



College Admissions 101

Prepared for the Class of 2022
Webinar: September 9, 2020

An overview of this presentation

- The value of self-assessment
- Office of Admissions – Changes due to COVID-19
- Profile data from Minnetonka High School
- Holistic review – and the importance of the junior year
- College search process
- Preparing for the senior year – and college applications
- Minnetonka counseling model – and our pledge!

Self assessment – an ongoing part of the junior year experience

- Students need to spend time figuring out what's important to them in the post-high school planning process. College? 2-year or 4-year? Work? Apprenticeship? Military? Gap year? Please read the exercise on pages 6-7 of the Post High School Planning Guide: <https://www.minnetonkaschools.org/uploaded/Documents/MHS/Counseling/MHS-Post-High-School-Planning-Guide.pdf>
- Also, complete the **Do What You Are** assessment in Naviance, a Myers-Briggs personality inventory (in the About Me section.)

Self assessment – an ongoing part of the junior year experience

- For those who have an interest in the college search, there are great virtual opportunities to learn and discover!
- Over 140 college and universities will “visit” Minnetonka HS this fall – see the full list in Naviance.
- Several virtual college fairs are being offered, including a national fair this Sunday (Sept 13). Register at: <https://virtualcollegefairs.org/> Additional dates include October 12, Oct 18, and Nov 8.
- In Minnesota, a number of college presentations will take place Sept 28-Oct 14. Registration information available (soon) at <http://mn-acac.org/virtualcollege>

Office of Admissions

- Colleges seek the best students they can find/attract/admit/enroll for their entering class
- Students seek the best college they can attend
- Everyone is aware of rankings, prestige, fame – nobody wants to miss out!
- Numbers are important – not just in terms of applications, but in terms of a student's academic record.
- It's a process, with lots of steps/stages. Patience is a value-added virtue!

Office of Admissions – Changes from COVID-19

- Most colleges have adopted a test-optional policy in admission – the exceptions are primarily public universities in the South. The updated list can be found at FairTest.org

<http://fairtest.org/university/optional>

- It remains “to be determined” about testing policies for the Class of 2022, but the movement in admissions fully supports test-optional policies
- Students do NOT need to take the optional writing section in the ACT or SAT (unless you’re applying to West Point.)
- Closed campuses – most universities are offering only virtual tours. Many have added significantly to their YouTube productions. It’s important to check their “visit” website before scheduling a trip!

Minnetonka High School – Profile from 2019 & 2020

- % attending 4-year colleges 76%
- % attending 2-year colleges 10%
- % attending MN institutions 36%
- % attending out-of-state institutions 50%
- Average number of applications 4.92

• **Class of 2019**

The top 7 schools include:

Univ of Minnesota – TC

Univ of Wisconsin – Madison

Normandale Community College

University of St. Thomas

Iowa State University

Univ of Nebraska, Lincoln

Univ of Minnesota – Duluth

• **Class of 2020**

The top 7 schools include:

Univ of Minnesota – TC

Univ of Wisconsin – Madison

Normandale Community College

Univ of Minnesota – Duluth

University of St. Thomas

Minnesota State, Mankato

Univ of Wisconsin – Eau Claire

Holistic review – the value of the junior year!

- The high school transcript – the student's record of academic achievement – is the most important part of the application folder.
- The rigor of the courses you have taken, the breadth of study within each department, and the grades you have earned will be examined in detail. The transcript speaks loudly.
- Colleges and universities want to see the quality of your life as a student. They want to see trends, growth, challenge, and achievement.

