

INTO TO COLLEGE BASICS

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Somerville High School



Introductions

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Review of tonight's packet



EXPECTATIONS FOR TONIGHT

- We're talking about college tonight. There are many paths students can take after high school. Tonight's focus is on college.
- We're going over the basics!
- No question is too small – ask whatever is on your mind!



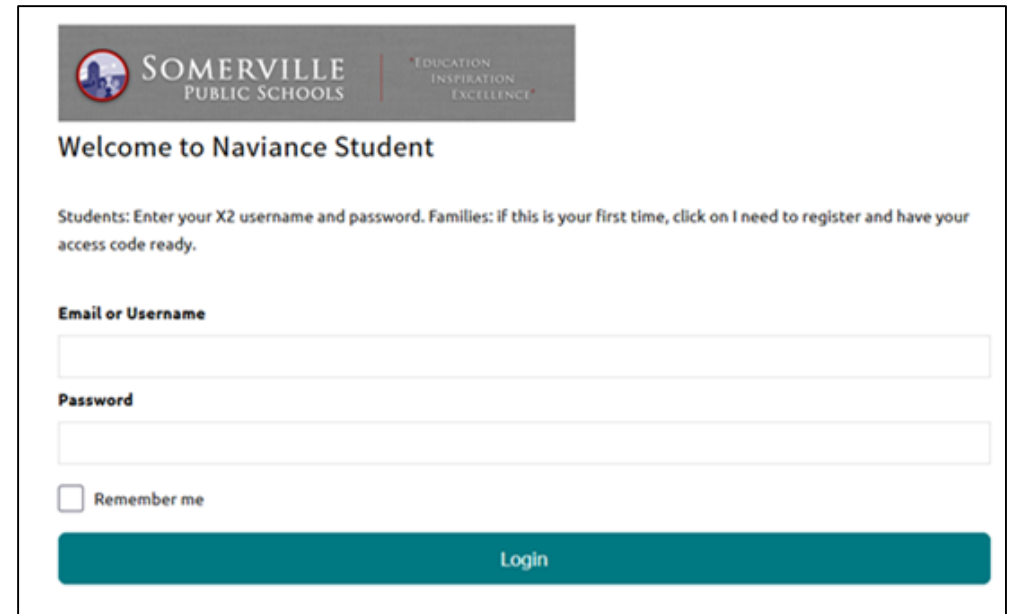
WHAT IS NAVIANCE?

- Before we begin with the “college knowledge” it is important that everyone here understands what Naviance is.
- Naviance is a web-based program for college tasks.
 - Search for colleges (scatterplots, search tools, etc.)
 - Complete brag sheets and request recommendations
 - Draft and final college lists
- Naviance is also an important communication tool
 - Emails, surveys, messages, etc.
- All 11th graders will be introduced to Naviance during meetings with their counselors!



SIGNING INTO NAVIANCE

- Students and families both have access at student.naviance.com/somervillehigh
- Refer to handout tonight for the sign-in process.
 - Students can log in with Aspen username and password
 - Families will need to register. Your code is your student's Student ID # (9-digit). After registration, you will log in with the email and password you enter.



The screenshot shows the login interface for Naviance Student. At the top, there is a header for Somerville Public Schools with the tagline 'EDUCATION INSPIRATION EXCELLENCE'. Below the header, the text reads 'Welcome to Naviance Student'. A message for students says 'Students: Enter your X2 username and password. Families: if this is your first time, click on I need to register and have your access code ready.' There are two input fields: 'Email or Username' and 'Password'. Below these fields is a checkbox labeled 'Remember me'. At the bottom, there is a teal 'Login' button.



In a student's junior year, they should focus on the Four P's:

- **P**erformance in school
- **P**assions, activities, and interests
- **P**ossible college list
- **P**reparation for SAT/ACT

WHERE
TO
START?



