

# College Guide

*Christian Heritage School*



Class of 2020

# Introduction

College planning can be both an exciting and a stressful time for students and parents. The purpose of this guide is to provide valuable resources and help student sand parents navigate the college planning/application process.

Choosing a college is one of the first and one of the most important decisions students will need to make in their lives. Although parents, counselors, teachers, college admissions officers, and community members all play important roles in the students' college application process, students are the ones that need take ownership of the process. When students take ownership of the process, they will experience greater satisfaction in the results and will gain invaluable skills transitioning into college.

*“In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps.”*

Proverbs 16:9

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”*

Proverbs 3:5-6

## CHS College Application Timeline

| Month                | Task   | Notes               |
|----------------------|--|---------------------|
| <b>June</b>          | Notify Mr. Kwon - Choose (2) Teachers for Recommendations<br>Complete (2) Teacher Recommendation Questionnaires<br>Complete (1) Counselor Recommendation Questionnaire | Mr. Kwon            |
| <b>June - August</b> | Work on essay<br>Visit colleges<br>Prepare for applications<br>Finalize college list   |                     |
| <b>August</b>        | College Camp - August 14-16, 2019  | CHS                 |
| <b>Sept.</b>         | Complete Records Release Form  | Upper School Office |
|                      | Set up meeting(s) with counselor   | Mr. Kwon            |
| <b>Oct.</b>          | Thank you notes for teachers   |                     |
| <b>Sept. - Dec.</b>  | Update college list  | Naviance            |
| <b>Jan. - March</b>  | Update application status  | Naviance            |
| <b>March</b>         | Email Mrs. Stempien all scholarship information  | Mrs. Stempien       |

# College Application Checklist

| ✓ | Checklist  |
|---|--|
|   | Update “Colleges I am applying to” list on Naviance                              |
|   | Notify Mr. Kwon - 2 teacher recommendation letters                               |
|   | Complete (2) “Teacher Recommendation Questionnaires”                             |
|   | Complete (1) “Counselor Recommendation Questionnaire”                            |
|   | Sign and turn in Records Release Form  |
|   | Send official test scores (SAT, ACT, AP, TOEFL, etc.) to colleges                |
|   | Apply using either the Common Application or application provided by the college |
|   | Set up meetings with Mr. Kwon one to two weeks before deadlines                  |
|   | Thank your teachers, write thank you cards                                       |

# Application Deadlines

## **Rolling**

Students apply once the applications are available. The college will make decisions on applications on an ongoing or rolling basis.

## **Regular Admissions**

This is the most common deadline for schools. Students must send all application materials by the deadline. No decisions will be made on applications until after the deadline has passed and the admissions office has had the opportunity to review all applications. Therefore, the timing of your submission does not impact your admissions decision, as long as you submit all materials prior to the deadline.

## **Early Action**

Many schools offer early action, which has an early deadline that is non-binding. Colleges may provide incentives such as not requiring an essay or waiving the application fee.

## **Early Decision**

Few schools offer early decision, which has an early deadline that is binding. Students are required as part of the early decision application, to submit an early decision agreement form, which is a contract signed by parent, student, and counselor.

## Financial Aid

### Scholarships vs. Grants vs. Loans

- Scholarships and grants are “gift-aid” that do not have to be paid back. Loans need to be paid back with interest.

### FAFSA

- The Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) will be available on October 1st, 2018.
- [fafsa.ed.gov](http://fafsa.ed.gov)

### CSS Profile

- The CSS Profile is required by a few colleges in the U.S. Please visit [cssprofile.collegeboard.org/](http://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/) to see if your college of interest requires the CSS.

