

*College Planning for the
Class of 2024*

Presented by Celeste Preisse,
TWHS School Counselor

What Are Colleges Looking for in an Applicant?



Takeaways from the Video

- ❑ Admissions process is subjective! There is no black & white equation
- ❑ What are colleges looking for?
 - ❑ **Merit** - GPA and standardized test scores (ACT or SAT)
 - ❑ Note: Post-Covid many colleges have gone “test optional”
 - ❑ **Rigor** of the student’s curriculum (AP, Honors, CCP)
 - ❑ **Story** - Commitment that show the depth and passion to an activity (leadership, co-curriculars, work, service)
 - ❑ *Depth versus breadth*
 - ❑ Gender, socioeconomic status, first generation student, etc.
 - ❑ **College Essay** - What’s your story? Opportunity to show admissions who you are and info not listed on your application
 - ❑ **Letters of Recommendation**- “*Who knows me best?*”

Spring 2023

- ❑ Continue doing well in all of your courses! 54% of our seniors applied before 11/1. 68% applied before 12/1. Your transcript may only have 6 semesters of work on it! Work hard to do your best this year!
- ❑ Do your college & career research through Naviance or schools' websites. Your counselor is here as a "knowledgeable other!"
- ❑ Conduct a career interest inventory on Naviance, YouScience, or Ohio Means Jobs to lead you to a the major you are interested in studying.
- ❑ ACT/SAT test in the spring of 2023. Last one should be in September or October of your senior year!
- ❑ Schedule College Visits! ** # 1 most influential factor in creating "The List"
- ❑ Attend College Fairs and College Representative meetings at TWHS
- ❑ Talk with current college students and counselor about college

Creating Your List. Is It a Fit For Me?

- ❑ Academic program/**majors** available.*For highly competitive programs, apply early! For example, Engineering @ Purdue, Pharmacy @ Ohio Northern, Business @ OSU, etc.
- ❑ **Type** of School: 2 year or 4 year institution. Earn an associates degree and transfer!
- ❑ **Public vs. Private:** Don't have sticker shock! Opportunity for financial aid.
- ❑ **Admission Policy:** Early Decision (binding), Early Action, Regular, or Rolling Admissions.
- ❑ Return on your **investment:** Retention & graduation rates!
- ❑ **Location**, location, location! How far do you want to be from home? A short drive, long-weekend, flight?

“Rule of 4” When Applying to College:

Reach Schools - Schools that are highly competitive, and select a low number of applicants (approx. less than 10%). Your personal scores (GPA & ACT/SAT) are within reach, though it may be a stretch for you to get in. Have a minimum of one (1) school in this category (or more if you choose).

Comfort Schools - Schools that you feel your ACT/SAT scores, and GPA are in the average. Schools that are competitive, though may admit a higher percentage of students. Have a minimum of two (2) schools in this category.

Safety Schools - Schools that you feel confident that you will be accepted to. Your average scores and GPA are above the average and you are confident at your chances of getting in, or know you will get in. Have a minimum of one (1) school in this category.

Reach, Comfort, Safety

Matthew has a 3.710 weighted GPA. He scored a 25 on the ACT and has completed one AP class, earning a B in the class. Matthew wants to pursue a degree in Engineering.

Reach	Comfort	Safety
The Ohio State University Miami University University of Cincinnati Case Western Reserve	Ohio University Otterbein Kent State University Bowling Green State Univ.	University of Akron University of Toledo Wright State University Cleveland State University Columbus State

Is It a Fit For Me?

- ❑ Size of Enrollment:
 - ❑ Small - less than 5,000 (Denison, Kenyon, ONU, Otterbein)
 - ❑ Medium - between 5,000 - 15,000 (Case, UD, Wright St, CSU)
 - ❑ Large - more than 15,000 students (Kent, OU, UC, BG)
- ❑ Athletic programs (D1 & D2 are NCAA)
- ❑ Reputation in a particular field- Journalism at OU, DAAP at UC, Nursing at Kent State, Education at BGSU, etc.
- ❑ Campus activities - Clubs, intramurals, music programs, etc.
- ❑ Surrounding community- Urban, rural, college town.
- ❑ Diversity and minority representation
- ❑ Disability services - Students on a 504 plan, or IEP
- ❑ Naviance – “Supermatch College Search” to prioritize these characteristics

Applying to College: *A few lines in, or cast a net?*



Student A: Has a focused major and list of colleges. Applying to only 2-3.



