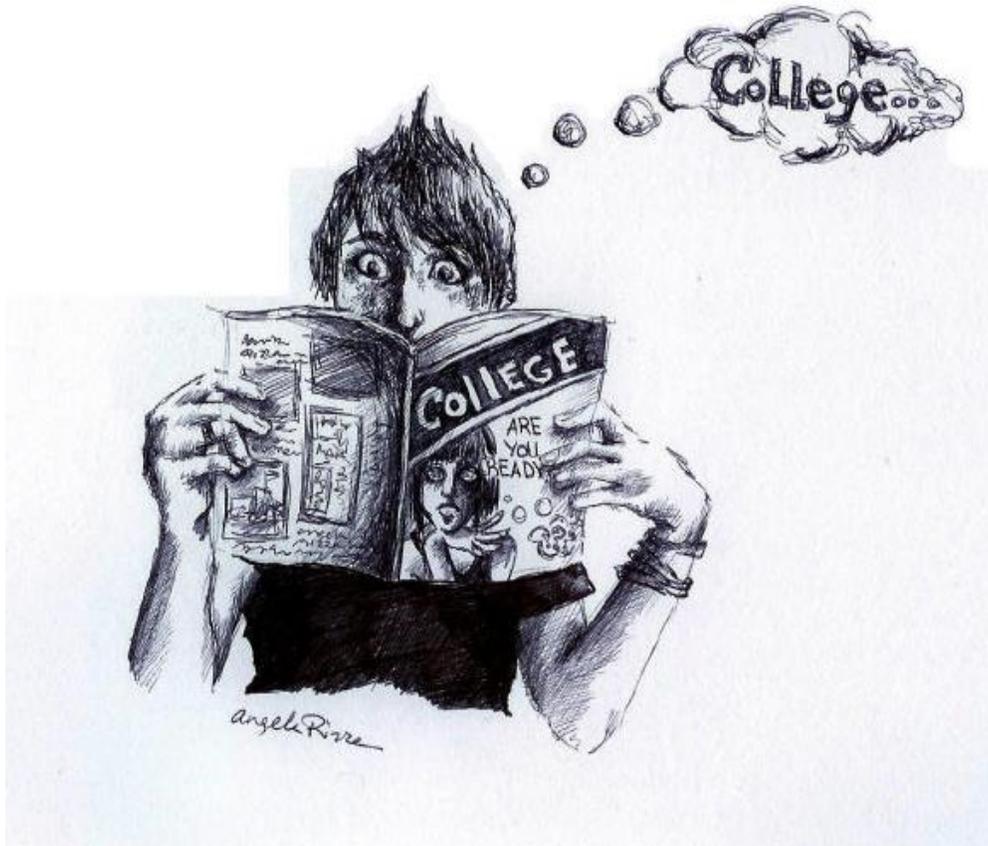


Mahopac High School Counseling Department

College Planning Guide



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Dear Junior Students and Parents,

The Mahopac High School Counselors have prepared this booklet as a resource for post-secondary planning. The process of developing post-secondary options does not require specialized knowledge on the part of the student, but it does require time and research. We have many sources of information to assist in this process, including our website at <http://mhs.mahopac.k12.ny.us>, under the Counseling Department.

There are many post-secondary options and colleges that can address your needs –academically, socially and financially. In order to find your “best fit” college, it takes time to find schools where you can achieve success. Be sure to research, visit and consider all of your options including two year, four year, and other programs.

We look forward to working with you through this exciting process. If you have any questions or concerns please see the counseling website for current contact information.

Sincerely,

Mahopac High School Counseling Department

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WHAT ARE COLLEGES LOOKING FOR?

Listed below are the most important factors considered by admissions offices. What steps can you take to better prepare yourself for the college admission process?

A strong GPA

What it says to a college: *This student is conscientious and potentially capable of passing courses at our college.*

A robust course load

What it says to a college: *This student has challenged him/herself with as many upper level courses he/she can handle, and has taken advantage of the resources offered by the school.*

Strong SAT/ACT scores

What it says to a college: *This student has the innate and learned ability to handle college level courses and be successful, and not likely to fail and/or withdraw or drop out of school. The percentage of students who fail and/or withdraw/drop out of school lowers the school's retention rate (which is very important to a college's image and is in their best interest to keep as high as possible.)*

Community Service (aka Service Learning)

What it says to a college: *This is a caring and compassionate student that gives up his/her free time to help others in need. This student may have been exposed to others who are less fortunate than them and has decided to reach out, hopefully resulting in the ability to show empathy for others and an appreciation for those different from him/her. (An increasing number of colleges are awarding scholarships based on service.)*

Participation in Clubs/Sports/Activities

What it says to a college: *This student has made a contribution to his/her school and is a doer. He/she is likely to become involved in clubs and activities at our college too.*

Part time employment

What it says to a college: *This student may have a strong work ethic, holding a job for a significant period of time. This student has had valuable work experiences that may have taught him/her responsibility and how to get along well with others.*

Strong counselor and teacher letters of recommendation

What it says to a college: *This student is being supported by people in the field of education who are putting their professional opinion in writing; therefore, what they say holds a lot of weight and is taken seriously.*

Perseverance/Overcoming obstacles

What it says to a college: *This student has overcome adversity, or a significant obstacle in their young life; this proves he/she will not be quick to give up, or drop out, or fall to pieces when faced with challenges in college.*

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS EXAMINATIONS (SAT, ACT)

The PSAT

The Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) contains actual SAT questions and is designed to be a practice test. The test is offered nationwide **only** in October and should be taken by all college bound juniors. **Results of this test are not reported to colleges.** The PSAT is two hours and 45 minutes. The PSAT Score Report provides personalized feedback on areas in which you could improve, along with specific advice on how to improve. Taking the PSAT gives high scoring juniors a chance to qualify for scholarship and recognition programs and is the best practice for the SAT. Registration typically begins in late September and is completed through the student's house secretary.

SAT Test and SAT Subject Test

The SAT is a measure of Evidence-based Reading & Writing and Math that you'll need for academic success in college. The SAT assesses how well you analyze and solve problems—skills you learned in school that you'll need in college. The SAT provides a standardized measure of a student's college readiness. The SAT is typically taken by high school juniors (in the spring) and seniors (in the fall). Each section of the SAT is scored on a scale of 200-800 for Evidence-based Reading and Writing and math. The SAT is administered seven times a year and is a three-hour examination with an additional 50 minutes for the essay.

SAT Subject Tests are primarily multiple-choice tests in specific subjects. Subject Tests measure knowledge or skills in a particular subject and your ability to apply that knowledge. Most colleges use the SAT as a component of the admissions process while the selective colleges may also require the SAT Subject Test. The SAT Subject Test is based on one academic area and is one hour in length. You may take up to three tests on any given test date. Generally, a student will take the SAT Subject Test after they have completed the course work in that area of study.

