

SENIOR SEMINAR FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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TRANSCRIPTS

What if the transcript request form is not working?

 Please use Internet Explorer

Directions to submit a Transcript Request

1. Click the Transcript Request Form 2020-21
2. Complete all of the information on the form
3. Click “Submit Form” – Click continue to your email
4. Email will now open with the transcript request form as an attachment – Click Send

If you are experiencing technical difficulties with submitting the form online, please download the transcript request form to your computer. After completing the document, please scan or save it and then email a copy of the form to ekslebrch@fcps.edu.

How long does it take to process the transcript request and how will I know when it has been sent?

- Please allow the full 30 day window between when a student requests a transcript and the college deadline for a transcript to be posted to Common App (for Common App colleges) or submitted through Naviance (for Coalition and university-specific applications).
- Students, please add your counselor to your Common App using their @fcps.edu email address so your counselor can upload your transcript.
- Once a counselor submits a student’s transcript, they update Naviance to indicate that the transcript has been submitted.
- Students can see the status of their transcript requests in Naviance, under the “Colleges” tab and the “Colleges I’m Applying To” option. For Common App colleges, students can see the status of their transcript requests in their Common App account.

When are semester grades sent?

Second quarter ends on January 22nd. It takes several weeks for grades to be finalized and sent to universities. Semester grades are typically uploaded and sent to colleges by the end of February.

Once colleges receive semester grades, they update their applicant portals, a process which can take weeks as they work through all the documents they have received from all over the country. Until their applicant portal is updated, automatic emails are typically generated to applicants, sharing that information is missing, even if the college has already received it. If a college shares that they do not have a midyear report or semester grades by mid-March, please call their admissions office directly to confirm whether they have received it.

Can transcript requests for self-reporting schools be turned in later in the year since they are only needed for final grades?

Students should submit transcript requests for all schools you are applying to. *If it is a self-reporting school, you will not be charged the transcript fee.* Waiting until later in the year increases the risk that a student may forget to turn in their request. The transcript request also alerts the counselor that the student is applying to that particular college, which helps the counselor support each student's post-secondary plan.

NAVIANCE AND COLLEGE INFORMATION

How do I know which colleges I should apply to?

[Check out the 20-21 Senior Next Steps for great resources and tips](#)
[5 Steps to Creating a College List](#)

Attend virtual college fairs and CVHS virtual college visits

- [View upcoming visits on our Student Services Google Site](#)

How do I research colleges in Naviance?

- **Click here for Naviance Login** and utilize the college SuperMatch search
- **Favorite your schools in Naviance:** To favorite a school, click on the heart. When you favorite a college in Naviance Student, it will send you a notification when the school is visiting your high school.
- **View Scattergrams:** Scattergrams indicate the average GPA and test score of the students who were accepted/denied/waitlisted/deferred from your high school.

How do you view and use the naviance scattergram program?

The image shows a screenshot of the Naviance Student web application. The interface is divided into two main sections: 'Getting Started' on the left and 'My Favorites' on the right. The 'Getting Started' section contains a welcome message and a 'Read more' button. The 'My Favorites' section lists several colleges with heart icons and status indicators like 'I'm applying to', 'I'm thinking about', and 'I'm thinking about'. A yellow callout box with an arrow points to a 'Show Me How' icon in the bottom right corner of the 'My Favorites' section. Below this, another yellow callout box with an arrow points to a search bar in the top right corner of the page. A third yellow callout box with an arrow points to a search result for 'Scattergram' in the search bar. The search bar contains the text 'Scattergram' and a 'Search' button. The search result shows 'Guided Tour: Scattergrams'.

Click on the "Show Me How" Icon

Type in "Scattergram" and click on the link "Guided Tour: Scattergram"

Follow the direction boxes

How do I know if a school is a safety, match, or reach school for me?

How do I compare to students from CVHS who applied to that school in the past?

- Use scattergram directions listed above to see student admissions data from previous years
- Search university websites for the most recent admissions data
- Keep in mind that these statistics are one part of a holistic application review
- Search “Common Data Set (and the name of the University you are interested in)”
 - For example, UVA’s most common data set can be found [here](#)
 - Section C would be great to review

Can parents access Naviance?

[Parent or Guardian Naviance Login](#)

- View information about students' academic and postsecondary plans, interests and opportunities.
- Research colleges and careers.
- View available enrichment and scholarship opportunities

What if I need assistance with technology?

