

**Postings  
For New Trier's Class of 2018  
December, 2017**

As of December first, New Trier's post-high school counseling office has forwarded 6473 transcripts to 423 different colleges and universities. Over 87% of the class has submitted at least one transcript request to a college.

While we are still accepting transcript request forms and are happy to continue to investigate additional college options with you, let's stop for a moment and review what happens next for those applications you may have already submitted.

**HOW AM I NOTIFIED OF WHETHER OR NOT MY APPLICATION IS COMPLETE?**

This depends upon the school; many, upon receipt of your application, send you an email with instructions on how to set up an account through which you will see what's there, what's missing, and even whether or not you are admitted. Others will expect you to check their individual college websites to set up an account under "After You Have Applied." Still others will communicate exclusively through email. A few will still drop letters in the United State Mail.

Students should check their email regularly, so please get in the habit of doing so.

**WHAT IF THERE ARE MISSING ITEMS IN MY APPLICATION TO A COLLEGE?**

As we've indicated in previous newsletters and in advisory visits, there are several parts to an application. Typically, once the application is submitted, students begin to receive emails that other supporting documents are also required. These include standardized test scores (ACT or SAT and rarely SAT Subject Tests) and the high school transcript.

It usually takes a testing company two weeks to transmit scores once you request them at either [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) or [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org). Then it takes the college admission office another two weeks minimally to match the scores with the application. If you have used a different name on a test registration than is on your official high school transcript, it may take longer – or even a phone call – to make sure things get properly filed on your behalf. For instance, your formal name may be James but you took the ACT under J. D.

In some cases, students request test scores for the wrong school (Purdue University Calumet instead of West Lafayette, for instance) in which case the student needs to resend scores to the right place. Also, in rare instances, an ACT score may get buried in a batch of scores sent, so a screen shot of the student's request to send scores from the ACT website and a screen shot or fax of the scores will suffice until the official scores can be located.

High school transcripts, if mailed, will also take longer to match. Even if you apply on the deadline and you had three weeks earlier requested that New Trier send the transcript, it will take the college a few weeks from the date you applied to find and match the transcript which has been in their office all along. College admission officers won't try to track down any items until you complete and submit an application for admission.

Always feel free to contact your post-high school counselor for assistance.

### USING NAVIANCE TO SEE WHAT TRANSCRIPTS HAVE BEEN REQUESTED/SENT

You have access to Naviance which can show you what transcripts you have requested. Simply logon, click on the “colleges” tab, and then on the left-hand side, click on “transcripts.” Next click on the item in the center marked “View the status of all my transcript requests” and the request and mail/upload dates will be indicated there.

Because an increasing number of colleges do not need transcripts with the initial application (students enter a GPA and/or their courses completed and grades earned), many colleges will still be listed as “Pending” until the college calls NT to request the documentation or the student decides to enroll there.

Your Naviance account lists the transcripts you have ordered, not the applications you have submitted.

*Now, let’s take a minute to review your application progress so far.*

#### STEP ONE:

*Tell your New Trier post-high school counselor the schools, if any, are listed under your Naviance “colleges I’m applying to” section and where you are NOT going to complete and submit the application.*

If you have transcripts listed for colleges where you no longer plan to apply, please let your post-high school counselor know. Each counselor will be reviewing students’ Naviance accounts to check to make sure that each senior has safety schools in place.

This list is the only way New Trier counselors can assess the post-high school options for students; feel free to drop-in on Mondays or email your counselor if you have schools on your Naviance where you are no longer submitting applications.

#### STEP TWO:

*Meet with your New Trier post-high school counselor to make sure you have safety schools in place; how many and which schools are up to you and your family.*

Remember, a safety school is one where you are pretty clearly admissible from the Naviance chart. Ideally, it is a school you would be happy attending.

#### STEP THREE:

*Have the talk with parents about financial safety school options; schools that are affordable for the four years of higher education.*

Once you have your “short list” of colleges, you should notify your parents of the options you have selected.

Parents are encouraged to go onto each of the college website and complete the Net Price Calculator for a better estimate of the actual cost of attendance. The post-high school counselors will be happy to look for additional financial safety schools – schools that are more affordable.

*OKAY, I HAVE SOME DECISIONS – WHAT DO THEY MEAN???*

### Students admitted under an early decision program

Students who are notified of their admission to a school under a binding, early decision program *must immediately* write or email the other schools to which they have sent applications and withdraw/cancel their submitted application. *This withdrawal is central to the ED contract which you and your parent and counselor signed, and must be done whether or not you have been notified with a decision from other colleges. Any financial aid package should accompany your admission notification.*

### What if I am deferred or denied under an early decision program?

Students whose admission decision is deferred have their applications placed into the pool of candidates for regular admission and are fully reconsidered in the context of that group of applicants. In some cases, college admission offices may accept additional information for the student's application file including new activities, leadership, honors and awards, semester grades, or additional test scores *as deemed appropriate by your particular colleges. Many college admission offices will not accept additional information; check the correspondence sent with the deferral letter for institutional policies. Additional teacher recommendations are not encouraged*; this is the time to demonstrate the student's efforts, not a teacher's reflection of the student's attributes. If you are deferred at your top-choice school, feel free to see your individual post-high school counselor to discuss your candidacy and how to strengthen it for regular review.

