

College Admissions 101

Webinar: September 10 at 12:00 noon

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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 junior year
- College search process
- Preparing for the senior year – and college applications
- Minnetonka counseling model – and our pledge!

Self assessment – an ongoing part of the junior and senior year experience

- 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, complete the **Do What You Are** assessment in Naviance, a Myers-Briggs personality inventory (in the About Me section.)

Self assessment – an ongoing part of the junior and senior year experience

- For those who have an interest in the college search, there are great opportunities to learn and discover!
- Over 140 college and universities will visit Minnetonka HS this fall – see the full list in Naviance.
- Several virtual college fairs are being offered, including a national fair this Sunday (Sept 12). Register at: <https://virtualcollegefairs.org/> Additional dates include Oct 3, Oct 14, Oct 24, and Nov 14.
- In Minnesota, a number of college presentations will take place virtually on Oct 6-7. Registration information available at <http://mn-acac.org/VCE>

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. And some colleges got a lot of application last year!
- 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 Southeast. The updated list can be found at FairTest.org
<http://fairtest.org/university/optional>
- It remains “to be determined” about testing policies for the Class of 2023, but the movement in admissions fully supports test-optional policies
- The optional writing section in the SAT has been eliminated. The number of colleges requiring an ACT test with writing is less than five – students don’t need to do the optional writing section of the ACT. The SAT Subject Tests have been eliminated.
- Closed campuses – some universities are offering only virtual tours. Many have added significantly to their YouTube productions. It’s important to check their “visit” website before scheduling a trip!

Minnetonka High School – Profile from 2020 & 2021

- % attending 4-year colleges 76%
- % attending 2-year colleges 10%
- % attending MN institutions 36%
- % attending out-of-state institutions 50%
- Average number of applications 5.69

• Class of 2020

The top 7 schools include:

Univ of Minnesota - TC

Normandale Community College

Univ of Wisconsin - Madison

Univ of Minnesota - Duluth

University of St. Thomas

Minnesota State, Mankato

Univ of Wisconsin - Eau Claire

• Class of 2021

The top 7 schools include:

Univ of Minnesota - TC

Normandale Community College

Univ of Wisconsin - Madison

Univ of Minnesota - Duluth

Iowa State University

University of St. Thomas

University of Iowa

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

- Juniors are encouraged to wait until 2022 to test -- with more time for instruction and learning, and (for those who choose to do it) test preparation.
- Oct 2 SAT
- Oct 13 PSAT (for juniors)
- Oct 23 ACT
- Nov 6 SAT
- Dec 4 SAT
- Dec 11 ACT
- Feb 12 ACT
- April 5 ACT – school day testing at MHS

www.act.org

www.collegeboard.org/sat

Testing – For those who choose to test

- Free test preparation is available to all students, in addition to the fee-based courses and tutoring
- In Naviance, there is a free test prep resource, with Method Test Prep
<https://app.methodtestprep.com/MinnetonkaHighSchool/signup/tkn29582324>
- On the ACT web site, check out the free test prep section. <https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation/free-act-test-prep.html>
- To practice for the PSAT and the SAT, check out the Khan Academy website:
<https://www.khanacademy.org/sat>

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>

<https://myintuition.org/>


For Parents: This is a good one!

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EDUCATION SCIENCES**

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EDUCATION STATISTICS**

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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 

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](#)




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

Find the right college for you



- » [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](#)

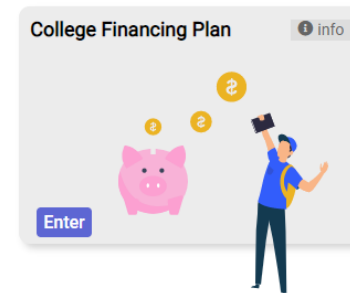
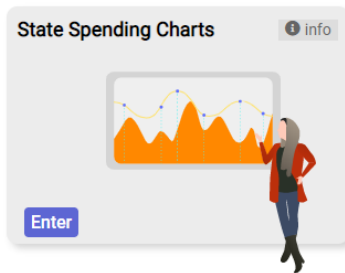
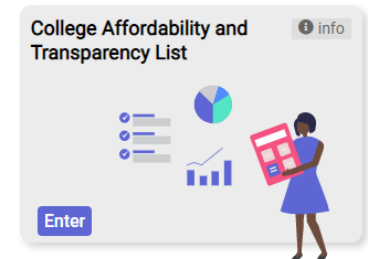
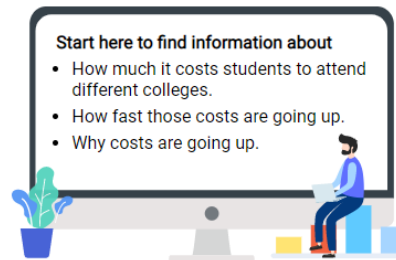
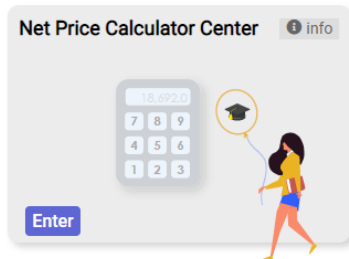
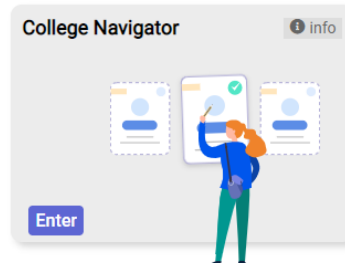
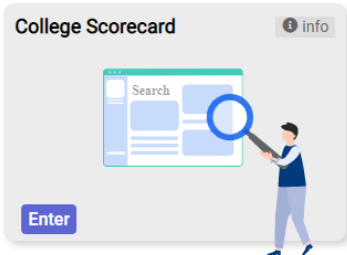
For Parents: Or this one!







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For Parents & Students: Use this one!



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Welcome, Sam!

Search for Colleges

SEARCH

Intro to Seniors

English

Go


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 – it happens in the senior year!

- For all our students, let this be your “guide.” 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, retired from The Blake School, Minneapolis

Applying for admission (continued)

- As you get ready to become a senior – and an applicant, your top priority is finding the right fit! NOTE: You apply for admission to a college because you want to go there!
- Most MHS students apply between August and December
- Separate deadline for need-based financial aid -- filing the FAFSA can be done after October 1. www.fafsa.ed.gov
- Determine which application plan/option works best for you (Early Decision, Early Action, Regular Decision or Rolling)
- The selection process can last for months, especially when cost of attendance is a significant factor.

Applying for admission – next steps

- Attend the in-person and virtual college admission visits this fall – see Naviance for the full list (in the Colleges tab)
- Arrange a meeting 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/>

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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