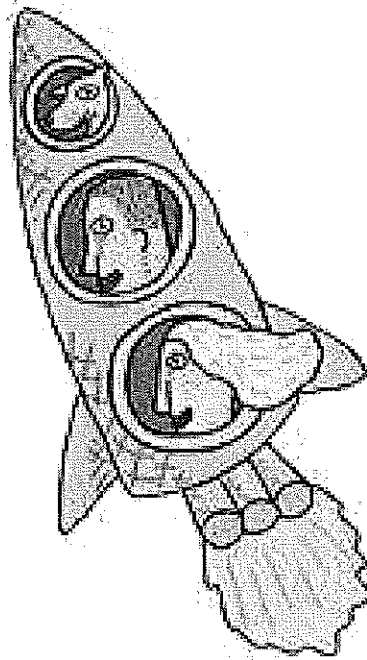


College Planning for Seniors



Oakmont Regional High School

Ashburnham, Massachusetts

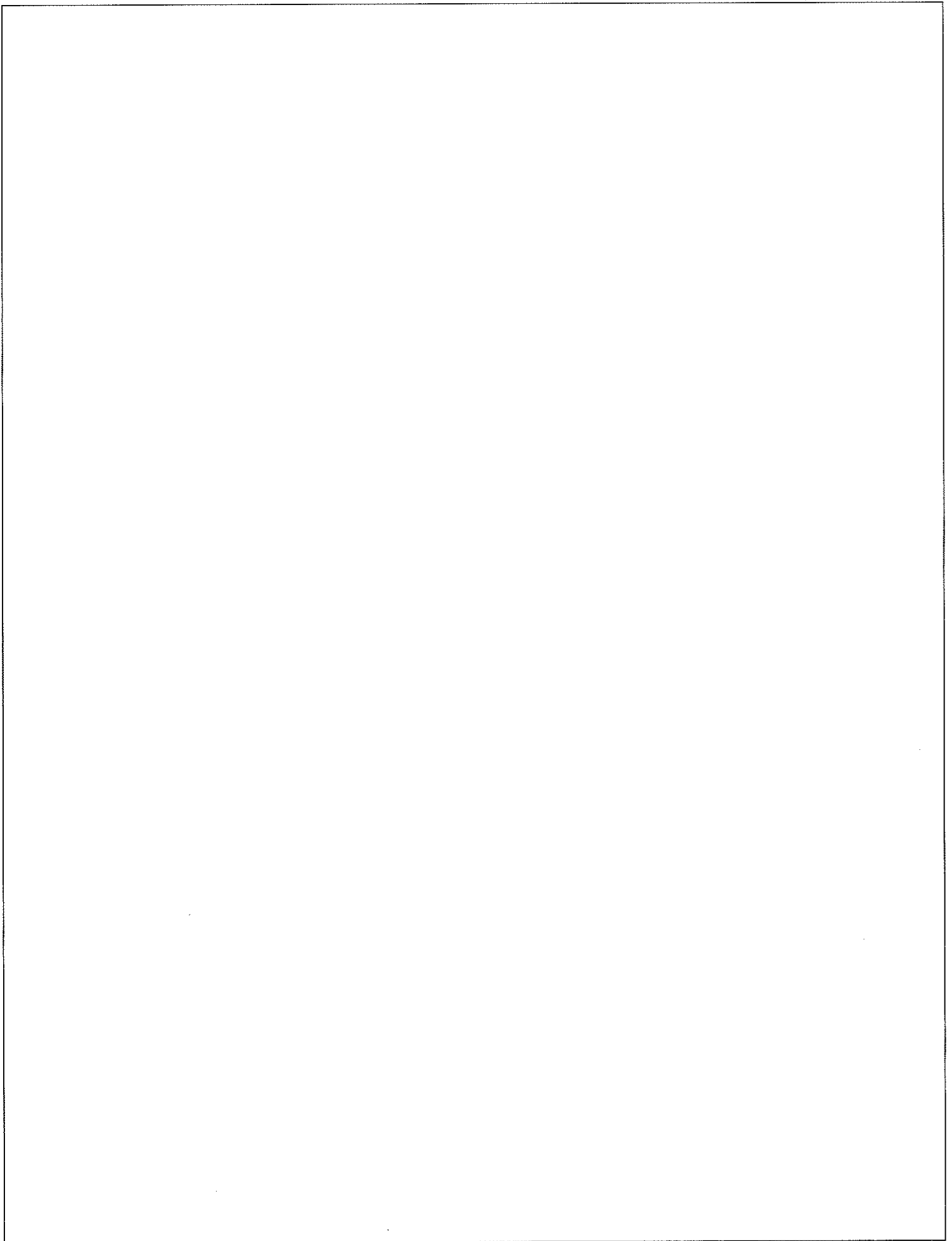
Guidance Department 978-827-5907

Alex Pilger, ext 2159 Students A-F

Robin Ewell, ext 2164 Students G-M

Amy Dubovick, ext 2163 Students N-Z

Fall 2018



The Application Process

Get Ready

Students must submit their Student and Parent Brag Sheets and pay a (one-time) \$10.00 fee to Ms. Mac. It is a good idea to make a copy of your Brag Sheet before you turn it in. Those students who have free/reduced lunch may get their transcript fee waived.

Get out and visit the campuses you have not had a chance to experience. Remember that you may take 3 pre-approved college visits during the school year and that those count as excused absences from Oakmont. The College Visit form is included in this guidebook. It is also available in Naviance under the Document Library. Detailed information about making a campus visit is in the Junior Planning Guide you got last spring. The Junior Career/College Planning Guide is also available on the school's website, under guidance resources.

Make arrangements to take the SAT or ACT if you have not already taken a college-readiness exam. Most 4 year colleges require one. You may also re-test if you are dissatisfied with previous test results. Registration details are included in this guide. Those students who have free/reduced lunch qualify for a test fee waiver. See your counselor.

Students who are applying early action/early decision must meet with their counselor no later than mid-October as deadlines hover around November 1-15. See your counselor to schedule.

Review the requirements for the schools to which you are applying. Preview the application for admission on the college's website. Most colleges prefer that an on-line application be submitted.

Every student will have an individual senior conference with their guidance counselor and will be supported through the application and planning process. It is the student's responsibility to seek the help they require and advocate for themselves in a respectful manner.

All applications to four year colleges must be submitted by December 1st regardless of the college's deadline. Keep in mind that your counselor is very busy and will need time to process necessary materials for your applications.

Get Set

Counselors will bring seniors to the library computer lab during early fall to help them set up a Common Application account if they have not already done so. The proper use of Naviance will be reviewed in detail.

If the colleges to which you are applying are subscribers to the Common Application you may use the same application for each. To verify which colleges use the Common App go on-line to www.commonapplication.org. Be sure to check individual college requirements to determine whether a

