Fair Lawn High School

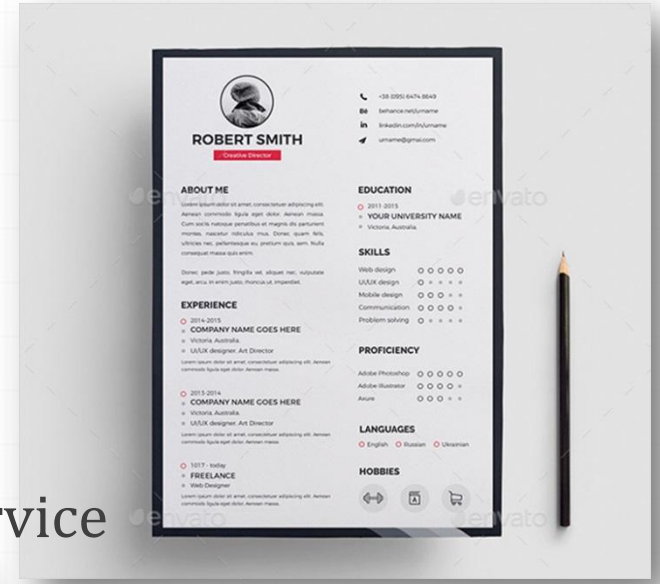
Senior College Application Night
2021

On your "To Do" list…

- Complete your Counselor Data Packet
- Ask 2 teachers for Letters of Recommendation
- Continue to visit colleges
- Finalize your list of potential schools
- Link your Common App and Naviance accounts
- Forward your Standardized Test scores to your schools

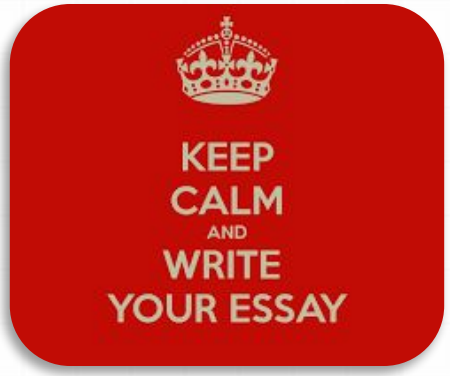
Constructing a Résumé

- Clubs and Activities
  - Extracurricular
  - Community
  - Responsibilities at home
- Honors, Awards & Recognitions
- Employment
- Volunteer Work / Community Service



The College Essay

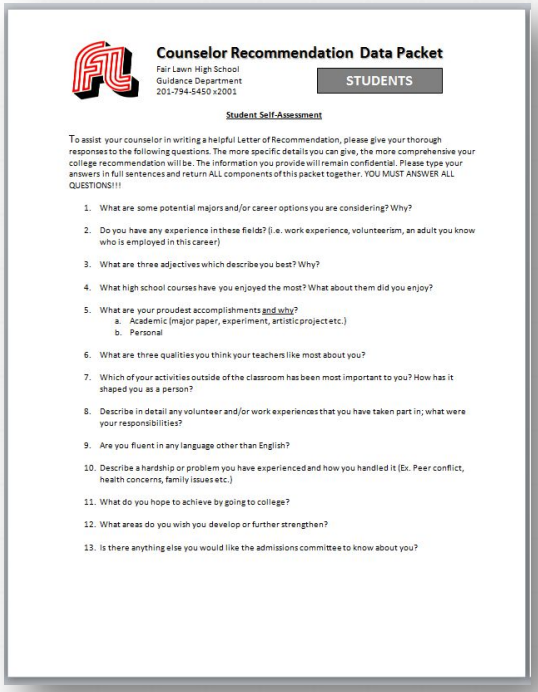
- Most colleges require an essay
- Answer the question that is asked
- Don't "theraurus-ize" your essay
- Use personal details
- Don't be too wordy – keep it under two pages
- Common App schools use an essay prompt with a 650 word limit



Letters of Recommendation

| Whom to ask? | How many do you need? | When to ask? |

1 Counselor



Counselor Recommendation Data Packet

Fair Lawn High School
Guidance Department
201-794-5450 x2001

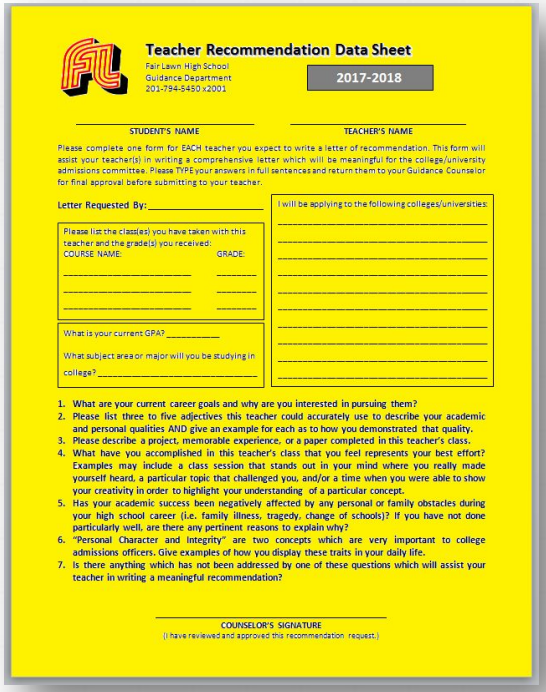
STUDENTS

Student Self-Assessment

To assist your counselor in writing a helpful Letter of Recommendation, please give your thorough responses to the following questions. The more specific details you can give, the more comprehensive your college recommendation will be. The information you provide will remain confidential. Please type your answers in full sentences and return ALL components of this packet together. YOU MUST ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS!!!

1. What are some potential majors and/or career options you are considering? Why?
2. Do you have any experience in these fields? (i.e. work experience, volunteerism, an adult you know who is employed in this career)
3. What are three adjectives which describe you best? Why?
4. What high school courses have you enjoyed the most? What about them did you enjoy?
5. What are your proudest accomplishments and why?
   a. Academic (major paper, experiment, artistic project etc.)
   b. Personal
6. What are three qualities you think your teachers like most about you?
7. Which of your activities outside of the classroom has been most important to you? How has it shaped you as a person?
8. Describe in detail any volunteer and/or work experiences that you have taken part in; what were your responsibilities?
9. Are you fluent in any language other than English?
10. Describe a hardship or problem you have experienced and how you handled it (Ex. Peer conflict, health concerns, family issues etc.)
11. What do you hope to achieve by going to college?
12. What areas do you wish you develop or further strengthen?
13. Is there anything else you would like the admissions committee to know about you?

