



Bristol Eastern High School



Senior Future Planning *2020-2021 School Year*

School Counseling Department
2020-2021



Upcoming Events

Financial Aid Information:

Please look out for information on a webinar regarding Financial Aid (FAFSA) and tips on completing the application. The FAFSA application opens on October 1st, www.fafsa.gov, please visit <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa> for more information on the process and starting your application!





October 14, 2020

Students in grade 12 will be taking the SAT in school on October 14th

- Please make sure you log into your college board account www.collegeboard.org and choose up to 4 schools to send your results for free! You may also do this up to 9 days past taking the SAT on a Saturday. Don't miss your chance to send your results without paying a fee.





Senior Timeline

Please note: We will be going into detail about all of the tasks listed below in the upcoming slides...

September:

- Complete resume in Naviance.
 - Ask for letters of rec.
- Keep checking the Guidance 2021 Google Classroom
- Take SAT/ACT dates are listed in google classroom
 - Create an account at www.commonapp.org
- Match your account with your Naviance Account and do a college super match to see which schools suite you best
- Take a look at the essay question options

October - December:

- Keep track of deadlines.
- Submit applications.
- Submit a *transcript release form* for each school applied to. (*forms are located in the guidance office*)

October:

- Complete the FAFSA (starting 10/1) Narrow down list of schools.
 - Take SAT/ACT, if needed.
- Visit schools Virtually and schedule virtual appointments with the College Admissions Reps - this is how they will remember you :)
 - Work on college essay.

October – December (continued):

- Attend Financial Aid Webinar (date TBD)
- Take SAT/ACT, if needed, and send out scores to schools.
- *Continue to meet your school counselor and keep us informed.*



Senior Timeline

Please note: We will be going into detail about all of the tasks listed below in the upcoming slides...

January:

- Scholarship season begins!
Listen for announcements and check the bulletin board and Google Classroom Scholarships = free money!

May 1st

- Most schools require you to make your final decision by this date. Your deposit by this date confirms your final decision.



January-April

- Begin to receive notification from schools (accepted, denied, waitlisted etc.)
- Begin to receive Financial Aid packages from schools.
- *Begin to consider your decision...*

Throughout the process...

- Keep your school counselor informed and ask us questions! That's what we are here for!
- ***KEEP TRACK OF DEADLINES!***
We find that making a master calendar of all important deadlines really helps.



Resume

- Your resume in Naviance/Family Connection should be finished by now... if not, finish it!
- Your resume will assist you with your college apps and is required by teachers to write your letters of rec. Having a resume will help with job applications as well.
- Don't get too "hung up" on the format or what category something falls into; just make sure it gets on your resume.
- Should include grades 9-12.

What to include: School involvement, extra-curricular involvement, community involvement, employment history, volunteer work, awards received etc...



Link:

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

New log in through
google coming soon!

*If you get stuck, your school
counselor is willing to help!*



Recommendation Letters



- You need (up to) two teacher recommendation letters. The students were asked to begin contacting the people they wish to write the letter before they left for the summer. They must begin asking NOW if they haven't already.
- Who to ask for letters of recommendation? **Simply put, the teacher(s) that know you the best and can speak about your character and your ability to handle the demands of college.** Try to get a letter of recommendation from a subject that pertains to your major, *if possible*.
- Expect a letter will take 2-3 weeks to be written, so ask for letters ahead of time. Provide teachers with your resume and any other important info that may be helpful to them when they are writing your letter (i.e. your intended college major, a list of schools you're applying to etc.). You must also request your counselor to write a letter of recommendation. Please do not assume that we will be writing one.



Recommendation Letters (continued)



- You may likely need a letter of recommendation from your school counselor, so please make sure you ask for one. Counselors do not automatically write one.
- You are NOT responsible for sending your letters of recommendation to the schools you apply to. Teachers will upload your letter to Naviance and your school counselor will submit it (along with some of your other application materials...which we will get into later).
- These same letters of recommendation can be used for any scholarships you apply to.
- Don't forget to write a **Thank You** note!



