

RISING SENIOR CONNECTION

April 25, 2017

A brief overview of how to
prepare for the world of
college applications.



WHAT TO EXPECT THIS EVENING ...

Important Items to Know

Junior/ Senior Year Timeline

Questions?



THINGS TO KNOW: WHAT ARE COLLEGES LOOKING FOR?

The admission process varies from university to university. In general these factors are important when admissions offices consider your application:

- Grades (GPA)
- Rigorous course selection based upon what we offer at CHS (Honors and AP)
- Class Rank (May express as a top % of class)
- Test Scores (ACT/SAT)
- Extracurricular Involvement with leadership
- Community Service
- Essay responses, if applicable
- Letters of recommendation, if applicable



THINGS TO KNOW: PARTS OF AN APPLICATION

There are a few things you will want to make sure you submit with every application:

- **Application (personal info, essays, etc.)**
- **Transcript**
- **ACT / SAT Scores**

* It is the student's responsibility to follow up with the college to make sure all components of the application are received. It can take up to 4 weeks for items to post to your student account.



THINGS TO KNOW: ADDITIONAL POTENTIAL PARTS OF AN APPLICATION

- Essays (if required— however, it is a good idea to complete optional essays!)
- Letters of Recommendation (if required)
- Some majors within a university require a separate application, portfolio or audition.
- There may also be a separate application to apply to honors colleges and/or school-specific scholarships.
- Call or email the admissions office with questions, they are there to help you!



THINGS TO KNOW: HOW TO APPLY

Colleges prefer that you apply online. You can use one of a variety of methods:

- University website
- CFNC – all North Carolina colleges (public and private)
- Common Application (not all schools use Common App)

THINGS TO KNOW: APPLICATION DEADLINES

Early Decision: Binding decision. If accepted, a student must enroll or lose an enrollment deposit. A student accepted under early decision must withdraw all other college apps. Students may only apply to one early decision deadline/school

Early Action: Nonbinding decision. A student may apply early but can apply to other colleges early and make a decision in the Spring.

(Acceptance rates are usually higher for ED / EA Applicants, but are more selective)

Regular Decision: Nonbinding decision. A student applies with the standard applicant pool.



WHY APPLY EARLY?

You may have more access to scholarships within the university.

You receive an earlier admission response.

Only apply Early Decision if you know that a particular school is a definite first choice.





THINGS TO KNOW: SENDING TRANSCRIPTS

In State:

- Send your transcript through CFNC for FREE.
 - Allow 3-5 days to be posted and 2 weeks for the college to receive.
 - Directions to sending your transcript through CFNC are on the School Counseling website.

Out of State:

- Complete our form (in student services) and provide \$3 for each transcript for processing.
- Transcripts will be processed within 5 school days. Students must pick up the transcripts and are responsible for mailing them to the colleges.

Common App and some other school sites allow counselors to post the transcript electronically.

- This method is also FREE.

THINGS TO KNOW: SENDING TEST SCORES

Submission of test scores (ACT and SAT) to each university is the **student's responsibility** as part of their application.

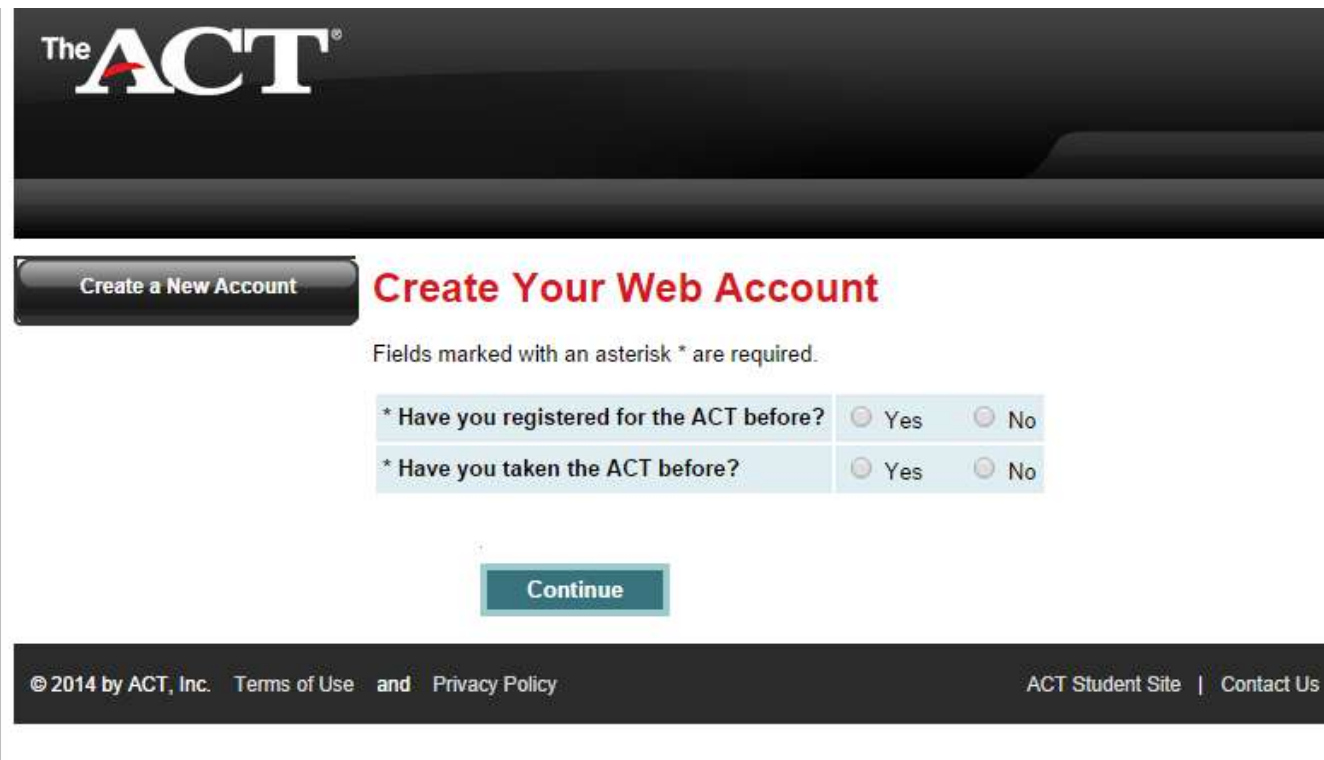
For scores to be considered official, they must be requested to be sent directly to the college from College Board (SAT) or ACT.org (ACT).

