



College Counseling Handbook

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MULLEN HIGH SCHOOL

Mission Statement

In the tradition of St. John Baptist de La Salle and the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Mullen High School is a Catholic college preparatory high school whose graduates embrace God's gift of learning, devote their lives to seeking ceaselessly for His learning, and commit themselves to using His learning in the service of others. Mullen's hallmarks are its exemplary teaching, its community of faith, its scholastic rigor, and its care and vigilance for each student.

WE ARE COMMITTED TO...

...A LASALLIAN TRADITION

Our mission is to provide a human and Christian education to the young, with attention to those most in need, that all may achieve personal fulfillment and redemption. We endeavor to do this in cooperation with the spirit of God to promote a civilization of peace, justice, and love.

...A CHALLENGING COLLEGE PREPARATORY EDUCATION

Our mission is to provide a curriculum that presents students with a variety of courses that will prepare them for both college and life. Required courses stress content, skills mastery, and learning strategies in all core academic disciplines. Elective courses enrich students' special interests, needs, and abilities.

...EDUCATING THE WHOLE CHILD IN THE SPIRIT OF THE GOSPEL

Our mission is to develop the whole child, fostering the development of young men and women of the highest character. Dedicated to the ideal of excellence in academics, artistic and athletic pursuits, through curricular and co-curricular programs of learning, and tempered by the Lasallian spirit of humility and equality, Mullen brings to its students those experiences that will help them develop as persons of compassion, faith and intellect.

...THE PROMOTION OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

Our mission is to educate students to issues of social justice and encourage them to commit themselves to the creation of a more just society. As a community that is committed to social justice, Mullen reflects the Church's dedication to the poor and disadvantaged in both its actions and its policies.

...OUR COMMUNITY OF EDUCATORS

Our mission is to develop a community of teachers capable of carrying forth the exemplary teaching of the Christian Brothers' tradition. Teachers are helped to develop and advance their classroom teaching mastery and are provided with the necessary means and support to achieve this mastery. Teachers are regularly supervised as a means of sustaining the highest standards of teaching and encouraged to provide one another with mutual collegial support.

WE ARE MULLEN!

Accredited by the North Central Association for Schools and Colleges

PROFILE OF A MULLEN GRADUATE AT GRADUATION

The purpose of Mullen High School is to provide all students the highest quality Catholic Education in the distinctive Lasallian tradition of education in the Holy Presence of God. Benefiting from the Lasallian tradition of Mullen High School and its committed community of educators, Mullen graduates are visionary learners who confidently demonstrate:

Faith in the Presence of God

- Formation in the Roman Catholic tradition
- Understanding the value of God's Presence in the world and their lives

Concern for the Poor and Social Justice

- Commitment to service within their communities, especially to the marginalized
- The ability to make decisions based on Catholic values
- The courage to act on their obligation to right injustice
- Understanding material, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual poverty

Excellence in Education

- Advanced achievement in the college preparatory disciplines
- Critical thinking
- Cross-disciplinary understandings
- Communication skills necessary to interact and compete in a global society
- Creative and technological aptitudes necessary to succeed in the academic and work environment
- Skills knowledge and practices to achieve healthy living
- Understanding and appreciation for the Arts and Humanities

Respect for All Persons

- Christian spirit of faith, hope, and love
- Integrity and character
- The fortitude to make ethical decisions within the framework of these values

Participation within Inclusive Community

- The skills for civic engagement and productive citizenship
- Participation in Mullen community life in ways that show Hospitality, inclusiveness, equality, and spirit
- Commitment to acting as Ambassadors of Christ

College Counseling Introduction

The College Counseling office at the Mullen is committed to working to support students and parents through the college exploration, application process, scholarship search, and financial aid application process. Students are encouraged to take ownership of their college process through self-reflection, exploring interests, and considering college options where they can thrive and meet their future goals. The College Counseling office provides a wide array of programs and meetings to educate students and their families about their opportunities after graduation from Mullen. The purpose of this Handbook is to provide students and their parents with valuable information about the college process.

Students are at the center of what we do. We look forward to working with you throughout this exciting time!

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PLANNING FOR COLLEGE : The Junior Year Timeline

-This is an important year! Begin to identify the type of college you may wish to attend.-

Fall (September-November)

- Attend the *Junior Class College Night* in August at Mullen.
- Attend *Mock College Admissions Workshop + JET Fair* in September at Mullen.
- Attend Naviance 101 Meeting in English or in small groups.
- Stay involved in extracurricular activities. Develop leadership skills. If you have a new interest, pursue it!
- Use Naviance résumé feature to keep an accurate list of activities throughout high school.
- Take the October PSAT. Review score results to determine whether the ACT or SAT is a better testing option for you and what kind of help you need to perform well.
- Research colleges. Request information for colleges of interest.
- Meet with college representatives at Mullen or the Denver Fairs this fall.
- Plan college visits over breaks. Consider size, location, majors/degrees offered, reputation, selectivity, family connections, and extracurriculars to determine what type of school may be a good match.
- Consider beginning to prepare for the ACT/SAT. Visit www.actstudent.org and www.sat.collegeboard.org to register.

Winter (December-February)

- Visit with friends coming home from college. Discuss their experiences.
- Start a file of college brochures. (See “Constructing Your College List,” p. 19 of College Handbook.)
- Attend Naviance 102 Meeting in English or in small groups.
- Schedule your individual Junior College Meeting with your College Counselor. Parents are welcome!
- Work on your main college essay in English III B during T2/T3.
- Continue to research colleges. Plan visits to colleges over Spring Break and other school breaks.
- Continue preparing for the ACT/SAT. Visit www.sat.collegeboard.org and www.actstudent.org to register.

Spring (March-May)

- Schedule your individual meeting with your College Counselor if you have not yet done so.
- Continue to refine your list of prospective colleges. Keep your college list in Naviance up to date.
- Register for your senior year classes.
- Work on your main college essay in English III B during T2/T3.
- Continue to research colleges. Plan visits to colleges over Spring Break and other school breaks.
- Attend Spring College Fairs in your area or Junior Open Houses at colleges of interest.
- AP Exams administered. (Note: AP Scores will be available in July.)
- Plan for possible summer college visits.
- Register with the NCAA or NAIA Eligibility Center if you plan to participate in NCAA athletics in college. Visit <https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/> or <http://www.playnaia.org/eligibility-center>.
- Investigate college summer programs of interest, internships, jobs, service, or other activities.
- Attend Junior Level Meeting in April to begin recommendation request process for teacher and counselor recommendations. Return required paperwork to the College Counseling office.
- Return completed Transcript Release Form to the College Counseling office.
- Continue preparing for the ACT/SAT. Consider taking the SAT Subject Tests in May/June as needed. Visit www.actstudent.org and www.sat.collegeboard.org to register.

