College Application Process

and

Financial Aid Information

Counselor Caseloads

- Mr. Owen Breininger
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  - A-De
- Mrs. Erica Henry
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- Mrs. Brenda Roth
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- Mrs. Patty Sabol
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  - Sc - Z

Counseling Office Administrative Assistants

Mrs. Taylor

- Student last name: A-Mi
- ataylor@qcsd.org

Mrs. Devlin

- Student last name: Mo-Z
- jdevlin@qcsd.org

- You own the College Application Process
  - Applying to college is a sign of your independence and readiness for life beyond high school.
  - The process belongs to you!
  - You apply to the schools.
  - You contact the college when you have specific questions about that college or their programs.
  - Reach out to your counselor to schedule an individual meeting.

Your Counselors are here to support and guide you along the way!

Approximate **Timeline for College Application Process**

Summer/Fall: Finalize your list of schools

Know admission requirements; Common App or direct to College

Know deadlines (some majors earlier); Rolling Admissions, Early Action, Early Decision, or Regular Decision

Take SAT or ACT if needed

Dec. - Feb: Complete the FAFSA

Nov – Jan: Apply, submit all required documents

Apply for scholarships (school, community, college) Admission Decisions vary by college and by type of admission

Feb – March: Admission decisions will be posted on your college account, emailed and/or mailed.

Financial award letters or packages might be included with admission decision or come separately at a later time.

March: You should have all admission offers and financial award letters. You, along with family, make a decision that is the best fit for you.

May 1st is National College Decision Day

Feb – June: Follow all the instructions for the college of your choice. There are deadlines to submit deposits, housing applications and other programs specific to your college. YOU must check your personal email regularly so you don't miss anything.

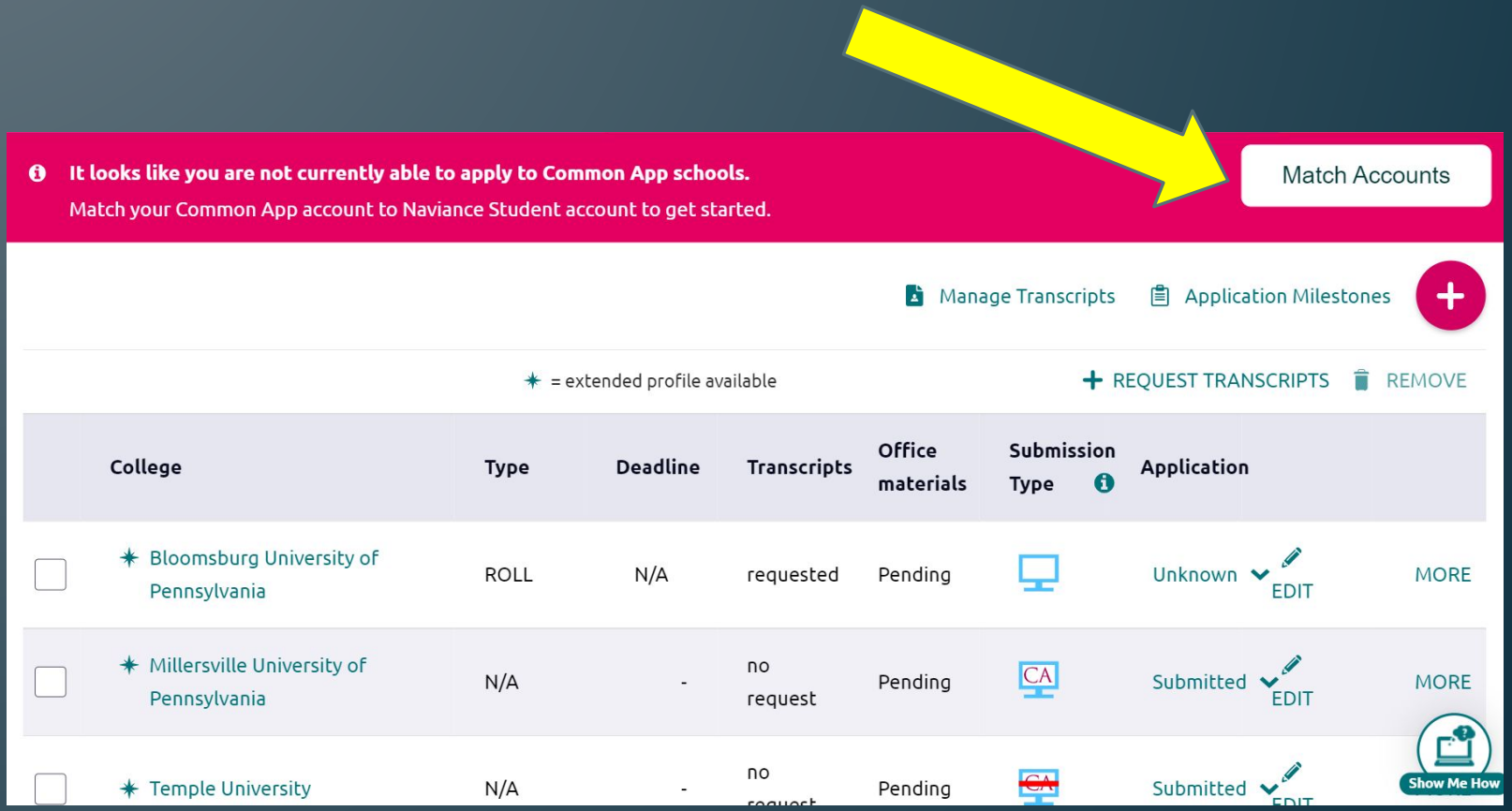
June: School counselors visit your classroom in June and you complete a graduation survey. On this survey, you will tell us where to send your FINAL transcript.

College Applications

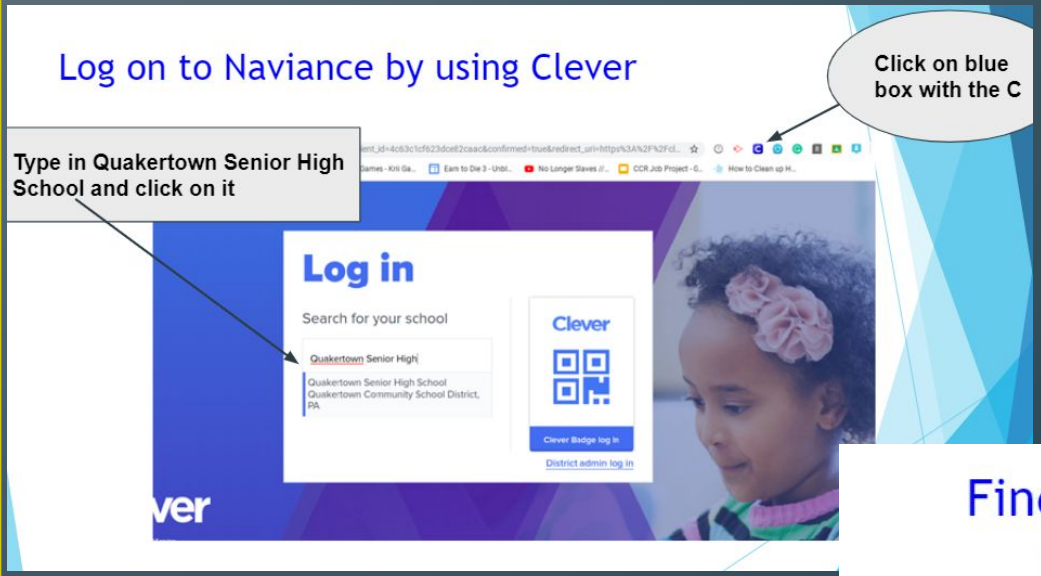
2 ways to apply:

