax data [www.FAFSA.ed.gov](http://www.FAFSA.ed.gov).  
**• Scholarships**  
Scholarships described in college application materials and catalogues may have different deadlines which fall earlier than the admission deadline.  
**• SAT Subject Tests**  
Determine whether your colleges require SAT subject tests and their deadlines for score reports. Take subject tests if needed by December of your senior year. Check [www.compassprep.com/subject-test-requirements-and-recommendations/](http://www.compassprep.com/subject-test-requirements-and-recommendations/), as well as the requirements of the specific schools to which you are applying.  
**• AP Exams**  
Registration instructions for AP exams will be sent to students enrolled in AP courses. AP exams are given in May. We encourage students to check with the colleges or universities they are considering attending for their specific AP credit policies, or go to [https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/creditandplacement/credit-policy-detail](https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/creditandplacement/credit-policy-detail). Some schools may have their own placement exams or use ACT/SAT scores to aid in college course placement.  
**• 7th Semester Grades / Mid-Year Report Requests**  
Some schools require a mid-year or 7th semester transcript before making admissions decisions. For colleges on the Common Application, you can request your mid-year transcript using the [Mid Year Transcript Request Form](http://www.Parchment.com). All other application types should be requested through [www.Parchment.com](http://www.Parchment.com).  
**Please note:** The Student Services office is closed during the BHS winter break. Transcripts are not processed during this time. Plan ahead if you have January deadlines. |
### College Planning Timeline

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<th>SECOND SEMESTER — SENIOR YEAR</th>
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<td><strong>Senioritis</strong></td>
<td><strong>Final Transcripts</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Remember colleges do see senior grades! Avoid senioritis; keep your grades strong through senior year. All offers of admission from a college are conditional upon a strong senior year. Offers of admission can and have been rescinded due to poor senior grades.</td>
<td>All final transcripts must be requested through <a href="http://www.Parchment.com">www.Parchment.com</a>. Final transcripts are typically required by colleges by July 1st.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Local Scholarships</strong></td>
<td><strong>BHS Health Record</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>A number of Barrington-area community organizations and businesses offer scholarships to BHS students who meet certain criteria. Applications can be accessed on the BHS website as of February 1st and are due March 1st. Although financial need is a consideration for some of the scholarships, others are designed to recognize academic merit, leadership and community service. Watch student announcements for more details after the winter break.</td>
<td>Most colleges want a copy of your health and immunization records. Your BHS health record will be mailed to your home in April for this purpose. Please see the nurse if you need an additional copy for your records.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Decision Day May 1st/ Universal Enrollment Deadline</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>May 1st is the official deadline by which you must inform each college of your decision to enroll or to decline the offer. Offers not accepted will be canceled.</td>
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<td><strong>Final Exams vs SPURS (Student’s Pride Unites and Rewards Seniors)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Seniors who do not meet the requirements for SPURS are required to take final exams in the spring semester. Those spring finals can be useful for improving grades for some seniors. Also, be aware that consequences of behavior can lead to students not completing their senior year and/or not meeting their college admission requirements.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Senior Graduation Survey &amp; Application Results</strong></td>
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<td>All seniors will be required to complete a survey in Naviance regarding their post-secondary plans. Completing the survey is a graduation requirement and is an opportunity for you to inform the Student Services office of the admission decisions, awards and scholarships you receive.</td>
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The Importance of the High School Curriculum

Your high school curriculum is crucial as you focus on finding the best match in a college. It is also a key factor of the college admission process.

At most of the four-year accredited colleges in the country, the difficulty of being admitted is governed by a simple principle of supply and demand. If a college has a large number of applicants, but only has to accept a small number to fill its freshman class, the college can be highly selective. Conversely, if the college must take most of its applicants to fill the spaces available, the institution is not very selective. Some colleges have a central mission to provide opportunities to many or all students with high school diplomas. Those schools should not be misjudged as lesser institutions because they might have easier admission requirements.

College selectivity is not directly correlated to the college's academic integrity. A college's selectivity may not be important to you when you make your choice. The best college for you matches your desires, goals, objectives, abilities and development.

Your high school curriculum is crucial as you focus on finding the best match in a college. It is also key to college admission departments when they evaluate candidates. Criteria for college admission vary greatly; however, all colleges focus on the rigor and quality of your high school curriculum.

Admission personnel judge “rigor” and “quality” by evaluating the importance of the academic subject matter in your courses, the grades you earn in those courses, the level of difficulty of your courses and the results from the grades you have achieved and the program you have taken.

Generally, colleges prefer a traditional and classical college preparatory curriculum that includes the following areas:

- English (literature and composition courses)
- Mathematics (computer science is not generally accepted as math, but it may be recognized as a significant curricular component)
- Science (laboratory courses)
- Social Studies
- World Language

Take as rigorous and personally challenging a program as you can. Fit your course selection to your interests and goals. Draw upon your earlier academic performance and from standardized testing to determine the best program for you.

All colleges also look favorably on enrichment courses when they supplement a strong academic program. Courses in art, business education, music, applied arts, speech and theatre offer elective opportunities for Barrington students who wish to enhance the traditional course of study as well as explore their interests.

Different types of institutions of higher education have general requirements unique to their classification. Useful classifications include public universities, private four-year colleges, highly selective colleges, two-year colleges, and community colleges. The more selective a college, the more that college can demand in academic achievement.

Minimum course requirements for entrance into four different types of colleges are shown in the following list. Use the academic prerequisites only as general minimum guidelines. Many colleges look for candidates who take the more rigorous program and achieve successfully. Because college expectations may change from year to year, obtain specific information directly from the college or from your college counselor.