supplement must be filed. This is usually an additional essay question as to why that particular school is a good fit. When creating an account be sure to use your AWRSD student email account.

If the colleges to which you are applying to do not use the Common Application you will need to create an on-line account for each college application you make. Please use your student email address and keep a record of all usernames and passwords. It is recommended that you use the same information for each account when possible.

In addition to information sharing during individual conferences with their counselor, students use Naviance to inform counselors to which schools they are applying.

The Essay

If using the Common Application, you must write a 500 word essay. Essay prompts are available on-line at www.commonapplication.org or in your Junior Planning Guide.

Many other colleges require an essay as well. Refer to the Essay article in this guide and see your counselor if you need further direction. Those of you who have English first term may have the help of your instructors when writing the college essay. Others may ask a previous English teacher or your counselor to proof read your essay if you think it helpful.

The Recommendation Letter

When recommendations are required, a teacher should be first contacted in person, the request made and any necessary forms be given them. Teachers are to be given at least two weeks' notice. Student's use their Naviance account to add the teacher under the Recommender List. If teachers have agreed to write a letter for you, it will be uploaded to Naviance and sent electronically. Students should always write a hand written note of thanks to the people who write a letter of recommendation for you.

If you are requesting a counselor recommendation understand that at least two weeks' notice is required. The sooner you submit applications to college, the sooner your counselor can get supplemental materials sent electronically.

GO

The Application

How many applications you make sometimes has to do with how competitive the major or colleges are that you are considering. Three or four applications seem adequate if you have done your research, visited the campus and have a good idea about the academic "fit." Some students will have to wait for an audition or portfolio review, others are hoping athletic coaches will be interested in them. The experience is unique to each student. Be sure to measure yourself by your own yard stick.

Be sure to read the requirements carefully for each college application. Details are on the admissions page of the college website. The application itself is usually just basic information about you and perhaps an essay as to why you want to attend.