Mahopac High School is an SAT testing center. **Our school CEEB code is 332975.** Students who do not require testing modifications may register on-line at www.collegeboard.org. It is common for students to take the SAT two or three times, but remember that all scores are reported, unless you opt for Score Choice. *If you receive testing accommodations as part of an IEP or 504 plan, please refer to the "College Admission for Students with Learning Disabilities/Special Needs" section of this guide for details.*

ACT

The ACT is a national college admission examination that consists of subject area tests in English, Mathematics, Reading and Science. The ACT Plus Writing includes the four subject area tests and a recommended 30-minute Writing test. ACT scores are reported on a scale of 1-36 and is 2 hours and 55 minutes with an additional 40 minutes for essay. The ACT is administered on five national test dates in September, October, December, April, and June (no NYS test centers in February). Mahopac is an ACT test center. **Our school CEEB code is 332975.** Students who do not require testing modifications may register on-line at www.actstudent.org. *If you receive testing accommodations as part of an IEP or 504 plan, please refer to the "College Admission for Students with Learning Disabilities/Special Needs" section of this guide for details.*

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS EXAMINATIONS (CONTINUED)

College Admissions Examinations Test Taking Skills

Practical experience suggests that practice does enhance performance on these tests. If you are considering taking any of the many preparatory courses available, realize that these coaching courses are not meant to develop the skills being measured by these tests. These courses help students demonstrate skills they already possess. There are practice SAT and ACT questions and exams online at www.collegeboard.com or www.actstudent.org. The Mahopac High School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) offers an SAT prep course at the high school in the Fall and Spring. Additionally, the Mahopac Public Library presents practice ACT workshops periodically throughout the year.

A Final Word of Advice

Standardized testing is not as important as what you do in the four years you are in high school. Success in challenging courses and meaningful involvement in selected co-curricular activities is a better predictor of your success in college than a standardized test. Treat standardized testing seriously, by becoming familiar with the test format and content, but do not let the prospect of testing overwhelm you, or cause you to lose sight of all of your efforts here at Mahopac. Testing is only one of the many factors colleges consider in making admission decisions.

Terms you should know regarding Standardized Tests:

Score Choice –pertains to SAT policy where students can choose to send scores from one specific test date to the colleges they apply. Most colleges recommend that students report all scores, as they will use them to obtain the highest combined score (referred to as “super-scoring”).

Test Optional School – a school that does not require students to submit SAT/ACT scores as part of his/her application. Go to www.fairtest.org for a complete list of test optional schools.

Standardized Testing Recommendations

11 th Grade Fall	PSAT (in-school registration for national test date)
11 th Grade Spring	SAT plus essay (register online at www.collegeboard.com)
11 th Grade Spring	ACT plus Writing (register online at www.actstudent.org)
12 th Grade Fall	SAT or ACT plus Writing retakes if needed

IMPORTANT: When it is time to apply to college, students are responsible for requesting that their SAT/ACT scores be sent to colleges by the appropriate testing agency.

BUILDING YOUR LIST OF TARGET SCHOOLS

(aka Colleges I'm Thinking About in Naviance-Family Connection)

Each family proceeds through the college search process at their own pace. Many factors may influence the discussion. Opinions and suggestions will come from everywhere and sorting it all out can be a challenge. A key aspect will be some self-reflection on the part of the student. Often those who do best at this are those who truly think about who they are as a person and what kind of learner they are. While the reputation of a college is important, the more critical question is whether a school is a good fit or not. The student's list should represent a range of selectivity.

Your initial list of prospective colleges should be the result of a team effort among student, parents, and counselor. Each brings certain knowledge and expertise that is important to the planning. The list may be quite long at first but over the course of a student's junior year and fall of senior year, as a result of campus visits and ongoing discussion among student, parents, and counselor, the list will evolve and eventually result in the group of schools to which the student will actually apply.

Your list of schools should include at least two of the following:

Likely, where the student's high school GPA and standardized exam scores *exceed* admission requirements. ***Target***, in which student's high school GPA and standardized exam scores *match* admission requirements. And, ***Reach*** where the student's high school GPA and standardized exam scores may be *lower than* admission requirements.

IMPORTANT: If your list is too long (over 15) or too short (fewer than five), consult with your Counselor to modify your list of schools. Applying to too many or too few schools will negatively impact your decision making in the long run.

It is important to recognize that GPA and SAT/ACT scores are not the sole criteria in a college search; there are other things to consider as well. This is an important list (in no particular order) to keep in mind as you identify colleges of interest:

- Major/Career interest
- Location
- Campus Type (urban, rural)
- Size
- Student population
- Academic Rigor
- Special Programs (Study Abroad, Internships/Co-op)
- Academic Supports
- Retention Rate
- Job Placement Rate
- Graduation Rate
- Cost

How to complete a college search:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GFv1be7jdX8&index=1&list=PLdsWiRPxrgnye3-VKqVAkKtpmqFJhpMZy&t=24s>

How to view information on a specific college in Naviance:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rVZmN1LPqJw&index=2&list=PLdsWiRPxrgnye3-VKqVAkKtpmqFJhpMZy&t=6s>

How to add colleges to "colleges I'm thinking about" in Naviance:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KyBijWw8s6w&index=3&list=PLdsWiRPxrgnye3-VKqVAkKtpmqFJhpMZy&t=4s>

THE COLLEGE VISIT

Once you've identified a list of schools, the college visit is the best way of determining if a college is right for you. After all of the research has been completed (i.e. you have checked the majors offered, grade point averages, SAT scores, internship programs), it is important to be sure that the personality of the school matches yours.

Tips For Making The Most Of Your College Visit

- Be a careful consumer when you visit a college. You must be comfortable with the programs, people and places where you will live for two to four years.
- Ideally, take two tours of the campus. First, walk around on your own before you visit the admissions office. Scope out the layout of the college, get a feel for the climate on the campus and check out the buildings of your major field of study. Then, take a campus tour. The first tour will give you the ability to ask specific questions. Try to visit the campus at least once without your parents. You may see another aspect to the campus when you are alone. If that isn't possible, ask for a few hours on your own.
- Familiarize yourself with the college website and admissions material before your visit and develop a list of questions.
- Take pictures of the main buildings and other interesting features of each campus. These will help you remember when you are choosing between colleges.
- Visit the academic buildings. Meet with a faculty member from the department(s) of the major(s) you might be interested in and ask specific questions. They will be more knowledgeable than the admissions office about their subject area.
- Find out if there is a student recreation or campus center. Is it comfortable? How late is it open?
- If you have a favorite sport or activity, visit the Intramurals or Club office and ask some questions.
- Go to the Academic Advising Office and ask about availability of tutoring in a subject area you think you might need help with.
- Take a walk to the library. See if the library is used for studying. How hard is it to get a study table? Is it noisy? Determine their hours and security arrangements for students leaving facilities late in the evening.
- Ask about other areas to study on campus. Are there study lounges in the residence halls?
- A visit to the Financial Aid Office is important. Most schools will tell you if they have financial aid packages based on need. Additional information to gather should include: merit scholarships, the average aid award, work study and part-time jobs in the area.

