

**Anderson High School**  
**College 101 for Parents**  
**Class of 2024**



# Anderson College and Career Center

Room 133

Monday - Thursday - 8:30 to 5:00



## WHAT WE DO:

- COLLEGE RESEARCH, APPLICATIONS, AND ESSAYS
- WORKSHOPS AND ASSISTANCE WITH FAFSA, SCHOLARSHIPS
- COLLEGE ADMISSIONS PERSONNEL MEETINGS FOR STUDENTS
- MILITARY AND CAREER RESOURCES
- TSI & ASFAB TESTING
- ACC DUAL CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES

## WHO WE ARE:

### **Jill Spencer (M - Th)**

- Naviance Site Manager
- College Application Process
- TSI Testing
- Military and Career Resources
- FAFSA Education & Resources

### **Cathy Painter (M, W, Th)**

- ACC / Dual Credit Specialist
- College Application Process
- Military and Career Resources
- TSI Testing

# Agenda



## ❖ General overview of college application process

- Finalizing the college list
- Application Platforms
- Research tools

## ❖ Naviance - AHS College Information Central

- College Visits
- Letters of Rec
- Transcripts

## ❖ Essays

## ❖ FAFSA and Scholarships

## ❖ Test Optional - what's that about?

## ❖ Questions

# Steps to Applying to College



- Research Colleges -see next slide!
- Finalize the College Application List
- Complete Common App or ApplyTexas application
- Create a resume and complete essays
- Update Naviance to match application platforms
- Request Letters of Rec for Teachers/Counselor (if needed)
- Request Transcripts (in Naviance)
- Complete FAFSA (Opens Dec 1) and research/apply for scholarships

# Research Colleges!



- Naviance
- College Websites
- Common Dataset
- Common App Practice Account

- NCES College Navigator
- NACANET Student Resources
- In-Person visits
- Virtual visits
- **College Reps at Anderson**

# Finalize your college list



- College apps are work! **Be thoughtful in your applications.** (Expensive!)
- **At a minimum:**
  - 2 Safety schools - assured or very likely admission
  - 2 Target or Match schools - (goals, academics, finances, and your heart)
  - 1 - 2 Reach or Ultra Reach schools (check the data and the admission rates)
- **At a maximum** - 10 schools
  - Selective schools will want exceptional applications. Consider the amount of time it takes to make a competitive application.

# Choose your college application platform



- [CommonApp.org](#) is the application for **over 1,000 colleges and applications.**
- [ApplyTexas.org](#) is the application for all public universities in Texas and select private schools
- [Coalition App](#) - 150 colleges use this platform for applications
- School applications unique to that college or university - on their website.  
(i.e. [University of California system](#), [Georgetown University](#), )

# Naviance - home to all things college @ AHS



- Located in the Student Portal
- Update student's Naviance profile with a **non-Austin ISD email**.
- Sign up for College visits in Naviance
- Populate list of **"Colleges I am Applying to"** - this is required to request transcripts and letters of recommendation!
- Request teacher recommendations
- Request transcripts
- From the senior page: [Naviance Quick Start Guide](#)
- A look from the student's perspective



# Letters of Recommendation



- Not all schools require letters of rec, check the school website.
- Request a recommendation in person at least **3 weeks prior** to the application deadline.
- Students will need to sign **FERPA** in Common App before a teacher or counselor can submit a letter of rec. Teachers and counselors cannot submit without it.
- Request the Teacher Letter of Rec in Naviance, discuss Counselor Rec in your senior meeting.
- Counselors only write recs for Common App schools that require it.
- [Request for Counselor Rec Form](#), Optional [Parent/Guardian Brag Sheet](#)

# Transcripts



- Request all transcripts via **Naviance**. Application is not complete until the college has received all of your required documents.
- Requesting a transcript on Oct 31 for a Nov 1 deadline is not possible. **Allow at least three weeks for transcript processing.** January 1 deadlines must be requested Dec 1 to allow for winter break.
- Mid-year transcripts need to be requested in Naviance.
- Request the transcript when you have submitted the application.
- **Transcripts for personal use & scholarships** may be requested in Naviance - instructions are on the top right corner of the Naviance home page.