Pre-Senior Summer (June-August)

- Refine your list of prospective colleges. Keep your college list in Naviance up to date.
- Double check that you will meet all the curriculum/graduation requirements for colleges of interest.
- Review the College Application Process (p. 19-25).
- Review/rework your essays from English III B.
- Attend college summer enrichment programs. *See the list of “Enrichment Programs” in Naviance.*
- Continue to research colleges. Visit college campuses.
- Continue preparing for the ACT/SAT. Visit www.actstudent.org and www.sat.collegeboard.org to register.
- If you are applying via the Common Application, create an account and start filling out the application. Your information will automatically roll over into your senior year: www.commonapp.org

PLANNING FOR COLLEGE : The Senior Year Timeline

-Turn your college exploration into applications and college selection.-

Fall (September-November)

- Meet with your College Counselor for your individual Senior College Meeting.
 - Review college choices, application process, and application deadlines.
- See teachers who are writing your letters of recommendation. Provide any requested information (activities résumé, etc.) and inform them of your earliest known application deadlines.
- Continue to research colleges. Visit colleges and universities of interest.
- Attend *Senior College + Financial Aid Night* in August at Mullen.
- Attend *Mock College Admissions Workshop + JET Fair* in September at Mullen.
- Attend *Common App Workshop* in September and/or *College App Workshop* in October at Mullen.
- Continue to work on and finalize essays. Have at least two people proofread.
- Consider re-testing (ACT, SAT, or SAT Subject Tests) if necessary. Check deadlines and register at www.actstudent.org and www.sat.collegeboard.org.
- Work on completing and submitting applications.
 - DOUBLE CHECK EARLY DECISION/EARLY ACTION APPLICATIONS DEADLINES.
 - Some Early application deadlines are as early as October 15, and most are before January 1. ALL EARLY APPLICATION TRANSCRIPT REQUESTS ARE DUE A MINIMUM OF 15 DAYS PRIOR TO A COLLEGE'S DEADLINE.
- Meet with college representatives who visit Mullen. *See Naviance or the College Visit Calendar on the Mullen website for the schedule.*
- Explore financial aid and scholarship opportunities.
- Submit FAFSA after October 1 and as early as possible (or whatever deadlines your colleges require). Visit www.fafsa.ed.gov or attend "College Goal Sunday" to complete your FAFSA.
- Complete CSS/PROFILE if needed for a particular college. Visit <https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/>.
- Continue participation in extracurricular activities. Develop leadership skills.
- Submit a copy of any merit-based scholarships you have received to the College Counseling office.
- All transcript requests for schools with a deadline of January 15th or sooner must be in to the College Counseling office a minimum of two weeks before Christmas Break.
- Don't catch "senioritis"!!

Winter (December-February)

- Finish final college applications and submit.
- Write thank-you notes to teachers who have written your letters of recommendation.
- Mid-Year grade reports which include T1 grades are automatically submitted to the colleges to which students have applied.
- Submit a copy of any merit-based scholarships you have received to the College Counseling office.
- Visit with friends coming home from college. Discuss their experiences.
- Stop by to see your College Counselor with news of acceptances!
- Don't catch "senioritis"!!

Spring (March-June)

- Don't catch "senioritis"!!** (Seriously, we can't stress this enough.)
- Consider making final campus visits. Attend classes, stay overnight in a residence hall, eat the food, and meet current students and professors.
- Notify colleges of any decisions or changes.
- Submit a copy of any merit-based scholarships you have received to the College Counseling office.
- AP Exams administered. (Note: AP Scores will be available in July.)
- Notify colleges of your decision to attend or not by May 1st, the National Candidates Reply Date.
- Send in confirmation of intent to enroll and housing deposits.
- Graduate from Mullen High School!!!**

PLANNING FOR COLLEGE : Understanding College Admissions Vocabulary

Common Application – An application form widely accepted by over 600 participating institutions. Students can complete one application and submit it to several colleges. See www.commonapp.org.

Coalition for Access, Affordability, and Success Application – An application form used by over 90 participating institutions. See www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org.

Defer/Deferral – Colleges may defer an admissions decision for any number of reasons. A deferral is neither an admission nor denial. Students may be deferred from an early application pool (EA or ED) to Regular Decision. Deferred students are given the same consideration as all the applicants in the Regular Decision pool. Deferred students are encouraged to submit grades, test scores, or any information new since the time they applied to the college in order to bolster their application, so that these updates can be considered during Regular Decision.

Demonstrated Interest – Colleges may track the amount of proactive interest a student demonstrates in investigating their college, both prior to applying and during the application process. The most selective colleges typically do not track Demonstrated Interest, but many moderately selective colleges will track it and use this information in making both admissions decisions and scholarship decisions. Types of Demonstrated Interest are requesting to join the mailing list, meeting with a college representative at a college fair or during their visit to Mullen, attending a local information session, interviewing, or making an official visit to campus through the admissions office.

Early Action (EA) – EA programs permit students to apply to a college or university of their choice and receive a decision early in the senior year, usually by mid-December, well in advance of the normal spring response dates. Although students hear earlier regarding admission, they are not committed to attend and may apply to other colleges (known as “non-binding” admissions). If denied admission, early action applicants may not reapply through regular decision.

- **Single Choice Early Action (SCEA)** – Above EA definition applies. It functions similarly to ED except that it is non-binding. Students may apply early to only one institution but are not committed to enroll if admitted. Students may apply Regular Decision (RD) to other colleges. Depending on the college’s SCEA restrictions, students may still be able to apply under another college’s rolling admission policy or through a non-binding EA or Priority Deadline program at a public institution. Always refer to the SCEA policy on a college’s website, as policies vary by college. Some colleges with SCEA are Harvard, Princeton, Stanford, and Yale.
- **Restrictive Early Action (REA)** – Above EA definition applies. Students may apply early to any institution, including the REA college, but cannot also be applying to a college through a binding, Early Decision (ED) program. Students are not committed to enroll if admitted. Always refer to the REA policy on a college’s website, as policies vary by college. Some colleges with REA are Boston College, Georgetown, and Notre Dame.

Early Decision (ED) – ED programs are recommended for students who have completed a thorough college search and find that *one school* stands above and beyond the others. ED requires the student to commit to a college or university at the time of application that, if admitted, the student will enroll (known as “binding” admissions). ED programs permit students to apply to a college or university of their choice and receive a decision early in the senior year, usually by mid-December, well in advance of the normal spring response dates. Some colleges also offer ED II, which functions the same as ED but with a later application deadline and later admission notification deadline, although typically sooner than RD spring notifications. Upon admission, the institution will require a nonrefundable deposit well before May 1. If denied admission, early decision applicants may not reapply through regular decision.

PLANNING FOR COLLEGE : Understanding College Admissions Vocabulary (cont'd)

National Candidates Reply Date – The National Candidates Reply Date is May 1. This is the date by which students and their families must notify a college of their intent to enroll and submit a deposit. Regardless of when a student applies or learns of their admission decision, they have until May 1 to commit to enroll. This provides time to weigh admissions decisions and scholarship/financial aid offers. The exception to this is when students are admitted through an Early Decision (ED) program (see definition).

Priority Deadline – Priority Deadline programs permit students to apply to a college or university of their choice and receive a decision early in the senior year, well in advance of the normal spring response dates. Students may be applying Regular Decision, but by making the Priority Deadline are eligible for certain merit scholarships. Although students hear earlier regarding admission, they are not committed to attend and may apply to other colleges. If denied admission, Priority applicants may not reapply through regular decision.

Regular Decision (RD) – RD programs are the standard admission pool to which students apply. Students apply by the RD deadline and receive their admission decision on a pre-set release date, typically in late March or early April. The typical admission decisions for RD applications are admit, deny, or waitlist (see definition).

