Preparing for the Months Ahead: Junior—Senior Summer

Loomis Chaffee College Guidance Office
June, 2018
JAN-JUNE, 2018

Since January, we have covered a range of topics in our meetings:

• Registering for senior year courses
• Introducing and reviewing standardized testing plans
• Building a list of “Colleges I’m Thinking About” in Naviance
• Researching colleges and how to make the most of the spring college fair
• Requesting recommendation letters from junior year teachers
• Writing a first draft of the college essay
• Introducing merit scholarships and financial aid resources
• Reviewing what students can and should do over the summer months
Where Our Students Should Be by Fall...

In their last college meeting of spring term, each junior was given a handout:

How to make the most of your summer:

- Carefully review your college list after it is grouped by selectivity to determine where you need to focus your college visits, paying particular attention to the “Colleges That Track Interest” list included in your group mailing and available on the Naviance document library.
- Work on your college essay! Send your college counselor drafts (yes, plural!) and she/he will give you feedback.
- Update your counselor on any scores you receive over the summer.
- Identify whether you prefer the SAT or the ACT, and then do test prep. Remember that Method Test Prep (ACT- available through Naviance account) and Khan Academy (SAT) both offer free, personalized test prep.
- Create a Common Application account (commonapp.org) and begin filling it out (using “Tips for Completing the Common Application”). You can fill out the personal/general information beginning anytime this summer, but the school-specific questions/essays will not be available for fall 2017 applicants until after Aug 1.
- If applicable, work on disciplinary disclosure and email your counselor drafts.
- Check LC email over the summer for updates from your counselor.
- Visit colleges, do research and begin to narrow down the list of schools you want to apply to.
- Update your college counselor via email or Skype on your college research and visits. We are here in the summer and available to help you!
- Start to look at the other application requirements of the schools you want to apply to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of School</th>
<th>Deadlines</th>
<th>Required?</th>
<th>Supplement short answer/essay questions</th>
<th>Other application requirements?</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EA</td>
<td>ED</td>
<td>RD</td>
<td>SAT subject tests</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What is “Grouping?”

Grouping is:

• An assessment of the selectivity of a given college based on the past year’s cycle
• An assessment of a student’s admissions profile within that selectivity
• A way to inform future college visiting and research
• Based on relevant and timely data
How and When is Grouping Done?

Grouping is done:

- In June
- By all five LC college counselors
- For the entire junior class and on every junior’s working college list

By reviewing the following:

- Final grades through junior year, including cumulative unweighted GPA
- All testing completed (PSAT, SAT, ACT and/or Subject Tests)
- Factors that can affect admission at certain institutions such as financial need, potential major (i.e. engineering, fine arts) and legacy
- Scattergrams and other data that provide relevant comparisons to former Loomis Chaffee applicants to the same colleges
# Loomis Chaffee Scattergrams: How to Find Them

## Family Connection

### Colleges I'm Thinking About

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Delivery type</th>
<th>Added By</th>
<th>Expected Difficulty*</th>
<th>My Interest</th>
<th>Application Deadlines†</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U of AL Tuscaloosa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bentley Univ</td>
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<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Nov 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Expected Difficulty: N/A (Not Available)  
†Application Deadlines: N/A (Not Available)

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[Image of a college search page on Naviance]

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[Table of colleges with their application deadlines and delivery status]

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[Graph showing data points on a scattergram]
Interpreting a Scattergram

- **Tulane University** (the importance of applying early and demonstrating interest)

- **Colorado College** (Early Decision vs. Regular Decision admit rates)

- **Northwestern University** (the outlier)

- **New York University** (the nuance of program)
Once Grouping is Completed...

• You and your child will receive an email indicating the list has been grouped; additional colleges to consider may have been added and will be noted.

• You will also be mailed a packet that includes:
  • A printout of your child’s current college list by category
  • An unofficial copy of your child’s transcript
  • A list of colleges that track demonstrated interest
  • A description of each category (‘‘likely,’’ ‘‘possible,’’ ‘‘reach,’’ ‘‘far reach’’)
  • ‘‘Tips for Completing the Common Application’’ handout
College Visiting and Interviews

“OK, maybe it would be better if I interview Anne alone.”
College Visits

• Be sure to choose colleges that range in selectivity based on the group list

• In order to prioritize which colleges to visit, check to see if they are on the “Colleges that Track Demonstrated Interest” list

• Some tips:
  • Check the schools’ websites beforehand (Do you have to register for a tour? What times are the information sessions offered? Are interviews available?)
  • Plan to visit a maximum of two schools per day (one in the morning and one in the afternoon). You want to have time to explore the school.
  • Encourage your child to take notes! This will help students remember the differences between schools now and help them write supplements in the fall.
  • Check out the College Visit Tip Sheet for more dos and don’ts!
College Interviews

• While many colleges offer interviews, there are also a number of colleges that do not offer interviews, or only interview students once they have applied to that college when they are seniors.

