

NAVIGATING THE COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS OF THE CHURCHILL CLASS OF
2020

IMPORTANT DATES FALL 2019

Thursday, Sept. 12 - Senior Parent Night @ 7:00 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 13 - First day to request transcripts

Tuesday, Sept. 24 – Maryland College Night at WCHS, 7:00 p.m. Main Gym

Tuesday, Oct. 2 - Financial Aid Night, 7:00 p.m., Room 126

Wednesday, Oct. 16 – PSAT, Late arrival for seniors
(Great time to work on applications)

Friday, Nov. 01 - Priority deadline for
University of Maryland CP application

THE GOAL OF THE COLLEGE SEARCH

TO FIND THE FIT BETWEEN THE STUDENT'S

INTERESTS

STRENGTHS

ASPIRATIONS

AND COLLEGES THAT MEET THOSE CRITERIA

THE IDEAL COLLEGE LIST

- **SIX-EIGHT SCHOOLS IS THE IDEAL NUMBER** for application
- Half of the list should be colleges where you are fairly certain to be admitted (“likely”) AND **ONES THAT YOU WOULD BE HAPPY TO ATTEND**
- THE BALANCE OF THE LIST CAN REPRESENT ANY GROUP “LIKELY” or “REACH”
- AT LEAST ONE SCHOOL SHOULD HAVE A “STICKER COST” THAT IS A REAL TUITION ADVANTAGE. This is usually a Maryland public institution.

GATHER FIRST HAND INFORMATION TO REFINE THE LIST

Visit the university campus

- Take advantage of open house days
- Visit when students are on campus
- Attend a class, eat in the dining hall, check out events

Take advantage of local opportunities

- Attend information sessions in the College/Career Center (Sept.-Nov.)
- Attend information sessions at local sites away from Churchill
- Attend Maryland College Night at WCHS September 24