SAT/ACT



2019-2020 SAT and ACT Test Dates and Registration

2020-2021 SAT Test Date	Registration Date	ACT Test Date	Deadline	Scores First Available
Saturday, September 26, 2020	August 26, 2020	October 10th October 17th October 24th October 25th	September 25, 2020	November 3, 2020
Saturday, October 3, 2020	September 4, 2020 (online)	December 12th	November 6, 2020	December 22, 2020
Saturday, November 7, 2020	October 7, 2020 (online)	February 6th	January 8, 2020	February 16, 2020
Saturday, December 5, 2020	November 5, 2020 (online)	April 17th	March 12, 2020	April 27, 2020

How to register: collegeboard.org/actstudent.org

Fee waivers available for students/families who qualify. Please notify your counselor if you need a fee waiver.



SAT/ACT



- **IMPORTANT:** Students are responsible for sending their scores to **every college** they are applying to. This is done online through the CollegeBoard or ACT website. Students have their username and passwords, counselors do not have access to their accounts nor can counselors send the scores themselves.
- Do not wait until the last minute to send your scores. Processing takes a few weeks.
- **Take advantage of 4 free send-outs (6 if you qualified for a test waiver)!** You can set this up on Collegeboard anytime before the test and up to 9 days *after* the test.
- *To send SAT scores out: \$11.25 per school.*
- SAT Subject Tests, if required by any of your schools.



College List



- Narrow down your list to the schools you will be applying to; create a master list of deadlines and required application materials.
- Arrange campus visits, in person or virtually. Check the Guidance Google Website for a list of virtual tours.
- Reach, Reasonable, Safety...
- Make virtual appointments with college admission reps. These interviews will help them remember you!
- Use Naviance and link it to your common app - your counselor can assist you. Make sure your college list is updated.





THE COMMON APPLICATION

- You will either apply to a school through the Common App or a school's specific application. When possible, we always recommend using the Common App.
- If you haven't already, create a Common App account and add your schools to your list.
- While the Common App is the same application for hundreds of schools, each school has their own "supplemental" component *be sure to look at this when adding your school to your Common App list. It will be visible on the application site.*
- www.commonapp.org



College Essay

- Your college essay can set you apart from the other thousands of applicants applying to a school.
- 650 words to tell *your* story. Something that may set you apart from someone else, something that makes you unique. Essay prompts are located under the common app “writing” tab.
- Typically the part of the college application that holds students up the most.
- Your English Teacher is an excellent resource for you as far as proof reading and offering suggestions. Use your resources!





College Essay Cont.



- Proofread, proofread, and proofread again (and then have someone else proofread...)
- Follow the guidelines: Word amount, length of essay, topic.
- Don't wait until the last minute to write the essay.
- Senior classes will most likely have the essay as an assignment in English class, but it doesn't mean you have to/should wait until then to write it...
- Remember that the essay should be about **YOU**.



The Essentials of the Application Process

What STUDENTS will do in this process?

- Ask teachers AND their school counselor for letters of recommendation.
- Send your SAT or ACT scores to *each* school you apply to, directly from the websites (collegeboard.org/ACT.org). It is \$11.25 per school. **(At end of year... send out AP scores, Tunxis and UCONN transcripts to the school you will be attending.)**
- Submit your applications online via CommonApp, or through the individual school's website. This includes your essay(s), payment, and any *supplements* that are required.
- Sign your FERPA waiver on Naviance/Family Connection to enable recommendations to be submitted. If the FERPA is not signed and connected to Naviance, your counselor cannot send all the necessary documents to complete your application.
- Check your email! Schools today do almost all of their communication through email (i.e. missing application materials, approaching deadlines etc.).

Keep your school counselor informed throughout this process.



Application Essentials Cont.



What **STUDENTS** will do in this process? (continued)

- Provide a transcript request form to your counselor for *EACH* school that you have **applied** to. Transcript request forms must be submitted to your counselor at least **10 days before the application deadline.**
- File your Financial Aid documents including the FAFSA (after **10/1/2020**, and the CSS Profile (if required by the college, adhering to their specific deadlines) . Need help with the FAFSA? Financial Aid help by webinar is currently being scheduled.



Application Essentials Cont.



What will your **COUNSELOR** do in this process?

- Write your letter of recommendation by the date you specified, if you requested one. We ask for a minimum of 10 school days notice.
- Via Naviance, counselors will submit your most current transcript, letters of recommendation(s), and high school profile to *each* of the schools you have given us a Transcript Request Form for. (Forms are available in the counseling office and on our school's website).