Application fees range from \$25.00-75.00 each. Please have a conversation with your parent/guardian regarding how many applications you are going to make. These fees add up quickly. If a student qualifies for free/reduced lunch they may request a fee waiver from their counselor. If a student took the SAT using a fee waiver they will automatically get 4 application fee waivers delivered to their collegeboard account. See your counselor if you have trouble locating these.

Both Mount Wachusett Community College and Fitchburg State University hold "Decision Days." Each of the schools comes to Oakmont to meet with students and most often students learn whether they have been accepted on the spot. Information about placement testing and advising is usually shared. Competitive majors at FSU, ie nursing, require earlier college applications be filed.

A paper application is required for MWCC. FSU applicants apply on-line (usually before Thanksgiving).

Transcript Requests

Only when applications have been submitted on-line should a student request a transcript. A student will use their Naviance account to indicate both submission and make a request for transcript. Counselors send transcripts and other supplemental materials electronically every week through the end of December.

Send SAT/ACT Results

It is the student's responsibility to send SAT or ACT scores to college. They should be sent at the same time application are submitted. Use your College Board or ETS account to order those scores sent. There is a cost associated for each school to receive them. Your counselor will show you how to do this during your senior conference if you have questions. Please remember if an admissions test is required, your application will not be considered complete until they are received. This typically can take up to 7 weeks.

Students should check their email account weekly to make sure that their college applications are complete. It often takes the admission office anywhere from 2 weeks to a month to upload transcripts once they have been sent electronically.

Financial Aid

It is the student's responsibility to check their college websites to learn what the deadlines are for financial aid. Inquire whether the college has its own separate financial aid application.

All students/families are encouraged to file the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). This year the FAFSA can be filed as early as October 1st using 2017 tax records. Students/guardians are encouraged to get Federal pin numbers as early as possible. Further information can be found in this guide.

Some colleges require the CSS Profile. This is additional reporting of financial resources. A copy of this years' instructions for the CSS Profile is included in this guide.

The guidance department hosts a Financial Aid Night. This year's event is Weds. October 3, at 6:00 pm in Alumni Auditorium. A representative from MEFA (Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority) will present. This is an excellent opportunity to get an overview, learn what is new and have your questions answered. Make sure your parents put this important event on their calendar.

Students are encouraged to create an account on a national scholarship search engine such as FASTWEB www.FASTWEB.com or FINAID www.FINAID.org

Detailed information about local scholarships is included in this guide as well as a copy of the General Scholarship Application Form. It is used for many local scholarship opportunities.

Special note: Never pay for a scholarship search, there are many scams out there ~so beware!

Acceptances

Most students will wait until they hear from each of their colleges and compare financial aid packages before making a final decision on where they will attend. May 1st is the deadline to let your college know you will be attending. Most often the college will request a small non-refundable deposit to secure your seat. It is unethical to accept more than one invitation to attend. It is the students' responsibility to let other colleges know they will not be attending. Remember, your seat is one that another student may be waiting to take.

The College Essay~ When you apply to college, you'll need to complete an essay as part of your application. This is your opportunity to show admission officers who you are and to provide information about yourself that didn't fit in other areas of your application. The essay also reveals what you can do when you have time to think and work on a writing project.

The number one piece of advice from admission officers about your essay is "Be yourself." The number two suggestion is "Start early." Check out these other tips before you begin.

Choose a Topic That Will Highlight You

Don't focus on the great aspects of a particular college, the amount of dedication it takes to be a doctor or the number of extracurricular activities you took part in during high school.

Do share your personal story and thoughts, take a creative approach and highlight areas that aren't covered in other parts of the application, like your high school records.

Keep Your Focus Narrow and Personal

Don't try to cover too many topics. This will make the essay sound like a résumé that doesn't provide any details about you.

Do focus on one aspect of yourself so the readers can learn more about who you are. Remember that the readers must be able to find your main idea and follow it from beginning to end. Ask a parent or teacher to read just your introduction and tell you what he or she thinks your essay is about.

Show, Don't Tell

Don't simply state a fact to get an idea across, such as "I like to surround myself with people with a variety of backgrounds and interests."

Do include specific details, examples, reasons and so on to develop your ideas. For the example above, describe a situation when you were surrounded by various types of people. What were you doing? Whom did you talk with? What did you take away from the experience?

