

Rising Senior Night - Summary Handout

“Surely it is impossible to do away with the trials of the college-application process altogether. But college admissions would be less nerve-racking, and hang less ominously over the high school years, if it were better understood that a large number of colleges and universities can now provide students with an excellent education, sending them onward to healthy incomes and appealing careers. Harvard is marvelous, but you don't have to go there to get your foot in the door of life.”

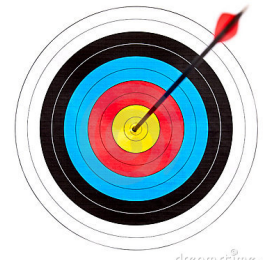
~ Gregg Easterbrook, “Who Needs Harvard” (The Atlantic)

Building Your College List:

- College is a match to be made, not a prize to be won
- Focus on “what college is best for me?” not “which college is best?”
- Deciding on Major, Size & Location can narrow your list quickly
- Developing the list of schools that you’re applying to is a two pronged approach:
 - Fit - Does this college have what you’re looking for?
 - Admissions Standards - Assessing yourself against the admissions criteria of the school

Reach / Target / Safety:

- Match academic abilities to the criteria set by the college
- It is recommended to apply to 8 to 12 schools, based on selectivity:
 - REACH (2-4)
 - TARGET (2-4)
 - SAFETY (LIKELY) (2-4)



Reach	Target	Safety
The school's acceptance rate is less than 35% Comparison to the Profile of Admitted Freshmen: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Your SAT/ACT scores are below the middle 50% range ● Your GPA is less than median 	The school's acceptance rate is between 35% to 50% Comparison to the Profile of Admitted Freshmen: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Your SAT/ACT scores are at or above the middle 50% range ● Your GPA is at or above the median 	The school's acceptance rate is between 50% to 75% Comparison to the Profile of Admitted Freshmen: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Your SAT/ACT scores are well above the middle 50% range, close to the top 25th percentile ● Your GPA is well above than median, close to the top 25th percentile

Suggested Sources for Information About Colleges:

Campus Visits	College Fairs	Information Sessions	Interviews
Contact local admission reps	Regional bus tours	Rep visits at BTHS	Virtual campus tours
Official College Websites	Online Directories	Brochures / mailings	Student review websites
Naviance	Talk to friends and family	Social Media	Lists & rankings
Organizations (ie: Colleges That Change Lives)	Books (ie: Fiske Guide)	BTHS Alumni Binder	LiveBinder Search Tools tab

Application Responsibilities

School Counselor	Student
<p>Initial Items Sent by BTHS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Official High School Transcript ● Teacher Letters of Rec / Evaluation ● Counselor Letter of Rec / Evaluation ● Secondary School Report ● School Profile <p><u>Additional School Items:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● First Quarter Grades (ED Applicants only) ● Mid-Year Report sent at the end of mp 2 ● Final Transcript sent at the end of the school year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Application Form, which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Personal and educational information ○ Extracurricular activities ○ Essays ● Common App Supplement ● Application Fee ● Standardized test scores (SAT/ACT) ● Financial Aid Forms - CSS Profile & FAFSA ● School Document / Transcript Request Forms ● Additional Components (dependent upon the school / program) such as an interview or portfolio.

Application Process Notes:

- Early Decision is a Binding Agreement. By applying ED, you agree to attend the college if accepted and must accept their financial aid package.
- Sending Test Scores: High Schools are not able to send official score reports to colleges. It is each student's responsibility to release and send their scores!
- For each college you are applying to, Transcript / School Document requests must be submitted to guidance at least 10 school days before the application deadline.

Junior Year Checklist:

- College Planning Survey
- Individual meeting with counselor
- Build Prospective College List in Naviance
 - Research
 - Naviance SuperMatch & other inventories
- Connect with colleges (demonstrate interest)
- Letters of recommendation:
 - Request forms
 - Student Brag Sheets for teachers and counselor
 - Parent Brag Sheet for counselor
- Naviance resume
- Common App essay rough draft
- Testing - SAT, SAT Subject Tests and/or ACT
- Finalize summer plans

Summer:

- Extended Essay
- Enrichment Programs / Activities (CAS)
- College Research, Communication & Visits
- August 1st - start Common Application
- Start other college applications
- Write college essays
- SAT / ACT Prep