Rolling Admission – Under this type of Regular Decision application process, an institution reviews applications as they are received and offers decisions to students soon after they are reviewed, typically within four to six weeks of an application being complete.

Wait List (WL) – This term is used by institutions to describe a process in which they may initially delay offering or denying admission, but rather extend the possibility of admission in the future. If offered by the college, students may elect whether or not they want to be on the Waitlist. Colleges offer admission to Wait List candidates if insufficient numbers of regularly admitted candidates accept offers of admission. Students may not learn whether they have been admitted from the Wait List until after May 1, but should be notified by August 1 at the latest. Refer to NACAC's Statement Principles of Good Practice for the rights which you are assured if placed on a Wait List.

PLANNING FOR COLLEGE : Criteria Colleges Use for Acceptance

Admission officers are responsible for selecting students who will contribute to both the academic and social climate of their institution. Different colleges and universities place varying emphasis on the criteria they use to admit students. However, the vast majority of colleges carefully consider the following:

1. Academic Record

A strong academic record in challenging courses throughout the high school experience will be the factor most likely to influence an admission decision in your favor. The breadth and difficulty of the courses on your transcript are regarded as the best predictor of the kind of success you are likely to have in college. The academic transcript that will be submitted to colleges will reflect marks from 9th grade through 11th grade, as well as listing the courses to be taken in 12th grade. Senior mid-year grades (T1 grades) are automatically sent to the colleges to which you apply once available.

2. College Admission Standardized Test Scores (ACT, SAT and SAT Subject Tests)

As a rule, admission tests scores alone are not likely to result in either your acceptance or rejection. Admission officers usually view scores as a “snapshot” of the more complete person. Test scores have a greater impact at larger universities that use test scores to reduce large numbers of applications down to a manageable number. Test scores may also be used for placement in some freshman classes.

3. Extracurricular Activities and Work Experience

These experiences present a picture of the student outside of the classroom, including clubs, sports, service, family commitments, and jobs. Participating in activities outside of school is important not only for your college application, but also for your own personal development. *Colleges are not looking at the number of activities that you participate in, but rather that you are participating in activities that appeal to your interests.*

4. Teacher and Counselor Recommendations

These first hand observations by the educators who have worked with you during your high school experience emphasize your abilities, aptitudes, personality, motivation, and interests.

5. Essays

The colleges that require an essay consider this creative work to be an important part of their admission decision. Strong admission essays result from careful planning and allowing adequate time for writing and editing. Some colleges will require multiple essays.

6. Interview

Some colleges require or recommend an interview. The staff member, student, or alumni representative conducting the interview will prepare a report that becomes an official part of your application.

7. Special Talents and Characteristics

A particular talent can be influential in gaining admission to a college. You will need to present those special skills to the appropriate people at the college level. Portfolios, video or audio recordings, and résumés are just a few ways to effectively showcase your talents. Colleges may also give added consideration to members of a particular ethnic group, children or siblings of alumni (a.k.a. “legacies”) or individuals with other characteristics they hope to attract.

PLANNING FOR COLLEGE : College Counseling Curriculum

College Counseling Programs

College counseling is incorporated throughout a student's tenure at Mullen. In addition to individual college counseling meetings, programs are offered relating to the college search, college admission testing, athletic recruitment and the NCAA/NAIA Eligibility Center process, the college essay, the college application process, the financial aid application process, and searching for scholarships.

On average, 95% of our graduating seniors attend four-year colleges to continue their lifelong educational endeavors. College planning begins with the use of Naviance to guide students towards understanding how their personal qualities and interests relate to their college and career search. Students take the Pre-ACT and PSAT to prepare for college entrance testing, as well as having access to on-campus ACT and SAT prep-classes. Each year, over 100 college admission representatives come to Mullen to meet with our students. The College Counselors assist all our students with the college search and application process to ensure that our students make the best choices for themselves and their futures.

College Counseling Services

- Hold individual and group college counseling meetings with students and parents
- Help students in applying to colleges appropriate to their abilities/goals.
- Network with college admission representatives; Coordinate visits by college/university representatives to Mullen.
- Promote college fairs, workshops, and events to the Mullen community.
- Assist students with college application coordination and submission.
- Coach students in college application essay writing and college interview preparation. Students write a main college application essay draft in their English III B class, during either T2 or T3 of their junior year.
- Coordinate on-campus ACT/SAT preparation opportunities.
- Promote financial aid and scholarships opportunities.
- Maintain access to the Naviance website, college viewbooks, and catalogs.
- Provide college counseling and assistance to college-bound student-athletes.
- Coordinate Mullen's AP Program and AP Exams in May.

Group College Counseling Meetings

Every student participates in level meetings and small group meetings with the College Counselors during junior year. At the beginning of the year, there is a Junior Class College + Athletic Recruitment Night for students and parents. College Counselors then meet with juniors each trimester for lessons covering Naviance 101, Naviance 102, and the College Essay. A Junior Level Meeting in the spring provides instructions and forms for the teacher/counselor recommendation process. At the beginning of senior year, the College Counselors hold a Senior College + Financial Aid Night. There is also an annual Mock College Admissions Workshop at the beginning of each school year that is open to all students and families who wish to gain an insider perspective on college admissions.

Individual College Counseling Meetings

Juniors have a minimum of one individual college planning meeting with their College Counselor during the second half of junior year and again during the beginning of senior year. During these meetings, students will collaborate with their College Counselor to address college exploration, college entrance testing, and the college application process. Students and/or parents may schedule an appointment at any time. The College Counselors typically have multiple follow-up meetings, conversations, and emails about various aspects of their college process and post-graduation plans with students and families.

PLANNING FOR COLLEGE : Naviance

Naviance is a website that offers a variety of features to assist in exploring and making decisions about colleges. It provides up-to-date information that is specific to our school. Our College Counseling office uses this website to track and analyze data about college. *The information housed in a student's Naviance account is not accessible to anyone besides a student, his/her parent(s), and the counseling staff at Mullen. Colleges do not have access to the information in your Naviance account.*

Tools on Naviance:

- Build a résumé
- Complete online surveys and save your searches
- Manage timelines and deadlines for making decisions about colleges
- Compare personal GPA, ACT/SAT scores, and other statistics to actual historical data from our school for students who have applied and been admitted in the past
- View and sign up for College Admissions Representative Visits to Mullen
- Manage personal prospective college list
- Explore new college matches based on GPA and ACT/SAT scores
- Navigate links to college and university webpages and other online resources
- Join mailing lists at colleges of interest or email colleges directly

To Access Naviance: www.connection.naviance.com/mullen

General Instructions:

About Me *profile* – COMPLETE personal profile, parent contact information/college attended
resume – ENTER extracurricular activities information
game plan – ENTER goals after high school, career and college interests

Careers *favorite careers & clusters* – keep current

Colleges *colleges I'm thinking about* – keep current

view all upcoming college visits – see which colleges will be visiting Mullen or are holding information sessions in the area

college search

CHECK BOXES for search preferences

Click LEARN MORE on college profile for college specific information

Click ADD if you are interested in this college to save to your list

graphs – plots your GPA and ACT/SAT compared to other past students from Mullen who have applied to gauge your likelihood of admission at a specific college

college compare – will compare your GPA and test scores to students who applied to these schools

college match – will allow you to see lists of schools of “Colleges Looking For Students Like You,” “Colleges Other Students Like,” and “Colleges That Have Accepted Students Like You”

COLLEGE EXPLORATION : College Types, Resources, & Search Engines

There are more than 3,000 two-year and four-year colleges in the United States alone from which you have the opportunity of choosing to attend.

