

# College Admissions 101

Prepared for the Class of 2022  
Webinar: September 9, 2020

# An overview of this presentation

- The value of self-assessment
- Office of Admissions – Changes due to COVID-19
- Profile data from Minnetonka High School
- Holistic review – and the importance of the junior year
- College search process
- Preparing for the senior year – and college applications
- Minnetonka counseling model – and our pledge!

## Self assessment – an ongoing part of the junior year experience

- Students need to spend time figuring out what's important to them in the post-high school planning process. College? 2-year or 4-year? Work? Apprenticeship? Military? Gap year? Please read the exercise on pages 6-7 of the Post High School Planning Guide: <https://www.minnetonkaschools.org/uploaded/Documents/MHS/Counseling/MHS-Post-High-School-Planning-Guide.pdf>
- Also, complete the **Do What You Are** assessment in Naviance, a Myers-Briggs personality inventory (in the About Me section.)

## Self assessment – an ongoing part of the junior year experience

- For those who have an interest in the college search, there are great virtual opportunities to learn and discover!
- Over 140 college and universities will “visit” Minnetonka HS this fall – see the full list in Naviance.
- Several virtual college fairs are being offered, including a national fair this Sunday (Sept 13). Register at: <https://virtualcollegefairs.org/> Additional dates include October 12, Oct 18, and Nov 8.
- In Minnesota, a number of college presentations will take place Sept 28-Oct 14. Registration information available (soon) at <http://mn-acac.org/virtualcollege>

# Office of Admissions

- Colleges seek the best students they can find/attract/admit/enroll for their entering class
- Students seek the best college they can attend
- Everyone is aware of rankings, prestige, fame – nobody wants to miss out!
- Numbers are important – not just in terms of applications, but in terms of a student's academic record.
- It's a process, with lots of steps/stages. Patience is a value-added virtue!

# Office of Admissions – Changes from COVID-19

- Most colleges have adopted a test-optional policy in admission – the exceptions are primarily public universities in the South. The updated list can be found at FairTest.org

<http://fairtest.org/university/optional>

- It remains “to be determined” about testing policies for the Class of 2022, but the movement in admissions fully supports test-optional policies
- Students do NOT need to take the optional writing section in the ACT or SAT (unless you’re applying to West Point.)
- Closed campuses – most universities are offering only virtual tours. Many have added significantly to their YouTube productions. It’s important to check their “visit” website before scheduling a trip!

# Minnetonka High School – Profile from 2019 & 2020

- % attending 4-year colleges 76%
- % attending 2-year colleges 10%
- % attending MN institutions 36%
- % attending out-of-state institutions 50%
- Average number of applications 4.92

## • Class of 2019

The top 7 schools include:

Univ of Minnesota – TC

Univ of Wisconsin – Madison

Normandale Community College

University of St. Thomas

Iowa State University

Univ of Nebraska, Lincoln

Univ of Minnesota – Duluth

## • Class of 2020

The top 7 schools include:

Univ of Minnesota – TC

Univ of Wisconsin – Madison

Normandale Community College

Univ of Minnesota – Duluth

University of St. Thomas

Minnesota State, Mankato

Univ of Wisconsin – Eau Claire



# Holistic review – the value of the junior year!

- The high school transcript – the student's record of academic achievement – is the most important part of the application folder.
- The rigor of the courses you have taken, the breadth of study within each department, and the grades you have earned will be examined in detail. The transcript speaks loudly.
- Colleges and universities want to see the quality of your life as a student. They want to see trends, growth, challenge, and achievement.

## Testing – For those who choose to test

- Juniors are encouraged to wait until the 2021 year to test -- with more time for instruction and learning, and (for those who choose to do it) test preparation.
- January 26                      PSAT (for juniors)
- Feb 8                              ACT
- March 13                         SAT
- April 6                            ACT – school day testing at MHS
- April 10                          ACT
- May 8                              SAT
- June 5                             SAT
- June 12                            ACT

## Testing – For those who choose to test

- Free test preparation is available to all students, in addition to the fee-based courses and tutoring
- In Naviance, there is a free test prep resource, with Method Test Prep  
<https://app.methodtestprep.com/MinnetonkaHighSchool/signup/tkn29582324>
- On the ACT web site, check out the ACT Academy.  
<https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation/act-academy.html>
- To practice for the PSAT and the SAT, check out the Khan Academy website:  
<https://www.khanacademy.org/sat>

# The College Search – How to begin?

- **An absolute must: conduct a self inventory or self assessment**
- What do you like to do?
- What do you hate to do?
- What subject excites you?
- What always bores you?
- How do you learn best?

