



PLANNING FOR COLLEGE: SIXTH FORM

Overview:

During the fall term, seniors work with their counselors in both group and individual meetings on college applications and essays, finalizing an application strategy, interview preparation, and more. Seniors also have the opportunity to meet with college representatives who come to the Asheville School campus between September and November. Senior parents are welcome to schedule meetings with their child's counselor as needed. By May 1, students make their college choice from among a wide variety of excellent college acceptances.

Tips for Students:

1. Return from summer break with:
 - A tentative list of schools you plan to apply to. It should be a balanced list: some likelies, some possibles, some reaches.
 - Your completed Common Application, a strong draft of the main Common App essay, and drafts of any supplementary essays.
2. Start strong! Colleges require us to send them your first semester grades, so do your best in all your courses.
3. If necessary, register for and take another ACT or SAT.
4. Make productive use of your time with the College Office, both in individual meetings and during our group work time on White Saturdays. This is a great time to write, revise, and polish your applications.
5. Keep your Naviance college list update to date. It's the mechanism whereby we submit your transcripts and recommendations to colleges, so all your colleges need to be in that list to receive your school documents.
6. Make sure to update your parents on your progress with applications. The more information you volunteer, the more comfortable they'll feel – because they'll know you're on top of it.
7. Meet and talk with college representatives who visit Asheville School during breakfast and conference period.
8. Make plans for some last-minute or return college visits.
9. Submit your applications, then wait for colleges to make their admission and financial aid decisions. In our current culture, we rarely have to wait anymore; Amazon Prime and Netflix are right at our fingertips. Remember that real people are reading your applications, and that takes time. Prepare yourself for some waiting.
10. Decide which college you'll attend, and let that college know by May 1!

Tips for Parents:

1. Continue to turn to relevant chapters in the Mamlet and Vandavelde book, *College Admission: From Application to Acceptance*. We believe this is the single best guide to the entire college search and decision process. The advice is sound and level-headed.
2. Schedule a weekly time to talk to your students about college applications. Their schedules fill quickly with homework, activity commitments, music rehearsals, and club meetings. They'll communicate less frequently, and you'll start to get nervous and worried. They ARE working on college times, but they often fail to tell you. It's worth saying, "we don't want to nag you about college. If we plan 30 minutes each week (or every two weeks) for you to update us, we won't be tempted to ask you about your applications all the time."
3. Stay in touch with your child's college counselor, particularly if your child is not as communicative as you would like! We often serve as helpful "intermediaries" when the college search intrudes on an otherwise happy family dynamic. And remember, we have been through this hundreds of times — we can help you get through it too!
4. Log-in to your Naviance Family Connection account to view the most current status of your child's college list. In addition to convenient links to college websites, Naviance records the submission of application materials by the student and the school.
5. Make sure that you have your financial ducks in a row. Even for families with resources, meeting college costs can be a real challenge. We encourage every family to use the "Net Price Calculator" on each college's website. By entering your financial information into the NPC, you can get a reasonable estimate of the costs that a college would expect you to bear.
6. Submit the following online forms to be considered for financial aid:
 - FAFSA – You must submit this if you're seeking financial support from any college.
 - CSS Profile – This is a supplement to the FAFSA that is required by some colleges.
7. Remember to love and support your child in one of his or her first adult decisions. There is much in this process (and in life) that none of us can control, but we can all strive to do our best, and we can learn and grow from both the good and the bad. College decisions are not a referendum on the worth of a student or on the quality of the parenting. Whatever a college decides in any given case, keep it all in perspective.