2 Teachers



Teacher Recommendation Data Sheet

Fair Lawn High School
Guidance Department
201-794-5450 x2001

2017-2018

STUDENT'S NAME _____ TEACHER'S NAME _____

Please complete one form for EACH teacher you expect to write a letter of recommendation. This form will assist your teacher(s) in writing a comprehensive letter which will be meaningful for the college/university admissions committee. Please TYPE your answers in full sentences and return them to your Guidance Counselor for final approval before submitting to your teacher.

Letter Requested By:_____

I will be applying to the following colleges/universities:

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Please list the class(es) you have taken with this teacher and the grade(s) you received.

COURSE NAME: GRADE:

_____ _____
_____ _____
_____ _____

What is your current GPA? _____

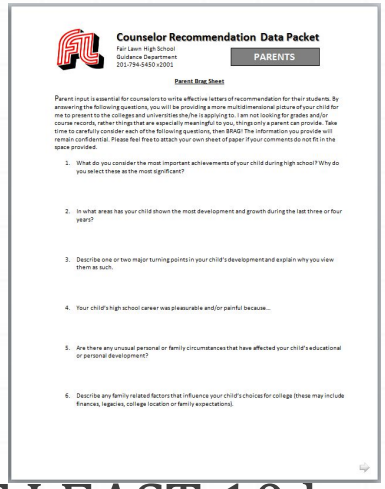
What subject area or major will you be studying in college? _____

1. What are your current career goals and why are you interested in pursuing them?
2. Please list three to five adjectives this teacher could accurately use to describe your academic and personal qualities AND give an example for each as to how you demonstrated that quality.
3. Please describe a project, memorable experience, or a paper completed in this teacher's class.
4. What have you accomplished in this teacher's class that you feel represents your best effort? Examples may include a class session that stands out in your mind where you really made yourself heard, a particular topic that challenged you, and/or a time when you were able to show your creativity in order to highlight your understanding of a particular concept.
5. Has your academic success been negatively affected by any personal or family obstacles during your high school career (i.e. family illness, tragedy, change of schools)? If you have not done particularly well, are there any pertinent reasons to explain why?
6. "Personal Character and Integrity" are two concepts which are very important to college admissions officers. Give examples of how you display these traits in your daily life.
7. Is there anything which has not been addressed by one of these questions which will assist your teacher in writing a meaningful recommendation?

_____
COUNSELOR'S SIGNATURE
(I have reviewed and approved this recommendation request.)

Counselor Recommendation Procedure

- Every student applying to a 4-year university must get a letter of recommendation from their counselor
- Complete the Counselor Recommendation Data Packet, which includes:
  - Student Self Assessment
  - Parent Brag Sheet
  - Résumé
  - Transcript Release Form



Counselor Recommendation Data Packet

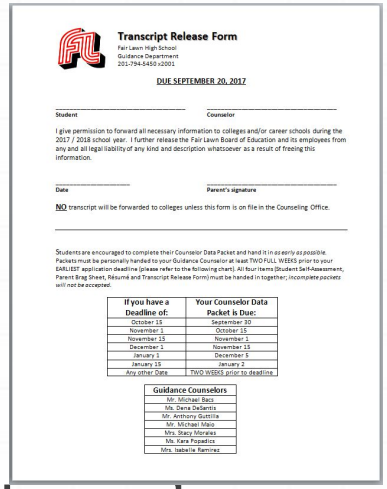
Fair Lawn High School
Guidance Department
201-794-5450 x2001

PARENTS

Parent Brag Sheet

Parent input is essential for counselors to write effective letters of recommendation for their students. By answering the following questions, you will be providing a more multidimensional picture of your child for me to present to the colleges and universities she/he is applying to. I am not looking for grades and/or course records, rather things that are especially meaningful to you, things only a parent can provide. Take time to carefully consider each of the following questions, then BRAG! The information you provide will remain confidential. Please feel free to attach your own sheet of paper if your comments do not fit in the space provided.

1. What do you consider the most important achievements of your child during high school? Why do you select these as the most significant?
2. In what areas has your child shown the most development and growth during the last three or four years?
3. Describe one or two major turning points in your child's development and explain why you view them as such.
4. Your child's high school career was pleasurable and/or painful because...
5. Are there any unusual personal or family circumstances that have affected your child's educational or personal development?
6. Describe any family related factors that influence your child's choices for college (these may include finances, legacies, college location or family expectations).



Transcript Release Form

Fair Lawn High School
Guidance Department
201-794-5450 x2001

DUE SEPTEMBER 20, 2017

Student _____ Counselor _____

I give permission to forward all necessary information to colleges and/or career schools during the 2017 / 2018 school year. I further release the Fair Lawn Board of Education and its employees from any and all legal liability of any kind and description whatsoever as a result of freeing this information.

Date _____ Parent's signature _____

NO transcript will be forwarded to colleges unless this form is on file in the Counseling Office.

Students are encouraged to complete their Counselor Data Packet and hand it in *as early as possible*. Packets must be personally handed to your Guidance Counselor at least TWO FULL WEEKS prior to your EARLIEST application deadline (please refer to the following chart). All four items (Student Self-Assessment, Parent Brag Sheet, Résumé and Transcript Release Form) must be handed in together; *incomplete packets will not be accepted.*

If you have a Deadline of:	Your Counselor Data Packet is Due:
October 15	September 30
November 1	October 15
November 15	November 1
December 1	November 15
January 1	December 1
January 15	January 2
Any other Date	TWO WEEKS prior to deadline

Guidance Counselors
Mr. Michael Bacs
Ms. Dana DeSantis
Mr. Anthony Guttilla
Mr. Michael Mayo
Mrs. Stacy Morales
Ms. Kara Popadics
Mrs. Isabella Ramirez