Use Your Own Voice

Don't rely on phrases or ideas that people have used many times before. These could include statements like, "There is so much suffering in the world that I feel I have to help people." Avoid overly formal or business-like language, and don't use unnecessary words.

Do write in your own voice. For the above example, you could write about a real experience that you had and how it made you feel you had to take action. And note that admission officers will be able to tell if your essay was edited by an adult.

Ask a Teacher or Parent to Proofread

Don't turn your essay in without proofreading it, and don't rely only on your computer's spell check to catch mistakes. A spell-check program will miss typos like these:

"After I graduate *form* high school, I plan to get a summer job."

"From that day on, Daniel was my best *fried*."

Do ask a teacher or parent to proofread your essay to catch mistakes. You should also ask the person who proofreads your essay if the writing sounds like you.

Essay Preparation

Many colleges require that an applicant submit an essay or personal statement as part of the college application. In general, the essay helps the college assess your critical thinking and writing abilities. It is also designed to shed light on your special interests or experiences, values, attitudes and expectations of the future.

Make sure you are aware of the essay requirements for each college you are applying to. If you apply to multiple colleges with supplements you may need to write multiple additional essays. As always, the best source for this information is a college's website.

The Essay: Step by Step

If you are like most students, you see the college essay as another hurdle you must jump over on the way to being accepted at the college of your choice. In fact, the essay is not a hurdle but a rare opportunity. It is a chance for you to “talk” directly to the college’s admissions committee and to help them “see” you as a thinking and feeling person, rather than simply a set of impersonal statistics. Except for the interview, it is your only chance to share your thoughts, insights and opinions, to highlight your accomplishments and to convey your maturity and outlook on life. If you see the college essay in this way, as an opportunity, then it is clearly worth the effort to put some extra time, thought and energy into writing it.

Purpose of the Essay

The college essay is extremely important for two major reasons:

1. It enables the college admission office to evaluate your communication skills. Through your essay they can assess the clarity of your thinking and your ability to convey your thoughts in written form.
2. It enables the admissions officer to learn more about you as a person, beyond what grades and SAT scores can convey. A well-written essay can speak volumes about your attitudes, feelings, personal qualities, imagination and creativity. For the admissions staff, it adds another important piece to the puzzle because it distinguishes you as an individual and differentiates you from other applicants.

Choosing a Topic

Regardless of whether you are writing an essay to meet the requirements of the Common App or a college's supplemental application, here are a few general hints about the most effective way to approach your topic:

- Narrow your topic and try to be as specific and illustrative as possible.
- The easiest topic to write about is you. No one knows more about you than you. Since one important purpose of the essay is self-revelation, this is not a time to be shy or modest, although you should not exaggerate. If you choose to write about yourself, remember that little incidents and facts are often the most revealing of one's character and outlook.
- Do not be afraid to write about something you think is a little different. A unique topic or approach is often refreshing to a college admissions officer who has been reading applications all day. Further, an unusual or off beat essay may be an excellent way to show your creativity.

Preparing To Write

Before sitting down to write a first draft of your essay, spend time organizing your thoughts. Develop a framework for your essay so it will have a smooth and logical progression from one idea or incident to the next. Consider your purpose in writing, what you want to convey and the tone you think is most appropriate for the topic. Decide on a style that is comfortable for you, not one that you think the admissions committee prefers. Finally, remember that organizing your thoughts and deciding on a framework does not mean you must be overly rigid at the start: leave room for flexibility and creativity as you actually begin writing.

Writing the Essay

You do not have to get it right the first time! Instead, write the first draft of your essay with the main focus on having the content communicate your thoughts. Then set it aside for a day or two, reread it with a fresh perspective and make any necessary changes. This is also the point at which you should consider matters of organization, style, grammar, spelling and tone. Once you have rewritten your first draft you may wish to try it out on your family, friend, English teacher, or school counselor. While automated spellcheck is helpful, do not solely rely on it. Find a person to proofread your essay. While the final product and final "voice" should be yours, outside readers may be able to offer helpful suggestions for technical or other improvements and see what kind of impression you would make on someone who doesn't know you as well.

Note that while you can type the essay directly into the Common App form, it is best to write it in a Word document (or other editing software on your computer) and cut and paste it into the Common App. This strategy avoids potential accidental submissions and lets you use the advanced spellchecking and formatting capabilities of your editing software. It also makes the essay available to you for use elsewhere if necessary.

