

**South Windsor
High School
Post-Secondary
Planning Presentation
2020-21**



Senior Letter

- Sent to families in late August
- Transcript, which includes courses taken, cumulative weighted GPA and grades earned for each class
- Credits needed in specific areas to graduate as well as overall credits needed
- If a course change is needed, please contact your school counselor

Meet with your School Counselor

- Email your school counselor as often as needed.
- An in-person, 1 to 1 meeting, arranged through email, may be necessary to discuss courses, post-secondary plans, other issues of urgency that cannot be handled through email

Counselor Meeting Options

- Email
- Google meet 1pm-2:15pm daily
- In-person meetings (when necessary)
- In case of emergency, please come to School Counseling without hesitation and we will be able to assist.

SAT

- SAT Dates
 - free, school day SAT on Sept. 23 (all seniors)
 - Sept. 26
 - Oct. 3 @SWHS
 - Nov. 7 @SWHS
 - Dec. 5
- Please be aware that highly competitive colleges may require SAT Subject tests

SAT continued

- Sign up for SATs and SAT Subject tests on www.collegeboard.org and be aware of registration deadlines
- SWHS does not send SAT scores to colleges. Students must send scores directly from Collegeboard to colleges
- Free SAT practice on Khan Academy

Post Secondary Options

- Work force
- Military
- 2 year options
 - trade school
 - community college (MCC, Asnuntuck CC, Capital CC)
- 4 year options
 - safety, match and reach colleges

Safety, Match and Reach

- **Safety College**
 - Your academic history (transcript, GPA, test scores, etc.) is ABOVE the college's average criteria for acceptance
 - Financially, this college meets your family's circumstances
- **Match College**
 - Your academic history MEETS or slightly exceeds the college's average academic criteria
- **Reach School**
 - Your academic history is BELOW the college's average academic criteria

4 Year College Considerations

- Major
 - Make sure the colleges you consider have major(s) that interest you
- Location
 - 4 hour drive vs. needing to travel by plane
- School Size
 - Smaller, personalized feeling with small classes vs. larger schools with more options, majors
- Cost
 - Compare financial aid packages, in-state vs out-of-state tuition

Virtual Career Center

- Virtual college visits, check Naviance for meeting times and the link for meetings with college reps
- College essay and Common Application help
- Check out our blog:
<https://swhscounseling.blogspot.com/>
- Virtual Career Center Hours by appointment
7:30-1:30 daily (close at 1pm on Wednesdays)

Organizing and Applying

- Know your deadlines
- How to apply (type of application)
Common App/school specific application
- Essay
- Letters of Recommendation
- Linking Common App with Naviance
- Academic Record Request Form
- FAFSA

Application Deadlines

- **Early Decision**- Binding contract between student and school. If accepted student must attend. Can only apply to 1 ED school.
- **Early Action**- Applicant has the advantages of Early Decision, but it is not a binding contract
- **Regular Decision**- Typically after the new year. School will read all applications and make decisions once all applications have been submitted.
- **Rolling Admissions**- Colleges evaluate applications as they are received. Schools will continue to evaluate applications until all slots are filled.

Applying to Your Chosen Schools

Common Application- <https://www.commonapp.org/>

The Common Application is a single online college application form used by over 700 colleges and universities. The Common App dashboard also helps you track necessary application documents (like your letters of recommendation) and important deadlines.

School Specific Application- Some schools choose to use their own online application

College Essay

Most colleges require an essay for admission. The purpose of the essay is to highlight your writing skills and to give the admissions counselors further insight into your background and character.

Letters of Recommendation

Students informally requested letters of recommendation from 2 teachers last spring. Now is the time to formally invite teachers to write your letters of recommendation through Naviance.

To request letters of recommendation in Naviance:

1. Click “Colleges” tab on top right of Naviance home page.
2. Click “Apply to college”, then “Letters of Recommendation”.
3. Click “Add request” and choose your 2 teachers on the drop down menu.

This will serve as a formal invitation to the teacher to write the letter of recommendation and submit to Naviance.