(Note: Some public universities now require one or two semesters of visual or performing arts.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Requirements for Admission</th>
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<tr>
<td>TYPES OF COLLEGES</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Public Universities</th>
<th>Private 4-Year Colleges</th>
<th>Highly Selective Colleges</th>
<th>Community Colleges</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>4 yrs</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>4 yrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>3-4 yrs*</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>4 yrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>Foreign Language</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Electives</td>
<td>2 yrs</td>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>2-3 yrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Art, Foreign Language,* Music)</td>
<td>2 yrs</td>
<td>Academic Electives</td>
<td>2 yrs</td>
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*High school courses taken in grades seven and eight are included; for example, Algebra I, plane geometry, and the first year of any foreign language are counted in this total. Colleges that require foreign language for admission will require two years of the same foreign language.

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Create Your College List

YOU
You are identified by many things including your transcript, ACT/SAT scores, co-curricular activities (both in and out of school), learning style (visual, auditory, involved, passive, hands-on, etc.), academic environment (competitive, collaborative), personality (passive, assertive, athletic, leader, follower, joiner, etc.). Keep all of these factors about you in mind as you are looking for a college that will be a good fit.

MAJOR
Some high school students know what they want to major in at college and some do not. If you think you know what you would like to study, then you can include this in your search. If you do not know what you want to major in, that's ok. Ask the colleges/universities what programs they offer to students who are unsure of a college major. Remember that “undecided” is the largest major of incoming freshmen on college campuses today.

More things to consider:
• How selective is the school?
• Does your coursework match the school’s requirements for admission?
• Is your GPA and ACT/SAT score typical of accepted students?
• Is the program you are considering test optional?
• Is the program you are interested in a Direct Admit program (for some schools it may be Nursing, Business, Engineering)? If you aren’t admitted into the program directly, what are your chances of transferring into the program once you are a student at that school?
• What types of hands-on opportunities are available to you (e.g. internships and research)?
• Is the school a place that will both challenge and support you?

AFFORDABILITY
Calculate your college costs on a four-year basis. Many students take four-and-one-half or five years to graduate; calculate the cost of the extra time. Identify the ways to pay these costs. Examine the college’s track record of providing scholarships, loans and other financial assistance.

All colleges and universities provide a Net Price Calculator on their websites so students can more accurately determine the cost of attendance.

More things to consider:
• What is the total cost of attendance including books, fees, travel costs, and lab or technology fees depending upon the academic program?
• Are you eligible for scholarships?
• Are there separate applications for these scholarships?
• What are the deadlines for scholarship consideration and other financial aid applications?

PLACE

Geographic Location - Think about how far away you want to be from home. Even if you think that you want to be far away, it’s always a good idea to add a few schools that are closer to home to your list - just in case.

More things to consider:
• Do you want to attend a college in the Chicago area, in Illinois, out of state or out of the country?
• How do you get home for breaks?
• Can you bring a car? Do you need a car?

Size of Campus - Would you like to attend a large, medium or small school? Be sure to visit each type before narrowing your choice.

Campus Setting - What kind of community do you want the campus situated in: urban, suburban, rural? Again, be sure to visit each type before narrowing your choice.

CAMPUS COMMUNITY
A campus’ culture and its student body is an important factor to explore when looking at schools. Think about the people that you will be going to school with for the next four years.

More things to consider:
• What will living there be like?
• Do you want to live and learn with people similar to you in background, personality and values or do you want a more diverse population?
• Do you want a school that has sororities/fraternities, Division I, II, III sports, ethnically/socially/religiously diverse students that share your same interests?
• Religious Orientation- Is the school affiliated with an organized religion? How much does the academic and social life reflect this?

As you are exploring colleges and building your list, there are many things to consider about yourself and the colleges themselves as you search to find schools that will be the right fit for you.

College Search Web Resources
Naviance
https://student.naviance.com/barrington

CollegeBoard- BigFuture
https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search

NCAA
www.eligibilitycenter.org

Virtual Tours
www.campustours.com

Peterson’s
www.petersons.com
Reach, Target & Safety Schools

As students narrow down the list of colleges to which they will apply, it is important to place the schools into categories. Students should be sure to apply to 1-2 schools, each, in the “Safety” and “Target” category.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SAFETY SCHOOLS</th>
<th>TARGET SCHOOLS</th>
<th>REACH SCHOOLS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student meets/exceeds all admission requirements</td>
<td>Student meets all admission requirements</td>
<td>Student may be deficient in some admission requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student’s ACT Composite/SAT/GPA falls above the reported mid 50%</td>
<td>Student’s ACT Composite/SAT/GPA falls within the reported mid 50%</td>
<td>Student’s ACT Composite/SAT/GPA falls below the reported mid 50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financially reasonable for family</td>
<td>Financially attainable for family</td>
<td>May be a financial reach for family</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note, all Ivy League and highly selective schools fall into this category for all students.

*If a student is applying test optional, they can utilize their cumulative GPA to help determine Safety/Target/Reach.*
Narrow Your College List

As you continue your college exploration, there are resources that can help you to narrow and refine your list.

CAMPUS VISITS
Visiting a campus is an invaluable way to get a feel for the school and all that it has to offer. In addition to taking the general tour, you may want to attend an information session and/or arrange to speak with a member of the school’s admission staff. A campus visit and a meeting with an admissions rep, will allow you to assess whether the school is a ‘good fit’ for you and also demonstrates your interest to the college. If you are unable to physically attend a campus tour, virtual options are available on the college’s admission website.