WARNING: Be careful if you are personalizing your essay for a particular school because there are **STRICT LIMITS** as to how many times you can make changes inside the Common App essay section.

Admissions and Financial Aid Guide Timeline

Junior Year

- Start to think about your college choices. Meet with your guidance or college counselor to discuss your academic goals.
- Take the ACT and/or SAT in the spring. High scores improve your chance of winning scholarships. You may want to take the tests again in the fall to try for a higher score.
- Talk to your parents about college costs. Visit: www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov and www.finaid.org/calculators.
- Request applications and brochures from your top college choices and visit their web sites.
- Visit prospective colleges over the summer. Ask college friends about their college experiences.
- Include a "financial aid safety school" which is a safety school (a college that will definitely admit you) where you could afford to attend even if you did not receive financial aid.
- Visit www.fastweb.com to find scholarships and to learn more about financial aid and paying for college.
- Consider the out-of-pocket cost (cost of attendance minus any scholarships or grants) as opposed to net cost (cost of attendance minus the financial aid package) when evaluating college costs. Net cost includes loans, which need to be repaid, usually with interest, while out-of-pocket cost tells you how much the college is really going to cost you and your family. All colleges must now provide a net price calculator on their web sites. These calculators estimate the out-of-pocket cost. Some calculators may highlight a net cost figure in addition to a net price figure; don't confuse the two. There may be differences in accuracy from college to college. Net price calculators can be used to evaluate whether a college is inside or outside the ballpark of affordability, but the results for different colleges may not be comparable.

Senior Year - Fall

- Organize applications; create files for each school you are interested in attending. List requirements and deadlines.
- If required, complete the CSS / Financial Aid PROFILE form available at profileonline.collegeboard.com.
- Retake the ACT and/or SAT to improve your score.
- Request letters of recommendation as soon as possible from teachers, counselors and community leaders (no later than one month before the application due date). Provide recommenders with list of your accomplishments, academic achievements and your career goals.
- To save money on application fees, consider applying early action or early decision to a college where you have a good chance of being accepted early to avoid the need for a safety school
Note: Early decision requires you to enroll at the college if admitted, while early action does not.
- Create a FSA ID, eligible students should visit <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas> complete and sign the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online. Be prepared to enter your name, Social Security number, date of birth and a challenge question.
- **As of 2016, you can now apply for the FAFSA as early as October 1st.** File the FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov as soon as possible after October 1st. Some states and colleges have very early deadlines. Do not wait until you've filed your federal income tax returns or have been admitted.

Senior Year - Winter

- Work on your college applications. Many applications are due in late December and before early January.
- Check with your prospective schools about additional financial aid application forms, deadlines and requirements.

Senior Year - Spring

- Review your Student Aid Report (SAR) for any mistakes and report them to your prospective school(s). You can also update your SAR online. You should receive your SAR in 1-3 days if you filed electronically (paper filing: 2-3 weeks).
- Check email and postal mail regularly for admissions decisions (generally late March/early April); a thin envelope does not necessarily mean you are rejected.
- Compare your admissions offers. Ask your guidance counselor and parents to help you weigh your options.
- Compare your financial aid award letters based on net price at: www.finaid.org/calculators/awardletter.phtml where you will find the Award Letter Comparison Tool. Find out more with the Financial Aid Award letter quick reference guide found at:
<http://www.fastweb.com/nfs/fastweb/static/PDFs/bulletins/Evaluating%20Financial%20Aid%20Award%20Letters.pdf>.
- Time for a decision! Most schools ask that you choose your school by May 1st, unless early decision.
- Check college's deadlines for housing, financial aid, etc.

FAFSA: Step-by-Step

What is it? FAFSA stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The federal government uses this form to determine your eligibility for federal financial aid for college, which may include grants, scholarships, work-study and loans.

Why fill it out? The FAFSA is used to apply for financial aid from the federal and state government(s) and from most public and private colleges. Private colleges may have their own supplemental forms in addition to the FAFSA for awarding their own aid funds. For example, about 250 private colleges require an additional form called the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE. The FAFSA is a prerequisite for the unsubsidized Stafford and Parent PLUS loans, which do not depend on financial need.

EFC stands for Expected Family Contribution.

According to the government's calculation, you and your family should be able to contribute this amount in the coming academic year to your college costs. The EFC is a harsh assessment of you and your family's ability to pay for college. It does not consider the impact of consumer debt on a family's financial strength.