Two-year Junior or Community Colleges

These institutions use a curriculum concentrated to meet specific needs of students. Community colleges generally have no residences while junior colleges offer housing. Both offer specific job skills as well as a general, liberal arts curriculum. In two-years of study, students typically receive an Associates degree as well as the opportunity to “transfer” those college credits towards the first two years of classes at a four-year school. This option is typically less expensive and can allow students the opportunity to live at home, give college a “try,” attend college part-time while working, and improve their academic record prior to applying to transfer to a four-year college.

Four-year Colleges and Universities

These institutions offer undergraduate Bachelor’s degrees (B.A., A.B., B.F.A., B.S.). The type of Bachelor’s degree depends on your course of study. Universities also offer Masters, Doctoral, Law, and other professional degrees. Most courses of study are set to be completed in four years. Four-year institutions allow students to live on campus in a residential community, focus full-time on academic and social development, and study and explore a wide array of classes while earning a degree.

- Liberal Arts/Comprehensive colleges - provide a strong balance of courses in the humanities, social sciences, and physical sciences and provide pre-professional programs
- Specialization or Pre-Professional colleges - address the needs of students who have a strong commitment to a particular field of study
- Women’s/Men’s colleges - are committed to personal, social, and academic development with a strong sense of tradition and development of the individual’s identity
- Religious colleges - have a strong and particular affiliation with a certain religious denomination in addition to a liberal arts curriculum
- Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCUs) - focus on the personal, social, and academic development of Black and African-American students with a focus on equity and social justice
- Military/Service Academies - provide extensive technical and leadership opportunities leading to a commitment in a branch of the government in exchange for a free education

College Resources

When it comes to gathering information about colleges, students will find an array of sources. College guides, videos, websites, virtual tours, viewbooks, blogs, and catalogs are a sample of the numerous resources available to students. Ratings and rankings publications often lack specificity and objectivity required for effective exploration. It is important that students are sensitive to the evaluation criteria used to create the “best” list of colleges. All of these resources can provide information that will contribute to quality exploration and sound decision-making. Keep in mind resources should be accurate, current, and unbiased.

CCHE Admissions Index – <http://highered.colorado.gov/Academics/Admissions/IndexScore/>

The Colorado Index is for in-state public colleges and universities. Your index number is found with your GPA and your ACT/SAT. Although meeting a college’s minimum index is not a guarantee of admission, it will give you a sense of your likelihood of admission.

College Search Engines

College search engines can be a very useful tool to help in exploring your college options. When using college search engines, do not narrow your criteria too much. The purpose of search engines is to expand your awareness about the numerous institutions that may be of interest to you.

Naviance – <https://connection.naviance.com/family-connection/auth/login/?hsid=mullen>

Mullen college search engine available to sophomores, juniors, and seniors. There is also a mobile app.

National Catholic Colleges – www.catholiccollegesonline.org

The National Catholic College Admission Association is your gateway to Catholic colleges and universities.

COLLEGE EXPLORATION : Important Factors to Consider for College Exploration

-Students should begin the exploration process by identifying their educational needs.-

About You

1. Know yourself!

- Aptitudes and skills
- Achievements
- Interests
- Personality traits
- Values and goals

2. Academics

- Academic fit should be your number one criteria. Place yourself in an environment where you will be challenged academically, yet where you are also able to meet that challenge and have access to the professors, academic advisors, and learning centers that will help you to be successful.

About the Institution – Refer to College Profiles in Naviance: www.connection.naviance.com/mullen

1. School Type

- Two-year Junior/Community Colleges or Four-year colleges/universities
- Public, Private, Religious Affiliation
- All Male, All Female, Coed
- Large City, Small City, Large Town, Small Town, Rural

2. Location

- New England
- Middle Atlantic
- Mid-West
- South
- Southwest
- West
- Outside of U.S.

3. Undergraduate Enrollment

- Small (Less than 3000)
- Medium (3000-10,000)
- Large (More than 10,000)

4. Selectivity

- Selectivity or competitiveness of an institution is usually noted by the percentage of applicants accepted

5. Extra-Curricular Involvement

- Intercollegiate Sports
- Activities (Clubs, Greek Life, etc.)
- Study Abroad Programs
- Internships
- ROTC

6. Majors

7. Costs

- Total Cost of Attendance (In-state Tuition, Out-of-state Tuition, Room & Board, Books, Transportation, Other costs/fees)
- Need-based aid, Merit-based aid, average debt of students

COLLEGE EXPLORATION : College Visits

The purpose of visiting a college campus is for a student and their parents to get a first-hand view of that particular college or university. Visiting a college campus is a key component in the college exploration process! Each student begins to decipher her/his likes and dislikes as s/he ventures from one campus to another. Use the following guidelines to help you make the most of Campus Visits.

1) Start Local.

- The Denver area has numerous colleges and universities that meet every criteria. Urban/Suburban/Rural, Large/Small, Private/Public, etc. Check out some of the schools in our area and discover what you like, what you dislike, and what type of school will be a good fit.

2) Plan Ahead.

- Call the Undergraduate Admissions office or go to their website to register for a tour and information session (if offered). Look at upcoming holiday breaks or three-day weekends and plan accordingly! Make sure to visit when college students are on campus. Contact the colleges and universities ahead of time to inquire about campus tours, classroom visits, and other campus events that you may find interesting. Schedule an interview if possible.

3) Research the College Before You Visit.

- It is important to have some background information prior to your visit. Be prepared to ask questions on your visit for things that are not easily accessible on the college's website. Make a notecard of three things you "must do" while visiting that particular college. If you find a campus map online, print it out and take it with you. You'll be ready to go as soon as you step out of your car!

4) Go on a Scheduled Tour.

- Tours allow you to see the cafeteria, library, residence halls, and classrooms. It also provides an opportunity to ask questions.

5) Gather Information.

- Gather brochures, business cards, school newspapers, and any other pertinent information. You should also inquire about the campus security profile.

6) Keep Notes and Reflect On What You've Seen.

- Once you get home, sort through all of your information and notes and file it according to your interest level (1 = Not Interested thru 5 = Very Interested).

Helpful Resource on the Campus Visit:

National Survey of Student Engagement- A downloadable pocket guide to help you ask the right questions on a college campus visit. http://nsse.iub.edu/html/pocket_guide_intro.cfm

COLLEGE EXPLORATION : Questions to Ask on the College Visit

- Be sure to take good notes for each visit!-

It is important to get a range of views about a college during your campus visit. Ask the same questions of different people to get a clear picture.

Questions to ask college students

- What are the more popular extracurricular activities? (Or ask specifically about activities of interest to you.)
- Are you able to study in your room? Where do students study?
- Are there socializing areas/living rooms in the residence halls?
- Does the social life revolve around the campus or do many students go home or away on weekends?
- How available are the professors to talk to outside of class?
- Are campus jobs available?
- Were you able to register for all the classes you wanted?
- If you were to do it again, would you choose this college?
- Did you receive financial aid?
- What is the social life like at this school? Does the college provide planned activities?
- Where are the cafeterias? What are the facilities for socializing, such as the student center?
- Are there any special features to campus?
- How important are fraternities and sororities to social life? What percentage of students belong?
- What do you think are the best/most popular departments?