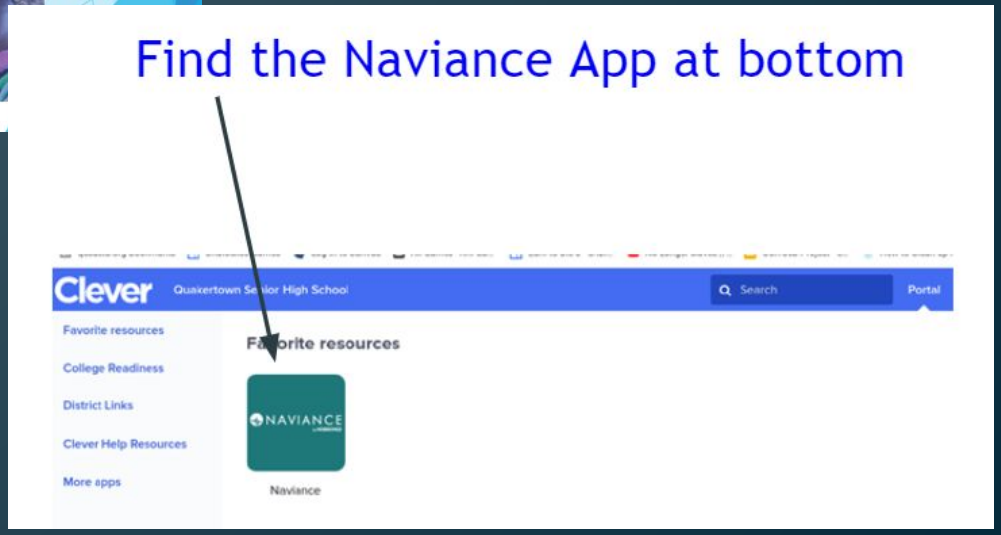
- Common Application (commonapp.org)
- Directly through university website

Applying via **Common App?** You must "Match" your Naviance Account to CA.

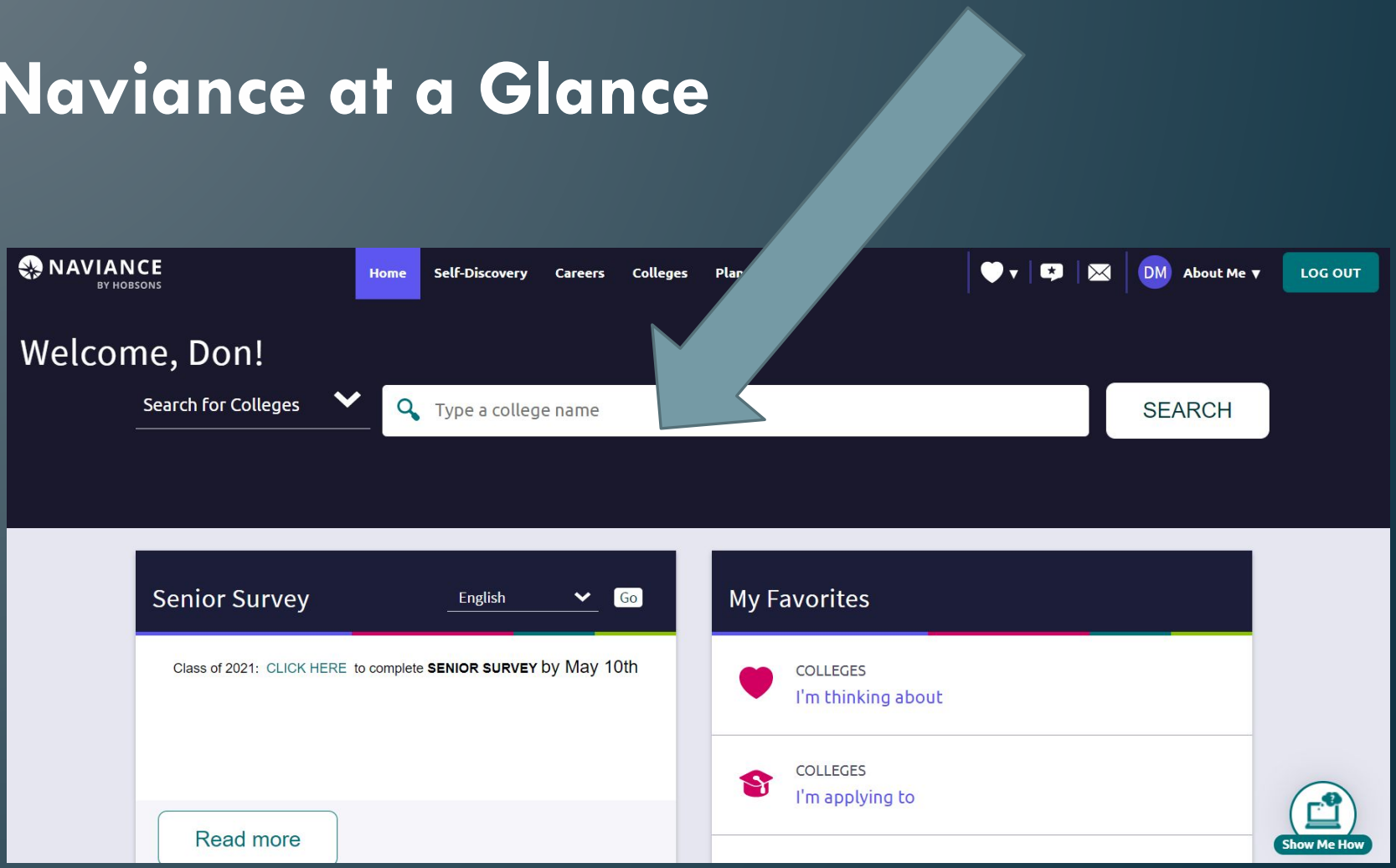


You must use **Naviance** for our high school to send your information to colleges

