Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated® Presents

College Admissions Process

#CAP
Excellence

APPLYING TO COLLEGES
Strategies for High School Seniors

THURSDAY
AUGUST
27
2020
7:00PM-8:30PM

Register at:
https://capapplyingtocolleges.eventbrite.com

What you need for every applicatin

How to apply

Early vs. Regular Decision

Tips on how to stand out

Senior Checklist
—Begin filling out applications
—Ask teachers and counselor for recommendation letters

College Application Checklist

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®
Collaborating Chapters:

Gamma Delta Omega (Portsmouth, VA)   Lambda Omega (Newport News, VA)
Gamma Gamma Omega (Asheville, NC)   Lambda Omega Omega (Monmouth & Ocean Counties, NJ)
Psi Psi Omega (Stafford & Fauquier Counties, VA)

Welcome & Objectives

❖ Welcome parents and students.

❖ Thank you for joining the College Admissions Process (#CAP^{SM}) – Applying to Colleges - Strategies for Seniors webinar.

❖ This webinar will be recorded for future use.

The webinar objectives are to:

❖ Equip scholars with tools to navigate the college admission process.

❖ Provide high school seniors practical strategies and actions for applying to colleges.

❖ Share impacts of COVID-19.

Instructions

❖ All lines will be muted until the Q&A at the end of the webinar.

❖ Use the chat function to:

  ❖ Post comments or questions.

  ❖ Get assistance with technical issues.

❖ Questions will be shared during Q&A session.

❖ Have paper and a pen/pencil handy.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®

- ❖ International Greek-letter non-profit service organization.

- ❖ Founded on January 15, 1908 on the campus of Howard University.

- ❖ Nearly 300,000 members world-wide.

- ❖ Program theme: *Exemplifying Excellence Through Sustainable Service.*

- ❖ Program Target 1: HBCU for Life and Signature Program #CAP[SM]

- ❖ Promote HBCUs.

- ❖ Assist high school students through the college admissions process.
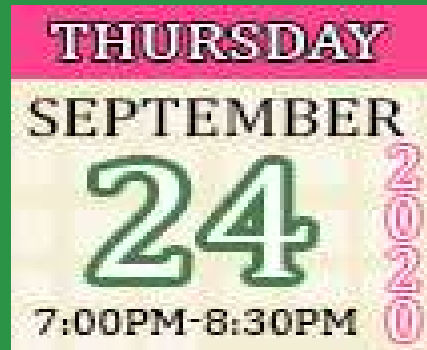
Participating Sorority Chapters (5)

- ❖ Gamma Delta Omega (Portsmouth, VA)
  - ➢ Mrs. Fannie Bullock
  - ➢ Mrs. Liquita James
- ❖ Gamma Gamma Omega (Asheville, NC)
  - ➢ Dr. Kenesha Smith
  - ➢ Mrs. Terry Bellamy
- ❖ Lambda Omega (Newport News, VA)
  - ➢ Mrs. Karen Bazemore-Person
- ❖ Lambda Omega Omega (Monmouth & Ocean Counties, NJ)
  - ➢ Dr. Saundra Jordan
- ❖ Psi Psi Omega (Stafford and Fauquier Counties, VA)
  - ➢ Dr. Christie Murray
  - ➢ Ms. Casandra Chamblis

Upcoming Webinar

GENERAL COLLEGE AND HBCU INFORMATION
for high school juniors and seniors

"I Wish Someone Had Told Me!"

THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER
24
2020
7:00PM-8:30PM

Register at:
https://capcollegeandhbcufacts.eventbrite.com

ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INCORPORATED®
COLLABORATING CHAPTERS

Gamma Delta Omega (Portsmouth, VA)   Lambda Omega (Newport News, VA)
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Agenda

❖ Speaker Introduction
❖ Topics Covered:
    ❖ Readiness Assessment
    ❖ General Guidelines
    ❖ Develop a Plan
    ❖ Develop a Scholar Profile
    ❖ Types of Colleges
    ❖ Choose a Major and College
    ❖ College Application Parts
        ❖ Common App/Common Black College App
        ❖ Official Transcripts
        ❖ Essays
        ❖ Letters of Recommendation
        ❖ SAT/ACT Scores
    ❖ Navigate the College Funding Process
    ❖ Senior Checklist
❖ Closing/Wrap-up (Future Webinar)
❖ Question & Answer

