

The College Application Process



Clayton High School College Counseling
Jacelyn Cole & Katy-Jane Johnson

Presentation Overview

- Components of the College Application
- Application Types and Timelines
- MaiaLearning and the Common Application
- Letters of Recommendation
- Requesting Transcripts
- Q and A

CHS College Counseling Philosophy for Senior Year

- This is your STUDENT'S process. They should be front and center, and parents should be in the background.
- This is great practice for freshman year in college!! :)
- As counselors, we also want students to be driving the process
 - Students should attend App Lab and schedule their own appointments
- Things that colleges know:
 - When a student does not write their own essay!
 - When a student does not complete their own application!

CHS College Counseling Philosophy for Senior Year

What should Seniors be doing??

- Meeting with their College Counselor!
 - We want to meet with students individually. It helps us get to know students and build relationships.
- Come to App Lab!
 - App Lab is every Tuesday and Thursday during lunch/Greyhound time.

MaiaLearning.com

MaiaLearning.com is how students communicate with counselor (applying list, transcript request, letter of rec request, etc)

- Log in with Clayton google login.
- Need to 'link' MaiaLearning with the Common Application

These actions can only be done on the **student portal**. Parents do not have access to these functions.

Components of the Application

1. **The application itself:** Common Application, Coalition App, Black Common App, UC App, Apply Texas, individual school application, etc
 - a. You should use a personal email or one you create just for the college process - not your CHS student email
 - b. Common App is the only application you will need to 'link' to your Maia account

2. **Official High School Transcript** (Requested by student through MaiaLearning)
 - a. Some schools allow you to 'self report' grades as well. Make sure they are accurate! They will double check
 - b. All colleges require 7th and 8th semester transcripts and a "1st quarter grade" report. Your senior year grades and schedule are still very important (don't make drastic changes)
 - c. Admission decisions are provisional based on successful completion of high school.

Components of the Application

3. Counselor Letter of Recommendation

- a. Your Senior Counselor will write your letter of recommendation. Please make sure you have completed both the student and parent surveys!!
 - These were sent via email and they are also posted in the Google Classroom

4. Teachers letter of recommendation

- a. Two core (including World Language) teachers from junior year
- b. Requests need to be sent through MaiaLearning

[Request a teacher letter of rec in MaiaLearning](#)

Test Scores

Test scores and grades are top factors in college admission

Test scores (if using) are sent by you to each college/university

- Some schools are 'test optional', 'self report' or 'test blind'
- It is important to meet with your counselor to create a strategy regarding test scores. You may decide to submit scores to some schools but not others.
 - General rule of thumb: If your test scores are above the middle 50% of admitted students, you should submit your scores

ACT/SAT

If students are planning to retake the ACT or SAT register through the testing center websites: [ACT.org](https://act.org) or [Collegeboard.org](https://collegeboard.org)

Upcoming Test Dates:

ACT

Test Date Registration Deadline

Oct. 18th	Sept 12th
Dec. 13th	Nov. 7th
Feb. 14th	Jan. 9th

SAT

Test Date Registration Deadline

Oct. 4th	Sept 19th
Nov. 8th	Oct. 28th
Dec. 6th	Nov. 21st

If you are planning to use test scores in the application process, you “may” have time to retake the SAT/ACT in October to improve your scores for early applications but be sure to check in with the school about when scores need to be received

Early Decision (ED) I and II

If you are absolutely certain that you want to attend a specific college, Early Decision could be a good options. Important factors to consider are:

It is a **BINDING** decision. You cannot apply to more than one school ED and if you are admitted to a school ED, you have to withdraw all other college applications that you have already submitted.

- ED I Deadline: November 1st or November 15th
- ED II Deadline: January 1st or January 15th
- Students typically receive an admissions decision by mid-December or mid-February
- Can still apply to other schools Early Action, Regular Decision and Rolling

Early Action (EA) & Restricted Early Action

Early Action is a great option for students to apply early to more than one school. EA is not a binding decision, so students can continue to apply to other schools even if they are admitted EA.

- EA Deadline: November 1st or November 15th
- Students typically receive an admissions decision by mid-December

Restricted Early Action is also non-binding, but students are only able to apply to one school Restricted Early Action and cannot apply to any other private schools Early Action or Early Decision. Only a small group of schools use REA

Regular Decision & Rolling Admissions

Regular Decision: This is a non-binding decision and students can apply to as many schools as they would like. Regular decision deadlines vary, but they are usually in the beginning of January. Students generally receive admissions decisions in mid-March or early April.

Rolling Admissions: Students' applications are reviewed as they are completed. Students can receive an decision as early as two weeks after they submit their completed application. Rolling admissions school usually have late application deadline, but it is very important to pay attention to scholarship deadlines.

Request deadlines for transcripts & letters of rec

If your app is due on ...	You need to request by...
October 15 th	September 24 th
November 1 st	October 11 th
November 15 th	October 25 th
December 1 st	November 8 th
December 15 th	November 22 nd (early due to Thanksgiving break)
January 1 st	December 5 th (early due winter break)
January 15 th	December 5 th (early due to winter break)

Financial Aid

- FAFSA will open until October 1st, 2025!
- CHS Financial Aid Night
 - October 22nd at 6:30 pm in the CHS Library
 - Mike Runiewicz, Assistant Vice Provost and Director of Student Financial Services at Wash U., will give a detailed presentation on the financial aid process. He will discuss the significant changes that have been made to the FAFSA form and how those changes will affect the financial aid process.
- <https://myintuition.org/> is a great website that can give you an estimated cost for schools your student is considering.

Final Reminders

- Students should be using a personal email (not CHS) for their college apps!!
- It's extremely important that students pay attention to their inbox - colleges will communicate application info this way and some will email students to create a separate portal that will have required application info
- These emails ONLY go to the student - counselors and parents do not get copied on this information

Final Reminders

- It's important that you engage with your CHS College Counselor because we are your advocate in this process
- This is a student driven process!! Everyone has their own plans and we are available for whatever you need
- Individual appointments with students - scheduled via Google Calendar
- App Lab: Tuesdays and Thursdays during Greyhound Time in room 118

Follow Us on Instagram!!

@chs.collegecounseling

Website to Bookmark

Common Application

commonapp.org

Over 900 colleges use the Common Application allowing students to apply to multiple colleges using the same core set of information.

Coalition Application

coalitionforcollegeaccess.org

Coalition for Access, Affordability, and Success consist of over 90 member colleges.

Collegescorecard

[Collegescorecard.ed.gov](https://collegescorecard.ed.gov)

U.S Department of Education college search website based on pertinent information.

Fastweb

[Fastweb.com](https://fastweb.com)

A huge search engine for scholarships, financial aid, and more

Scholarship Central

[Myscholarshipcentral.org](https://myscholarshipcentral.org)

Regional search engine for scholarships for students from St. Louis/Missouri

QUESTIONS???