



August 22, 2024

TONIGHT! Virtual Senior Parent/Guardian's Night: Thursday, Aug. 22 at 6:30 p.m.

Topics to be discussed include: test scores, transcripts, how students request letters of recommendation from teachers, different application types (i.e. - regular, early action, early decision), deadlines for applications, financial aid forms/scholarships, etc. Attendance at this program will ensure that you have the answers to many of the most pressing questions that seniors and their parents/guardians have as they begin the college application process.

[Click here to Join Zoom Meeting](#)

August 15, 2024

Dear Class of 2025 and Parents/Guardians:

Welcome back from summer break! We hope this finds you and your family well, and that you were able to pause and rejuvenate a bit this summer.

We will continue to explore life beyond SI - whether that is taking a gap or post graduate year or attending a college - community or 4-year - there is a pathway for you! This process will continue to be exciting and require a lot of attention to detail. While there are ongoing changes - communication is key. The College Counselors are working with colleagues nationwide to support your educational journey. We all need to work as a team and remind ourselves that there are many wonderful opportunities out there and there is not one "perfect" path.

Below are some topics that you and your family should address in the coming days. We hope this will help keep you informed as you continue to prepare for the school year.

1. **Balanced College List** - Creating a balanced college list of about 12-15 colleges, that includes an even amount of Challenge, Possible, Likely schools. Use [the scattergram](#) on Scoir as a guide to create a balance list. NOTE: The scattergram is a limited snapshot that does not convey one's accomplishments, impact, or influence beyond the classroom.
2. **Standardized Testing** - Testing is a [personal choice](#) as most institutions will remain test optional in the admission process. If you have taken a SAT/ACT and scored above the college's average you may consider submitting those scores to a [test optional campus](#). UCs and CSUs will remain test free, while some public and private universities require test scores. Students and families must double check each campus requirement.

If you are taking a SAT/ACT this fall, register as soon as possible via [College Board](#) or [ACT](#) (be aware of the latest test score dates accepted by each campus). If you are going test-optional, please select that choice on Scoir for each of your campuses.

SI will be offering an SAT School Day for SI Seniors only in the fall on Wednesday, October 9th. Registration for the SAT School Day will be through SI in the beginning of the fall semester.

3. **Research** - Identify programs, and areas of interests that you feel will help you thrive. The schedule for SI's college admission visits this fall can be found in Scoir. These visits are extremely important, and this will be a good opportunity to connect with the college reps to address questions about their application and campus' programs. [During this research](#), identify admissions requirements and application deadlines at each school. The deadlines and requirements vary from school to school, so it is imperative for students to be extremely [organized](#) throughout the process. Many institutions (check each campus admissions' website and search for visit) are also still hosting a variety of virtual information sessions, meetings, tours, and other experiences with reps and current students.
4. **College Essays** - [Completing a draft](#) of your personal statement for the [Common Application](#) and if applicable, your responses to the [Personal Insight Questions](#) on the [UC application](#).
 - [UC PIQ Tips](#)
 - [Common App Essay Tips](#)

Events to Note

Our role is to support students as they look ahead to college while maintaining their focus on completing high school. To that end, we want to make you aware of several events/resources that will assist you through the process:

Senior Year College Curriculum

Space will be limited due to the construction of the New Learning Center. With this in mind, the College Counseling Curriculum will be provided to the students through Canvas. It is important that students continue to check their Canvas - College Counseling class to make sure they are staying up to date with deadlines and important information about the college application process. Logistics of space is still being discussed; if there are spaces large enough to hold our usual X-Periods and College Planning Workshops, we will do so. We thank you in advance for your flexibility as we navigate the new waters of construction.

First Senior X-Period: Tuesday, August 22

After the first X-period, students will be instructed to set up an individual appointment with their College Counselor to review their individual college application plans. There will be X-periods throughout the semester where seniors will be able to get assistance with their applications.

Students will meet with their College Counselor:

Mr. Lorenzo - Wiegand Theater
Ms. Campoverdi - Wiegand Theater
Ms. Vaccaro - Choral Room
Ms. Withers - Bannan Theater
Ms. Wong - Bannan Theater

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Virtual College Financial Aid Nights

We are excited to continue our partnership with Paul Martin at College Money Method to increase support for families at SI in an important area of your journey to college – understanding what it means to pay for college today and the financial aid process. Paul brings expertise in the broader system of college financial support — both need-based and merit-based aid — so all families can meet their goals to pay for college.

Monday, 9/30 @ 6:30pm - “Succeeding in the Financial Aid Process”

Monday, 12/9 @ 6:30pm - “Evaluating Loans and Borrowing for Your College Investment”

College Admission Visits at SI for Interested Students

College representatives from across the country have begun to schedule visits to meet with interested students. Visits will begin the week of September 4th, and are posted on Scoir. The visits may be found on the homepage under “Upcoming Visits & Office Hours” in the student portal. Due to classroom availability, the college visits will take place in a college-fair like fashion once a week, mostly on Wednesdays. Fairs will occur during lunch, and after school. More information to come.

Scoir

Through [Scoir](#), students will be able to maintain their college lists, keep track of deadlines, [career exploration](#) and research college information. Parents/guardians, if you have not done so already, please fill out the **Parent/Guardian Reflection Survey** to assist us with the Secondary School Report and Counselor Letter of Recommendation. It is highly recommended for both parents/guardians and students to use the website, instead of the app, as the app is not always user friendly. If you have not registered on Scoir, please contact either your student's PAC or CC counselor to resend the 72 hour invite. **In addition, there will be a Get to Know Me Survey - Part 2 students must complete by 9/1.**

Resources

Newsletters & Email Management

Throughout the fall semester of Senior year, students and parents/guardians will receive monthly newsletters containing important reminders about the college application process through the SI Parent Newsletter. Please be sure to spend at least 5 minutes reading the

newsletters. Students will be encouraged throughout the school year to monitor their email accounts closely because that will be the primary means of communication used by the admissions office. If a student is no longer interested in a certain institution, we encourage them to unsubscribe so that their inbox stays manageable.

Podcasts/YouTube Channel

For a deep dive into a wide range of topics (college essays, advice for engineering majors, financial aid, the UC, CSU and private colleges systems), check out SI Counseling's Podcasts on [Apple Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#), [Tune In](#), [Stitcher](#), and [Spreaker](#) or our [YouTube Channel](#).

As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. We look forward to supporting you in this process.

Sincerely,
Your SI College Counselors