

Fall College Night, November 20, 2024

Unanswered Questions

How do you find a best fit college?

First, by engaging in meaningful self-assessment (Know Thyself). What are your interests? What do you like? What is your learning style? Then begin your college search in accordance with the Five Ps (refer to the slide presentation)

Is PV still using Naviance?

No. We are now utilizing the Sarasota County Schools endorsed platform, *SchoolLinks*

How will college be different from high school?

Student independence is the greatest difference between high school and college. Both offer academic, extracurricular and social challenges. As emergent adults, students will make their own choices with their own consequences, independent of their parents and teachers.

Were students told about this College Planning Night? My student was surprised and said she was not told about this opportunity to learn about the programs available to her.

Yes, students were informed. In addition to being emailed to ALL N# student emails, an announcement appeared on the pvscollegecounseling website and on Pine View morning announcements.

How many students are in this class of 2026?

One hundred eighty-four (184)

How we do know what is the right GPA when applying to a college and does it matter? How much consideration is given to weighted GPA?

Unweighted GPA occurs on a simple 4.0 scale. Weighted GPA reflects courses to which additional weighted is added (Honors/AP and DE at Pine View). High Schools often utilize their own weighting formula. At Pine View an additional 1.0 is added for Honors-level coursework. An additional 1.5 is added for AP and DE courses. Colleges are interested in weighting as it shows that students have attempted the most rigorous coursework at their respective school and have done well.

It is important to note that Colleges re-calculate GPA based on their own formula; typically .5 for Honors and 1.0 for AP and DE courses (and only including core academic courses).

My child is a Junior and graduating 2026. When do I apply for FAFSA?

We anticipate an October 2025 release of the FAFSA (versus December 1 this year).

Are GPAs being calculated differently this year (by semester rather than by year)? If so, how is this expected to impact our students? And in the self-reported transcript/grade reports, will current juniors then have to report annual grades for 2 years and then semester grades for 2 years?

Yes. It is our understanding that all courses will be semester-based beginning this year (as is true at many high schools). Thus transcripts will reflect a grade and .5 credit at the end of each semester (there will no longer be a single, year-long grades).

Assuming students do well each semester, there will be no negative impact on GPA or how a college reads a student transcript. On both the transcript and on the in-state Student Self-Reported Academic Report (SSAR) students will reported in a hybrid fashion (semester and year-long). Instructions to follow!

Would love to see this focus on “how to research & get info” rather than anecdotes about past students.

While not a question, please refer to the slides emphasizing student research, as well as the pvscollegecounseling website. As specifically mentioned there are an abundance of resources for how to research and get information, starting with the college admissions websites themselves.

I also highly recommend(ed) the Common Data Set for each college <https://commondataset.org> as well as the DoE website and College Scorecard <https://www.ed.gov/higher-education/find-college-or-educational-program>, all of which were referenced in the presentation.

Will this PowerPoint be online?

Yes. It is posted at www.pvscollegecounseling.com under *Presentations*.

Will students complete their college resumes and essays under the guidance of an ELA instructor? If so during what year and time of year? Junior or Senior year?

I do not believe ELA teachers currently support resume writing (though it is an outstanding idea). Imho this could begin as early as Sophomore year, and be updated and refined during Junior and Senior years.

College Essay support is provided initially at the end of 11th grade, in preparation for summer essay writing. All Senior English teachers build College Essay support into their Fall curriculum.

Would it be more practical to apply for specific school-related scholarships before you apply? What if you earn the scholarship but don't end up getting admission into the school?

The vast majority of institutional scholarships do not require a separate or early application. Scholarship consideration occurs alongside admissions. There are therefore no scenarios in which an applicant would be offered a scholarship but not admission to the university.

What else is needed other than GPA and SAT scores that are sent to colleges?

Students must complete an application, usually the Common Application. In it they provide a list and description of extracurricular activities, accomplishments, award and honors. There is also a 650 word Essay/Personal Statement. Many colleges also require one or more school-specific supplemental essays.

In addition to student transcripts, Pine View may send other school-related materials, as required. These include a School Report, the Pine View School Profile and Teacher and Counselor letters of recommendation.

Did we lose historical data of Pine View applications in switching to SchoolLinks?

