College & Scholarship Information

Deadlines

Senior year deadlines become much more important. Whether you are going into the workforce (job/employment), Enlisting in the military, or Enrolling in college, your post-secondary (high school) plans hinge on your ability to meet deadlines.

Unlike some assignments you have had in high school, many deadlines in the world beyond high school are non-negotiable; when the deadline closes, you are out. Please do not miss out on any opportunities because you missed a deadline. Tip: create reminders and appointments that notify of the upcoming deadlines so you do not forget.

Timelines and Information Gathering

Besides being aware of the actual deadline itself, one of the most critical components is giving yourself plenty of time to complete the entire process. There is a quick downward spiral that occurs when you do not give yourself enough time. Below are sectional examples of this spiral.

Letters of Recommendation (LOR): asking a recommender for a LOR last minute is most likely going to result in a less-than-optimal letter. Remember, the recommender also has to allocate time to writing your LOR, and if they do not know about it until the last minute then there is a good possibility their time has already been allocated to other things. At least two weeks is a good time frame to request a LOR.

Copy of Your Own Transcript: Colleges require a lot of information about your academic history. Examples include your GPA, class rank, class size, attendance, courses, grades, test scores and more. You also need to know this information as you complete your essays so you are reflecting your academic performance accurately while showcasing your strengths. Requesting this information at the last minute means less time for you to fully synthesize and integrate the information...or worst case scenario you do not have the information at all. It takes time for any organization to process your requests. It is recommended that you request your own transcript weeks before the deadline for all the aforementioned reasons. BCHS typically processes transcript requests in about 24 business hours (link under "Requesting Transcripts" section).

Research: Whether it is for enrollment, enlistment or employment, there are application requirements/components needed that you may not be aware of until you perform some research. This makes it especially challenging to manage each phase of the application process. Before diving in to completing individual parts of the application process, it is a good idea to spend time researching what each of the components entail. Then, once you know each

component, you can plan your time and actions accordingly so you don't run into any last minute binds.

Letter of Recommendation (LOR)

If you need a letter of recommendation written for a college, scholarship or some other reason, it is important you go about asking the recommender (teacher, coach, counselor, etc) appropriately. Make sure you give the recommender plenty of time to complete your LOR. The more time you give them, generally the better outcome you will receive since they will have more time to think about and include the types of things colleges want to see. Generally, it is a good idea to give the recommender about two weeks advance notice before it is due.

You will also want to obtain and complete the LOR Information Sheet in order to give it to the recommender when you ask them if they could write it for you. The LOR Information Sheet is a form highlighting/summarizing all that you are involved in. You can obtain the LOR Information Sheet down in the counseling office.

Requesting Transcripts

If you need a transcript sent to a college, you can do that electronically by visiting Bloom-Carroll's website and clicking on "Forms" (link below). Then, under "High School" you will see "Transcript Request-Current Students Only." You will need to complete the transcript every time you want a transcript sent to a college (Common Application only requires a single transcript request)

https://www.bloom-carroll.k12.oh.us/Forms.aspx

Once you click that link and fill it out, we will send your transcript to the college/location you designated.

Common Application (CA)

Many colleges that students normally apply to use Common Application. CA allows you to fill out one electronic application to apply to multiple colleges. Check to see whether or not the college you are thinking about going to accepts CA as it can be a time saver.

Whether you are a senior at Bloom-Carroll taking classes at the high school, the career center or at a college, you will need to list Mr. Kelley as your school counselor within CA. Mr. Kelley's email is Noah.Kelley@BloomCarroll.org

ACT/SAT Retake

College entrance exams like the ACT and SAT can help your chances of getting into college if your scores are high just as they can hurt your chances if your scores are low. However, with

the pandemic, many colleges and universities have transitioned to a "test-optional" application. I would recommend checking with the specific college to see what their testing policy is.

If you have already taken the ACT/SAT and would like to retake these tests, it is best to do that sooner rather than later. Remember, after you take the test there will still be some processing time by the testing organization before you get your scores back. Of course you would need scores back if you are looking to have them included in your college application.

For more information and to register visit: https://www.act.org/

College Visit

If college is a possibility in your future, I highly recommend visiting some colleges you are interested in this year. Performing research on that particular college AND experiencing that college will give you the best indication of how your needs and wants will fit in at that college.

 You can visit two colleges during the school day that school year. Of course you can visit as many as you want when you are not scheduled to be in class. In order to be approved for the college visit, you will need to complete the college visit form before your absence. You can acquire the form by visiting the counseling office.

College Virtual Visits

Virtual college visits with a college representative, for about a dozen colleges, had been sent to seniors via a meeting request. The meeting request notified you as to which college will be hosting the virtual visit as well as the day and time: almost all virtual visits occur(ed) at 1:30 with a few small exceptions. There were a couple virtual visits where a college representative was not available at all, resulting in a purely automated virtual visit. Your school google calendar is where you will see the virtual visit information including the google-meet/zoom meeting link.

College/Future Search

There are a ton of college and technical schools in the United States. You have preferences as to what you are looking for in a technical school: e.g. major, price, on-campus housing, etc. Trying to match all of your preferences to a college may feel daunting. Using college-matching websites can help ease the overwhelming feeling by making the computer do a lot of the work for you. Bigfuture is one college matching website to give a try :
https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org

Similar to the college search, Roadtrip Nation can help match your interests with careers. Additionally, Roadtrip Nation maps a plan to obtain that career. Check it out:
https://roadtripnation.com/

College Application Types

When applying to a college you generally apply directly through that specific college's website: Common Application would be an exception and details for CA are below.

When applying to college it is important to know the difference in application types. Application types generally include: early action, early decision, regular decision and rolling admission. At the very least, <mark>you need to know that early decision is binding; meaning if that college accepts your early decision, you are obligated to go to that college</mark>. Read about the different types here: https://www.shmoop.com/college/early-decision-early-action-regular-decision-rolling-admission.html

FAFSA

FAFSA needs to be complete in order to take advantage of financial aid. FAFSA requires a lot of information/detail sometimes resulting in you and your family needing assistance. Below are a few resources to help you complete the FAFSA. The FAFSA video has been recorded by Melissa Van Meter, Senior Associate Director of Operations, (Student Financial Aid) from Ohio University and does a great job walking you through the necessary steps in a short period of time. The video is a best place to start especially if you have not completed FAFSA before.

FAFSA Overview Video

Finaid.org : Financial Aid resources for FAFSA, scholarships, grants, loan education, & more

United Way Fairfield County: Perfect resource to call/email with specific questions you may have about FAFSA (740) 653-0643

https://www.getfafsahelp.org/cb : Resource tying together scholarships, FAFSA and help. Help is not as straightforward as it requires several steps to reach "Wyatt" the automated FAFSA assistant but can be a good resource integrating different aspects of the college process.

Scholarships

Scholarships can help you pay for college. Scholarship searching can feel endless. To aid you in the scholarship search, BC has created a scholarship resource list. This scholarship resource list contains scholarship search engines as well as local and national scholarships. I will be adding scholarships to this list throughout the year; I will always add the scholarship at the end of the list. The scholarship resource list is in google sheets format and can be downloaded in excel allowing you to sort the scholarships as you see fit; e.g. Sort by deadline, dollar amount, etc.

Scholarship Resource