

Scholarship Booklet

2017 - 2018

Washington Catholic High
School

School Code: 153695

Information Regarding:

College Admission
Counseling Office
Financial Aid



Scholarships

Washington Catholic High School Senior and Senior Parents:

Welcome to the Senior Class! WCHS faculty and staff are very aware of how many decisions you must make this year. This booklet has been compiled for you to use as a reference for the many questions that you have concerning College Admissions, Financial Aid and Scholarships. In addition to this booklet, you are invited to make an appointment and talk with Mrs. Mundy to discuss in person the material included in this booklet or any additional concerns you may have about graduation, college admissions, scholarships and financial aid.

You need to know **WCHS's school code number** on several applications – SAT, ACT, some admission applications, NCAA registration. The code is **153695**. This code will ensure that WCHS will receive a label with your SAT and/or ACT scores to be included on your transcript. Some colleges accept that as an official report. NCAA does not. You must include the NCAA code (9999) on your list of schools to receive a report directly from SAT or ACT headquarters before you take the test. Otherwise, you will be charged \$100 or more to have your scores sent to the NCAA as well as many colleges.

It is important to read carefully to discover the deadlines for applications. Many colleges have “rolling admissions” (applications accepted right up to the time that classes begin); however, many have an early deadline for incoming freshmen. For example: Indiana University has a rolling admission for transfers, but a February 1 deadline for incoming Freshmen applications. To be considered for automatic scholarship offers, applications must be received early. For example, IU requires receipt by November 1. You can find this type of information on a particular college's website. The College Board and Princeton Review publish books that offer this information as well as other specifics about all the colleges and universities in the country. You can access these books at Barnes & Noble and a public library also

Karie Craney, Principal
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COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

I. Selecting a College Factors to Consider

1. Your abilities, maturity, finances
2. School statistics such as location, curriculum, admission standards, housing, cost

How to find a school

1. Check the Internet—run a search based on a specific college/university and/or a specific major.
2. Visit college campuses starting in your Junior year if possible.
3. Talk with students attending the college.

II. Applying

It is acceptable to apply to more than one college. Sometimes a first choice isn't possible for a variety of reasons. It's always good to have a back-up plan. Applications are available on the Internet and by writing or calling particular colleges and requesting information and an application. There are several options that you have when applying to colleges and it can be confusing. The following is a list of definitions of the different applications plans that are available:

Nonrestrictive Application Plans

Regular Decision—You submit an application by a specified date and receive a decision within a reasonable and clearly stated period of time. You may apply to other schools without restriction.

Rolling Admissions—A school reviews applications as they are completed and gives decisions throughout the admissions cycle. You may apply to other schools without restriction.

Nonrestrictive Early Action—You apply and receive a decision well in advance of the school's regular response date. If admitted, you are not obligated to accept the offer of admission or submit a deposit prior to May 1. You may apply to other colleges.

Restrictive Application Plans

**These plans allow schools to limit students from applying to other early plans.

You make a commitment to your first choice school and, if admitted, you will definitely enroll. You may apply to other institutions, but can have only one early decision application pending at any time. If you are not able to afford the school, you can decline the admission offer and be released from the early decision commitment. Usually, a nonrefundable deposit will be made well in advance of May 1. The school will respond to your application for financial aid at or near the time of an offer of admission.

Restrictive Early Action—This is a non-binding admission option for students who have completed a thorough college search and know that a particular college/university is their first choice. An applicant can receive a decision well in advance of regular response dates. You can still apply to other schools for regular decision, but **not** early action. Please check with the school for details. If you are admitted under restrictive early action, you are not obligated to accept the offer or submit an early deposit.

Filling out applications:

1. Read all instructions carefully and fill out the application completely. Many colleges encourage on-line applications and some even waive application fees for online submissions. If you apply on line, be sure and hit “submit”. Most on-line college applications have a “**Counselor Page**” or “**High School Report**” page. Print it and take to the WCHS office. If there is no page, you still must request a transcript be sent. Colleges **DO NOT** request a transcript. That is the applicant’s responsibility.
- 2.
3. When you have completed the application you will need to request that a transcript be sent. You can do this through Parchment. A transcript is considered “official” if sent through Parchment. You can access Parchment through the WCHS website (wccardinals.org) or go directly to the Parchment website (Parchment.com). At the end of the Junior year you were requested to set up an account with Parchment and create a password. You can then order transcripts through Parchment and if a high school report is required, they will automatically request that of the Counselor. There is no charge for Seniors. Your transcript will remain available on Parchment after graduation, but there will be a minimal charge from the company to send a transcript. Some applications also require a mid-year report. You can go ahead and request it with the original application. If you are not sure how to sign up for Parchment, contact Mrs. Mundy. Links have been mailed to your e-mail account.
4. Because of the growing enrollment numbers and admission competition at many colleges/universities, it is strongly recommended that applications be made to your choices **before** Christmas.
5. A “Final Transcript” is automatically mailed the first week of June to the college that has been selected as your final choice.

