

SOTA SENIORS: COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications

- Most four- year colleges can be found on the Common Application, www.commonapp.org, including SUNY schools. Go to www.commonapp.org to create an account and complete your application. You will also need to complete the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) waiver on Common App. The FERPA release can be found under the college tab once you have added a college to your application. Some four-year colleges do not use Common App and will require you to apply directly on their website.
- If you are planning to apply **only** to SUNY schools, you may choose to apply using the SUNY Application, www.suny.edu.
- If you are applying to a two-year community college, go directly to the college's website to apply.
- All colleges will then need to be added to your "Colleges I'm Applying To" section of Naviance (see below), regardless of which application you use.
- Please make sure you are paying attention to college application deadlines!

Naviance

- Log in to your Naviance account through the ROConnect app on your Chromebook. You will not need a separate username or password.
- Add your colleges under the "Colleges I'm Applying To" section. You will also need to indicate how you applied (Common App or Directly to the Institution) and request your transcript be sent.
- If you are using the Common Application, you will need to Match your Naviance account and Common App. A bright pink banner will appear on your Naviance account if you still need to match your accounts. To do so, you will need to click "Match Accounts" and follow the instructions to log into Common App. .
- Request your letters of recommendation through Naviance by clicking on "Letters of Recommendation". Please ask the teacher first before adding the request in Naviance. You must provide your teacher with a resume. Please update your Resume in Naviance under the "About Me" tab. The teacher will then get an email inviting them to complete your letter of recommendation through Naviance.

**For recommenders outside of SOTA, please invite them through the Common Application. See your counselor if you need assistance with this process.*

College Visits

- SOTA will host visits with college admissions representatives on Tuesdays and Thursdays. These will be listed in the Newsletter and the "College Visits" section of Naviance. To sign up please use the "College Visit" section of Naviance. Instructions on how to access visits can be found on the following link - https://drive.google.com/file/d/1A_fphE9DHmDs0FRAP4eyKnKdSVWU85er/view

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Transcripts

- The Common Application and Naviance have transcript release sections. These sections must be completed in order for counselors to release transcripts.

SAT/ACT scores

- Your SAT and/or ACT scores should be sent directly from the testing agency to the colleges you are applying to. You can do this from your College Board (SAT) or ACT Student (ACT) account. Not all schools require SAT/ACT scores, so you do not need to send them to schools that do not require them.
- Seniors will be taking the SAT October 11, 2023 during the school day.

Financial Aid

- You may complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) beginning in December 2023 using your parent's 2022 tax information. Go to www.studentaid.gov to apply. When you complete your FAFSA, you will be directed to complete your TAP (Tuition Assistance Program) for New York State financial aid. If you need help completing your FAFSA, please consider attending one of the Rochester College Access Network's FAFSA Fest events going on this fall.
- More information will follow in the coming weeks about FAFSA Fest Events.
- The counselors will be hosting a **COLLEGE NIGHT** Event on Tuesday, October 3rd and will focus on the Financial Aid Process. More details to follow.

Scholarships

- Available scholarships can be found in the Newsletter and Naviance under Scholarship Search section. There are also scholarship search engine sites linked on the SOTA School Counselor website.

Reminders

- **Check your school Gmail account - Google Calendar Invites**
- **Review the Newsletter**
- **Access the Counselor Corner tab on the SOTA website for helpful information and resources**
- **Sign up for College Visits at SOTA**
- **Check the Class of 2024 Google Classroom - Join Code - bqhnlt3**

COLLEGE NIGHT
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3rd, 5:30 PM
Ensemble Theatre