How does it work? The college you plan to attend will try to meet your demonstrated financial need with a package of different types of aid from multiple sources, including federal, state, school and private sources.

You can do the following on www.fafsa.ed.gov:

- Electronically sign your FAFSA
- Check the status
- Make corrections
- Add additional colleges and universities
- Fill out an online renewal FAFSA next year
- To obtain a FSA ID, eligible students should visit <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas>.
- Fill out the form to create a FSA ID and follow all instructions.
- Keep your FSA ID confidential. It allows you to electronically sign federal student aid and loan documents and access your confidential FAFSA information.

Step 1: Assemble forms needed to complete FAFSA

You and your parents (if you are dependent) need the following to fill out the form:

- Social Security Number
- Current bank and brokerage account statements
- Driver's license (if any)
- Current mortgage and investment records (if any)
- Alien registration card (if not a U.S. citizen)
- Current federal tax return (estimates are OK on tax questions, if you or your parents haven't filed yet)
- Current untaxed income records (if any)
- Current W2 and 1099 forms and other record of money earned
- Parents' current income tax return (if dependent)

Step 2: Complete the FAFSA

- Download, print and complete the FAFSA on the Web worksheet.
- Complete FAFSA on the Web at www.fafsa.ed.gov. The online version is used by over 99% of the applicants since it includes skip logic to avoid asking you unnecessary and redundant questions. Processing is quicker and more efficient with built-in edit-checks to reduce errors on the form.
- In order to maximize the amount of aid, fill out the FAFSA as soon as possible after October 1.
- Once finished, print the FAFSA summary as well as the "Submission Confirmation" page (or write down your confirmation number and date). If you complete the paper version, make a copy for your records.

Step 3: Review your Student Aid Report (SAR)

The SAR is proof that your FAFSA was received. You should receive your electronic SAR in 1-3 days if you filed electronically (paper filing: 2-3 weeks).

What if I find errors on my Student Aid Report (SAR)?

- Report errors immediately to your financial aid office. You can also make corrections online using your FSA ID at www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- If you don't receive your SAR in 3-4 weeks, call 1-800-433-3243 (1-800-4-FED-AID) or visit www.studentaid.ed.gov.

Quick Tip: New in 2016, the FAFSA application will now be accepted as early as October 1st. Early submission maximizes your chances of receiving aid.

Student Aid Report (SAR) and Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

What is the Student Aid Report (SAR)?

The SAR is a summary of the information you entered on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). It tells you how much federal student aid you might be eligible to receive, and how much the government thinks you can reasonably pay for your school expenses. The SAR also notifies you if you are eligible for a Federal Pell Grant. You will receive a SAR in 1-3 days after you filed an Electronic FAFSA or 2-3 weeks after you filed a paper version. Check immediately for your EFC and any mistakes or errors.

What is the Expected Family Contribution (EFC)?

The EFC is the amount you and your family will be expected to pay for the coming academic year based on your financial situation. Some colleges do not satisfy the student's full demonstrated financial need, leaving the family with unmet need (a gap). Some need may be met with loans, which need to be repaid, usually with interest.

How is the EFC calculated?

The U.S. Department of Education uses the Federal Methodology (FM) to calculate your aid eligibility. The FM takes into account your family's income, the number of family members, in college, net value of assets and your enrollment status, among other factors. To estimate your EFC, utilize the Expected Family Contribution Calculator: www.finaid.org/efc.

What happens after I receive my SAR?

Look for mistakes or errors. Any colleges you listed on your FAFSA will also receive an electronic copy of your SAR. If you find an error notify your school's financial aid office immediately to let them know. Errors can also be corrected online using your FSA ID at www.fasfa.gov.

What if I find mistakes on my SAR?

Let your college know and go to www.fafsa.ed.gov. Under "FAFSA Follow Up," click "Make Corrections to a Processed FAFSA." Check the items you want to change and make corrections. On paper, on the last pages of the SAR, find your original FAFSA info. Make changes and only fill in the areas that need to be changed and/or corrected. You and your parents must sign and mail the corrected FAFSA to the central processor or send to each school to which you are applying to for admission and financial aid.