III. College Entrance Examinations

Most colleges and universities require SAT or ACT scores for admissions. It is **NOT** necessary to wait until you have taken either test to fill out and send in your applications. However, a decision will not be made by the college until **all** materials are received by the college. You must make sure the results are sent to the colleges you are considering. A lot of the colleges now require that your scores come directly from SAT or ACT headquarters. (Students must request the scores be sent by including the college code **when they sign up** for the test or send a request later using a form that is available on line). Some institutions accept the copy of your scores that are included with your transcript. **You can ensure WCHS receives SAT and ACT scores to include on your transcript by including the WCHS code (153695) when registering for the tests.** If you are planning to register with the NCAA Clearinghouse, send a copy of your test report directly to them by including their code (**9999**) when you sign up for the test. SAT and ACT will charge an additional fee of \$10.00 or more to request scores **AFTER** you take the test. You can usually request up to 4 destinations to send the scores with no charge up to the actual test date.

When signing up for the SAT, most students check that they are taking the “SAT Reasoning Test”. However, some colleges require that applicants take a “Subject Test” – some refer to this as SAT II. Each test is over one subject only – for example a Foreign Language, Biology, Math, etc. A student can take up to 3 subject tests on a given test date. Even though the Writing segment on the ACT is optional, it is advisable to include it when testing..

IV. Financial Aid

It is strongly recommended that you fill out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). Based on the information the student supplies, it will be determined if the student is eligible for federal and/or state aid. Most colleges/universities request that you fill out this form as the information may also be used in determining scholarships. Information is based on the previous year’s earnings. The website is <https://fafsa.gov>. Be careful. Don’t just “google” FAFSA. The first two sites listed charge \$80 or more for filing. By going to the correct site, you will file for free. If you finish and see a request for a credit card number or that you mail a check, you are at the wrong website. Do not pay for submitting a FAFSA. Students and parents can file the FAFSA as early as October and will use the previous year’s tax information which will automatically “populate” some of the questions because your taxes from the previous year will have already been filed.

ITEMS NEEDED FOR THE APPLICATION PROCESS

List of Activities

You will need to compile an up-to-date list of all activities you have participated in during your high school career. Activities to include: volunteer work, school clubs and organizations, athletics, church groups, 4-H, scouting, honors, awards and employment. Try to include everything no matter how trivial it may seem to you. A student that has good grades and shows lots of activities appeals to colleges because it demonstrates maturity and an ability to balance study and other activities. Also, check with the Main Office that your “activities” are up-to-date on your transcript and includes Senior year activities.

References

Frequently a school requires two or three letters from people who know you in various aspects – as a student in the classroom, an employee, a team member, or a volunteer. Ask teachers and people outside of education who know you fairly well to write a letter in your behalf. ***It is important that you contact these “reference” people AT LEAST two-three weeks before you need the recommendation.*** It is helpful to the person writing the recommendation if you supply some basic information to them in the form of a resume. **Many people, such as teachers, receive numerous requests for letters of recommendation and much time is spent writing letters for students – don’t forget to thank them for going that extra mile for you.** Also, a letter may be used for more than one application. Most recommenders save a copy of a letter they write on their computer and it can quickly be “tweaked” to apply to another school or scholarship.

Please do not wait until you apply to a college to request the letters. This can hold up the processing of your application.

Personal Statements and Essays

Many applications and scholarships ask for a personal statement or essay from you. Neatness and grammar do count! Your final draft should be typed on white unlined paper. If a specific topic is assigned, keep to the topic in your essay. This is another way a college gets to know you and how you will fit into their school. Books and websites are out there to help you in writing these. Your English teacher may be willing to review your statement for grammatical errors, etc. before you submit it.