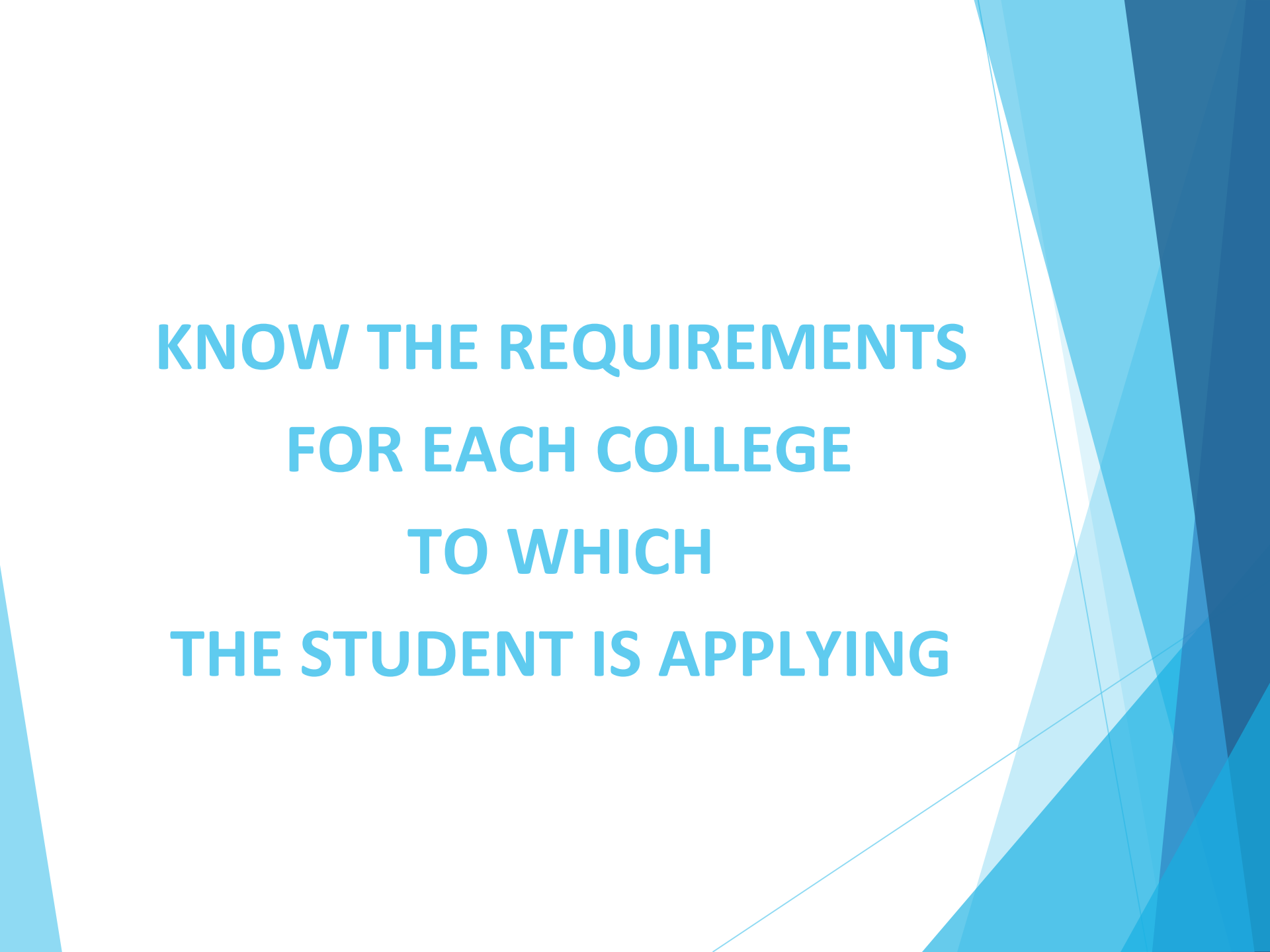
Process for obtaining excused absence

Campus Visits

- Seniors are allowed days for college visits during the year.
- A note from a parent or guardian must be submitted to the attendance office at least 5 days prior to the visit. Complete WCHS form “Notification of a College Visit”
- Students are responsible for all work missed.

In School Visits

- Sign up on Naviance at least a day in advance
- Use the confirmation page in hard copy or on your phone as a pass
- On the day of the meeting, check in with the class period teacher to confirm that class can be missed
- Students are responsible for all work missed.

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**KNOW THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR EACH COLLEGE
TO WHICH
THE STUDENT IS APPLYING**

Types of Admissions Applications

The Common
Application

The Coalition
Application

Individual Institution
Applications



THE COMMON APPLICATION

- ▶ The two most common application platforms are
Common Application
<https://www.commonapp.org/>
Coalition Application
<http://coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/>
- ▶ Some colleges accept both some accept only one
- ▶ One is not valued more highly than the other
- ▶ The University of Maryland-College Park
only accepts the Coalition application.

Individual Institution Application

Some institutions have their own application for general admissions. Other institutions may have their own application for special programs, scholarships, or academic departments.

There is no admissions advantage
using one application form over
another.

They are all just platforms for
sending information.

Components of the Application

Most colleges require several basic components

Application Form:

Demographic Information,
Family Educational
Background, Residency

Application Fee:

Are there waivers or
exemptions available?

High School Transcripts

Test Scores:

SAT, SAT II, Subject Test,
ACT, Test Optional

Letter(s) of Recommendation:

How many? From whom?

College Essay(s)

Activity Sheet or Resume

Short Answer Questions

Possible additions to application file



INTERVIEWS

Rarely given by the admissions office, usually given by alumni volunteers

Informative, not evaluative

PORTFOLIOS, ARTWORK, WRITING SAMPLES

Check the requirements of each college to which application is made

Some colleges will not want or permit additional submissions

Which College Admission Process Best Suits *YOU?*

Non-Restrictive Application Plans

Students are not restricted from applying to other institutions and have until May 1 to consider their options and confirm enrollment.



Restrictive Application Plans

Students are responsible for determining and following restrictions.

Regular Decision

Commitment: Non-Binding

Students submit an application by a specified date and receive a decision in a clearly stated period of time.

Rolling Admission

Commitment: Non-Binding

Institutions review applications as they are submitted and render admission decisions throughout the admission cycle.

Early Action (EA)

Commitment: Non-Binding

Students apply early and receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date.

Early Decision (ED)

Commitment: Binding

Students make a commitment to a first-choice institution where, if admitted they definitely will enroll. The application deadline and decision deadline occur early.

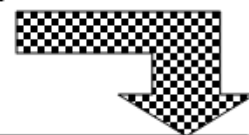


Restrictive Early Action (REA)

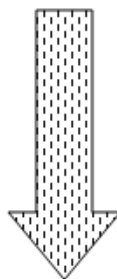
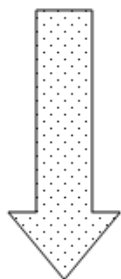
Commitment: Non-Binding

Students apply to an institution of preference and receive a decision early. They may be restricted from applying ED or EA or REA to other institutions. If offered enrollment, they have until May 1 to confirm.