Questions to ask an Admissions Officer

- What are your most popular/distinguished programs?
- Who helps me if I don't know what to major in or want to change my major?
- What is the diversity like on campus?
- How many students will be in my first year courses? Are those courses taught by full-time faculty or by teaching assistants (T.A.s)?
- How involved are faculty outside of the classroom? What kinds of opportunities will I have to be involved in long-term research or internships? What percentage of students graduate having had those experiences?
- What kinds of work-study jobs are available?
- Am I likely to be admitted?
- What is the Cost of Attendance? What percentage of students receive financial aid and what is the typical package? What is the average debt of your students who borrow money for college?
- Are there academic/talent scholarships available?
- Is housing guaranteed? Freshman year? All four years?
- What is the four-year graduation rate for my major? What percentage of students graduate in four years?
- Do you accept AP credit?

Questions to ask yourself on campus

- Are the buildings on campus in good shape? How are the facilities and the school's technology?
- Are the residence halls comfortable and do the facilities meet demand?
- Are the grounds attractive? What is the general condition of campus?
- Is the campus close enough - or far enough away - from the city for me?
- How is it getting around campus? Can I walk to class or do I need a bike or shuttle?
- Are these the kinds of students I want to be friends with and professors I want to learn from?

Questions to ask yourself in the classroom

- Do students appear to be interested in the material?
- Do students participate in discussion?
- Do the students seem to have a relationship with the professor?
- Would I feel comfortable as a student in this setting?
- Is the material challenging enough for me?
- Does it seem like the professors care about the material and that the students are learning?

COLLEGE EXPLORATION : College Representatives and College Fairs

College Representatives visiting Mullen

College representatives visit students at Mullen mainly in the fall and sometimes in the spring. We welcome over 100 college representatives to campus each year. Representatives provide valuable information to students about their colleges as well as their application process. Juniors and seniors are encouraged to attend these visits to Mullen. Students should sign up for visits in Naviance and have a College Visit Pass signed by your teacher. A complete and up-to-date listing of visiting colleges and universities can be found on Naviance. College representative visits are advertised on Naviance, the College Event Calendar on the website, and through the announcements.

College Fairs

College fairs provide a unique opportunity for students to talk directly with admissions officers, alumni, or student representatives who assist the college in its admission efforts. A bit of preparation on your part will allow you to gain more from the experience.

When attending a College Fair, consider the following:

1. Do your homework: Study the roster of participating colleges (if available) and prepare a list of questions. Take your list to the fair and don't be shy about asking your questions.
2. Be prepared to complete student inquiry cards. To expedite this process, you can register for the fair or prepare pre-addressed labels that can be affixed to the colleges' card with your name, address and contact information (i.e., email, phone), and academic interest. This will provide more time to talk to the representative by spending less time filling in your information.
3. Allow sufficient time to talk with as many college representatives as possible. If you are undecided about where to apply, use the fair to continue your exploration. While many colleges will be familiar to you, others will not. If you have narrowed your list of colleges, the fair will permit you to be more direct in your information quest, but you may wish to engage in discussion with some colleges that are not on your list.
4. Bring pencils, paper or a notebook and take time to write down the answers to your questions and other information that you deem important.
5. Note the name or take the business card of the admissions representative with whom you spoke. Find out if they will be the one to evaluate your application. Take some time after the fair to write personal follow-up emails to those colleges for which you have special questions.
6. Talk with your fellow students after the fair and compare notes regarding the information you received and the impressions that were created. Comparing your insights and experiences with others may generate perspectives that were not apparent before.
7. Present yourself in the best possible manner. The college fair is an opportunity for you to interact face-to-face with college admissions representatives, individuals who eventually may be involved in reviewing your application and contributing to your admissions decision. Make the most of the very first impression you make with this individual.

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TESTING : An Overview and Definitions

An Overview of College Admissions Tests

Admissions requirements vary from school to school, and students should check with the individual colleges to determine the policy of each school in which they have a serious interest. Mullen's College Counselors can assist students in determining which examinations should be taken for each particular college or university. Some form of college admissions testing is usually required, but colleges do not have a preference as to whether a student applies with his/her ACT score or SAT score. To learn which schools are "test optional" and therefore do not require an ACT or SAT for admission, go to www.fairtest.org. Mullen automatically registers AP students for their AP exams and juniors for the PSAT, but *students are responsible for registering themselves for any ACT, SAT, and SAT Subject Tests.*

College Admissions Testing Definitions

ACT – A college entrance exam on a scale of 1 (lowest) to 36 (highest) that measures students' general educational development and their ability to complete college-level work. The test covers English, mathematics, reading, and science. There is an optional Writing Test. The test without writing is three hours and with writing is three hours and 30 minutes. The ACT may be taken in place of or in addition to the SAT. See www.actstudent.org.

AP Tests (Advanced Placement) – These two to three hour college-level exams are offered in a variety of subjects, are given in May, and are scored on a scale of 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest). A high score may earn a student advanced placement in college or course credit. Mullen students taking AP courses are required to take the AP tests. Scores earned by the end of the junior year may be taken into consideration by colleges in their evaluation of a student's candidacy.

PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) – This test is an abbreviated form of the SAT and is designed to give juniors an opportunity to practice taking a test which is similar to the SAT. This test measures critical reading skills, math problem-solving skills, and writing skills. It also gives high school juniors who are U.S. citizens a chance to enter National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) scholarship programs. It is given in October and results become available in December. See www.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt.

SAT – The SAT is three hours and 45 minutes long and measures skills in three areas: evidence-based reading and writing, math, and essay. Although most questions are multiple choice, students are also required to write a 25-minute essay. This test is scored on a scale of 200 (lowest) to 800 (highest) per section, or 600 to 1600 total. There is an optional Writing Test. The SAT may be taken in place of or in addition to the ACT. See www.sat.collegeboard.org.

SAT Subject Tests – The SAT Subject Tests are one-hour, mostly multiple-choice tests in specific subjects. These tests measure knowledge of particular subjects and the ability to apply that knowledge. Typically only highly selective colleges require or recommend one or more of these tests for admission or placement purposes. These tests are offered in subjects such as English, foreign languages, science, history, and mathematics. Students should take these tests upon completion of course material related to the test, typically in May or June. See www.sat.collegeboard.org.

TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) – This test is given to students for whom English is not their native language and, in some cases, to American citizens whose families do not speak English in the home. For non-native English speakers, it is an admissions requirements for those colleges and universities where instruction is in English. See www.ets.org/toefl.

