

College Admissions 101

Webinar: August 25, 2020

An Overview of this presentation

- The value of self-assessment
- Office of Admissions – Changes due to COVID-19
- Profile data from Minnetonka High School
- Holistic review – and the importance of the transcript
- College search process
- Apply for admission and apply for financial aid
- Minnetonka counseling model – and our pledge!

Self assessment

- Students need to spend time figuring out what's important to them in the post-high school planning process. College? 2-year or 4-year? Work? Apprenticeship? Military? Gap year? Please read the exercise on pages 6-7 of the Post High School Planning Guide: <https://www.minnetonkaschools.org/uploaded/Documents/MHS/Counseling/MHS-Post-High-School-Planning-Guide.pdf>
- Also, consider the **Do What You Are** assessment in Naviance, a Myers-Briggs personality inventory (in the About Me section.)

Office of Admissions

- Colleges seek the best students they can find/attract/admit/enroll for their entering class
- Students seek the best college they can attend
- Everyone is aware of rankings, prestige, fame – nobody wants to miss out!
- Numbers are important – not just in terms of applications, but in terms of a student's academic record.
- It's a process, with lots of steps/stages. Patience is a value-added virtue!

Office of Admissions – Changes from COVID-19

- Most colleges have adopted a test-optional policy in admission – the exceptions are primarily public universities in the South. The updated list can be found at FairTest.org

<http://fairtest.org/university/optional>

- Students do NOT need to take the optional writing section in the ACT or SAT (unless you're applying to West Point.)
- Closed campuses – most universities are offering only virtual tours. Many have added significantly to their YouTube productions.
- Some application deadlines have been changed – please check the web sites.

Minnetonka High School – Profile from 2019 & 2020

- % attending 4-year colleges 76%
- % attending 2-year colleges 10%
- % attending MN institutions 36%
- % attending out-of-state institutions 50%
- Average number of applications 4.92

• Class of 2019

The top 7 schools include:

Univ of Minnesota – TC

Univ of Wisconsin – Madison

Normandale Community College

University of St. Thomas

Iowa State University

Univ of Nebraska, Lincoln

Univ of Minnesota – Duluth

• Class of 2020

The top 7 schools include:

Univ of Minnesota – TC

Univ of Wisconsin – Madison

Normandale Community College

Univ of Minnesota – Duluth

University of St. Thomas

Minnesota State, Mankato

Univ of Wisconsin – Eau Claire

Holistic review – what's most important?

- The high school transcript – the student's record of academic achievement – is the most important part of the application folder.
- The rigor of the courses you have taken, the breadth of study within each department, and the grades you have earned will be examined in detail. The transcript speaks loudly.
- Colleges and universities want to see the quality of your life as a student. They want to see trends, growth, challenge, and achievement.

Testing – For those who choose to test

- October 3 SAT
- October 6 ACT (in school date)

<https://minnetonka.revtrak.net/Minnetonka-High-School/MHS-Fees/in-school-act-registration/>

- October 14 PSAT (for juniors)
- October 24 ACT
- November 7 SAT
- December 5 SAT
- December 12 ACT

Note: photo ID is a required part of test registration!

The College Search – How to begin?

- **An absolute must: conduct a self inventory or self assessment**
- What do you like to do?
- What do you hate to do?
- What subject excites you?
- What always bores you?
- How do you learn best?

Self inventory (cont.)

- Do you enjoy being a part of a large group? Or, do smaller groups suit you better?
- Do you want to stick close to home? Or, do you plan to move far away?
- Do you want to live in or near a city? Or, could you find happiness in a college town?
- Do you seek out diversity among your friends? Or, do you hang out with people who are very similar to you?

Information Gathering -- The Basics of a College Search

- Size
- Faculty/Student Ratio
- Major/Strongest programs/Courses offered
- Geographical location and distance from family
- Learning focus- Liberal Arts or Specialized School
- Urban/rural
- Tuition/Financial Aid/Scholarships
- Honors/accelerated programs
- Graduation rate

Information Gathering -- The Personality of the College

- Retention Rate and Graduation Rate
- Activities
- Dorm life/Greek life
- Facilities
- Male/female ratio
- Multi-cultural breakdown
- Religious affiliation
- Research opportunities
- Study abroad programs

Information Gathering – Making Use of the Internet!