Performance in School

- Your academic performance this year is extremely important. It is the last full year of school college will see.
- Challenge yourself with difficult classes, but also know your limits.
 - Taking 2 challenging courses and getting A's is a better choice than taking 5 challenging courses and struggling with the workload. Keep this in mind for senior year course selection.
- If you find yourself struggling in school, make it a priority:
 - Seek extra help from your teacher
 - Ask for a tutor (we have them available!)



Passions, Activities, and Interests

- This is an important year to cultivate your passions and interests.
- Continue or increase commitment to your interests. Pursue leadership opportunities.
- Jobs count!
- Explore new activities, *if it is a genuine interest that you want to pursue. Do not add several activities this year to pad your resume. Quality is more important than quantity.*
- While this does “look good” to colleges, the real goal is to help you figure out your own interests and abilities so that you know what you want as you think about your future.



Prepare for SAT/ACT

- Take at least one SAT/ACT this year in your junior year. It will give you valuable information to inform your college list and will make senior year less stressful.
- Which one to take?
- PSAT – how/when to get scores, what do they mean?
 - Khan Academy
- SAT essay: This is usually not necessary, take it if you think writing is a strength of yours.
- Resources at SHS:
 - Let's Get Ready
 - Lentz & Lentz



Possible College List

- In your junior year, you should be exploring colleges to figure out what you want.
- You do not have to make any decisions about where you will apply.
- Research schools, think about your own goals and interests, visit schools, re-evaluate as necessary.
- On the next few slides, we'll give you some information to help get you get started with this research.

COLLEGE search 



TYPES OF COLLEGES & DEGREES

- Two Year Colleges – Associate’s Degree or Certificates
 - **Public Community Colleges:** Open enrollment, lower tuition
 - **Private Two-Year Colleges:** Tuition is higher, sometimes selective admission



TYPES OF COLLEGES & DEGREES

- **Four Year Colleges – Bachelor’s Degree**
 - **State/Public Colleges:** These are colleges that receive some funding from the state government. They still cost money to attend! Before financial aid, the tuition is typically less than private schools if you attend a public college in your own state.
 - **Private Schools:** These colleges do not receive any state or federal funding. The tuition is often higher (but the financial aid is also sometimes more generous).
 - **In-State vs. Out-of-State:** In-state colleges are only less expensive if they are public schools. Out-of-State public colleges and any private colleges have higher tuition.
 - **College vs University:** These terms refer to similar types of schools. The difference is usually in the size of the school or the number of graduate degrees that are offered.
 - **Liberal Arts vs Pre-Professional:** Liberal Arts (not politically liberal and not focused on arts!) values students choosing a major but also taking courses in english, history, math, science, etc. Pre-Professional programs focus on education for a specific profession (i.e. engineering, business, etc.)



COLLEGE RESEARCH

- How to schedule a tour and what questions to ask
 - Virtual tours
- Naviance tools
 - Search tool
 - Scattergram
 - Maps
- College board search
- Use college websites
- Finding out what you want and what you like!
- Knowing your realistic options



THE COLLEGE LIST

- Generally, 8-12 schools is an appropriate range. 12 schools are a lot. More than 12 may be too many.
- More importantly, you must have schools in each of the following categories (explained on next slide):
 - Reach
 - Match/Target
 - Safety/Likely
 - Financial Safety
- If you only have 6 schools, but they all have what you want and you have a reach, match, safety, and financial safety – that is great!



COLLEGE LIST CATEGORIES

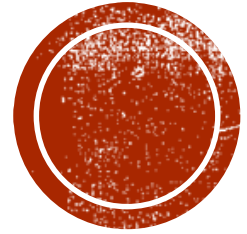
- **Reach** – You might be below the typical accepted grades and scores, but it is within reach. Or the school may be very selective. Reaches should be realistic.
- **Match** – You are within the range of typical accepted grades and scores. You have a reasonable chance at getting accepted.
- **Safety** – You are above the range of typical accepted grades and scores. There are no guarantees, but you have a pretty good chance of getting accepted.
- **Financial Safety** – This is a school that either has a lower tuition or gives very good financial aid.



