



# Rising Senior Meeting

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# DISCLAIMER

INFORMATION GIVEN IS GENERAL AND MAY NOT APPLY TO EVERY COLLEGE. FOR SPECIFIC COLLEGE INFORMATION, CONTACT MRS. COBB & COLLEGE REPS.



# College and Testing Information

If unsure of admission requirements or testing information for a particular college, contact Mrs. Cobb or the admissions representative.

Be careful of getting info from other parents, teachers, coaches, or students.



# Avoid These Mistakes

- Applying too early or too late to colleges.
- Applying to very few colleges.
- Applying to too many top tier universities (not having a balanced list).
- Missing deadlines especially for scholarships or not applying for any scholarships.



# Avoid These Mistakes (Cont.)

- Not taking your ACT or SAT early enough.
- Not taking these test again or prepping for these tests.
- Not visiting college campuses.
- Not reading emails or Class of 2025 posts from Mrs. Cobb.
- No Resume and/or Brag Sheet completed in Naviance



# TRANSCRIPTS

- Transcripts may only be requested by the student in their Naviance account
- **Official transcripts will not be ready until mid August**
- Will send an unofficial transcript to parents/students by email listed in FACTS in June
  - Make sure to check transcript for any issues and let Mr. Hill know for any corrections.
- Will take two to three weeks to process transcripts at a college
- Selective colleges will recalculate grades from a transcript
- **We are non-ranking school**
- We are on a 4.5 not a 4.0 scale
- AP & Dual Enrollment receive 0.5 qualifier
- Turn in Official Transcript Release Form before requesting any transcripts(Handout)
- Check to make sure you are on track to graduate for credits
- Colleges will check the rigor of your course even senior year
- Grades count senior year, even after a student has been accepted!!



# Graduation VBC

Thursday, May 22, 2025, 4:00 – 6:00 pm

All seniors will be given 14 tickets  
(6 preferred and 8 general seating)

*All dates Graduation and Senior Events  
are subject to change*



# Save The Date(s)

Senior Fall Meeting - **8/7 4:30 PM** in the MPR.

This meeting will include any changes to admissions and paying for college. Will have several colleges available to discuss changes in admissions for 2024-2025 admission cycle.

More information sent out at the end of June.





# Common App Workshops

Sign-up for one of the Common Application Workshops on 5/29-6/19, and 7/29-8/24. You only need to attend one workshop if you will apply via the Common Application in the fall.

*Parents - Students must fill out their own Common Application.*



# Summer To Do List

- Located in Naviance with hyperlinks
- See Handout



# Service Hours

- MobileServe is replacing X2VOL
- Please complete your service hours and enter into MobileServe. They must be completed by the end of 1st semester of senior year.
- Hours are prorated by years of attendance
- **All must be completed by end of the 1st semester to be exempt for senior exams.**



# ACT/SAT

- A few colleges will remaining test-optional for 2025-26
- Retaking your ACT or SAT can boost your chances for selective colleges and scholarships
- JP2 will offer an ACT Prep Class in the fall with Achievement Plus for the December ACT
- Lots of other test companies offer ACT and/or SAT prep classes
- Some (not all) colleges will Super Score for admissions and/or scholarships
- **WE DO NOT SEND TEST SCORES**
- May still need for English or Math placement in college

