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# Fall Senior Information

Class of 2022

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# Fun Facts

According to the US Bureau of Labor and Statistics, 5 of the top 10 occupations with highest level of job growth projected 2019-29 require a 2-year degree or less. Of the other 5, 2 require a Master's Degree.

When completing a senior survey, most years about 60%-68% of MWHS graduating seniors indicate that they will be attending a 4 year college. That means on average 32%-40% choose some other post-secondary path: 2-year degree, certificate or diploma program, military, gap year, full-time employment, etc.

When writing a college essay the topic is not nearly as important as how your authentic voice and viewpoint are expressed as a way for the admissions review committee to 'get into your head'.

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**How can we help you?**

**[Class of 2022 Fall Senior Survey](#)**

**Please complete the survey linked above!**

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# Many Post-Secondary Options!



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## Those requiring college applications:

- Public or Private 4-year college/university
- Public or private 2-year college
  - Community College
  - Technical College
    - Certificate
    - Diploma
    - Degree

## Those not requiring college applications:

- Military
  - [Apprenticeship Programs](#)
  - Certification courses
    - Real Estate
    - Flight Attendant
    - Cosmetology
  - [Formal Gap Year Programs](#)
  - Full-time work
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# Overview of Senior Year



## First Semester:

- **Finalize list of colleges or post-secondary plans**
  - Retake ACT/SAT - if needed
  - College applications - if needed
  - Financial Aid Night - Sept. 27th
  - Complete the FAFSA - if applicable

## Second Semester:

- **Make a final decision and follow all necessary steps**
    - Apply to local scholarships - if applicable
    - Complete Senior Survey
    - Update Naviance
    - Request a final transcript - if needed
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If you haven't already,  
finalize your list of  
colleges that you will  
apply to.



## How do you do that?

### Gather Information!

- Online research
  - Naviance
  - Specific college sites
- Campus visits
- College Rep visits
- Discussions with parents, teachers, coaches, etc.
- [National College Fair - Virtual](#)

# National College Fairs - Virtual



## College Fair

Find institutions that match your interests:

- filter by attribute (campus size, etc.)
- mark favorites for later follow up
- 1:1 text and video chat
- join group video chats in the booth
- download materials/brochures



## Educational Sessions

Live and on-demand topics like:

- writing college essays
- financial aid
- college application workshops



## College Presentations

Learn about:

- residence life
- programs offered
- what makes them unique

# College Applications: 3 2 main parts



## Application Form:

- Most schools offer application options:
  - Institutional App
  - Common App
  - Coalition App
- Completed online

## Official High School Transcript:

- Some colleges allow grades & GPA to be self reported
- If using the Common App - official transcript will be sent by counselor through the Secondary School Report.
- For all other colleges, official transcripts must be requested through [Parchment](#)
- Cost per transcript (F/R waivers)



## ACT/SAT Test Scores:

Most colleges are test optional or test blind for the Class of 2022.

MWHS does not send test scores to colleges

1. Through test registration
2. Request additional score report



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# College Application Options

## Common Application:

Can be used if applying to multiple colleges that accept the Common App. [Common App Guide](#) can be used to help you get started.

Once you add schools under MY COLLEGES you will be able to see that school's specific requirements. Please invite your counselor under the FERPA/Recommenders section. Use our @westonka.k12.mn.us email address.

If recommenders are required by your colleges, be sure to check with those people, provide them with a completed copy of the [MWHS Recommendation Form](#) and allow at least 2 weeks.

## Institutional Application:

Specific to each college

Found on college website under admissions. Look for an APPLY NOW button.

Will require account set up

Requirements will vary by college: academic history, essay, recommendation form, etc.

[\\*Coalition Application](#): is less popular but is an option for some schools

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# Some College Applications may have additional components/requirements

## Counselor Forms:

- Not required by all colleges.
- Might also be called a Secondary School Report
- Is a mandatory part of the Common App
- Notify counselor and submit a [MWHS Recommendation Form](#)
- Expect a 2 week turnaround time

## Recommendations:

- Not required by all colleges
  - Understand the process and notify the teacher/advisor
  - Submit a [MWHS Recommendation Form](#)
  - Allow enough time (at least 2 weeks)
  - Write a THANK YOU note
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# Sending HS Transcripts

**\*Note:** If applying to a college using the Common App, an official transcript will be sent by your counselor through the Secondary School Report. You don't need to request through Parchment.

Parchment: secure electronic transcript delivery service. All transcript requests must go through Parchment if not using the Common App.

Instructional video: Set up an account if you did not last spring. Will need one to send your final transcript at the end of the year - even if using the Common App right now.

Recommended that you use an email other than your school email.

Record your username and password, MWHS does not have access to this.

Every time you make a request, your most updated transcript gets sent (not a copy of what might be stored in your account from when you first set up the account).

