

College Planning

Issaquah
High School
PTSA

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2021



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Agenda

COVID-19 Impact

Grades, Rigor, and Test Scores

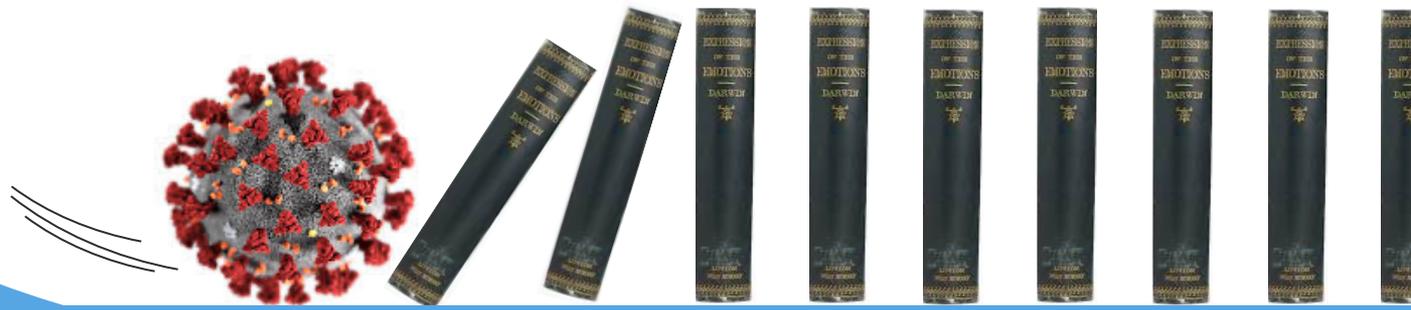
Choosing Major, Building College List

Affordability, Sources of Financial Aid

Applications

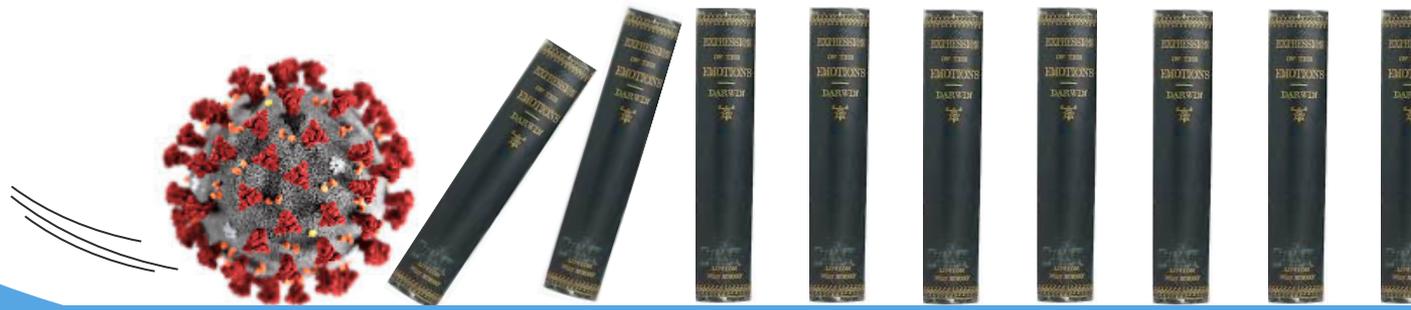
Timelines for Junior through Senior Year

Additional Resources



COVID-19 Impact – What's Changed

- Difficult year (grades, activities, mental health)
- Ability to take SAT or ACT; test optional policies
- Difficult or impossible to visit colleges in person
- Factors in admissions (ex. interviews)
- Virtual resources
- Greater flexibility



COVID-19 Impact – What's The Same

Colleges still look for the same things:

- Can you do the work?
- Will you stay and complete your degree?
- How are you unique?
- Do you boost our average GPA & scores?
- How much can you pay?

What are you looking for?

- Know your priorities
- Adopt the mindset that you are interviewing colleges
- Academic fit
- Cultural fit
- Affordability

Grades, Rigor, and Test Scores



Grades and Rigor

- #1 consideration!
- This doesn't mean you need perfect grades! Check range of GPA for admitted students.

Running Start

- Keep syllabi - determines eligibility to waive college classes

Implications for College Admissions

- Colleges recognize the rigor of AP, IB, and Running Start classes - based on test scores and/or grades
- AP and IB scores carry increasing weight

Test Blind and Test Optional

Test Blind – colleges will not accept or consider test scores in admissions decisions.

Test Optional - submitted scores will be considered. Only submit scores if they'll strengthen your application.

Tests Required – Some colleges and programs still require scores.