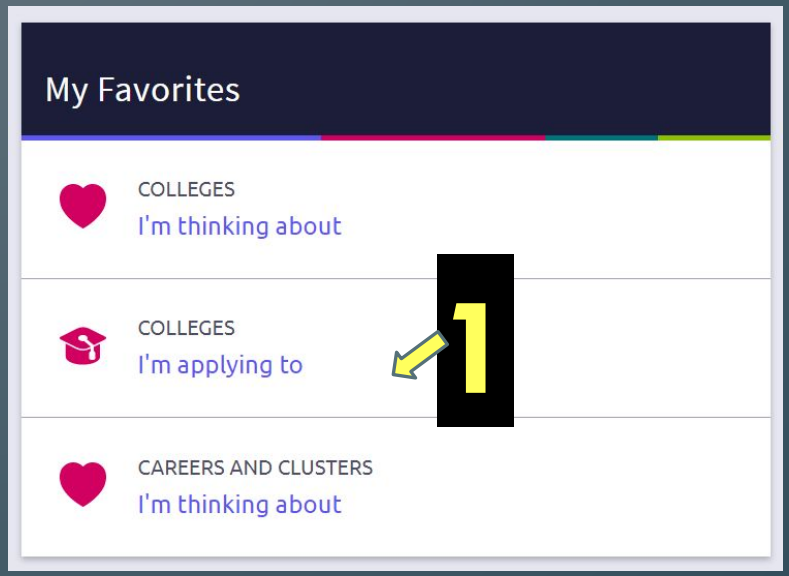


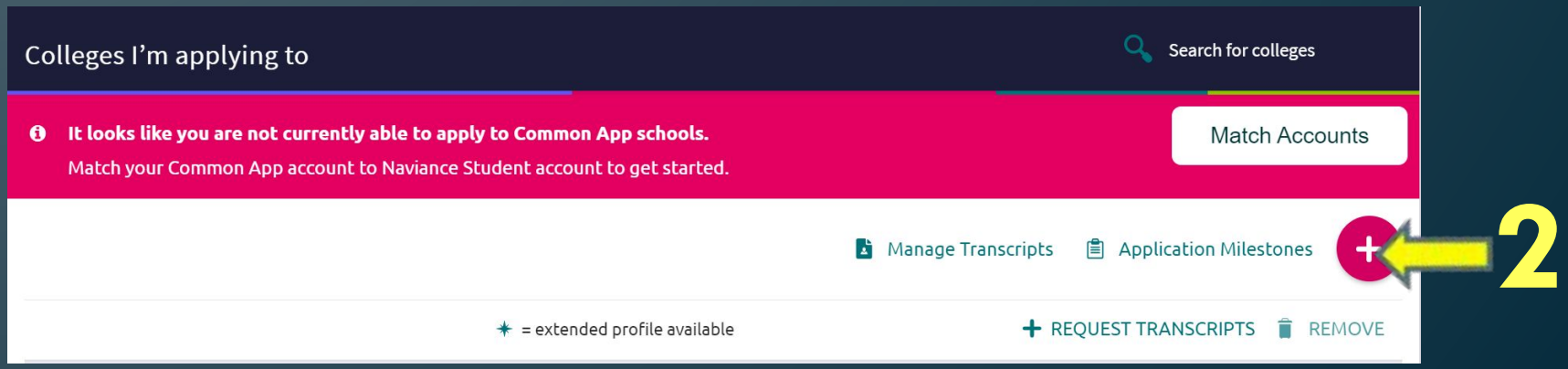


Naviance at a Glance

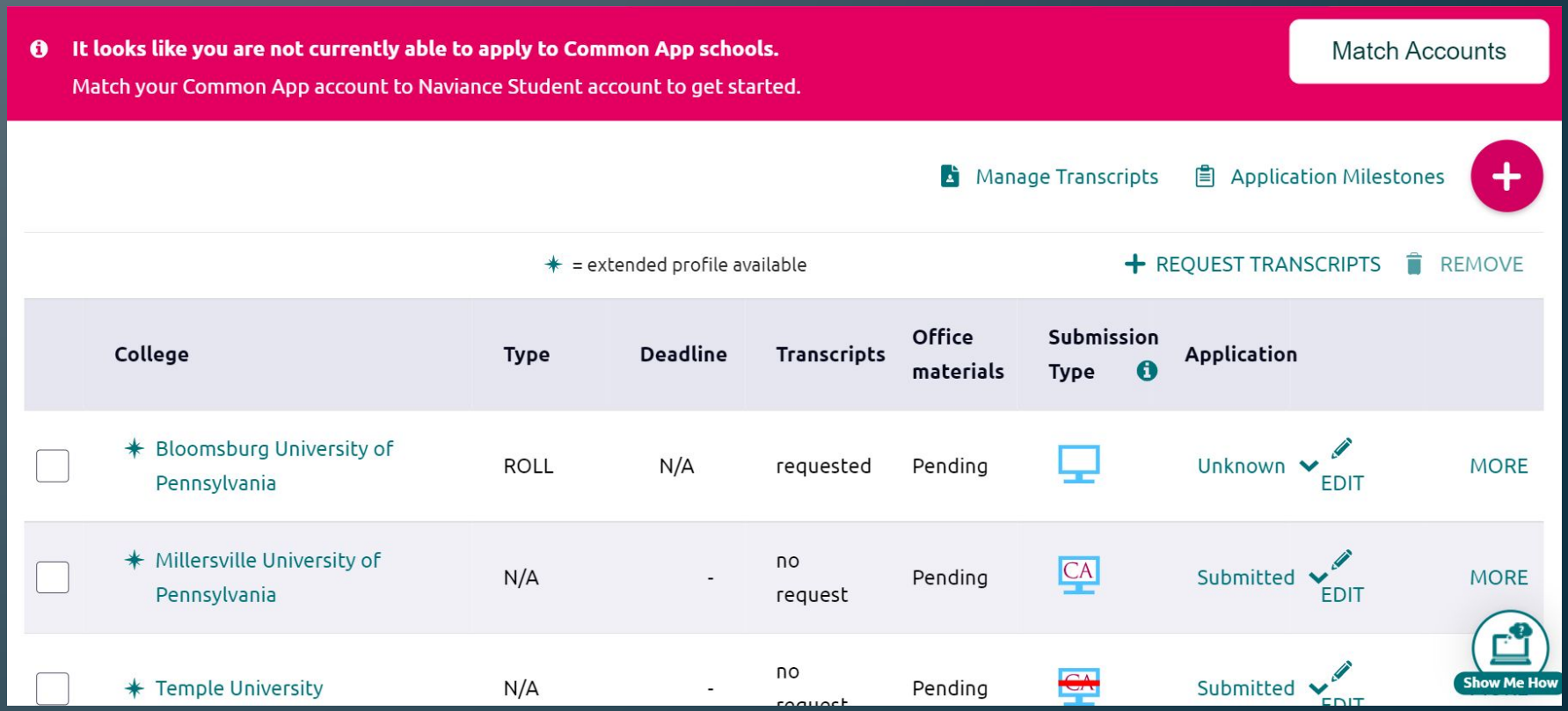


Adding Colleges Applied To

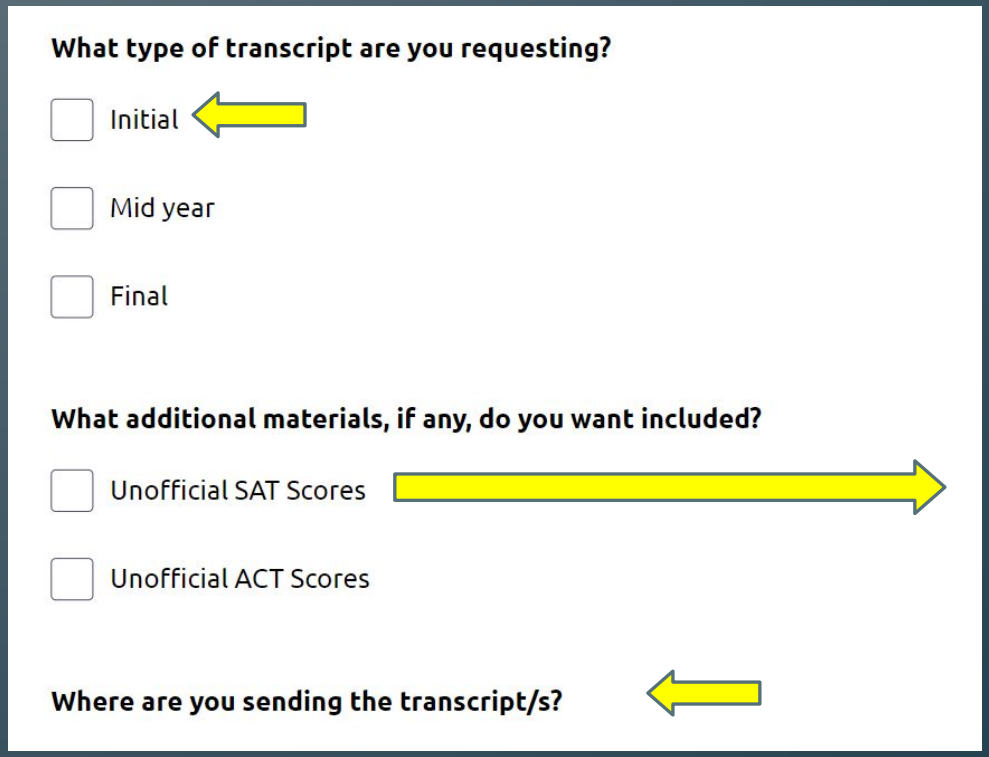




Tell Us Where to Send Transcripts



Requesting Transcripts

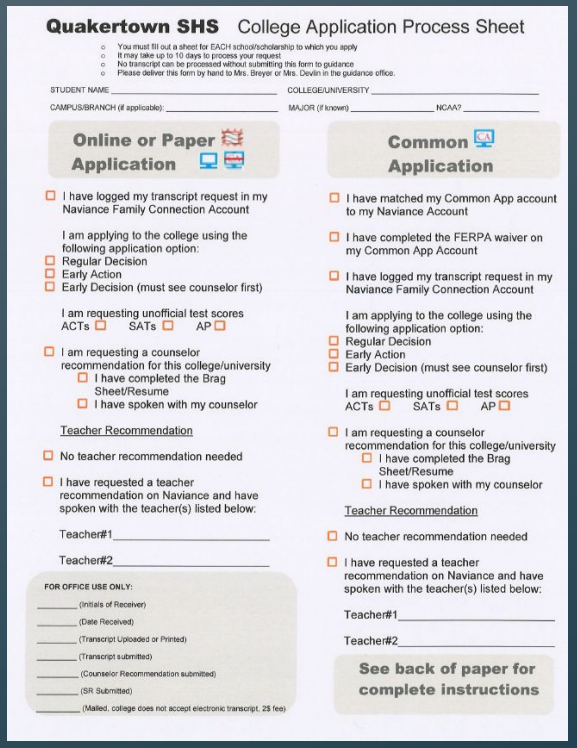


**Many colleges are now requiring that test scores be sent directly from the testing company. This is referred to as "official." Be sure you know how each school wants to receive test scores, or if they even need them at all.

College Application Process Sheet

- Complete a sheet for EACH university/college/ scholarship to which you apply

- It may take up to 10 school days to process your request, so plan accordingly
  - If you have a December 1st deadline, submit the CAP sheet by November 13th.
  - If you have a January 1st deadline, submit the CAP sheet by December 11th



Quakertown SHS College Application Process Sheet

- You must fill out a sheet for EACH school/scholarship to which you apply
- It may take up to 10 days to process your request
- No transcript can be processed without submitting this form to guidance
- Please deliver this form by hand to Mrs. Breyer or Mrs. Devlin in the guidance office.

STUDENT NAME _____ COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY _____

CAMPUS/BRANCH (if applicable): _____ MAJOR (if known) _____ NCAA? _____

Online or Paper Application

☐ I have logged my transcript request in my Naviance Family Connection Account

I am applying to the college using the following application option:
☐ Regular Decision
☐ Early Action
☐ Early Decision (must see counselor first)

I am requesting unofficial test scores
ACTs ☐ SATs ☐ AP ☐

☐ I am requesting a counselor recommendation for this college/university