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TESTING

Timelines : Registering : Reporting : Non-Standard Testing : Non-Report Options

College Admissions Testing Timelines

Freshman Year

- The PSAT 9 (preliminary SAT) is given at Mullen in the fall of the freshman year. Students are automatically registered. This test is only given once a year. **The PSAT 9 is not used for college admissions.**

Sophomore Year

- The PSAT 10 (preliminary SAT) is given at Mullen in the fall of the sophomore year. Students are automatically registered. This test is only given once a year. **The PSAT 10 is not used for college admissions.**
- The Pre-ACT (preliminary ACT) is given at Mullen in the spring of the sophomore year. Students are automatically registered. This test is only given once a year. **The Pre-ACT is not used for college admissions.**

Junior Year

- The PSAT 11 is given at Mullen the fall of junior year. Students are automatically registered. The junior score is the basis for selection for the National Merit Scholarship competition for U.S. citizens and several other scholarships. **The PSAT 11 is not used for college admissions.**
- The ACT, SAT, and SAT Subject Tests are administered throughout the year, from August thru June, at local public high schools. Students are responsible for registering themselves for these exams. It is important for students to take all tests at the time when they are most prepared. (Note: You cannot take the SAT and the SAT Subject Tests on the same day. *Plan ahead!*)

Senior Year

- Seniors may retake the ACT, SAT, and/or SAT Subject Tests in the fall of their senior year.

Registering For Tests

- You can register for the ACT and SAT online at:
 - ACT: www.actstudent.org
 - SAT and SAT Subject Tests: www.sat.collegeboard.org
 - Mullen's School CEEB Code is **060-600**
- *Use your full, legal name when registering for all tests!*
- It is the responsibility of the student to register for the appropriate tests and to submit their scores to the necessary colleges by the application deadlines. Mullen does not send test scores to colleges.

Reporting Scores to Colleges

- Students are expected to keep records concerning their own testing results.
- Students are responsible for reporting their scores directly to the colleges. *Mullen does not send test scores to colleges.*
- Test scores do not appear on the transcript.
- Test scores requested to be sent to a college will take a minimum of two weeks to be delivered. Plan ahead!

Non-Standard Testing

For questions concerning nonstandard testing for students with learning differences, please contact the De La Salle Academic/Personal Counselor. (*Note: This is a very detailed and lengthy process. Plan ahead!*)

Non-Report Testing Options

Over 840 four-year colleges and universities de-emphasize the use of standardized tests in making admissions decisions by offering waiver or non-report options. Some schools do not require standardized testing for any students, whereas others exempt those students meeting a particular GPA or use the scores only for research purposes. Always check with the undergraduate admissions office at universities of interest to learn their policies. For a complete listing of schools with Non-Report Testing Options, go to www.fairtest.org/university/optional.

APPLYING TO COLLEGES : Constructing Your College List

Students are encouraged to begin constructing their college list in the spring of their junior year. Based on the information gathered through college exploration, students should have a preliminary list of colleges and universities that match their desired interests. Keep in mind it is important to have at least two colleges in each of the below categories and to find schools in each category that would be a good match for each applicant. Students will use Naviance to construct and maintain their list. Students should only keep colleges on the list that they are really interested in attending.

Foundation Schools are colleges where you *easily reach or exceed* the standards for admission to that college. Likelihood of admission is 70%-100%.

Target Schools are colleges where you find yourself *very competitive* in the admission pool. Your ACT/SAT scores and GPA are within the middle 50% of scores from previous applicants. Likelihood of admission is 40%-70%.

Reach Schools are colleges where your GPA and standardized scores may be less than most other applicants. These are also colleges that accept a small percentage of their applicants. At a highly competitive college, many qualified applicants are denied or waitlisted even when they meet the admissions standards. Likelihood of admission is 1%-40%.

- It is recommended that students *diversify* their list of colleges, applying to schools ranging from most likely to be accepted to those that are a reach.
- Every college to which you apply should be a place *where you want to go and is a good match*.
- Statistics from the previous year's admission pool for that college are good measures to compare your credentials (i.e., average ACT/SAT scores, average GPA, percentage of applicants admitted).
- Refer to Naviance College Profiles and analyze Graphs to assess the category in which your colleges of interest fall.
- Whenever possible, visit those colleges and universities on your college list before applying to assess whether it is a good fit.
- **The most accurate source of information is the Admissions office of the college to which you are applying.** Directly contact the college's admissions office with questions or concerns and for admissions information specific to their school.
- Be sure to demonstrate interest to those schools to which you apply and would like to enroll. Communicate your interest in a school through attending an admissions representative's visit to Mullen; correspondence with admissions representatives; and scheduling opportunities to visit the campus, tour, interview, attend classes, or stay overnight.

APPLYING TO COLLEGES : The Mullen College Application Checklist

Senior Student:

It is the STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY to prepare, submit, and/or arrange:

- Application, Application fee, essay(s)
- Standardized test scores (Must be sent by the testing agency. Mullen does not send scores.)
- Counselor Rec Form to the Counselor you have selected to write your Counselor Recommendation.
- Teacher Recommendations forms (Typically for two teachers from junior year academic subjects; are sent by the College Counseling office.)
 - Complete Teacher Recommendation Forms and deliver to your teachers.
 - Sign College Rec. Contract with teacher and return to the College Counseling Office.
 - Follow-up. Inform about deadlines.
 - Write them a Thank You note!
- Activities résumé (if using)
- Any supplements required by the college (i.e., writing supplements submitted thru the Common Application)
- Any recommendations from people outside of Mullen (when required)
- Financial Aid forms (FAFSA and CSS/Profile)
- Interview, Portfolio, or Audition (when required)
- Scholarship applications (when separate from admissions application)
- Complete a Transcript Request Form (one per college) from Mullen College Counseling office a minimum of 15 days before an application deadline

Mullen College Counseling Office:

Once a Transcript Request Form is received, the Mullen College Counseling Office will provide and submit to colleges (electronically through Naviance, if available, or by mail):

- School Report
- Transcript
- Counselor letter of recommendation
- Teacher letters of recommendation
- Mullen school profile
- Mid-Year grades (sent automatically once available - include T1 senior grades)
- Final transcript/graduation confirmation (sent automatically once available to the college where a student indicates s/he is enrolling)

Mullen Teachers Will:

- Confirm that they are willing and able to write a letter of recommendation by signing the College Recommendation Contract
- Submit your confidential letter of recommendation to the Mullen College Counseling Office directly

APPLYING TO COLLEGES : Student Timeline & Completing Applications

Student Timeline

All students are responsible for completing the following tasks by the indicated due date:

Due April of Junior Year:

- Counselor Rec Form completed and given to the Counselor writing your rec
- Teacher Recommendation Forms completed and given to teachers
- College Recommendation Contract completed and signed by student and a minimum of two junior year academic teachers and submitted to College Counseling Office
- Transcript Release Forms completed and submitted to College Counseling Office

Due by mid-October of Senior Year (*or 15 days prior to the application deadline*):

- Early Decision (ED)/ Early Action (EA) Transcript Requests

Due by early December of Senior Year (*or 15 days prior to the application deadline*):

- Regular Decision Transcript Requests

Information for Completing Applications

When completing the application, remember:

- Complete all applications thoroughly by the deadline.
- Before submitting applications online through the Common Application or a college's website, make sure all sections are completed and proofread all essays.
- Complete and submit any additional writing supplements for any colleges (especially on the Common Application) that require one.
- **Students are responsible to submit all required test scores directly to colleges from the College Board (SAT/SAT Subject tests) and ACT.**
- **Allow 15 days for processing of transcript requests.** Transcript requests must be made a minimum of 15 days before the college's application deadline.
- Mid-year grade reports will automatically be sent to all colleges and universities. If a college or university requires an additional grade report, it is your responsibility to contact the College Counseling office.

