College Application Overview

College Applications:

Students will complete applications and send them directly to each college. This should be done entirely online either through the Common Application (commonapp.org) or the school's website.

Student Responsibilities:

• Complete the Common Application or the individual school applications (not all colleges use the Common Application so make sure you check it out ahead of time).

• Either self-report your test scores or officially send them to each college from the CollegeBoard.org or ACT Student. It is up to the student to determine each of their college's testing requirement. Some schools will ONLY take the results directly from the testing institution. Please keep in mind we **do not have the ability to send your SAT scores for you**.

• Students should look into the individual college requirements to determine whether or not they need letters of recommendation and/or how many. Ask the teacher in person first, then request through Naviance and complete the Senior Brag Packet.

• Complete all of the college supplemental questions through the Common Application

• Submit payment for application fees.

• You must request transcripts through Naviance with ample time in regards to your deadlines. Failure to do so may result in documents not being sent out in a timely manner. For detailed instructions, read further and/or check out our tutorial videos on the website. Go to: DVHS>Guidance Department>Naviance Family Connections

Counselor Responsibilities:

• Counselors will send transcripts, secondary school report, school profile and letters of recommendations to each college as the student requests them through Naviance.

• Counselors will assist with the overall application process – please reach out to your counselor and communicate your questions/concerns.

• Counselors will discuss an appropriate and realistic college list with the student.

The Common Application:

• Create an account with Common Application (only if the schools you are applying to use common app and keep track of your username and password!

• Before you do anything else, make sure to complete the FERPA waiver (which will allow your CA and Naviance account to connect and will enable your college counselor to send your transcript to your colleges.)

To complete the FERPA waiver, follow these instructions:

Ø **Complete the "Education" Section of the Common App**

Ø **Use the Common App tabs to Search and Add schools to your Common App colleges list. Add at least one school now.**

Ø **Under the "My Colleges" tab in Common App click on "Recommenders and FERPA"**

Ø **Click "Release Authorization" and complete (waive your rights) Just need to do this once for all colleges**

Ø **Login to Naviance Family Connection, click on the "Colleges" tab, click on "Colleges I'm Applying To," and select, 'Match Accounts'. Input email address, select 'Match'**

• Throughout the Common Application, make sure you are carefully completing the required information and always double check your grammar.

• Add all of the schools you are applying to the college dashboard of the CA. *Only* the schools who participate in the CA can be listed here. Non CA schools to which you are applying must be added directly to the Naviance "Colleges I'm Applying to" page by you in addition to CA schools.

• Complete all required sections of the CA and the supplements for each school. You cannot submit any application to a CA college until you have completed all initial sections of the CA. A supplement for an individual college may also be required before you may submit an application.

Education Section on Common Application

To enter your **school information** for applications:

• **School Name**: Delaware Valley High School

• **School Code** or CEEB code: **392635**

• **Date of Entry**: 09/2019 (unless you are a transfer)

• **Date of Graduation**: 06/16/2023

• **School Address**: 252 Route 6 and 209 Milford, PA 18337

• **Counselor** Name, email, and phone number as follows:

Ms. Jennifer Cosentino – all Career Tech students jcosentino@dvsd.org (570) 296-1864

Mrs. Crystal Ross (A-F) crystal.ross@dvsd.org (570) 296-1865

Ms. Molly Blaut (G-N) mblaut@dvsd.org (570) 296-1863

Mrs. Jessica Favorito (O-Z) jfavorito@dvsd.org (570) 296-1866

Grades Information on Common Application:

Class Rank Reporting: **see guidance for your class rank**

Rank Weighting: **Weighted**

Graduating Class Size: **287**

Cumulative GPA: **see guidance for your cumulative GPA**

GPA Scale: **4.0**

GPA Weighting: **Weighted**

Before Requesting Transcripts

• Before you do anything, you should have colleges added to the 'colleges I'm applying to' list on Naviance. Please only add schools that you are certain you will be applying to. If there is a school you are unsure about, you can add it to the 'colleges I'm thinking about' list and move it over later on if necessary.

•Do not immediately request a transcript. A transcript should generally be requested after you have actually submitted your application or when you are close to doing so, and indicate this on the "edit" page

• In the 'colleges I'm applying to' list, make any edits necessary by clicking 'edit' on the right. Edits such as 'I'll submit my app' to indicate Common App or not and **'**Application Type' to indicate Regular Decision, Early Action, etc. It is **imperative** that you indicate whether or not you are using the Common App so that the counselor knows which documents need to be sent.

• **Application Type** refers to choosing which decision deadline you will be using: Regular, Early Decision, Early Action, Priority, or Rolling. Make sure each school has the correct application type you are choosing. Once your edits are complete, click 'Save College App' at the bottom.

• Each application type will show a date which should appear in the 'College Deadline' column on your application list. You must be sure that a date appears here, if a date does not appear, the college may not have that application type. **It is your responsibility to make sure the date is correct, by researching the school's application type and correct DEADLINE DATE.**

 ** **Report cards WILL NOT be sent to colleges unless specifically requested by the college or the student. Counselors will only send initial, mid-year, and final transcripts to colleges ****

Instructions for Requesting Transcripts

• When you have submitted your application you may request a transcript be sent to that college. If you are sure you are applying, and you are coming close to a deadline, you may request the transcript at that time. In all cases, see the deadlines below.