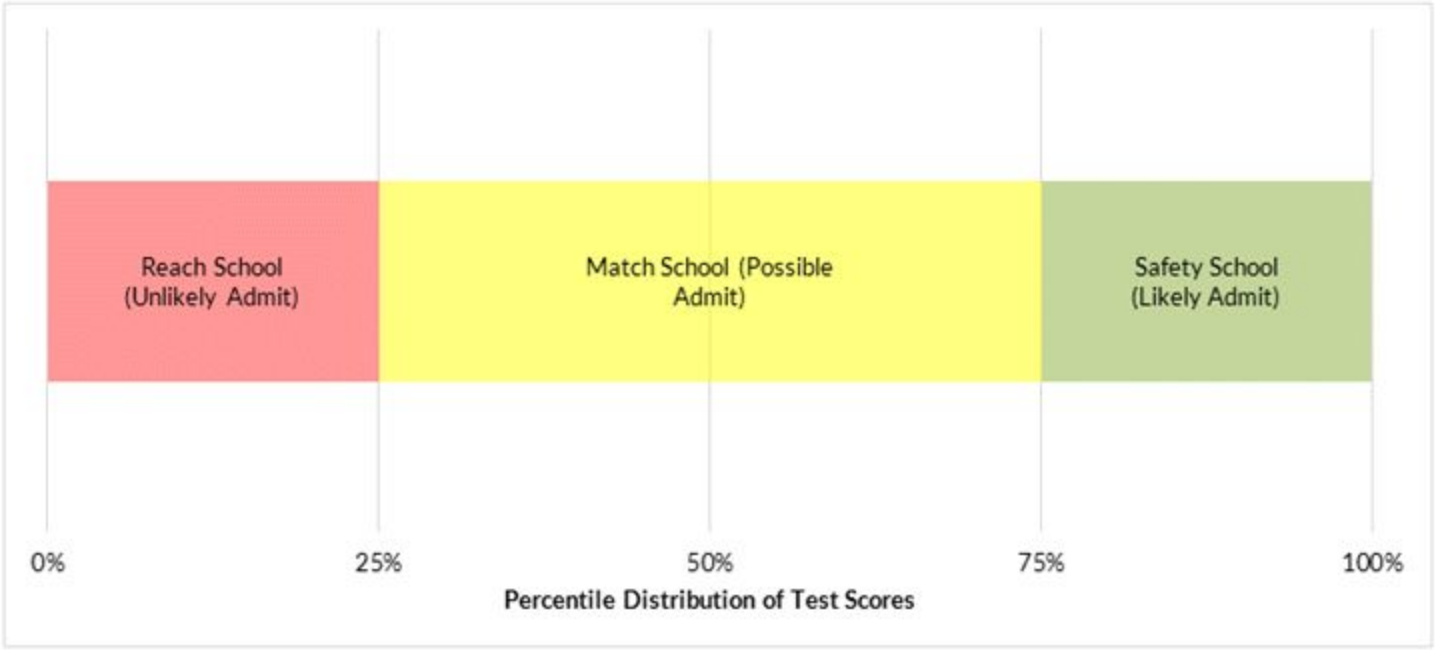
- Packets must be returned AT LEAST 10 business days prior to your *earliest* deadline!

Teacher Recommendation Procedure

- Students may ask up to 2 teachers
- Ask the teacher first
- Once a teacher agrees to write a letter:
  - Students can download the Teacher Recommendation Data Sheet from Google Classroom or pick it up in Guidance and should complete it thoroughly
  - Students should bring a printed copy to their counselor to sign off on, then hand them to each teacher.
  - Bring the form to your teachers at least FOUR weeks prior to your first deadline
  - Log onto your Naviance account and request that the teacher(s) submit the letter to your chosen colleges (instructions are in the College Information Packet on Google Classroom)