• The interview can take different forms at different colleges/universities:
  • evaluative or informational
  • in person or via phone or Skype
  • on the college campus or on the Loomis Chaffee campus

• Interviews are conducted by many different college representatives:
  • An alumna/us of the college/university
  • College admission officer
  • Current students at the college/university

• If the interview is highly recommended by the college, make every effort to have one!
“We were originally thinking SAT, but then Noah’s admissions advisor told us left-handed students born on Tuesdays do better on the ACT.”
Testing Completed and Future Testing Plans

• **Some** of our juniors took the SAT and completed their testing in the fall

• **Many** of our juniors took the April ACT and/or the May or June SAT

• **Most** of our juniors will take the **August** SAT, September ACT or the October SAT as seniors
  • Most students tend to peak in the late summer or fall of their senior year!

• Each student developed a testing plan for junior winter/spring with guidance from his/her college counselor. By the end of the junior year, students should have worked with their counselor to determine a plan for the summer months/senior fall (unless testing is complete)

• **Subject tests** – taken by many but not all students
Summer, Not Fall, Test Prep

• It is typically more efficient to prep for ONE of the two tests (SAT or ACT) after getting a baseline during one’s junior spring.

• Options for test prep:
  • ACT: Method Test Prep: FREE online test prep that one can access through his/her Naviance account
  • SAT: Khan Academy: FREE personalized test prep based on a student’s PSAT performance
  • Individual in-person, online, or classroom tutoring (See Testing Resources on LC College Guidance Parent Portal)
  • Prepping on own with a test prep book
Naviance: Testing Resources
"I want to show my colleges I’m well-rounded, so I wrote a poem in Spanish about how chess club has made me a better quarterback."
Common Application Basics

• Students can register anytime and begin to complete the personal sections of the application
• Students should use the “tips” sheet we send to them to help complete each section correctly
• After August 1, the individual colleges will have updated their specific questions/essays for the Class of 2019
• Aside from the Writing section, the Activities section is the most time-consuming, so plan accordingly
• We strongly encourage students to get started on this over the summer
• Common App workshops are offered on campus in late August and early September
CA - Tips Sheet from College Guidance
Common Application Workshops Late Summer/Early Fall

Grades Section
- You should leave the GPA and rank questions in this section blank, since LC does not report GPA or rank.
- LC Class of 2015 size is 186.

Current Year Courses
- You can update this section once you have received your schedule from the Academic Office.
- List LC “Advanced” courses as “Honors” level.
- Term courses are worth 1/3 credit and year-long courses are worth 1 credit.
- Include all term courses for your senior year (fall, winter and spring).
- Students can list up to 10 courses, so in order to save space you may enter a series of term courses (i.e. Introduction to Economics; Microeconomics; Macroeconomics) together as one item and then mark that it is a full year course.

Testing Section
- We encourage you to self-report your best test scores unless applying to a test optional institution.
- Students applying to a test-optional institution should talk to their counselor about whether to report scores.
- Remember to update this section once you have completed all of your testing.
- Remember that you will still need to officially submit your test scores to each college through either College Board or ACT.
- AP scores: report only scores of 4 or 5.
CA - Student Profile
CA - Supplemental Essay Topics

Writing Questions

We would like to get a better sense of you. Please select one of the questions below and write an essay of 400 words or less providing your response.

1. What contemporary issue or trend relating to politics, culture, and society, or foreign policy particularly concerns you and why?

2. Many human beings throughout history have found inspiration and joy in literature and works of art. Is there a book, play, poem, movie, painting, music selection, or photograph that has been especially meaningful to you?

3. Contemporary higher education reflects a tension between preparing for a meaningful life and preparing for a career. What are you looking for in your undergraduate education? Which emphasis is more important to you at this time and why?

4. "Magis," a Latin word meaning "more," is often cited in reference to goals of Jesuit education, which seeks to help students become better, do more, and have as much impact on society as possible. How do you hope to achieve the Magis
"Thank you, but I've already provided for my children's college education."
Financial Aid Summer “To Do’s”

• Review “Checklist for Parents: Applying for Financial Aid”
• Use the Net Price Calculator website from the US Dept. of Education to search for NPCs for the colleges on your list. It will direct you to the NPC webpage for that college.
• Track which schools require the CSS Profile and compile documents need for both the Profile and the FAFSA (available October 1st!)
• Continue to have honest conversations with your students about financial and the cost of college.
Scholarship Summer “To Do’s”

• Review the scholarship database in Naviance to identify any scholarships you might want to apply to.
• Review the college groups in Family Connection that identify colleges with strong financial aid resources.
• Review college admission websites to determine if your prospective colleges have merit scholarship programs. (The deadlines tend to be early.)
• Make sure you are on our email list for monthly FA and scholarship communications!
Follow Us On Facebook!

...And check out our LC College Guidance Parent Portal Pages!
Loomis Chaffee College Guidance Welcomes David Rion...July 2018!