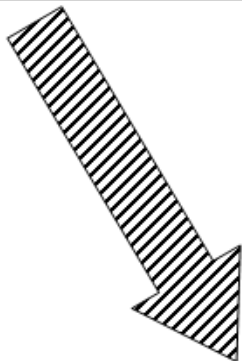
STUDENT



Application & Essay
Application Fee

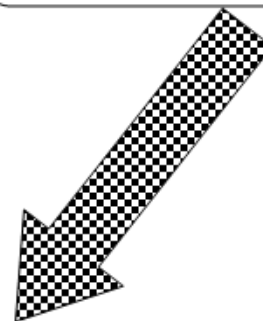
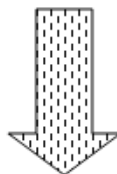
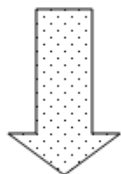


CHURCHILL
Counselor's Rec.
Official Transcript
School Profile
Sec. School Report



SAT/ACT
Test Scores

TEACHER
Recommendation



COLLEGE

APPLICANT RESPONSIBILITY

What THE APPLICANT sends directly to the college/university

Applications and Essays

Make sure all requirements are met

Follow Directions

Read through the application completely before the application is started

Answer the questions honestly and completely

Have someone proofread the entire application

Application Fee

Usually paid online with a credit card

Waivers are available for students with demonstrated need

WHAT YOU ASK OTHERS TO SEND

Request CollegeBoard and/or ACT send

- scores directly to colleges
 - all scores, unless directed by the college otherwise
- request should be made at least 20 days in advance of the deadline

Request Churchill Registrar send

- transcript
- NACAC or Secondary School Report
- counselor letter of recommendation
- school profile
- request must be made at least 20 days in advance of the deadline

Request teachers send letter of recommendation

- WCHS teachers will send letters through Naviance edocs to colleges that accept electronic submission





- Teachers should **NOT** use Common App or Coalition or any system other than Naviance unless specifically directed by the college.

- request must be made at least 20 days in advance of the deadline

Request recommenders not employed at WCHS send letters

- by U.S. Mail in envelopes you provide
- or via Common or Coalition Application to schools that accept those forms
- or contact the college directly for the best means to send

[Follow These Steps to Request Transcripts & Teacher Recommendations](#)

	Task	Timeframe	Where
1	<p>SIGN THE FERPA RELEASE ON THE COMMON APPLICATION (CA) All students must make a Common Application account. Log onto the Common Application, and add a college, complete the education section to sign the Waiver of Rights (FERPA). <u>This must be done before you request any transcripts or letters of recommendations.</u> Watch the video on Naviance Homepage.</p>	<p>AT LEAST 20 school days before college deadline date</p>	
2	<p>VIEW THE VIDEO ON YOUR NAVIANCE HOMEPAGE AND MATCH YOUR ACCOUNT After completing the FERPA on the CA, log onto Naviance, and MATCH your account. Your Email address for CA, and Naviance MUST be the same.</p>	<p>ONCE YOU COMPLETE THE EDUCATION SECTION OF COMMON APP. AT LEAST 20 school days before the college deadline date.</p>	
3	<p>REQUEST TRANSCRIPTS ON NAVIANCE Select the Colleges tab on Naviance, and select 'Colleges I'm applying to'. Look for the REQUEST Transcripts Link..You will need to know how you are applying to colleges and use the drop down menu to select the correct application - Regular Decision, Priority, Early Action, etc. Select Request Transcripts at the bottom, and look for the confirmation page. College Transcripts that are not on Naviance will need to be mailed by the registrar. Please see the registrar if your college is not in Naviance</p>	<p>ONCE YOU COMPLETE THE EDUCATION SECTION OF COMMON APP. AT LEAST 20 school days before the college deadline date.</p>	
4	<p>REQUEST LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION ON NAVIANCE FROM TEACHERS Begin by asking the teacher in person for a recommendation letter. Click on the College tab on Naviance and select 'Colleges I'm Applying to'. Scroll to Teacher Recommendations, and use the drop down box to select the name of the teacher. A list of schools</p>	<p>AT LEAST 20 school days before the college deadline date.</p>	

Class of 2020 TEACHER RECOMMENDATIONS

FOR COLLEGE APPLICATIONS TWO STEPS

- All Churchill staff will be sending letters of recommendation, transcript and other official documents through Naviance (or by US Mail, if required by the college).
- You should not “invite” or list any current WCHS staff member in the Common or Coalition App. If the field is required, type NONE.

Step. 1 REQUEST A RECOMMENDATION FROM A TEACHER

- Select a teacher you will ask to write the recommendation, one who knows you well, not necessarily where you made the best grade. Ask a second teacher only if a specific college requires.
- Approach the teacher and politely request him/her to write your recommendation.
- Provide the teacher with an “Academic Information Sheet” which is available on line or in the Counseling Office. This information gives teachers a basis on which to write the recommendation. It is information you would like them to include about you as a learner in the classroom and beyond.
- Make sure you thank your teacher for the extra effort on your behalf. (She/he is using free time for YOU.)