Speaker Introduction

Webinar Based on the Books:

Dr. Christie Murray
Author, National Speaker
Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®
Psi Psi Omega Chapter

College Planning Strategies
To Get Accepted…

1. Assess Your Current Situation
2. Know Your Role
3. Develop and Execute Your Plan
4. Use Your Time Wisely
5. Develop a Scholar Profile
6. Take Both the SAT and ACT Early
7. Research and Visit Colleges
8. Apply to Colleges
9. Navigate the College Funding Process
10. Understand NCAA Requirements

Apply to College
High School Seniors

❖ Important time of the year for seniors and parents.

❖ There is a sense of urgency applying to colleges.

❖ Recommend applying to colleges in the **_FALL_** of senior year.

❖ Strong emphasis on academic performance due to COVID-19.

    ❖ College admissions

    ❖ Merit-based scholarships

    ❖ NCAA Eligibility

College Planning (Strategy 8) - Page 78

Apply to College
Readiness Assessment for Seniors

1. What are your top 5 colleges?
   - What are the admissions requirements for each college?
   - What is the application fee for each college?
   - What is the cost of attendance for each college?

2. What are the top 2 majors you are considering?

3. How do you obtain your official high school transcript?

4. Which colleges require an essay for admissions? And on what topic(s)?

5. Who have you identified to write letters of recommendation?

6. Have you taken (or plan to take) the SAT/ACT?

7. How do you plan to pay for college?

8. True or False. Your social media behavior and online reputation does not matter.

Apply to College
General College Planning Strategies

❖ Use your summers to get ahead.

❖ Start early and manage your time wisely.

❖ Get organized.

    ❖ Create folders for college planning documents.

    ❖ Save account/pw information in a central place.

    ❖ Create a separate email address for college efforts.

❖ Take advantage of online resources.

❖ Be diligent and deliberate.

    ❖ Send via certified mail and/or delivery receipt.

    ❖ Confirm all your info received.

❖ Create a budget.

❖ Develop and execute a college plan.

Apply to College
Senior Checklist

- ❑ Keep your grades up!
- ❑ Develop/update your Scholar Profile
- ❑ Take or re-take the SAT and ACT (if applicable)
- ❑ Select 1-2 college majors or fields of study
- ❑ Select your top colleges (5-10 colleges recommended)
- ❑ Research college requirements
- ❑ Write college essays (if applicable)
- ❑ Request your official high school transcript(s)
- ❑ Request and obtain letters of recommendation
- ❑ Apply to colleges and pay application fees
- ❑ Track college application decision results
- ❑ Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) - online (send results to top 3-5 schools) – October 1st or after
  - ❑ Selective Service sign-up (males 18 and up)
- ❑ Search and apply for scholarships and track decision results

Sample Scholar Profile

John Doe
12345 College Bound Drive
City, State Zip Code
Home: (123) 456-789; Mobile: (123) 911-4111
Email: john.doe@yahoo.com

Objective: To attend XX university and obtain a degree in XX.

Education: **High School:** XX High School, City, State (Graduation: 06/13/20XX)
Current GPA: 3.6; Rank: 29/283
ACT Scores: Composite: 24; English (24); Math (30); Reading (21); Science (20)
College Plan: Hampton University (Accepted on 1/20/20XX)
Enrollment Date: Fall 2018
Intended Degree/Major: Bachelor of XX in XX

Honors and Awards:
- Honor Roll, (20XX - Present)
- National Honor Society Induction, 20XX
- Top Alternate Current/Direct Current Student, (20XX-20XX)

Employment Experience:
- Cashier, McDonalds, City, VA (20XX-20XX)
- Walmart Cashier, City, VA (20XX)

Student Organizations/Extracurricular Activities:
- Student Government Association Class Representative, (20XX-Present)
- National Honor Society, (20XX-Present)
- Future Business Leaders of America Member, (20XX-20XX)

Community Service Activities:
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Adopt a Highway Project, (20XX)
- Volunteered at Galleria Mall on Summer Family Nights, (20XX)
- Volunteered at the XX Community Center, (20XX)

Relevant Courses:
- Algebra II
- Graphics Design I
- Oceanography

Interests/Hobbies:

- Cooking
- Reading

Apply to College
Types of Schools/Colleges

❖ Public college:

  ❖ Primarily funded by a state government.