Most Naviance data was preserved for past student applications and outcomes. Sadly, some was lost to limits in formatting. Some historic data was included in the 'rollover' process and thus appears in SchoolLinks.

What is a good website for college stats on universities abroad? There are none in SchoolLinks or College Board.

Some U.S. based college websites offer information and statistics on international universities, but they're not particularly complete or robust. Most that offer such information are for profit sites, assisting in the international application process for a price, e.g., goabroad, studee and topuniversities). You can find helpful information using their free search engines.

[World Higher Education Database \(WHED\) Portal](#) and a few others like it are good for stats and data.

Is it better to use the Common Application or a school-specific application?

Colleges claim no preference so there is no advantage in terms of admission. The biggest advantage of the Common Application is that it is accepted by over one thousand colleges and universities making it easier to apply (one application plus school-specific supplements as required).

The beauty of some institutional applications is that they're shorter and easier to complete (some do not require an essay, or waive the application fee). Note that a few colleges require use of their application (notably MIT and Georgetown).

If your child takes the ACT and SAT, will the college accept the better score?*

Applicants are asked to send or self-report one or the other. If scores are comparable students may choose to submit both. If submitting both, colleges will consider the 'better' score.

What scholarships are available?*

Scholarships are offered by a variety of entities; universities and various organizations. Please see the Pine View College Counseling website and SchoolLinks for additional scholarship information.

What resources are available for Seniors and Juniors regarding tours and talking with alumni?

Universities offer campus tours throughout the year and should be booked in advance when possible. Depending on the college Mr. Bergman may be able to provide the names of former Pine View alum in attendance at various colleges.

Does Pine View have affiliations with certain universities where students are guaranteed admission with good GPA and SAT scores?

There are no guarantees of admission based solely on affiliation or relationship with an institution. That said, Pine View applicants are highly regarded and very competitive at many universities both in and out of state. It is important to note that metrics such as GPA and testing are only part of a competitive application.

What other types of financial aid can my child apply for and what are the dates and timelines.*

Families are strongly encouraged to complete what is known as the FAFSA. They may also be asked to submit what is known as the CSS Profile. These financial aid applications are required for need, and in many cases, merit-based aid. Please see the PV counseling website for dates and deadlines.

The Bright Futures initial application opens on October 1st and must be completed by graduation.

Various scholarships open throughout Senior year. Application deadlines vary (see Schoolinks and pvcollegecounseling)

Will students have parent/student guidance invitations? My daughter at CMHS had this completed by February of her junior year. We want to make sure we're not falling behind schedule.*

As shared in the presentation, classroom visits begin in late January. Student/Parent meetings with Mr. Bergman begin in mid-March. Students should be researching colleges and preparing for the application process (see website timelines).

Are the admissions rates different for abroad universities for students applying from the US?

This is entirely dependent on the institution, their selectivity and enrollment practices.

Is the application different between an in-state and out of state school?*

No. In most cases student will use the Common Application for both in-state and out of state applications. There may be additional elements required depending on the institution but the essential application and essay are the same.

What is the difference between Early Decision and Early Action?*

Students may only apply under an Early Decision plan to one school (this applies as well to universities that use Restrictive Early Action). Early Decision is a binding arrangement. If accepted, students are expected to deposit and withdraw all other applications. ED confers some advantage in terms of admissions (appx 50% accepted on ED). Early Action is simply an earlier application (again, not to be confused with REA). Please see PVSCC website for more information.

Will a sub optimal SAT/ACT score junior year have any effect on the interpretation of any score achieved their senior year?

No. Universities consider the best combined score only (aka superscore).

What's the difference between the SAT and ACT?*

Please consult the Testing section on PVS college counseling website.

What happens if you get rejected or waitlisted from a college? Is there no more chance of getting in?

If *deferred*, early applicants will be reconsidered during the Regular admissions cycle. Waitlisted students are considered on a 'space available' basis after May 1st. Some colleges use waitlist, others do not. There is no recourse if applicants are denied.

Do colleges select students based on major?

Most do not, though there are universities that accept by 'college' in which case major is a critical aspect to the application (e.g. Wertheim at UF, Cornell)

Is there a place/link to sign up for an individual counseling session with Mr. Bergman?

Yes. The scheduling platform known as youcanbookme will open in mid-March for Juniors and Junior parents.

*Information available at www.pvscollegecounseling.com