- Check the average score range for each of your colleges at www.CollegeData.com to see how your scores compare.
- Without test scores, colleges will place more weight on the other elements of your application (GPA, rigor, essays, interviews, etc.)
- Check www.FairTest.org for colleges' most current test requirements.

Choosing your Major

What subjects and activities do you enjoy?
What do you do in your free time?

- Identify career interests at My Next Move
<https://www.mynextmove.org/>
- Search for majors and careers at Big Future
<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/majors-careers>
- Major Quiz (Loyola University Chicago):
<https://www.luc.edu/undergrad/academiclife/what-smymajorquiz/>
- Emerging Markets/In-Demand Careers (Cal Poly):
<https://careerservices.calpoly.edu/explore-services/emerging-markets>

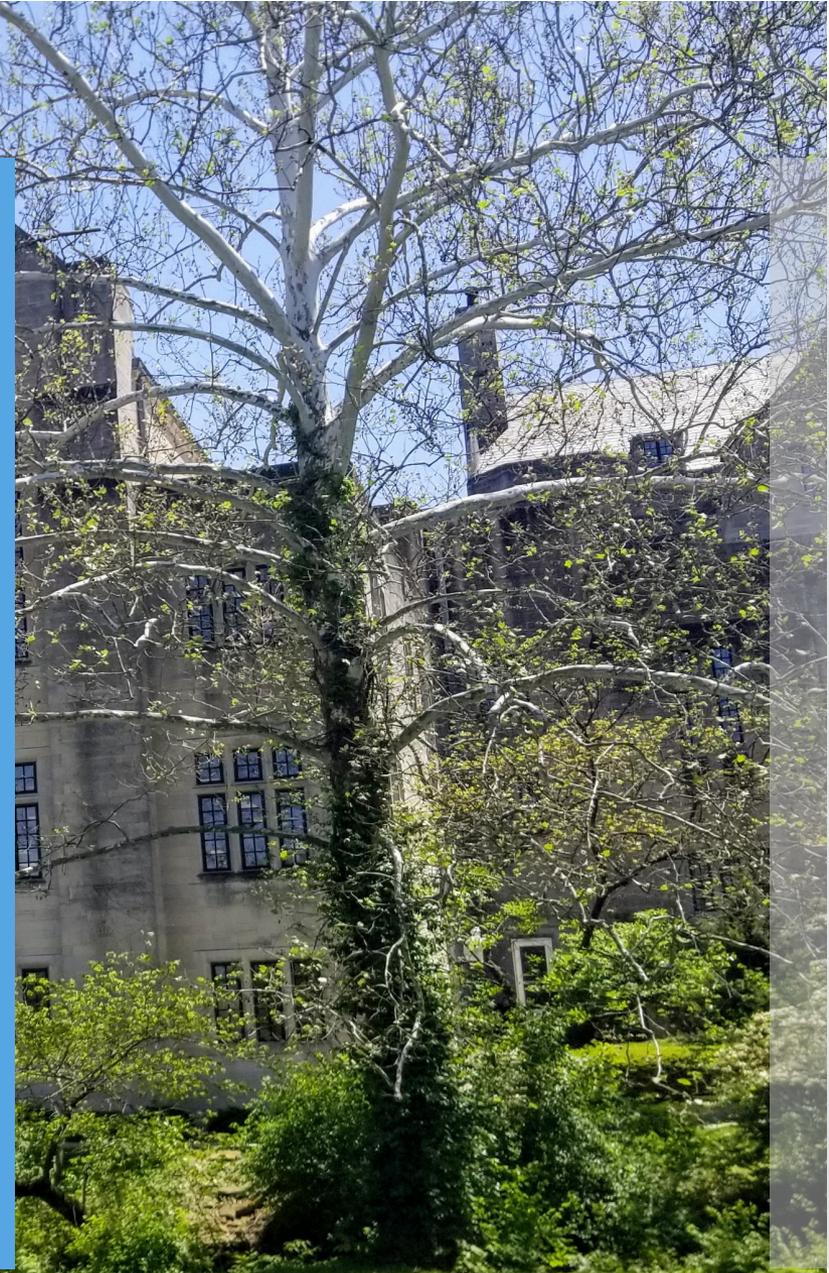


Building Your College List: Other Considerations

Questions to ask on college visits (Indiana U):
<https://nsse.indiana.edu/support-resources/students-parents/pocket-guide/english.html>

Know what matters to you!

- Is the major you want offered?
- Does the campus culture match your values and priorities?
- Is it affordable?