  ❖ Generally larger than private schools.

  ❖ In-state - students pay in-state tuition

  ❖ Out-of-state – students living out of state likely pay more tuition

❖ Private

  ❖ Often operates as an educational, non-profit organization.

  ❖ Does not receive primary funding from a state government.

  ❖ One tuition rate (whether in-state or out-of-state).

Research and Visit Colleges
Choosing the Right College

❖ Find a college that fits your personality, background, interest and goals.

❖ Consider affordability (the cost of attendance & how much you can pay).

❖ Visit campuses (in-person and virtual tours)

❖ Rank the college factors that are important to you:
  ❖ Courses and degree programs.
  ❖ Location of school from home (especially after COVID-19).
  ❖ Campus size.
  ❖ Ratio of students to teachers.
  ❖ Traditional, distance learning, or blended.

❖ Research colleges and compile a list of college admission requirements & costs. **(Recommend top 5-10 colleges)**

❖ Use an online search tool to help you research colleges
  ❖ www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org
  ❖ www.commonapp.org

Choosing the Right College
Level of Importance - College Selection Factors

Level of Importance	Selection Factors	College A	College B	College C
	Location of college			
	Distance from home			
	College size			
	Class size			
	City or neighborhood			
	Campus culture			
	Campus environment			
	Housing options near campus			
	Program of study			
	Accreditations			
	Annual cost to attend			
	Financial aid options			
	Campus Transportation			

College Planning (Strategy 7) - Page 67

Apply to College
College Application Parts

College Application		Official Transcript		Essays		Letters of Recommendations		Test Scores
	→		→		→		→	

❖ Research colleges to understand requirements (tuition, test scores, majors, etc.)

❖ Ways to apply:

    ❖ Electronically (create an account through a web portal)

    ❖ By mail

❖ College application fee – varies for each college ($35 - $100)

Apply to Colleges
The Common Application (App)
www.commonapp.org

❖ Students can submit one college applications to about 900 colleges.

❖ Create an account/profile and then search colleges.

❖ Research and ***apply*** to multiple colleges through one website portal.

❖ New application opens on August 1st of each year.

❖ Reused when applying for multiple colleges on the site.

❖ Applicants can use the Common App for free.

❖ Each college may have an application fee (varying amounts).

❖ Roughly 45% of participating schools do not charge an application fee.

Apply to College
The Common Black College Application (App)
www.commonblackcollegeapp.com

❖ Students can submit one college applications to about 55 HBCUs.

❖ Create an account and apply to multiple colleges for about $20.

❖ Select your top HBCUs to apply.

❖ Upload your test scores.

❖ Research and apply to multiple colleges through one website.

❖ Reused when applying for multiple colleges on the site.

Robert Mason, Founder

Apply to College
Official Transcripts

❖ Formal copies of a student's official high school academic grades have grades from freshman to junior year.

❖ Know the process to request transcripts and follow it precisely.

❖ Request transcripts at least 10-14 days before deadlines.

❖ Parental permission may be required at your high school prior to requesting transcripts.

❖ Request to have official high school transcripts for all of the colleges you applied to.

❖ Most high schools will either mail or email your official transcripts to colleges.

❖ Double check with the colleges to verify receipt by the deadline, and follow-up with your high school.

Apply to College
Essay Writing Guidance

- ❖ Be yourself and share about a personal experience.

- ❖ Reflect on who you are: strengths, talents, interests.

- ❖ Demonstrate knowledge of college/entity (facts/statistics).

- ❖ Share how you will make a difference.

- ❖ Ask for help (get a mentor).

- ❖ Brainstorm to generate ideas and be creative.