THE COLLEGE VISIT (CONTINUED)

- If possible, arrange to spend a night in a residence hall. Call the Admissions office and they will help set it up for you.
- Is housing guaranteed for all four years? Discuss residential options. Ask about roommate selection procedures.
- You may live off-campus at some point. Take a ride to the part of town where most students live. What are the apartments like and what are the rental rates?
- What is the availability of sports and recreational facilities on campus? Visit the gym and ask about non-class use (i.e. can you go for a swim in the evening?)
- Walk over to the health clinic and ask about those facilities. For example, how long is the average wait to see a health practitioner?
- Be sure to visit the campus while classes are in session, preferably during the school year as opposed to the summer session. Sit in on a class and see how the students and faculty interact.
- Do not be afraid to ask questions. Campuses can be intimidating. This is a huge investment. The more questions the better!

Questions To Ask Current College Students on Your Visit

- Why did you choose this college?
- Has the college lived up to your expectations?
- What has surprised you about the school?
- What has disappointed you?
- What do the students in your major say about the program?
- How do the students like their residence hall experience?
- What do students do for entertainment?
- Do students appear pleased about the education they are receiving?
- What are the social and academic issues that have come up during the year?
- Are the residence halls quiet enough to get studying done?
- Do the residence halls have resident advisors on hand?
- What are the rules on overnight visitation?
- Are there opportunities to participate in internships in the local area?
- How active is the student body in clubs and volunteer service?
- What percent of students go home on weekends? Is this a “suitcase” or commuter school?

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS FOR THE STUDENT WITH SPECIFIC TALENTS/INTERESTS

Colleges and Universities are interested in what sets you apart from other applicants, especially when it comes to talents, interests, and qualities that you will contribute to the college community. Occasionally, these special talents can be the factor that tips the admission decision in your favor.

Here's some advice:

Athletic: Talk to your Mahopac and/or club coach about opportunities to compete on the college level and determine what level of competition would be best for you. Express your interest to coaches at the schools you are applying to when visiting campus and try to arrange a meeting with the coach. Many college coaches will have a recruiting questionnaire on the college web site which you should complete. Prepare an athletic resume but keep it brief and concise. Be wary of promises made by coaches guaranteeing admission. Although they will communicate with the admission staff about you, ultimately it is the admission staff who will make the decision. Students planning to play at the Division I or II level should register with the NCAA Clearinghouse in the spring of junior year. The NCAA has specific course work and GPA requirements. Students should refer to the NCAA Clearinghouse for the approved course list and the sliding GPA scale. (See NCAA Information in Appendix)

Art: Be sure to consult college websites for specific instructions on whether a portfolio is required for the application process. If necessary, speak to one of your Mahopac art teachers for advice and consultation. When visiting campuses, call in advance and try to meet with members of the art faculty and see their studio space. Portfolio Days, where your work can be reviewed by several colleges, take place at various college sites throughout the fall. For more information consult individual art college web sites or Google "Portfolio Review Days".

Music: Prepare a digital submission and if you are a composer, send original sheet music. Consult each college website for specific instructions. In many cases a live audition may be required. When visiting campuses, call in advance and try to meet with members of the music faculty and see their performance and practice facilities.

Drama and Dance: Check each college website for specific requirements. Often an audition will be required or you may need to send an electronic submission. When visiting campuses, try to meet with faculty and see the performance and practice space.

Applying to a Military/Service Academy*: The United States has five federally funded Service Academies: the Naval, Military, Air Force, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine Academies. Students receive a free education in exchange for a five-year commitment to serve in the military upon graduation. Competition for an appointment to a Service Academy is stiff. Interested applicants should begin the process early. In addition to normal college-entrance requirements, applicants need to pass a physical fitness test, a medical examination and secure a Congressional nomination (except for the Coast Guard Academy, which does not require a nomination). (See Appendix for "How to Apply" instructions)

*Reprinted from- http://www.ehow.com/how_2040258_apply-service-academy.html#ixzz2JT3HroCO

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES/SPECIAL NEEDS

While the general information presented in this guide is valuable for all students, there are issues specific to students with special needs that are addressed.

Before applying to colleges

Accommodations for Standardized Testing: Students do not automatically receive the same testing accommodations on standardized tests that they receive on in-school testing. Accommodations must be approved by the College Board (SAT) or the ACT.

PSAT/SAT: Once approved for accommodations from the College Board, a student receives an SSD code. The SSD code must be used every time the student registers for the SAT. Applications for testing accommodations are typically submitted during the annual review in spring of Sophomore year.

ACT plus Writing: When registering for the ACT plus Writing, please note students must apply for testing accommodations for each school year during which an ACT exam is taken. Registration is completed at the same time the Request for Accommodations is submitted. There are three types of testing accommodation request forms to choose from. Go to the Student Services office in the high school to confirm which form is most appropriate based on your IEP.

When it's time to apply to college

Neither student transcripts nor standardized test scores indicate a student has received support services in school or has used test accommodations. Colleges will know about your disability and special needs only if you choose to release that information. Since it is important to find the *best fit* for a student, most families do choose to divulge the information, but the choice is yours.

In general, there are two levels of service at college:

- ◇ **Comprehensive Programs**—These schools have specific programs for students with LD/ADHD and provide the highest level of service. They are typically characterized by special admission procedures, specialized and trained professionals, compensatory strategies, one-on-one tutoring and compulsory attendance and monitoring. Additional fees may apply.
- ◇ **Basic Services**—All colleges are required to provide basic services to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Participation is voluntary and those providing services are rarely trained in the area of special needs. Strong self-advocacy is a must for the student.

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS (CONTINUED)

When students move from high school to college their services and test accommodations do not continue automatically. Colleges will make their own determination regarding these issues and will typically require a current (within three years), psycho-educational evaluation in order to make those determinations. If a student does not have current testing, an evaluation should be arranged privately by the family. The Mahopac Central School District provides testing only for the purpose of determining a student's educational needs and program in high school.

