

# College Information Night

2015-2016



# Agenda

- Introductions and Overview
- College Preparation
- Standardized Tests
- Researching Schools
- End of Junior Year
- Summer Prior to Senior Year
- Common Application
- Financial Aid
- Requesting a Transcript
- NCAA
- Naviance Tutorial



# Introductions

- School Counselors

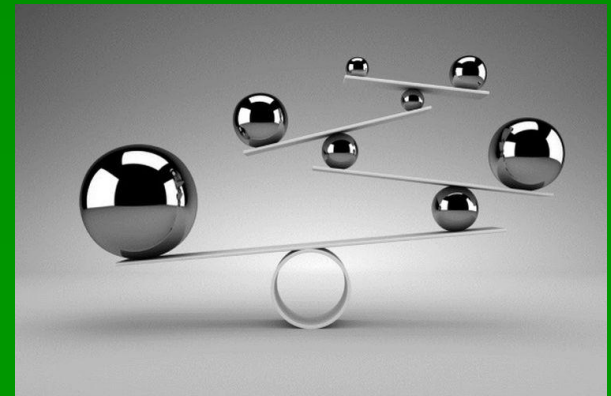
- A-C Phil Cohen
- D-H Dana Meledick
- I-Mn AJ Johnson
- Mo-Sb Lisa Clearfield
- Sc-Z Yvonne Rogers

- Registrars

- Candyce Fales
- Allison Sultan

# What Can Students Do to Prepare for College?

- Enroll in challenging courses
- Earn the best possible grades
- Explore different courses to help decide on an academic major or career
- Get involved in activities that you enjoy
- Take the SAT and/or ACT
- Research colleges
- Visit Schools



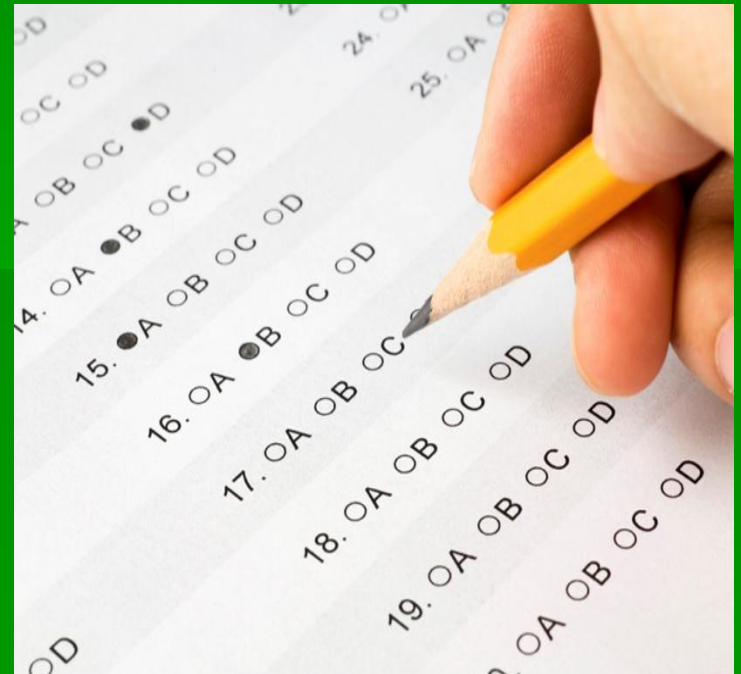
# What's Important?

Factor	Considerable importance	Moderate importance	Limited importance	No importance
Grades in college prep courses	84.3%	11.9%	2.3%	1.5%
Strength of curriculum	67.7	20.4	5.8	6.2
Admission test scores (SAT, ACT)	59.2	29.6	6.9	4.2
Grades in all courses	51.9	39.2	6.9	1.9
Essay or writing sample	24.9	37.5	17.2	20.3
Student's demonstrated interest	20.5	29.7	24.7	25.1
Counselor recommendation	19.2	39.8	27.2	13.8
Class rank	18.8	31.0	31.4	18.8
Teacher recommendation	16.5	41.9	26.5	15.0
Subject test scores (AP, IB)	6.9	31.2	31.5	30.4
Portfolio	6.6	12.8	30.2	50.4
Interview	6.2	25.4	25.8	42.7
SAT II scores	5.4	9.7	22.6	62.3
Extracurricular activities	5.0	43.1	38.1	13.8
State graduation exam scores	4.2	14.9	23.8	57.1
Work	2.3	17.0	43.2	37.5

SOURCE: NACAC Admission Trends Survey, 2011.

