

# Hello Seniors!

## Applying to College



Applications



Letters of Rec



Essays



Visits



Scholarships



Acceptance

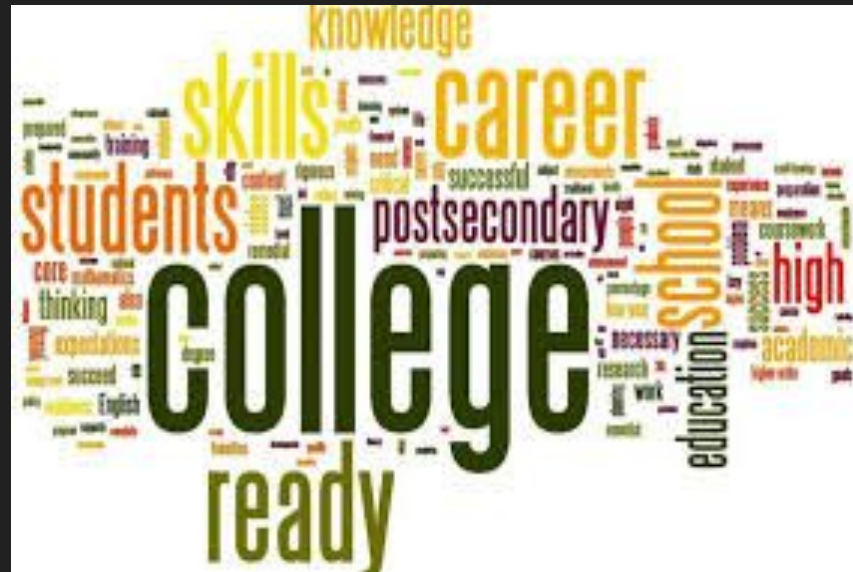
# Post Secondary Options

## Postsecondary Options

- 4-Year Colleges and Universities
- Community Colleges
- Specialty Schools
- Technical Colleges

## Non educational options

- Military
- Travel/Gap Year
- Volunteer/Service Activities
- College Prep School
- Work



*There are a variety of pathways to success. Today we will focus on the College Process since the majority of Nova students pursue that path.*

# NCA College Acceptance Stats

Graduating class of 2021	85.5% going to college
2 year college	.05-1.0%
4 year college	84%
Out of State	49.5% (50% MN)
International	.05%
Gap Year	10%
Work	5%
Avg. # of apps	7.4/student



**EVERYONE WHO APPLIED WAS ADMITTED to at LEAST ONE COLLEGE on HIS/HER/THEIR LIST!**

## How Will Colleges Evaluate My Application

**\*Today we will talk about how to send each element to colleges:**

### **\*Number one: High School Transcript:**

**The high school transcript is generally the nucleus of your application materials. It will be examined closely for:**

- The rigor of the courses taken
- The breadth of study within each department
- The grades earned in the courses (last semester's context will definitely be considered!)
- Colleges view transcripts to determine trends, growth, challenges, and achievement

### **\*Number two: Qualitative Factors - Selective Schools.**

- Personal Statement/Supplemental Essays
- Leadership Roles/Extracurricular Activities
- Recommendations (academic and other)
- Interviews (at some selective schools)

**\*Number ? : ACT/SAT test scores (Test Optionality is nearly ubiquitous again next year because of the impacts on education by the Coronavirus!)**

## A Word about the Process

### ➤ Be authentic

- It's about "Fit" and not about getting "In"
- Selectivity/Prestige DOES NOT equal fit
- If you use your insight, your voice, and your impressions, the process will work for you!

### ➤ Have important conversations with parents/guardians NOW...

- Financial expectations/Type of school
- Location/Distance from home
- Grades/Programs of study

### ➤ Don't stress, but do get organized

- Meeting deadlines is essential

## Other Ways to Finalize Your List

### ➤ College Visits:

Visit campus when class is in session (MEA) or Virtual visits!

**Naviance, Youtube channels, Facebook pages, Twitter, Instagram**

### ➤ Admissions Rep Visits at NCA:

College Admission Reps visit NCA beginning in the early fall!

(Be sure to get a pass, stop down and say hi even if you can't stay--express interest)

\*We'll see what visits/virtual visits will look like early in the fall!

### ➤ College Fair:

NACAC Virtual Fairs: <https://virtualcollegefairs.org/conventions>

Midwest Fair: [NACAC College Fair](#)

### College Websites:

**Naviance:** <https://student.naviance.com/novaca>

**Raise Me:** <https://www.raise.me/join/nova-classical-academy-upper-school>

**College Results Online:** [www.collegeresults.org](http://www.collegeresults.org)

## Complete Applications

- No matter where you apply or what application you use, you will need the following information to complete your applications:
- Know where your parents/guardians went to college/their full names
  - If you have siblings, you will need names, where they go/went to college, what degrees they earned
  - Your Social security number
  - List of classes you are taking this year – **colleges look at this closely. Hard to change.**
  - Activities: work, volunteer experiences, athletics, hobbies – **the place to showcase your passions**
    - **List in priority order – start with those of most importance/value to you**
    - **USE THE SPACE TO DESCRIBE WHAT YOU CONTRIBUTED OR WHAT YOU LEARNED – THIS IS ONE OF THE ONLY PLACES TO PERSONALIZE YOUR APPLICATION at LARGER SCHOOLS!**
    - **Work, volunteering, hobbies can be as important as athletics and school related activities. Don't assume a formal, organized extracurricular is more valued by application reviewers than an informal, individual/group extracurricular.**