Research: The Facts

Search for Colleges and Majors

College Navigator:

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

Get the Details

College Data offers all the specific data you could possibly want: www.Collegedata.com

Research: All the Other Important Factors

College Websites' Admissions Pages

- Virtual Info Sessions
- Videos: academic departments, housing, etc.
- Virtual Campus Tours

Understand the Requirements of your Major

- Course requirements
- Compare across colleges

Connect with Admissions Reps

- Virtual College Fairs: Updated list available at <http://oncoursecc.com/blog/>
- IHS virtual college visits on Wednesdays
- Email admissions officers with questions

Student Experiences

Student Reviews

www.Unigo.com

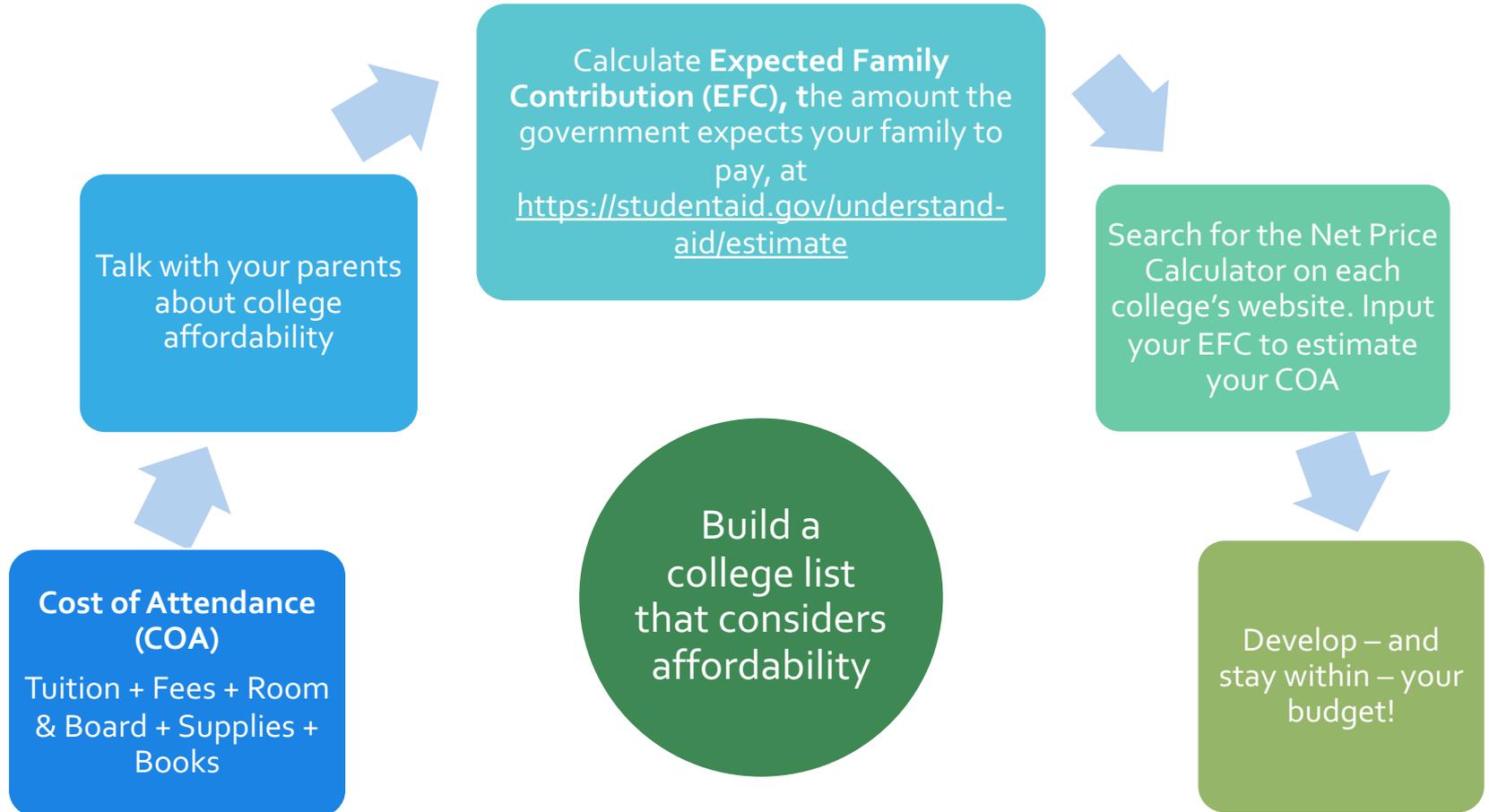
www.Niche.com



Social Media

Follow admissions offices, academic departments, alumni, current and prospective student groups

Estimate Your Cost of Attendance



Differences in Affordability



Community Colleges

- Usually the least expensive option. Can transfer with AA degree.