<https://student.naviance.com/minnetonka>

<http://www.collegeboard.org>

<http://www.collegeconfidential.com>


<http://www.princetonreview.com>

<http://www.finaid.org>

<https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator>

<https://collegecost.ed.gov>


For Parents: This is a good one!

 **INSTITUTE OF
EDUCATION SCIENCES**

**NATIONAL CENTER FOR
EDUCATION STATISTICS**

Enter search terms here

Publications & Products | Surveys & Programs | Data & Tools | Fast Facts | School Search | News & Events | About Us


 **COLLEGE**Navigator

English | [Español](#) | [About](#)


Name of School
Type name of school here


States (use map for more than 1 state)


No Preference
Alabama
Alaska
Arizona




ZIP Code **Miles from**


Programs/Majors
0 Items Selected  **Browse for Programs**

Level of Award 
☐ Certificate ☐ Associate's
☐ Bachelor's ☐ Advanced


Institution Type 
☐ Public ☐ 4-year
☐ Private non-profit ☐ 2-year
☐ Private for-profit ☐ < 2-year

+ MORE SEARCH OPTIONS


 **Show Results**

 [Guide Me](#) | [Clear Search](#)

Find the right college for **you**

 **Guide Me**

- » Refine your search with *More Search Options* to select additional search criteria.
- » Build a list of schools using *My Favorites* for side-by-side comparisons.
- » Pinpoint school locations with an *interactive map*.
- » Export search results into a *spreadsheet*.
- » Save your session including search options and favorites.
- » [Add College Navigator](#) to your browser search bar.

College Affordability and Transparency Center 
Browse lists of institutions with the highest and lowest tuition & fees and net price. [» GO](#)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Preparing for your Education
Find out what you need to do to prepare for education beyond high school. [» GO](#)

Financial Aid
Apply for Federal Student Aid on FAFSA. [» GO](#)

Careers
Deciding on a career? Consult the *bls.gov* Occupational Outlook Handbook. [» GO](#)

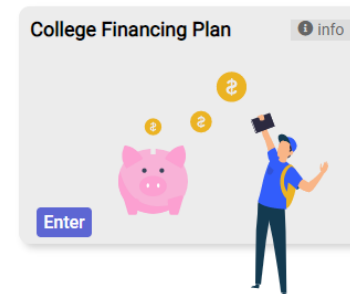
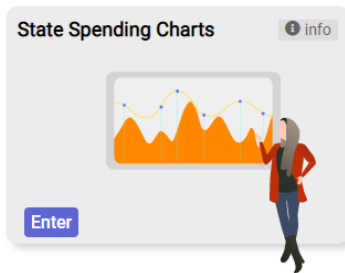
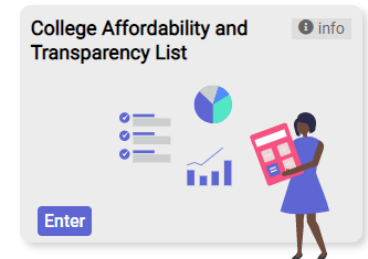
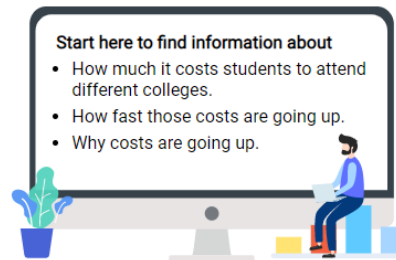
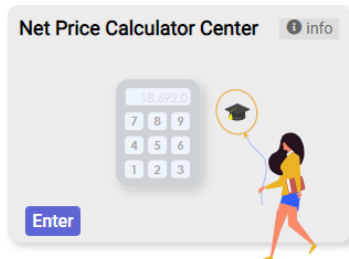
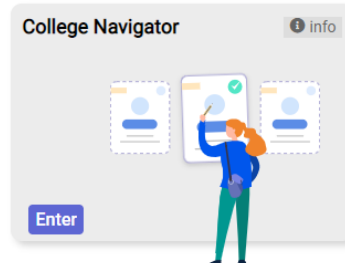
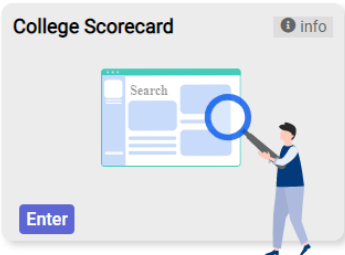
For Parents: Or this one!



