

The College Process Summarized

Junior Year

- ❑ Students meet with their guidance counselors in Social Studies class and then individually to discuss the college process
- ❑ Three main focuses: Students should continue to focus on grades, register and prepare for the SAT / SAT II Subject Test / ACT, and should start to think about and visit colleges
- ❑ Students and parents should familiarize themselves with Naviance at www.student.naviance.com/prhs. Some noteworthy features include: The Document Resources tab on the home screen, College Profiles, Scattergrams, Super Match College Search, and the Scholarship List. Please contact your counselor if you need your log in information
- ❑ Explore colleges on Naviance and create an initial list. Make sure list is complete with “safety” schools (both academically and financially), “target” schools, and “reach” schools
- ❑ Visit colleges, take campus tours and attend information sessions. Also meet with reps who visit PRHS
- ❑ Create a resume (see sample resume packet in Document Resources, or use resume builder on Naviance)
- ❑ By June, students complete **Teacher Recommendation Profile Sheets** and give them to the teachers who they are asking for letters of recommendation from. **Also follow up through Naviance.** (Click on the Colleges tab, then click Colleges Home, then scroll down to Apply to Colleges and click Letters of Recommendation)
- ❑ Complete and return **Parent Brag Sheet, Student Brag Sheet, Transcript Release Form, and E-mail Permission Form** to Guidance by June 1st. All forms are available in Document Resources on Naviance
- ❑ Students should make their summer count! Set up an enrichment program or a volunteer project, take courses at a college, or seek internship opportunities in a field that interests them. See the Enrichment Program list on Naviance for ideas (colleges > college research > enrichment programs)

Summer

- ❑ Register and prepare for fall SAT / ACT
- ❑ Continue to visit colleges and set up interviews with admission reps wherever possible
- ❑ As of August 1st, students should start to fill out the Common Application (www.commonapp.org), and any individual college applications for colleges who don't accept the Common App

Senior Year

- ❑ Students meet with counselors again during Social Studies class and then individually to review students' progress in the college process
- ❑ Students should continue to prepare for any upcoming SAT / ACT exams

- ❑ If not already done, students complete **Teacher Recommendation Profile Sheets** and give them to the teachers who they are asking for letters of recommendation from. Also if not already done, complete the **Transcript Release Form, E-mail Permission Form, and Brag Sheet** and return them to Guidance
- ❑ Students will write their college essay as part of their senior English class
- ❑ Students should continue to go on college visits, and continue to meet with reps who visit PRHS
- ❑ Attend PRHS PTSA College Fair in September and the RCC College Fair in October
- ❑ Parents attend Financial Aid Night at Pearl River High School in Pirate Cove in September/October
- ❑ Parents begin to complete FAFSA for financial aid (<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa>) as of October 1st
- ❑ Complete CSS Profile for financial aid if also required (check list at www.collegeboard.com/profile)
- ❑ Students should finalize their college list and decide how they wish to apply - ie Early Action, Early Decision (binding), or Regular Decision
- ❑ Students should complete college applications online and be mindful of deadlines
- ❑ Students must complete a **PRHS Online Application Form** (aka “Green Sheet”) for all schools they have applied to, and return it to their counselor. **Note: Students should submit this form to Guidance AT LEAST two weeks before the application due date.** See Naviance Document Resources for form
- ❑ Students need to **send SAT scores** through www.collegeboard.org **and/or ACT scores** through www.actstudent.org to all the colleges they are applying to
- ❑ Once colleges receive applications, they typically send students a username and password to check their application status online. It is up to the student to make sure that their application file is complete and that all required documentation has been received
- ❑ Students who plan to play a Division 1 or 2 sport in college must register with the NCAA at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net
- ❑ Visit the Scholarship List (under the Colleges Tab) on Naviance regularly and complete scholarship applications. Also visit the colleges’ Financial Aid pages to see what scholarships they may offer
- ❑ Please note – Counselors will only send 1st quarter grades to colleges upon student request. Counselors will automatically send mid-year reports (once available) to each college the student has applied to
- ❑ Depending on application type, admission decisions begin to arrive from colleges around mid-December and usually conclude by April 1st. Make sure to notify colleges you have decided not to attend so that others may have an opportunity
- ❑ Deposits are typically due on May 1st at most competitive colleges. Students should make sure to let their counselor know about their acceptances, and where they have decided to attend!