Resume and Brag Sheets

- Update your **Resume** in Naviance to highlight your High School Career.
- Resume will be used by your Teachers/Counselor to assist in writing Letter of Recommendation.
- Students complete **Senior Brag Sheet** in Naviance. Parents complete **Parent Brag Sheet** in Naviance.
- Brag sheets provide a place for students and parents to reflect on the high school experience and provide your school counselor with additional information which may be included in your recommendation letter.

Matching Your Common App

- Once you have completed the **FERPA Release** in the Common App you can then match your Common App with Naviance.
- You need to do this so the School Counseling Office can electronically send your information (transcripts and letters of recommendation) to your Common App Schools.
- Log on to Naviance and go to “**Colleges I’m Applying to**”
- Click the red “**Match Accounts**” then follow the directions.

Academic Record Request

Students must complete the [Academic Record Request Form](#) to allow the counseling office to release information (transcript, letters of recommendation, etc) to colleges and scholarships.

- This form contains important information regarding the colleges to which the student applied, deadlines, and letters of recommendation.
- The form must have a parent/guardian signature to be processed.

Please allow the School Counseling office 10 school days to process these requests (be aware of deadlines). Click here:

[SWHS Academic Record Request](#)

What is the FAFSA?

The **Free Application for Federal Student Aid** is a form completed by current & prospective college students in the United States to determine eligibility for financial aid. The FAFSA should not be confused with the CSS Profile, which is also required by some private colleges.

FAFSA opens on October 1st.

Deadline: For priority consideration, submit your application by midnight, Feb. 15, 2020. Additional institutional forms might be required.

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

NCAA

- Students who are interested in playing a sport at the collegiate level need to register through the NCAA Eligibility Center.
- Link - [register with the NCAA Eligibility Center](#)
- Once registered, you will need to complete an [Academic Record Request Form](#) so the School Counseling office can send your transcript to the NCAA for review.

College Acceptances: What are next steps?

- Compare acceptance packages and determine the best option
- Take note of deadlines required by colleges
- Notify colleges of your decision (attending/not attending)
- Make required deposits by each college's deadline

Scholarships

- Most scholarships become available in late winter/early spring of senior year.
- There are many sources to research scholarships: Local associations, national organizations and the SWHS Naviance database

Naviance Database

- To access scholarship resources in Naviance, click on the following links from the homepage:
 - 1.) Click “Colleges” on the top right
 - 2.) Click “Scholarships and Money”
 - 3.) Explore scholarship opportunities
- Extensive list of numerous scholarships- updated daily in winter/spring as information comes in
- Sort by “deadline” to prioritize and focus
- Links or PDFs for applications provided whenever possible.
- Watch for- SW Rotary, JE Shepard, SWLL, SW Soccer Club (all LOCAL money)

Local Scholarships

Hartford Foundation for Public Giving

- Scholarship funds limited to a 29 town region (including South Windsor)
- Searchable database
- One application covers many scholarships
- Additional scholarships available with separate and individual criteria
- Deadlines: Sometime in January
- Link- www.hfpgscholarships.org

Local Scholarships continued...

Savings Bank of Manchester (SBM) Foundation

- Local scholarship (Hartford County + 2 others)
- Minimum GPA: 2.5
- Need-based (copy of FAFSA or SAR required)
- Deadline: Typically April 1st
- www.sbmfoundation.org

Local Scholarships continued...

South Windsor Dollar for Scholars

- Scholarship funds specifically for students living in or attending school in South Windsor
- One application covers all scholarships- create a personal online account (write down your password!)
- Application support available in Career Center or Mrs. Gimbrone (local rep for Dollars for Scholars)
- Application portal open from January 21 - March 15
- NOTE: Dates are strict and this application may take several days to complete- plan accordingly!
- www.southwindsor.dollarsforscholars.org

Scholarship Applications

- Best chances are local scholarships (Dollars for Scholars, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, etc.).
- Sort the Naviance scholarship list by deadline and focus on those with upcoming deadlines. Make a calendar for yourself and note important dates.
- Be prepared to write more essays. Scholarship essays are typically not lengthy and can often be a version of your college essay.
- Some scholarships require a transcript. Remember: Academic Records requests take up to 10 school days to complete.