☐ I have completed the Brag Sheet/Resume
☐ I have spoken with my counselor

Teacher Recommendation

☐ No teacher recommendation needed

☐ I have requested a teacher recommendation on Naviance and have spoken with the teacher(s) listed below:

Teacher#1_____

Teacher#2_____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:
_____ (Initials of Receiver)
_____ (Date Received)
_____ (Transcript Uploaded or Printed)
_____ (Transcript submitted)
_____ (Counselor Recommendation submitted)
_____ (SR Submitted)
_____ (Mailed, college does not accept electronic transcript, 25 fee)

Common Application

☐ I have matched my Common App account to my Naviance Account

☐ I have completed the FERPA waiver on my Common App Account

☐ I have logged my transcript request in my Naviance Family Connection Account

I am applying to the college using the following application option:
☐ Regular Decision
☐ Early Action
☐ Early Decision (must see counselor first)

I am requesting unofficial test scores
ACTs ☐ SATs ☐ AP ☐

☐ I am requesting a counselor recommendation for this college/university
☐ I have completed the Brag Sheet/Resume
☐ I have spoken with my counselor

Teacher Recommendation

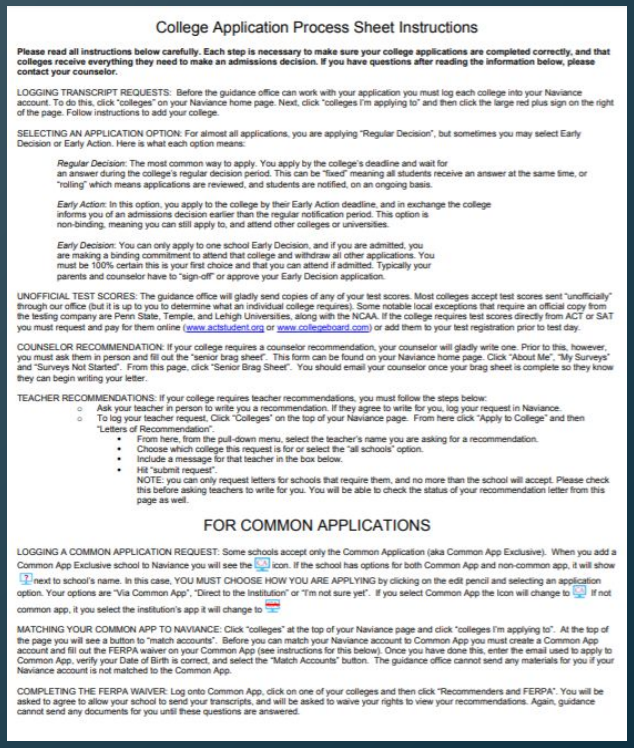
☐ No teacher recommendation needed

☐ I have requested a teacher recommendation on Naviance and have spoken with the teacher(s) listed below:

Teacher#1_____

Teacher#2_____

See back of paper for complete instructions



College Application Process Sheet Instructions

Please read all instructions below carefully. Each step is necessary to make sure your college applications are completed correctly, and that colleges receive everything they need to make an admissions decision. If you have questions after reading the information below, please contact your counselor.