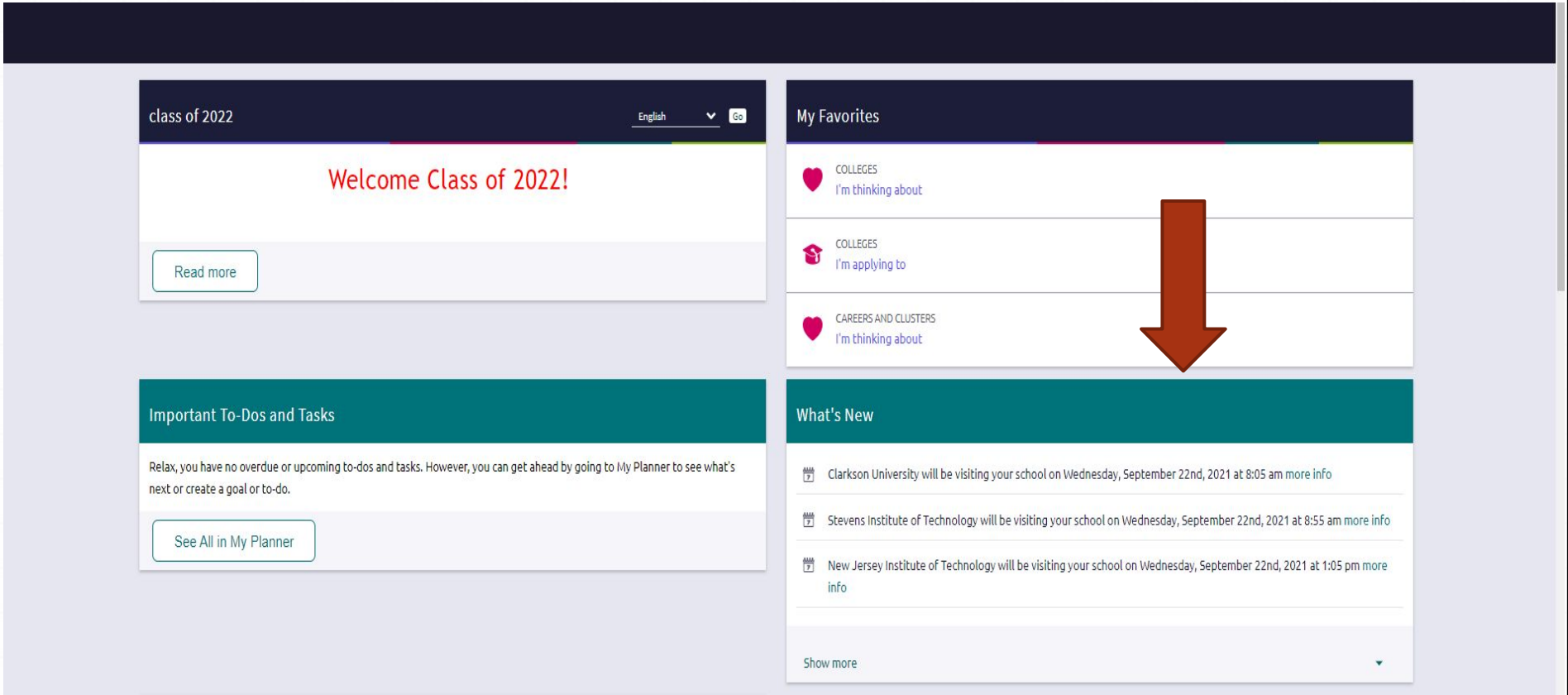
Selecting your Schools

Academic Categories

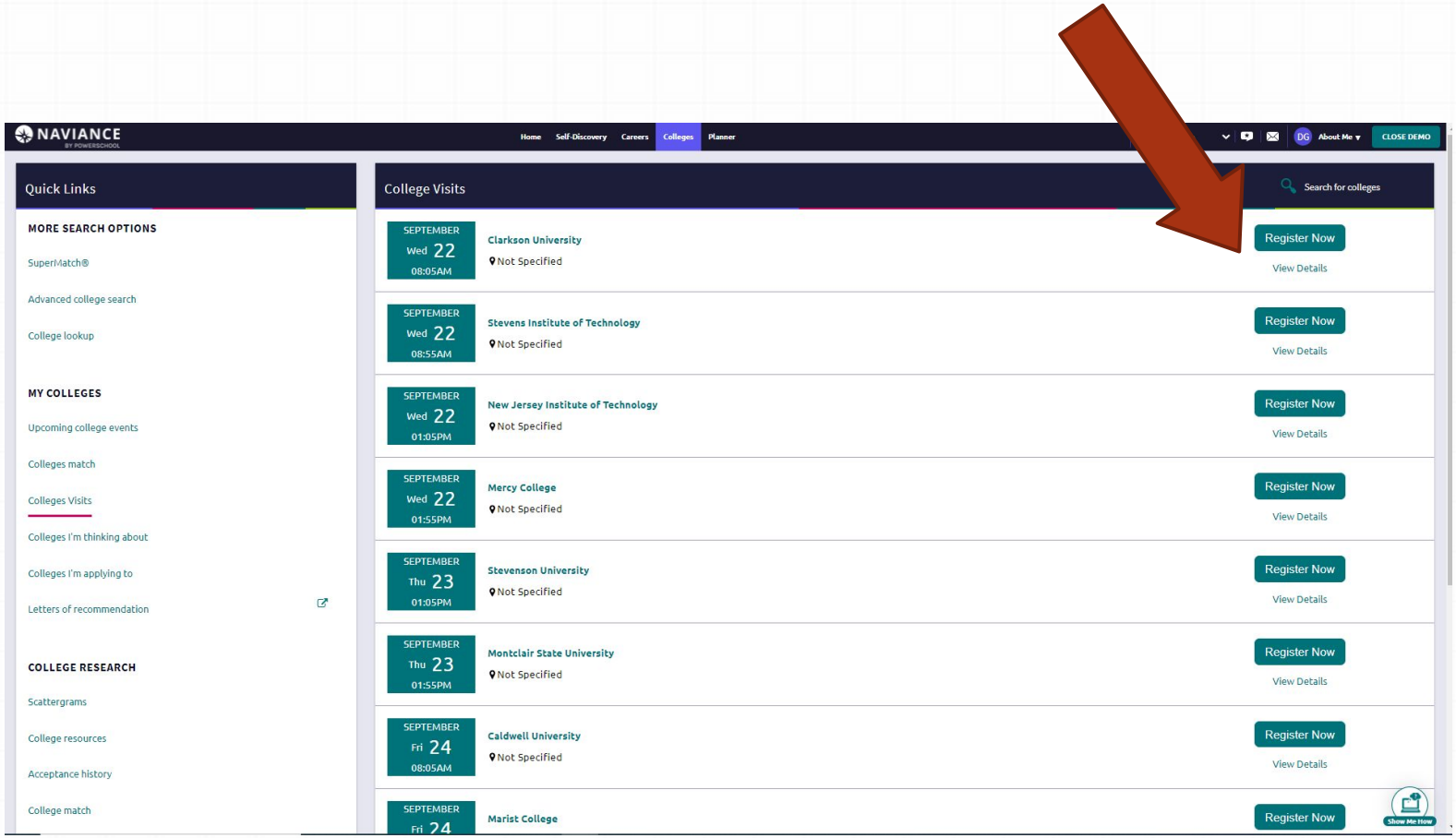


College reps at FLHS

- There are admissions representatives from over 200 colleges that visit FLHS.
- Students should log into their Naviance account to view which representatives will be hosting virtual meetings.
- Once they register for a visit, they are responsible for emailing their teacher to let them know they will be attending. They are also responsible for making up any wok missed during that period.

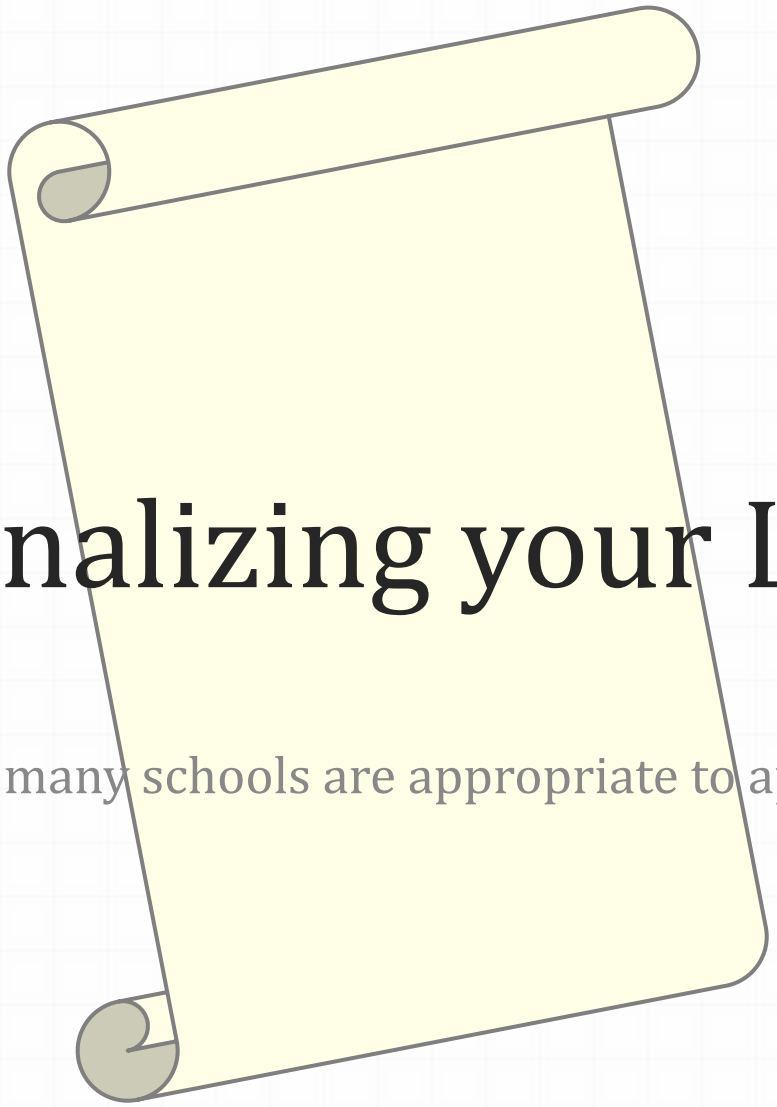

class of 2022
English
Go
Welcome Class of 2022!
Read more
My Favorites
COLLEGES
I'm thinking about
COLLEGES
I'm applying to
CAREERS AND CLUSTERS
I'm thinking about
Important To-Dos and Tasks
Relax, you have no overdue or upcoming to-dos and tasks. However, you can get ahead by going to My Planner to see what's next or create a goal or to-do.
See All in My Planner
What's New
Clarkson University will be visiting your school on Wednesday, September 22nd, 2021 at 8:05 am more info
Stevens Institute of Technology will be visiting your school on Wednesday, September 22nd, 2021 at 8:55 am more info
New Jersey Institute of Technology will be visiting your school on Wednesday, September 22nd, 2021 at 1:05 pm more info
Show more

