

"CLASS OF 2021"  
COLLEGE PREP  
PRESENTATION

# ADDING COLLEGES TO YOUR LIST



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- ✘ Big Future College Search (Search colleges by location, major, test scores, etc)
- ✘ <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>
- ✘ Look at the college websites for more information (Virtual tours)
- ✘ Research colleges on Naviance (Under the “Search colleges” box, type in a college or you can use the “Find Your Fit” feature under the “Colleges” tab)
- ✘ Add colleges to “Colleges I’m Thinking About” List on Naviance



# PRIVATE / OUT OF STATE APPLICATIONS

- ✗ Many of your applications will be on the **Common App**
- ✗ <https://www.commonapp.org/>
- ✗ Application Guide for First-Time Students
- ✗ <https://www.commonapp.org/apply/first-time-students>
- ✗ Some schools might have their own application (on their website)
- ✗ Make sure to talk to the admissions office if you have any questions or are unsure about something in the application! *\*Take advantage of college rep visits at South High School &/or virtual presentations*





# EARLY ACTION

- ✘ Apply early
- ✘ **NON-BINDING:** You will receive an early response but DO NOT have to commit to this college.
- ✘ Make your decision by the normal reply date of May 1st.

# EARLY DECISION

- ✘ Apply early (Usually November) to **1st choice college**
- ✘ **BINDING:** You will receive an early response. If you are accepted you MUST attend that college.

*These are options that should only be used if the school is your absolute **top choice** AND you have a **competitive application**.*

*If you do not get into the first cycle of applications, some colleges will add you back into the bigger pool of applications but not all of them.*





# WUE: WESTERN UNDERGRADUATE EXCHANGE

- ✘ <http://www.wiche.edu/wue>
- ✘ Students who are residents of participating states may be eligible to request a reduced tuition rate at participating two and four-year college programs outside of their home state.
- ✘ Not all eligible candidates will receive WUE. Many institutions limit the number of new WUE awards each academic year, or only give it for certain majors, so research the colleges you want to apply to.



# WUE: WESTERN UNDERGRADUATE EXCHANGE

- ✘ Some colleges automatically consider you for WUE, but at others, you have to put in a separate request for it, so check with the colleges you're applying to.
- ✘ Used in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.





# REQUESTING LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

- ✘ **UC/CSU's do not require letters of recommendation!!**
- ✘ Check carefully with each college about who is allowed to write a recommendation letter for you. Some specifically say that the letters must be from core teachers.
- ✘ If someone from an outside organization (job, volunteer supervisor, etc.) is writing you a recommendation letter, they cannot send it through Naviance. They will need to mail, email, etc. to the college.
- ✘ Do not wait until the last minute to ask for letters of recommendation
- ✘ Ask your teachers and counselor for recommendation letters *\*Via email/Virtual meeting if needed* **Deadline to ask: Oct. 1st for EA, ED, & RA/ Nov. 1st for Regular Decision.**
- ✘ DO NOT ask for additional recommendation letters from teachers if you only need 1 or 2.

You must fill out your "Senior Brag Sheet" found on Naviance and turn it into your counselor. The more detailed your brag sheet is, the better!



# SCHOLARSHIPS & FINANCIAL AID

✘ Fill out the FAFSA/Dream ACT Application \*Whichever applies to you.

✘ (Beginning October 1st, Priority Deadline March 2nd)

<https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>

✘ [www.csac.ca.gov/dream\\_act.asp](http://www.csac.ca.gov/dream_act.asp) \*For non-US Citizens *Visit your counselor during the Fall semester, for more information on the Dream Act.*

✘ Some colleges may require the CSS Profile (An application to receive non-federal financial aid)

✘ Many colleges have a special, early priority deadline that you have to apply by in order to be eligible for their scholarships. Check those dates on their website.

✘ Apply to scholarships!!! (Using Naviance, Fast Web, Local Scholarships)

✘ Apply to your dream school just to see what happens, even if you know it's expensive! You never know what they might give you!





# ESSAY & PERSONAL STATEMENTS

- ✘ All colleges will require a different number of essays/personal statements (& *some will not have any at all*)
- ✘ This is one of the ways the people reading your application get to know you!
- ✘ ALWAYS make sure that your essays focus on you as a person, even if you're writing about something/someone else. Make sure that the story comes back to you, and proves why your life influences have made you who you are, and further, why you'll be amazing in the future as a result.
- ✘ Have different people read & edit them
- ✘ We encourage you to start working on these prompts over the summer!

Common App Essay Prompts

UC Personal Insight Questions



# TRANSCRIPTS

- ✘ Some colleges will require an INITIAL transcript
- ✘ Many schools will ask you to submit a MIDYEAR (Usually available mid-February. Midyear includes first semester senior grades) We will tell you how that process works after we come back from winter break.

Initial transcript requests can be requested via online through a google form. Link will be provided once Fall semester begins.



