

QUESTIONS FROM SENIOR PARENTCOLLEGE INFORMATION MEETING
SEPTEMBER 20, 2011

We've made these questions and answers available for families who might want more information. If you have further questions, don't hesitate to contact Sr. Helen McCulloch at hmcculloch@archbishopcarroll.org or Mrs. Melanie Powell at mpowell@archbishopcarroll.org.

Q: How many Recommendations are needed?

A: Check the guidelines from the colleges to which you are applying. 3 is usually plenty. Some colleges require recommendation from certain fields. See Pg. 9 AC College Planning Guide

Q: Do I need to request transcripts from all of my student's previous school for the colleges?

A: Carroll should have the grades from freshman year on, at this point. Please check your copy of the unofficial transcript in your College Bound Folder. You only need Original transcripts from other schools at this point, if you are trying to qualify for NCAA. If so have them sent directly to the Clearinghouse.

Q: How can I get a copy of my student's grades?

A: An unofficial copy of your student's transcript is in your College Bound Folder, that's the Green or Yellow folder with everything you need for Senior year, which you received at the Senior/ Parent Meeting. If you did not attend, please see your counselor.

Q: What is the FAFSA?

A: It is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. See Pg. 12 AC College Planning Guide.

Q: When is the best time to complete the FAFSA?

A: Parents and students can register for a PIN in November. Submit ASAP after January 1st at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Q: What if you test after submitting applications?

A: You may continue to test after submitting applications, but be sure to send test scores directly to all the colleges.

Q: Is it true that you can apply to 35 HBCU's for free?

A: No, but you can apply to 35 schools for \$35 at www.eduinonline.com.

Q: Should you consider paying for a scholarship search service?

A: No..... You and your student can search online for free. Check out www.fastweb.com.

Q: How many colleges are too many colleges?

A: You and your student need to determine that, but consider that application fees are expensive and completing applications is time consuming.

Q: Should my student apply to schools that waive application fees?

A: Some schools waive application fees if you apply online. If you are interested in the school and it meets your needs and you meet the requirements, by all means, apply.

Q: If my student has completed and submitted an online application, will ACHS submit one packet with teacher recommendations, transcripts, etc?

A: Yes. It is a convenience to the college to have all materials together. Be sure that your recommendations are available to your counselor by the time you request your transcripts.

Q: After applications are completed, do the parents or student send it in or does the counselor?

A: Colleges prefer that students submit applications online. If you are completing a paper application, it is your preference.

Q: How do I know if I qualify for fee waivers and how do I secure them?

A: Talk to your counselor.

Q: Is there a waiver for NCAA Clearinghouse?

A: There is no specific waiver for NCAA Clearinghouse processing. If a student received an ACT or SAT waiver for testing fees, the Clearinghouse will process your application for free. Complete the online Clearinghouse application and indicate you have received a waiver for testing. Then notify your counselor indicating the test and date for which you received the testing waiver.

Q: What is the difference between a personal statement and an essay?

A: Colleges will dictate the topic of a required essay. If no topic is specifically requested, submit a personal statement. See Pg. 10 AC College Planning Guide.

Q: Is there really a letter of recommendation form that you must submit to a teacher?

A: Yes. It is in your College Bound Folder.

Q: How long should a letter of recommendation be?

A: One page max – quality not quantity

Q: Are there colleges that address “special needs”?

A: Yes. One resource is Peterson’s Colleges with Programs for Students with Learning Disabilities.

Q: If I am applying for a college with a November 1st deadline, when do I need to get my information to my counselor?

A: Transcripts take a week to process. Counselors need 3 weeks after receiving your Brag Sheet to generate a letter of recommendation. Teachers need 3 weeks to complete recommendations after receiving a written request.

Q: Is there a list of schools that take the IB Diploma?

A: For colleges that have strong IB recruitment, see www.ibo.org and Ms. Blaufuss.