***There are still several juniors that have not taken their ACT/SAT.***



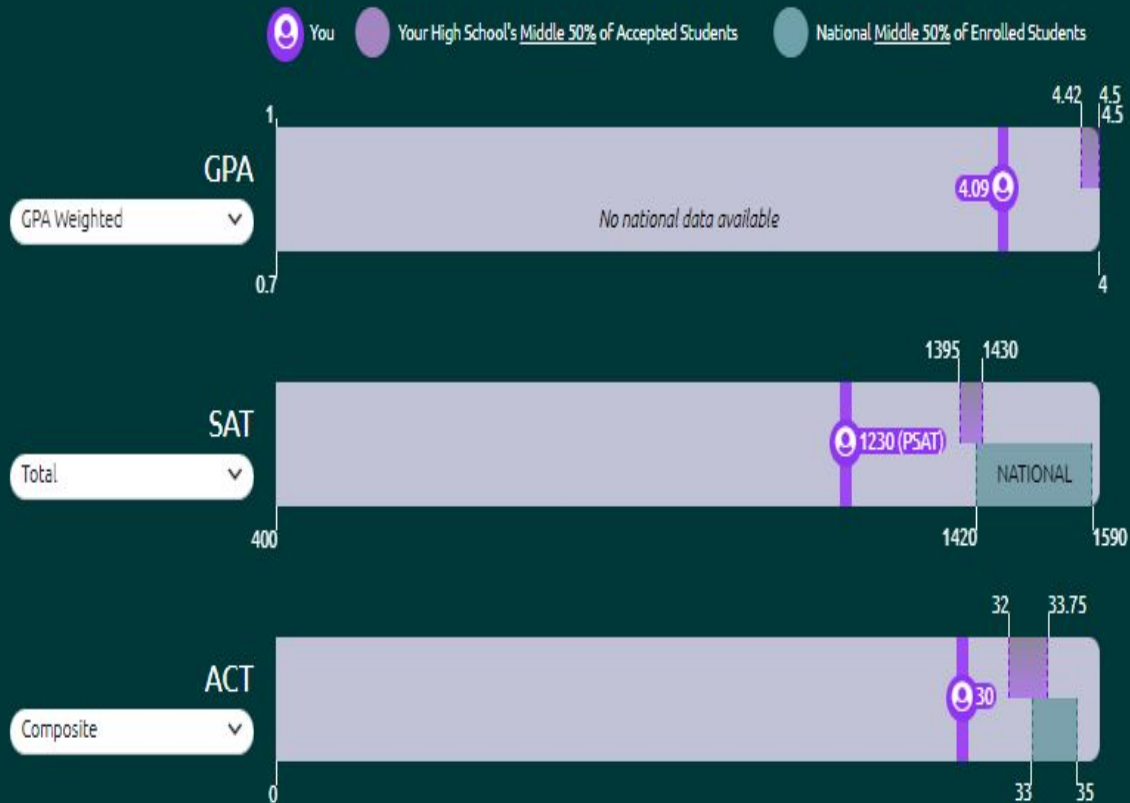
If applying to a highly selective school  
make sure to have some safety schools  
as well.

Please check Naviance to see if you  
are a good match for this college.

# How you compare with others who have applied to Vanderbilt University

This institution is a **Reach**: Your academic qualifications (GPA & test scores) **fall below** the academic profile of students nationally who are typically enrolled at this institution.

