

# PPAS College Office

*Parent Presentation*

# COLLEGE BASICS: TYPES OF DEGREES

## UNDERGRADUATE

### **BACHELORS: (B.A./B.S.)**

4-year program

Includes about 50% general education requirements

### **BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS: (B.F.A.)**

4-year program

More focus on arts curriculum

Degree you would likely receive from a conservatory or visual arts program

### **ASSOCIATES: (A.A./A.S.)**

2-year program

Degree you would likely receive from a community college



- **GRADUATE: (Masters or Ph.D)**  
Degree completed AFTER Bachelors
- **CERTIFICATE/DIPLOMA/CREDENTIAL:**  
Credential for employment in a specific occupation (i.e. computer technology, cosmetology)

# College Options

## ❖ CUNY: The City University of New York

- 11 senior colleges and 7 community colleges
- Very affordable and offer a variety of majors
- A space for all New York City students who graduate
- Macaulay Honors College: a great program for qualified students



## ❖ SUNY: The State University of New York

- 64 campuses across the state
- Affordable but many are competitive



## ❖ Conservatories

- Specialized programs for artists (B.F.A degrees)
- Examples: Boston Conservatory, NYU Tisch, Curtis, New England

## ❖ Historically Black Colleges

- Examples: Howard, Clark Atlanta and Fisk

## ❖ Women's Only Colleges

- Examples: Smith and Wellesley

# COMPETITION TO GET INTO COLLEGE

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COLLEGE	# OF APPLICATIONS	# OF ACCEPTED STUDENTS
CUNY Hunter	31,030	11,170 = 36%
New York University	84,481	12,300 = 15%
University of Southern Cal.	66,198	7,558 = 11.4%
University of Michigan	50,000	16,000 = 32%
Rutgers BFA program		9%

# HOW TO ASSESS COLLEGES...

<b>From the comfort of your couch</b>	<b>PHYSICAL ACTION</b>
<b>Send away for brochures</b>	<b>Attend college fairs to meet with admissions reps</b>
<b>Review a guidebooks such as <i>Princeton Review: Complete Book of Colleges</i></b>	<b>Encourage your child to attend lunch visits at PPAS from college reps</b>
<b>Visit college's website – what's the first image you see – that image speaks a lot</b>	<b>Visit campuses, and especially request to observe/ classes</b>
<b><a href="http://www.collegeboard.org">www.collegeboard.org</a> <a href="http://www.review.com">www.review.com</a> <a href="http://www.collegenet.com">www.collegenet.com</a> <a href="http://www.cappex.com">www.cappex.com</a></b>	<b>Speak to others who are currently working in the field of interest and learn where they recommend</b>
<b>Refer to the handout which includes this topic</b>	

# SCHOOLS WITH SPECIFIC LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

Most colleges require the same language credits as is required to graduate high school (4 semesters), but FIND OUT if they desire more. Ivy Leagues rarely consider less than 3 years. Here is a sample list of schools that must see at least 3 years of credit in a foreign language in order to apply:

- ❖ Bard (NY)
- ❖ Syracuse (NY)
- ❖ Trinity College (CT)
- ❖ Brown (RI)
- ❖ Providence College (RI)  
(prefer 4 years)

In the same language:

- ❖ Emerson (MA)
- ❖ Colby College (ME)
- ❖ Stanford (CA)
- ❖ Brown (RI) (prefer 4 years)

**Wesleyan requires 4 years!**

## **Other schools that would PREFER 3 or 4 years**

**include:** Amherst College (4), Boston College (4), Central Connecticut State Univ (3 years, one language), Columbia (3 years, one language) University of Michigan (2 years required, 4 encouraged for college of Lit., Science, and Arts), & UCLA

# HOW DO COLLEGES REVIEW YOUR CHILD

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**EVERY** college does it differently, but here are some the most common criteria considerations:

- ❖ **GPA**
- ❖ **Class rigor (the types and amount of courses taken)\***
- ❖ **Activities beyond academic classes (like community service or athletics) And note quality of extracurricular counts more than quantity**
- ❖ **Standardized test scores (ACT or SAT)**
- ❖ **Responses to short answer questions**
- ❖ **Personal essay**
- ❖ **Regents scores (if in New York)**
- ❖ **Proof of interest in the college (ex. following them on social media)**