College Visit Questions

COLLEGE NIGHT
Each April, BHS hosts over 200 college and university reps at our annual regional college fair. Sophomores, juniors and their families are encouraged to attend this evening event. The college reps are eager to promote their schools, share college literature and engage in questions about their academic programs, student life and overall opportunities. See the BHS website for a list of participating schools and more details about the format of this event.

College Night

COLLEGE REP VISITS AT BHS
Over 200 individual college reps visit the high school throughout the school year. Students are encouraged to meet with the reps during their visits to the Counseling Resource Center (CRC) during the school day, virtual visits are available as well. Meeting with the reps is another way to demonstrate interest to the colleges, and often, the rep is the person reviewing Barrington High School’s applications. A student who has class during a rep visit should request permission from their teacher in advance, using the form available in the CRC. Give the signed teacher permission form to the CRC Coordinator to clear your class absence.

NAVIANCE
Supermatch – Use over 20 search criteria to find the schools that are the best match for you and find out why. Go to the ‘Colleges’ tab to search and save the schools you’re most interested in; return and add to your search later.

https://student.naviance.com/barrington

COLLEGE BOARD
Big Future can help you find a college, explore careers, make a plan.

https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org
## Types of Applications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMON APPLICATION</th>
<th>COALITION APPLICATION</th>
<th>SCHOOL SPECIFIC APPLICATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| One “common” application that can be used to apply to multiple schools. Allows students to submit one application to over 800 schools large and small, public and private. Some schools require an additional essay supplement. Teachers and counselors will send their recommendations through their Common App portal after being assigned by you. Common App Dashboard allows students to track all aspects of their apps including supplements, counselor and teacher submissions and fees in one location. [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org) | **Coalition for Access, Affordability and Success** A “coalition” of approximately 140+ public and private schools. Members of the “Coalition” are committed to providing affordable tuition, need-based aid, and a six-year graduation rate of 70% or higher. **The application platform has three tools:**  
  • Virtual Locker, a feature that allows a student to store sample work, practice essays, resume, etc.  
  • Collaboration Platform, allows a student to share drafts of application materials in order to receive feedback from counselors and teachers.  
  • Application Portal, allows students to submit one application to over 140 public or private schools. [www.mycoalition.org](http://www.mycoalition.org) | Some schools provide an application portal on their own website. When multiple application methods are offered by a school, they are required to give equal consideration to each method. Students will send an official transcript via Parchment.com or self-report grades, as instructed in the application. |

## 5 Steps to Completing your College Applications

**STEP 1**

- Determine a list of colleges to which you will apply - at least ONE of these colleges should be a “Safety” school.  
- To determine whether or not a college is a Safety school for you, check to see that you exceed their average ACT/SAT scores (if applying with a test score) and GPA.  
- Look at each college’s admission page and create an organization chart with deadlines etc.  

*See Page 24 of this Guide Book*

**STEP 2**

**If you are applying with a test score:**

- Send your ACT/SAT scores to the colleges where you are applying. It can take 4-6 weeks for colleges to receive your scores from the testing agencies, so do not procrastinate! Send those scores NOW!  
- To send your ACT scores go to: [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)  
- To send your SAT or Subject Test Scores go to: [www.sat.collegeboard.org](http://www.sat.collegeboard.org)
**5 Steps to Completing your College Applications continued**

**STEP 3**

• Determine whether or not your colleges accept The Common Application, The Coalition Application, or a school specific application.

• If a school uses The Common Application or the Coalition App, there should be a link on the school's admission page where you can create an account. Be sure to write your login information down! Check the BHS Post-Secondary Counseling page for application specific tip sheets.

• School specific applications can be found on the college's website.

• If you are considering applying Early Decision to a college, contact your counselor to discuss this option.

**STEP 4**

*Be sure to complete this step at least 15 school days prior to the deadline.*

• Determine which of your colleges, IF ANY, require a letter of recommendation from a teacher and/or counselor.

  *Note, colleges prefer to receive letters from an academic teacher you have had in the past two years, preferably from an academic area you are interested in studying.*

• Speak to the teacher/counselor and ask if they would be willing to write a letter on your behalf.

• Complete any necessary form(s) that the teacher and/or counselor requests.

We ask that for January deadlines, you speak with your counselor and teachers prior to Thanksgiving break for Letters of Recommendation.

**STEP 5**

Once you are 100% certain that you’ll be applying to a college, follow the appropriate steps below:

• Transcripts - Colleges will require some version of your transcript.
  - Self-Reported Academic Record - Some colleges require you to enter all of your classes and grades directly into the college's form (such as: University of Illinois/Urbana, University of Iowa, Iowa State University, U of California system as well as others).
  - Common Application Schools - After inviting your counselor as a “Recommender” (see Common App Tip Sheet for details), contact your counselor to determine what additional information they may need. Your counselor will send the school report, transcript and letter of recommendation. Submit requests to your counselor no later than 15 school days prior to the deadline.
  - For all non-Common Application Schools that require a transcript (including schools that use SENDedu) - Go to www.Parchment.com and request that your transcript be sent.

Please Note: There will be no transcripts processed during winter break.

**FREQUENT APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

• Barrington High School's CEEB Code is 140-205

• Barrington High School's fax number is (847) 713.2942

• Barrington High School does not rank

• 4.0 weighted grading scale

• Be sure to use your weighted GPA when filling out applications unless an application indicates otherwise
Admission Plans

EARLY DECISION (ED)
This is a binding plan. If a student is admitted ED, s/he is morally and ethically bound to attend that college. All other applications must be withdrawn at the time the student is admitted. A student can only apply ED to one school, but may apply EA to other schools. Students receive a decision prior to the school’s regular notification deadline. ED is the only plan that eliminates May 1 as the reply date.

