

# Post-High School Counseling Update for Class of 2024 NTPTA

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# Landscape of College admissions

- Impact of COVID in enrolling a freshman and returning class
- Impacted (more popular programs)
  - Computer science/engineering
  - Business
- Class of 2021
  - Overenrolling due to uncertainty of how many students will deposit
  - Impact on housing
- Class of 2022
  - Institutional needs of specific schools
  - More cautious, thoughtful in their admission (yielding to their final number)
  - Shifting in time of admissions decisions (early action to regular decision)



# Landscape of College admission

- Class of 2023 – Due to high volume of applications (and limited staff to review) many colleges and universities have deferred or push back notifications to students
  - Where many students in the past received admissions prior to Winter Break, more schools are choosing to evaluate through first semester grades and respond February/March



# History of Test Optional

- After a record number of test-takers in 2016, number of students sitting for standardized tests has decreased
- Currently, roughly 3.8% of colleges/universities have SAT/ACT required for admission
- ACT vs SAT?
  - State of IL moved to SAT testing 5 years ago as state assessment



# History of Test Optional

- Number of schools adopting a “test optional” policy has increased tremendously in the past few years
  - Initially, many schools decided test optional in order to put more focus on other parts of the student application (holistic, liberal arts)
  - Due to pandemic, many schools adopted test optional due to barriers of sitting for a standardized test
  - With the University of California going test blind in 2022, the desire for institutions across the country to draw applicants from California specifically may impact their use of test scores.



## Impact of test optional policies

- Students have the *power* to sit for (and prep) for as many tests as they like, but still apply as test optional if they are not happy with their final score
- Overall middle 50% of scores for many colleges/programs has maintained (or even increased) due to students choosing not to submit scores





## Impact of test optional policies (cont'd)

- Initial feedback from schools is that applicant pool/admit pool is equally balanced (for the most part) at colleges/universities
- Increased focus on curriculum and grades earned in chosen curriculum (unweighted grade point average) should students apply as test optional



## Looking ahead with rising seniors

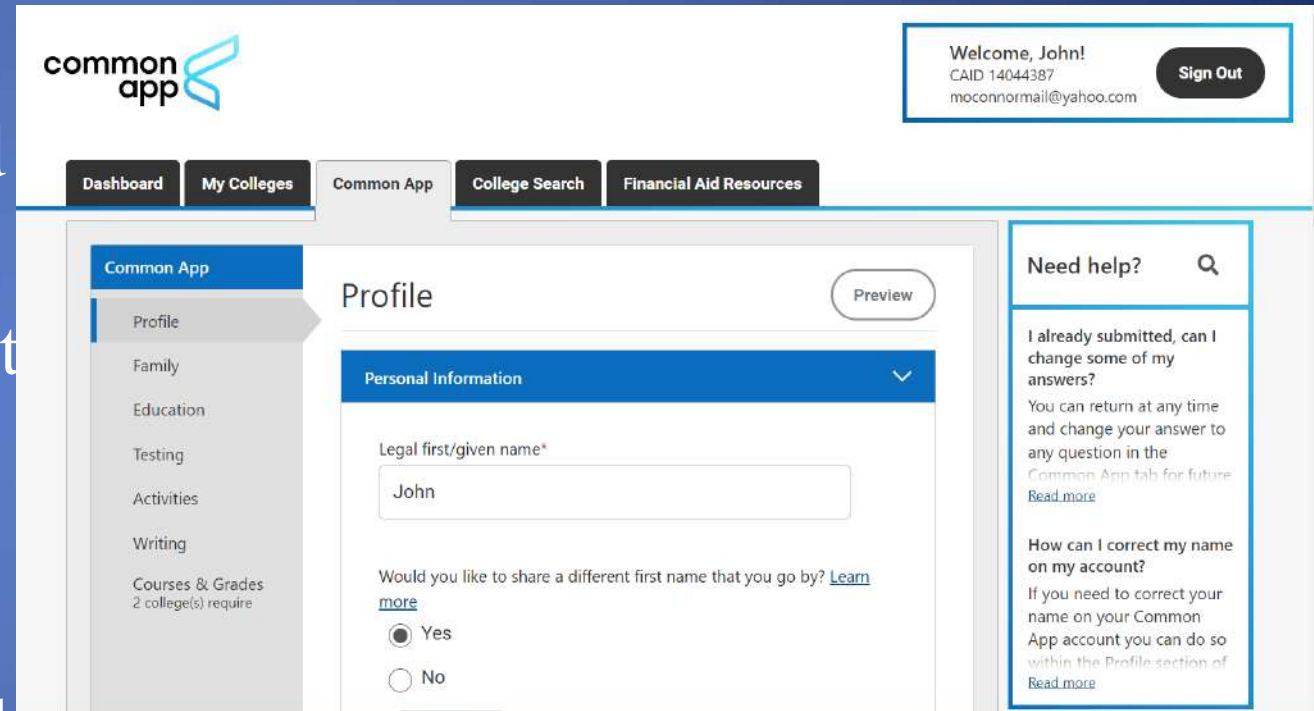
- Thoughtful research on a variety of options
- College visits to gain firsthand perspective on opportunities available at schools on their list
- Making productive use of the summer
  - PHSC sponsored Workshops and individual meetings with their post-high school counselor
    - Common App Workshops in August (after app goes live for Class of 2024)





# Common Application

- One Application portal that is used by over 1000 college and universities
- Students have ability to submit general info to each of their schools
- Supplemental questions and short answers may be required (depending on the school)



The screenshot displays the Common App user interface. At the top left is the 'common app' logo. On the top right, a user is logged in as 'John!' with CAID 14044387 and email moconnormail@yahoo.com, with a 'Sign Out' button. A navigation bar includes 'Dashboard', 'My Colleges', 'Common App' (selected), 'College Search', and 'Financial Aid Resources'. The left sidebar lists sections: 'Common App', 'Profile' (selected), 'Family', 'Education', 'Testing', 'Activities', 'Writing', and 'Courses & Grades' (noted as requiring 2 colleges). The main 'Profile' section has a 'Preview' button and a 'Personal Information' dropdown. It contains a text field for 'Legal first/given name\*' with 'John' entered, and a question 'Would you like to share a different first name that you go by?' with 'Yes' selected. A 'Need help?' sidebar on the right contains two FAQ items: 'I already submitted, can I change some of my answers?' and 'How can I correct my name on my account?'. The bottom right corner features a large crest with the text 'PORTA NIGRA'.

## Continuing advisor room visits and updates to juniors

- Consider sitting for both ACT and SAT (state-sponsored test in April) to compare their scores
- Securing teacher recommendations prior to end of Junior year
- Schedule initial meeting and follow up meetings as needed
- After May 1, gain insight about decisions for class of 2023 and what admission trends are current (test optional/by major or program/Early Decision use)
- Finish as strong as possible!



## ABC's to know

- Early Action
- Early Decision
- Priority decision
- Demonstrated Interest
- FAFSA
- CSS Profile



## Campus Visits

- Ideal Opportunity is to see students on campus
- Spring Break may allow students to preview local options/representative of other types of campuses
  - UIC, DePaul, Loyola, Lake Forest College, North Central College
- Make sure to check availability, weekend visits are more challenging to find
- Plan for 3 hours on campus
  - Tour, Info session, visit student union/library