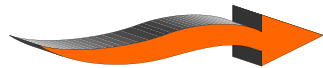
S. A. T. and A. C. T. Scores

Part of the application process to all four-year colleges and universities and some vocational and technical schools is to have scores included on the application. Schools will accept the highest score of S. A. T. or A. C. T. This is called “super scoring.” If you do better on the Reading section on one date and the Math section on another date, they will use the higher of the two scores no matter which date it was taken. The tests are similar, but if a student has time, it is advisable to take both tests, as some students may do better on one of the tests.

Seniors, it is important that scores be available as soon as possible. If you have not taken the test yet, sign up for an October or November date as soon as possible. It takes three to four weeks to get results and colleges will not process your application until all information is in.

****PLEASE NOTE**: Your S. A. T. and A. C. T. scores are included on your transcripts only if you have indicated that results be sent to WCHS (153695). Check your transcript on-line or in the Main Office to verify that your scores are entered correctly.**

Some schools and the NCAA require that your scores come directly from S. A. T. /A. C. T. headquarters. Students must request that they be sent to the school when they register for the test by giving the college/university code or by sending a request later requesting that scores be sent. You can also request scores be sent by filling in information on-line and paying an additional fee if the request is made after the test date.



WATCH DEADLINES!

Please allow ***AT LEAST*** two (2) days for Parchment to process your application. ***It is NOT instantaneous.*** Someone from the Washington Catholic staff must “approve” your request to Parchment. That is assuming that you have already set up an account and your transcript has been uploaded. Visit the Main Office and review your transcript to verify that all is in order and accurate. A transcript request made at 10:00 at night probably won’t be seen and approved until the next day. Also a request over the weekend, might not be noticed until the next school day.

→ **PLAN AHEAD!**

Most students are doing the original application on-line. This is the quickest way to do it and fewer mistakes are made. Please read through it carefully and review your responses. This is the schools first impression of you and your abilities. Some colleges/universities require letters of recommendation. Again, give the recommender plenty of time to write the letter. They may want some information from you—like a list of activities, current classes and grades. You may even supply an envelope addressed to the Admission Office. OR give them the on-line link to the website to attach a recommendation. It can’t hurt to verify after a few days that the recommendation was sent or posted. Remember to request a transcript be sent through Parchment. This does not happen instantaneously. You will still need to allow time for WCHS to be notified that you are requesting a transcript and they must approve the request before Parchment releases an e-transcript to an institution.

TOP 10 COLLEGE APPLICATION MISTAKES

Senior year is hectic, but don't let it affect the quality of your college applications. Make sure you take the necessary time to pay attention to detail and plan ahead to meet the deadlines. Following are some of the top responses from counselors and admissions staff sharing the most common mistakes found on college applications.

Misspellings and grammatical errors - This is a big pet peeve of admissions people. If you misspell on something as important as the application, it shows that either you don't care or you aren't good at spelling. Some students even misspell their intended major. But don't stop with a spell check. Proofread for grammatical errors, too. You may ask an English teacher to read over an essay.

Applying online, but the application isn't submitted - If you apply online, you should receive confirmation that the college or university received it. Confirmation could be an email message, a Web page response or a credit card receipt. Follow through and make sure that your application has been received.

Forgotten signatures - Make sure you sign and date the application form. Often students overlook that part of the form especially if it's on the back. Check that all spaces are completed.

Not reading carefully - For example, if the form asks what **County** you live in, don't misread it as **Country** and write United States.

Listing extracurricular activities that aren't - Those that make the list include sports, the arts, formal organizations and volunteer work. Talking on the phone and hanging out with friends don't make the cut. Make sure your activity information is accurate. Colleges may check with your high school.

Not telling your school counselor where you've applied - Let your counselor know which colleges you're applying to, and ask him or her to review your high school transcript before sending it to colleges. Sometimes transcripts have errors.

Writing illegibly - First impressions count, so take your time and use your best handwriting and grammar. It will make a better impression.

Using an email address that friends might laugh about, but colleges won't - Select a professional email address. Keep your fun address for friends, but select an address using your name for college admissions.

Not checking your email regularly - If you've given an email address, the college will use it. You don't want to miss out on anything because you didn't read your email.

Letting Mom or Dad help you fill out your application - Admissions people know if your parents help, whether you have two different styles of handwriting or your admissions essay sounds more like a 45-year-old than a 17-year-old. It's fine to get advice, but do the work yourself.