EARLY DECISION II (ED II)
If a student applies to one school under ED I and gets denied, they can then apply to another school ED II. ED II is essentially identical to ED I, a binding decision, but with later deadlines.

RESTRICTIVE EARLY ACTION (REA)
Students cannot apply using early decision plans to other schools. Different schools may have different restrictions. Be sure to check the school’s admission page for details. Under this plan, students receive a decision prior to the regular notification deadline. They are not obligated to submit a deposit prior to May 1.

EARLY ACTION (EA)
This plan is NOT binding. A student who is admitted under an EA plan may still keep applications to other schools active, and wait until May 1st to commit to one school.

REGULAR DECISIONS
Applications submitted to a school by a specified date receive a decision within a reasonable and clearly stated period of time. Students may apply to other schools without restrictions.

ROLLING ADMISSIONS
The school reviews the applications as they are completed and gives a decision throughout the admission cycle. Students may apply to other schools without restrictions.

College Essay/Personal Statement

THE COLLEGE ESSAY
Many colleges require students to demonstrate their values and/or intellectual capabilities by responding to a variety of essay topics. How and what a student writes is an important element in an admissions decision; it is a critical part of the application. In answering an essay question, the following pointers can be helpful:

• Follow directions and answer the essay question.
• There is no “right” answer. Don’t think you know what a college wants to hear. Whatever you have to say about the topic is of interest.
• If an application essay does not require a particular focus, choose a subject that will help the reader to understand you better. Paint a picture for them telling who you are and what you are passionate about.
• Avoid re-writing your resume in paragraph form.
• Don’t try to second guess the admissions staff to give them what you think they want to hear.
• Proofread your essay; then have two other people proof it for you.
• Write with passion. Remember to use powerful, clear and correct language.
• Keep your essay within the page/word limit.
• Plagiarism is academic fraud and will cause your application to be thrown out of consideration.
• Be careful with humor. It can be tough to pull off in writing.

PERSONAL STATEMENT
The purpose of the personal statement is to allow the admissions representative to learn something more about you other than what is found in other parts of your application. This is your opportunity to show your unique characteristics. Throughout your personal statement it is important to remember to:

• Answer the question: As with an essay, if a specific question or prompt is provided, be sure to stay focused and answer what is being asked of you.
• Include some of your research: If a school wants to know why you are applying to their institution provide some specific reasons that set them apart from other schools you have considered. For example, particular programs or facilities available to you within the major you are interested in. Or perhaps the school setting would provide an important geographical or cultural change for you.
• Avoid commonly used phrases: A student applying to the college of education who writes that he likes to work with children is not expressing an original thought. Use your own words and your own voice so the admission representative can get to know you better.

Extenuating Circumstances/COVID Impact Statement:
In some cases, you may use the personal statement to explain extenuating circumstances that may have impacted your academic performance at some point in your high school career. In these instances, it is important to be genuine in your explanation but it is not necessary to go into so much detail that the reader becomes uncomfortable. The main purpose is to explain what an admission representative is going to see on your transcript and/or test scores. Some brief reflection on how these experiences have affected you and the student that you are now because of it can also be helpful to the admission decision process.
A resume is an overview of your education experience, employment history, extra-curricular involvement, honors, and awards. The purpose of creating a resume is to highlight your accomplishments and involvement throughout high school to admissions counselors or to a teacher/counselor that is writing a letter of recommendation on your behalf.

Below is a sample college resume. Some colleges will give you an option to upload your resume; others will have you add the detail within your application. When listing activities, place them in order of importance to you. Be sure to provide a short description of the activity.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample Student</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>001 Main Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sample Town, IL 00001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(555) 555-5555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:student@mymail.com">student@mymail.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**HONORS**

- **AP Scholar with Distinction - Grade 12**
  Received an average score of at least 3.5 on all exams, and score 3 of higher on five or more exams

- **National Honor Society - Grades 12, 11**
  Inducted into NHS based on a minimum GPA of 3.75 and 30 or more hours of volunteer work

**EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

- **Football - Grades 12, 11, 10, 9**
  Participated in high school football. Varsity for 11th and 12th grade. Captain for 12th grade. Played quarterback position for all four years

- **Volunteer - Grades 12, 11, 10, 9**
  Volunteered in the community for 140 hours, at such places as Hospice, Good Shepherd Hospital and at the after-school tutoring center (35 hours per year)

- **Barrington Area Rescue Klub (BARK) - Grades 12, 11, 10, 9**
  Organized fundraisers and events to help sheltered animals (40 hours/year)

- **Barrington Buddies - Grades 12, 11**
  Participated in activities with student with special needs to build friendships and social skills (20 hours/year)

- **Nanny - Grades 12, 11**
  Planned activities for three small children, made meals for the family, and ran errands (50 hours/week for 10 weeks each summer)

- **Big Red Spirit Club - Grades 11, 10**
  Organized activities to promote school spirit among staff and students (20 hours/year)
Letters of Recommendation

A component of the college application may include letters of recommendation. When requesting a letter of recommendation, it is important to research each college you are applying to in order to determine if a letter is required or not. Important factors to consider when selecting/requesting recommenders:

- For your academic/teacher recommendations, the college is looking to hear from your most recent teachers (i.e. junior year teachers) about the type of learner you are, your growth, characteristics, involvement in the classroom, etc. Some colleges may require that at least one of your letters of recommendation be from a core subject area.

- Ask early. It is important to ask teachers for letters of recommendation at least 15 school days in advance as they are most likely writing letters for other students as well. Have a discussion with your recommender to determine what information they need - copy of your resume, deadline date, type of letter (college application, consideration for honors college or scholarship), etc.