Highlights of each page in your SAR:

- Page 1 Intro: Tracks the aid process for you. If there is an asterisk next to your EFC, you have been selected for verification (see below)*.
- Page 2 Confidentiality information; reminders.
- Page 3 EFC, other info: EFC is listed at the top, along with other information, such as any issues with aid eligibility.
- Page 4 Summary of loans: Refer to your records and make sure your totals are accurate.
- Pages 5-8 FAFSA summary: Review the summary. Make corrections or changes in the spaces provided. You can also make changes online at: www.fafsa.gov.

SAR Information Acknowledgement: Correct any wrong information on pages 5 through 8 of the SAR or online.

When do I receive my financial aid?

Once your college reviews your SAR and verifies your eligibility, it will create and notify you of your aid eligibility and send an award letter. You do not need to accept all of the aid that's offered to you; accept only the aid you want. Rejecting one form of aid, however, will not result in increases in the other forms of aid. Federal aid will first be applied to certain school charges, such as tuition, fees, room and board. Excess may then be disbursed to the student or credited to his or her student account.

*Why is there an asterisk next to my EFC?

An asterisk (*) means you have been selected for verification and you must provide documents to your college to verify that information submitted on the FAFSA is correct. If your college asks verification documents, send as soon as possible to avoid a delay in the aid process. The US Department of Education has switched to a targeted verification process. About a third to half of all FAFSAs will be selected for verification. Some colleges verify 100% of their aid applicants, they find that this increases the accuracy of the information used to award financial aid. This helps ensure that the most deserving/needy students receive financial aid.

This updated form was not available at the time of printing - All info is the same from last yr. except waivers are unlimited for those families who qualify. RE

2019-20 CSS Profile Student Guide

This guide provides the basic information you need to complete your CSS Profile application at cssprofile.org starting Oct. 1, 2018

WHAT is the CSS Profile?

The **CSS Profile** is an online application that collects information used by nearly 400 colleges and scholarship programs to award non-federal aid. (For **federal** aid you must complete the **FAFSA**, available Oct. 1 at fafsa.ed.gov.) Some colleges may require the CSS Profile from both biological/adoptive parents in cases of divorce or separation.

WHEN do I complete the CSS Profile?

You may complete the CSS Profile as early as **Oct. 1, 2018**. You should submit no later than two weeks before the **EARLIEST** priority filing date specified by your colleges.

WHO must complete the CSS Profile?

Check your colleges' information to determine whether they require the CSS Profile. A **list of participating colleges** is also found on the CSS Profile Homepage.

HOW do I complete the CSS Profile?

You submit the CSS Profile at cssprofile.org. Once you sign-in, you will find a list of useful documents, such as your federal tax returns and other financial information that you'll need to have at hand to complete the application. Help is provided within the application and additional help is available by chat, phone, or email by clicking "Contact Us" in the application.

WHAT does the CSS Profile cost?

The fee for the initial application is **\$25**. Additional reports are **\$16**. Payment may be made via credit or debit card. Fee waivers may be granted to domestic students who are first-time college applicants and who have used a SAT fee waiver, have an income of \$45,000 or less, or are an orphan or ward of the court under the age of 24. This waiver covers the application fee and the reporting fees for up to eight colleges.

The Process:

1. **Sign-in** – Use your College Board username and password or sign up for a new account. If you created an account for the SAT or to view your PSAT or AP scores, you should use the same user name and password for your CSS Profile application.
2. **Complete the Application** – As you answer questions, the system builds an application tailored to your family's situation. The application provides online help and edits to guide you. You do not need to complete the application in one sitting; save your application and return to complete it at any time.
3. **Submit the Application** – The date and time you submit your completed application will be recorded based on **Eastern Time** and your reports will be sent to the colleges you selected.
4. **Review Your Dashboard** – Once you submit your application, your dashboard will include your payment receipt and any next steps, such as submitting documents to the Institutional Documentation Service (IDOC).

You may add a college at any time. Sign in to the CSS Profile and click **Add a College or Program** on your Dashboard. You will be charged \$16 for each college you add. Any unused fee waivers will be automatically applied to your charges.

Questions? Customer Service Representatives are available via email, online chat, and phone. Visit collegeboard.org/contact-us#css for more details.