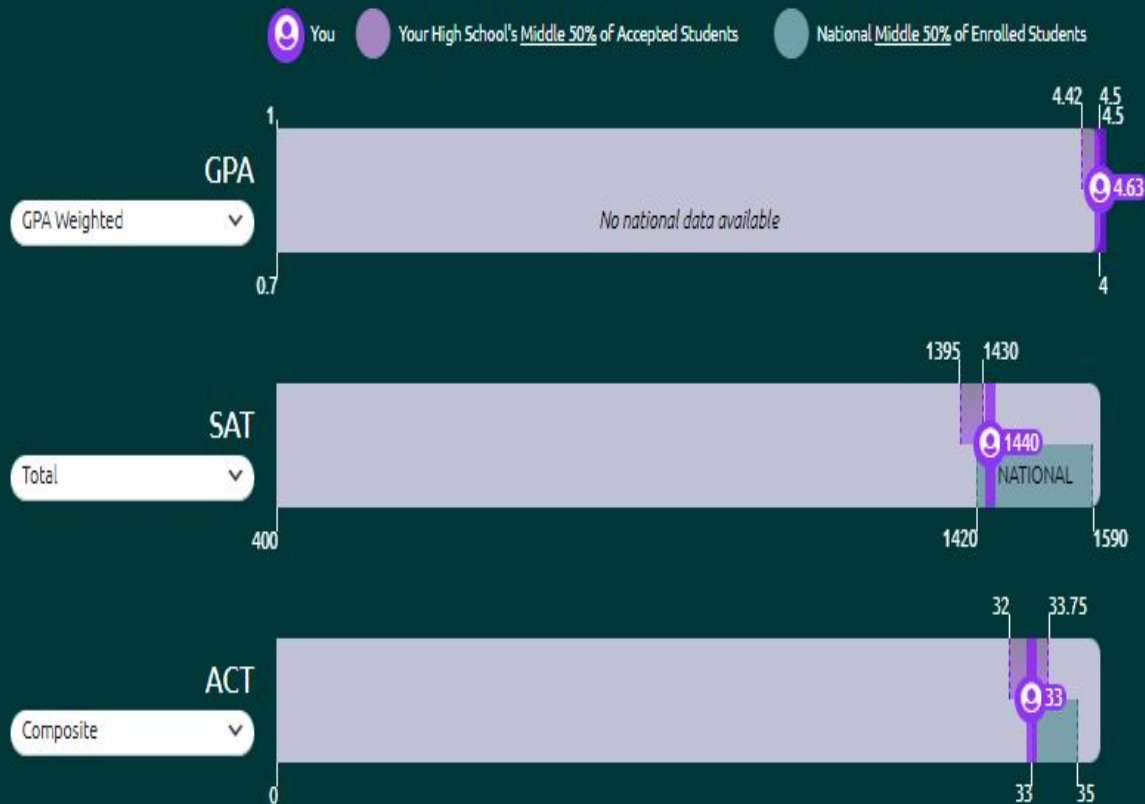
DENIED



# How you compare with others who have applied to Vanderbilt University

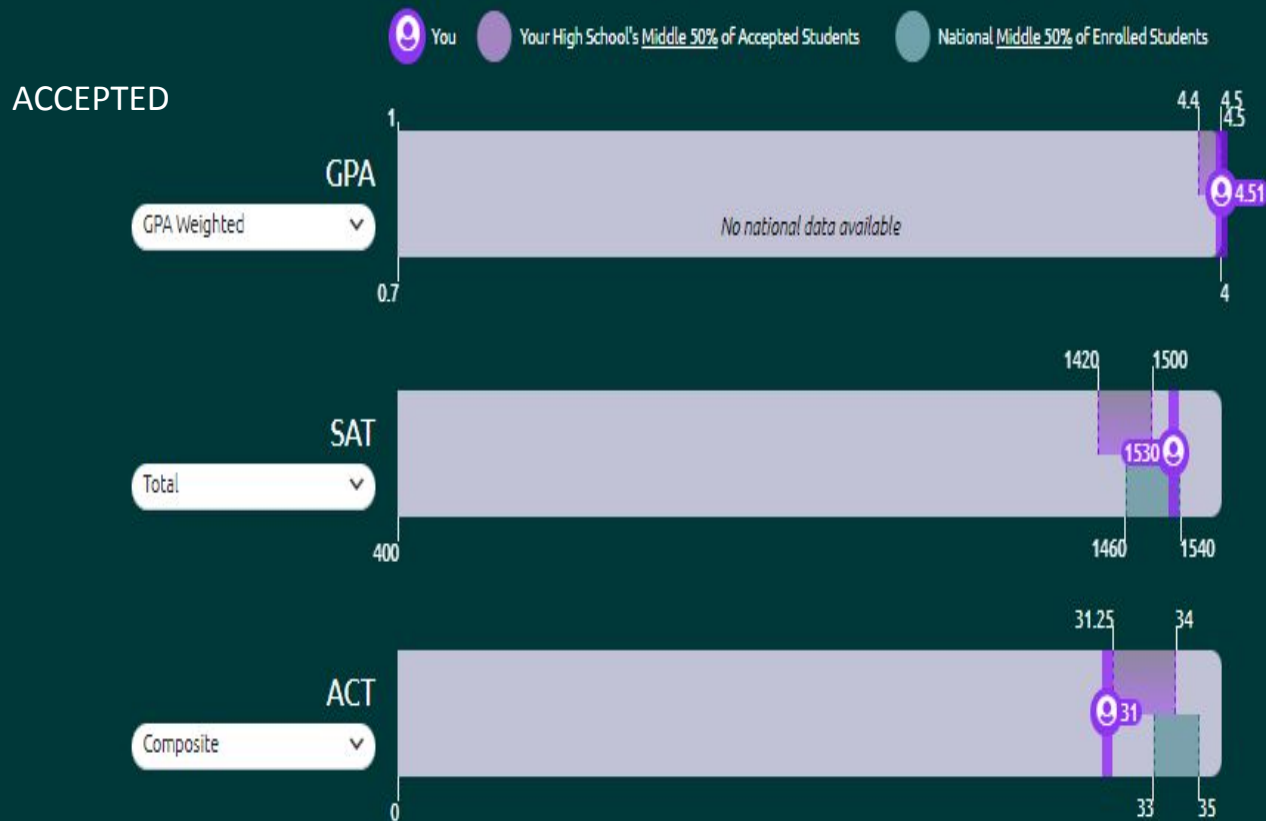
This institution is a **Reach**: Your academic qualifications (GPA & test scores) **fall below** the academic profile of students nationally who are typically enrolled at this institution.

