

Welcome 10th & 11th Grade Students and Parents!

October 27, 2022

Agenda

Introduction and Welcome

Mrs. Jeannette Alomia
District Director of
Guidance and Testing, K-12

Guest Speaker and Q&A:

Ms. Laurie Wax
New York Regional Recruiter
Undergraduate Admissions
Penn State University

Counselor Break-Out Sessions:

Locations throughout the building

College Admissions Information Presentation

Huntington High School
10/27/22

Penn State University
Laurie Wax
lwax@psu.edu

Finding the Best Fit College:

- Good Academic Fit
- Type of School (Public, Private Secular, Private Religious Affiliation)
- Distance from home
- Geographic Setting (Rural, Suburban, Urban)
- Size: Small <5,000, Medium 5-10,000,
Large 10-20,000, Very Large 20,000+
- Programs of Study/Majors
- Campus Life/Culture: Athletics, Activities, Residential Life, Greek Life
- Cost/Scholarship Opportunities
- Ethnic and Geographic Diversity
- Special Programs: Co-ops/Internships, Honors College, Study Abroad
- Support Services

Factors Colleges are Considering:

High School Transcript

ACT/SAT Scores/Test Optional

College Essay

Letters of Recommendation

Extracurricular Activities

Special Talents

Demonstrated Interest

Legacy

High School Transcript

GPA: recalculated, weighted and unweighted

Rigor of coursework: AP, IB, Honors

Core courses and course selection (Senior year, too!)

Subject-specific grades

Major prerequisites

State requirements

Standardized Tests

SAT

ACT

“Superscore”

Test Optional

Should I take these tests? How many times? How should I prepare? Are additional materials required for Test Optional Schools?

College Essays

The essay is your opportunity to use your voice to share information about yourself and to tell your story.

Highlight achievements

Share passions

Explain situations

Set yourself apart

Choose a topic that best demonstrates your attributes and positive qualities and supports your strength as an applicant.

Essay Dos and Don'ts

Consider the essay prompt and be sure to answer the question

Stay within the word count

Be positive about yourself and others

Explain anything that is not common knowledge (write out abbreviations)

Do not write about obstacles or flaws that you have not overcome or learned something from

Do not write about anything that might be offensive or demonstrate bias

Proofread, don't just spell check

Supplemental Essays

Some colleges have a supplement to the Common Application and ask for an additional essay. The prompts may be similar to those on the Common Application or they may be very different. Occasionally the essay questions will be unique and designed so that the reader can gain insight into your thought processes. The same essay rules apply.

A common supplemental essay question is “Why this college?” Demonstrate why you are a great fit for this school. Do your research. Go to the website. If possible, visit campus, speak to current students or alumni. Discuss specific academic programs and activities you would take advantage of at that college.

Letters of Recommendation

Choose carefully who writes your letter(s)

Give them plenty of time and make their job as easy as possible. Is there something you would like them to address?

Don't send too many (or too few) letters

Thank the people who helped you!

Opportunity to explain circumstances that are not otherwise expressed in your application

Extracurricular Activities

School & Community Clubs & Sports

Leadership Roles

Community Service

Employment

Family Responsibilities

Special Talents

Demonstrating Interest

Some colleges track interest and others do not. Ask an admissions representative from the specific college you are interested in if they do, but it never hurts to show you are interested!

Ways to demonstrate interest – In-person and/or virtually

- Visit campus or attend virtual events/tours
- Join the mailing list
- Stop by table at a college fair or visit virtual college fair booth
- Meet the admissions counselor when they “visit” your school
- Email the admissions counselor for your area
- Read the emails that are sent to you from that college
- Sign up for an interview if they are offered

Application Process and timeline

Junior Year:

Attend college fairs and information sessions and visits – virtually or in person

Keep track of activities and honors to start writing your resume

Think about who to ask for letters of recommendation and start reaching out

Start to think about/write your essay(s)

Senior Year:

Continue attending fairs, visits and information sessions - virtually or in person

August 1: Common & Coalition Applications becomes available

September: Finalize requests for letters of recommendation and polish your essay(s)

October 1: FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) becomes available

October/November: Early Action and Early Decision Deadlines

January/February: Regular Decision Deadlines

Application Plans

Early Action

Early Decision (ED) and Early Decision II (ED II)

Regular Decision

Rolling Decisions

Questions

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Penn State University

Laurie Wax

lwax@psu.edu

Counselor Break-Out Sessions

Mrs. Alomia - Auditorium

Mrs. Alvayero - Cafeteria A

Ms. Bonilla - Room 110

Mrs. Brunoni - Cafeteria B

Mrs. Hernandez - Room 109

Mr. Lashin - Room 140

Ms. Marcelin - Room 141