## Self inventory (cont.)

- Do you enjoy being a part of a large group? Or, do smaller groups suit you better?
- Do you want to stick close to home? Or, do you plan to move far away?
- Do you want to live in or near a city? Or, could you find happiness in a college town?
- Do you seek out diversity among your friends? Or, do you hang out with people who are very similar to you?

# Information Gathering -- The Basics of a College Search

- Size
- Faculty/Student Ratio
- Major/Strongest programs/Courses offered
- Geographical location and distance from family
- Learning focus- Liberal Arts or Specialized School
- Urban/rural
- Tuition/Financial Aid/Scholarships
- Honors/accelerated programs
- Graduation rate

# Information Gathering -- The Personality of the College

- Retention Rate and Graduation Rate
- Activities
- Dorm life/Greek life
- Facilities
- Male/female ratio
- Multi-cultural breakdown
- Religious affiliation
- Research opportunities
- Study abroad programs

# Information Gathering – Making Use of the Internet!

<https://student.naviance.com/minnetonka>

<http://www.collegeboard.org>

<http://www.collegeconfidential.com>

<http://www.princetonreview.com>


<http://www.finaid.org>

<https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator>

<https://collegecost.ed.gov>




# For Parents: This is a good one!

 **INSTITUTE OF  
EDUCATION SCIENCES**

**NATIONAL CENTER FOR  
EDUCATION STATISTICS**

Enter search terms here

Publications & Products | Surveys & Programs | Data & Tools | Fast Facts | School Search | News & Events | About Us


 **COLLEGE**Navigator

English | [Español](#) | [About](#)


**Name of School**  
Type name of school here


**States** (use map for more than 1 state)  


No Preference  
Alabama  
Alaska  
Arizona




**ZIP Code**  **Miles from**


**Programs/Majors**  
0 Items Selected  


**Level of Award**   
☐ Certificate ☐ Associate's  
☐ Bachelor's ☐ Advanced


**Institution Type**   
☐ Public ☐ 4-year  
☐ Private non-profit ☐ 2-year  
☐ Private for-profit ☐ < 2-year

**+ MORE SEARCH OPTIONS**



 [Guide Me](#) | [Clear Search](#)

**Find the right college for you**



- » **Refine your search** with *More Search Options* to select additional search criteria.
- » **Build a list of schools** using *My Favorites* for side-by-side comparisons.
- » **Pinpoint school locations** with an *interactive map*.
- » **Export search results** into a *spreadsheet*.
- » **Save your session** including search options and favorites.
- » **Add College Navigator** to your *browser search bar*.

**College Affordability and Transparency Center**  
Browse lists of institutions with the highest and lowest tuition & fees and net price. [» GO](#)