ACCEPTED



# How you compare with others who have applied to University of Notre Dame

This institution is a **Match**: Your academic qualifications (GPA & test scores) are **similar to** the academic profile of students nationally who are typically enrolled at this institution.







# Naviance

- Make sure to have a list of at least 6-9 colleges listed in “Colleges I’m Thinking About”
- Will move over in July/August to “Colleges I’m Applying to”
- **Update Resume (Must be in Naviance)**
- Fill out Senior Brag Sheet
- You can still add to your list Senior Year, but try to be ready to start applying in August



# College Reps & Visits

- Senior Year - Make sure to visit the reps when they come either during Falcon Flight Time, before or after school next year
- Visit college campus over the summer
- You will have 3 college visits for Senior year
- ***Make sure to set up an appointment with the Financial Aid Office when visiting colleges and the disability office regarding documentation needed in college for accommodations.***



# College Applications



# College Applications

- Most college applications will not open up until August 1st - Common Application.
- Be careful not to apply to the wrong admissions cycle (Apply fall 2025, not spring 2025).
- Try to have 6-9 colleges to apply to in the August.
- Check Naviance for admission stats



## Direct to the Institution

- Apply directly to the college from their website
- Create an account for every school
- Request transcript in Naviance
- Sometimes easier than the Common Application



# Common Application

- Not as Common as it seems
- Colleges add additional questions/essays besides the required essay, may have specific supplements and restrictions, and may require additional material
- If it says “Optional,” go ahead and complete. It is not optional for admission to selective schools. If it is not required, you do not have to complete.
- Will rank on academic achievement, extracurricular achievement, and personal qualities and character
- Lists the highest GPA in the class
- Make sure to mark Common App in Naviance



# Applications To Avoid If Possible

- Universal College Application
- Coalition Application

# DEFINITIONS OF ADMISSION OPTIONS IN HIGHER EDUCATION



National Association for  
College Admission Counseling  
*Guiding the way to higher education*

## STUDENTS: WHICH COLLEGE ADMISSION PROCESS BEST SUITS YOU?

### Non-Restrictive Application Plans

#### Regular Decision

##### DEFINITION:

Students submit an application by a specified date and receive a decision in a clearly stated period of time.

##### COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

#### Rolling Admission

##### DEFINITION:

Institutions review applications as they are submitted and render admission decisions throughout the admission cycle.

##### COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

#### Early Action (EA)

##### DEFINITION:

Students apply early and receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date.

##### COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Students are not restricted from applying to other institutions and have until May 1 to consider their options and confirm enrollment.

### Restrictive Application Plans

#### Early Decision (ED)

##### DEFINITION:

Students make a commitment to a first-choice institution where, if admitted they definitely will enroll. The application deadline and decision deadline occur early.

##### COMMITMENT:

BINDING

#### Restrictive Early Action (REA)

##### DEFINITION:

Students apply to an institution of preference and receive a decision early. They may be restricted from applying ED or EA or REA to other institutions. If offered enrollment, they have until May 1 to confirm.

##### COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Students are responsible for determining and following restrictions.