# Essays



Regardless of the prompt, the essay should:

- Answer the question (***it is not a trick question...***)
- Illustrate the positive in yourself or the situation
- Sound like a high school student (*AI doesn't do high school well*)
- Write about something meaningful to YOU! (every topic has been covered)
- Demonstrate reflection - **don't restate your resume**
- Pay attention to word count limits
- Read aloud and spell check
- **Let us help you!** We are available to read and offer advice

**Good writing takes time and revision** - essays written the night before are ...

# FAFSA

## (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)



### What is FAFSA?

- The FAFSA is how you access financial aid from both the federal and state governments as well as some colleges and universities. Financial aid may come in the form of scholarships, grants, work-study, and federal student loans.
- [FAFSA portal](#) opens **DECEMBER 1st** for 2024 graduates
- Details about documentation needed to complete the FAFSA and further instructions may be found [HERE](#)
- We will host **FAFSA workshops** to assist with this process after the portal opens!
- Completion of FAFSA OR signed opt out waiver is a **graduation requirement** for all seniors!

# Scholarships



- **Naviance** is a great tool to research scholarships! From the home page, click Colleges/Scholarships and Money
- **Check college websites** for scholarships specific to that school
- AHS will send emails on a regular basis about available scholarships - these bulletins will also be sent to parents, if your email is updated in Naviance.
- There are many **3rd party websites** that will match students to available scholarships

- [Scholarships.com](https://www.scholarships.com)

- [Fastweb.com](https://www.fastweb.com)

- [GoingMerry.com](https://www.goingmerry.com)

- [Scholarship Owl](https://www.scholarshipowl.com)

- [Cappex](https://www.cappex.com)

- [Scholly](https://www.scholly.com)

- [Career OneStop](https://www.careeronestop.com)

# Test Optional - that is a big conversation!



- [HERE](#) is a list of **TEST OPTIONAL** colleges for 2024 graduates
- There is no right or wrong answer!
- **IN GENERAL**, the following are guidelines to consider when deciding whether to submit test scores:
  - If test scores do not fall within the **upper 50% range** of prior applicants to desired school
  - If test scores do not reflect student's academic school performance,
  - If student decides not to submit test scores, **everything else will matter more** in the admissions process. Rigor and grades continue to matter the most supported by a compelling story.

# Miscellaneous things that didn't fit anywhere else!



- We report **weighted GPA** on a 4.0 scale and are a **NON-RANKING** school
- 0-100 are the numbers we use on transcripts
- There are 543 Seniors in the Class of 2024
- Transcripts sent to colleges include courses through end of Junior year
- GPA is on the **My Account** page in Naviance
  - **Cumulative Weighted:** Includes ALL courses & is the ONLY GPA reported on the transcript.
  - **Cumulative Unweighted:** Includes ALL courses - honors and regular classes are given the same GPA value (100 = 4.0 GPA regardless the class level). This GPA is rarely used...Scholarships might request an unweighted GPA.
  - New Cumulative GPAs are released about 2 months after semester.

# Online Resources for Parents



Naviance

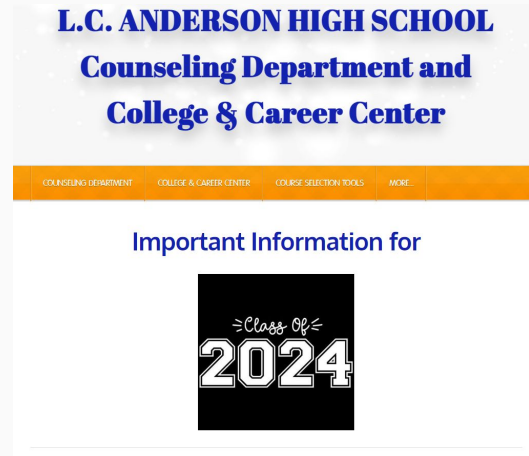
[AISD Student Portal](#)>[Apps](#)>[Naviance](#)

Request a parent account - just for you!



Anderson Counseling Senior Page

[Anderson Website](#)>[STUDENTS](#)>[Senior Information](#)





**Questions???**