When visiting colleges, students with special needs should plan enough time on campus to adequately investigate the program and services provided. This should include seeing the area where services are offered and ideally meeting key staff members assigned to work with students. Conversation with students who are currently enrolled in the program would be helpful as well.

Post High School Services

ACCES/VR offers access to a full range of employment and independent living services that may be needed by persons with disabilities through their lives. Through its administration of vocational rehabilitation and independent living programs, ACCES/VR coordinates policy and services relating to:

- Assessment to help identify skills, abilities, interests and limitations.
- Career Counseling and guidance.
- Rehabilitation and assistive technology.
- Training at a vocational school, community college, or on the job.
- Supported employment, job placement and job retention.
- Other services necessary to achieve employment goal.

The ACCES/VR application can be downloaded from the Mahopac High School website, located in Parent Resources or you can request a hard copy from your student's counselor. The ACCES/VR website is <http://www.acces.nysed.gov/vr/>.

YOUR COLLEGE ESSAY (AKA PERSONAL ESSAY)

Introduction

The college essay is your opportunity to talk directly to the college's admission committee and to help them see you as a person, rather than simply a set of impersonal statistics. As most colleges don't require interviews, your essay is the only chance to share your thoughts, insights, and accomplishments.

Purpose

The college essay is important for two major reasons:

- 1) It enables the college admissions 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 office to learn more about who you are 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, unique from any other applicant.

Many colleges, as well as the Common Application, will ask you to choose from a list of several topics. For a current list of personal essay prompts, go to www.commonapp.org.

When given the opportunity to choose a topic, remember to accent the positive rather than the negative side of an experience. If you write about the effect of a death, divorce, or illness on your life, do not dwell on your bad luck and disappointments. Instead, emphasize what you have learned from this experience and how coping with adversity has strengthened you as an individual.

Writing the Essay

Write the first draft of your essay with the main focus on content – communicating your thoughts. Then set it aside for a day or two, reread it with a fresh perspective, and make any necessary changes. Once you have rewritten the first draft, you may wish to have it reviewed by an English teacher and your School Counselor. While the final product and final “voice” should be yours, they may offer helpful suggestions for technical or other improvements.

Read over the draft and make sure you have conveyed your main idea. If you identify several major themes or events, take a good look at how to link these different ideas together. Instead of giving equal weight to every point, prioritize your ideas, making sure that there is some connection throughout. Always have someone else proofread your essay. Your essay should be 250-600 words unless otherwise specified.

YOUR COLLEGE ESSAY (CONTINUED)

More Helpful Suggestions

- Think “simple” and write about something that you know about.
- Reveal yourself and allow the reader to get to know you better in your writing.
- Help bring your topic to life by giving examples and illustrating your topic.
- Write in your own “voice” and style.
- Avoid writing what you think others want to read.
- Try not to exaggerate or write to impress.
- Be careful not to use a flowery, inflated or pretentious style.
- Pay attention to the technical details of your essay (grammar, spelling, sentence structure).

Your college essay, along with your high school record, standardized test scores, and extra-curricular involvements will provide the basis upon which the college makes its admissions decision. A thoughtful, well-written essay can affect, in a very positive way, that final decision. Keep this in mind and take full advantage of the opportunity.

THE COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS

Thoroughly research colleges using the following websites to narrow your target list:

- Naviance – Family Connection – www.connection.naviance.com/mahopac
- The College Board at www.collegeboard.org
- College own website
- How to complete a college search:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GFv1be7jdX8&index=1&list=PLdsWiRPxrgnye3-VKqVAkKtpmqFJhpMZy&t=24s>

Complete the Junior College Profile in Naviance-Family Connection

- Without a completed Junior College Profile and Resume, a counselor letter of recommendation will not be written.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ueErHAKdBpk&index=4&list=PLdsWiRPxrgnye3-VKqVAkKtpmqFJhpMZy>

Request Teacher Recommendation using Naviance-Family Connection

- Request one teacher recommendation letter. Please give your teacher a minimum of four weeks to write and upload your letter of recommendation to Naviance-Family Connection.
- Be sure to personally ask your teacher for a letter of recommendation and add the request to Naviance – Family Connection.
- It is your responsibility to follow up with your teacher to be sure that they completed your letter of recommendation.
- *If you have an outside recommendation letter, please see your house secretary.*
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zJLxbL6n3eo&t=1s&list=PLdsWiRPxrgnwW5CmtI6xOpyLgyl98o8-9&index=2>

Upload final essay draft:

- Be sure to meet the specific essay requirement(s) for each application.
- If you have the option of submitting a writing sample, instead of an essay, consider using a graded assignment/paper/essay

Complete and submit the application online:

- Add colleges you are applying to in Naviance – Family Connection and request transcript. Indicate if you are applying via the Common App.
- Certain schools require or recommend interviews as part of the application process. Contact admission's office to make an appointment.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ekpVpII4W0E&index=1&list=PLdsWiRPxrgnwW5CmtI6xOpyLgyl98o8-9>

THE COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS

Go Back to top of “Colleges I’m applying to” page to “match” Common App to Naviance:

- 1. Before proceeding, watch the **video tutorial** on “matching” the Common Application to your Naviance account. (This link is on your Naviance home page.)
- 2. Now, at the top of the “Colleges I’m applying to” page, follow steps to the Common Application. **IMPORTANT: This link between Naviance-Family Connection and the Common App provides the ability to send school forms to the colleges you apply to through the Common Application (we will not have access to your username and password).** Your email and your first and last name must match exactly on the Common Application as it is in Naviance; otherwise matching will not occur.
- 3. In order to complete the FERPA/waiver (see attached), you will need to:
 - a. Complete the Education section in the Common App; answer all questions
 - b. Select and enter at least one college in “My Colleges” (you are able to delete or change colleges if you decide not to apply and the FERPA/waiver will remain)
 - c. In “My Colleges” go to assign recommender and it will then allow you to complete the FERPA/waiver authorization

Apply online whenever possible:

- Common App (this is the preferred method as most colleges are now subscribers to this application)
- College’s own application

Send SAT/ACT Scores:

- For the SAT - visit www.collegeboard.org . Login and go to send scores.
- For the ACT - visit www.actstudent.org . Login and go to send scores.

Be sure that your list of “Colleges I’m applying to” reflects each college to which you have submitted an application.

Mahopac High School will send out the following school forms only if the colleges are listed in “Colleges I’m applying to” in Naviance-Family Connection.

- Official transcript (initial & final)
- Mahopac School Profile
- Teacher recommendation
- Counselor recommendation
- Mid-year grade reports

NOTE: Listing your colleges in Naviance-Family Connection does NOT mean that you have applied to colleges. Students must actually have completed an application using Common Application, College Website Application or paper application and submitted application fee in order to be considered as having applied.

