

Rising Senior Postsecondary Planning Information

2 or 4 Year College or University

1. Resources:

- a. The EHS [College Planning Resource Folder](#) contains a wealth of information regarding different aspects of the college application process.
- b. The [EHS Counseling PageCollege Planning Resources](#)

2. Applications:

- a. If students are using the [Common App](#), they will need to match their account with their [Naviance Account](#)
 - i. Students must do this for a few reasons:
 - ii. You must sign the FERPA waiver in Common App which allows us to send your educational records to schools. **If you do not waive your FERPA rights, we cannot send your information off (i.e. transcripts, letters of rec).**
 - iii. Directions on how to Match your Naviance and Common App accounts can be found [HERE](#)
- b. You should be able to begin your Common App now and begin filling out information. However, you may not begin essays, because essay topics will change in August for the fall application round.
- c. You do not need to use the Common App to submit applications if you do not want to, but it is a streamlined process.
 - i. If you do not use the CommonApp, you must fill out an EHS [FERPA Waiver](#) and return it to your counselor. **If you do not waive your FERPA rights, we cannot send your information off (i.e. transcripts, letters of rec).**
 - ii. Some schools require you to use their online application
 - iii. Some schools still require a paper and pencil application (a very limited number of schools still do this).

3. Naviance:

- a. Your “Colleges I’m Applying to” section in Naviance must be accurate and up to date. You must have the correct deadlines associated with each school-this will guide teachers on their letter of recommendation writing timeline, so please be sure to have the correct application deadline for each school you are applying to.

4. Transcript Requests will occur through Naviance.

- a. Directions on how to do this can be found [HERE](#)
- b. Do not request a transcript until you need it sent. Only request an Initial transcript to start with.

5. Letters of Recommendation & Etiquette

- a. Begin thinking about who you would like to ask to write you letters of recommendation. These can be teachers, counselors, administration, club sponsors, coaches, job supervisors, etc. They cannot be friends or family members.
- b. Etiquette to remember:
 - i. Always ask in person first
 - ii. Always ask a **minimum** of 2 weeks prior to the due date
 - iii. Provide an up to date resumé and fill out your BRAG SHEET in Naviance
 - iv. Once the recommender has agreed to write you a letter you **MUST** go into Naviance and formally request it. Directions on how to do this can be found [HERE](#)
 - EHS Staff recommenders will upload their document to Naviance.
 - Letters of recommendations will be sent through Naviance along with your Transcripts.
 - Remember to make sure your application deadlines are accurate and up to date for each of your schools.
 - **How many letters should I get?** 2-4 letters is a good number to have. Most schools will require 0-2, with optional additional letters accepted.

c. Counselor Letters of Recommendation:

- i. Counselors will likely need to write a “written evaluation” for many students, but this is different from a full letter. If you wish to have your counselor write you a full, in depth, letter of recommendation, make sure you follow the same steps as above and connect with your counselor directly.

d. What if I have a recommender that isn’t an EHS member?

- i. If you have a letter from someone outside of the Erie High School organization, you need to direct that individual where to send the letter. For example, if you need it sent to CU Boulder, you will need to contact your admissions representative for the best email address to send it to.
- ii. Erie High School counselors cannot send letters that are written by non-EHS staff.

6. Admissions Deadlines:

- a. When applying to college there are a few different admissions deadlines to be aware of:
 - i. **Early Action (EA)**- this is an early deadline, usually around November 1st-November 15th of any year. It is non-binding, and usually acts as a priority deadline for schools.
 - ii. **Early Decision (ED)**- this is a **binding contract**; If you apply ED, you are essentially saying that you commit to that school. If you get accepted, you must attend this institution and are on the hook for tuition regardless of

whether or not you change your mind. Be very thoughtful about this application deadline.

- iii. **Regular Decision (RD)**- normal decision deadline, around January 1-15th of every year.
- iv. **Rolling Admissions**- this means a school accepts applications all year round and have no specific deadline.

7. Résumé

- a. You will need a complete, up to date resume to give to teachers and use in your application process.
- b. Make sure you have all activities, clubs, volunteer work, awards, etc listed.
- c. Be specific: i.e. Student Council- August 2016-Present: Student Body President, finals activities chairperson, etc.

8. How many schools should I apply to?

- a. This is a question we get a lot. 3-5 schools is a good range including safe schools, target schools, and reach schools.

9. College Opportunity Fund:

- a. Provides a stipend for in-state schools
- b. Must be filled out to receive this
- c. [College Opportunity Fund](#)
- d. Some schools factor COF into their tuition on their websites already, some do not.