• Sign in to your Naviance Student Page (go to: DVHS>Guidance>Naviance Family Connections, and then click on the Naviance Icon) Your Username is your Student ID #. You will need to obtain a temporary password from your counselor and then you can reset it.

• Select the "Colleges" Tab

• Click "Colleges that I'm Applying to"

• Make sure deadlines are correct (i.e. Regular Decision, Early Action, Early Decision etc.)

• **Make sure you indicate correctly how you are applying (Common App OR Directly to Institution)**

• Select the box next to each school you would like to request an initial transcript

• Then, above your list, click 'Request Transcripts' and just select 'initial', then 'request & finish'

• You must do this for every school you apply to whether it is CA or not

If a college does accept the Common Application, but you have decided to submit a "special" fee-waived application (sometimes colleges do this if you go visit in person), indicate that choice in your "Colleges I'm Applying to" in Naviance. Select 'NO' when asked if you are using the Common Application to apply.

Managing Your Applications in Naviance

• Naviance is the primary communication tool among counselors, students and parents, NOT the website you use to apply.

• **Your "'colleges I'm applying to' list must be kept up to date, and include all colleges where you are applying. You must maintain methods of applying with accurate Application Types with the correct deadlines for each.**

• The counselors are notified, through Naviance, when you request your transcripts.

• Neglecting to maintain accurate college lists and failing to make timely transcript requests can result in delays in transmitting your school documents to the colleges.

• Your college list must also reflect a range of acceptance probabilities. We recommend that you apply to at least 2 "Safety schools" where according to their admissions requirements, you are most likely to get in. You can determine Safety, Target and Reach colleges by considering your position on the college's profile (on Naviance). These profiles reflect the recent experience of DV applicants and are generally quite accurate as the number of data points present increases over recent history. You should be consulting with your counselor throughout this selection process.

• **Target** schools are those colleges where you have a range of possibility of acceptance, from quite certain to 50/50. These will also have a range of 'financial' packaging with the best money associated with good probability of success and less generous where the odds are longer.

• **Reach** schools would be those where you have less than an even chance of acceptance up to those where acceptance rates are increasingly small. The most highly selective colleges, the Ivies, some top public universities, are generally rated as reach colleges for even the most highly qualified applicants.

• These assessments begin with your research and are confirmed by Naviance profiles, College Board profiles, and consultation with your counselor.

*Application fee waivers will only be given to those students who have used a waiver for SAT/ACT. The application waiver itself can be found in the students College Board account.

*Also, be sure to check out each individual school's FAFSA deadline. Filing this by the deadline is imperative to receiving your financial aid package. The majority of scholarships, grants, and loans available to you will come through this process. Make sure you go to: **https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa** (there are other "fake" FAFSA websites out there)

You will create a FSA ID and password (one for student and one for parent) …. keep track of this as WE do not have access to any of this information to help you if you lose it! Be sure to fill out the FAFSA for the following school year (in which you will be a freshman). For this year's senior class, it would be the **2022-2023 FAFSA.** For more information on the Financial Aid process, check out our presentation from earlier this year: DVHS>Guidance>Scholarships and Financial Aid

You will be using tax information from **2021** for the **2022-2023** school year. After you file the FAFSA, you will need to complete the state grant form (through PHEAA) and keep in mind that some of the more competitive schools, require you to complete a CSS Profile and/or their own institutional financial aid form. Bottom line: Check out the Financial Aid website of each school you are applying to in order to determine what you need to fill out and by when!

Commonly used admissions terminology

Early Decision: Application type where students apply in early fall of their senior year and are notified by the school in early to mid-December. If the student is accepted, a commitment-to-attend is required along with withdrawal of other college applications. A student can only apply to **one** college under Early Decision, as this is a binding agreement to attend. Not all schools have Early Decision plans. Most common ED deadlines are November 1st, 15th, and December 1st.

Early Action: Similar to early decision in that the application process is done earlier in the year, but the student is not committed to attend the institution if accepted. Student can apply to multiple colleges under Early Action. Most common EA deadlines are November 1st, 15th, and December 1st

Single-Choice Early Action: Used by only a few selective schools. You can only apply to one college early, but the decision is not binding (i.e. Harvard).

Restrictive Early Action: Used by only a few schools. This is non-binding, but these schools do not want the student to apply early decision anywhere else (i.e. Boston College).

Regular Decision: Students apply to the college a bit later in the year with deadlines ranging from December 1st to March 1st. Students generally hear back from the schools in early April.

Rolling Admission: A procedure by which admissions decisions are made on a continuous basis throughout the year. Students are notified within about 3-4 weeks after receipt of completed application. Applying earlier in the year is best under this application type.

Priority: Certain schools have a priority deadline, which is the main deadline students should follow. Students should apply before the priority deadline to give themselves a better chance of housing, financial aid and getting accepted.

Deferred: Students that apply either Early Decision or Early Action, can be accepted, denied, or deferred to the regular admission pools. This means that no final decision has been made and the student's application will be put into the regular decision pool to be reviewed again.

Waitlisted: A response to an applicant indicating that his/her application is acceptable, but the limit of accepted students has already been reached. Wait listed students may be admitted after May 1st, if space becomes available.

Deposits to save a student's spot in the college they plan on attending are usually due by May 1st. These deposits are generally non-refundable and usually cost about $500.