WAYS TO FINANCE A COLLEGE EDUCATION



* FAFSA Application
Military
ROTC Scholarships
University Scholarships
Co-op University Housing
Work-study Programs
Athletic Scholarships
Service Club Scholarships
** "Local" Scholarships
Church Scholarships
Parent Employer Scholarships
Savings Account

- * The **FAFSA** (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is the instrument most commonly used to determine financial need. The information submitted on this form is used by colleges, the Indiana State Student Assistance Commission and by the Federal Basic Opportunity Grant Program. Filing the FAFSA is required for consideration for aid to be received through a college, the state or the federal government. This form should not be mailed before October and **must** be **received by** March 10 at the FAFSA headquarters. The FAFSA is based on tax information being submitted for the previous year. You will have the opportunity to amend the information after you file. **The FAFSA form can also be submitted at <https://fafsa.gov> To submit online you AND your parents MUST each have a user name and password (FSA ID), which acts as your signatures.** You can apply for a FSA ID before October. Do not wait until the last minute to file on line or by mail. The Government will accept no excuses for not having the FAFSA form **there** by March 10th! If the website crashes and you can't file on line, that is considered no excuse. A March 10th postmark is unacceptable. You had since October of your Senior year to get it done! Most file on-line, but you can request a paper copy to fill out and mail in. There will be a FAFSA night at school where an expert will come to the school and walk you through the application process. Watch for announcements through the School Messenger for a time and date.
- The **Pell Grant** is the largest federal gift aid program available. No separate application is needed. You apply by filling out the FAFSA
 - The **Indiana Higher Education Award** is also automatically applied for by submitting a FAFSA form.

****** Local Scholarships are available through local organizations. Businesses, like Wal-Mart and Burger King often distribute their scholarships in their stores and over the Internet. Various Kiwanis Clubs, Daughters of the American Revolution, memorial scholarships in memory of area people who have died, and Washington businesses and hospital may offer scholarships specifically for Daviess County or Washington graduates. These scholarships arrive throughout the school year and have varying deadlines. They are advertised through School Messenger and many are listed in the WCHS Scholarship Book on-line.

NCAA ELIGIBILITY

If an athlete wants to practice and play intercollegiate athletics during their freshman year at an NCAA Division I or Division II College, he/she must satisfy the requirements of NCAA Bylaw 14. 3

Requirements include:

1. Graduate from high school.
2. Successfully complete a core curriculum of at least 16 academic courses.
3. Achieve a GPA of 2.3 on a 4. 0 scale using the NCAA recognized classes.
4. For acceptable GPA and test score combination qualifications, visit their website at www.ncaa.org and click on “Student-Athlete.”
5. Register with the Clearinghouse. Forms are available online. When registering online, you will also need to request a transcript—through Parchment or request that one be mailed from the Main Office.
6. Test scores must be reported directly from ACT or SAT. Please use code 9999 when requesting scores from ACT and/or SAT.



SCHOLARSHIP LISTING BY DEADLINES—Click on “to view and print” a list of scholarships

You will find a list of scholarships arranged by application deadlines from September to August. Details of the scholarships are listed alphabetically. Some scholarships have dates by which the application must be *postmarked*. Others list dates by which they must be *received* by the scholarship organization. If a scholarship application needs to be turned in to the WCHS office, please do so at least 24 hours ahead of the mailing time.. *Check the directions on applications for details.* Transcripts usually can't be sent through Parchment for Scholarships. They must be mailed or delivered.

Some scholarships offered are by nomination only. Committees that are established at the beginning of the school year review completed applications and select a nominee to be submitted. Scholarships which are through nomination include Burger King, National Honor Society, Fireside, Prudential, Toyota and some Kappa Kappa Kappa. This type of scholarship must be turned into the School Office early enough to be reviewed by a Committee and still meet application deadlines. Watch the school Messenger for deadlines for letting the Main Office know that you want to be considered for this type of scholarship.

Also, pay close attention to scholarships offered through college applications. Some colleges have scholarship application deadlines different from their admission application deadlines. Read the fine print on all applications. If you have questions regarding a particular college, call the college or check with WCHS office.

The information contained in this booklet (i.e. scholarship availability, deadlines, award amounts, requirements, etc.) is subject to change depending upon the company or organization offering the scholarship. In addition to the listed scholarships, new ones may be announced throughout the year in School Messenger and posted on the wall across from Mrs. Craney's office.

PLEASE NOTE: ALL DATES LISTED ARE BASED ON PAST DEADLINES AND OFTEN CHANGE FROM YEAR TO YEAR.