### Independent Scholarships

- [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
- [bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search](http://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search)
- [www.cappex.com/scholarships](http://www.cappex.com/scholarships)
- [www.chegg.com/scholarships](http://www.chegg.com/scholarships)

### Twitter

- @FAFSA
- @PayingforSchool
- @CollegeBoard
- @CollegeNet
- @USNewsEducation
- @CollegeWeekLive

### App

- Scholly

### CHS Guidance

- Text @classof209 to the number 81010 to receive information from Mr. Kwon (College Guidance)

## **Roles**

College planning and the application process requires a collaborative effort. It is important to know the roles of each member in the college application process.

### **Student**

- Initiate conversations with parents
- Keep track of deadlines
- Set up meetings with counselors and teachers
- Get to know and communicate with college representatives
- Complete college applications
- Register for college visits
- Write college essays
- Search and apply for scholarships
- Send official test scores to colleges
- Turn in CHS college forms by deadlines

### **Parent(s)/Guardian(s)**

- Initiate conversations regarding colleges and financial aid
- Monitor child's progress
- Assist child registering for college visits
- Assist child exploring colleges, majors, careers
- Connect students with mentors, professionals, organizations, community members
- Keep track of application and scholarship deadlines

### **College Counselor**

- Advocate for students
- Assist students in coming up with a list of colleges to apply
- Review college applications and college essays
- Provide important information regarding colleges and scholarships
- Assist students and parents through the college planning and application process
- Write and provide counselor letter to colleges

### **College Admissions Representative**

- Identify and recruit students that are a great fit with the institution represented
- Answer questions regarding admissions and scholarships
- Participate in the admissions process (collect, read, and manage applications)

## Naviance FAQ

Naviance is a college and career readiness software provider used by more than 8,500 schools. CHS uses Naviance to help students and families with college application process with many helpful resources. CHS also uses Naviance to upload and send official documents (transcripts, recommendation letters, and school profile).

### **How do I log on to Naviance?**

- [www.Kingsmen.org](http://www.Kingsmen.org)
- Quick Links (top right)
- Click “Naviance”
- Log-in using student username and password