Click “View Details”



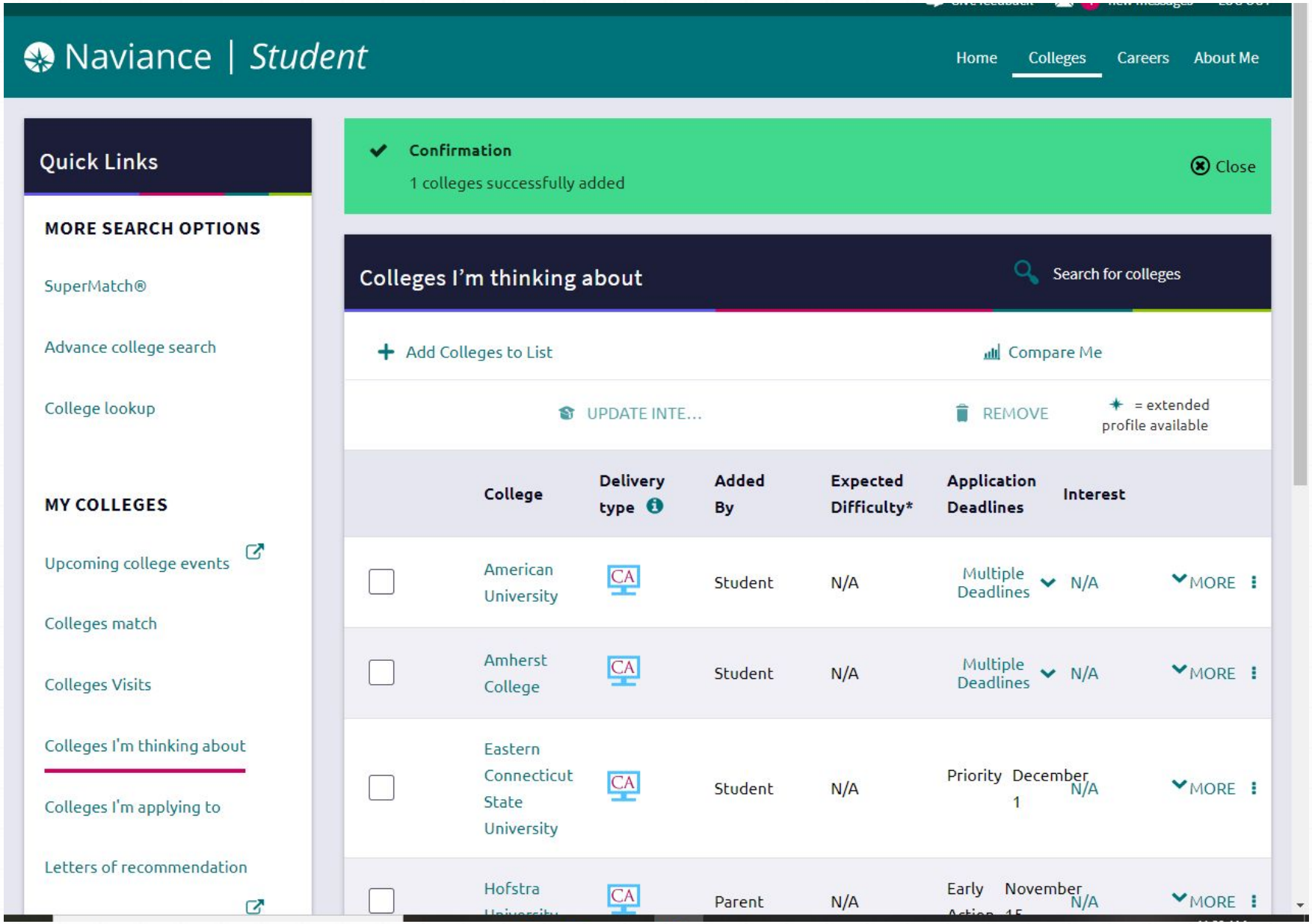
Virtual Campus Visits

- Many colleges are hosting Virtual "visits." Look at individual college websites for information and dates.
- Try to arrange an in person visit when they are available



Finalizing your List

How many schools are appropriate to apply to?


Naviance | Student
Home
Colleges
Careers
About Me
Quick Links
MORE SEARCH OPTIONS
SuperMatch®
Advance college search
College lookup
MY COLLEGES
Upcoming college events
Colleges match
Colleges Visits
Colleges I'm thinking about
Colleges I'm applying to
Letters of recommendation
Confirmation
1 colleges successfully added
Close
Colleges I'm thinking about
Search for colleges
Add Colleges to List
Compare Me
UPDATE INTE...
REMOVE
= extended profile available
College
Delivery type
Added By
Expected Difficulty*
Application Deadlines
Interest
American University
Student
N/A
Multiple Deadlines
N/A
MORE
Amherst College
Student
N/A
Multiple Deadlines
N/A
MORE
Eastern Connecticut State University
Student
N/A
Priority December 1
N/A
MORE
Hofstra
Parent
N/A
Early November
N/A
MORE

