

## College Application Process

### Suggested timeline for testing and applications

**Spring of 11<sup>th</sup> grade, over the summer or ASAP:** You should take the SAT and ACT for the first time after completing Math III or by the end of your junior year, whichever comes first. You should also be narrowing down a list of schools you are interested in, and planning visits to the campuses if at all possible. Remember, community colleges/2 year colleges do NOT require SAT/ACT scores or a foreign language.

#### **Fall of 12<sup>th</sup> grade:**

- Retake the SAT or ACT (whichever you did best on) early in the fall.
- Apply to college! You do NOT need to wait for SAT/ACT scores to come in. Apply and send your scores later if necessary. It is a good idea to be DONE applying to schools before winter break.

### General College Application Process

1. **APPLY!** Four year college applications should be done during the fall of your senior year; **the earlier the better!** A good goal for your first choice is October 1<sup>st</sup>, and all applications should be done by winter break. Most college applications can be done online:
    - Through CFNC.org (North Carolina colleges and universities only); CFNC saves your basic application information making it easier to apply to multiple schools
    - Through individual college or university websites (any college or university)
    - CommonApp.org allows you to apply to many colleges at once (good for out of state schools)
- \*Many schools charge an application fee; if you qualified for an SAT or ACT fee waiver, you can receive up to two admission fee waivers per fee waiver used\* See your counselor with any questions.
1. Request your transcript to be mailed using the request book in the Counseling Office.
  2. Gather and send additional required information
    - If needed, ask teachers or counselors for letters of reference. Give them at least two weeks to complete the forms or letters!
    - Request SAT or ACT scores (through their websites) to be sent to the colleges you are applying to.
    - If essays, supplemental application materials, or interviews are required, make sure they are submitted on time.
  3. Start looking for financial aid and scholarships: Utilize the scholarship newsletter that comes out at FHHS every month, scholarship websites, and individual college and university scholarships. The newsletter is available in the counseling office and is sent to seniors via email.
  4. File your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). It becomes available October 1, 2018.
    - Go to: [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) for more information on the FAFSA. See your counselor with questions!
  5. You will receive a letter or email from the colleges you apply to regarding your acceptance. Keep in touch with the Admissions Department at the college if you don't hear anything by posted deadlines.
    - If attending COMMUNITY COLLEGE/2 Year: You will need to take a Placement Test once accepted and before you register for classes. Visit the college website to find information about test times & locations.
    - Once accepted to any college you should receive an admissions packet, which will outline dates for orientations and class registration, along with information about financial aid available to you (grants, scholarships, loans).