### **How do I request teacher letters? (required)**

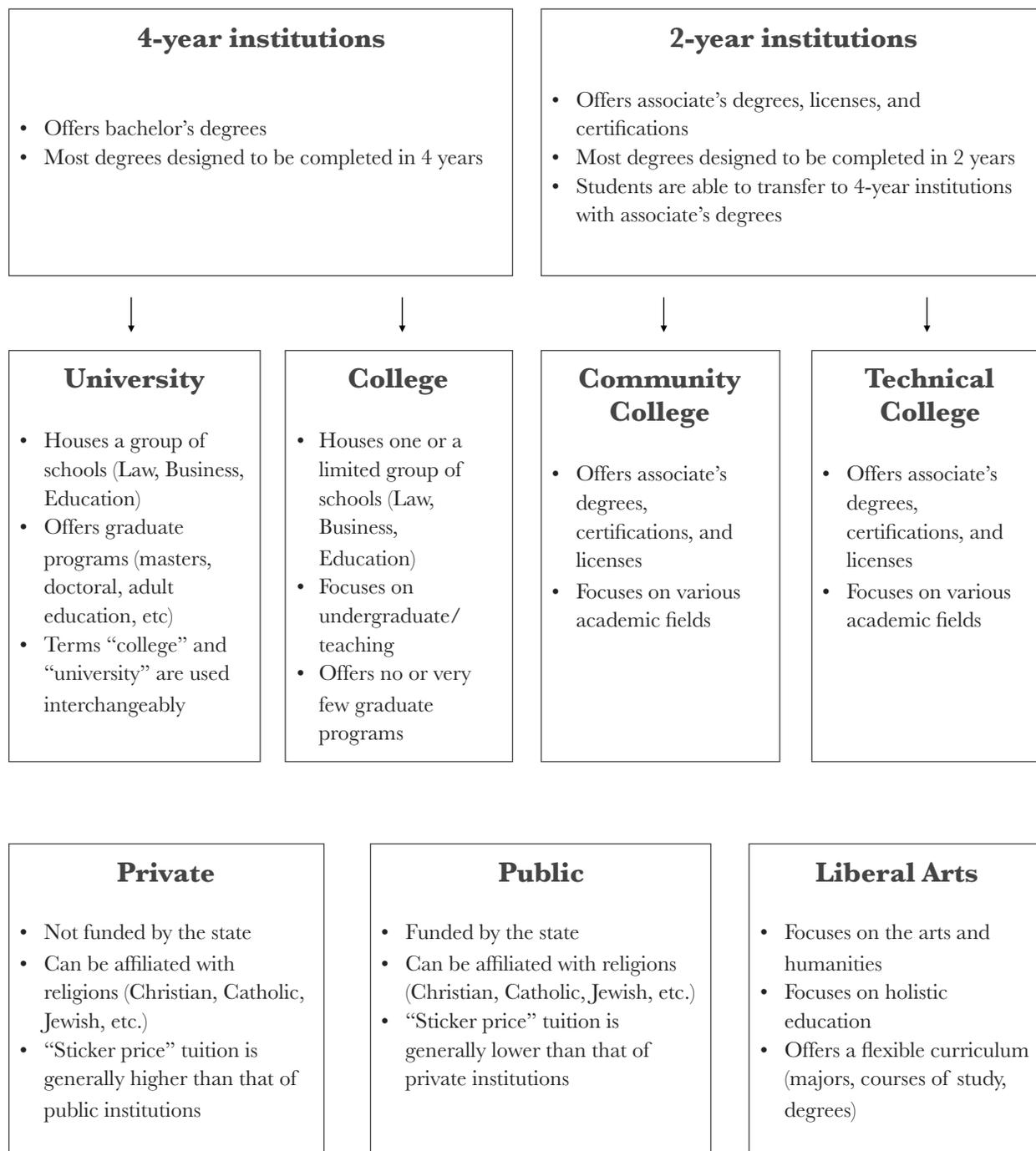
- Notify Mr. Kwon - 2 teachers
- Click on the “Colleges” tab
- Click on “Letters of Recommendation”
- Submit (2) teacher recommendation letters (approved by Mr. Kwon)
- Click on the “About Me” tab
- Complete (2) teacher recommendation questionnaires (left)

### **How do I request a counselor letter? (required)**

- Click on the “About Me” tab.
- Complete “Counselor Recommendation Questionnaire” on the left.
- Set up a time to meet with Mr. Kwon in the fall to go over the questionnaire.

# Colleges

There are over 4,000 higher education institutions in the United States. It is important to understand the various types of institutions in the U.S. before starting to research and explore institutions.





# College Visits FAQ

## **Why should I visit colleges?**

College is one of the biggest investments you will make in terms of your time and money. It is very important to experience the campus firsthand when making such an important decision.

## **How do I sign up for college visits?**

You can either fill out a college visit registration form online under their admissions page or call their admissions office.

## **How many colleges should I visit?**

It will vary by student and family, but I would recommend visiting two to three colleges (highest interest). If you are in the beginning stages of creating a college list, visit colleges by “categories.” For example, visit one private college, one small public college, and one large public college to get a feel of the different types of colleges.

## **How do I get the most out of a college visit?**

Plan to spend at least three hours on a college campus. Colleges will have their own college visit program, which will likely include a general tour and a Q&A session. If you are able, reach out to the department/college of interest and see if you can meet with the dean or a professor in the department/college of interest. Also, ask the admissions office if you can sit in a class during the visit.

It is also a good idea to talk to the students on campus (cafeteria, quad, cafe, etc.) Most students love sharing their experience with prospective students and will be happy to give you honest feedback.

If you are visiting multiple colleges, use the “College Visit Worksheet” on the next page to help you organize your thoughts and information learned on the visits.

