

## COLLEGE PLANNING RESOURCES

### UNSURE OF MAJOR/CAREER:

Search possible careers and majors: <https://njcis.intocareers.org/> (click NJ Resident, put in town and zip code for free access)

### UNSURE OF COLLEGES:

Great search for 2 and 4 year schools: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search?navid=gh-cs>

### HOW DO I VISIT A COLLEGE?

Search for their admissions office online, and check when they offer tours or open houses! Here is an example from Rowan: <http://www.rowan.edu/home/undergraduate-admissions/tours-open-houses>

### HOW MUCH WILL A COLLEGE COST?

Search for the NET PRICE CALCULATOR on each website. Here is an example from

Rutgers: <https://rutgers.studentaidcalculator.com/welcome.aspx>

EVERY COLLEGE WILL HAVE ONE - you have to find it on their website.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON COLLEGE APPLICATIONS:

### TEST SCORES

YOU MUST SEND TEST SCORES DIRECTLY TO EACH COLLEGE THAT REQUIRES IT!

How to send SAT Scores: <https://sat.collegeboard.org/scores/send-sat-scores>

How to send ACT Scores: <http://www.actstudent.org/scores/send/>

### TRANSCRIPTS

Official transcripts must come from me. I will upload them to the Common App or mail them to the school. Transcripts come after you have applied - not before. Transcripts DO NOT have test scores on them, it is your responsibility to send test scores if your college requires them from your own personal account.

Please email me or complete the request form on the following site if you are a current senior in need of a transcript from Mr. D'Ottavio (this is also on the Delsea High School Guidance website). Do this AFTER you have sent your application. Please give me 10 school days to process.

<http://tinyurl.com/seniortranscriptrequestdrhs>

## TEACHER/COUNSELOR RECOMMENDATIONS

If you plan on applying to colleges or scholarships, you should ask for recommendations now. How many letters should you get? It depends on your plan. I have never had anyone need more than 3. You want to show different sides of you, but too many similar letters will result in admissions officers losing interest. For those applying to 4 year schools, two academic references will typically be good. For those applying to 2-year schools or plan on applying for scholarships, one is usually fine.

Try to seek out a teacher you made a personal connection with over the past few years (and you kept in contact with if it was in 9th grade!). Try to seek a teacher who is in your related major. Use an additional coach/advisor/community leader if you excel in an area and want to show that.

Will you need a counselor recommendation? If so, don't forget to give me a copy of the attached form (or if you made a very close connection with a previous counselor, we can use their letter, ask them!)

USE THE FORM ATTACHED TO ASK FOR RECOMMENDATIONS. Spend some time to add personal information on it. This will allow your teachers to write a good letter of recommendation. You will share this with your potential references. Remember - it is not required for a teacher or any staff member to write these letters, and it often takes them several weeks (3-4) to put them together. Give them plenty of information (USE THE ATTACHED FORM) and plenty of time.

## RESUME

Did you take the time to put together all of your activities in a resume? You are going to need it next year. Take the time to organize what you did in High School. See a sample in the attachment.

## ESSAYS

Check the common app and individual colleges for their application essay (or essays - those elite schools will want a few). One of the most common is some form of this one (the basic background essay), which you can usually use for a number of schools and even scholarships.

Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.

Remember, this is maybe the only chance for a college to see who you are. They don't want a biography, they do not want you to repeat what they can see in your application. They want to see who you are. Take some time, make it personal. Grab their attention.

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/essays/8-tips-for-crafting-your-best-college-essay>

## COMMON APP:

The Common App is open. [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org) I would strongly suggest you start working on it, if your school takes it.

One question I get a lot is do I waive my right to view my recommendations on college applications? My advice is yes. Many college admissions counselors have said they won't even read your recommendations if they know you want to see them eventually (you won't be able to see them anyway this year, just in the future once you enroll in college). They want an honest appraisal of you. And truthfully, why would you ask someone for a recommendation if they might not write something great about you? But everyone has unique experiences, so it's up to you.

Info on me you will need for the Common App

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