



College Admissions 101

Webinar: August 25, 2020

An Overview of this presentation

- The value of self-assessment
- Office of Admissions – Changes due to COVID-19
- Profile data from Minnetonka High School
- Holistic review – and the importance of the transcript
- College search process
- Apply for admission and apply for financial aid
- Minnetonka counseling model – and our pledge!

Self assessment

- 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, consider the **Do What You Are** assessment in Naviance, a Myers-Briggs personality inventory (in the About Me section.)

Office of Admissions

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

Office of Admissions – Changes from COVID-19

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

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

- Students do NOT need to take the optional writing section in the ACT or SAT (unless you're applying to West Point.)
- Closed campuses – most universities are offering only virtual tours. Many have added significantly to their YouTube productions.
- Some application deadlines have been changed – please check the web sites.

Minnetonka High School – Profile from 2019 & 2020

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

• **Class of 2019**

The top 7 schools include:

Univ of Minnesota – TC

Univ of Wisconsin – Madison

Normandale Community College

University of St. Thomas

Iowa State University

Univ of Nebraska, Lincoln

Univ of Minnesota – Duluth

• **Class of 2020**

The top 7 schools include:

Univ of Minnesota – TC

Univ of Wisconsin – Madison

Normandale Community College

Univ of Minnesota – Duluth

University of St. Thomas

Minnesota State, Mankato

Univ of Wisconsin – Eau Claire

Holistic review – 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

- October 3 SAT
- October 6 ACT (in school date)

<https://minnetonka.revtrak.net/Minnetonka-High-School/MHS-Fees/in-school-act-registration/>

- October 14 PSAT (for juniors)
- October 24 ACT
- November 7 SAT
- December 5 SAT
- December 12 ACT

Note: photo ID is a required part of test registration!

The College Search – How to begin?

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

Self inventory (cont.)

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

Information Gathering -- The Basics of a College Search

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

Information Gathering -- The Personality of the College

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

Information Gathering – Making Use of the Internet!

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

<http://www.collegeboard.org>

<http://www.collegeconfidential.com>

<http://www.princetonreview.com>

<http://www.finaid.org>

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

<https://collegecost.ed.gov>

For Parents: This is a good one!

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](#)

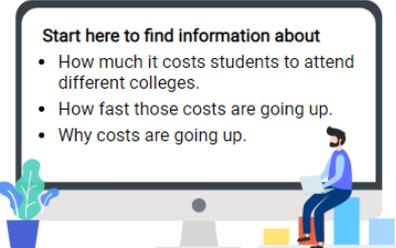
Net Price Calculator Center [info](#)



[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](#)



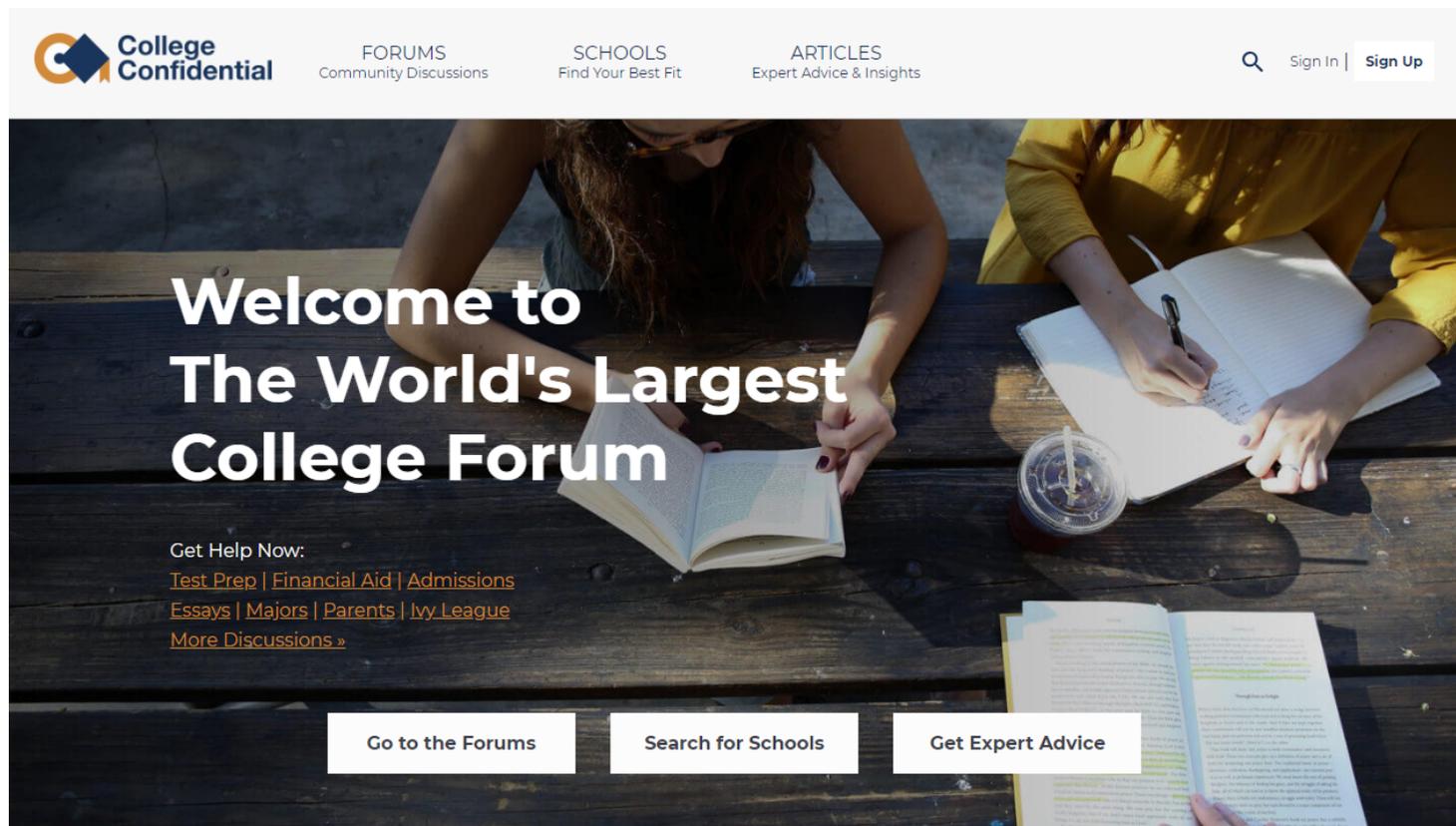
[Enter](#)