**THIS FORM MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE REGISTRAR BEFORE
ANY TRANSCRIPT CAN BE SENT**

**WINSTON CHURCHILL HIGH SCHOOL
Release of Records &
Early Decision Acknowledgement**

**Public law 93-380 requires a parent/guardian signature before records can be released.
We are not permitted to release any information without written authority.**

I authorize the Counseling staff of Winston Churchill High School to release my child's scholastic record, activity record, and any other pertinent information to college/universities, scholarship organizations and internship organizations as requested by my child.

Early Decision Acknowledgement

From the National Association for Admission Counseling Statement of Principles and Good Practices

Early Decision (ED) is the application process in which students make a commitment to a first choice institution where, if admitted, they definitely will enroll. While pursuing admission under an ED plan, students may apply to other institutions but may have only one ED application pending at any time. The institution must notify the applicant of the decision within a reasonable and clearly stated period of time after the ED deadline. Usually, a nonrefundable deposit must be made well in advance of May 1. Institutions with ED plans may restrict students from applying to other early plans. Institutions will clearly articulate their specific policies in their ED agreement.

IMPORTANT!

**IT DOES NOT MATTER WHICH PART OF
AN APPLICATION REACHES THE COLLEGE
FIRST.**

**ALL PARTS OF THE APPLICATION MUST
BE ON FILE BY THE DEADLINE IN ORDER
TO BE REVIEWED.**

PROOFREAD THE APPLICATION! SPELL CHECK DOES NOT CATCH EVERYTHING!

- ▶ “I will be a terrific, additive to your freshman class.”
- ▶ “ Type of U.S. Visa: Citibank”
- ▶ “This past spring I was abducted by the National Honor Society.”
- ▶ “Community Service: Candy Stripper”
- ▶ “Family background: My brother is an only child.”
- ▶ In answer to the application question on sex:
“Once in Orlando”

TYPES OF REVIEW

Holistic and Committee Review

Data Driven

Open Enrollment

A Holistic Review

Who are you?

What are your values?

What do you bring to a community of learners?

Quantifiable Factors

- ▶ Academic Performance
 - Grades
 - Rigor of Curriculum
- ▶ Standardized Test Results

Unquantifiable factors

- ▶ Special talents
- ▶ Community Involvement
- ▶ Leadership
- ▶ Interests/Activities
- ▶ Work
- ▶ Athletics
- ▶ Goals/Aspirations/Attitudes

ADMISSIONS DECISIONS

ADMIT

80% of applicants are admitted by their first choice.

NOT ADMIT

Otherwise known as deny, it is time to move on.

DEFER

Reconsideration at a later date, usually after the submission of additional information.

WAIT-LIST

Not admitted but put “on hold” in the event space opens.

CONSIDER COSTS

- ▶ Have a frank conversation with your student about the college budget.
- ▶ Public colleges within the State of Maryland will generally have the “lowest” sticker price.
- ▶ Use the “Net Price Calculator” available on every college website to determine the amount of aid for which you may qualify.

FINANCIAL AID

MERIT-BASED AID

- Awarded on academic achievement or other accomplishments
- Grant money (free, no payback)
- Check individual college website
- Use links and websites provided on Naviance and CHS website
- Use Google

NEED-BASED AID

- Awarded based on demonstrated need
- Must file the FAFSA
 - Online filing at www.fafsa.org
 - Beginning October 1, 2019
- Check EACH college for filing deadline
- Awards are made on first- come, first-served basis
- Awards may include
 - Grants (free money)
 - Loans (must be paid back)
 - Work/study

APPLICANT DECISION DEADLINE AND FINAL DEPOSIT CONFIRMATION

EARLY DECISION-

- A binding commitment, if accepted you must attend
- Deposit due immediately upon acceptance
- Withdraw all other applications before decision

REGULAR DECISION/EARLY ACTION/PRIORITY/ROLLING

- Deposit due by May 1
- Only one deposit made
- Churchill will send only one final transcript
- Advise colleges you will not be attending by May 1

**STUDENTS MUST ADVISE ALL COLLEGES TO WHICH THEY HAVE
BEEN ADMITTED WHETHER OR NOT THEY WILL BE ATTENDING**

ALL admission acceptances

are contingent upon

SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION

of the SENIOR YEAR

Remember

YOU, AS PARENTS ARE THE GREATEST RESOURCE FOR YOUR STUDENT.

Despite what they may tell you to the contrary, your advice, logistical assistance, encouragement and support will help steer them through what can be a challenging “right of passage.”

Empower your student to take responsibility for the process.

Keep an open-mind and a good sense of humor.

Don't make the total focus of waking hours the college selection/application process.

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RELAX!

This time next year,
you will be the proud parent
of a college freshman!