- You will assign your recommender(s) in your online application. When assigning your recommender, it will prompt you to complete your FERPA agreement. The FERPA agreement must be completed prior to requesting recommenders. Once requested, the response to this question cannot be changed. **We highly recommend waiving your right to see your letters.** Waiving your right tells the college you aren’t afraid of what your recommender may write, and the recommender is being totally honest.

- Finally, it is important to write a thank you note, card, or email to all of your recommenders. This gesture is appreciated by those who took the time to right on your behalf and share kind words about you as a person and as a student.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNSELOR</th>
<th>ACADEMIC/TEACHER</th>
<th>OTHER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A counselor recommendation highlights your academic performance throughout high school, school involvement, characteristics/qualities, and possibly explanation of any extenuating circumstances. In order for your Counselor to write their letter, they may request you provide them with:</td>
<td>A teacher recommendation highlights the type of student you are; learning styles, communication skills, problem-solving, peer interactions, challenging yourself/growth, etc. This is a great way for an admissions counselor to see the type of student/person you are to ensure success at the college level. To provide additional information in their letter of recommendation, they may request:</td>
<td>A letter of recommendation in this category may include a/an: employer, coach, religious mentor, etc. This letter should provide the admissions counselor with additional information about your character, leadership skills, etc. This letter would highlight the type of person you are outside of the classroom.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| - Copy of your resume  
- Completed Counselor Recommendation Form (on Naviance)  
- Completed Parent Survey (Page 28) | - Copy of your resume  
- Completed Teacher Recommendation Form (Page 26-27) | - Copy of your resume  
- Completed Teacher Recommendation Form (Page 26-27)  
- Completed Parent Survey (Page 28) |
Entrance and Placement Exams

PSAT/NMSQT/NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) is co-sponsored by the College Board and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation and is offered to high school students in October of the junior year. PSAT/NMSQT scores are used to select outstanding students as Commended or Semi-finalists in the fall of the senior year. Semi-finalists are asked to complete an application to become Finalists in the National Merit Scholarship competition. Finalists are notified in the spring of the senior year. Various colleges and corporations offer scholarship money to National Merit Finalists.

SUMMARY OF ACT AND SAT

In light of COVID-19, many colleges have transitioned to test optional when reviewing applications. It is important to research if a college or specific program requires either the ACT or SAT. Students should take the ACT and/or SAT in the spring of their junior year. Tests may be repeated to improve a score. Registration for either the ACT or SAT can be done online:

www.actstudent.org
www.collegeboard.org

It is very important that the Barrington High School code number 140205 is used when registering for the exam. It is the student’s responsibility to have official ACT/SAT scores sent to the colleges/universities to which they apply. Test scores are not on the BHS transcript.

ACT

The ACT is a multiple-choice test, divided into four parts: English, Mathematics, Reading and Science Reasoning. In addition, there is an optional writing test. The ACT scores range from 1 to 36 for each individual part as well as for the composite. The writing portion will add an additional 40 minutes to the ACT exam and will be scored from 1-12. Test dates with optional writing are the same as National ACT test dates. Most schools are recommending that students take the writing exam and some are requiring the writing for admission.

SAT

The SAT consists of three components: Evidence-based reading and writing, math and an optional essay. The SAT scores range from 400 to 1600. Most schools are recommending that students take the essay portion; some schools are requiring the essay portion for admission. The essay is reported separately on three dimensions: reading, analysis and writing. Each dimension is scored on a 2-8 point scale. The writing portion will add an additional 50 minutes to the SAT exam.

The College Board website is www.collegeboard.org.

SAT SUBJECT TESTS

SAT subject tests may be required or recommended by selective, mostly private colleges. It is a student’s responsibility to check college websites or college applications to determine whether or not SAT subject tests are needed.

The SAT Subject Tests are one hour exams, in specific subjects. One or more of these tests may be required/recommended by selective colleges and universities. The Subject Tests measure your knowledge of a particular subject and your ability to apply that knowledge. It is not possible to take SAT Subject Tests on the same date as the SAT Test. Check the requirements of the colleges you are considering before deciding which test to take and when to take them.

Visit www.collegeboard.org for registration, information and dates.

WHEN TO TAKE THE SAT SUBJECT TESTS

You'll probably do best on the SAT Subject Tests if you take them soon after completing courses in the subjects being tested, while the material is still fresh in your mind. Depending on the date by which colleges need your SAT Subject Test scores, it may be possible to take Subject Tests near the time of the Advanced Placement exam in that subject.

To decide when to take the SAT Subject Tests, find out the requirements of the colleges to which you will apply. Colleges that use the SAT Subject Test results as a part of their admissions process often require that you take the tests no later than December of your senior year. For more information and registration visit: www.collegeboard.org.

BHS ACT/SAT PREPARATION CLASSES

Barrington High School offers ACT/SAT preparation classes to juniors. There are two eight-week sessions: Jan-Mar and Mar-Apr. Information and registration materials are emailed to juniors in late October. For more information please contact Debbie DaSilva, Program Coordinator, at (847) 756-2438.
ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) EXAMS

Students who plan to take the Advanced Placement (AP) Tests should check with their teacher in the respective subject area. The AP scores range from 1-5.

AP Exams are given during the first two weeks of May. Visit http://apcentral.collegeboard.org/home for the exam schedule. Information regarding registering for exams will be communicated to students and their families in early August.