# How can a student improve his/her chances?

- ❖ Show genuine interest in the school by reaching out and asking questions or updating admissions counselor on activities
- ❖ All written responses should highlight unique qualities of student – they should NOT repeat something already evident in application
- ❖ Request an interview even if one is not necessary
- ❖ CHOOSE a rigorous course schedule senior year



# TIMELINE (Important Dates)



- ✓ **IN school SAT DAY = March 4<sup>th</sup>**
- ✓ **Summer program deadlines are typically in March**
- ✓ **FAFSA application opens Oct. 1**
- ✓ **EARLY DECISION (ED) = students apply early (Nov.1) and find out early (BINDING)**
- ✓ **EARLY ACTION (EA) = like early decision but not binding (usually TWO fall dates)**
- ✓ **Early Action Restrictive = used by private colleges and can't apply early anywhere else (ex YALE)**
- ✓ **Regular Decision is typically Jan. 1**

# EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAMS

- Provides students who fit certain income and academic requirements with admissions consideration

*\* Claim eligibility during application process. Tax information needed for verification*

- ❖ Can provide up to a full scholarship to a variety of schools in New York.
- ❖ Designed to help low income students afford and succeed in college
- ❖ Created to give an advantage to those who were disadvantaged with their financial standing at home.
- ❖ Qualification for these programs is based on BOTH financial and academic criteria.
- ❖ Very competitive

## **HEOP = Higher Education Opportunity Program**

- Offered at New York private schools

## **EOP = Educational Opportunity Program**

- Offered at SUNY schools

**SEEK /College Discovery** Offered at four year and two year CUNY schools



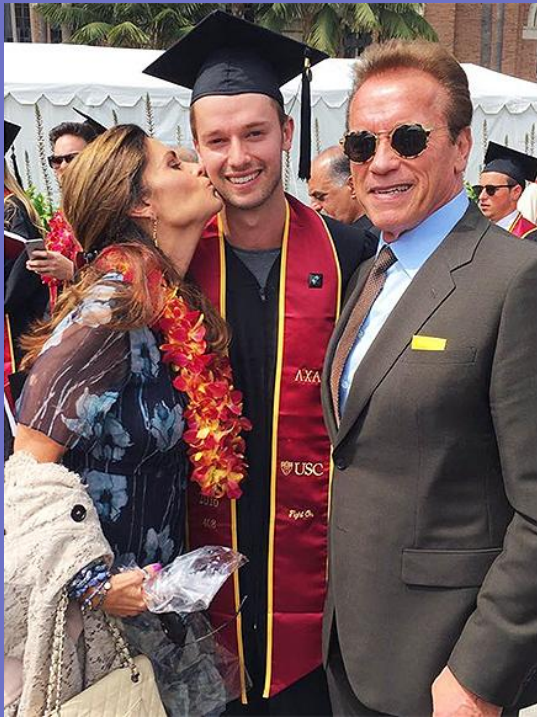
**As a general rule students are most likely eligible to apply for these programs if they receive free or reduced lunch**

# WAYS TO SAVE \$\$\$

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- ❖ FEE WAIVERS are available for ACT tests, SAT exams, College Applications, and AP exams, but your student must be listed on the Free/Reduced lunch list to receive.  
Need to apply? You can do so by search "NYC DOE Lunch Form"
- ❖ Reach out to colleges to inquire about SPECIFIC scholarships they offer. (ex. Bucknell has 2 renewable scholarships: \$10,000 for science majors and \$20,000 Civic Engagement Scholarship)
- ❖ Students can apply to scholarships NOW – visit their Naviance account under scholarship tab, start a Raise.Me account, visit the bulletin board on 4th floor for posted flyers
- ❖ Check out websites listed at end of handout