Testing – For those who choose to test

- Juniors are encouraged to wait until the 2021 year to test -- with more time for instruction and learning, and (for those who choose to do it) test preparation.
- January 26 PSAT (for juniors)
- Feb 8 ACT
- March 13 SAT
- April 6 ACT – school day testing at MHS
- April 10 ACT
- May 8 SAT
- June 5 SAT
- June 12 ACT

Testing – For those who choose to test

- Free test preparation is available to all students, in addition to the fee-based courses and tutoring
- In Naviance, there is a free test prep resource, with Method Test Prep
<https://app.methodtestprep.com/MinnetonkaHighSchool/signup/tkn29582324>
- On the ACT web site, check out the ACT Academy.
<https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation/act-academy.html>
- To practice for the PSAT and the SAT, check out the Khan Academy website:
<https://www.khanacademy.org/sat>

The College Search – How to begin?

- **An absolute must: conduct a self inventory or self assessment**
- What do you like to do?
- What do you hate to do?
- What subject excites you?
- What always bores you?
- How do you learn best?

Self inventory (cont.)

- Do you enjoy being a part of a large group? Or, do smaller groups suit you better?
- Do you want to stick close to home? Or, do you plan to move far away?
- Do you want to live in or near a city? Or, could you find happiness in a college town?
- Do you seek out diversity among your friends? Or, do you hang out with people who are very similar to you?

Information Gathering -- The Basics of a College Search

- Size
- Faculty/Student Ratio
- Major/Strongest programs/Courses offered
- Geographical location and distance from family
- Learning focus- Liberal Arts or Specialized School
- Urban/rural
- Tuition/Financial Aid/Scholarships
- Honors/accelerated programs
- Graduation rate

Information Gathering -- The Personality of the College

- Retention Rate and Graduation Rate
- Activities
- Dorm life/Greek life
- Facilities
- Male/female ratio
- Multi-cultural breakdown
- Religious affiliation
- Research opportunities
- Study abroad programs

Information Gathering – Making Use of the Internet!

<https://student.naviance.com/minnetonka>

<http://www.collegeboard.org>

<http://www.collegeconfidential.com>

<http://www.princetonreview.com>

<http://www.finaid.org>

<https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator>

<https://collegecost.ed.gov>

For Parents: This is a good one!

ies INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION SCIENCES

NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

Enter search terms here

Publications & Products | Surveys & Programs | Data & Tools | Fast Facts | School Search | News & Events | About Us

COLLEGE Navigator

English | [Español](#) | [About](#)

Name of School
Type name of school here

States (use map for more than 1 state)
 No Preference
 Alabama
 Alaska
 Arizona

ZIP Code Miles from

Programs/Majors
0 Items Selected [Browse for Programs](#)

Level of Award [?](#)
 Certificate Associate's
 Bachelor's Advanced

Institution Type [?](#)
 Public 4-year
 Private non-profit 2-year
 Private for-profit < 2-year

[+ MORE SEARCH OPTIONS](#)

[Show Results](#)

[Guide Me](#) | [Clear Search](#)

Find the right college for you

[Guide Me](#)

- » Refine your search with *More Search Options* to select additional search criteria.
- » Build a list of schools using *My Favorites* for side-by-side comparisons.
- » Pinpoint school locations with an *interactive map*.
- » Export search results into a *spreadsheet*.
- » Save your session including search options and favorites.
- » [Add College Navigator](#) to your browser search bar.

College Affordability and Transparency Center

Browse lists of institutions with the highest and lowest tuition & fees and net price. [» GO](#)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Preparing for your Education
Find out what you need to do to prepare for education beyond high school. [» GO](#)

Financial Aid
Apply for Federal Student Aid on FAFSA. [» GO](#)

Careers
Deciding on a career? Consult the *bls.gov* Occupational Outlook Handbook. [» GO](#)

For Parents: Or this one!

College Scorecard [info](#)



[Enter](#)

College Navigator [info](#)



[Enter](#)

90/10 Information [info](#)



[Enter](#)

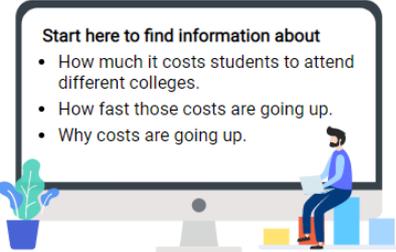
Net Price Calculator Center [info](#)



[Enter](#)

Start here to find information about

- How much it costs students to attend different colleges.
- How fast those costs are going up.
- Why costs are going up.