  - ❖ Can save you time.

  - ❖ Write down every idea/thought.

  - ❖ Highlight useful ideas that support the essay topic.

Apply to College
Essay Writing Guidance

❖ Develop a brief outline to organize your thoughts into manageable sections.

  ❖ Introduction (include a thesis statement)

  ❖ Body (three main points)

  ❖ Conclusion

❖ You may pick a topic or instructed to write on a particular topic.

❖ Ten common essay themes include:

Career/Major	Contribution
Challenges	Creativity
Change	Financial need
Character	Leadership
Community Service	Personal Statement

For more guidance: Writing Essay Recorded Video

College Funding (Strategy 8) - Page 103-104

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Apply to College
Letters of Recommendation

- Request letters of recommendation for:
    - College applications
    - Scholarship applications

- Who should you ask for letters?
    - Teachers (establish a rapport during the school year)
    - School Counselors
    - Coaches
    - Employers
    - Community Leaders

- Tailor your ask for the type of college/scholarship application.

- Request multiple copies and ask for generic letters that can be reused.

- Make a list of recommenders that you trust and who will provide a positive reference but keep an ongoing list.

SAT/ACT Fees
2019-2020

Test	Cost	Test Q&A Score	Test Duration	Score Range	Average Test Score
SAT	$52 ($68 with Essay (optional)	$18	3 hrs (+ 50 min for Essay (optional)	400 to 1600	1060
ACT	$52 ($68 with Writing (optional)	$13	2 hrs 55 min (+ 40 min for Writing (optional)	1 -36	21

Register for the SAT: https://www.collegeboard.org/

Register for the ACT: http://www.act.org/

Navigate the Funding Process
The Cost of Attendance

Type of Institution	Average Undergraduate Direct Costs 2017-2018
Public (in state)	$25,290
Public (out of state)	$40,940
Private (non-profit)	$50,900

Source: Average Cost of College in America, 2019 Report

❖ The cost of attendance:

  ❖ Increases each year (inflation)

  ❖ May vary due to COVID-19 impacts and distance learning

❖ Some colleges are more expensive than others.

❖ Go where you can **afford!!**

Navigate the Funding Process
Where to Find Scholarships

❖ Cappex: www.cappex.com/

❖ College Board: www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org

❖ EducationUSA: https://educationusa.state.gov

❖ Fastweb: www.fastweb.com

❖ Niche: www.niche.com/colleges/scholarships/?niche=niche-scholarships

❖ College Scholarships: www.collegescholarships.com

❖ Scholarship.com: www.Scholarships.com

❖ Scholly: www.scholly.com

https://www.investNothers.com/scholarship-list

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Closing Remarks

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Watch Past Webinar Recordings and Videos

Subscribe to Our Channel...

- General College Admissions Process Strategies: https://youtu.be/V-7kf8ZUpp4
- Top Strategies for Taking the SAT/ACT: https://youtu.be/U2x9hIJngao
- College Funding and Scholarship Strategies: https://youtu.be/m03t01O7Sr0
- Writing Essays & Letters of Recommendation: https://youtu.be/KlJ9SvbMVyo

For More Tips and Resources
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Useful Links

- **ACT:** http://www.act.org/

- **Best ACT/SAT Prep**: http://www.reviews.com/act-sat-test-prep-courses/

- **Common App**: www.commonapp.org

- **Common Black College App**: https://commonblackcollegeapp.com/

- **FAFSA**: https://studentaid.ed.gov/

- **Grammarly Proofread Online:** https://www.grammarly.com/

- **Invest N Others LLC:** https://www.investNothers.com

- **SAT:** https://www.collegeboard.org/

Your Feedback Is Important to Us
Complete the Evaluation
Link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZZWX93B

❖ Share your thoughts so we can make improvements.

❖ Click the link in the chat function.

❖ Email will be sent to participants with: the:
  ❖ Evaluation Survey Monkey link
  ❖ Student slides
    ❖ Future webinar dates/registration
    ❖ Scholarship Link
    ❖ Useful Links

Questions & Answers

(Share questions in the Chat Room)