

New Trier Township High School
Post-High School Counseling Office
Considerations for Seniors

My son met with his New Trier post-high school counselor for the first time this summer after the junior year. Does that put him at a disadvantage in applying to college?

Not at all! New Trier's post-high school counselors routinely meet with students and a parent for the initial time over the summer, and they all go to college. Some seniors don't begin the process until the fall of the senior year, and they all have choices as well as time to complete the search and submit applications.

We met with our post-high school counselor in the spring and our student met with him once or twice beyond that. How do we make arrangements to get back into the appointment calendar for the college process?

Feel free to contact the counselor directly or contact Mrs. Perlongo, the administrative assistant, at 847/784-2234 to schedule an appointment. Counselors work periodically throughout the summer months.

If you are calling for a senior year, school day appointment, wait until you have your student's schedule for the year so you know when your student has free periods. You may call or have your student drop into room 201 to set up the next appointment.

Students should be seeing their counselor around every three weeks. The first working day of each week is a drop-in day, where students can drop in to room 201 with quick questions or organizational assistance. Counselors also visit senior adviser rooms three to four times in the fall semester.

The only time we can visit colleges is in the summer. Is that a problem?

Although ideally you want to see the campus on a regular school day to see the traffic and the kind of students who attend, in most cases families find the best time for them to see colleges is in the summer. Remember that only about a sixth to a third of the campus population will be there over the summer holiday.

Likewise, remember that Saturday visits may not provide the campus feel since most college students will be sleeping until noon or later!

Just make sure your student has done his research before you begin making travel plans and that the particular colleges you wish to visit are places that actually fit your student's college criteria such as size, location, class sizes, majors offered, internship or research opportunities, and so on.

I am worried that colleges might not like the fact that my daughter, who has been in orchestra for all three years at New Trier, is not participating as a senior. Will that hurt her chances of getting admitted into her colleges and show lack of leadership or perseverance?

No, it will not. Unless she plans to be a music major or minor, she can choose to spend her time in activities she finds rewarding. There is no unwritten rule that students have to participate in the same activities all four years of high school, or that each student must demonstrate leadership in activities. Our students demonstrate their leadership daily in the kind of ethical challenges they face as young adults.

I heard a rumor that colleges have access to Naviance. Can they see my son's information?

That is just a rumor. Naviance is a confidential, password-protected program visible only to you, your student, and the post-high school counselors. New Trier does not send any information to colleges without your student's written permission – and even then, it is usually only the high school transcript.

Why does it take so long for my student's ACT scores to show in Naviance? This is frustrating!

While ACT and the College Board are quick to post student scores on their confidential online accounts, it can take up to three more months for an Internet tape of all scores to be sent to New Trier. We have the tape run within a few days, but have to wait for the companies to send us computer-readable information.

My son was not recommended for any AP courses. Will that impede his college options?

Most of our students are not taking AP courses and they gain admission into wonderful places. It's most important for your son to have a schedule of senior year courses to prepare himself for college success by including four to five of the academic core courses (English, mathematics, social studies, laboratory sciences, and foreign language) and by being placed in levels that challenge but do not overwhelm him.

Remember, New Trier students will leave here with the academics for success in any college, but various colleges assess student backgrounds in different ways. If your student focuses on the competitive nature of the admission process ONLY, your student will be looking only at colleges that can pick and choose from the best candidates from around the world.

Our philosophy is that in order to have a successful college experience, the fit between the student's goals and expectations and what the college offers must be sound. If students aren't happy in their college setting, they won't be able to focus on being successful – while we recognize that some aspects of college should be uncomfortable to promote growth, students should feel safe and secure and be able to find like-minded friends on campus.

Remember, too, that once you are a member of the New Trier family, the members of the post-high school counseling department will always be here to assist you and your student with any bumps along the way to their future.