Please contact the new *FCPS Parent Technology Help Desk* for all technology related questions. The number is 1-833-921-3277 or use the [online portal](#) to request technology help directly.

How do I know the college deadlines?

For the most up-to-date information on college deadlines, refer to each school’s website. Additional information on the types of deadlines can be found on the [20-21 Seniors’ Next Steps Google Site](#).

Are there any surveys that can help students determine what field of study in which they might excel?

- [Big Future](#)
- [Road Trip Nation](#)
- In Naviance, use the Career tab to explore careers, interests, and requirements.
 - In the **About Me** tab use the **Career Cluster Finder, Career Interest Profiler, and Strengths Explorer**

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Will prior counselors be able to confer with current counselors in order to provide additional information if they changed with the alphabet shift?

Counselors welcome feedback from and collaboration with other counselors. If a student had a counselor change and would like their previous counselor to share feedback or anecdotes with their new counselor, that can easily be arranged. Students, if this is something you are interested in, please email your current counselor if you think there is additional information that your previous counselor can share that was not already shared via the student and parent questionnaire.

How do I ask for recommendations? What is the process? Who should I ask?

- Consult university websites to determine how many and what kind of letters of recommendation they need. Give each college exactly what they are asking for, no more, no less.
- If a college needs a counselor letter of recommendation (or if this is optional, but is an option

you want to pursue), put “Yes” in the “Counselor Recommendation Required By College?” column on the transcript request form for that particular college.

- For Common Application colleges, please remember to add your counselor with their @fcps.edu email address.
- For Coalition colleges, counselors will submit their recommendation through Naviance.
- For university-specific applications, please add your counselor as a recommender through your application portal.
- If a college needs one or more teacher letters of recommendation, please email your teacher asking for a recommendation well ahead of a deadline. Add your teacher(s) as a recommender on your Common App, Coalition App, or university-specific application portal.
- Ask teachers who have seen some of your best work, who you have formed a good relationship with, who have seen your character, and who can speak to your strengths in your areas of interest. Pay attention to see if individual universities have specific requirements for particular teachers.

Can I ask a Freshman or Sophomore teacher to write me a rec?

(See question above). A teacher who hasn't taught you since freshman year may not be most in-tune with who you are as a student and as a person years later. Otherwise, you may ask any teacher, and any teacher will only write positive things about you.

FINANCING COLLEGE

How does the financial aid application process differ from the admission process?

Please attend our virtual Financial Aid Night presented by College Access Fairfax on October 1 from 7-8pm. Other dates are available, including with Spanish translation. Find more info and register here: <https://collegeaccessfairfax.org/>

Here is a glossary of terms for award notifications: https://www.nasfaa.org/news-item/3976/Glossary_of_Terms_for_Award_Notifications

Other resources regarding financial aid:

<https://centrevillehs.fcps.edu/student-services/career-center/financial-aid-resources>

<https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types>

<https://sites.google.com/fcpsschools.net/20-21-rising-seniors-next-step/class-of-2021-next-steps/college/financial-aid-and-scholarships?authuser=0>

What is the process for applying to financial aid?

The first step is the FAFSA, which opens October 1. It needs to be filled out every year that you will be attending college (2-year, 4-year and trade schools). <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>

Contact CVHS Financial Aid Champion Bonnie Horowitz at bdhorowitz@fcps.edu for individual assistance. Check the university website or with the Financial Aid Office at each school to be sure to meet university deadlines for scholarship and other financial aid consideration.

What scholarships are available?

[Check Naviance](#) for scholarship opportunities vetted by FCPS. From the home page, go to Colleges → Scholarships & Money → Scholarship List. New scholarships are highlighted in the weekly newsletter sent by Mrs. Stamper. Check the university website or with the Financial Aid Office at each school to be sure to meet university deadlines for scholarship and other financial aid consideration.