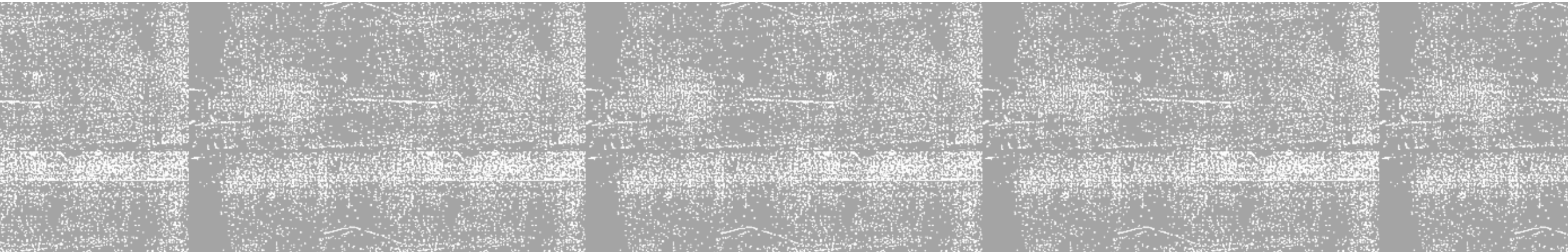
EARLY DECISION AND ACTION

- What is the difference?
 - Restricted early action
- What can and can't I do when applying early?
- Who should apply early and why?
- Questions to ask when applying early.





THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF COLLEGE APPS



WHAT'S IN A COLLEGE APPLICATION?

- College Application Form
 - Sometimes through Common App
 - Sometimes a separate application
- Teacher recommendations
- Counselor recommendation
- Transcript
- SAT/ACT Scores
- Application Fees
- Financial Aid Application



THE COMMON APPLICATION

- **What is it?** A college admission application that applicants can use to apply to many member colleges & universities. Students fill out one application and it can be sent to any college that accepts it.
- **Who accepts it?** More than 500 colleges and universities. Find out more at commonapp.org

THE COMMON
APPLICATION



WHAT IS ON THE COMMON APP?



Basic info: Name, birthdate, school, address, family information, high school classes, etc.



Activities: What are you involved with? Includes sports, clubs, jobs, community involvement, religious activities, etc.



Essay: Also called the Personal Statement. There are currently 5 essay questions. You choose one.



COMMON APP SUPPLEMENTS

- Some schools accept the Common Application but ask for a little more information just for them. They ask you to fill out a supplement.
- Supplements may ask for basic demographic info or for additional short answer or essay questions.



COLLEGES NOT ON COMMON APP

- Some colleges do not accept the Common Application. To find that school's own unique application, you should look on their website.
- **Components:** They will usually have similar components to the Common App.
 - Essay (usually)
 - Demographic info
 - Activities

Framingham State University
Office of Graduate Admissions
100 State Street, P.O. Box 9101
Framingham, MA 01701-9101
Tel: 508.626.4501 Fax: 508.626.4017
gradadmissions@framingham.edu
www.framingham.edu

Application for Graduate Admission
(Return pages 1 and 2, and retain pages 3, 4, and 5 for your records.)

A. Personal Information (Please type or print using pen.) Anticipated Term of Entry: Fall Spring

Social Security Number: _____ Sex: Male Female

Legal Name: _____
Last / Surname First Middle

Other name(s) under which records may appear: _____
(e.g., maiden name) Last / Surname First

Have you ever been convicted of a felony? Yes No If yes, please explain: _____

Mailing Address: _____
Number and Street

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Country, if foreign _____

Birthdate: _____ Birthplace: _____
Month Day Year State Only, or country if other than U.S.A.