LOGGING TRANSCRIPT REQUESTS: Before the guidance office can work with your application you must log each college into your Naviance account. To do this, click "colleges" on your Naviance home page. Next, click "colleges I'm applying to" and then click the large red plus sign on the right of the page. Follow instructions to add your college.

SELECTING AN APPLICATION OPTION: For almost all applications, you are applying "Regular Decision", but sometimes you may select Early Decision or Early Action. Here is what each option means:

Regular Decision: The most common way to apply. You apply by the college's deadline and wait for an answer during the college's regular decision period. This can be "fixed" meaning all students receive an answer at the same time, or "rolling" which means applications are reviewed, and students are notified, on an ongoing basis.

Early Action: In this option, you apply to the college by their Early Action deadline, and in exchange the college informs you of an admissions decision earlier than the regular notification period. This option is non-binding, meaning you can still apply to, and attend other colleges or universities.

Early Decision: You can only apply to one school Early Decision, and if you are admitted, you are making a binding commitment to attend that college and withdraw all other applications. You must be 100% certain this is your first choice and that you can attend if admitted. Typically your parents and counselor have to "sign-off" or approve your Early Decision application.

UNOFFICIAL TEST SCORES: The guidance office will gladly send copies of any of your test scores. Most colleges accept test scores sent "unofficially" through our office (but it is up to you to determine what an individual college requires). Some notable local exceptions that require an official copy from the testing company are Penn State, Temple, and Lehigh Universities, along with the NCAA. If the college requires test scores directly from ACT or SAT you must request and pay for them online (www.actstudent.org or www.collegeboard.com) or add them to your test registration prior to test day.

COUNSELOR RECOMMENDATION: If your college requires a counselor recommendation, your counselor will gladly write one. Prior to this, however, you must ask them in person and fill out the "senior brag sheet". This form can be found on your Naviance home page. Click "About Me", "My Surveys" and "Surveys Not Started". From this page, click "Senior Brag Sheet". You should email your counselor once your brag sheet is complete so they know they can begin writing your letter.

TEACHER RECOMMENDATIONS: If your college requires teacher recommendations, you must follow the steps below:
- Ask your teacher in person to write you a recommendation. If they agree to write for you, log your request in Naviance.
- To log your teacher request, Click "Colleges" on the top of your Naviance page. From here click "Apply to College" and then "Letters of Recommendation".
  - From here, from the pull-down menu, select the teacher's name you are asking for a recommendation.
  - Choose which college this request is for or select the "all schools" option.
  - Include a message for that teacher in the box below.
  - Hit "submit request".
  - NOTE: you can only request letters for schools that require them, and no more than the school will accept. Please check this before asking teachers to write for you. You will be able to check the status of your recommendation letter from this page as well.

FOR COMMON APPLICATIONS

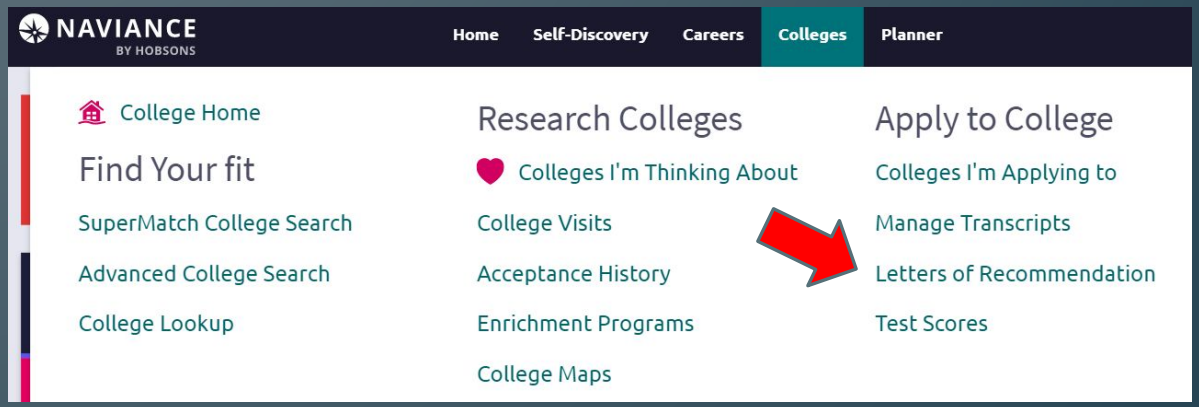
LOGGING A COMMON APPLICATION REQUEST: Some schools accept only the Common Application (aka Common App Exclusive). When you add a Common App Exclusive school to Naviance you will see the icon. If the school has options for both Common App and non-common app, it will show next to school's name. In this case, YOU MUST CHOOSE HOW YOU ARE APPLYING by clicking on the edit pencil and selecting an application option. Your options are "Via Common App", "Direct to the Institution" or "I'm not sure yet". If you select Common App the Icon will change to If not common app, it you select the institution's app it will change to

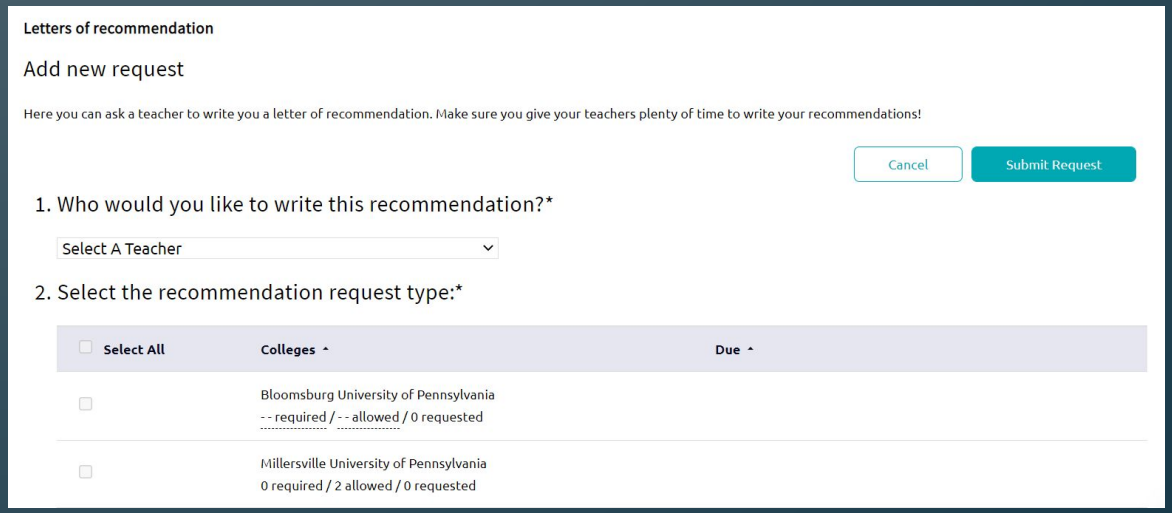
MATCHING YOUR COMMON APP TO NAVIANCE: Click "colleges" at the top of your Naviance page and click "colleges I'm applying to". At the top of the page you will see a button to "match accounts". Before you can match your Naviance account to Common App you must create a Common App account and fill out the FERPA waiver on your Common App (see instructions for this below). Once you have done this, enter the email used to apply to Common App, verify your Date of Birth is correct, and select the "Match Accounts" button. The guidance office cannot send any materials for you if your Naviance account is not matched to the Common App.