# College Visit Worksheet

**Name of College:**

| Location                             | Comments | Rating (1 to 5) |
|--------------------------------------|----------|-----------------|
| City and state                       |          |                 |
| Setting (urban, suburban, rural)     |          |                 |
| Distance from home                   |          |                 |
| Academics                            | Comments | Rating (1 to 5) |
| Rigor or coursework                  |          |                 |
| Choice of majors                     |          |                 |
| Academic facilities                  |          |                 |
| Access to professors                 |          |                 |
| Quality of professors                |          |                 |
| Quality of program/major of interest |          |                 |
| Cost                                 | Comments | Rating (1 to 5) |
| Affordability                        |          |                 |
| Scholarships/grants                  |          |                 |
| Campus Life                          | Comments | Rating (1 to 5) |
| Christian organizations              |          |                 |
| Student attitude towards the college |          |                 |
| Size of student body                 |          |                 |
| Extracurricular activities           |          |                 |
| Social life                          |          |                 |
| Atmosphere                           |          |                 |
| Other Factors                        | Comments | Rating (1 to 5) |
|                                      |          |                 |
|                                      |          |                 |
|                                      |          |                 |

# College Application Factors

One of the most common questions regarding the college application process is “How do colleges make admissions decisions? A common myth is that all colleges seek students with straight A’s and a perfect SAT score. Colleges are not looking for “perfect” applicants, but rather “perfectly-fitting” applicants.

## GPA

- Displays work ethic and academic ability
- Important to show an upward trend in grades/GPA throughout high school
- Most colleges will make an admissions decision based on a student’s GPA of the first 7 semesters
- Colleges can rescind acceptances if a student displays a decline in academic performance during his/her senior year.

## Test Scores

- Displays aptitude in multiple academic areas
- Colleges will either take the SAT or the ACT
- Students should research the differences between the SAT and the ACT
- Students generally perform equally on the SAT and on the ACT
- Some colleges have test-optional admissions

## Rigor

- Displays college-level course readiness
- Selective colleges seek for applicants with a rigorous curriculum, in addition to a high GPA

## College Essay

- Displays students’ personality, philosophies, critical thinking skills, and writing skills
- Can be a deciding factor for admissions when students meet and/or exceeds the GPA and test scores requirements
- Needs to be proofread and reviewed by multiple people before submission

## Extracurricular Activities/ Leadership

- Indicates positive contribution to college campuses
- Demonstrates teamwork, character, responsibility, and leadership
- Level of involvement is more important than the number of activities

## Community Service

- Displays a willingness and ability to make a positive impact on one’s community
- Level of involvement is more important than the number of projects

## Awards and Recognitions

- Displays distinctions in multiple areas (athletics, academics, service work, etc.)

## Extracurricular/Leadership

| Year       | Dates                              | Hours/Days/Weeks                 | Extracurricular Activity | Position/Role      |
|------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| <i>9th</i> | <i>August 2017 - November 2017</i> | <i>10 hours per week/8 weeks</i> | <i>JV Soccer</i>         | <i>Team member</i> |
|            |                                    |                                  |                          |                    |
|            |                                    |                                  |                          |                    |
|            |                                    |                                  |                          |                    |
|            |                                    |                                  |                          |                    |
|            |                                    |                                  |                          |                    |
|            |                                    |                                  |                          |                    |
|            |                                    |                                  |                          |                    |

## Awards/Recognitions

| Year       | Semester    | Award             | Description                         |
|------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>9th</i> | <i>Fall</i> | <i>Honor Roll</i> | <i>Maintaining a high GPA of...</i> |
|            |             |                   |                                     |
|            |             |                   |                                     |
|            |             |                   |                                     |
|            |             |                   |                                     |
|            |             |                   |                                     |
|            |             |                   |                                     |
|            |             |                   |                                     |