IMPORTANT COLLEGE APPLICATION REMINDERS

- Students are responsible for requesting that their SAT/ACT scores be sent to colleges by the appropriate testing agency.
- If 1st Quarter grades are requested by the college(s), the student must complete a request form with proof of the request and submit it to his/her House Secretary.
- E-mail, written, or verbal requests for college application transcripts/letters cannot be accepted. Only transcript requests done through Naviance – Family Connection will be processed.
- You may check the status of your applications on Naviance:
<http://connection.naviance.com/Mahopac>.
- **We need at least 3 weeks notice in order to process your transcript request.**

College Application Deadline	Transcript Requested in Naviance by: (These are approximate dates.)
November 1 st	October 10 th
November 15 th	October 25 th
December 1 st	November 10 th
December 15 th	November 25 th
January 1 st	December 10 th
January 15 th	December 20 th
February 1 st	January 11 th

TYPES OF ADMISSION DEADLINES

Early Decision

Some colleges offer an early decision option in the fall. A student who chooses this option typically applies by November 1st or 15th and is notified by mid-December if he/she has been accepted, deferred into the regular admission pool or denied. *Please keep in mind that an acceptance at a school where you have applied Early Decision is binding. You must enroll if accepted.*

Early Action

Unlike early decision, an accepted applicant under early action is not bound to the college or university and may apply to other colleges during regular admission. A final decision to attend the school does not need to be made until the regular admission's reply date, May 1st.

Rolling Admission

Colleges using rolling admissions review completed applications as they arrive and return a decision as soon as the evaluation is completed. It is to your advantage to submit your application early to a college that uses rolling admissions. Look for priority deadlines or financial aid deadlines and take them seriously.

Regular Admission

Each school that uses a regular admission process has its own deadline date. Be aware of each deadline date as they may vary. Schools using Regular Admission will review all applications once the deadline date has passed. Generally, upon review, decisions regarding admission will be sent out to students in late March/early April.

THE COMMON APPLICATION QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

Common Application Website: www.commonapp.org

(Whenever given a choice, select Common App method for sending applications as Naviance and Common App are linked for electronic uploading of documents.)

School address: Mahopac High School, 421 Baldwin Place Rd., Mahopac, NY 10541

School telephone #: (845) 628-3256

School fax number: (845) 628-3350 Gold House; (845) 628-4380 Blue and Green Houses

School website: <http://mhs/mahopac.k12.ny.us>

CEEB Code for Mahopac HS: **332975**

5 Common App Tips

1. The name of each college **MUST** appear in “My Colleges”, which allows MHS to send electronic school forms through Naviance-Family Connection.
2. All school forms will be sent electronically. You do not have to bring forms to counselor to complete.
3. Although you will self-report SAT/ACT scores, colleges still require the official score reports be sent. (*Reminder: MHS does not send SAT/ACT scores*)
4. Most colleges require supplements. Some supplements require essays; most are forms to complete. Supplements are considered part of the application and are required.
5. Your application is not considered complete until payment is submitted (if you are eligible for a fee waiver select fee waiver as a payment option).

Convert Your GPA to a 4.0 Scale© 2011 The College Board	
A+ (97-100) = 4.0	A (93-96) = 4.0
A- (90-92) = 3.7	B+ (87-89) = 3.3
B (83-86) = 3.0	B- (80-82) = 2.7
C+ (77-79) = 2.3	C (73-76) = 2.0
C- (70-72) = 1.7	D+ (67-69) = 1.3
D (65-66) = 1.0	E/F (below 65) = 0.0

COLLEGE INTERVIEWS

A college interview can give you a chance to make a positive impression and tip the balance in your favor. While few colleges require an interview, many colleges provide it as an option. In addition, many colleges waive the application fee if you interview. We recommend that you take advantage of this opportunity.

College interviews may be scheduled on campus with an admissions counselor, off campus with someone from the admissions office, or with an alumnus. An interview can be an interesting, even exciting, experience -- much depends on you. Be alert and don't be afraid to ask questions or express an opinion. Talk about things with which you are familiar and don't try to impress anyone with the "right" answer. Be yourself! Go to an interview as rested and as relaxed as possible. Dress appropriately.

Once you have made arrangements for a college interview, let your counselor know. Your counselor can help prepare you for your interview. Bring a copy of your high school transcript, resume and/or activity profile with you.

Before the interview, review the college website including their majors, course offerings and special programs. Be familiar with factual information about the school. If anything is unclear in their website, ask the college representative for clarification. Think about the college in relationship to you and what you are looking for in a school. Here are a few examples:

Questions you might ask during the interview:

1. Since I am just beginning to look for a college, could you tell me what you think are the strengths and weaknesses of this school?
2. I am still undecided about my major and career path. How much freedom will I have in the first two years to explore other curriculum areas?
3. If I qualify for admission based on grades and SAT/ACT scores, what else would you be looking for?
4. What type of student do you feel is most successful at this school?

Questions that you may be asked at an interview:

1. Tell me about yourself.
2. What would you like to change about yourself in the next four years?
3. What is the most significant contribution you have made to your school?
4. What kind of life do you want for yourself twenty years from now?
5. If our roles were reversed, what would you want to know about me so that you could decide about my admission?
6. Tell me about your greatest accomplishment. What are you most proud of?
7. Why have you decided to apply to this school?
8. If I visited your school, what would I find your role to be in the school community? What would your teachers say are your greatest strengths? Weaknesses?

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I GET DEFERRED?

This is a question counselors are often asked by seniors who have submitted Early Decision/Early Action applications. If you are deferred, here is our best collective advice:

- Most importantly, understand that excellent first semester grades will do more than anything else to enhance your chances.
- Tell your counselor about the decision. We are typically not informed of decisions by the colleges.
- Thoroughly read the letter from the college. Often they will make suggestions about what you should or should not do to enhance your chances. You may also find suggestions on their website. Follow their instructions carefully. If they say, for example, not to submit additional recommendations, don't do it.
- If the college encourages you to submit additional information, you should write a letter re-affirming your strong interest. In this letter, you might also update the admission committee on any new information that is relevant in your academic, extra-curricular, or personal world, but don't feel you have to do this if there really is nothing new.
- Additional letters of recommendation are usually not necessary or helpful. Admission counselors consistently tell us that supplemental letters are only helpful if they provide new information that other writers have not brought forth. Too often supplemental letters simply repeat the same themes that previous writers have provided.
- If you are feeling some anger toward the college, put it aside. Stating that "*I can't believe I didn't get accepted*", will be perceived as arrogance, not confidence. Instead, really think about why the college is a great fit for you and express that as best you can.
- Meet with your counselor to review all other options. Remember that there are several good schools for you.
- **A word to parents:** Resist the temptation to contact the admission staff directly yourselves which can reflect negatively on the student. Any communication should be between the student and the college.