# Standardized Tests

- PSAT
- SAT I
- ACT
- SAT II
- Advanced Placement



# PSATs

- Offered free of charge in October for 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> Graders
- Use ***collegeboard.org*** for **Understanding and Using Scores**  
(From main page Click on PSAT/NMSQT then Click on SCORES)
- Score reports will also help identify AP potential for future AP courses

*Example:*

Your Evidence-Based Reading & Writing Score : 160-760

Your Math Score: 160-760

Your Total Score: 320-1520

# SATs

- Register at ***collegeboard.org***
- Take test at least one time during Junior year
- 2016 Upcoming Dates: **May 7th & June 4<sup>th</sup>**
- Covers Critical Reading and Math
  - **Algebra I, II and Geometry**
  - **Optional Essay**
- Does **NOT** penalize you for incorrect answers
- Questions get more difficult as test progresses



# ACTs

- Register at ***ACTstudent.org***
- 2016 Upcoming Dates: **April 9<sup>th</sup> & June 11<sup>th</sup>**
- Covers English, Math, Reading, Science, and Writing
  - **Alg 1, Alg 2, Geometry, and Trig**
  - Formulas are not given
- Does **NOT** penalize you for incorrect answers
- Question difficulty is random throughout test

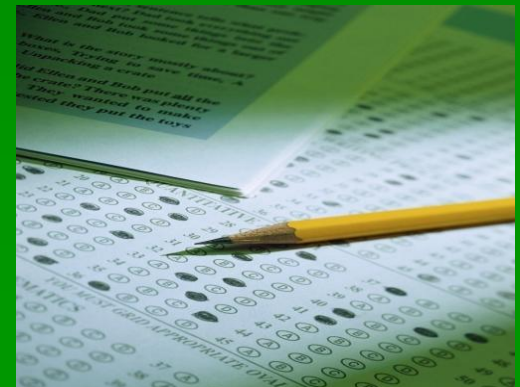
\* *Take both exams and retake stronger test*

\*\* *Most colleges accept either SAT or ACT*

\*\*\**Refer to handout for test comparison*

# SAT 2 (Subject Tests)

- Competitive schools require these in addition to SAT 1
- 20 subject tests; no more than 3 required
- Math, English, Languages, History, & Science
- 1 hour long; multiple choice;
- 200-800 point scale
- Colleges That Use The Test:  
*<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat-subject-tests/about/institutions-using>*



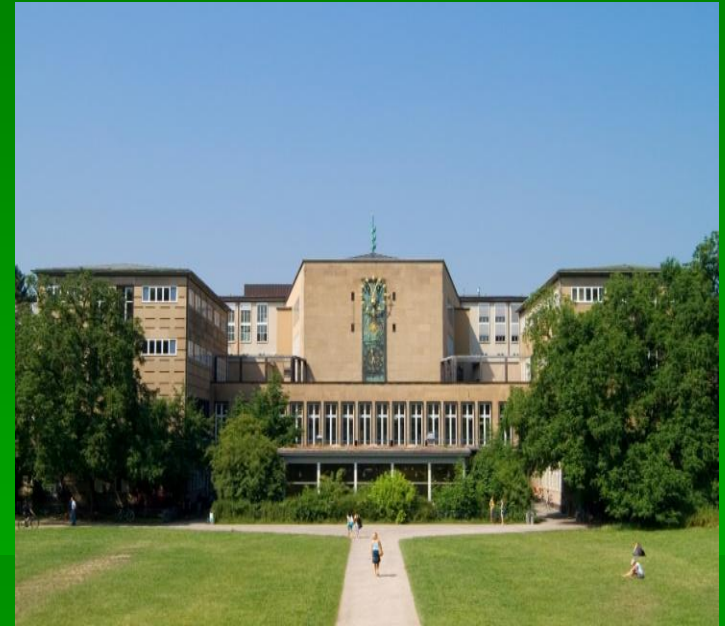
# Advanced Placement Tests

- Taken at completion of AP Courses
- Can take test without taking course
- Can earn College Credits  
(Each college and university - not College Board or AP Program - makes decisions about awarding credit)
- Cost is \$92 per test
  - After March 15<sup>th</sup> - \$112
  - After April 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$147
- Final Deadline - April 15<sup>th</sup>



# Things to Consider When Researching Colleges

- Size
- Setting
- Geographic Location
- Academic/Career Focus
- Cost
- Family Considerations
- Other, ie., Athletics, Study Abroad, Religion, etc.