10. Financial Aid/Scholarships

- a. Review this document regarding Financial Aid/paying for college
 - i. [40 Money Management Tips Every Student Should Know](#)
- b. Fill out the FAFSA
 - i. <https://studentaid.gov>
 - ii. Usually available on October 1.
 - Money is available on first come first serve basis, especially PELL Grants
 - iii. Must have an FSA ID (Student and parent) prior to beginning online application. This usually takes about a week to get approved so you can apply for this at any time
 - iv. We encourage you to fill out the FAFSA even if you aren't taking out loans. You may qualify for Grants, Workstudy, or institution based aid.
 - v. Scholarships:
 - Utilize Naviance for searching!
 - Local Scholarships will be available, keep an eye out for the packet in the fall
 - [College Opportunity Fund](#) - Are you planning on attending a private or public college in the state of Colorado? Here is your

opportunity to receive this state benefit if you attend a participating college and meet the eligibility requirements. [More information about COF](#)

- [Western Undergraduate Exchange Program](#) -Students who are residents of WICHE states are eligible to request a reduced tuition rate of 150% of resident tuition at participating two- and four-year college programs outside of their home state.
- [Fastweb](#) is your connection to scholarships, colleges, financial aid and more.
- [Cappex](#) - Here you can uncover millions of dollars in scholarships from colleges, universities, private companies, foundations -- and more -- to help pay for school.
- [Scholarships.com](#)- complete a free profile then get matched to scholarships and grants you're qualified for from colleges, universities, organizations, foundations, corporations, government & more.
- [Tuition Funding Sources](#) - Looking for scholarships? Look no further. Sign up today.
- [Unigo](#) - Find your perfect college. Get scholarships to help pay for it.

11. College Athletics

- a. NCAA Eligibility Center - If you would like to play sports in college at the Division I or II level, then you'll need to [register with the Eligibility Center](#).
- b. Students need to complete 16 core courses and achieve a specific core GPA and SAT/ACT subscore to be eligible to accept an athletic scholarship and compete as a college freshman. Make sure to meet with your counselor about the NCAA.
 - i. Complete [16 core courses](#):
 - Four years of English
 - Three years of math (Algebra 1 or higher)
 - Two years of natural/physical science
 - One additional year of English, math or natural/physical science
 - Two years of social science
 - Four additional years of English, math, natural/physical science, social science, foreign language, comparative religion or philosophy
- c. NCAA Division III schools set their own admissions and eligibility standards, so if you are planning to attend a Division III school, you are not required to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center. However, NCAA encourages you to create a free [Profile Page account](#) that will provide

you with an [NCAA ID](#) and important information on how to prepare for your Division III experience.

- d. [NCAA Guide for the College-Bound Student Athlete](#)
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Military

1. Military Branch Options:

- a. Army
- b. Navy
- c. Marines
- d. Coast Guard
- e. Air Force

2. ASVAB

- a. All individuals planning on enlisting in the military must take the ASVAB test. The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) is **a heavily researched and well-respected aptitude test developed by the Department of Defense**. It measures a young adult's strengths and potential for success in military training (<https://www.todaysmilitary.com/>)

3. Contact your Recruiter

- a. Contact your local recruiting officer they will walk you through the process
 - i. Counseling has some contact information, reach out to them if you need it!
 - ii. Meet with your recruiter with your parents/guardians. This is a very important decision you are about to make in your life. Your family are valuable supports and resources for you to lean on during this process.
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Employment

1. Résumé

- a. Make sure you have an up to date resume that is geared towards employment
- b. Include past employment experience, including responsibilities and skills

2. Mock Interviews

- a. Interviews are a part of every employment process. Ask your counselor, or other adult to go through a mock interview (or two) with you!
 - b. Etiquette
 - i. Professional dress
 - ii. Bring copies of your résumé
 - iii. Be ready to talk about yourself!
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Gap Year

1. Plan

- a. What will you do? (Travel, Employment, Volunteer, Etc.)
- b. Will you work?
- c. Where will you live?
- d. What do you need to plan for (i.e. logging, passport, drivers license)
- e. Will you apply to college at some point?
 - i. If so, will you apply now, then defer a year?
 - ii. Will you wait to apply?
 1. You will still need letters of recommendation
 - a. Get them now from current teachers
 - b. Use employers/supervisors as recommenders
 - c. You will need to request official high school transcripts from the District office after you graduate high school [Post Grad Transcript Requests](#)

Please review this document prior to your rising senior meeting and come prepared with questions you may have!

Sincerely,

EHS Counseling Department