FINANCIAL AID

What is Financial Aid?

Financial Aid is any grant, scholarship, loan, or paid employment offered to help a student meet college expenses. Financial Aid is provided by various sources such as federal and state agencies, college endowments, and non-profit or private organizations. The amount of financial aid a student receives is determined by federal, state and institutional guidelines.

Eligibility for Financial Aid

The federal government uses a formula derived from information submitted in the Free Application for Financial Student Aid (FAFSA) to determine your Estimated Family Contribution (EFC).

The FAFSA is a document that must be filed with the federal government after October 1st of the student's senior year to receive any need based financial aid. This form must be filed each year the student plans to attend college. The FAFSA should be submitted online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

The EFC is the amount of money determined by the federal government that the family can contribute to a year of the student's annual cost of attendance. Factors such as family size, number of family members attending college, family savings and the family's current earnings all contribute to the EFC. Families are notified of the EFC when they receive the Student Aid Report (SAR).

Cost of Education

- Expected Family Contribution

= Aid Eligibility or Need

All colleges are required to have a Net Price Calculator on their website to assist you in early financial aid planning. This calculator will provide a preliminary estimate of federal, state, and institutional aid eligibility to help families gauge what aid the student may be awarded. Keep in mind that the annual cost of attendance includes tuition, room and board, books, fees, travel expenses, and other extraneous costs.

Some private schools require the CSS/Financial Aid Profile to be filed in addition to the FAFSA. The Profile provides institutions with a more detailed account of the family's finances. The Profile may be submitted on-line at www.collegeboard.com/profile.

FINANCIAL AID (CONTINUED)

Types of Financial Aid

1. Grants – Awards based on financial need, which do not have to be repaid.

Federal grants currently available are:

- Federal Pell Grant
- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)
- Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant
- Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant

*Go to studentaid.ed.gov for additional information on the grants listed above.

In addition, New York State offers the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) as a grant.

2. Loans - Funds that must be repaid.

All students who apply for FAFSA are eligible for either subsidized or unsubsidized student loans (based on income).

Need Based Loans

(1) Stafford Loan (subsidized or unsubsidized) – if a loan is subsidized then the government pays the interest on it until the student begins repayment (six months after graduation or going below half time status). If the loan is unsubsidized then the student is responsible for the interest immediately. He or she can choose to pay the interest monthly or add it to the loan principal.

(2) Perkins Loan – awarded to students with exceptional financial need.

Non-Need Based Loans

(1) Parent Loans: The Federal Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS) – parents can borrow money to cover costs not covered by the students' financial aid package. This loan is available regardless of income or assets. Applications are available in the institution's financial aid office. A FAFSA is not necessary for this loan.

(2) Private Loans: supplement amount not covered by aid package. Private loans are credit based and vary according to student/family situation and type of education. Check with your local bank, credit union or other lenders such as SallieMae, etc.

FINANCIAL AID (CONTINUED)

3. Work Study Program

Federal work-study provides on-campus jobs for students that enable them to contribute toward educational expenses. The monetary amount listed under work-study in your financial aid award letter represents the maximum amount of money you are allowed to earn for that school year.

4. Scholarships – short term, lump sum or renewable awards that are distributed according to criteria set by the scholarship provider (most are based on financial need, academic achievement, artistic /athletic ability, community service, leadership, etc.). Students can access a “Scholarship List” on Naviance-Family Connection and through other scholarship websites. (See list of websites on back cover)

Mahopac High School – the Counseling Department receives scholarship news from various groups and organizations. See the Naviance-Family Connection Scholarship List for details.

Colleges/Universities – schools award scholarships to students based on academic achievement, artistic ability, athletic achievement (Division I and Division II schools), and/or community involvement. Typically, recipients of these scholarships are chosen based on admission application criteria. *Students are responsible to research scholarships through specific colleges.*

Corporations/Foundations/Parent Employers – corporations use scholarships to advertise the company name and attract future employees, while giving the student financial assistance and professional contacts. Call local firms and websites of national companies to see if they offer scholarships.

Professional Associations – many professional organizations offer scholarships to students to encourage them to pursue a particular field of study (e.g. The American Federation of Teachers may offer scholarships to students planning to major in education).

Clubs and Groups in Your Community– local civic groups offer scholarships to help the young people in the community afford higher education. Scan the local newspaper and visit the Chamber of Commerce to learn more.

The Religious Community – churches and other places of worship often sponsor scholarships. Also check with worship-oriented service groups.

Minority Organizations – to encourage minority involvement and increase diversity, many organizations, like the Hispanic College Fund or Women in Communication, use race, ethnicity, religion, gender, or sexual orientation as eligibility requirements for their scholarships.

Other Parent Affiliations – Ask your parents if the organizations they belong to offer scholarships. Be sure to include veterans groups, professional organizations and patriotic, civil and fraternal associations.

FINANCIAL AID (CONTINUED)

Helpful Financial Aid Hints

- All families are encouraged to complete the FAFSA even if federal assistance is unlikely, because schools and states often use FAFSA information to award non-federal aid. Also, it is helpful to file the FAFSA in the event that family circumstances suddenly change.
- Be particularly careful of financial search companies who “guarantee” money, especially if they charge a fee.
- Due to the personal nature of financial aid and in some cases, the complexity of this topic, the specific college financial aid office is the best source for up to date changes and information.
- It is advisable to consult a financial planner/accountant to ascertain if you can benefit from any tax advantages while paying for higher education and to determine how to best complete financial aid forms.
- Pay attention to deadlines; it is better to file early. Remember, the FAFSA cannot be filed before October 1st. However, you can go to www.fafsa.ed.gov to access a worksheet which will explain which documents you will need when filling out the form and apply for a PIN prior to October 1st.
- Remain positive –you must reapply every year so financial aid packages may vary from year to year.

NOTE: If a student does not meet regular admission criteria, but qualifies as economically disadvantaged, he/she may be eligible for EOP or HEOP programs. Contact specific colleges directly for more details.

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NCAA ELIGIBILITY & REGISTRATION

(Reprinted from the NCAA website)

NCAA's central clearinghouse will certify your athletic eligibility for Divisions I and II. Here is some important information that will assist you.