Public

- In-State – Usually the next least expensive option.
- WUE - Search for colleges and majors with regional tuition discounts through Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE): <https://wuesavingsfinder.wiche.edu/>
- Out-of-State - Check whether they offer need-based and/or merit scholarships.

Private

- Check if a college offers need-based and/or merit scholarships.

International

Tuition can be less expensive in other countries.

- Canada <https://www.univcan.ca/universities/member-universities/>
- United Kingdom <https://www.ucas.com/>
- Europe <https://www.studyineurope.eu/>



Federal, State, and Institutional Need-Based Aid

General Info: <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types>

Federal (FAFSA): <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/estimate> For U.S. citizens and eligible non-citizens to be considered for grants, loans, and work-study funds.

State (WASFA): <https://readysetgrad.wa.gov/wasfa> For students who are not eligible for federal financial aid due to immigration status may be eligible for WA State programs.

CSS Profile: <https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/> Required by some private colleges for institutional financial aid.

Sources of Financial Aid

Sources of Financial Aid

Institutional Merit Scholarships



Automatically considered at most colleges but check college admissions pages for deadlines and specific requirements.

Most colleges are test optional for merit scholarships (if they are for admission) but check each college to be sure.

Private Scholarships – Search the following:



The WashBoard.org

<https://thewashboard.org/login.aspx>

Cappex <https://www.cappex.com/scholarships>

Chegg <https://www.chegg.com/scholarships>

College Board

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search>



GRADES AND
RIGOR OF
CURRICULUM



INTERVIEWS



TEST SCORES



ACTIVITY LIST,
COMMUNITY
INVOLVEMENT



RECOMMENDATION
LETTERS



ESSAYS AND
SHORT ANSWER
QUESTIONS

These factors vary in significance.

How do
Colleges
make
Admissions
Decisions?

Personal Statement

650-word essay with a variety of prompts to choose from.

Be personal and introspective. They want to know who you are, what matters to you, and what you are passionate about.



COVID Impact – share if/how you've been uniquely impacted

Additional Information Prompt – explain anything that's unclear or that admissions might have questions about.



Supplemental Essays: KCLS Webinar at 6pm on Oct. 13th:
<https://kcls.bibliocommons.com/events/613f8b4c1260e74600b8b1a2>

Essays

Junior Year Timeline

Develop Activity List

Explore interests: research, online classes, job shadows, interviewing professionals, etc.

Research potential majors

Research and compare colleges

Narrowing down college list

May/June – Ask for teacher recommendation letters

Summer Before Senior Year Timeline

Finalize college list, 1st and 2nd choice majors at each

Know exactly why you've chosen to apply to each college and major on your list – and be prepared to write about it!

Decide on Early Action, Regular Decision, Early Decision, etc. Some deadlines are as early as Oct. 15th.

Aug. & Sept. - Fill out applications

Write personal statement.

Write supplementary essays and short answer responses

Senior Year Timeline

Follow your school's guidelines for requesting teacher and counselor recommendation letters

Oct. 1st: File FAFSA, CSS Profile, and WASFA applications

Complete applications early

Submit transcripts & test scores 2 weeks before deadlines

Track your application status in your Student Portals. Be prepared to send mid-year transcripts.

Compare your offers; contact Admissions and/or Financial Services with any questions you have

On Course College Consulting Website

- Website <http://oncoursecc.com/>
- College Planning Resources
<http://oncoursecc.com/resources/>
- Glossary of College Application Terms
<http://oncoursecc.com/glossary/>
- Upcoming College Fairs and College Info Sessions
<http://oncoursecc.com/blog/>
- Upcoming KCLS Supplemental Essays Webinar
<https://kcls.bibliocommons.com/events/613f8b4c1260e7460ob8b1a2> Recording will be added to On Course website within a few days of this presentation.

Inside Higher Ed

- News updates on topics that impact higher education
<https://www.insidehighered.com/>

Additional Resources



Political, Legal, Social, and Safety Considerations

The following links provide a starting point for research into these topics.

- Campus Safety Profile: <https://ope.ed.gov/campussafety/#/compare/search>
- Gun Carrying on Campus: <https://giffords.org/lawcenter/gun-laws/policy-areas/guns-in-public/guns-in-schools/>
- Reproductive Rights: <https://www.guttmacher.org/state-policy/explore/overview-abortion-laws>
- Voting Laws: <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/voting-laws-roundup-july-2021>
- LGBTQ+ Inclusivity: <https://www.campusprideindex.org/>

Additional Resources



Contact Information

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