College Affordability and Transparency List [info](#)



[Enter](#)

State Spending Charts [info](#)



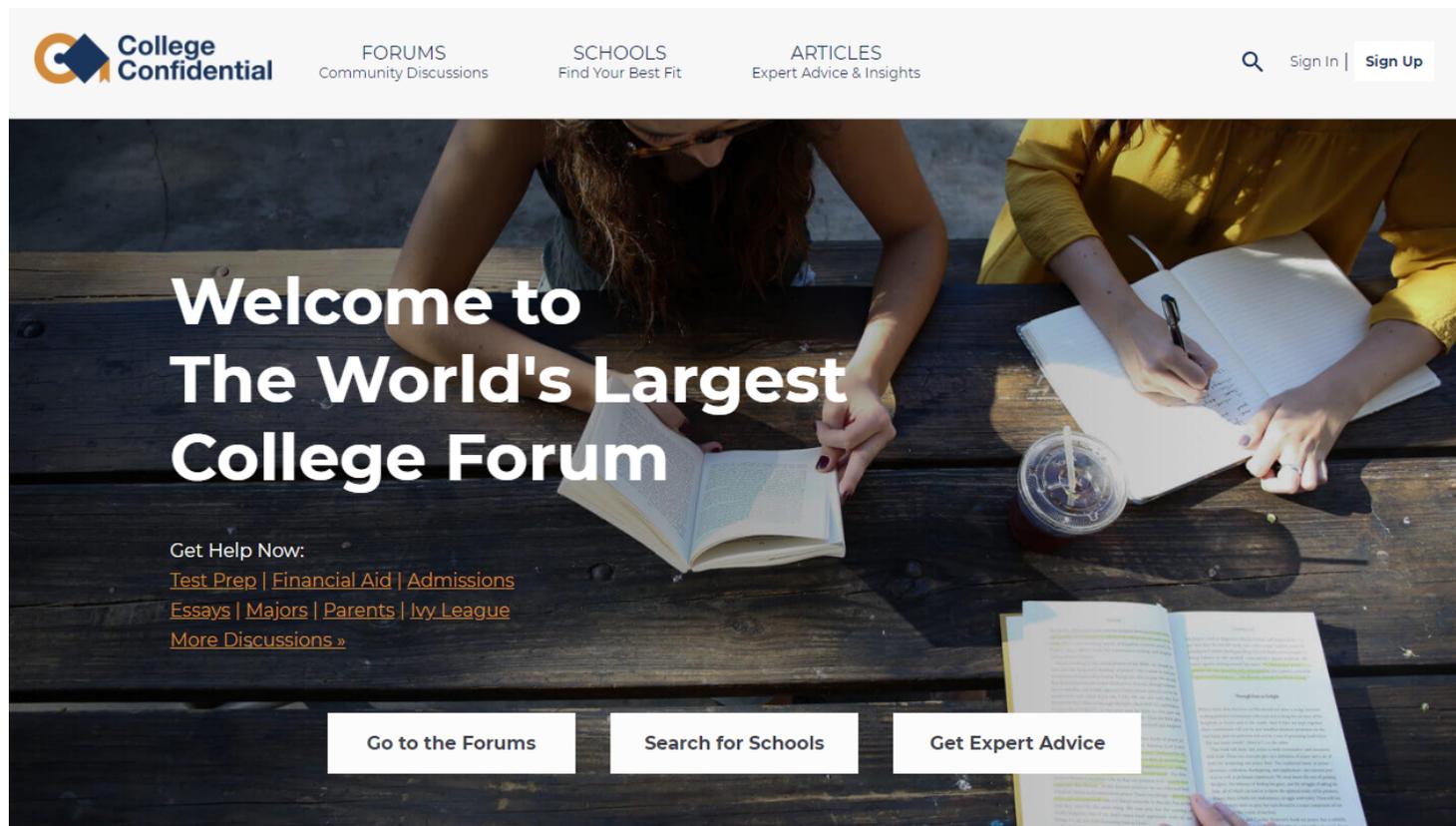
[Enter](#)

College Financing Plan [info](#)



[Enter](#)

For Students: You'll love this one!