# WHAT SHOULD I BE WORKING ON RIGHT NOW?

- ❑ Research colleges (*Start adding to “Colleges I’m Thinking About” list on Naviance*)
- ❑ Brainstorm possible teachers you would like to ask for Letters of Recommendation (*\*If needed*)
- ❑ Begin working on Senior Brag Sheet found on Naviance
- ❑ Write down in planner important dates (Application deadlines, testing dates, etc.)
- ❑ Begin working on essay prompts/personal statement (*\*If needed*)

**[Free Recorded Virtual College Exploration Webinars](#)** (*scroll to bottom of page*)

# WHAT SHOULD I BE WORKING ON RIGHT NOW / OVER THE SUMMER?

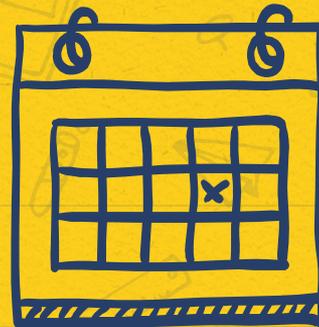
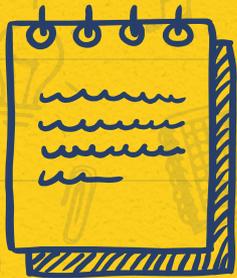
- ❑ Update “Resume” on Naviance (Organize volunteer work hours, extra-curricular activities, etc.)
- ❑ Brainstorm or research internship/volunteer opportunities you can take part in during the Summer before your Senior year (Virtual volunteer opportunities, if needed)
- ❑ Look up SAT/ACT testing dates (*Due to COVID-19, tests were cancelled for the month of June. Check Collegeboard for more information.*)

<https://pages.collegeboard.org/sat-covid-19-updates>

# IMPORTANCE OF ADDING COLLEGES ON YOUR NAVIANCE:

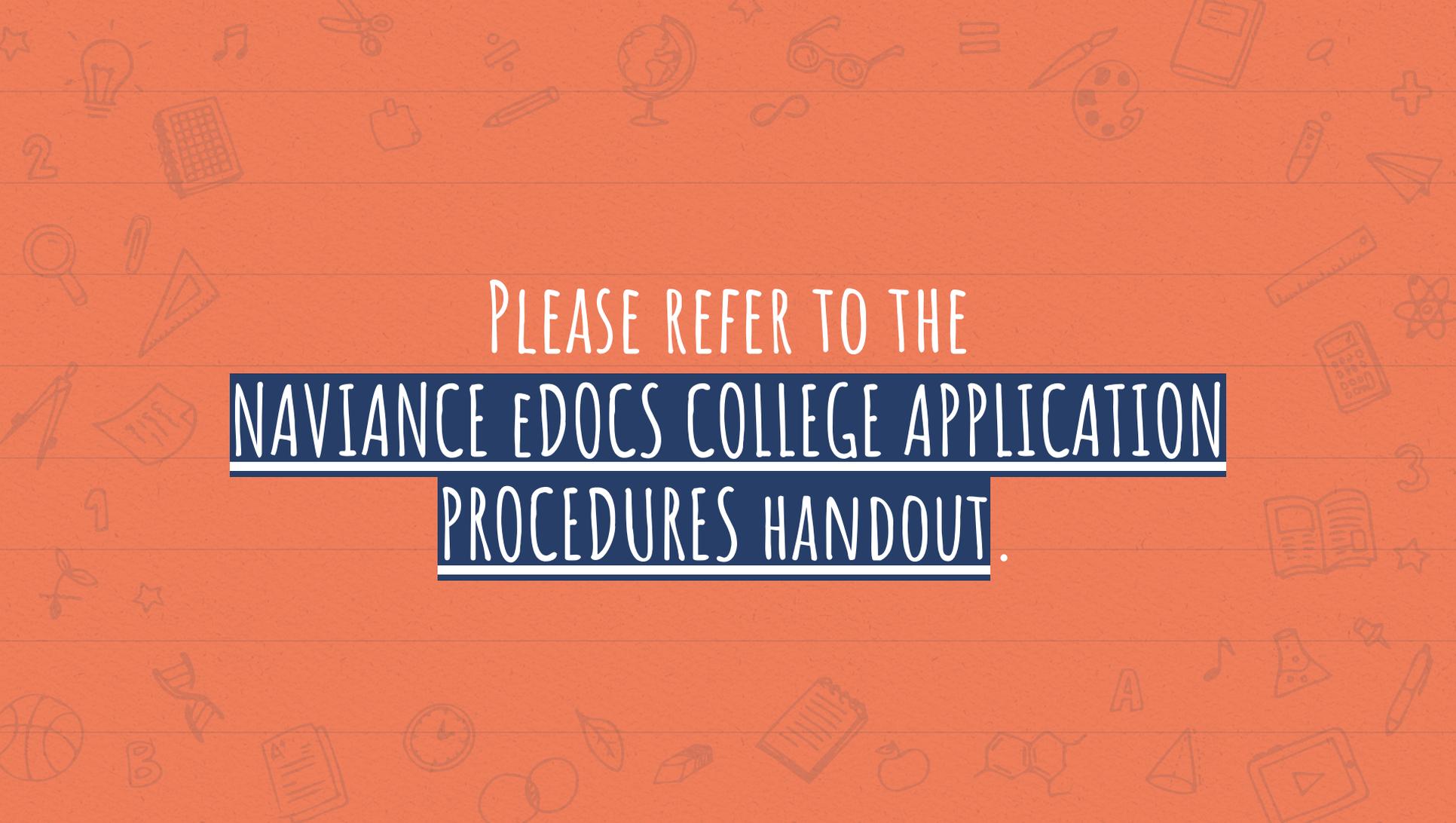
✘ What happens if I DO NOT add the colleges I applied to on Naviance:

- ✘ Teachers/counselors will NOT be able to submit letters of recommendation
- ✘ Counselors will NOT be able to send in your transcripts
- ✘ Or your Secondary School Report



STAY ON TOP OF  
DEADLINES!





PLEASE REFER TO THE  
**NAVIANCE EDOCS COLLEGE APPLICATION  
PROCEDURES HANDOUT.**

# SENIOR MONTHLY CHECKLIST

Check out the Senior Monthly Checklist. Senior year is filled with things for you to do to make sure you are college ready. This is a great guide for students to use to make sure you are on track and not missing anything. *\*We understand that with the worldwide pandemic, COVID-19, things might be a little different.*