Instructions:

1. Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center NCAA Eligibility Center:
www.ncaaclearinghouse.net (877) 262-1492
2. Request electronic transcript from NCAA (*THIS IS MANDATORY AS IT WILL ALLOW US TO SEND YOUR TRANSCRIPT TO NCAA ELECTRONICALLY*)

Online Registration Process:

The NCAA Eligibility Center has designed a website with you, the student-athlete, in mind. This is where you will find the tools and information you need to begin your college experience as a student-athlete. To register with the NCAA Eligibility Center, go online to www.eligibilitycenter.org and click the link to enter as an NCAA College-Bound Student-Athlete. To create an account, either click on the "New Account" button at the top right of the screen or the cell phone on the left side of the screen.

Note: If you fail to submit all the documents required or if no NCAA school requests your eligibility status, your incomplete file will be discarded after five years, requiring you to pay a new fee if certification is requested after that time.

List of NCAA Approved Core Courses

The list of NCAA approved core courses identifies courses that may be used in meeting NCAA core-course requirements. Be sure that all courses you are taking for core-course purposes are listed on your high school's confirmation list of NCAA approved core courses. These courses may be seen at the NCAA website, actrs8.act.org/ahs/ and by inserting the school CEEB code: 332975, and our school name. This information changes every year.

Frequently Asked Questions about the NCAA Clearinghouse

Q: Why do I need to register and be certified?

A: If you intend to participate in Division I or II athletics as a freshman in college, you must be registered with and be certified as eligible by the NCAA Initial- Eligibility Clearinghouse.

NCAA (CONTINUED)

Q: When should I register?

A: You should apply for certification after your junior year in high school if you wish to participate in intercollegiate athletics as a freshman at a Division I or II institution. If you fail to submit all required documents, your incomplete file will be discarded after three years, requiring you to pay a new fee if certification is requested after that time.

Q: Is there a deadline to register?

A: There is no deadline to register with the Clearinghouse, however, you must be considered certified before receiving an athletic scholarship, practicing and competing at a Division I or II institution.

Q: What if I have attended more than one high school?

A: If you have attended multiple high schools since ninth grade, you must have an official transcript from each school. The transcripts must come by mail directly from the high school (not from you). Faxed transcripts are not acceptable under any circumstances.

Q: Are standardized test scores required?

A: Qualifying test scores are required for participation at both Division I and Division II colleges. If you intend to participate at either a Division I or II school, the test scores may be taken from your official high-school transcript or be sent to the Clearinghouse directly from the testing agency.

Q: How can I arrange for my scores to be sent directly from the testing agency?

A: When you register to take the ACT or the SAT, you can mark code 9999 so that the Clearinghouse will receive your scores, or alternatively, you can submit a request (and fee) for an "Additional Score Report" to the appropriate testing agency by indicating code 9999 on your request form.

Q: What will the Clearinghouse provide to the colleges that are recruiting me?

A: The Clearinghouse will send your eligibility status to any Division I or II college that requests it. Please note that the Clearinghouse will not send your eligibility information at your request; rather, the college must make the request for that information. Additionally, if no member institution requests your eligibility status, a final certification decision may not be processed.

APPLYING TO A MILITARY/SERVICE ACADEMY

1. Ensure you meet the basic eligibility requirements. You must be a U.S. citizen, be of good moral character and be at least 17 but not yet 23 on July 1 of the year you enter the Service Academy. Applicants who are married, pregnant or have dependents will not be accepted.
2. Take the SAT or ACT college-entrance exams. Although in most cases the Academies do not have a minimum required score, GPA and SAT/ACT test scores play an important role in the selection process.
3. Start the application process in the spring of your junior year of high school. Fill out the initial online application from the Service Academy's Web site. In most cases an initial screening is done based on this application. If you pass the screening you will become a candidate and receive further instructions.
4. Apply for a nomination from all available sources, including your local Congressperson and U.S. Senators from your state. Check with your representatives for the application process and requirements on their Web sites. Nominations are based on merit, not political connections. The Coast Guard Academy does not require a nomination.
5. Get in shape physically. Prepare for the fitness test through conditioning exercises and running. Continue to exercise throughout the application process in order to be ready for the requirements of a Service Academy.
6. Finish the application process as soon as possible upon receiving the candidate kit. The kit will explain how to set up the fitness test and the medical exam. The kit will also ask for other paperwork, such as a writing sample. The Academies vary in their desire for the kit to be completed online or through the mail.
7. Interview with the Service Academy Liaison Officer. Discuss your goals, qualifications and reasons for wishing to attend the Service Academy. Do not wear shorts or jeans.

*Reprinted from: http://www.ehow.com/how_2040258_apply-service-academy.html#ixzz2JTZH1CEc

COLLEGE PREP CHECKLIST

JUNIOR YEAR:

- Review transcript and plan senior year schedule to ensure all graduation requirements will be met.
- Register for SAT and/or ACT plus writing (students with IEP's can apply for testing accommodations)
- Complete Service Learning Hours (Required: 60 hours/Special Recognition at 300+ hours)
- Review NCAA eligibility requirements w/ your counselor (if applicable)
 - Register in NCAA clearinghouse
 - Request electronic transcript
- Complete Junior College Profile in Naviance-FC*(not later than Jun. 1 junior year)
- Request (1) Teacher Recommendation Letter in Naviance-FC (not later than Oct. 1 senior year)
(It is the students' responsibility to follow up with teacher to ensure that letter is written and uploaded into Naviance)
- Write Personal Essay: Draft to English teacher and/or counselor for review
- Explore colleges by attending local college fairs, visit colleges & participate in MHS mini fairs in the fall.
(Review Career Interest Survey and Personality Profile results to identify possible majors.)
- Build your target college list in "Colleges I'm Thinking About" in Naviance-FC; go to www.connection.naviance.com/mahopac (or find link on student drop down on HS webpage)

SENIOR YEAR:

- Create Common App account at www.commonapp.org (opens for seniors August 1st)
- Complete FERPA/waiver in Common App (see instructions on page 18)
- Match Common App email address in Naviance-FC (see instructions on page 18)
- Request Teacher letter of recommendation in Naviance-FC (if not already done by Oct. 1)
- Finalize list of colleges and move to/enter in "Colleges I'm applying to" in Naviance-FC.
- For each college indicate:
 - Application Method (Common Application*, college own online or mail) and
 - Type (Regular, Early Action or Early Decision)