College Financing Plan [info](#)



[Enter](#)

For Students: You'll love this one!

The image shows the top portion of the College Confidential website. At the top left is the College Confidential logo, which consists of a stylized 'C' and 'D' in blue and orange. To the right of the logo are three navigation links: 'FORUMS Community Discussions', 'SCHOOLS Find Your Best Fit', and 'ARTICLES Expert Advice & Insights'. Further right is a search icon and the text 'Sign In | Sign Up'. Below the navigation is a large hero image of two students sitting at a wooden table, looking at books and writing in notebooks. Overlaid on this image is the main heading 'Welcome to The World's Largest College Forum' in large white text. Below the heading is a list of links under the heading 'Get Help Now:'. At the bottom of the hero section are three white buttons with black text: 'Go to the Forums', 'Search for Schools', and 'Get Expert Advice'.

College Confidential

FORUMS
Community Discussions

SCHOOLS
Find Your Best Fit

ARTICLES
Expert Advice & Insights

Sign In | Sign Up

Welcome to The World's Largest College Forum

Get Help Now:
[Test Prep](#) | [Financial Aid](#) | [Admissions](#)
[Essays](#) | [Majors](#) | [Parents](#) | [Ivy League](#)
[More Discussions »](#)

Go to the Forums

Search for Schools

Get Expert Advice

For Parents & Students: Use this one!

The screenshot shows the Naviance Student website. At the top left is the Naviance logo and the text "Naviance | Student". To the right is a navigation menu with links for "Home", "Colleges", "Careers", "About Me", and "My Planner". Below the navigation is a welcome message "Welcome, Sam!". Underneath is a search bar with a dropdown menu labeled "Search for Colleges" and a search button labeled "SEARCH". The main content area is divided into four sections: "Intro to Seniors", "My Favorites", "Important To-Dos and Tasks", and "What's New".

Naviance | Student

Home | Colleges | Careers | About Me | My Planner

Welcome, Sam!

Search for Colleges **SEARCH**

Intro to Seniors

Greetings from the MHS Counseling Office!

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

We hope you will explore the many beneficial features that are available to you. We recommend the following links:

[Read more](#)

My Favorites

- COLLEGES
I'm thinking about
- COLLEGES
I'm applying to
- CAREERS AND CLUSTERS
I'm thinking about

Important To-Dos and Tasks

What's New

Applying for admission

- For all of our students, let this be your “mantra.” 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, The Blake School, Minneapolis

Applying for admission – next steps

- Attend the virtual college admission visits this fall – see Naviance for the full list
- Arrange a Google Meet 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 (in the About Me section in Naviance)
- If appropriate, open your Common App account

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

Applying for admission (continued)

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

Timeline – some upcoming dates

- In September Senior Seminar, with your counselor
- Sept 21 Webinar: Senior Parent Night Program
- Oct 15 Earliest application deadline
- Oct 14 (15-16) No school for seniors (MEA)
- Oct 26 Webinar: Financial aid program at MHS
- Nov 1 Early Action/Early Decision application deadline
- Nov 15 EA/ED deadline

Timeline (continued)

- End of Nov Seniors compile final list of colleges
- Oct - Feb File the FAFSA
- Jan 1 Deadline for many regular decision schools
- May 1 National candidate reply date
- June 9 Graduation day for the Class of 2021

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!

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