U.S. Department of Education

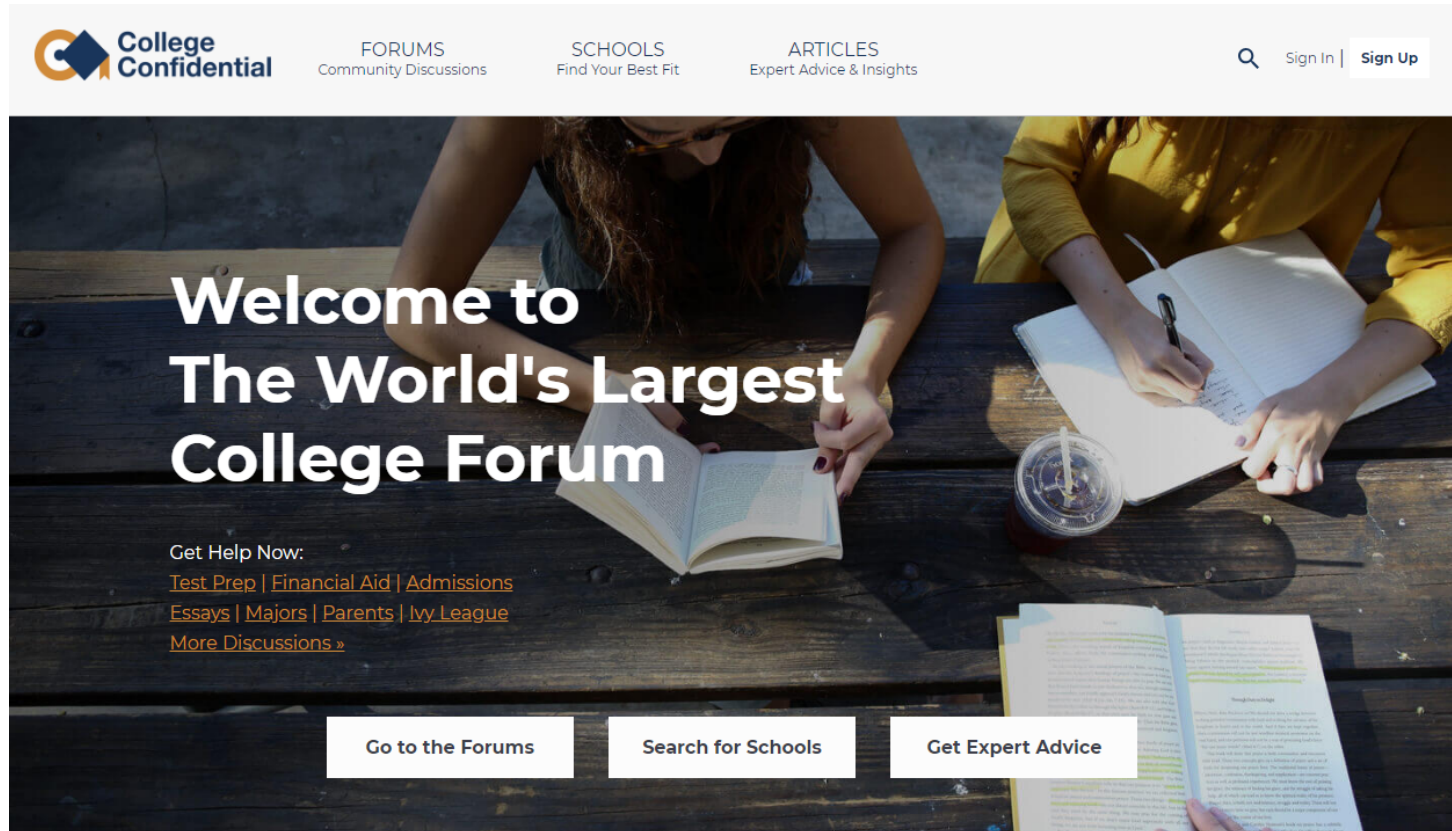
College Affordability and Transparency Center

Help




collegecost.ed.gov/

For Students:
You'll love
this one!