Student B: Has a wide range of colleges he/she is interested in. Applies to 8, 10, 12 to see what comes back.

6 Myths About College Admissions

Myth # 1 - Getting all A's in the most important thing!

Not true! Of course your grades matter, though challenging yourself to AP, Honors, or CCP classes may be more attractive to college admissions.

Admissions at Colorado-Boulder: *“Getting a B in an AP class is better than an A in a traditional class. However, a C or D in an AP isn’t likely to wow anyone.”* Challenging courses are a predictor of how you will perform in college. Also, don’t be discouraged if your grades aren’t were you wanted them early in high school. Colleges look for upward trends and want to see you finish strong.

6 Myths About College Admissions

Myth #2 - Your test scores can make or break your chances of getting in!

Not necessarily! Students with top 5-10% scores are denied because they “*didn’t do anything else to set them apart.*” (Doug Christiansen, Vanderbilt University).

Many schools are shifting their test policies to optional for fall of 2023 colleges as they recognize many applicants have intellectual abilities that are not reflected in an exam score. However, some colleges still need ACT/SAT for scholarships or certain programs!

6 Myths About College Admissions

Myth # 3- The more clubs and activities you are in help you in your admissions review.

False! The quality of your involvement counts more than the quantity of your activities.

Colleges look for depth of participation and development of leadership, rather than participation. Could have been a job, athletics, performing arts, etc. but what made you grow, what made you contribute to your community and how will you show that on a college campus?

6 Myths About College Admissions

Myth # 4- You should only ask for a recommendation from a teacher who gave you an A.

Not always! It is better to consider if the Teacher, Counselor, Administrator, Mentor, etc. can help admissions get to know a different side of you and better help understand the type of person you are.

You should look for recommendations from adults who know you especially well and can give a rich context to your work ethic, character, persistence, and growth.

6 Myths About College Admissions

Myth # 5- It's a mistake to get creative with your essay. Keep it well organized, like a report.

On the contrary, be clever, funny, original, and of all things, be the *authentic* you! If you are not passionate about something, don't try to fake it. If you are not funny, don't try to be! Be you.

Multiple sets of eyes often read your essay. These are the people making the admissions decisions, not a computer. The essay is your opportunity to connect and make an impressions. Word of advice? Don't write about COVID-19.

6 Myths About College Admissions

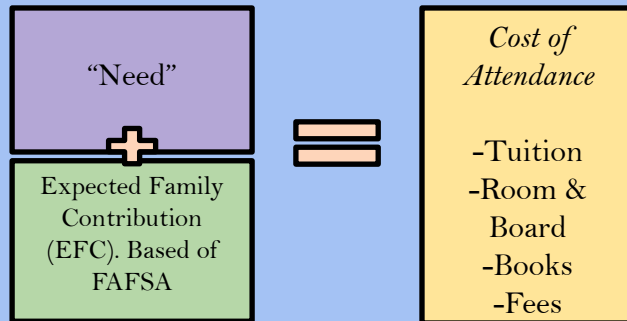
Myth # 6- To make yourself memorable, you must visit the campus.

Although visiting a college campus is crucial in identifying the right fit for you, you may need to be creative in how you do that at this time!

Many colleges track your interest. 40% of colleges reported that demonstrated interest from the student in a moderately or considerably important factor in their decision. You can demonstrate your interest by calling or emailing, attending a virtual tour, contacting alumni, or interacting with a rep on social media.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid

- ❑ October 1st of Senior year: Complete The Free Application for Federal Student Aid ([FAFSA](#)). No one makes too much, or too little money to apply for aid! Some schools will not award aid unless FAFSA is completed.
- ❑ Resources:
 - ❑ [The Ohio Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators](#) (OASFAA)
- ❑ Attend Financial Aid Night Senior Year for more information!