College Credit

Many colleges and universities offer credit or placement for certain exam scores.
Consult the following page on The College Board's website for more school specific information:
https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/creditandplacement/search-credit-policies?affiliateId=rdr&bannerId=apcreditpolicy

Rigor vs. Credit

A college or university may recommend (especially in the case of a more rigorous program) that a student take the course at that school rather than accept placement out of it. This is to ensure that the student has mastered the material necessary to be prepared for the next level.

TEST-OPTIONAL SCHOOLS

There are a growing number of colleges where admission is now “test-optional.” Test-optional schools do not require candidates to submit scores from standardized tests. Again, it is important to research the details regarding a school's test optional policy. Some of these colleges may require additional materials (eg. portfolio, additional essay, etc.) to be included in your application.

For a complete list of test-optional schools, go to http://www.fairtest.org/univ/optional.htm

College Entrance Test Dates 2020-2021

ACT

Register online at www.actstudent.org

SAT & SAT SUBJECT TEST

Register online at www.sat.collegeboard.org

2020 - 2021 COLLEGE ENTRANCE TEST DATES
**Application Transcript:** Colleges will require some version of your transcript at the time you apply.

**Options are:**

- **Self-reported academic record.** Colleges require you to enter all of your classes and grades directly into the college application. Some schools that use a 'self-report' system are University of IL, University of Iowa, Iowa State U, University of MN and the University of California system.

- **Official Sixth Semester Transcript.** All official transcript requests for non-Common Application Schools should be made through www.parchment.com. Use this link to create a Parchment account and to request an official transcript. Directions on how to set-up a Parchment account can be found on the Counseling page of the BHS website or in the Student Services office.

- **For Common App Schools,** you will invite your counselor as a recommender and they will send your transcript along with your school report and letter of recommendation.

**MID-YEAR/SEVENTH SEMESTER TRANSCRIPT**

Some schools will request a seventh semester transcript (or mid-year report), before making admission decisions. For Common Application Schools, you may need to request your mid-year transcript by completing a **Mid Year Transcript Request Form.** Once completed, email this form to your counselor. All non Common App mid-year transcript requests should be made through Parchment.com.

**FINAL TRANSCRIPT**

In May, seniors must request their Final Transcript be sent to the college to which they have enrolled. The Final Transcript verifies completion of all high school courses and grades and provides confirmation of high school graduation. Colleges typically require final transcripts by July 1st. Transcripts required by fraternities, sororities and scholarship organizations must be requested separately through Parchment.
College Interview Tips

College interviews are rarely a part of the application process, but for more selective institutions or for scholarship purposes, you may be asked to participate in an interview. When participating in an interview, it may take place at a local establishment or on-campus. You may be interviewing with a local alumni from that institution, admissions staff member(s), or with a scholarship committee. If you are asked to participate in an interview, it is important to consider these helpful tips.

**SCHEDULE IN ADVANCE**
Arrange your interview with the college admissions office at least three or four weeks in advance (allow more time during the busy fall season) by phone or email.

**NO PARENTS**
Remember that the college is interested in interviewing you, the prospective student, not your parents. It is perfectly acceptable for your parents to accompany you to the admissions office and even to greet the admissions representative or ask a pressing question or two. It is not wise for them to linger unless they are specifically invited to do so by the college official.

**BE PROMPT**
Arrive for your appointment on time or perhaps a few minutes early, and dress suitably for the occasion (no jeans, please).

**CONTROL NERVES**
Expect some nervousness or tension on your part; this is only normal. But do keep the interview in perspective as it is just one aspect of your application to the college. Maintain your sense of humor and appreciate the fact that the college official may be equally anxious in his or her desire to impress you!

**WATCH EYE CONTACT AND POSTURE**
Remember that your nonverbal messages, especially during the first several minutes and closing minutes of the interview, may have an overriding effect on the picture of you that is retained by the interviewer. A warm, firm handshake, good eye contact, proper posture, appropriate courtesy, and responsiveness in facial expression will all do much to convey a positive interest.

**VISIT THE WEBSITE**
Research the college/university before your interview and avoid asking obvious questions. Be prepared to discuss why you are interested in applying to that particular school.

**SPEAK UP**
Don’t rely on the interviewer to do all of the talking. Ask questions of your own.

**TALK ABOUT YOUR RECORD**
Be prepared to discuss your academic and extracurricular record quite specifically. Focus on what you have accomplished and how these experiences have helped shape who you are.
Financial Aid and Scholarships

Financial aid helps students and their families pay for college. This financial assistance can cover educational expenses including tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, and transportation. There are two basic types of financial aid.

1. Merit-Based Aid: This type of aid is based solely on the student's credentials. Exceptionally well qualified students may be awarded academic, talent, leadership, or athletic scholarships, as well as scholarships to support ethnic and cultural diversity. Merit-based aid can come from a college itself, foundations within a college or private organizations.

   • **Institutional Scholarships.** Individual college websites describe the programs at each school and list application deadlines and procedures. Additional essays, application forms, interviews, and auditions/recordings/portfolios may be required. Some schools automatically send scholarship information or make scholarship awards to applicants whose high school records meet the preliminary requirements. Returning college students should check yearly for new programs and funds available to upperclassmen in specific fields of study.

   • **BHS Local Scholarships.** A number of Barrington-area community organizations and businesses offer scholarships to BHS students who meet certain criteria. Applications can be accessed on the BHS website as of February 1st and are due March 1st. Although financial need is a consideration for some of the scholarships, others are designed to recognize academic merit, leadership and community service. Watch student announcements for more details after the winter break.

2. Need-Based Aid: This type of aid is based upon a student and family's financial need. It is calculated from the FAFSA or other aid applications (e.g., the C.S.S. Profile). Sources include federal programs sponsored by the federal government, state programs, or institutional programs sponsored by a college or university.