Early Decision

Early Action

Regular Decision

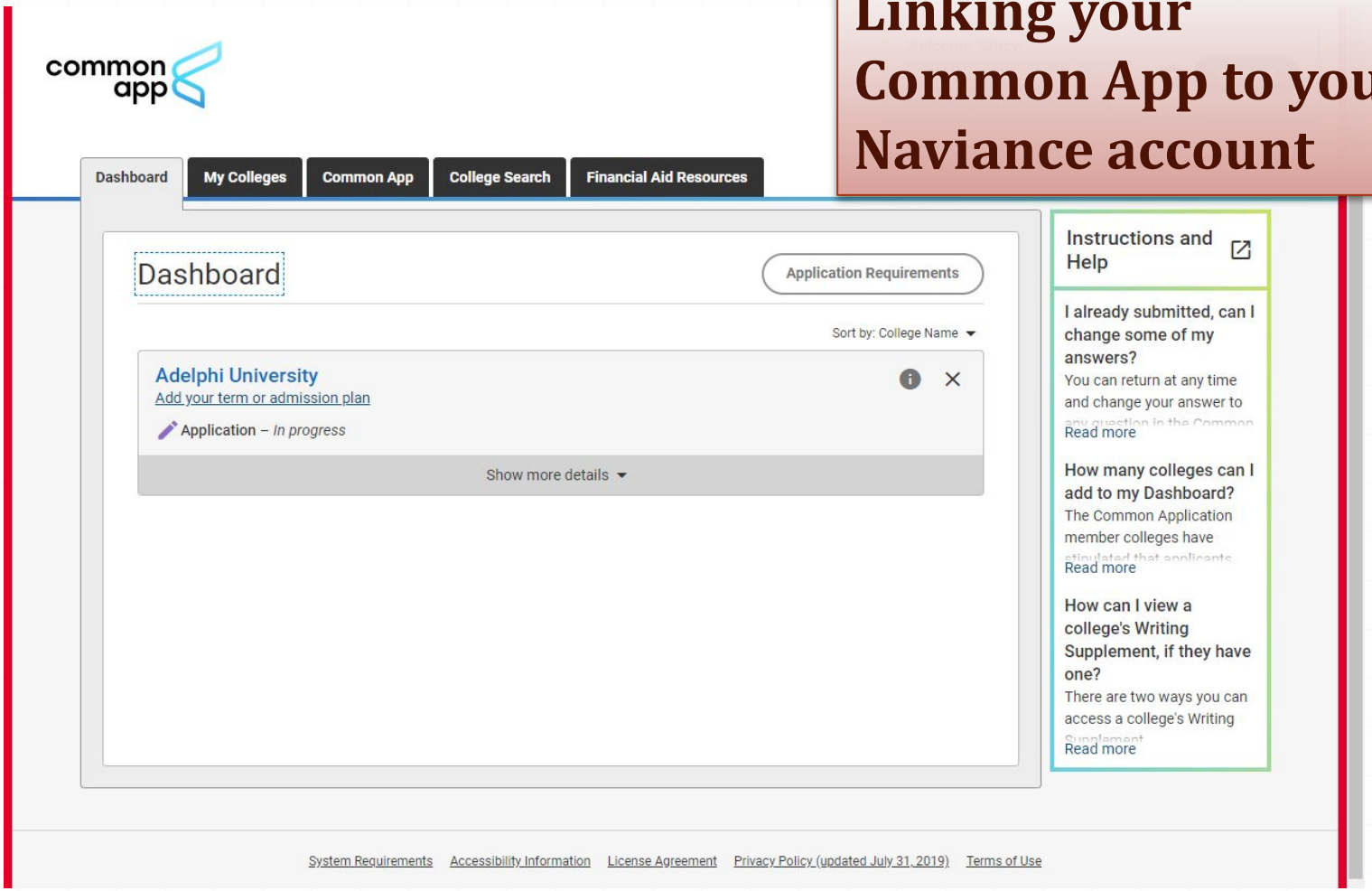
Rolling Admissions

Applications

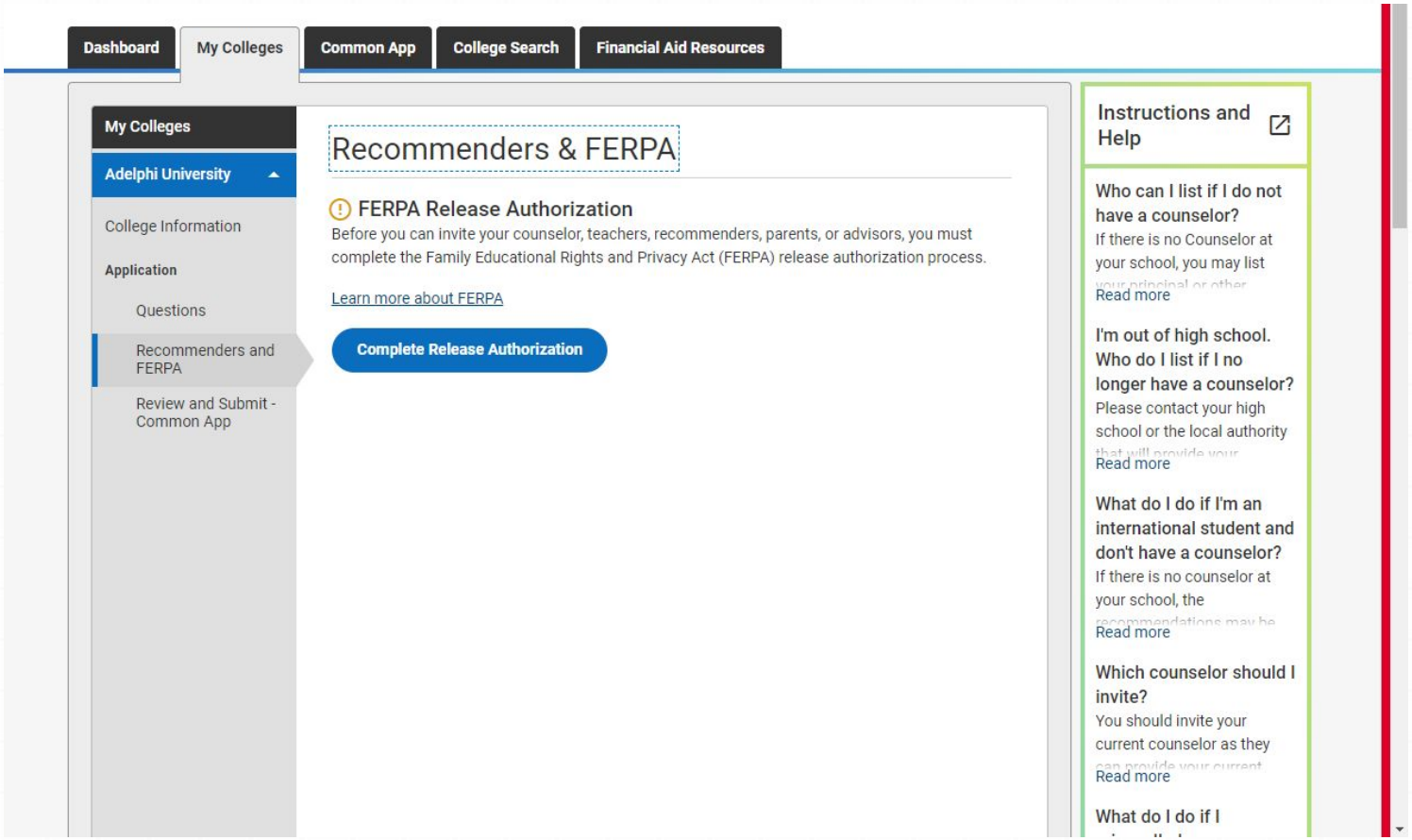
THE COMMON APPLICATION

- Allows students to complete one application and submit it to over 700 colleges
- No need to repeat applicant details for every college
- Alerts you when important dates are approaching. Manage deadlines and view application progress in one dashboard
- Download the Common App "onTrack" app to your smartphone
- Connect Common App to Naviance to send all required materials electronically
  - Must make sure DOB is correct and use the same email address as Naviance to link accounts

