

POST-SECONDARY FAQ's

How do I apply to college?

1. Complete an online application through the “Admissions” link on each university’s website or through the Common Application. Submit your application after carefully proofreading and completing all required sections. There is no need to wait for your transcript, test scores, or recommendations to submit your portion of the application.
2. Request your transcript in **Naviance**:
 - **Applying through the Common Application** – Match your Naviance and Common App accounts and complete the FERPA section. Your counselor will upload your transcript with the School Report.
 - **Applying directly to the college/institution** –
 - i. Select “**Colleges**,” then “**Colleges I'm Applying To.**”
 - ii. Select “**Request Transcripts.**”
 - iii. Select the type of transcript you are requesting (“Initial”), select a college from your application list or enter a college name, and then click “**Request and Finish.**” Email your counselor if you need help.
3. **Required for some schools:** Send ACT/SAT test scores directly from your student accounts at act.org/collegeboard.org. Speak with your counselor if you have questions.
4. **Application fee waivers** can be requested in Common App in the “Profile” section.

When should I apply to college?

- Apply ASAP, but completing applications by October 31st ensures you will meet Early Action deadlines to be considered for merit scholarships.
- Applications for many schools are accepted throughout the year, but there are benefits to applying early: Consideration for merit scholarships, reducing stress, early completion of housing applications, assessing options, and applying elsewhere if necessary.

How do I register to take the ACT or retake the SAT?

- **ACT**
 - o Register online at act.org. Fee waivers are available from your counselor upon request.
 - o Visit the website for test dates, locations, test prep, and more.
- **SAT**
 - o Register online at collegeboard.org. Fee waivers are available upon request.
 - o Visit the website for test dates, locations, test prep, and more.

How do I pay for college?

- **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**
 - o The FAFSA application will open by October 1st at studentaid.gov.
 - o This application determines whether or not you qualify for grants, loans, and scholarships and must be completed each year you attend school.
 - o Aid money is limited, so complete the FAFSA as soon as possible.
- **Scholarships**
 - o The majority of scholarships are merit-based and issued directly from the college/university that accepts you. Contact the institution’s Financial Aid Office for additional information.
 - o Log in to **Naviance** and go to “**Colleges**” > “**Scholarships and Money**” to find local/national scholarships that match your profile.

What do I need to know if I want to play sports in college?

- **Visit the NCAA Eligibility Center.**
 - NCAA Division I or Division II college athletes must be academically eligible (16 credits of NCAA-approved courses in English, Social Studies, Science, Math, and World Language). See their [Guide For College-Bound Student Athlete](#) for more information.
 - **DI and DII** student-athletes must register online at eligibilitycenter.org.
 - **DIII** does not offer athletic scholarships. You must be admitted to the school to play.
 - Once registered online, your transcript will be uploaded to your Eligibility Center account.
- **National Association of Interscholastic Athletics (NAIA)**
 - All potential student athletes must register online at play.mynai.org.
 - Entering freshmen must have a 2.3 cumulative GPA OR have two (2) of the following: 970 SAT/18 ACT (NAIA code is 9876), 2.0+ final GPA, and rank in top 50% of the senior class.

Where do I go for help?

- **Representatives from a variety of colleges will be at TFS** to meet with students during the school day. Sign up in Naviance by going to “**Colleges**” > “**College Visits.**”
- **Naviance:** Use your school-issued Naviance account to research colleges, careers, and scholarship opportunities. Access your account from the Apps portal or the “Students” drop-down menu on the TFS website. The “SuperMatch College Search,” and “Scholarship Search” tools are great resources to help you in your planning!
- Make an appointment with your counselor for help completing college applications, applying to FAFSA, using Naviance, registering to retake the SAT/ACT, and post-secondary planning.
- **ISAC:** The IL Student Assistance Commission is a free college planning and financial aid resource. ISAC representative Amber Dixon will be at TFS on Tuesdays from 9:30 am to 11:30 am; sign up to meet with her in the Guidance Office. For additional help, text your first and last name to (847)243-6470, call (800)899-4722, or visit ISAC.org.

How do I receive important announcements from the Guidance Office?

- Check your school email, Schoology, Naviance, and the TF South website regularly for important information and updates!

Cap and Gown Ordering Information:

- Chicago Balfour will begin taking orders the week of October 1st.
- Visit chicagobalfour.com or call (708)418-8400 to place your order.

Save the Date:

- 9/11/26—HBCU College & Career Fair: 9am-12pm at Soldier Field United Club (on your own)
- 9/17/26—Financial Aid Information Session: 6pm-7pm at TF South (Room 117)
- 9/23/26—Infinite Scholars College Scholarship Fair: 9am-1:30 pm at TF South
- 9/26/26—NACAC: National College Fair Chicago: 11am-3pm at Navy Pier (on your own)
- 9/30/26—College, Career, and Transitions Fair: 5pm-7pm at TF South
- 10/6/26—Financial Aid Workshop: 9:30am-11:30am at TF South
- 4/17/27—Prom at The Odyssey in Tinley Park
- 4/28/27—Senior Signing Day: 2:00 pm-3:30 pm at TF South
- 5/11/27—Seniors' last day/Cap and Gown Distribution: 10:30 am-1:30 pm
- 5/17/27—Mandatory graduation rehearsal: 8:45 am-11:00 am (3 tickets per graduate)
- 5/18/27—TF South Graduation: 5:00 pm report time for graduates; 6:00 pm ceremony