*Whenever a choice is provided, apply using the Common Application, as it is the fastest and most reliable for electronic submission of school forms.
- Request Transcript for all colleges in "Colleges I'm applying to" in Naviance-FC Complete Common Application (school forms cannot be uploaded from Naviance-FC unless the college also appears in your Common Application My Colleges list.)
- Request official score reports from ACT and/or College Board websites.
(MHS does not send ACT or SAT scores to colleges; scores sent directly from testing agency.)
- Complete FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov (begin Oct. 1st) (required regardless of potential eligibility for aid)
- Complete CSS Profile (if required; see complete list of colleges that request at www.collegeboard.org)
- Enter admissions decisions (accepted denied, deferred, waitlist) into Naviance-FC.
- For students with IEP's/504 Plans: Complete Access-VR Application (by April 1)
- Visit "Scholarship List" in Naviance-FC to view available scholarships.
- Look for mailing re: local community scholarships during spring of senior year.
- Complete Senior Graduation Survey in Naviance-FC

*Naviance-FC = Naviance-Family Connection

JUNIOR YEAR TIMELINE

September

- Register for PSAT through your House secretary
- Student athletes who are interested in playing sports in college should consult with coach to discuss college athletic options
- Attend college mini-fairs at MHS
- Apply for College Board test accommodations, if not already submitted (for students with IEP/504)

October

- Take PSAT
- Attend college fairs in area
- Attend college mini-fairs at MHS

November

- Attend college mini-fairs at MHS
- Parents and students attend Mahopac University Night

December

- PSAT scores are distributed to students
- Register for SAT Prep Course, if applicable

February

- Contact your house secretary to register for “College Planning using Naviance” workshops
- Students meet with their Counselor to discuss senior schedule options
- Start making plans to visit colleges in Spring
- Register for SAT &/or ACT Plus Writing
- Add colleges to “Colleges I’m Thinking About” in Naviance-Family Connection

March

- Start working on Junior College Profile in Naviance-Family Connection
- Visit colleges

April

- Visit colleges
- Attend College & Career Fair at BOCES

JUNIOR YEAR TIMELINE (CONTINUED)

May

- Take SAT Reasoning Test and/or SAT Subject Test(s), if applicable
- Attend college fairs in the area
- Personally ask a teacher for a college recommendation letter and add request to Naviance – Family Connection
- Take AP exams, if appropriate
- Visit colleges
- Add colleges to “Colleges I’m Thinking About” in Naviance-Family Connection

June

- Student athletes applying to Division I or II colleges must register online through the NCAA Eligibility Center
- Take ACT Plus Writing, if applicable
- Visit colleges
- Complete the Junior College Profile on Naviance – Family Connection by 5/1

July/August

- Continue to explore potential colleges and narrow college list
- Register for October SAT Test, if applicable
- Register for September ACT Plus Writing, if applicable
- Continue work on your college essay
- Follow up with teachers about letters of recommendation
- ENJOY YOUR SUMMER!!

SENIOR YEAR TIMELINE

September

- Make appointment with counselor in mid-September to review college list
- Create a Common Application account and start completing
- Be aware of deadlines (early action, early decision, priority, regular, rolling, etc.)
- Personally ask a teacher for a College Recommendation Letter and add request to Naviance-Family Connection (not later than October 1)
- Attend College Mini Fairs at MHS
- Register for November SAT, if applicable
- Continue to visit college campuses and interview with admission representatives
- Research scholarship opportunities and check Naviance-Family Connection Scholarship List
- Take ACT Plus Writing, if applicable
- List colleges you are applying to in Naviance-Family Connection and request transcripts

October

- After January 1, complete and submit FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov
- Take SAT Reasoning Test, if applicable
- Attend college fairs in area.
- Continue working on college applications and ask English teacher to review college essay(s)
- Request teacher letter of recommendation by 10/1
- Send SAT/ACT scores from College Board or ACT
- Attend college mini-fairs at MHS
- Visit colleges; schedule an overnight visit
- Research scholarship opportunities and check Naviance – Family Connection
- List colleges you are applying to in Naviance – Family Connection and request transcripts

November

- Take SAT Test, if applicable
- Submit your college applications
- Attend college mini-fairs at MHS
- Research scholarship opportunities and check Naviance – Family Connection
- Parents and students attend Mahopac University Night
- Notify House Secretary if college is requesting 1st quarter grades
- Confirm college applications, types and deadlines with your house secretary

December

- Visit colleges; schedule an overnight visit
- Research scholarship opportunities and check Naviance – Family Connection
- Enter in Naviance any updates on college decisions and acceptances
- Confirm college applications, types and deadlines with your house secretary

SENIOR YEAR TIMELINE (CONTINUED)

January

- Research scholarship opportunities and check Naviance-Family Connection Scholarship List
- Enter in Naviance – Family Connection any updates on college decisions and acceptances
- Confirm college applications, types and deadlines with your house secretary

February

- Visit colleges; schedule an overnight to help compare colleges and make a final decision
- Research scholarship opportunities and check Naviance-Family Connection Scholarship List
- Enter in Naviance-Family Connection any updates on college decisions and acceptances
- Confirm college applications, types and deadlines with your house secretary
- Complete senior survey in Naviance-Family Connection as you hear back from colleges

March

- Visit colleges; schedule an overnight to help compare colleges and make a final decision
- Research scholarship opportunities and check Naviance-Family Connection
- Enter in Naviance-Family Connection any updates on college decisions and acceptances
- Complete ACCES VR (for students with IEP/504)

April

- Compare college acceptances and financial aid offers
- Make final decision as to which school you will attend and notify counselor and enter final college choice in Naviance-Family Connection in “College I am attending”
- Research scholarship opportunities and check Naviance-Family Connection
- Enter in Naviance-Family Connection any updates on college decisions and acceptances

May

- Enter final college choice in Naviance-Family Connection in “College I am attending”

June

- Complete Senior Survey on Naviance-Family Connection
- ***GRADUATION!!! ☺***

RECOMMENDED WEBSITES

Scholarships and Financial Aid

www.connection.naviance.com/mahopac
www.fafsa.ed.gov
www.hesc.com
www.collegeview.com
www.finaid.org
www.collegeboard.org
www.studentaid.ed.gov/guide
www.fastweb.com
www.collegeanswer.com

Testing and Test Prep (SAT, ACT and Test Optional Schools list)

www.actstudent.org
www.fairtest.org
www.collegeboard.com

Athletics

www.njcaa.org
www.ncaa.org
www.naia.org/

General Planning (college searches, information, and exploration)

www.connection.naviance.com/mahopac
www.collegeboard.org
www.commonapp.org
www.ed.gov
www.petersons.com
www.gocollege.com
www.nextstepu.com
www.mycollegeguide.org
www.collegeview.com

Career Resources

www.bls.gov/oco
careerzone.ny.gov
www.todaysmilitary.com
www.mappingyourfuture.org

Gap Year Programs

Thinkingbeyondborders.com
www.ciee.org/gap-year-abroad
www.afsusa.org/study-abroad/gap-year
www.interimprograms.com