# Making A List

- 1-2 Reach Schools

- Long shot for admission; your academics are below admission averages

- 3-5 50/50 Schools

- Good candidate; your academics are exactly within admission averages

- 1-2 Likely School

- Strong candidate; your academics are above admission averages

**\*Be sure to have Likely Schools both academically and financially on your list!**

# Visiting Schools

- Call or register online for a tour
- Visit when schools are in session
- Spring break is a great time to visit
- Schedule an interview with an Admissions Counselor
- Be prepared to ask and answer questions in the interview
- Compare schools





# End of Junior Year...

- Complete Counselor Info and Teacher Info Forms by ***June 1***

(Forms are located in **Naviance** under *My Planner*)

- Ask two teachers for recommendations
- Turn in a signed Waiver Form to registrars by ***June 1***
- Students will then receive a folder that contains the following:
  1. Transcript Request Form
  2. 20 Day Deadline Chart
  3. Two Teacher Recommendation Request Forms

***\*The folder is the College Checklist***

# Waiver Form



Colleges and universities prefer that teacher evaluations and recommendations be confidential. Colleges generally believe that recommendations written with this understanding are more candid and honest. Therefore, those recommendations have more validity and carry more weight in the admissions process than recommendations that parents and students can access.

In light of this, we request that all students/parents requesting letters of recommendation complete and return the waiver form below to the counseling office. If you choose not to waive your right to access letters of recommendation, this information will be included in the counselor's letter.

## Waiver of Right to Access School/Teacher Letters of Recommendation

We request that school employee(s) at \_\_\_\_\_ High School complete a letter of recommendation(s) and/or other evaluations associated with my/my child's college application. We authorize the release of student information in this letter and other application forms.

☐

We do waive our rights

☐

We do not waive our rights

to examine or obtain a copy of the letter(s), rating sheets, and other evaluations.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Student

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



# Summer Before Senior Year

- Schedule an appointment and meet with your counselor for a Senior Conference
- Start working on Applications: *July 1*
- Write College Essays
- College Visits
- NCAA Eligibility Center: *[eligibilitycenter.org](http://eligibilitycenter.org)*

# The Common Application

- Create an account at *commonapp.org*
- Only one application needs completion
- Each school requires a different personal essay
- Electronic submission with all Common App Schools
- Naviance and Common App link together

# Financial Aid

- **FAFSA** - <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>
  - Federal financial aid form
  - Beginning in 2016-17, Seniors will be able to begin a FAFSA application on Oct. 2016
  - FAFSA will consider the previous year's tax info (2015) for their Freshman year in college (2017-18)
- **CSS** - <https://student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile>
  - Non-federal financial aid form
  - Available Oct. 1
  - Required by nearly 300 colleges and universities
  - Create an account on collegeboard.org

# Admissions Policies

- Early Decision is **Binding**
  - Early deadline; early response (Oct. 15 or Nov. 1)
- Early Action is **Non-Binding**
  - Early deadline; early response
- Priority Deadline
  - Early deadline; priority over students who do not meet the deadline
- Rolling Admissions
  - Accepted/denied as applications are received
- Regular Admissions
  - Regular deadline (e.g. Jan. 15); response by April 1

- Complete a Transcript Request Form and submit to registrars

- Requests must be submitted ***20 school days prior to your earliest deadline***
- No transcripts will be sent until after ***Oct. 1***

#### 2.14 Office of School Counseling and Related Services/LE

# What Is A Transcript?

- It is an official copy of a student's academic record
- It includes:
  - Course names from 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grade
  - Final grade for each course
  - Senior courses
  - Weighted GPA
  - Class Rank – after Oct 1st

***\*No SAT, PSAT, HSA, ACT, or AP scores  
will be included***

# Transcripts & Recommendations

- Transcripts and Recommendations are sent through Naviance for most schools
- Hard copies will be mailed for all other schools by registrars
- For mailed schools, teachers send their own recommendations
- Mid-year reports will be sent automatically to every school (1<sup>st</sup> Qtr, 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr and Mid-Term Grades)

# Local College Profiles

## ■ University of Maryland, College Park

- 28,434 applicants; 3,975 admitted
- Avg. SAT: 1340 (Critical Reading and Math)
- Avg. ACT: 29-33
- Avg. GPA: 4.22 weighted



## ■ Towson University

- 18,134 applicants; 10,738 students admitted
- Avg. SAT: 1084 (Critical Reading and Math)
- Avg. ACT: 24
- Avg. GPA: 3.61 unweighted



## ■ Salisbury University

- Approximately 8,730 applicants; approximately 4,778 admitted
- Avg. SAT: 1032 (Critical Reading and Math)
- Avg. ACT: 23
- Avg. GPA: 3.13 unweighted; 3.38 weighted





# NCAA Eligibility

- Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center  
*eligibilitycenter.org*
- Request a transcript
- Send SAT and/or ACT scores using  
*collegeboard.com* and  
*actstudent.org*

*\*HCPSS policy does not  
permit us to send test scores*



# Naviance

*[connection.naviance.com/atholton](http://connection.naviance.com/atholton)*



# Reminders

- Students should take ownership for the college application process
- Early preparation and organization are key
- Counselors are available during summer
- Major Deadlines
  - June 1 – Naviance tasks
  - Oct. 1 – Rank date and transcripts



# Questions???