*A deferral from an early decision school releases the student from the binding commitment to enroll, even if the student is admitted in April.*

Students denied under an early program are no longer considered in the admission pool for the fall of 2018, but may reapply only after completing a semester to a year of college-level work elsewhere. Most, but not all, colleges require one full year of college achievement elsewhere. *Candidates whose applications were denied under EA or ED consideration are not eligible to apply to that same school as an ED II or regular decision applicant.*

### How does early decision differ from early action?

Early action candidates are under no obligation to enroll once admitted and can continue to entertain offers from other colleges and universities through April, 2018, and then a final enrollment decision must be made by May 1, 2018 (National Candidate Reply Date). If deferred, EA candidates will have their applications considered with the regular decision applicants and should have a final decision in April. EA candidates who are admitted should expect any financial aid award to arrive in four to six weeks; check the school websites for details.

Please notify your post-high school counselor and your recommendation writers of your admission status; those of us who support your applications are invested in your future and would like the relationship to continue. We would also like to update your Naviance account appropriately. Most colleges do not notify the NT Post-High School Counseling department with final admission decisions.

### Sending semester grade updates to colleges

At the end of this semester, updated transcripts will *automatically* be sent to every college or university where a student has applied. Students and parents need do nothing; the post-high school counseling office completes this task for every senior who initially authorized a transcript. *Although you may receive notifications from colleges that this transcript is due in January, colleges routinely wait for our transcripts to be uploaded or mailed in February, when all make-up's are completed.*

### Just so you know

Your admission to college is a contract and is contingent upon your successful completion of your senior year courses at a level commensurate with what you have already achieved. In other words, senior grades (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> semester) count and can make or break your admission decision.

### Gap Year Program

New Trier will host a gap year fair for any student considering an enrichment experience between high school graduation and college enrollment. Over twenty programs will be represented at this year's fair, scheduled for Saturday, January 27, 2018. A panel of speakers will present at noon and the fair will begin at 1:00 PM in the Winnetka Campus student cafeteria.

### Scholarship applications

Students interested in merit-based, college scholarships should register themselves at [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) or [scholarships.com](http://scholarships.com) and brace themselves for e-responses; sometimes students even set up a different email account to handle the fastweb scholarship notifications. Please check the [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org) website as well as <http://www.consumerfinance.gov/paying-for-college/>

Scholarship options are also available through Naviance; scroll down on the colleges-tabbed page. Additionally, the post-high school counseling office publishes a Green Sheet which lists all scholarship programs that send application information directly to New Trier. These are on the post-high school webpage and sent to senior advisories on a monthly basis.

New Trier has some financial assistance for college-bound graduates as well; New Trier's scholarship programs will be advertised through senior adviser rooms. Distribution of New Trier scholarship application for all interested June graduates will be on or around February 3, 2018. Remember, too, to check your individual college websites to determine if they have additional applications for their scholarship dollars.

Colleges will take anyone's money for your education. There are scholarship search options to the left of your Naviance home page, in the green section of the post-high school binder, and available through online Google searches. Remember, the first part of the word scholarship is scholars, so typically scholarship money goes to individuals who have top grades or talents that the particular awarding agency likes.

In addition, in your Naviance account under “colleges” you can scroll down to the scholarship list and by clicking on the top of the categories, sort by due date or amount. This is information from all agencies that have notified New Trier of potential awards, and the websites are typically included for direct information.

Most, but not all colleges automatically review your credentials for scholarship when you apply for admission. Be sure to check the webpages of each of your prospective colleges to see if they require additional forms or information.

### *Need-based financial aid*

The “Financial Aid Postings” from October should be reviewed for the process of applying for need-based financial aid.

I was just notified I am an Illinois State Scholar; what does that mean?

This is an honor from the state of Illinois for public high school seniors who are U. S. citizens or permanent residents and who have earned a 30 or higher ACT composite (NOT superscored, but an earned composite of 30 or higher) between September first and June thirtieth of the junior year. *Since the requirements for this have been the same for 35 years and are public knowledge, there is no urgent need to contact colleges to update them with this award; they all know what it is and frankly assume if you have a 30 ACT you will be a designated scholar.*

The post-high school counseling office will be closed during winter break.

Although we hope students will rest and relax during this time, some students will work on college applications over break. Students who plan to apply to colleges over winter break should speak with their post-high school counselor as soon as they return to school in January to make sure all of their paperwork is submitted.

Remember that the college deadlines are for submission of the application; supporting documents like test scores, transcripts, ED agreement forms, and recommendations can be sent after the deadlines at no penalty to the candidate, particularly those application due when school is closed over break.