Application Types



Types of applications:

- Early Action – A non-binding agreement, you can apply early to the college but do not need to make a decision until usually May 1st.
- Early Decision – A binding agreement, you can apply early but if you are accepted you must attend.
- Rolling Admission – You can apply at any time and your application will be reviewed when received.
- Regular Admission – You apply at a later date than EA or ED and receive a decision later.

You should plan to apply to all schools and submit your transcript request forms to your school counselor by Dec. 1 if possible.



Scholarships



- Scholarship season will start around late October/early November and run through May. The majority of the scholarships we post are local and *many are for Bristol students only*.
- Visit the School Counseling Office or check the scholarship google classroom for daily and weekly updates and deadlines for scholarships
- Some colleges will have their own scholarships... look on the admission and/or financial aid page for information and deadlines.
- Pay attention to deadlines.
- Time and effort can pay off.
- **Free Money!!!**



Financial Aid



- FAFSA –Free Application for Federal Student Aid **fafsa.ed.gov**. FAFSA will determine your Estimated Family Contribution (EFC).
- FAFSA must be filled out online and can be done on or after **October 1st, 2020**; the earlier you apply the better. Counselors cannot assist in completing your FAFSA, however, we have resources that may be able to assist you.
- If you do not submit the FAFSA, you are not eligible for Financial Aid.
- CSS Profile – *a more in-depth version of the FAFSA* – fill out if your school requires it:
<http://student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile>



Community College



- 12 community colleges in CT w/ Tunxis being the closest to Bristol www.ct.edu We are planning on having a Community College Fair again this spring. Last year was a great success.
- Most programs offers 2-year associate degrees as well as other certificate programs.
- Process for applying is different than 4-year colleges: You do not need to send test scores, recommendation letters or an essay. Test scores, though, can sometimes be used in place of placement test.
- Apply online. Tunxis will have two virtual acceptance days - one in November/December and one in April.
- Classes taken at community colleges will transfer to state 4-year schools.
- The FAFSA is applied to community colleges as well. In fact if you complete the FASFA before July 1st, apply and register for classes you are eligible for the PACT free tuition program!



Community College - PACT program

Connecticut Community Colleges are launching a FREE Community College program that began in the Fall of 2020



*The Program is open to all Connecticut residents who meet the following criteria:

- *Have graduated or will be graduating from a Connecticut High School (includes GED program and home school programs)*
- *Attending College for the FIRST time*
- *Complete the FAFSA and accept all financial awards*
- *Attend Community College full time, pursuing any credit-bearing major or career program.*
- *Remain in good academic standing*
- *Apply and register for classes by July 1st!*

For more information, please visit [PACT Program](#)



Employment/Military



- If you are interested in joining a branch of the military you should sign up for the ASVAB which will take place **on Friday, Oct. 16th in the BEHS Choir Room 7:30-10:30 a.m.** We will also host one in April, date TBD
- Sign up by emailing your counselor or completing the form on the Google Classroom.
- Make sure you have an updated resume for part-time jobs. Local opportunities are posted on our job/volunteer bulletin board, in our daily announcements, and emailed to all students that would qualify.

Talk to your counselor if you are still unsure of what you want to do after high school.



Employment/Technical Career Paths



- Technical Career paths are becoming increasingly popular especially in Connecticut where retirements in manufacturing and other trades are happening at fast rates.
- Technical Schools, i.e. Bristol Tech, Porter and Chester, Goodwin Technical College, provide certified training career programs for young workers who wish to learn a trade and possibly work simultaneously.
- Great resource - Department of Labor - Apprenticeship programs - get hired as an apprenticeship with training on the job.



Technical/Training Careers



- Plumbing
- Electrician
- Energy Management (Energy Source)
- Computer Technician
- Auto Mechanic
- HVAC
- Manufacturing
- Hairdressing/Cosmetology/Barbering
- Carpentry
- Construction
- Brick Mason
- Welder.....



Advice



- Make an appointment with your school counselor ASAP and visit frequently. We are here to help! Appointments can be made through email and meetings can be done through zoom or in person meetings.
- Don't procrastinate.
- Do well in your classes.
- Try not to stress out.
- CHECK EMAIL FREQUENTLY!
- Know what is best for YOU!! What career or pathway will make you happy?

The more time and effort you put into this process, the greater chance that the school you choose will be a great fit for you academically, socially, and financially.)



Questions?? Email
your counselor :)