   • **Grants.** Funds from federal programs (e.g., Federal Pell Grant) or state programs (e.g., Illinois MAP Grant) that do not need to be repaid.

   • **Loans.** These are federally funded loans for students and parents. The interest rates are typically lower and the student loans have deferred payment plans.

   • **Work-Study.** Federal Work-Study provides part-time jobs for students with financial need, allowing them to earn money to help pay education expenses.

**FINANCIAL NEED-BASED AID**

The financial aid office at each college will tell you which form or forms to use when applying. By using these forms, a student can apply for state and financial aid programs.

   • The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). This form is required by colleges and universities in order to be considered for need-based aid. It is available at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). Beginning October 1, families can file the FAFSA using prior-prior year (PPY) tax data. Under the PPY system, families can apply earlier, since tax data from two years prior would be readily available, allowing for earlier notification and ensuring more time for families to prepare and make financial decisions.

   • The CSS Profile. This form is required by some schools, primarily highly selective, private colleges. It is available at [https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org](https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org). There is a fee for the CSS profile.

   • Some colleges may use their own school-specific financial aid forms.

*Please Note: Different colleges have their own deadlines for receiving these completed applications.*

**NET PRICE CALCULATOR**

Net price calculators are available on a college's or university's website and allow prospective students to enter information about themselves to find out what students like them paid to attend the institution in the previous year, after taking grants and scholarship aid into account. Students and their families can go to [https://collegecost.ed.gov](https://collegecost.ed.gov) for more information. This tool is only meant to be a baseline estimate. Colleges vary with the information they request, and how they base their estimates. Compare colleges’ net prices with caution.
QUESTIONS TO ASK COLLEGES ABOUT FINANCIAL AID

- What types of financial aid do you offer?
- What financial applications (e.g. FAFSA, CSS profile) are required and what are their deadlines?
- How long does it take the typical student to graduate?
- Are your merit scholarships renewable for more than four years?
- On average, how much do students end up borrowing?
- Do you grant course credit for passing AP exams? If so, how much and what scores are required?
- What if my family has special financial circumstances that are not adequately reflected in the application?

ADDITONAL SOURCES OF FINANCIAL AID

- www.fafsa.ed.gov
- www.fastweb.com
- www.collegezone.com
- www.studentscholarships.org
- collegecost.ed.gov
College Admissions
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

How many colleges should I apply to?
In most cases, 4-6 colleges. Students are encouraged to apply to 1-2 of each: “safety,” “target” and “reach” schools. Please refer to page 9 to help identify these categories.

What do colleges look for when selecting students for admission?
Colleges look at a variety of things. The most important piece is your transcript, focusing on course selection, and GPA. Colleges also look at ACT/SAT test scores, essays, letters of recommendation (if required) and involvement in extra-curricular activities.

Do all colleges require an essay/personal statement?
No. If a college does require an essay/personal statement as part of their application, it IS an important factor. Remember, it is a way to differentiate you from all the other applicants who may have similar GPAs and test scores. The essay/personal statement provides a specific question or prompt. Please see page 13 for tips.

What is an optional personal statement and when should I include it?
An optional personal statement is an opportunity to share/explain anything that is not otherwise addressed in the application. An optional personal statement may be used to explain a dip in grades due to illness, a life altering experience, or any other significant issue/event that would enhance your application.

What is the Common Application?
The Common Application is a not-for-profit organization that serves students and colleges/universities. Students can complete one application for numerous colleges. Over 800 colleges/universities are members of the Common Application. Students should be advised that some colleges have an additional supplement to the Common Application.

For more information and a list of participating schools, please visit: www.commonapp.org.

When do I use Parchment?
Parchment is a way to send a student's transcript/academic record electronically to a college or other institution. See “The College Application Deadlines and Procedures”, Step Five on page 12. Use this link for instructions on creating a Parchment account. All final transcript requests must be made through Parchment.

When is the best time to apply to colleges/universities?
The best time to apply to colleges is early fall of the senior year. Check each application for the deadline. Remember that different colleges have different deadlines but ALL deadlines are absolute.

What role do Counselors play in the application process?
Counselors will complete a secondary and/or letter of recommendation if required as part of the application. Counselors can assist students with application and transcript questions.

How do I obtain a letter of recommendation?
Some colleges may require letters of recommendation from teachers and/or counselors. It is the student’s responsibility to request a letter from the appropriate person(s). Be sure to give them sufficient time (at least 15 school days) to write the letter well in advance of any deadlines. Recommenders may have a questionnaire that he or she asks you to fill out (complete page 26-27). This will provide them with important information that they will use to write a better recommendation.

What is the difference between applying Early Decision and Early Action?
Early Decision is a binding agreement between you and the college. If you apply Early Decision, you are saying to the school, "If you accept me, I will attend" and then you must withdraw all other college applications if you are accepted. Early Action is not a binding agreement. If you apply Early Action, you still have until May 1st to accept the offer of admission.

