

6 Things to Know About Applying to College

1. Applying to a 4-year college? You'll need:

- 2 years of the same Foreign Language
- Math senior year (preferred)
- 3.0 Unweighted Cumulative Minimum GPA preferred by many schools, but others will accept less
- Standard High School Diploma required

2. Testing - When & How:

- Best to test in spring of 11th Grade; Ok early in senior year
- 1 Sat or 1 ACT (with writing) Test required by virtually all 4-year colleges
- Register for test online at www.collegeboard.com (SAT) or www.actstudent.org (ACT)
- There are deadlines and charges
- Fee waivers available (see Guidance Counselor or BRACE Advisor)
- List colleges to get your scores when you register (4 schools free)
- Don't like your scores? Test again – No penalty for multiple tests – Colleges Superscore (best scores) Watch out for deadlines.

3. College Applications Online – When & Where:

- Fall of senior year (August, September, October, November, December)
- Apply before college's deadline (see BRACE /Guidance to learn application policies)
- Apply even if you haven't tested yet
- College's website to apply (Admission, or prospective student, or apply)
- Know titles and credits of each course you take senior year
- Not all colleges require essays or letters of recommendation - See Guidance or BRACE

4. Payment – When & How

- After you submit, you must pay
- Credit card, check, money order or see Guidance or BRACE for application fee waiver

5. Transcripts – When & How

- Send High School Transcript immediately after application submitted- DO NOT WAIT
- See Guidance or BRACE to learn how to order Transcripts
- Transcripts usually sent by high school to colleges

6. Financial Aid – When & How:

- January 1st – March 1st of Senior Year (Can be completed later, but may not qualify for all aid available)
- Apply online for Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), www.fafsa.gov
- Signed electronically by student and one parent with PIN Numbers (1 per person)
- Get PIN first at www.pin.ed.gov
- List all schools you applied to or will apply to