Scholarship Resources Beyond Naviance Student

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search>
<https://www.cappex.com/scholarships/>
<https://www.careeronestop.org/Toolkit/Training/find-scholarships.aspx>
<https://www.chegg.com/scholarships>
<https://www.coca-colascholarsfoundation.org/apply/>
<http://www.collegeaccessfairfax.org>
<https://www.collegegreenlight.com/>
<http://www.finaid.org/>
<http://www.goodcall.com/>
<https://www.niche.com/colleges/scholarships/>
<https://www.raise.me>
<https://www.salliemae.com/college-planning/college-scholarships/>
<https://www.scholarsnapp.org/>
<https://www.scholarships.com/>
<https://www.unigo.com/>

For specific populations:

Scholarships for Military Children: <http://www.militaryscholar.org/sfmc/index.html>,
<https://militarywithkids.com/100-military-kids-scholarships/>
UNCF: <https://scholarships.uncf.org/>
Hispanic Scholarship Fund: <https://hsf.net/>
Dreamers: <https://www.thedream.us/>
Immigrant students: <http://www.esperanzafund.org/>
American Indian College Fund: <http://www.collegefund.org/>

**Don't forget to check your college's website for scholarship information and deadlines specifically for incoming freshmen!*

How do I know if I am eligible? <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/eligibility>

What are the deadlines?

The FAFSA opens October 1. Colleges have individual deadlines so be sure to check the university websites. Typically, it is best to get it in as soon as possible.

How many scholarships can I apply to?

There is no limit!

Are there any more financial aid forms we have to do other than FAFSA?

Some schools require the CSS Profile in addition to the FAFSA:

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/financial-aid-101/how-to-complete-the-css-financial-aid-profile>. Check university websites to be sure you submit all required documents.

MILITARY

What is the process?

See the Class of 21 Seniors Next Steps Google Site: <https://sites.google.com/fcpsschools.net/20-21-rising-seniors-next-step/class-of-2021-next-steps/military?authuser=0>

TODAYSMILITARY.COM

This site provides information about serving in the military and each of the specific branches of the Armed Services. Useful information about eligibility requirements, the ASVAB test, enlisting in the military, and questions to ask a recruiter.

CAREERSINTHEMILITARY.COM

Choosing GUIDED EXPLORATION, will provide students the opportunity to explore the types of military careers that match their career interest profile (RAISEC). Choosing ADVANCED SEARCH allows students to search military careers that match their aptitude strength (Math, Verbal, Science/Technology).

Who should I contact?

Email College & Career Specialist Mrs. Stamper at kastamper@fcps.edu for contact information for regional military recruiters (enlistment). For ROTC and Military Academies, contact the Office of Admissions or ROTC representatives directly at the university (information available on their website).

COMMON APP

Are there any tutorials on how to use the Common App?

Common App has a very useful, step-by-step applicant guide with video tutorials on how to use each feature and piece of Common App:

<https://www.commonapp.org/apply/first-time-students>

COLLEGE TOURS

Will any schools be coming to campus to talk to us?

Yes! They are listed in the weekly Career Center Corner newsletter and CVNN morning announcements. English 12 and Government teachers have also been asked to post information in their virtual classrooms. You can find the information and links for virtual college visits here:

<https://sites.google.com/fcpsschools.net/cvhsstudentservices/12th-grade?authuser=0>

Continue to check the newsletter for information about additional virtual fairs throughout the fall!

College Success Program has this link on the Class of 21 site:

<https://sites.google.com/fcpsschools.net/virtualtours/virtual-campus-tours>

Should we be doing in person or virtual tours?

Most universities are not currently offering in-person tours. The virtual visits are very helpful and it is

recommended to follow up with the regional representative to make a connection and ask follow-up questions. Check university websites to see if in-person tours are an option.

RESUME/ESSAY SUPPORT

Are there additional samples that could be shared?

Mrs. Stamper (kastamper@fcps.edu) can send you a resume template if you need one. Email CVHS Librarian Mrs. Miller (nlmiller@fcps.edu) to check out 1 of 3 books about essays or reserve 1 of 9 e-books on this topic. You can also check out the local library for more resources.

Will students receive support on these this year and what will that look like?

The English 12 team will be presenting on the topic of essays during the first quarter. Contact your teacher to ask about this presentation and to see if they offer individual assistance. College & Career Specialist Mrs. Stamper (kastamper@fcps.edu) is also available for individual appointments to review essays and assist with other application questions.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

How do we find out what support colleges have in place to support students with disabilities?

This site has a lot of great information:

<https://sites.google.com/fcpsschools.net/20-21-rising-seniors-next-step/class-of-2021-next-steps/college/resources-for-students-with-special-needs?authuser=0>

Are there scholarship opportunities for students with disabilities?

Yes. Check the Naviance listing and other resources shared above. Additionally, you can reach out to community organizations related to your disability to see if they sponsor scholarships.