APPLYING TO COLLEGES : Application Process Worksheet

All students are responsible for completing the following tasks by the indicated due date.

- Counselor Recommendation Form Due: April of Junior Year to the Counselor writing your rec
- Teacher Recommendation Forms Due: April of Junior Year to each teacher
- College Recommendation Contract Due: April of Junior Year to the College Counseling office
- Transcript Release Form Due: April of Junior Year to the College Counseling office

Managing Important Dates

College/ University	Deadline ED EA/Priority RD/Rolling	Transcript Request Form Submitted to College Counseling Office	SAT/ACT/SAT Subject Scores Submitted	Application Submitted to College	Supplemental Application Submitted to College

Financial Aid and Scholarships

Seniors are responsible for completing the necessary financial aid information by the indicated due date.

- CSS/Profile – Required by certain colleges and universities (Recommended Due Date: January)
- FAFSA – Required for students to be eligible for government aid; grants, work-study, loans (Recommended Due Date: October)
- Search for available scholarships (ongoing)

APPLYING TO COLLEGES : Recommendations & Résumés

Counselor Recommendations and Teacher Recommendations

A recommendation is an extremely important part of your application. College admissions counselors value a teacher's and counselor's perspective and enjoy reading what type of student you are and what you contribute to a classroom and the community. It is vital that you give teachers and counselors enough time to generate a great letter that reflects all of the wonderful qualities you have to offer and that you keep them informed about your ongoing plans.

- 1) Ask Early.
 - Begin asking teachers in April after the Junior Level Meeting.
 - Completed and signed Teacher Recommendation Forms are due to each teacher and the College Recommendation Contracts are due to the College Counseling office in April of junior year.
- 2) In the fall of senior year, provide the teacher with the following information:
 - Due dates for the application(s), if known.
 - Any specific requirements for the letter.
- 3) Teachers will submit the confidential letters directly to the College Counseling office. The College Counseling office will submit teacher recommendations and counselor recommendations directly to the colleges.
- 4) Write a thank you note.

Résumés and Activities Sheets

On college applications, students will need to indicate their extracurricular, community service, and work related activities that they have participated in throughout their high school experience. In addition to indicating this information on the application, colleges often ask students to submit a résumé. This is one more opportunity to showcase your talents, honors, awards, and participation in activities.

Keep in mind that the resume should be clear and concise. The résumé should reflect your strengths!

- Your résumé should include your full name, address, phone number, and email address. It should also include the name of your school, graduation year, and your cumulative GPA.
- Consider these categories as a guide to writing your résumé:
 - Academic Activities, Honors, Awards, and Achievements
 - Extracurricular Activities
 - Work Experience
 - Community Service Experience
- Within each category describe the activity, position you held, and grade level during involvement (i.e., 9th-11th, 10th-12th).

APPLYING TO COLLEGES : Writing Essays

Like most other admission criteria, the weight given to the essay will vary from institution to institution. However, if the college requires an essay, you must treat it with importance and use it as an opportunity to strengthen your application for admission. While the essay is first a measure of your writing abilities, it also provides insight into your personality, expressiveness, and thinking skills. Like the interview, the essay provides you with an opportunity to answer unasked questions and to communicate directly with the educators and officials who have a voice in your admissions decision.

Students write a draft of their main college application essay in English III B during their junior year, either during T2 or T3.

Starting Your Essay

1. Make certain you understand the question or the topic. Your essay should answer the question or speak directly to the prompt.
2. List all ideas. Be creative. Brainstorm without censoring.
3. Sort through ideas and prioritize. You cannot tell them everything, so be selective.
4. Choose information and ideas that are not reflected in other parts of your application. This is your chance to supplement your application with new information not already covered.
5. Be persuasive in showing the reader you are deserving of admission. Remember your audience.

Writing the Draft – Apply what you have learned in English class

1. Develop paragraphs, one idea at a time, using examples or giving convincing reasons. Have a strong opener and clincher to your essay.
2. Make transitions between paragraphs.
3. Select action verbs and avoid the passive voice.
4. Use concrete examples. Often evidence of behavior demonstrate an idea better than an adjective. Show, don't tell.
5. Develop exact, concrete language.

Editing Your Draft

1. Does your introduction capture the reader's attention?
2. Are you consistent in your verb tense?
3. Are you clear and coherent?
4. Are you concise enough to adhere to the limits in length?
5. Have you checked for grammatical and spelling errors?
6. Does the essay present you as you wish to be seen?
7. Would you remember your essay if you read one hundred others?
8. Does your closing paragraph present you as you wish to be remembered?

Completing Your Essay

1. Have another person review your essay for possible mistakes and/or feedback.
2. Save a copy for your records on your personal drive, not just in the application.

APPLYING TO COLLEGES : Interviews

A college interview provides students with the opportunity to learn more about the college while the college learns more about the students. An interview may last anywhere from 30 minutes to an hour. The interviewer may be an admissions officer, a student, or an alumnus. A less formal interview may be conducted in a group setting. Use these tips to assist you with the interview process.

- Act natural! Be yourself! Be positive!
- Arrive ten minutes early.
- Start and end your interview with a firm handshake.
- Don't be afraid to make eye contact.
- Bring information to share (i.e., transcript, résumé).
- Dress appropriately. Don't chew gum or bring candy or food.
- Don't exaggerate or stretch the truth. Be genuine and authentic.
- Have your cell phone turned off and put away (not just on silent/vibrate).
- Research the institution before the interview and have prepared questions. Bring a notepad and pen with you for your prepared questions and to take notes during the interview.
- If there is something interesting, special, unique, or important that you want them to know, bring it up! Don't leave the interview with important things left unsaid.

Questions an admissions representative might ask you:

Academic

- What classes are you taking?
- Are you pleased with your high school academic performance?
- What do you enjoy studying, and what kind of college major are you considering to help you reach your goals?
- What do you like/dislike about your school? If you could change any aspect of your high school, what would it be and why?
- What is your favorite/least favorite class? Why?
- How has your high school experience prepared you for college?

Extracurricular

- What activities are you involved in? What would you like to continue/start in college?
- What are your other interests?
- What have you learned/gained from participation in these activities?

Questions to ask an admission representative:

- How large are your classes? Do you have teaching assistants?
- Is there an advising system?
- Do you have a required core curriculum?
- What are the student graduation rates?
- What are your housing options? How do you match roommates?
- What types of safety and security do you have?
- How many students come from in-state, out-of-state, or are international?
- What do students have to do on weekends? Do students stay on campus?
- How has this college changed in the last five years?

Questions to ask an alumni or student interviewer:

- If you could choose all over again, would you choose the same college?
- Do you feel that this college prepared you to meet your goals? How?
- What was your best/worst experience?
- What are the best qualities of the school, and what would you change about it?

FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIPS : CSS/Profile, FAFSA, Scholarships, and WUE

Each year, Mullen invites juniors, seniors and their parents to attend a College Financial Aid Night. This night focuses on the FAFSA, CSS/Profile and other scholarship opportunities.

CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE

The CSS/PROFILE is the financial aid application service of the College Board. Many of the member colleges, universities, graduate and professional schools, and scholarship programs use the information collected on CSS/PROFILE to help them award nonfederal student aid funds.