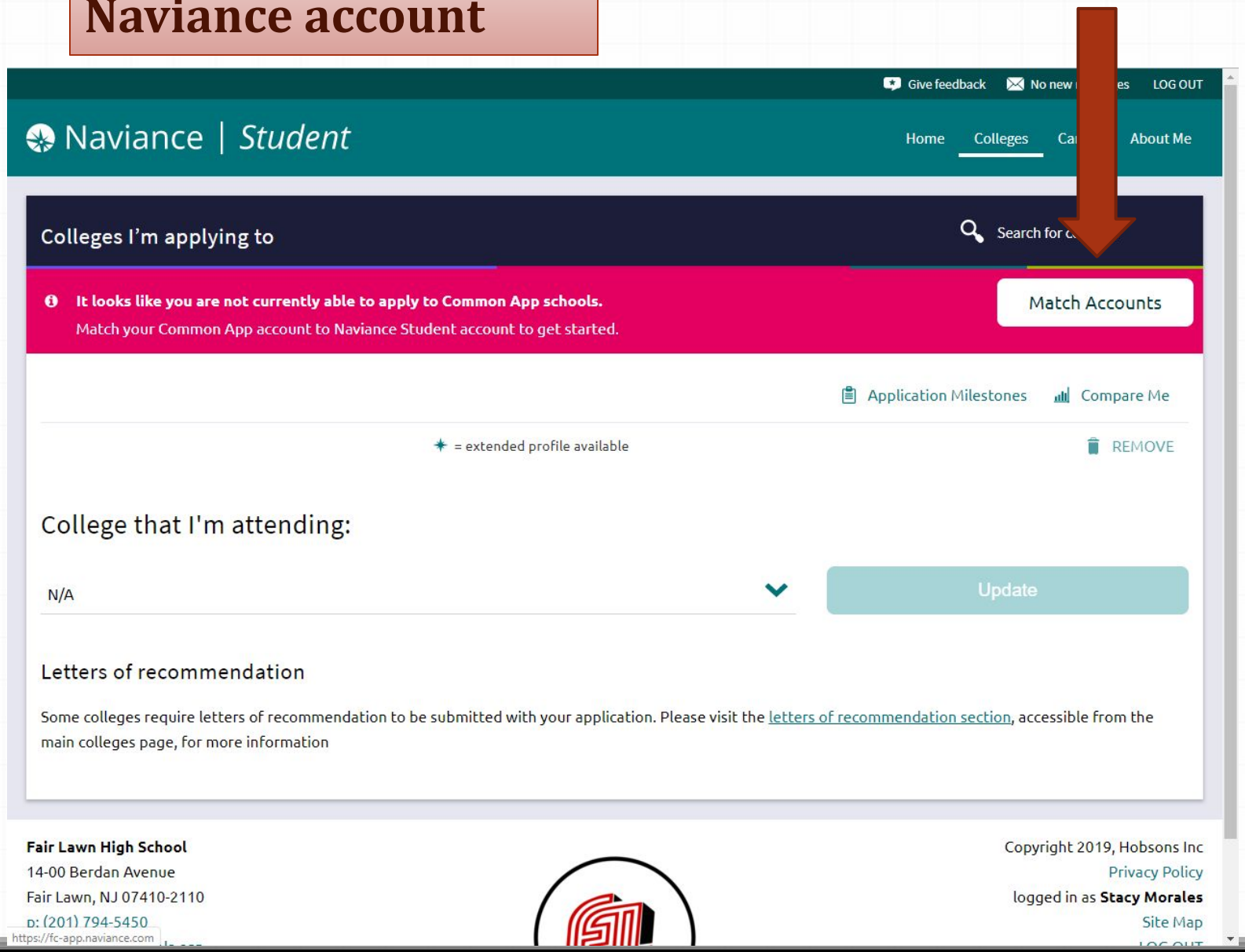
Linking your Common App to your Naviance account



Linking your Common App to your Naviance account



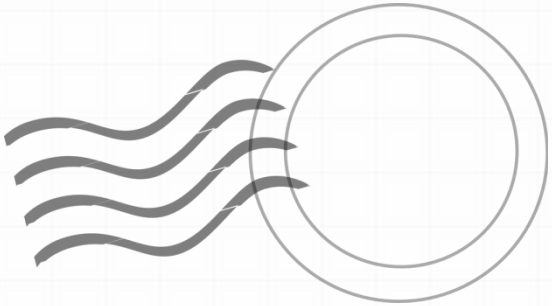
Linking your Common App to your Naviance account



Non-Common App Schools

- Most schools that do not accept the Common App will have their own electronic application
- Transcripts and Letters of Recommendation will still be sent via Naviance
- A very small number of schools still do not accept documents via Naviance
- For these schools, paper materials will need to be sent through the U.S. Postal Service

NAVIANCE



SAT®

ACT®

Submitting your Test Scores

Sending your "Official" Scores

SAT

www.collegeboard.org

- First four are free **only** up to 9 days after the test date
- $12.00 for each additional school
- $31.00 Rush Order

ACT

www.act.org

- First four are free **only** until Thursday noon, central time, immediately following the regularly scheduled test date
- $13.00 for each additional school

Colleges must receive all scores DIRECTLY from the testing agency (College Board or ACT), they cannot be sent by your counselor!

What are colleges looking for with our new "normal?"

- How test scores have been impacted and how to choose when to send them/Sticking with your decision to be test optional or not
- Strength of schedule and 1st semester grades
- Importance of letters of recommendation
- Essay

Remember…

- Double check all applications
- All applications need FLHS CEEB Code: **310370**
- Keep track of all deadlines!!
  - It is your responsibility to know your deadlines
- Plan Ahead! Give your counselor at least TWO FULL WEEKS before the deadline

- And most importantly…

Stay in touch with your Counselor

When your child has completed the Counselor Data Packet, added colleges into Naviance and completed the majority of their applications, they MUST make an appointment with their counselor in order for the counselor to submit required materials.

WITHOUT THIS APPOINTMENT, MATERIALS WILL ***NEVER*** GET SUBMITTED!!!

