



# College Admissions 101

August 25, 2022

August 31, 2022

Webinar: September 9 at 12:00 noon

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# An overview of this presentation

- The value of self-assessment
- Office of Admissions – Changes because of 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 and senior 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 **AchieveWorks Personality** assessment in Naviance, a Myers-Briggs personality inventory (in the Self-Discovery section.)

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

- For those who have an interest in the college search, there are great opportunities to learn and discover!
- Over 140 college and universities will visit Minnetonka HS this fall – see the full list in Naviance.
- Attend the national college fair in Minneapolis (Oct 5-6). Sessions at 9:10-12:00 both days; an evening session at 5:00-8:00 on Oct 5.  
<https://www.nacacfairs.org/attend/national-college-fairs/>
- Several virtual college fairs are being offered this fall on Sunday afternoons: Sept 11, Oct 9, and Nov 6.  
<https://www.nacacfairs.org/attend/attend-virtual-college-fairs/>

# 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. And some colleges got a lot of application last year!
- 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 Southeast. 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 2024, but the movement in admissions fully supports test-optional policies
- The optional writing section in the SAT has been eliminated. The SAT Subject Tests have been eliminated. The number of colleges requiring an ACT test with writing is less than five – students don’t need to do the optional writing section of the ACT.
- Most colleges and universities require registration for a campus tour. Many have added significantly to their YouTube campus tour productions. It’s important to check a college’s “visit” website before scheduling a trip!

# Minnetonka High School – Profile from 2021 & 2022

- % attending 4-year colleges 76%
- % attending 2-year colleges 10%
- % attending MN institutions 36%
- % attending out-of-state institutions 50%
- Average number of applications 5.65

## • **Class of 2021**

The top 7 schools include:

Univ of Minnesota - TC

Normandale Community College

Univ of Wisconsin - Madison

Univ of Minnesota - Duluth

Iowa State University

University of St. Thomas

University of Iowa

## • **Class of 2022**

The top 7 schools include:

Univ of Minnesota – TC

Univ of Wisconsin - Madison

Normandale Community College

Iowa State University

Univ of Minnesota - Duluth

University of St. Thomas

Indiana University

## Holistic review – what's most important?

- 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 2023 to test -- with more time for instruction and learning, and (for those who choose to do it) test preparation.
- Oct 1                      SAT
- Oct 12                     PSAT (for juniors)
- Oct 22                     ACT
- Nov 5                      SAT
- Dec 3                      SAT
- Dec 10                    ACT
- Feb 11                    ACT
- Mar 7                     ACT – school day test for juniors

[www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

[www.collegeboard.org/sat](http://www.collegeboard.org/sat)

## 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 Methodize/Method Learning (Use the MySSO to access Naviance – and go to the bottom of the page for a link)
- On the ACT web site, check out the free test prep section. <https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation/free-act-test-prep.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

(Which of these might be important to you?)

- 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

(Which of these might be important to you?)

- 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>

<https://myintuition.org/>

# For Parents: This is a good one!

**ies** 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 [Browse for Programs](#)

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](#)

[Show Results](#)

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

### Find the right college for you

[Guide Me](#)

- » 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!

**College Scorecard** info



[Enter](#)

**College Navigator** info



[Enter](#)

**90/10 Information** info



[Enter](#)

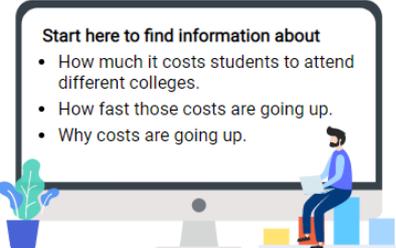
**Net Price Calculator Center** info



[Enter](#)

**Start here to find information about**

- How much it costs students to attend different colleges.
- How fast those costs are going up.
- Why costs are going up.



**College Affordability and Transparency List** info



[Enter](#)

**State Spending Charts** info



[Enter](#)

**College Financing Plan** info



[Enter](#)

# For Students: You'll love this one!

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Category	Threads
<b>College Search &amp; Selection</b> <a href="#">Christian Colleges</a> <a href="#">Community Colleges</a> <a href="#">Women's Colleges</a> <a href="#">Online Degrees</a>	20 / week
<b>Parents Forum</b> <a href="#">Class of 20xx Community</a> <a href="#">Parent Cafe</a>	23 / week
<b>College Admissions</b> Discuss everything about applying to college and the admissions process here! <a href="#">Early Decision / Early Action</a> <a href="#">Admissions Hindsight and Lessons Learned</a> <a href="#">Common and Coalition Application</a> <a href="#">Gap Year</a> <a href="#">Non-Traditional Students</a> <a href="#">Study Abroad</a>	39 / week
<b>Specialty College Admissions Topics</b> <a href="#">African-American Students</a> <a href="#">Athletic Recruits</a> <a href="#">Hispanic Students</a> <a href="#">Veterans</a>	5.6k

**Latest**

-  **Rising sophomore at Harvard - AMA about the application process, life at Harvard, and working at the Harvard Crimson!** 26  
[Ask Me Anything!](#)  
class-2025, harvard-university, sponsored 2d
-  **Early Decision/Early Action Threads Have Been Created!** 17  
[College Confidential Community](#) 3d
-  **Vaccine reluctance** 3.7k  
[Parent Cafe](#) covid-19 1m
-  **What constitutes 4 years of math for admissions?** 0  
[College Admissions](#) 4m

# For Parents & Students: Use this one!

The screenshot shows the Naviance website interface. At the top left is the logo for NAVIANCE BY HOBSONS. The navigation menu includes Home, Self-Discovery, Careers, Colleges, and Planner. On the right, there are icons for a heart, a chat bubble, an envelope with a '2' notification, and a profile icon labeled 'SS About Me'. Below the navigation is a welcome message 'Welcome, Sam!' and a search bar with the placeholder text 'Type a college name' and a 'SEARCH' button. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column features a section titled 'Intro to Seniors' with a language dropdown set to 'English' and a 'Go' button. The text in this section reads: '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.', and 'We hope you will explore the many beneficial features that are available to you. We recommend the following links:'. A 'Read more' button is located at the bottom of this section. Below this is a teal header for 'Important To-Dos and Tasks'. The right column features a section titled 'My Favorites' with three items: 'COLLEGES I'm thinking about' (with a heart icon), 'COLLEGES I'm applying to' (with a graduation cap icon), and 'CAREERS AND CLUSTERS I'm thinking about' (with a heart icon). Below this is a teal header for 'What's New'.

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

- For all 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 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 seniors 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)
- Determine which application plan/option works best for you (Early Decision, Early Action, Regular Decision or Rolling)
- The selection process can last for months, especially when cost of attendance is a significant factor.

# Applying for admission – next steps

- Attend the in-person and virtual college admission visits this fall – see Naviance for the full list (in the Colleges tab)
- MEA week travel – seniors have off that Wednesday!
- Arrange a meeting with your school counselor or college counselor
- Fill out the Transcript Release form

<https://www.minnetonkaschools.org/schools/high-school/mhs/counseling/transcripts>

- If you need a counselor recommendation, fill out the Senior Questionnaire (a survey in the About Me section in Naviance)
- If appropriate, open your Common App account

<https://www.commonapp.org/>

# 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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Twitter: @MHScollegeguy

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

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