



College Application Process FAQ's



Navigating the Application Process

- The Application
- Essays
- Letters of Recommendation
- Visiting
- Interviews
- Application Myths
- Admissions Timeline





Finding the Right Fit

- [The Big Future](#)
- [Naviance](#)
- Campus Visits
- Virtual Tours



The Application

◇ Types of Applications

- Coalition
- Common App
- School specific

◇ Deadlines

- Regular Decision
- Rolling
- Early Action
- Early Decision



Essays

- ◇ Purpose of the essay
- ◇ Understand the topic
- ◇ Check your work
- ◇ Essay Do's/Don'ts
- ◇ Resources



Letter of Recommendation

- ◇ Purpose of the Recommendations
- ◇ Choosing Recommenders
- ◇ How will it reach the college?
 - Naviance!





Visiting the College

- ◇ Meet your Counselor
- ◇ Open House/Visit Days
- ◇ Tours
- ◇ Check on application status



October, November & December

SENIORS

- Attend college visits in the counseling center – sign up via Naviance
- Have [SAT/ACT scores](#) sent to college(s) to which you have applied (Do this when you register).
- Begin sending applications
- Know deadlines!
- Request recommendation letters via *Naviance*. Give recommenders at LEAST 2 full weeks.
- Request transcripts be sent via *Naviance*
- Start FAFSA application: <https://fafsa.gov>
 - Free Application for Federal Student Aid (opens Oct. 1).
 - CSS Profile requested? Fill this out through the College Board.
 - Meet with our GRASP financial aid advisor

HAVE YOU
COMPLETED
THE FAFSA?

*Don't
wait!*

October, November & December

Juniors

- Begin narrowing down college/university choices (diversify your options!)
- Take career assessments on *Naviance*
- Schedule your college visits- virtual options (this can go into spring and summer as well)
- Participate in college info Zoom sessions (info in *Naviance*)
- Meet with the SHS career coach, Brett Peters, school counselor, GRASP Advisor, if undecided and to start planning

HAVE YOU
COMPLETED
THE FAFSA?

*Don't
wait!*

January, February & March

Seniors

- All applications should be completed and submitted
- Student Aid Report (SAR) from the FAFSA
- Send mid-year transcripts via *Naviance*
- Research/apply for local scholarships

January, February, March & Beyond

Juniors

- Register for the SAT or ACT if needed
 - You must register at least 1 month in advance and space fills fast, especially with social distancing!
 - SAT: www.collegeboard.org
 - ACT: www.act.org
 - Free prep at [Khan Academy](https://www.khanacademy.org)
- Continue College Visits and Info Sessions
- Begin exploring college applications and essays

April, May & June

Seniors

- May 1: Decision Day!
- Notify schools
- Request final transcripts sent via Naviance (after graduation)
- Request transcripts sent from colleges for dual enrollment classes
- Finalize financial aid
- Inquire about upcoming dates
- Complete Housing applications





Myth v. Fact

- ◇ Activities list needs to be long
- ◇ The essay doesn't count for much
- ◇ Financial Aid
- ◇ Rejection – the final word on the matter





Blue Ridge
Community College





Credit Classes


Associate of Arts and Sciences

- College Transfer, Business Administration Specialization, Teacher Education Specialization

Associate of Science

- College Transfer, Computer Science Specialization, Engineering Specialization

Associate of Applied Science

- 2-year programs—Administration of Justice, Business Management, Nursing, Advanced Manufacturing (Other VCCS programs)
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Workforce & Continuing Ed.

- Certifications
 - Commercial Driving
 - Health Care (Phlebotomy, Certified Nurse Aide, Clinical Medical Assistant, Certified Professional Coder)
 - Trades (Electrical, Plumbing, HVAC License Renewal)
 - Welding/Machining





Timeline

- **December-January**
 - Complete application
- **February**
 - Complete the BRCC Scholarship application
- **March**
 - Priority FAFSA Filing Date - March 15
 - Send transcripts/Placement Test
 - Register for the Group Advising and Registration (GAR) session
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Timeline

- **April**
 - Group Advising and Class Registration Session
- **May**
 - BRCC Cohort meeting
 - Send your final HS transcript
 - Finalize financial aid items

College Transfer students: Know your transfer school for advising sessions



Resources

- www.fastweb.com - scholarships
- www.fafsa.ed.gov - FAFSA
 - 1-800-4-FED-AID – Fed student aid information center
- www.collegeboard.org
 - 1-800-728-7267 – test scores
 - 1-609-771-7600 – customer service
- www.act.org
- www.ed.gov/studentaid - Financial Aid homepage
- Naviance





Homework:

Create your Common App Account before
the Naviance/Common App Integration
Training



Thanks!

Any questions?