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# ACT/SAT

ACT is not required for most school for the class of 2022: most test optional, some test free (will not look at scores).. For test optional: If you feel like your score is an accurate representation of your ability and will help your chances of admission, you should submit it.

If you choose not to submit a test score, you should assume that other parts of your application (class rigor, GPA, activities) will weigh more heavily on admission decision.

If retake is desired:

- Students register online at [MyACT](#) - an account was created last spring
- Registration deadline is about 1 month prior to test date
- Test dates: October 23rd and December 11th

## Sending Scores

- Refer to [MyACT](#) account that you set up prior to district testing last spring.
  - There is a cost (around \$14) per score sent.
  - Since most colleges require scores directly from ACT/SAT, MWHS does not send scores.
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MN Office of Higher Education sponsors the MN Goes to College initiative. Part of that initiative is College Knowledge Month in October.

- Several Minnesota schools have waived application fees during all or part of the month. [Here](#) is a list with specific information.
  - Counselors will be hosting optional College Application Help Sessions during WIN time in late September.
    - Dates: 9/23, 9/30
    - Win 2
    - English Open Area
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# College Costs

**Tuition and Fees** - amount varies depending on the school, number of credit hours, whether or not you are a resident, etc.

**Room and Board** - cost of campus housing and meal plan

**Books and Supplies** - materials that you will need for classes

**Personal Expenses** - things you would normally spend money on (cell phone, gas, laundry, entertainment, etc.)

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# FAFSA

## Free Application for Federal Student Aid



- Complete the FAFSA each year as soon after October 1st as possible.
  - You will use your 2020 tax information (prior, prior year).
  - This form is used to determine what amount of money a family is expected to contribute to the cost of attending a postsecondary institution = Expected Family Contribution (EFC)
  - The EFC is used by colleges/universities to determine student grants, loans and work study amounts.
  - [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) - make sure that you use the .gov not .com. You do not need to pay anything to complete the FAFSA.
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**FINANCIAL AID**  
COLLEGE OR CAREER SCHOOL





# Financial Aid Information

Financial Aid Information Night  
Monday, September 27th at  
6:30pm in the PAC



- Speaker: Susan Ant, Director of Financial Aid and Scholarships at Normandale Community College
  - In depth review of the FAFSA: Free Application for Federal Student Aid process
  - Available to answer specific questions
  - Parents and students are invited
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# Sources of Financial Aid

- **Federal/State Aid**
    - Complete the FAFSA
    - Need-based
  - **Institutional Aid**
    - Varies from school to school
    - Some need-based and some merit-based
    - Might need to complete an additional form (i.e. CSS Profile)
  - **Private Aid**
    - Scholarships and grants
    - Mostly merit-based
    - Individual applications
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# Scholarships

- Local Scholarship Program - more information to come in February
  - Financial Aid Office of the college/university that you plan to attend
  - Employers or service organizations that your parents or other family members belong to
  - National scholarship search sites
    - Sallie Mae Scholarship Search through Naviance
    - Fastweb: <https://www.fastweb.com/college-scholarships>
    - Finaid: <https://finaid.org/scholarships/>
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# What to do/When to do it: NOW

## If pursuing an option that requires an application:

- Narrow down choices
- Complete applications for admission to college of your choice
- Attend Financial Aid Information Night: September 27th 6:30 PM PAC
- Complete and submit the FAFSA - official form available on October 1st.

## If pursuing an option that does not require an application:

- Research options of interest
  - Military
  - [Apprenticeship Programs](#)
  - Certification courses
    - Real Estate
    - Flight Attendant
    - Cosmetology
  - [Formal Gap Year Programs](#)
  - Full-time work

# What to do/When to do it: MEA - Spring Break

## If pursuing an option that requires an application:

- Complete and submit applications if not done
- Search for national scholarships
- Research institutional scholarship availability - complete necessary forms
- Submit the local scholarship application (through Naviance in February)

## If pursuing an option that does not require an application:

- Set up a shadow opportunity, informational interview or informational meeting
- Meet with or get in communication with appropriate representatives
- Complete any necessary application or other paperwork.

# What to do/When to do it: Spring Break and June

## If pursuing an option that requires an application:

- Review financial aid packages
- Confirm enrollment at college of your choice and adhere to deposit deadlines
- Request a final transcript to be sent to the college that you plan to attend
- Complete the required senior survey at that end of the year - through WIN with counselors

## If pursuing an option that does not require an application:

- Confirm enrollment or start date
- Follow through on any program specific requirements to assure a smooth transition
- Complete the required senior survey at the end of the year - through WIN with counselors

# Need Help?

## MWHS

- No matter where you are in the process, we're happy to work through the steps with you and evaluate your options.
  - Email us for an appointment
  - Make an appointment with Ms. Laube in guidance
- WIN Help Sessions September 23 & 30

## Digital Resources:

- College Essay Guy (Web, Instagram, youtube)
- AdmissionsMaven (TikTok, Instagram)