Financing a College Education

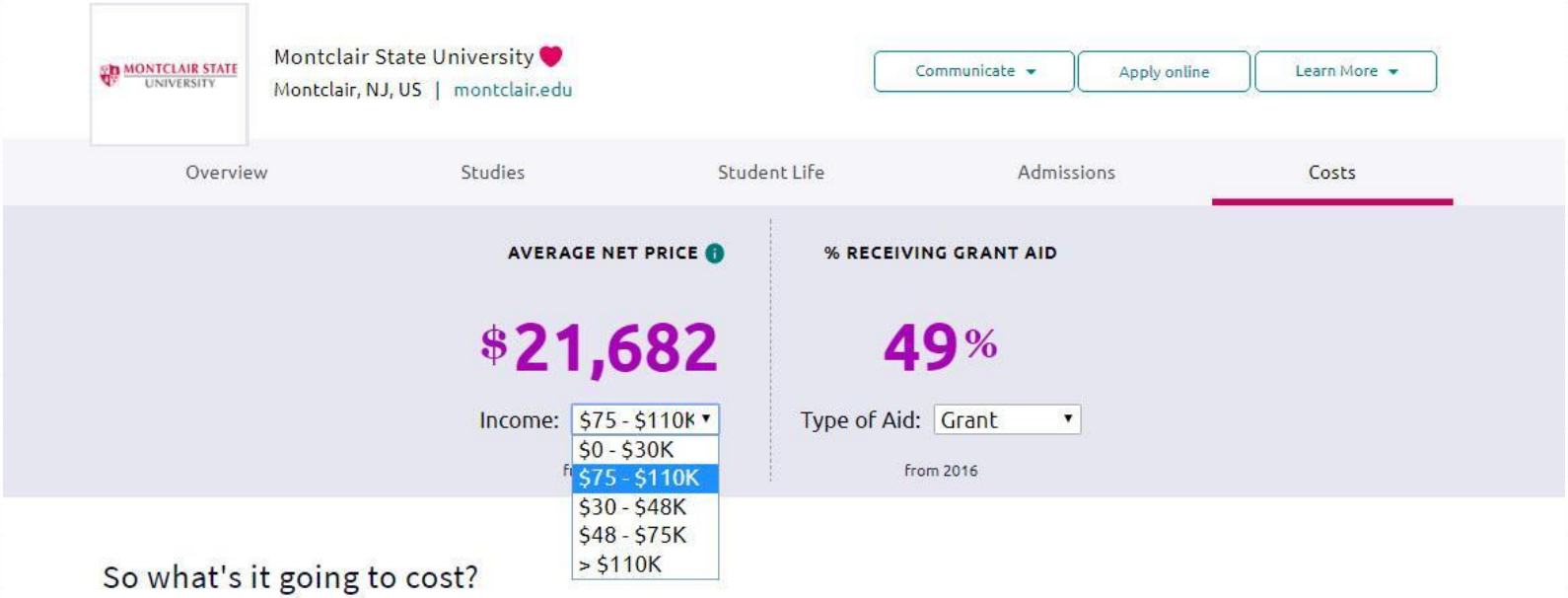
- Remember, FAFSA is live October 1st!

Don't forget…

The FAFSA is FREE!!

www.fafsa.ed.gov

Estimated Family Contribution



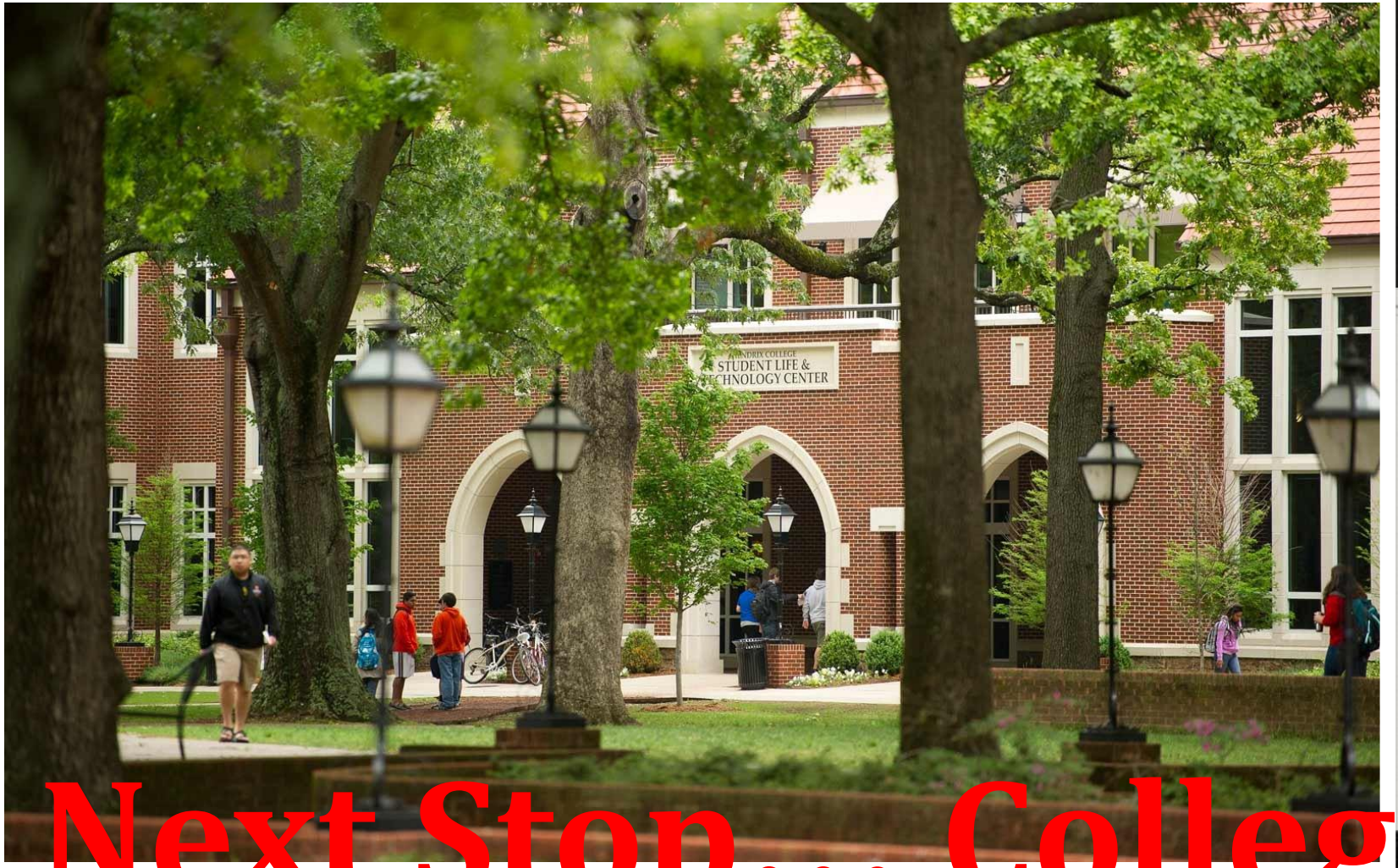
Join us for a **Financial Aid Presentation** on Wednesday, 10/20 at 7 pm via Zoom with an expert HESSA representative!

- A link was sent to you to register for this meeting. You must register a week in advance to be able to participate. You can reach out to Mrs. Gupta at bgupta@fairlawnschools.org if you did not receive the meeting information.

Helpful Websites

- College Board
  - www.collegeboard.org
- ACT
  - www.act.org
- Fair Lawn High School
  - www.flhs.org

- Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (Financial Aid)
  - www.hesaa.org
- Fast Web!
  - www.fastweb.com
- Estimated Family Contribution Estimators
  - www.finaid.org
  - www.collegeboard.org



Next Stop… College!