## SAT vs ACT

|                       | SAT   | ACT   |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| <b>Why Take It</b>    | Used for admissions and merit-based scholarships                          | Used for admissions and merit-based scholarships                                    |
| <b>Test Structure</b> | Reading<br>Writing & Language<br>Math<br>Essay (Optional)                 | English<br>Math<br>Reading<br>Science Reasoning<br>Essay (Optional)                 |
| <b>Length</b>         | 3 hours (without essay)   | 2 hours, 55 minutes (without essay)   |
| <b>Reading</b>        | 5 reading passages  | 4 reading passages  |
| <b>Science</b>        | None  | Testing critical thinking skills and data analysis (not specific science knowledge) |
| <b>Math</b>           | Arithmetic<br>Algebra I & II<br>Geometry<br>Trigonometry<br>Data Analysis | Arithmetic<br>Algebra I & II<br>Geometry<br>Trigonometry                            |
| <b>Essays</b>         | Optional; test comprehension of a source text                             | Optional; test how well you evaluate and analyze complex issues                     |

**SAT** - [collegeboard.com](http://collegeboard.com)

**ACT** - [act.org](http://act.org)

### **Do colleges prefer one test over the other?**

No, all colleges will accept either the SAT or the ACT.

### **How many times should I take the SAT/ACT?**

I would recommend taking the test 2-3 times. Studies show students generally do better on the second test. Students are able to improve their scores with practice, tutoring, and test-prep programs.

### **Do all colleges require the SAT or the ACT?**

No, many colleges are moving away from requiring the SAT or the ACT. See here for a complete list of test-optional colleges: [fairtest.org](http://fairtest.org). I highly recommend that students report test scores to test-optional schools if the scores are above the mid-50% score range.

## **SAT Subject Tests**

- Most schools do not require SAT Subject Tests
- Many University of California system schools require or recommend SAT Subject Tests
- Highly selective programs may require or recommend SAT Subject Tests
- Highly selective schools require or recommend SAT Subject Tests (Examples: Cal Tech, Tufts, Rice, MIT, Harvard)

## **AP Exams**

- Can strengthen your application but not a deciding factor
- Scores of 3, 4, or 5 may allow students to skip prerequisite courses in college or earn college credits
- You can check to see if your college(s) of interest will accept AP scores for college credit. AP credit policies for colleges on the CollegeBoard website

## SAT Test Dates

| SAT TEST DATE    | REGISTRATION DEADLINE | LATE REGISTRATION DEADLINE | SCORE RELEASE DATE   |
|------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| March 9, 2019    | February 8, 2019      | February 27, 2019          | March 22, 2019       |
| May 4, 2019      | April 5, 2019         | April 24, 2019             | May 17, 2019         |
| June 1, 2019     | May 3, 2019           | May 22, 2019               | July 10, 2019        |
| August 24, 2019  | July 24, 2019         | August 11, 2019            | September 16, 2019   |
| October 5, 2019  | September 5, 2019     | September 23, 2019         | October 18-24, 2019  |
| November 2, 2019 | October 2, 2019       | October 20, 2019           | November 15-21, 2019 |
| December 7, 2019 | November 7, 2019      | November 25, 2019          | December 20-26, 2019 |

## SAT Subject Tests

SAT Subject tests are offered on the SAT Test Dates (except the March test). Please check the CollegeBoard ([www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)) website for more information.

## AP Test Dates

AP tests are offered the second and third week of May. Please check the CollegeBoard ([www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)) website for more information.

## ACT Test Dates

| SAT TEST DATE                | REGISTRATION DEADLINE | LATE REGISTRATION DEADLINE | SCORE RELEASE DATE |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Feb 9, 2019 <sup>1</sup>     | Jan 11, 2019          | Jan 18, 2019               | Mar 5, 2019        |
| Apr 13, 2019                 | Mar 8, 2019           | Mar 25, 2019               | May 7, 2019        |
| June 8, 2019                 | May 3, 2019           | May 20, 2019               | July 2, 2019       |
| July 13, 2019 <sup>1,2</sup> | June 14, 2019         | June 24, 2019              | August 6, 2019     |