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

**Preparing for your Education**  
Find out what you need to do to prepare for education beyond high school. [» GO](#)

**Financial Aid**  
Apply for Federal Student Aid on FAFSA. [» GO](#)

**Careers**  
Deciding on a career? Consult the *bls.gov* Occupational Outlook Handbook. [» GO](#)

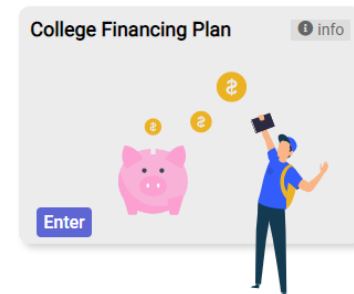
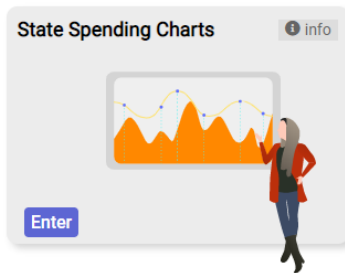
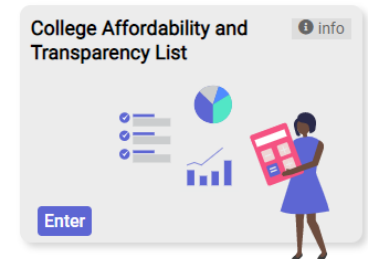
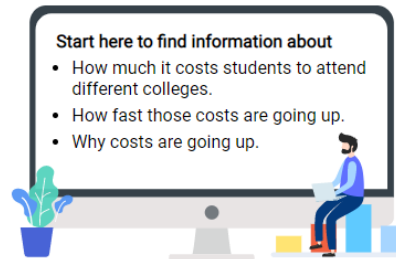
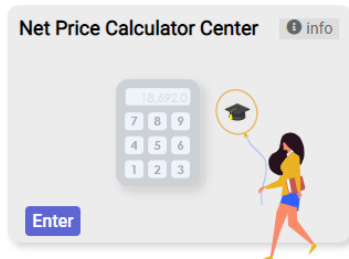
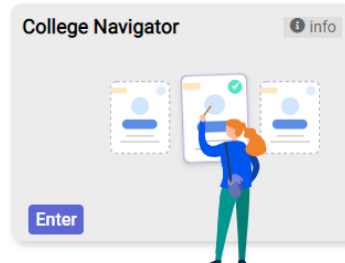
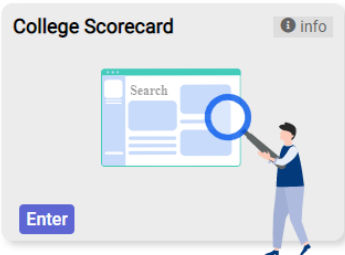
# For Parents: Or this one!