Your *need* of financial aid is met by:

- 1) Scholarships - Merit & Athletic
- 2) Grants - Based off of FAFSA
- 3) Federal or Private Loans
- 4) Federal Work Study Programs

Scholarships

- Typically, the most money is generated by the school you select to attend, who will award *merit based* and *need based* scholarships

3 Types of Scholarships:

- **School Specific:** Check the school financial aid website for a list of scholarships that you may eligible for. Merit based may be automatically awarded when you apply. Need-based is related to your FAFSA.
- **Web-Based:** [Finaid](#) or [Fastweb](#) are national search engines.
- **Local Scholarships:** Announced in March of Senior Year; posted on TW website

Athletics and Military Academies

- ❑ Student- Athletes: Division 1 and Division 2
 - ❑ NCAA Clearinghouse
 - ❑ Register & Send a high school transcript at the end of Junior Year

- ❑ Military Academy: If interested in a nomination to a military academy contact your state representative office or your School Counselor
 - ❑ This process should be happening now!
 - ❑ We can also help your son or daughter meet with a recruiter if they are considering the military. There are many wonderful opportunities within our military!

ACT and SAT

- ❑ Begin spring of junior year. End fall of senior year.
- ❑ TWHS will offer a free ACT test to all juniors on **March 14, 2023**
- ❑ Colleges/universities look for your best scores, whether they are on the [ACT](#) or the [SAT](#). Approximately 20% of colleges “superscore”
- ❑ We encourage our students to take ACT with writing at least once, however, more schools are moving away from this.
- ❑ SAT subject tests are no longer required
- ❑ ACT/SAT Prep classes or [tutors](#) are available. Speak to your son or daughter’s school counselor for more info!

<u>ACT</u>	<u>SAT</u>
Score out of 36	Score out of 1600
English, Math (with calculator), Reading, <i>Science</i> , Writing (optional).	Reading, Writing & Language, Math (with and without calculator), Writing (optional)
50 seconds / question	71 seconds / question
40% Geometry, plus trig, functions, Alg	10% Geometry, more Algebra based
Math counts as $\frac{1}{4}$ of your total score	Math counts as $\frac{1}{2}$ of your total score
5 multiple choice answers (20% correct)	4 multiple choice answers (25% correct)
Reading questions flow randomly and do not follow order. No evidence-supported ?'s	Chronological, evidence-supported questions.
<i>*Recommendation- practice, practice, practice!</i>	<i>Then, see which test best suites your learning styles & strengths.</i>

<u>ACT Test Dates</u>	<u>SAT Test Dates</u>
February 11, 2023 (Register by 1/6/23)	March 11, 2023 (Register by 2/10/23)
**March 14, 2023 - State Test at TWHS	May 6, 2023 (Register by 4/7/23)
April 15, 2023 (Register by 3/10/23)	June 3, 20223 (Register by 5/4/23)
June 10, 2023 (Register by 5/5/23)	August 26, 2024 (Anticipated)
July 15, 2023 (Register by 6/16/23)	October 7, 2023 (Anticipated) Last test available before 11/1 deadline.
September 2023 (Date: TBA) Last test available before 11/1 deadline.	November 4, 2023 (Anticipated)
**TW registers all juniors for March test!	<i>Practice, practice, practice this fall!</i>

Words of Wisdom

- ❑ Meet with your counselor one on one prior to registration to talk about classes and college
- ❑ Be sure to post only “appropriate” pictures and comments on social media.
- ❑ Make sure your e-mail address is professional and always use the same one!
- ❑ Proofread: Be sure to send documents that have been thoroughly proofread by numerous individuals!
- ❑ Letters of Recommendation: Begin considering who will write you a letter of recommendation. Ask yourself, “Who knows me best?” Be sure to check the requirements from the college!
- ❑ Send a thank you letter to an admissions representative who you may have met during a tour or visit.

Words of Wisdom

- ❑ If you are applying ED or EA to a college, your last ACT or SAT should be in September or October! *Check test-optional schools!
- ❑ When you register for the ACT or SAT, you are allowed to send your scores directly to four (4) colleges. This will save you \$13.90 / college if you wait until after your scores come in.
- ❑ Please tell your School Counselor if you are on the Federal Free or Reduced Lunch program.
- ❑ Practice the SAT through the [Khan Academy](#). We also have practice ACT and SAT tests in the Counselor's office for you to have!
- ❑ Plan a road trip over spring break or the summer to visit colleges!
- ❑ Come back in the fall of your senior year with schools you are ready to apply to!

Your child's School Counselor looks forward to working with your son or daughter on their transition to college, military, or employment!

Mrs. Felicha Smith – Last names A- D

Mrs. Kelly Swearingen - Last names E – K

Mrs. Celeste Preisse – Last names L & M (Career Counselor)

Mr. David Quart – Last names N – R (CCP Coordinator)

Mrs. Stephanie Burns – Last names S- Z

Thank You and Go Cards!