

HOW TO BEGIN THE COLLEGE PROCESS

Information for 9th-11th Grade Parents

Wakefield High School- Counseling Department



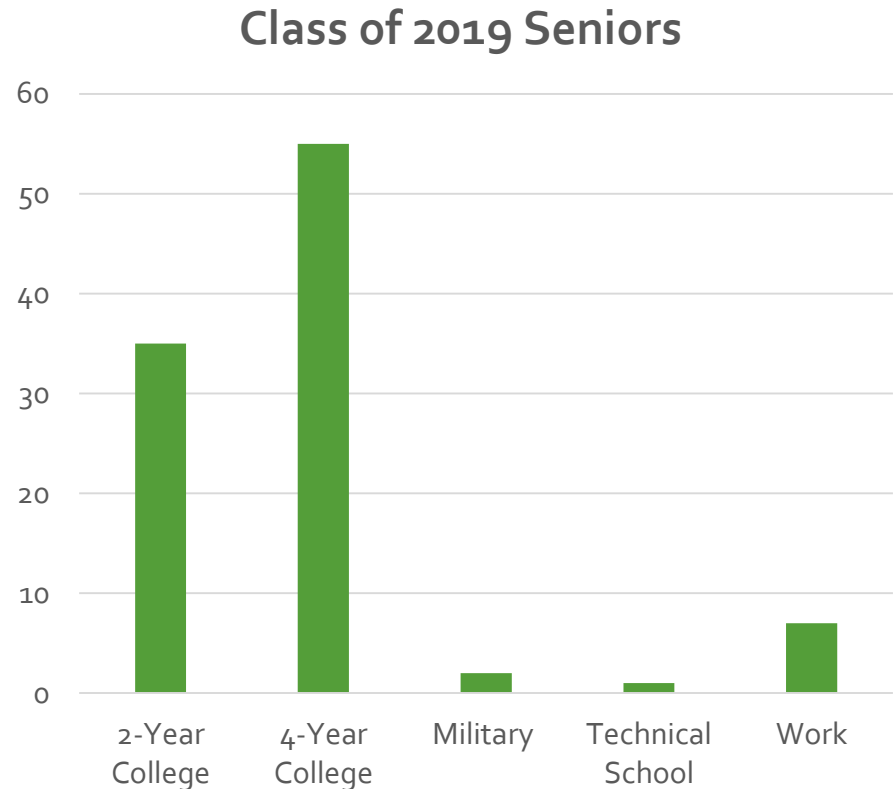


Today's Agenda

- Things to Consider
- What Are My Options After Graduation?
- General Tips for 9th-11th Graders
- Importance of 11th Grade
- 2-Year College
- 4-Year College
- College Admissions Tests
- Quick Pointers
- Scholarships/Financial Aid
- Trade Schools/Military

What Are My Options After Graduation?

- 2-year college
- 4-year College
- Military
- Technical School
- Work



**More education/training
beyond high school has
become a necessity!**

General Tips for 9th-11th Graders



- What are your goals?
- Begin doing your research on college and career options through Naviance
- **Keep your grades up. GPA is important regardless of your plan!**
 - Grades, GPA, and attendance goes on your official transcript
 - **Final grades of C's or lower keep your GPA the same or make it lower!**
- Are you challenging yourself academically?
- Should I re-take any classes in summer school?
- Start building a strong resume
 - Sports, work, extra-curricular activities
 - Leadership

NOVA

Northern Virginia
Community College

2-YEAR COLLEGE

NOVA

Northern Virginia
Community College

All students interested in attending NOVA are encouraged to apply through the Pathway Program.



PATHWAY TO THE
BACCALAUREATE

- Open to all seniors
- There is no minimum GPA, but “strong consideration” given to:

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| Barriers to college access | Recent grades |
| Attendance | Future goals |

- 2-year program at NOVA that helps you with your transition to college and guaranteed admissions to a 4-year school

Applications are available October of senior year and due the first week of November



What's in it for you?

• *While in high school:*

| | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| ✓ Meetings with Pathways counselor at WHS | ✓ Early testing at Wakefield |
| ✓ Helpful workshops | ✓ Priority registration/scheduling |
| ✓ Help with applying for financial aid | ✓ Summer orientation |

• *While at NOVA:*

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ✓ Counseling and support | ✓ Special programming |
| ✓ Leadership development | ✓ Grants and scholarship funding |
| ✓ Remediation programs | ✓ Early access to GMU events |

• *After NOVA:*

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ✓ Assistance with transfer process | ✓ Admission to GMU (2.85 GPA) |
| ✓ Support with university application | ✓ Continued support after NOVA |
| ✓ Co-enrollment with NOVA/GMU | |



FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE/ UNIVERSITY



Class of 2019

Average GPA's for Admitted Students



3.7 GPA



4.0 GPA



3.6 GPA



2.7 GPA



3.1 GPA



4.0 GPA



3.2 GPA



3.5 GPA

Important Factors that College Admissions Officers Want to See

- ☐ Transcripts (Grades/overall GPA)
- ☐ Strength of high school courses
- ☐ Admissions test scores (ACT/SAT)
- ☐ Essay
- ☐ Student's demonstrated interest
- ☐ Personal accomplishments
 - Resume (extracurricular activities, club/sports, jobs)
 - Leadership
 - Letters of recommendations
- ☐ Courses in progress senior year



College Admission Tests



ACT

- Consists of 4 tests: English, Math, Reading, Science
- Writing component is optional
- Top composite score is 36



SAT

- Consists of 2 tests: Verbal & Math
- Writing component is optional
- Each test is scored on a scale of 200-800 (1600)
- **[FREE Practice through Khan Academy](#)**



TOEFL

- Test for non native English speakers
- Talk to your counselor if you think you need to take this exam

Choosing Your College Priorities

What is important to you?

- Prestige
- Location
- Academics/Major
- Size
- Campus Appeal
- Social Life
- Total Cost



Quick Pointers

- Does it make sense for me to go to a 4-year school?
- A “good” college varies from student to student
- Do your research!
 - Admission requirements
 - Majors, programs, internships
 - Cost
- Be realistic!
 - Safety school
 - Match school
 - Reach school
- Most students apply to 5-8 colleges – No more than 10 schools!
- **It's okay to not know what you want to major in!** Most schools do not make you declare a major until the end of your 2nd year – consider “undeclared” or Liberal Arts options
- Consider visiting/taking a college tours





Scholarships & Financial Aid

Merit-Based Scholarships

Based on grades/GPA, test scores, academic and athletic accomplishments, leadership, school involvement

Need-Based Scholarships

Based on family income or ability to pay

- Awarded by the college or outside organizations
- There are MILLIONS of \$\$\$\$ out there!
- Information and applications are sent out to seniors via e-mail by Mr. Clisham (Naviance)
- Check college websites for specific awards
- Many scholarships may require:
 - Student Essay
 - Official Transcript
 - Letter of Recommendation
 - FAFSA/Income Information
- **FAFSA Application Opens Oct. 1st**



TRADE/TECHNICAL SCHOOLS AND ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS

Do your research!





MILITARY

See Mr. Clisham to get connected to a recruiter!



Questions?