Visit <https://student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile> for more information, a list of participating colleges and universities, and important deadlines.

FAFSA (Free Application For Federal Student Aid)

Use this application to apply for federal student grants, work-study aid, and loans. You may also use this application to apply for most state and some private aid. The FAFSA is available for completion beginning in October of each year. It is only available online. You can sync much of your FAFSA data from your Federal Income Tax information.

Prior Prior Year (PPY) references the tax information students use to fill out the FAFSA. Students may complete the FAFSA using tax information from two years prior to their anticipated college entrance date. (Example: Seniors planning to enroll in college the fall after graduation may file the FAFSA using tax data from the calendar year which includes the spring of sophomore year and fall of junior year.)

Visit www.fafsa.ed.gov for more information.

Scholarships

There are numerous scholarships available to students. The trick is finding them! Mullen receives information about scholarship each year that we promote to students and parents via the College Scholarships portion of the Mullen website. Students may also consider inquiring about scholarships at the colleges and universities to which they are applying.

Additionally, there are scholarship search engines that may be useful to students and parents. Check out the list of websites below!

www.collegeincolorado.org
www.scholarships.com

www.fastweb.com
www.studentscholarships.org

WUE

The Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) allows students who are residents of WICHE states to request a reduced tuition rate of 150% of resident tuition (vs. out-of-state tuition) at participating two- and four-year college programs outside of their home state. The WUE reduced tuition rate may be available to students based on GPA, ACT/SAT, or intended major, so check with the participating universities to learn about your eligibility for the WUE tuition rate.

WICHE participating members include: 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.

To search for participating institutions, see <http://wue.wiche.edu/search1.jsp>

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS STATUS & MAKING THE “FINAL” DECISION

College Application Status Form

Seniors will receive an "End of the Year College Information Form" in late April of their senior year. The form asks for information regarding each student's application status (i.e., accepted, deferred, denied) as well as scholarship award information. Students should save their scholarship award letters to be turned in with the "End of the Year College Information Form." This information is used solely for the purpose of creating a total amount earned by the senior class to be announced at graduation.

Withdrawing your Application

If a student has decided NOT to apply to a college but has already submitted the application and/or transcript request, please contact the college or university via email as soon as possible. The email or letter should include name, college admissions ID number, contact information, and one sentence stating the request to withdraw the application.

Deferred or Waitlisted

Your College Counselor is here to assist you in the event of Deferral or Waitlist decisions!

- 1. Read the deferral or waitlist letter very carefully.** Follow their directions and deadlines.
- 2. Get the Scoop.** Different colleges use waitlists differently. To assess your chances of acceptance from the waitlist, call the admission office. Ask what your position is on the list (if the list is ranked). Another important piece of information is the percentage of students that have been accepted from the waitlist in recent years. If a college hardly ever uses its waitlist, or accepted only a few waitlisted applicants last year, that trend is unlikely to change this year. But you can ask if the admission officer knows yet if the college will go to the waitlist this year. The goal in gathering this information is to determine your chances of eventually being accepted.
- 3. Confirm your Interest.** If the college is still your number one choice, make sure you state your definite interest! *It is important that the student contact the college to confirm continued interest rather than a parent or college counselor.* In a letter and/or an email, state your interest and provide the college with any new, additional, and/or pertinent information. For example, it would be beneficial to submit recent awards or honors, a new leadership position, strong writing sample or paper, and perhaps even an additional letter of recommendation.
- 4. Mid-Year Grades are important.** The College Counseling office will automatically submit your Mid-Year grades (T1) to the schools to which you have applied that will accept them. Also note, all students who wish to remain on a waitlist throughout the spring must notify the College Counseling office.
- 5. Restate your interest!** In early March, it is important to once again contact your colleges to restate your interest. In an email, emphasize your desire to attend that college. Be detailed, but do not repeat prior information.

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS STATUS & MAKING THE “FINAL” DECISION

Notifying Colleges of your Final Decision

It is very important to notify colleges of your final decision (Accepting or Declining) by the stated deadline.

You must notify each college or university which accepts you whether you are accepting or rejecting its offer. You should make these notifications as soon as you have made a final decision as to the college that you wish to attend, but no later than the National Candidate Reply Date of May 1. It is understood that May 1 will be the postmark date. You have the right to wait until May 1 to respond to an offer of admission, except in the case of gaining admission under an Early Decision plan.

You may confirm your intention to enroll and, if required, submit a deposit to only one college or university. The exception to this arises if you are put on a waitlist by a college or university and are later admitted to that institution. If after you have deposited to enroll at a college you learn that you have been offered a spot off the waitlist, you may then send a deposit to that school. However, you must immediately notify the college or university at which you previously indicated your intention to enroll that you are withdrawing and will not be attending their institution.

If you are accepted under an Early Decision (ED) plan, you must promptly withdraw the applications submitted to other colleges and universities and make no additional applications. If you are an Early Decision candidate and are seeking financial aid, you need not withdraw other applications until you have received notification about financial aid.

If you think that your rights have been denied, you should contact the college or university immediately to request additional information or the extension of a reply date. In addition, you should ask your College Counselor to notify the president of the state or regional affiliate of the National Association for College Admission Counseling. If you need further assistance, send a copy of any correspondence you have had with the college or university and a copy of your letter of admission to:

**NACAC
1050 N Highland Street
Suite 400
Arlington, VA 22201**

**or to:
info@nacacnet.org**

This information is provided by
National Association of College Admission Counseling “Statement of Principles of Good Practice.”

**Don’t forget ... Your College Counselors are here to coach you, support you,
and celebrate with you!**

Good Luck, Mustangs!

APPENDIX 1 : IMPORTANT WEBSITES

Naviance: connection.naviance.com/mullen

Mullen's College Counseling Handbook: www.mullenhigh.com

<Academics <College Counseling<Helpful Resources<College Counseling Handbook

Application Portals:

Common App: www.commonapp.org

Coalition App: www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org

Testing (Registration/Test Scores/Free Online Test Prep):

ACT: www.actstudent.org

SAT/SAT Subject Tests: www.collegeboard.org

PSAT/NMSQT: www.collegeboard.org

TOEFL: www.ets.org/toefl

Test Preparation:

www.doorwaytocollege.com

www.prepforthefuture.com

List of Test Optional Schools:

www.fairtest.org/university/optional

Financial Aid:

FAFSA & FAFSA Pin: www.fafsa.gov

CSS Profile: <https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/>

College Opportunity Fund: <https://cof.college-assist.org/> (Provides tuition discounts to Colorado residents who stay in-state for college.)

www.finaid.org

Scholarships:

www.collegeincolorado.org

www.fastweb.com

www.scholarships.com

www.studentscholarships.org

Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE): <http://wue.wiche.edu/search1.jsp>

Athletic Portals:

NCAA Eligibility Center: <https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/>

NAIA Eligibility Center: <http://www.playnaia.com/psaRegister.php>

Other:

National Catholic College Search Engine: www.catholiccollegesonline.org

CCHE Admissions Index ("Colorado Index"):

<http://highered.colorado.gov/Academics/Admissions/IndexScore/>

Campus Visit Brochure from NSSE: http://nsse.iub.edu/html/pocket_guide_intro.cfm

Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE): <http://wiche.edu/wue>