COMPLETING THE FERPA WAIVER: Log onto Common App, click on one of your colleges and then click "Recommenders and FERPA". You will be asked to agree to allow your school to send your transcripts, and will be asked to waive your rights to view your recommendations. Again, guidance cannot send any documents for you until these questions are answered.

Teacher Letter of Recommendation

1. Know how many letters each college requires.
2. Ask the teacher in person to write you a letter.
3. Under the "Colleges I'm applying to" link, click on "letters of recommendation."





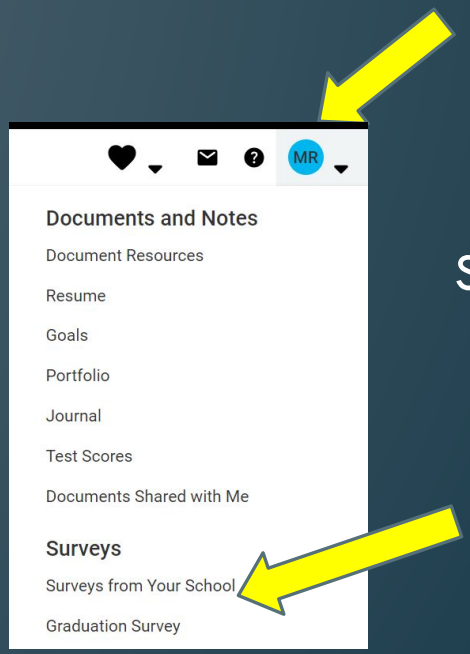
STEPS

1. Select "add request"
2. Pick Teacher
3. Select school or schools (note requirements)
4. **Send Note to teacher and hit "save"**

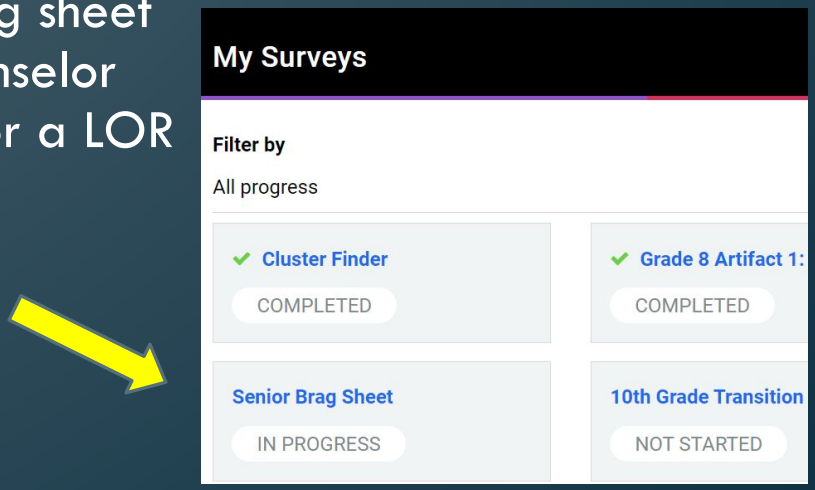
You can now track the status of requests

Counselor Letter of Recommendation

- Read the admissions requirements to determine **if** you need a Counselor LOR
- Counselor LOR does NOT count as a Teacher LOR
- If you need one:
  - Complete senior brag sheet
  - Speak with your counselor
  - Indicate the needs for a LOR on your CAP sheet



Finding the Senior Brag Survey



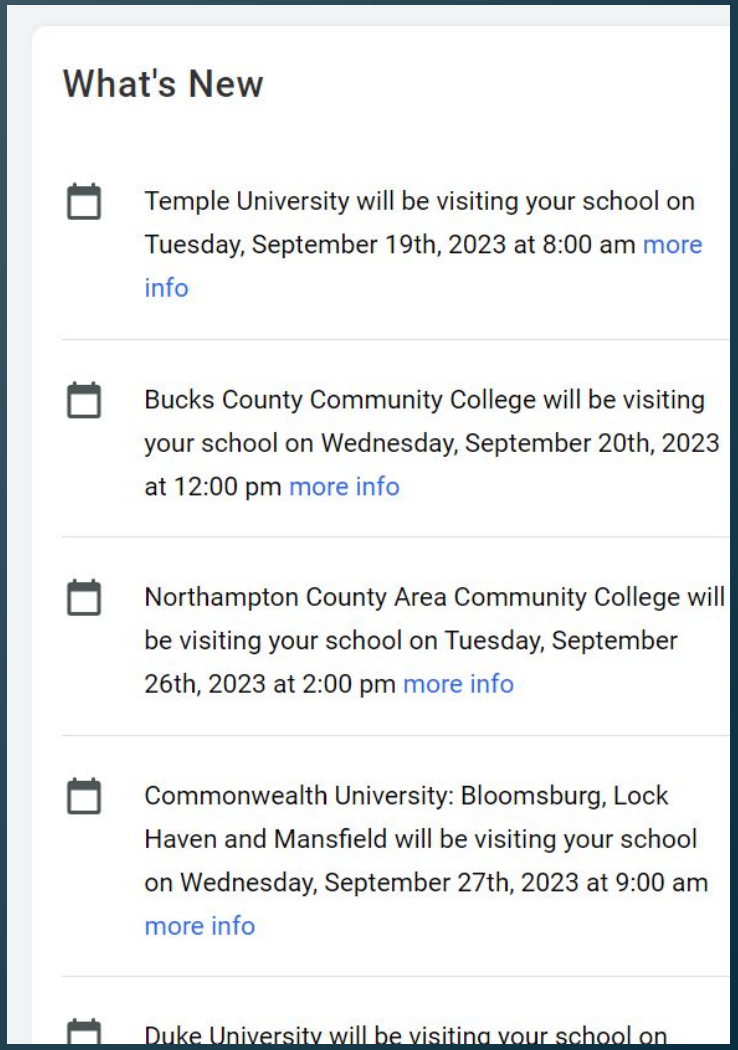
Two Year Option….