What is the May 1st deadline I keep hearing about?
May 1st is the universal candidate reply date. Once you have been admitted to college(s), you have until May 1st to examine all your options (re-visit the campus, review scholarship/financial aid packages, etc.) and select the one school that you plan to attend. It is only with the Early Decision option that the May 1st deadline does not apply.
Web Resources

COLLEGE AND CAREER

ACT................................................................................................................. www.actstudent.org
SAT (College Board).................................................................................. www.collegeboard.org
Career Cruising......................................................................................... www.careercruising.com
    Username: Barrington
    Password: Broncos
Coalition Application.............................................................................. www.mycoalition.org
Common Application............................................................................... www.commonapp.org
Naviance.................................................................................................. https://student.naviiance.com/barrington
NCAA......................................................................................................... www.eligibilitycenter.org
Parchment ................................................................................................. www.parchment.com
Peterson’s................................................................................................. www.petersons.com
Schools in the UK.................................................................................... www.educationuk.org/global
Virtual Tours.............................................................................................. www.campustours.com
William Rainey Harper College.............................................................. www.harpervillecollege.edu

FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS

CSS Profile................................................................................................. www.collegeboard.org
FAFSA......................................................................................................... www.fafsa.ed.gov
FastWeb Student Resource Network....................................................... www.fastweb.com
The Financial Aid Information Page...................................................... www.fafaid.org
Illinois Student Assistance Commission............................................... www.isac.org
Net Price Calculators................................................................................ https://collegecost.ed.gov/

PROFESSIONAL

Architecture............................................................................................... www.acsa-arch.org
AudioEngineering.................................................................................... www.aes.org
Construction............................................................................................ www.cisco.org
Dental.......................................................................................................... www.ada.org
Game Design............................................................................................ www.igda.org
Engineering............................................................................................. www.nsppe.org
Law............................................................................................................ www.abanet.org & www.lsac.org
Medicine.................................................................................................. www.aamc.org
Nursing...................................................................................................... www.nursingworld.org
Pharmacy.................................................................................................. www.aacp.org
Physical Therapy..................................................................................... www.apta.org
Sport Management................................................................................. www.nassm.com
Veterinary................................................................................................. www.aavmc.org & www.vet.cornell.edu

MILITARY

Air Force................................................................................................... www.airforce.com
Army........................................................................................................ www.army.mil/
ASVAB....................................................................................................... www.asvabprogram.com/
Career Toolbox......................................................................................... www.myfuture.com
Coast Guard............................................................................................. www.uscg.mil/
Marines...................................................................................................... www.marines.mil/
Navy........................................................................................................... www.navy.mil/
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<th>College/Scholarship</th>
<th>Login/Password</th>
<th>Deadline &amp; Type (i.e. EA, ED, Priority, Regular)</th>
<th>Type of Application (i.e. Common App or School Specific)</th>
<th>Transcript Required? Y/N If “Y” then date requested</th>
<th>Essay/Personal Statement Required</th>
<th>Teacher or Counselor Rec Required. If “Yes” then date requested</th>
<th>Test Scores Required? (i.e. ACT with or w/out writing, SAT, SAT Subject Tests)</th>
<th>Reach, Target, or Safety for Financial Considerations</th>
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Sample Resume

Sample Student
001 Main Street
Sample Town, IL 00001
(555) 555-5555
student@mymail.com

HONORS

AP Scholar with Distinction - Grade 12
Received an average score of at least 3.5 on all exams, and score 3 of higher on five or more exams

National Honor Society - Grades 12, 11
Inducted into NHS based on a minimum GPA of 3.75 and 30 or more hours of volunteer work

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Football - Grades 12, 11, 10, 9
Participated in high school football. Varsity for 11th and 12th grade. Captain for 12th grade. Played quarterback position for all four years

Volunteer - Grades 12, 11, 10, 9
Volunteered in the community for 140 hours, at such places as Hospice, Good Shepherd Hospital and at the after-school tutoring center (35 hours per year)

Barrington Area Rescue Klub (BARK) - Grades 12, 11, 10, 9
Organized fundraisers and events to help sheltered animals (40 hours/year)

Barrington Buddies - Grades 12, 11
Participated in activities with student with special needs to build friendships and social skills (20 hours/year)

Nanny - Grades 12, 11
Planned activities for three small children, made meals for the family, and ran errands (50 hours/week for 10 weeks each summer)

Big Red Spirit Club - Grades 11, 10
Organized activities to promote school spirit among staff and students (20 hours/year)
Teacher Recommendation Questionnaire

STUDENT INFORMATION

Name: ___________________________________________________________________________ My Overall GPA: ___________

College for which I am requesting a recommendation letter: ______________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

A major or career I am considering: ______________________________________________________

When complete, hand-deliver to your teacher ALONG WITH A COPY OF YOUR RESUME. Also check with your teacher to make sure there is no additional information they require of you. Your teacher will attempt to spotlight your achievements in the classroom. The reminders you can give to jog your teacher’s memory will result in the best product, so please give thought to your answers and complete every question. Specifically, your teachers will be asked to comment on your verbal and writing skills, your ability to think on your feet, your academic performance in the course, your organizational and leadership skills.

The reason I have asked this specific teacher for a letter of recommendation is:

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

People who know me well would use these words to describe me:

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

My strengths as a student are:

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

My weaknesses as a student are:

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________
In this class, these activities or projects stand out for me as memorable (list). Why?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

In this course, I am most proud of:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

This class showed my ability to do college level work, how?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Anything else I would like you to know:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY OF THIS FORM FOR EACH TEACHER YOU ASK FOR A RECOMMENDATION, AS WELL AS A COPY OF YOUR RESUME. This information is used by your teacher to write a letter. It is NOT part of your college application and NEVER leaves your teacher's office.
As counselors write letters of recommendation for their students, it is invaluable to get the parent perspective. Please take a moment and answer the following questions about your student.

1. Looking back, can you share a story from your child’s elementary or middle school years that best reflects the young person he/she is today?

2. Please provide an anecdote(s) from your child’s high school years that best reflect your child’s personality, character, integrity, compassion for others, and/or maturity.

3. Does your child have interests, talents, or hobbies you might see at home or in the community that may not have surfaced at school?

4. Are there any special circumstances, background information or other factors (positive or negative) you would like the counselor to share with colleges in his/her letter?