**“Extracurricular” means anything of value to you outside of school; it doesn't solely mean Nova associated activities**
  - Your GPA – we use weighted grades – 5.0 scale.
  - Class size – 67
  - Awards/Honors – Athletic, Community, Volunteer, Academic
  - Rank – We do not rank, but we do give a grade distribution on our school profile

## Common Application or Direct to Institution– Which do I use?

- Common Application is required at many private and more selective colleges and some larger public universities as well.
- It is an easy way to apply to several schools with one application.
  - Remember to complete the supplement(s) for each school to which you are applying
- You can tell in Naviance if a college is a Common App school if it has a “CA” next to it in the list of “colleges I’m applying to” and on the “submission/delivery type” column
- Direct-to-Institution applications are the applications present on the colleges’ websites; they will be identified in Naviance with a blank square or stamped square in the column titled “submission type/delivery type”

### Update Naviance:

- This is key so I can track what schools you are applying to and through which method you are applying to the schools
- Need help with Common App, Naviance, or anything application related?
  - ✓ Use your hand-out, the Google Classroom, and other trusted sources
  - ✓ Senior meeting instruction
  - ✓ Come ask me in 306, call me, or send me an email...we’ll work it out!



## Essays (All Common App schools and more competitive schools)

You (will) have worked on essays in Modern Rhetoric/Seminar class and over the summer; you should have your essays ready by mid-October if you plan to apply at the first early action/priority deadlines.

- Your essay will make the connection between the academic you as reflected in your transcript and the whole you (the human you are inside and outside of school)
  - Make it honest, authentic/sincere, and personal.
  - Show your reviewers your excitement: what you have learned from the past, what it means to you in the now, and what that means for your future
- **The essay is also your writing sample**
  - Your essay should exhibit polished writing, accurate spelling, grammatically correct syntax, and an appropriate style while maintaining your own voice.
  - Don't assume your reviewers think like you do, show them why you think like you do!
- **Supplemental Essays for Common Application**
  - These should not be afterthoughts: these are often the ways you can distinguish yourself from other applicants
  - Is the voice between the essays consistent?
  - Does the student show real interest and fit?
    - Colleges want to admit students that want to go to their school. If you haven't been there – do you research to answer the questions. Research the college and meet reps at NCA/through Naviance, and college visits/fairs.

## Teacher Letter of Recommendations

(3-4 weeks prior)

- **Only** ask for as many letters of recommendation as you need.
  - How do I know if my school requires Letters of Recommendation and how many? It is present on both Naviance and Common Application.
- **Complete the LoR Request form** for each teacher you are asking to write you a LoR.
- **Give the Request Form to your teacher *at least 3-4 weeks*** prior to the application deadline. If possible, you should do this before the summer!
  - Ask them to write your recommendation in person (if possible).
- **Be sure to request your teacher's LoR through the "recommenders" tab in Common Application so teachers receive a link to which to upload their letters.**
  - You assign the colleges you wish the letters to be sent.
  - We can track to see if they have submitted your letter on Common Application, and they can manage the requests.
- **Be sure to keep the list of "colleges I'm applying to" updated**
- **THANK TEACHERS in person, and, if possible (it is!), with a thank you note!**

## Send College Entrance Test Scores (Test Optionality is Still the Norm for Your Class!)

- Students are responsible for sending their test scores directly from ACT or SAT to each college to which they apply.
  - Many allow self-reporting until the an offer of admission is given
  - Send scorereports a minimum of two weeks in advance of your planned submission time.
- Our school code is 242-269.
- To send your scores go to <http://www.act.org> for ACT and <http://www.collegeboard.org> for SAT.
- Superscore: Send scores where you have your best subtest scores in each category if a school “SuperScores” – there is a \$13-14 cost per score report.
- It MAY NOT BE too late to retake the ACT/SAT for seniors, even for early action deadlines.

## Counselor Recommendation/Secondary School Report

(3-4 weeks prior)

- All Common Applications and many others require a Secondary School Report and most require a counselor recommendation.
  - ✓ You must send me an email link as your counselor!  
[dshuman@novaclassical.org](mailto:dshuman@novaclassical.org)
- I do not need a special “form” from school – I will send your letter with an online school report, contextual information about your graduating class/changes to our academics, and our updated school profile.
  - ✓ Complete the senior self-assessment I delivered to you in May and share it with me!
  - ✓ Make your counselor one-on-one college planning appointment at least four weeks before you need your counselor report/secondary school report submitted.
  - ✓ I intend to have all counselor recommendations/school reports completed by November 1st or January 1st each school year based on the information you provide me through Naviance and/or Common Application.

## Final thoughts and ?s

- ★ Good luck!
- ★ Have fun with the process!
- ★ Please ask questions when you have them (there is no such thing as a wrong or stupid question!)
- ★ ?s...