CHS does not send test scores.



VIEWING / SENDING ACT SCORES ONLINE

To access the ACT test scores that you received from the CHS Administration, please create an ACT account and answer the following questions accordingly:



The screenshot shows the ACT website's account creation page. At the top is the 'The ACT' logo. Below it is a button labeled 'Create a New Account'. The main heading is 'Create Your Web Account' in red. A note states 'Fields marked with an asterisk * are required.' There are two questions, each with 'Yes' and 'No' radio button options: '* Have you registered for the ACT before?' and '* Have you taken the ACT before?'. A green 'Continue' button is centered below the questions. The footer contains copyright information '© 2014 by ACT, Inc.', links for 'Terms of Use' and 'Privacy Policy', and 'ACT Student Site | Contact Us'.

The ACT®

[Create a New Account](#)

Create Your Web Account

Fields marked with an asterisk * are required.

* Have you registered for the ACT before?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
* Have you taken the ACT before?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No

[Continue](#)

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If you have problems linking your account, please contact 319-337-1270

ESSAYS:

Essays allow the admissions counselor to get to know you. (Think of the essay as an opportunity to help yourself, stand out ... a chance for your application to come to life)

Essays should

- Be unique to you, genuine.
- Be reflective (How did you grow? How did you change? How did you make a difference?)
- Be creative
- Be specific – it is better to zero in on a specific example than be broad and vague.



THINGS TO KNOW: RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations are a big part of the college application and scholarship process.

Requirements vary –

- Some schools require that you send 1-3 recommendations, some schools are optional and some schools explicitly say NOT to send recommendations.
- Please allow ample time (3-4 weeks) for teachers and counselors to write recommendations.
- If you are asking **teachers** to write a recommendation, it is always great to include a resume with the request.



THINGS TO KNOW: SR. RECOMMENDATION PACKET

If you are asking **counselors** to write a recommendation, please be sure to complete the Senior Recommendation Packet accessible via the CHS website.

This packet will help us write a more thorough recommendation for you.

This information can be completed prior to the start of your Senior year. Use your time now or over the summer to complete this.



THE SPRING OF YOUR JUNIOR YEAR

- Keep your grades up.
- Research five to seven colleges that interest you.
- Visit colleges and create a list of questions to ask on campus visits.
 - Be sure to ask for documentation from the college that you visited for attendance purposes. Submit to Ms. Rutowski within 3 days of your return.
- Start or update an academic resume.
- Maintain good relationships with teachers and counselor, they will be writing your recommendations.
- Register for the SAT and ACT (Juniors took the ACT on February 28th at CHS.)
- If you plan to participate in athletics in college, you will need to register through the NCAA Clearinghouse and provide transcript.



THE SUMMER BEFORE YOUR SENIOR YEAR

- Continue to make college visits during the summer before your Senior year.
- Narrow down school choices to your top five.
 - Your list may include 1 dream school, 2-3 competitive schools, 1 fall back school.
- Finalize your resume.
- Begin or complete your Senior Recommendation Packet.
- New SAT test date: August 26, 2017



THE FALL OF YOUR SENIOR YEAR

- Sign up for and take the SAT / ACT if you have not done so.
- Keep working hard all year and keep your grades up- no senioritis.
- Make a master calendar of all deadlines for applications and scholarships.
- Be sure to record all application login information.
- Ask for recommendations from teachers, school counselors, or employers early in the year (if needed).
- Visit with admissions counselors who come to your high school. Visits are posted on the CHS website.

THE FALL OF YOUR SENIOR YEAR

- Begin your college essay(s), if applicable.
- Apply for admission and confirm receipt of all application materials. Deadlines vary and some are as early as October!
- Find out if you qualify for scholarships at each college to which you have applied.
- Visit the CHS website for current scholarship opportunities.
- Start the financial aid application process —you can complete your FAFSA in **October** of your Senior year.

THE SPRING OF YOUR SENIOR YEAR

- Watch the mail for your Student Aid Report (SAR) after the FAFSA is filed and compare financial packages.
- Continue to look for scholarship opportunities.
- Keep track of important financial aid and scholarship deadlines.
- Decide which college to attend, and notify the school of your decision.



THE SPRING OF YOUR SENIOR YEAR

- Notify schools you will *not attend* of your decision.
- Sign and send in a promissory note if you are borrowing money.
- Keep track of and observe deadlines for sending in all required fees and paperwork.
- Send thank-you notes to individuals who completed letters of recommendation on your behalf as well as those who awarded scholarships.



QUESTIONS?