The image shows the top portion of the College Confidential website. At the top left is the College Confidential logo, which consists of a stylized 'C' and 'D' in blue and orange. To the right of the logo are three navigation links: 'FORUMS Community Discussions', 'SCHOOLS Find Your Best Fit', and 'ARTICLES Expert Advice & Insights'. Further right is a search icon and the text 'Sign In | Sign Up'. Below the navigation is a large hero image of two students sitting at a wooden table, looking at books and writing in notebooks. Overlaid on this image is the main heading 'Welcome to The World's Largest College Forum'. Below the heading is a section titled 'Get Help Now:' with several links: 'Test Prep | Financial Aid | Admissions', 'Essays | Majors | Parents | Ivy League', and 'More Discussions »'. At the bottom of the hero section are three white buttons with black text: 'Go to the Forums', 'Search for Schools', and 'Get Expert Advice'.

FORUMS
Community Discussions

SCHOOLS
Find Your Best Fit

ARTICLES
Expert Advice & Insights

Search | Sign In | Sign Up

Welcome to The World's Largest College Forum

Get Help Now:

[Test Prep](#) | [Financial Aid](#) | [Admissions](#)

[Essays](#) | [Majors](#) | [Parents](#) | [Ivy League](#)

[More Discussions »](#)

Go to the Forums

Search for Schools

Get Expert Advice

For Parents & Students: Use this one!

The screenshot shows the Naviance Student website. At the top left is the Naviance logo and the text "Naviance | Student". To the right is a navigation menu with links for "Home", "Colleges", "Careers", "About Me", and "My Planner". Below the navigation is a welcome message "Welcome, Sam!". Underneath is a search bar with a dropdown menu labeled "Search for Colleges" and a search button labeled "SEARCH". The main content area is divided into four sections: "Intro to Seniors", "My Favorites", "Important To-Dos and Tasks", and "What's New".

Naviance | Student

Home Colleges Careers About Me My Planner

Welcome, Sam!

Search for Colleges [SEARCH](#)

Intro to Seniors

Greetings from the MHS Counseling Office!

We will once again be using our interactive counseling tool, *Naviance Student*, to assist you with post-high school planning.

We hope you will explore the many beneficial features that are available to you. We recommend the following links:

[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

What's New

Applying for admission – it happens in the senior year!

- For all of our students, let this be your “guide.” You apply for admission to a college because you want to go there!
- Focus as much on “going” to the college as you will focus on “getting in.”
- As a counseling staff, we plan to work with students in the college search process to help them find good matches!!
“What will make this place be a great fit for me?”
- “College is a match to be made, not a prize to be won.”

-- Frank Sachs, retired from The Blake School, Minneapolis

Applying for admission (continued)

- As you get ready to become a senior – and an applicant, your top priority is finding the right fit! NOTE: You apply for admission to a college because you want to go there!
- Most MHS students apply between August and December
- Separate deadline for need-based financial aid -- filing the FAFSA can be done after October 1. www.fafsa.ed.gov
- The selection process can last for months, especially when cost of attendance is a significant factor.

Minnetonka counseling model – our pledge!

- 10 School Counselors + 1 College Counselor
- Personalization and support
- Our pledge – to help each student find the best match possible for their post-secondary experience!

Phillip Trout

College Counselor

Minnetonka High School

952-401-5746

collegeguy@minnetonkaschools.org

Twitter: @MHScollegeguy

www.minnetonkaschools.org/collegecounselor

9-9-20