- If you believe you will begin your college career at Bucks County Community College, stop by and see your counselor to be added to the Quakertown-Bucks Partnership list.
- Field Trip to Campus*
- Special Quakertown Open House*
- Advising and Scheduling at QCHS*

College Representatives

The Counseling Office is coordinating college representative visits starting the Tuesday, Sept. 19th.

Go to Naviance Homepage and look on right hand side under What's New to sign up



College Fairs

PACAC, www.pacac.org

Bucks County Community College; Newton, PA -
Thursday, October 5th; 6:30 - 8:00PM

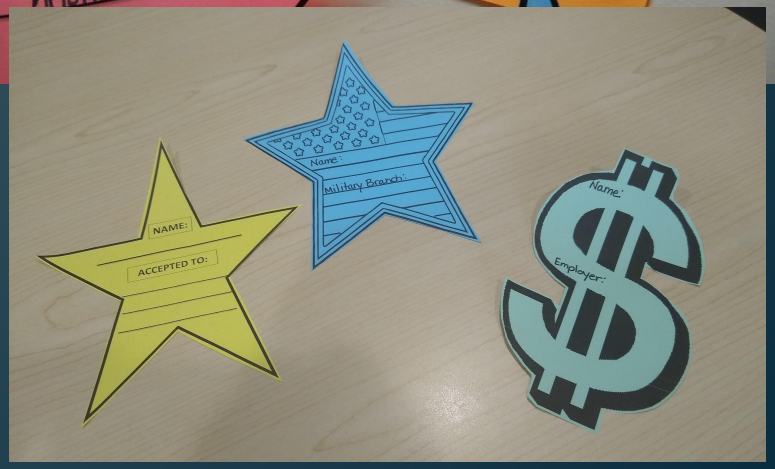
North Penn High School; Lansdale, PA-
Thursday, October 12th; 6:00 - 8:00PM

NACAC, www.nacac.org

Philadelphia National College Fair, Pennsylvania Convention Center,
Saturday, October 14th; 11:00AM- 3:00PM

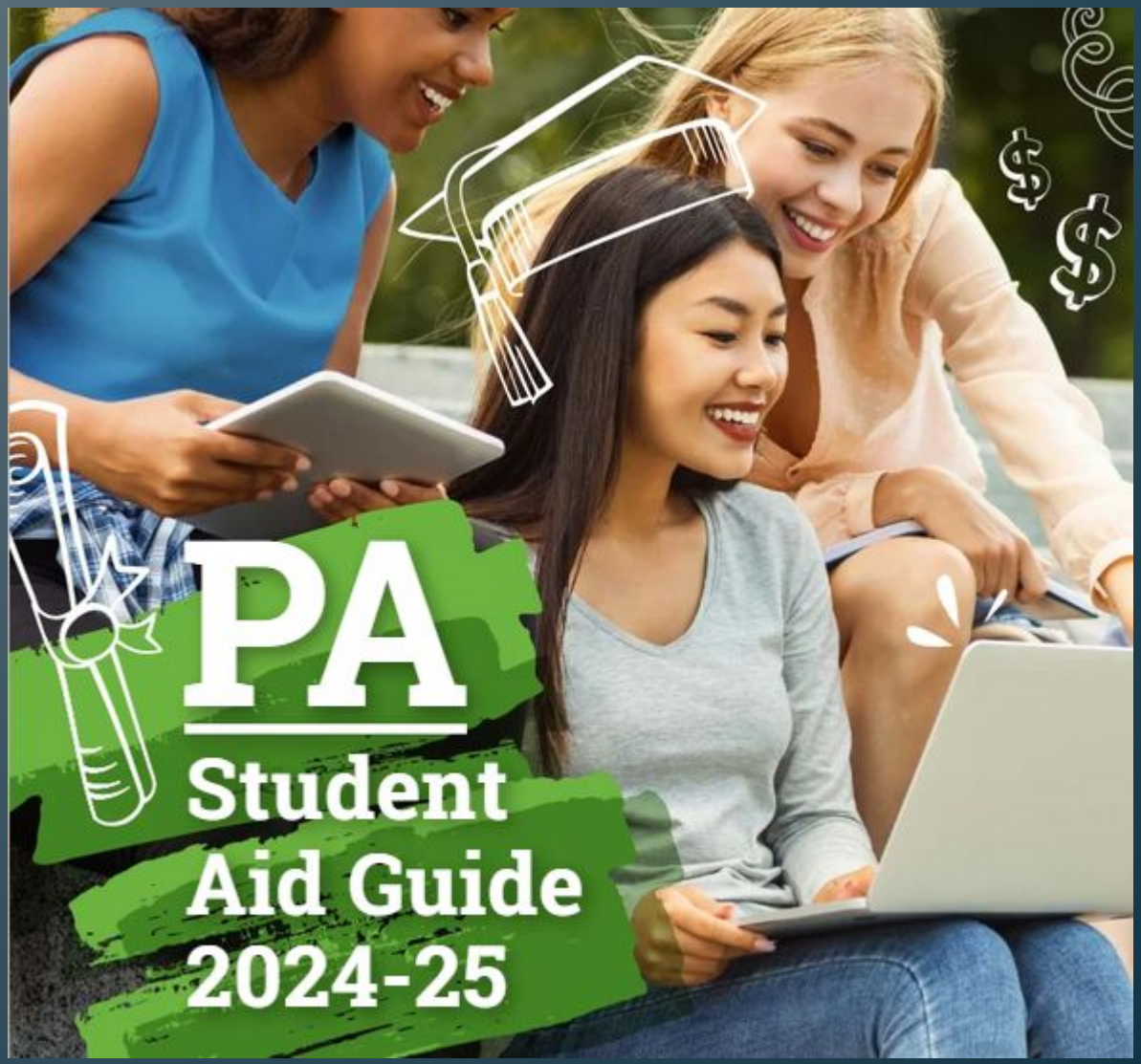
Southeastern PA Christian College Fair,
Faith Christian Academy;
Thursday, October 19; 6:00 - 8:00PM

We love to hear great news – let us know where you get accepted…college, trade school, work force, or military!!



College Application Parent Meeting
Thursday, September 14th 6:30pm for parents

Financial Aid Parent Information Night
Monday September 18th at 6:30


PA
Student
Aid Guide
2024-25

FAFSA

Free Application for Federal Student Aid

studentaid.gov

- The gateway to federal & state student loans, scholarships, and grant programs
- Accepted by most colleges and trade schools
- Strongly advised to complete this online application
- New this year - The FAFSA will be release in Dec 2023. Tell your parents!
- Still complete your college applications in Sept, Oct, Nov
- A few colleges will require the CSS Profile to be completed in the fall. Follow the college's direction on this.
- Parent info night - Sept 18th - 6:30PM in the QPAC
- FAFSA Completion Night - Jan 11th - 6:30PM (More details to follow)

How to Pay for College

Nearly two-thirds of students receive some type of financial assistance to make higher education more affordable. Don't let sticker shock stop you from seeking a certification or degree—it may be more affordable than you think!

