

College Application Process



College & Career Day

April 1, 2017

Today's Workshop

- Goal: Review all of the pieces of the college application process.
- Topics covered:
 - College Planning Timelines
 - What is included in a complete college application?
 - Student responsibilities
 - Family responsibilities
 - School responsibilities
 - SHS Process and Policies

College & Career Planning Timeline

Before Senior Year

- Meet with your counselor about your college plans
- Complete Counselor Brag Sheet on Naviance
- Register for and take SATs, ACTs, and SAT Subject Tests
- Create a draft college list
- Complete Teacher Recommendation Brag Sheet on Naviance
- Create Common Application account
- Visit colleges you are interested in
- Ask two academic teachers for recommendations **in person**
- Create a draft of your college essay



College & Career Planning Timeline

Senior Year - fall

- Meet with your counselor
- Finalize college list
- Complete & submit applications (colleges)
- Ask for or follow up on recommendations (request via Naviance, submit yellow & pink sheets)
- Take SAT/ACT again if necessary. Send scores to colleges.
- Complete financial aid applications with uAspire
- Attend SHS Post High School Events!
 - Post HS Night - September
 - College Fair - October

What is Included in a College Application?

- College Application
 - Sometimes through Common App
 - Sometimes a separate application
- Teacher recommendations
- Counselor recommendation
- Transcript
- SAT/ACT Scores
- Application Fees
- Financial Aid Application

The Common Application

- **What is it?** A college admission application that applicants can use to apply to many member colleges & universities. Students fill out one application and it can be sent to any college that accepts it.
- **Who accepts it?** More than 500 colleges and universities. Find out more at commonapp.org

THE COMMON
APPLICATION

The logo for The Common Application. It features the words "THE COMMON" in a smaller, grey, serif font above the word "APPLICATION" in a larger, red, serif font. A horizontal line is positioned between "THE COMMON" and "APPLICATION". Below the text is a thick, dark grey horizontal bar that tapers slightly to the right.

Common Application Online

- What is on the Common App?



Basic info: Name, birthdate, school, address, family information, high school classes, etc.



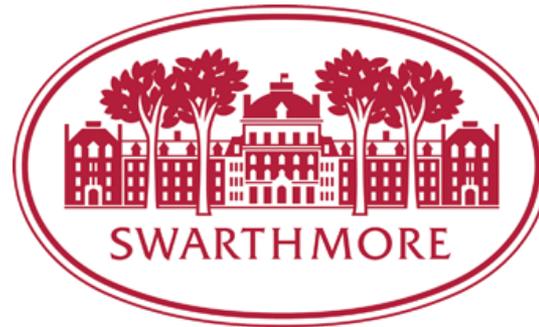
Activities: What are you involved with?
Includes sports, clubs, jobs, community involvement, religious activities, etc.



Essay: Also called the Personal Statement.
There are currently 5 essay questions. You choose one.

Supplements to Common Application

- Some schools accept the Common Application but ask for a little more information just for them. They ask you to fill out a supplement.
- Supplements may ask for basic demographic info or for additional short answer or essay questions.



College Applications not on Common App

- Some colleges do not accept the Common Application. To find that school's own unique application, you should look on their website.
- Components: They will usually have similar components to the Common App.
 - Essay (usually)
 - Demographic info
 - Activities



Framingham State University
Office of Graduate Admissions
100 State Street, P.O. Box 9101
Framingham, MA 01701-9101
Tel: 508.626.4501 Fax: 508.626.4017
gradadmissions@framingham.edu
www.framingham.edu

Application for Graduate Admission
(Return pages 1 and 2, and retain pages 3, 4, and 5 for your records.)

Anticipated Term of Entry: Fall Spring

A. Personal Information (Please type or print using pen.)

Social Security Number: _____ Sex: Male Female

Legal Name: _____
Last / Surname First Middle

Other name(s) under which records may appear: _____
(e.g., maiden name) Last / Surname First

Have you ever been convicted of a felony? Yes No If yes, please explain: _____

Mailing Address: _____
Number and Street

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Country, if foreign: _____

Birthdate: _____ Birthplace: _____
Month Day Year State Only, or country if other than U.S.A.

Preferred method of contact: Home Telephone Business Telephone Cellular Telephone

Home: _____ Business: _____ Cell: _____
Area code + number Area code + number Area code + number

Email Address: _____

Ethnic/Racial Background (for statistical purposes only; optional)

1. Are you Hispanic/Latino? Yes No

2. What is your racial background? (Choose all that apply)

American Indian/Alaskan Native Cape Verdean
 Asian Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander
 Black/African American White

Citizenship (required):

United States
 Permanent Resident
 Foreign (Country): _____
 Other (specify): _____

B. Concentrations (Please check the appropriate Concentration)

Master of Education <input type="checkbox"/> Art <input type="checkbox"/> Curriculum and Instructional Technology (online) <input type="checkbox"/> Early Childhood Education <input type="checkbox"/> Education Technology <input type="checkbox"/> Elementary Education <input type="checkbox"/> English <input type="checkbox"/> History	<input type="checkbox"/> Spanish <input type="checkbox"/> Special Education <input type="checkbox"/> Grades PreK-8 <input type="checkbox"/> Grades 5-12 <input type="checkbox"/> The Teaching of English as a Second Language	Master of Science <input type="checkbox"/> Coordinated Program in Dietetics* <small>*Once accepted to the masters program in Food and Nutrition, a separate application is required for admission to the Coordinated Program in Dietetics. Applications are available at www.framingham.edu/nutrition and due February 28.</small> <input type="checkbox"/> Food Science and Nutrition Science <input type="checkbox"/> Nutrition Education
---	---	--

What do Colleges Look for in an App?