Preferred method of contact: Home Telephone Business Telephone Cellular Telephone

Home: _____ Business: _____ Cell: _____
Area code + number Area code + number Area code + number

Email Address: _____

Ethnic/Racial Background (for statistical purposes only; optional) **Citizenship** (required):

1. Are you Hispanic/Latino? Yes No United States
2. What is your racial background? (Choose all that apply) Permanent Resident
 American Indian/Alaskan Native Cape Verdean Foreign (Country): _____
 Asian Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander Other (specify): _____
 Black/African American White

B. Concentrations (Please check the appropriate Concentration)

<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Spanish	Master of Science
<input type="checkbox"/> Curriculum and Instructional Technology (online)	<input type="checkbox"/> Special Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Coordinated Program in Dietetics*
<input type="checkbox"/> Early Childhood Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Grades PreK-8	<small>*Once accepted to the masters program in Food and Nutrition, a separate application is required for admission to the Coordinated Program in Dietetics. Applications are available at www.framingham.edu/nutrition and due February 28.</small>
<input type="checkbox"/> Education Technology	<input type="checkbox"/> Grades 9-12	<input type="checkbox"/> Food Science and Nutrition Science
<input type="checkbox"/> Elementary Education	<input type="checkbox"/> The Teaching of English as a Second Language	<input type="checkbox"/> Nutrition Education and Information
<input type="checkbox"/> English	Master of Arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> History	<input type="checkbox"/> Counseling Psychology	



TEACHER RECOMMENDATIONS

- Who to ask:
 - Usually need 1-2 from teachers from 11th or 12th grade.
 - Got a major? Pick a teacher in that field.
 - Pick teachers that know you well as a student. It doesn't have to be a class that you aced, just one where you worked hard.
- How are they submitted?
 - Students request these on Naviance. Teachers submit them directly to colleges through Naviance or the mail.
- What do colleges look for?
 - Teacher recommendations should talk about you as a **student**. Did you participate? How did you deal with a challenge? What do you contribute to a classroom? How do you work with teachers? Classmates?

ACCEPTED



COUNSELOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- Many times, colleges will ask for a recommendation from your counselor. You need to request a recommendation from your counselor. Do not assume they will write one.
- What do colleges look for? The counselor recommendation talks about your educational experience as a whole. Your academics, activities, personality, family, goals, etc.
- If you have a special circumstance that you want colleges to know about, talk to your counselor about including it in your recommendation.



TRANSCRIPT AND SCHOOL INFO

- **Transcript:** The courses you took in high school and your grades.
- **School Information:** School Profile, School Form
- **How is it submitted?** Students request these on Naviance in 12th grade. Counselors submit them directly to colleges through Naviance or through the mail.
- **What do colleges look for?**
 - Have you challenged yourself?
 - Have you done your best? Shown improvement?
 - School information helps provide context





SAT/ACT SCORES



- SATs or ACTS are taken in 11th grade.
 - Take them at least once. Twice is usually better. More than 3 is not advised.
 - SAT/ACT scores help them standardize admissions.
 - Not every college requires them. Some require SAT Subject tests as well. Do your research!
 - Sign up at collegeboard.org or actstudent.org
- How to submit:
 - **Student** submits scores directly through the test site.
 - You may need to pay to submit them.
 - It takes time, do not wait until the last minute.



APPLICATION FEES



- Most colleges require a fee to submit an application.
- Why? They want to make sure students are really interested before they submit an application. With no fees, you could submit applications to 30 schools without really knowing if you like the school!
- Fee waivers exist – talk to your counselor. Typically these are for students who qualify for free or reduced lunch but there are other reasons.



FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS

- Students applying for college should complete financial aid applications (FAFSA, CSS Profile)
- Students and families complete them in senior year (and every year in college after that).
- SHS partners with uAspire to assist with all of the steps of college affordability. The uAspire Advisor is available for individual student and family meetings. They help with developing a list with good financial options, financial aid applications, financial aid follow up, making good financial decisions about college enrollment, etc.



Junior Planning

- Classroom visits to your social studies class in early January
- Individual meetings with your school counseling in January, February, March
- Individual meetings with college & career counselor in March, April, May, June



Families Together Somerville

We are so excited to be launching a first generation mentoring program here at SHS. See your packet for more information!



Questions?