The image shows the top portion of the College Confidential website. At the top is a navigation bar with the College Confidential logo on the left, followed by links for FORUMS (Community Discussions), SCHOOLS (Find Your Best Fit), and ARTICLES (Expert Advice & Insights). On the right side of the navigation bar are a search icon, a 'Sign In' link, and a 'Sign Up' button. Below the navigation bar is a large hero section with a background image of two students sitting at a wooden table, studying and writing in notebooks. Overlaid on this image is the text 'Welcome to The World's Largest College Forum'. Below this text is a section titled 'Get Help Now:' followed by a list of links: 'Test Prep', 'Financial Aid', 'Admissions', 'Essays', 'Majors', 'Parents', 'Ivy League', and 'More Discussions »'. At the bottom of the hero section are three white buttons with black text: 'Go to the Forums', 'Search for Schools', and 'Get Expert Advice'.

For Parents & Students: Use this one!

 Naviance | *Student*

HomeCollegesCareersAbout MeMy Planner

Welcome, Sam!

Search for Colleges

Type a college name

SEARCH

Intro to Seniors

Greetings from the MHS Counseling Office!


We will once again be using our interactive counseling tool, *Naviance Student*, to assist you with post-high school planning.


We hope you will explore the many beneficial features that are available to you.


We recommend the following links:

Read more

My Favorites

 COLLEGES
I'm thinking about

 COLLEGES
I'm applying to

 CAREERS AND CLUSTERS
I'm thinking about

Important To-Dos and Tasks

What's New

Applying for admission

- For all of our students, let this be your “mantra.” You apply for admission to a college because you want to go there!
- Focus as much on “going” to the college as you will focus on “getting in.”
- As a counseling staff, we plan to work with students in the college search process to help them find good matches!!
“What will make this place be a great fit for me?”
- “College is a match to be made, not a prize to be won.”

-- Frank Sachs, The Blake School, Minneapolis

Applying for admission – next steps

- Attend the virtual college admission visits this fall – see Naviance for the full list
- Arrange a Google Meet with your school counselor or college counselor
- Fill out the Transcript Release form

<https://www.minnetonkaschools.org/schools/high-school/mhs/counseling/transcripts>

- If you need a counselor recommendation, fill out the Senior Questionnaire (in the About Me section in Naviance)
- If appropriate, open your Common App account

<https://www.commonapp.org/>

Applying for admission (continued)

- As you get ready to become an applicant, your top priority – finding the right fit! NOTE: You apply for admission to a college because you want to go there!
- Most MHS students apply between September and December
- Separate deadline for need-based financial aid -- filing the FAFSA can be done after October 1. www.fafsa.ed.gov
- The selection process could last for months, especially when cost of attendance is a significant factor.

Timeline – some upcoming dates

- In September Senior Seminar, with your counselor
- Sept 21 Webinar: Senior Parent Night Program
- Oct 15 Earliest application deadline
- Oct 14 (15-16) No school for seniors (MEA)
- Oct 26 Webinar: Financial aid program at MHS
- Nov 1 Early Action/Early Decision application deadline
- Nov 15 EA/ED deadline

Timeline (continued)

- End of Nov Seniors compile final list of colleges
- Oct - Feb File the FAFSA
- Jan 1 Deadline for many regular decision schools
- May 1 National candidate reply date
- June 9 Graduation day for the Class of 2021

Minnetonka counseling model – our pledge!

- 10 School Counselors + 1 College Counselor
- Personalization and support
- Our pledge – to help each student find the best match possible for their post-secondary experience!

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