# Early Decision (ED) I & II(See Handout)

- Contractually Binding
- Can't Apply ED to another college/university
- Must attend college/university if admitted
- Deadline for ED I mid October to November
- Admissions notification usually early December
- Pool of candidates might be smaller but still competitive, so make sure you have the grades and test scores for a particular college/university



# Early Action (EA)(See Handout)

- Non-Binding
- Can Apply EA to other colleges/universities
- Deadline typically between Mid-October and early November
- Admissions notification typically late December
- Restrictive Early Action is non-binding but may restrict the number of schools you may apply to EA.



# Regular Decision(See Handout)

- No limit to the number of colleges/universities you can apply to
- Deadlines are typically early January or February



# Rolling Admissions

- May apply as late as even July.
- There may still be certain deadlines for scholarships.



Always check each college/university for its decision policy and guidelines.



# Honors Colleges

- May require a separate application.
- Higher admissions qualifications than the university admissions qualifications than the university requirements.
- Graduation requirements (Minimum GPA, minimum hours of Honors courses, etc.).
- Provide small, rigorous learning environment with designated classes across other schools and colleges (College of Business, Arts and Sciences, etc.).
- Typically provide separate housing.
- Many Perks
- Priority Registration
- Individualized Advisement
- Assistance with prestigious scholarships, fellowships, and internships.
- Separate facilities
- Special events
- ALWAYS CHECK THE COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY FOR ITS POLICIES.



# AP Credits at College

- Check with college/university for its policy on credit for AP classes (see catalog)
- What score is required
- General Curriculum
- Honors college/program
- How is credit awarded
- Actual credit hours
- Prerequisite for higher level courses
- Could always consider CLEP exams
- Consider potential danger in skipping that college course



# Hard Deadlines

- Application
  - Depends on choice of admission decision
- Housing
  - Must apply for housing by a certain deadline
  - Must pay deposit by certain deadline
- Financial Aid
  - Complete FAFSA by certain deadline. Opens October 1st
- Scholarships
  - Institutional
  - Private - will update list in Naviance

Keep a consolidated calendar for all dates and deadlines





# Essays (Handout -Common App Essay Prompts) & Letters of Recommendations



# Know the Purpose of a College Essay

- Add “flavor” to your application.
- Evaluate your writing skills.
- A measure of your interest.
- Looking for creativity.



# Keep Your Audience In Mind

- 2-3 minutes per essay.
- Lots of readers.
- Emotional impression about you, not an intellectual impression about your topic.
- Goal: “I really like this student.”



# It's All About YOU!

- Think of a dressed-up version of emailing a good friend.
- Be yourself!
- Remember: Personality, personality, personality!
- They read your transcript to see what kind of student you are; they read your essay to see what kind of person you are.



# What Should I Write About?

- Write what you know.
- Personal statement vs. research paper.
- Be Yourself! What makes you unique?
- Consider the word limit.
- Avoid big topics & long stories.
- Don't bargain on the personality of your reader.



# A Few Writing Tips

- Write more than one essay!
- Grab your reader's attention in the first sentence.
- Final draft needs a personal statement & organization.
- Be concise.
- When in doubt, throw it out and start again!



# Other Things to Avoid

- Expressions of self-pity, whining, boasting, sarcasm, bitterness, arrogance.
- Slang, profanity, bad grammar, incorrect spelling.
- Too much thesaurus.
- Exceeding the word count.
- Sports injury stories.
- Mission Trips.
- Political Extremism.
- No A.I (ChatGPT)!!



# PROOFREADING!!!

- Leave plenty of time for proofreading by others.
- Beware of personality edits.
- Choose “who” and “how many” carefully.
- Proof a printed draft.
- Read it aloud.





# Recommendation Letters



# Letters of Recommendations

- Must have an updated Resume in Naviance
- Must complete your Brag Sheet in Naviance
- Ask teachers first before requesting in Naviance
- Give teachers at least two weeks notice



## Know the Purpose of a Recommendation Letter

- Add a sense of a student's contributions to the classroom, school, and community.
- Allow the college to learn how others perceive the student.
- Allow the college to understand intangibles about the student.



# Types of Recommendation Letters

- School/College Counselor Letters (*No need to request for Common App, I will automatically write a counselor letter and complete the counselor report*)
- Teacher Letters
- Community Letters

*Start thinking about recommenders over the summer, but do not request recommendations until August in Naviance.*



# School/College Counselor Letters

- Summarizes the whole student.
- Can focus on personal setback, structural impediments that affected a student's ability to certain courses, the student's aspirations, hopes, and dreams.
- Describes the student within the whole community and within the rigor of the school.
- All-Encompassing.