Some questions to ask when visiting the Financial Aid Office:

- What is the total cost of attendance?
- What does the college estimate will be the total student/parent debt upon graduation?
- Is there a separate financial aid application other than the FAFSA?
- Are there merit-based scholarships and how do students apply?
- What parts of the financial aid package are need-based and what part is based on other criteria?
- What is the college's policy on need-based aid?
- Does the college meet full need?
- Can students borrow more than the amount listed in their award letter?
- Is future grant or scholarship aid contingent upon academic or extra-curricular performance? ie. GPA
- Are scholarships/grants renewable each year?
- What is the college's policy on divorced or separated parents reporting income?
- How does outside scholarship effect the rest of the aid package? When and how is it reported?

Local Scholarships

We encourage students to apply for local scholarships in addition to pursuing national and university based scholarships. Local scholarships are posted on Naviance generally between December and May of the senior year, and students should check Naviance weekly for updates. Like college applications, many local scholarships have a separate application and a process unique to itself. It is the responsibility of the student to determine what information and materials each application requires, and provide that to the scholarship organization. If a student needs to provide a transcript and/or letter of recommendation for a scholarship, he or she should make that request to his or her counselor two weeks prior to the scholarship deadline.

In some instances, local scholarships require use of the "Oakmont General Scholarship" form which is provided in this booklet, available in the Guidance Office, and available for download in Naviance. When a scholarship requires the Oakmont General Scholarship form, it will be indicated in the scholarship details provided on Naviance.

When completing the Oakmont General Scholarship application, students should follow these steps:

1. Leave the title/name of the scholarship empty, yet answer all other questions, and complete the required essay.
2. Determine how many of the local scholarships for which they qualify, and make the appropriate amount of copies.
3. Write in the scholarship name on the top of each application.
4. Submit the Oakmont General Scholarship application to Ms. Mac by the deadline, usually the Thursday before April Vacation.

Local Scholarships that use the Oakmont General Scholarship form are as follows*:

Westminster Firefighters Association	Hanna & Anton Patari Memorial Scholarship
Jane E. Burgoyne Memorial Scholarship	Colin Carey Memorial Scholarship
Michael J. Waterman Memorial Scholarship	Wayne Tuominen Memorial Scholarship
Westminster Women's Club Scholarship	Ashburnham American Legion Scholarship
Oakmont Association Scholarship	Daniel J. Farrell Memorial Scholarship
Jack Bresnahan Memorial Scholarship	Ashburnham Auxiliary American Legion Scholarship
Forever Young Award	Kenneth Caron Scholarship
Ashburnham/Westminster Teachers Association Scholarship	

*list subject to change based on funding sources

OAKMONT REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

****Please complete this form, make copies and then fill in the title of the scholarship for which you are applying ****

Scholarship Application Title **** _____ Deadline April 11, 2019

Student Name _____ Phone _____

Home Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

GPA _____ Class Rank _____ Colleges you are attending _____

Major and/or Career Goal _____

Total cost of college you will attend (include tuition and board) \$ _____

Money (i.e. scholarships) awarded from college you will attend (NOT LOANS) \$ _____

Guidance Counselor Name _____ Phone (978) 827-5907 Xt: 2161

Parent/Guardian Name(s) _____ / _____

Number of dependent children living at home _____ Number of children in College - Fall 2018 _____

List significant school activities, leadership positions, honor recognition, and community service. Check the grade when activities occurred.

ACTIVITIES	9TH GR	10TH GR	11TH GR	12TH GR	LIST LEADERSHIP POSITIONS/HONORS

We certify that the statements contained in this application are true.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian(s) Signature _____ Date _____

_____ Date _____

(Please complete the essay on the back of this form)



OAKMONT REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

"Educating for Success – Now and in the Future"

9 Oakmont Drive
Ashburnham, MA 01430

David Uminski, Principal
Kristina Bogosh, Assistant Principal

(978)827-5907
(978)827-1413 Fax

CAMPUS VISIT EXCUSED ABSENCE FORM

For _____
(student name)

College Name _____ Date of Visit _____

Student Information:

- You must be a junior or senior in good academic standing.
- Permission must be granted prior to college visit.
- Parent, Student, Guidance, Administrator signature all required *before* college visit.
- College/admissions representative signature required.
- Student to return completed form to the Main Office.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Information:

- Parent must call school the day of the visit to verify absence.
- Absence is unexcused until this completed form is returned to main office following the college visit.

Step 1: Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Step 2: Guidance Counselor Approval Signature: _____

Step 3: Administration Signature Approval Signature: _____

Step 4: For college/admissions representative (Below):

Date: _____

College Name: _____

College Representative signature: _____



