

Note: For the purposes of this session, the term **college admissions** (CA) will be used to include college admissions, applications, scholarships, and financial aid.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Students will be given resources and upcoming dates for **college admissions**
2. Students will learn about the **college admissions** process, counselor/student responsibilities
3. Students will learn HHS guidelines for completing the **CA** process

Resources and Dates

Websites:

ACT <http://www.actstudent.org>

College Board (AP/SAT) <http://www.collegeboard.com/splash>

FAFSA <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov> FIRST DAY TO APPLY JANUARY 1st

Fastweb <http://www.fastweb.com> NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP DATABASE

Illinois Student Assistance Commission <http://www.collegezone.com>

Illinois Association of College Admission Counselors <http://www.iacac.org>

NCAA <http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net/> * NCAA now accepts Prairie State ACT scores

OTHER:

<http://www.ecampustours.com>

<http://www.careersandcolleges.com>

<http://www.collegedata.com>

Dates:

- **Wednesday September 26, 2007**, 6:30 p.m. Highland High School Kennel
Parent Session – College Admissions Process (seniors)
- **Wednesday October 17, 2007**, 6:30 p.m. Highland High School Kennel
Making Financial Aid Count (recommended for parents of 11-12 grade)
- **Sunday October 21, 2007**, 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
National College Fair at St. Louis University (jr/sr)
- **Tuesday October 23, 2007**, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Regional College Fair at SIUE (jr/sr)
- **Wednesday November 28, 2007**, 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm Highland High School Kennel
Illinois Student Assistance Commission Financial Aid Night (Seniors) FA

College Admission/Applications: Fall of 2008

- Applying to college is an important step toward your future. You need to make the admissions process a priority. Plan to take the time needed to do it properly and make use of available resources
- Tests: ACT, SAT I, Subject Tests (SAT II) Next ACT test dates – Oct 27th Dec 8th

Application Process:

- College applications can be completed on-line or paper format. They are a “portrait of the applicant – YOU”. Neatness and completeness can impact admission decisions. Read the directions. PROOFREAD, PROOFREAD, PROOFREAD all information and get required signatures.
 - Know the admissions criteria for each school and the deadlines.
 - Create a file for each college you are applying to. You should have more than one choice. 2-3 college choices is a good number to have during this process. 1 can be a hard school, 1 can be a moderate school that you have a good chance of getting into, and 1 can be a “safe” school.
 - MAKE COPIES OF EVERYTHING!
 - Supporting documents are necessary to complete the admission process
 - An official transcript contains your HS coursework, grades, grade point average (GPA), class rank, test scores (only if you have released them to be on the transcript). A release form must be signed and on file with the office in order to send your transcripts.
 - Resume
 - Recommendation Letters - Teachers, counselors, and/or someone outside of school that knows you can write recommendations. Allow 2-3 weeks so that the best letter can be written for you. Please provide a resume or the following information (in writing) when requesting a letter of recommendation:
 - Work experience
 - Personal interests, obstacles and experiences
 - Extra-curricular activities, including offices/leadership positions held
 - Volunteer experiences (community and church)
 - Your goals/reasons for going to college, possible major of career goals
 - Essays/Personal Statements
 - Counselor Verification page (online applications). Make an appointment with your counselor to finish your application and get required signatures.
 - Personal information you need to gather includes SSN, 6th semester GPA, rank, ACT scores, 1st/2nd semester senior classes
- SCHOOL INFORMATION:**
Address 12760 Troxler Ave. Highland, IL 62249
School Code (CEED) is 142-265
- Application fees can be paid by writing a check (write **your name** and **SSN** on the memo line) to the university or by using a credit card. If a check would go to the wrong office at the college, they need a way of getting it back to your admissions file. If you are eligible, a counselor can write a fee waiver letter for you.

YOU NEED TO MAKE SURE YOU SUBMIT ALL PAPERWORK FOR COLLEGE APPLICATIONS TO THE OFFICE TOGETHER. (Do not drop off a letter of rec. one day, and an essay another)

- Know your deadlines. Allow one week for the school to send your application (with supporting documents).
- College visits – Open houses are usually held on school holidays. If you need to visit a college on a school day, prior approval is required. See Mr. Thomas
- Send thank you notes to people who helped you in the process

PERSONAL EMAIL ADDRESSES need to be appropriate (highlandhottie2008@yahoo.com) **and you need to make sure any web pages/myspace pages are clean and appropriate. Colleges will look. No inappropriate pictures, messages, or information.**

Financial Aid

- Following the same guidelines as you did on your college applications, when applying for financial aid. It is the same process. Make sure you follow the criteria
 - PROOFREAD PROOFREAD PROOFREAD
 - Make copies
 - Know your deadlines. A regular deadline requires that all information is received by the deadline. A postmark deadline must be mailed and marked by the date of the deadline.
- **FAFSA** is required for all federal and state financial aid consideration
- After being admitted to a college, request financial aid information from the **individual school**.
- Scholarships
 - National (fall) very competitive
 - Regional and Local (after January 1st)
 - Applications are usually available 2-4 weeks prior to the deadline.

WE WILL HAVE OUR SCHOLARSHIP DATABASE UP AND RUNNING BY MIDDLE OF OCTOBER. WE WILL MAKE SURE TO MAKE A CLEAR LINK TO IT ON THE WEBSITE AND PUT IT IN THE ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Top 20 Questions to Ask Colleges

1. What type of institution is your school? (Public, private, college, university, junior college, etc.)
2. What are the majors and best programs offered at your school?
3. What are the entrance requirements at your school (average GPA, average SAT/ACT score, class rank, etc.)?
4. What is the graduation rate of students at your school?
5. What is the cost, including tuition, room and board, fees, etc.?
6. What is the average financial aid package?
7. Is financial aid based on need or on a student's ability?
8. How and when can I apply to your school and how/when can I apply for your school's financial aid package?
9. How long is your school? What is the racial/ethnic make up of your student body?
10. Where is your school located? Are there satellite campuses in other areas?
11. What is the community like around the school? Is transportation available to nearby places?
12. Are freshmen required to live in a dorm? Where do most upper class students live, on or off campus?
13. Is tutoring available to students? What about career counseling? Academic advising?
14. What is your average class size? Are classes taught by professors or by teaching assistants?
15. What computer facilities does your campus have available for students?
16. What is the social life like on your campus? Do you have fraternities and sororities?
17. What student support services are available for students?
18. Are there competitive sports at your school? Do you have athletic facilities available for student use?
19. What is the graduation rate for your school?
20. What makes your school different from other colleges/universities that are similar in size and reputation?