# Teacher Letters

- Shows the lens of the learner.
- Explains how the student makes an impact in the classroom, on their peers, and how they react to challenges within the classroom.
- Focuses specifically on academics.
- Subject-Specific.



# Community Letters

- Highlights attributes and contributions to community, team, workplace.
- Explains what makes the student stand out from peers.
- Broader Focus.
- Can include a coach, mentor, employer.



## Asking for Letters (Start in August)

- Carefully choose your recommenders.
- Clearly define what you are asking the recommender to do.
- Give recommenders at least two weeks notice.
- Clearly state deadlines and preferred method of submission - Naviance or another application.





# Asking for Letters

- It may help to have a conversation with your recommender, discussing the following:
  - Why do you want to attend \_\_\_ College?
  - Why do you like it?
  - What attributes would you contribute to the college campus?
  - What are your strengths?
  - How have you demonstrated independence, initiative, responsibility, and/or maturity?
  - What are your favorite activities?
  - What have you done that makes you proud?
- Make sure Resume is up to date and fill out Brag Sheet in Naviance.



# Final Notes

- Choosing a recommender that can speak to your abilities is key.
- The best recommendations are honest and thorough:
  - Waiving your FERPA rights can help ensure all of your recommendation letters will be honest.
  - It signifies to college admission committees that each writer is being candid and has your support.
- Consider selecting for all colleges in Naviance versus for a specific college when requesting letter of recommendations, especially if adding other colleges later.



# Final Thoughts “Before You Click Submit”

- Know the name of your college you are applying to
- Know your deadlines!
- Check for spelling
- Be honest on your applications
- Read everything, including fine print!!
- Please be nice to admission counselors
- Fee Waivers – Must qualify for free and reduced lunch at a public school
- Start turning in all acceptances and scholarship information to counseling office as soon as possible
- Don’t forget to send a “Thank You” email in the spring, even if declining the offer.
- Your emergency is not always my emergency



# Scholarship Websites

- Naviance – Sallie Mae
- [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
- [www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com)
- [www.collegenet.com](http://www.collegenet.com)
- [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)
- [www.cappex.com](http://www.cappex.com)
- [www.unigo.com](http://www.unigo.com)
- <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search>
- [www.niche.com](http://www.niche.com)

State colleges will be available at the Senior Meeting in August to go over specific merit scholarships.



## Student's Role

- The student should have the starring role in this process.
- The students should complete the application/essays and request the transcript.
- Students - **DO NOT LOSE YOUR VOICE.**

## Parent's Role

- The parents can check for spelling and grammar.
- Parents should be supportive and try to avoid nagging.
- Parents can help manage deadlines.
- Parents will need to provide financial information for the FAFSA and scholarships.
- Explain any financial boundaries or geographic limits to your child.



# Fall Senior Meeting Dates

Senior Fall Meeting 8/7 4:30 PM the MPR. I will send more information around the end of June. Will have info on scholarships, paying for college, FAFSA, etc...

Several colleges will be available to answer questions.



# Free College Application Week(Tentative Dates)

- 3rd week of October
- 3rd week of February



# Common App Workshops

5/29-6/19, and 7/29-8/24

Must sign up to attend at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0A45AEA928A20-common>

**BRING YOUR LAPTOP!!**





**Please make sure to read  
emails and info posted on  
Class of 2025, especially from  
the Counseling Office.**



**Have a great summer!!**





# Resources

- [HTTP://WWW.THECOLLEGESOLUTION.COM](http://www.thecollegesolution.com)
- [HTTP://WWW.DIYCOLLEGERANKINGS.COM](http://www.diycollegerankings.com)
- [HTTP://WWW.USNEWS.COM/EDUCATION](http://www.usnews.com/education)
- [HTTP://WWW.PRINCETONREVIEW.COM](http://www.princetonreview.com)
  
- HOW TO PREPARE A STANDOUT COLLEGE APPLICATION
- BY ALISON COOPER CHISOLM & ANNA IVEY