# SPECIFICALLY FOR PARENTS



- ✓ Be realistic—know where your child stands
- ✓ Be honest with your requirements & expectations
- ✓ Encourage your child to stay on track and meet deadlines
- ✓ Do not do ALL of the work!
- ✓ Get your finances in order now to get a sense of what kind of aid you might be able to receive
- ✓ Submit the FAFSA ASAP (OCT 1 opens)
- ✓ Be prepared to hear from us if your child has not completed applications by end of semester 1



# WHAT JUNIORS SHOULD BE DOING NOW

- *Research options*
- *Visit campuses*
- *Register for the SAT or ACT and Study for it – we have prep booklets.*
- *Next ACT = April 4, register by February 28*
- *Know grade standing and reach for best GPA possible*
- *Start college lists*
- *Access Naviance accounts*
- *In March, start meeting with College Office counselor to start a plan*
- *Research Scholarships*
- *Reach out to former PPAS students to learn about programs*
- *Look for beneficial summer programs & internships & apply*
- *Start a College Board account*
- *Work on resume*

# OVER THE SUMMER, JUNIORS SHOULD...

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- Keep researching schools and refining a list
- Work on college essay, at least 2 drafts
- Keep studying for SAT or ACT to plan to take your 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> in August, Sept, or Oct
- Look-out for college office email in late August, especially regarding ACT sign-up
- Apply for scholarships
- DON'T be idle – be involved in activities that show you like being active

## **WE DON'T**

- Call about auditions
- Confirm that mailed transcripts have arrived
- Find students to provide fee waivers
- Provide application deadlines
- Send things without stamps, envelopes and notifications
- Lie about financial status
- Submit official SAT/ACT scores

## **WE WILL DO THE FOLLOWING WHEN DIRECTIONS ARE FOLLOWED**

- Order and mail-out official transcripts based on student requests – 48 hour turn around
- Contact colleges when they should have materials but claim they don't
- Fax SAT or ACT scores when colleges approve it to avoid the ordering fee

# How we advise (see handout)

- Students should apply to a minimum of 7 colleges, and at least 4 of those should be “target schools” meaning that most current freshman had a similar GPA and similar SAT or ACT score to your child when they applied
- We are more comfortable with students applying to 9-12 colleges
- Over 12 is better for those students looking at BFA programs, but not better suited for students pursuing a general Bachelor’s degree, as many schools ask for supplemental short answers and those tend to get sloppier the more that are written. NO student should apply to over 20 colleges. CUNYs we count as 1, no matter how many are selected
- There is no SAFETY school anymore. We’re moving into using the term “likely.” Last year more students were placed on waitlists than before, which is why college application selection should be SOOO careful
- Students who score low on ACTs or SATs twice in a row should consider colleges who do not require standardized tests



# Fee Waivers

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- ❖ College application fees will add-up, especially when you have an AUDITION FEE + Application Fee. Students on Free/Reduced lunch can receive fee waivers. Families must apply every September for verification of lunch status with the DOE
- ❖ IF students have used a waiver for an SAT exam, they have 4 reserved hard copy fee waivers in their College Board account.
- ❖ SUNY offers a fee waiver that covers up to 7 schools.
- ❖ CUNY offers a fee waiver for up to 6 schools (must get code from college office)
- ❖ NACAC fee waivers can be used for most colleges (form needs to be filled out with PPAS official seal)

## OUR NUMBERS FOR FUN – WHAT ARE THE MOST POPULAR COLLEGES APPLIED TO BY PPAS STUDENTS (2 YEARS OF DATA)?

College	Apply	Withdraw	Net apply	Accept
Purchase College, SUNY	61	2	59	25
New York University	54	2	52	14
Ithaca College	45	2	43	23
Marymount Manhattan College	44	3	41	22
Pace University, New York City	40	1	39	18
Fordham University	38	1	37	9
Montclair State University	34	1	33	24
Temple University	34	1	33	16
Hunter College of the CUNY	33	1	32	14
The Juilliard School	33	1	32	3
Point Park University	32	0	32	20
Pennsylvania State University	31	1	30	10
University of Southern California	30	0	30	4
Syracuse University	30	2	28	7
Brooklyn College of the CUNY	25	0	25	18

**Contact the college office:**

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