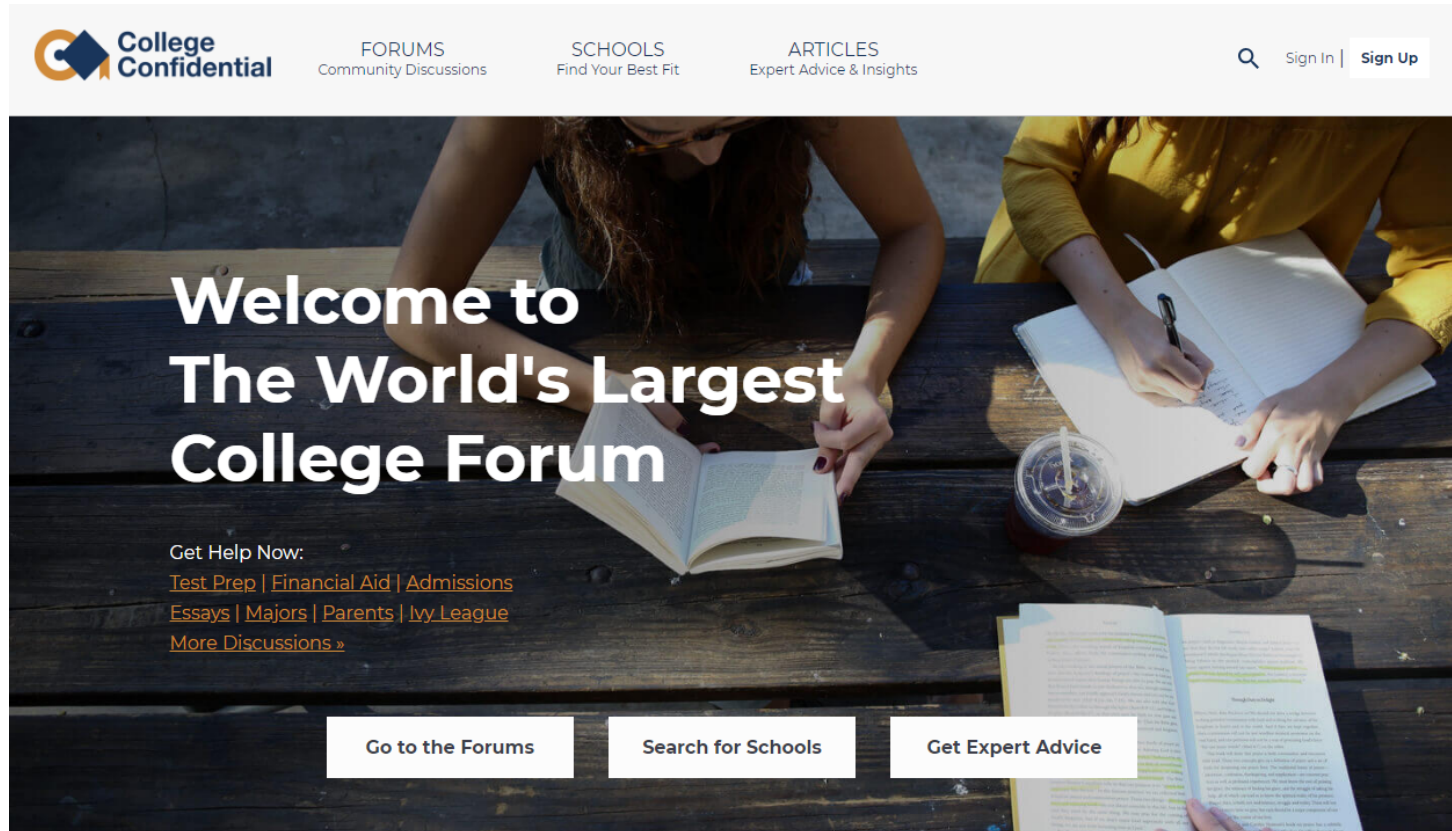
U.S. Department of Education

College Affordability and Transparency Center


Help



For Students:  
You'll love  
this one!

The image shows the top portion of the College Confidential website. At the top is a navigation bar with the College Confidential logo on the left, followed by links for FORUMS (Community Discussions), SCHOOLS (Find Your Best Fit), and ARTICLES (Expert Advice & Insights). On the right side of the navigation bar are search and login options: a magnifying glass icon, 'Sign In', and a 'Sign Up' button. Below the navigation bar is a large hero section with a background image of two students sitting at a wooden table, studying and writing in notebooks. Overlaid on this image is the text 'Welcome to The World's Largest College Forum'. Below this text is a section titled 'Get Help Now:' followed by a list of links: 'Test Prep', 'Financial Aid', 'Admissions', 'Essays', 'Majors', 'Parents', 'Ivy League', and 'More Discussions »'. At the bottom of the hero section are three white buttons with black text: 'Go to the Forums', 'Search for Schools', and 'Get Expert Advice'.

# For Parents & Students: Use this one!

 Naviance | *Student*

HomeCollegesCareersAbout MeMy Planner

Welcome, Sam!

Search for Colleges

Type a college name

SEARCH

### Intro to Seniors

Greetings from the MHS Counseling Office!


We will once again be using our interactive counseling tool, *Naviance Student*, to assist you with post-high school planning.


We hope you will explore the many beneficial features that are available to you.


We recommend the following links:

Read more

### My Favorites

 COLLEGES  
I'm thinking about

 COLLEGES  
I'm applying to

 CAREERS AND CLUSTERS  
I'm thinking about

### Important To-Dos and Tasks

### What's New

# Applying for admission – it happens in the senior year!

- For all of our students, let this be your “guide.” You apply for admission to a college because you want to go there!
- Focus as much on “going” to the college as you will focus on “getting in.”
- As a counseling staff, we plan to work with students in the college search process to help them find good matches!!  
“What will make this place be a great fit for me?”
- “College is a match to be made, not a prize to be won.”

-- Frank Sachs, retired from The Blake School, Minneapolis

## Applying for admission (continued)

- As you get ready to become a senior – and an applicant, your top priority is finding the right fit! NOTE: You apply for admission to a college because you want to go there!
- Most MHS students apply between August and December
- Separate deadline for need-based financial aid -- filing the FAFSA can be done after October 1. [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
- The selection process can last for months, especially when cost of attendance is a significant factor.

# Minnetonka counseling model – our pledge!

- 10 School Counselors + 1 College Counselor
- Personalization and support
- Our pledge – to help each student find the best match possible for their post-secondary experience!

Phillip Trout

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[www.minnetonkaschools.org/collegecounselor](http://www.minnetonkaschools.org/collegecounselor)

9-9-20