Types of Financial Aid

1

Grants

Grant money is typically based on your family's financial situation. If you qualify for grant funds, **you don't pay this money back.**

2

Scholarships

Scholarship money is typically awarded based on your merit or performance. Like grants, **you usually won't repay these.**

3

Other Educational Aid

Other aid can include money from work-study programs, military service, and specialized programs—**most of which you don't have to pay back.**

4

Loans

Student loans must be repaid! There are various types, and some have better terms or forgiveness programs than others. Only borrow what you need!

Step by step directions start on page 17

How to Apply for Financial Aid

You and your family need to find out if you qualify for financial assistance. Don't assume that you won't qualify! Nearly two-thirds of students receive some type of financial assistance.

Nearly every type of aid discussed so far requires the FAFSA as the first step to apply.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)

The FAFSA is the most important application to complete for almost all types of financial aid. Many programs use the FAFSA to determine eligibility for grants and scholarships. Typically, the FAFSA is available on October 1 for the upcoming award year. Due to significant changes to the 2024-25 FAFSA, it will not be available until December 2023. The 2025-26 FAFSA will be available October 1, 2024. Since deadlines vary, complete the FAFSA as soon as possible!

PHEAA offers FREE FAFSA events! Visit pheaa.org/fafsa-events to find one near you.

If you plan to attend school from	You can submit the FAFSA from	Tax Info
July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024	October 1, 2022 – June 30, 2024	2021
July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025	December 2023 – June 30, 2025	2022
July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026	October 1, 2024 – June 30, 2026	2023

Use StudentAid.gov to complete your FAFSA application. It is the only secure and encrypted site that the federal government provides for students to file the FAFSA. If you don't have a computer, you may be able to use one at a library, school, or attend a FAFSA event in your community.

Filling out the FAFSA is free! The official site will never charge you or ask for credit card information to apply. Plus, you are never obligated to borrow any money.

How to File the FAFSA

TIP: Pay ... eadlines. File by the earliest federal, state, or school deadline.

STEP 1 ▶ Create a Federal Student Aid Account

Visit StudentAid.gov to create an account. Your account login (also referred to as an FSA ID) is the username and password for most U.S. Department of Education websites. It also serves as your electronic signature.

If you're a dependent student, both you AND at least one parent should create an account to electronically sign the FAFSA.

STEP 2 ▶ Organize Your Information

The FAFSA asks for details about you and your financial situation. If you're married, you will need the same information for your spouse. If you're a dependent student, you will also need your parents' information. Check to see if you are considered a dependent student.

You will need these items to complete your FAFSA:

- ☐ Your Federal Student Aid account username and password (FSA ID)
- ☐ Your Social Security number
- ☐ Your Alien Registration number if you are not a U.S. citizen
- ☐ Your W-2 forms
- ☐ Your federal income tax return 1040 and accompanying schedules
- ☐ Your financial assets, including: Checking and savings statements; records of stocks, bonds, 529 plans; other investments; child support received; and value of businesses and investment farms.
- ☐ A personal email address (not a school email address)

Will I need to answer questions about my parents on the FAFSA?

Dependent students **must** provide household parental info on the FAFSA. In general, most students under the age of 24 are considered dependent.

Independent students are NOT required to provide parental info on the FAFSA. You may be considered independent if any of the following apply:

- ☐ Born before 2001 for the 2024-25 award year
- ☐ An orphan (both parents deceased), in foster care, or a ward of the court when 13 years or older
- ☐ Have legal dependents, other than a spouse
- ☐ An emancipated minor or in legal guardianship through the court
- ☐ An unaccompanied homeless or self-supporting student at risk of being homeless
- ☐ A veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces or serving on active duty for other than training purposes
- ☐ A graduate or professional student
- ☐ Married or separated

STEP 3 ▶ File Online

Before starting the FAFSA, turn off any pop-up blockers in your browser. This ensures you don't miss any tool tips or information. Visit StudentAid.gov to get started.

After Filing the FAFSA

After filing, you will see an instant confirmation screen. Don't close it! You can link to the PA State Grant Form directly from the FAFSA. Additional information about the PA State Grant Program is in the next section.

The quickest way to apply for a PA State Grant is from the FAFSA website.

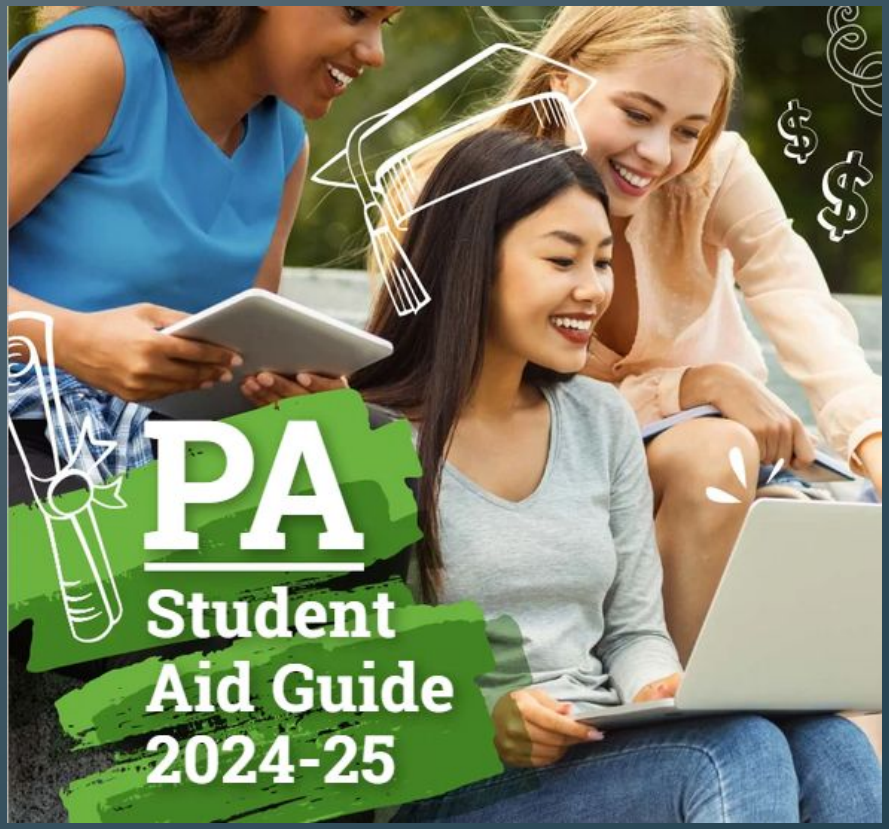
How much can you afford?

My Smart Borrowing

At MySmartBorrowing.org, you can make smart decisions about your career and education. This is our free tool for calculating an affordable future!

1. **Select a CAREER:** See how much you could make your first year out of school.
2. **Select a COLLEGE:** See the average cost to attend the school of your choice.
3. **Add in your SAVINGS:** See how savings can reduce the amount you borrow.
4. **Get your RESULTS:** See how much you may need to borrow, an estimated monthly payment, and more.

Tons of important info in this guide - be sure to use it!



- Find your financial fit
- How to pay for college
- Federal & State aid
- Loans
- Timeline

Any questions?

Enjoy your senior year!