ACCEPTED

- Essay:
 - Be yourself. Any topic is a good topic as long as it is about you and you are passionate about it.
 - Answer the question.
 - Make it interesting to read. Make it sound like you.
- Activities:
 - Quality over quantity, consistency is important
 - Leadership roles

Teacher Recommendations

- Who to ask:
 - Usually need 1-2 from teachers from 11th or 12th grade.
 - Got a major? Pick a teacher in that field.
 - Pick teachers that know you well as a student. It doesn't have to be a class that you aced, just one where you worked hard.
- How are they submitted?
 - Students request these on Naviance. Teachers submit them directly to colleges through Naviance or the mail.
- What do colleges look for?
 - Teacher recommendations should talk about you as a **student**. Did you participate? How did you deal with a challenge? What do you contribute to a classroom? How do you work with teachers? Classmates?

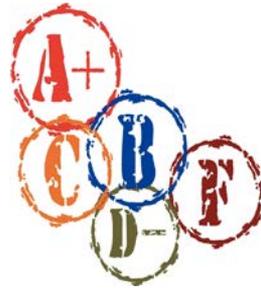
ACCEPTED

Counselor Recommendations

- Many times, colleges will ask for a recommendation from your counselor. You need to request a recommendation from your counselor. Do not assume they will write one.
- What do colleges look for? The counselor recommendation talks about your educational experience as a whole. Your academics, activities, personality, family, goals, etc.
- If you have a special circumstance that you want colleges to know about, talk to your counselor about including it in your recommendation.



Transcript and School Info



- Transcript: The courses you took in high school and your grades.
- School Information: School Profile, School Form
- How is it submitted? Students request these on Naviance in 12th grade. Counselors submit them directly to colleges through Naviance or through the mail.
- What do colleges look for?
 - Have you challenged yourself?
 - Have you done your best? Shown improvement?
 - School information helps provide context

ACCEPTED



SAT/ACT Scores



- SATs or ACTS are taken in 11th grade.
 - Take them at least once. Twice is usually better. More than 3 is not advised.
 - SAT/ACT scores help them standardize admissions.
 - Not every college requires them. Some require SAT Subject tests as well. Do your research!
 - August SAT for the first time this year!
 - Sign up at collegeboard.org or actstudent.org
- How to submit:
 - **Student** submits scores directly through the test site.
 - You may need to pay to submit them.
 - It takes time, do not wait until the last minute.

Application Fees

- Most colleges require a fee to submit an application.
- Why? They want to make sure students are really interested before they submit an application. With no fees, you could submit applications to 30 schools without really knowing if you like the school!
- Fee waivers exist – talk to your counselor. Typically these are for students who qualify for free or reduced lunch but there are other reasons.





Financial Aid Applications



- Students applying for college should complete financial aid applications (FAFSA, CSS Profile)
- Students and families complete them in senior year (and every year in college after that).
- SHS partners with uAspire to assist with all of the steps of college affordability. The uAspire Advisor is available for individual student and family meetings. They help with developing a list with good financial options, financial aid applications, financial aid follow up, making good financial decisions about college enrollment, etc.



Student Responsibilities

- Sign up for SAT and/or ACT tests
- College research
- College applications
- Request teacher and counselor recommendations
- Request transcripts
- Use Naviance, check email, and communicate with counselors & teachers
- Send SAT and/or ACT scores

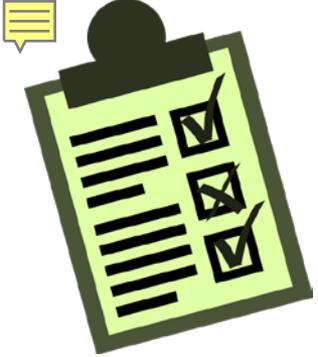




Family Responsibilities

- Assist with college research and tours if possible
- Talk with student about college plans
- Help your student stay organized
- Communicate with teachers and counselor (and encourage your student to do so)
- Attend college related events at SHS
- Financial Aid applications





School Responsibilities

- Communicate with students and families
- Guide students through college research and applications, provide support as **student** completes these steps.
- Provide information through Advisory and events like this
- Send transcripts and school information
- Counselor and teacher recommendations

SHS School Counseling

- Advisory

- In Advisory, students will be completing important parts of the college & career process.
- It is essential that students attend Advisory.

- Counselors

- counselors will meet with students to help them with their individual future plans.
- Counselors assume students have gone to Advisory and completed certain steps when they meet with them.
- Ask for help! We are here to help, but we can't read minds.

Questions?

