

# Applying Your Way into College



*A Guide for Charles Herbert Flowers High  
School Juniors*

*By:*

*Class of 2015 students Adeola Adetayo, Beverly Anaele, Brandon  
Hawkins, and Jenny Ntembe.*

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# And so it begins...

Getting ready for college, that is.

Whether you're certain or uncertain of what you want to major in, you've still made a decision of choosing to apply. And to apply on time.

The summer before your senior year is a great period to work on college applications. It may sound boring, but once you get into your senior year and you're loaded with tons of work, the fact that you've already chosen what colleges you're going to apply to, that you already have a skeleton of your essay, and that you've got your résumé done will make you feel a WHOLE lot better. Doing that college work over the summer was a smart idea.

So, let's get started! 😊

# Common Application



*(Clipart Panda)*

Let's say that you want to apply to ten different schools. You get all excited and all jumpy and elated – until you find out that each of these schools has a different application. Bummer.

That being said, now you have to fill out the same personal information ten times over, then put in your after-school activities ten times over, and let's not even talk about those possible ten different essay topics.

Not appealing, right? Well, thankfully, others thought so as well. That's why they helped make the **Common Application**. With it, you fill out one application, choose from a variety of essay choices, and select participating schools. Once you do, you can then submit your application to all schools – **just make sure to check out their websites first to see if they have specific guidelines for your application** (ex: a college may have a specific word limit for their essay that is lower than the one placed on the Common Application).

The Common Application can be found at the following link: [commonapp.org](http://commonapp.org)

If you wish to use this tool, you must be aware that a new form is opened for your freshman year of college (or any other form of school) on August 1<sup>st</sup>. For example, the 2015-16 Common Application opened on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014. This means, that for juniors of the class of 2015 who were entering a form of higher level education for their freshman year (2015-16), accounts could only be created from August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 – otherwise, you will be making an account for the 2014-15 school year.

Another option you will see on the Common Application as well as with other colleges is to apply under EA or ED.

**EA** stands for Early Action, a non-binding application. Under an Early Action application, you will receive a quicker admission decision and may also be able to acquire merit aid awards

(scholarships) faster than others while they're still available. This means that by the time you're halfway through your senior year, you may already have been accepted to all of the colleges on your list! EA applications are non-binding, so if you get admitted, you still have the option to turn down the offer. However, if you do apply under EA, you have to apply earlier under a set deadline (see the college's website for further details).

**ED** stands for Early Decision, a **binding** application. Under an Early Decision application, you will also receive a quicker admission decision and may also be able to acquire merit aid awards faster than others, but if you get admitted, you **have** to attend that school. This means that you have to turn down all other colleges you've been accepted or were planning on applying to. You should only apply to a college under ED if this is the college you (along with your guardians' input) are set on attending.

There is, additionally, the option to apply under a **regular application**. This is non-binding, and has a later deadline. Most students may apply under this deadline because it gives them more time.

# RÉSUMÉ

Here is one aspect of the application process that you do not want to wait to the last minute to complete. However, if you are like most seniors and procrastination is hitting you hard and you are looking for some quick guide on formatting a résumé ---this section of the booklet is just for you.

Most colleges usually request a résumé along with their application just to get a sense of your high school career and future goals in life. A résumé is also requested when conducting a college interview. This could help to give them a strong view of you and the reason a college would want to have you as a student. Also, the résumé could stand as a memory of you after admission officers have interviewed several other students. Trust me, you are probably not the only person being interviewed that an interviewer speaks to in a week. So how do you make yourself memorable? One way is through your résumé.

The résumé will also be needed when applying for scholarships and a job position. Are you starting to feel the pressure of having a well oriented résumé? Do not worry! In this section, the important aspects of a résumé will be analyzed in two parts.

## #1---The Design

Make your résumé easy to read and nice to the eyes. It shouldn't look disorganized or as if you compiled it during a night of no sleep (even if that's when you *did* make it).

### Try using columns

Section out your résumé into columns if you will. For example:

Charles Herbert Flowers

Springdale, MD

Graduation: 05/2016

**Use appropriate fonts.**

## **#2---The details of the résumé**

You are probably wondering what you should put in your résumé. Well, sections you might want to put in your résumé are an objective, education, experience, and involvement/activities.

In the objective section, you should include a short synopsis of what you have accomplished and your future plans. In the education section you could include the name of any high schools you went to, the years you went there, your un-weighted and weighted GPA, your class rank, your SAT score, and any significant awards you have gotten during your high school experience. The experience section should be an accumulation of any volunteer, internship, or job experience had and for how long. The name of the organization and a short description of what was expected of you during this experience should also be included. This is where bullets come in handy. The involvement/ activities section is just a list of extracurricular activities you participated in during your high school career.

The biggest thing to remember is to use chronological order when using dates and time frame. Also, remember these are just suggestions and the general format for a résumé. Everyone has their own style: some people include important classes they have had while others don't. Some people want to include their SAT score, others do not. You want to include things that will make you look good and make you stand out and be competitive among other applicants. The most important thing to remember is **NCIS**:

**Navigation:** Make your résumé easy to read.

**Clarity:** Use short sentences or phrases most of the time, and let the Thesaurus become one of your best friends when you come to finding action verbs.

**Informational:** Try to shorten your résumé to one page, if possible, utilizing bullet points and descriptions. Include contact information as well.

**Steadiness:** Keep the consistency!

# THE ESSAY

Just at the sound of that line some of you may shrink away, close this booklet, and switch on the T.V. But while you're watching the latest episode of your favorite show, at the corner of your mind will lurk the impending thought that it must be done in order to get into that college of your dreams. There's no escape.

**Don't think about it that way!** After all those years of writing large English papers on one thing or another, now, you get to write about **you**. No matter what question you're asked to address, some aspect of it will require you to express your feelings on a topic, idea, or subject; it may even just say: "talk about yourself."

This is where you get to describe who you are, how you've grown, and where you want to be. Of all the parts of your college application, this section really exposes your character to application reviewers – so use this tool wisely! Colleges have different essay topics (but if you're using the Common Application you can settle for the same one), so **create one general essay and tweak it to fit the different topics**.

That was Tip #1 by the way.



**Tip #2: Get a head start on it.** During the summer before your senior year, sit, jot down ideas, and compose your work. Find an essay topic from a college that you want to apply to that is either on its website or on the Common Application and start working. When you get into your senior year, you may be loaded with work to do, so you don't want to jeopardize your ability to finish your application.

One of the best essays on the Common Application is the following:

*"Some students have a background or story that is so central to their identity that they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story" ("Common App").*

This topic is quite general because you can write about any event in your life that you felt was important to you. Don't solely go searching for the big ones – moments where maybe you had surgery, got in an accident, realized how short life is, and therefore decided to make the most of it by doing what you're

doing now. It's great if you do have one, but for those who either can't seem to remember or just haven't had one, look for the more minor changes. Did you move to a different, house, school, or country at a time in your life? Did you take a class that you feel impacted your life in some way? Were you inspired by an event in history?

**Basically, where are you today, how did you get there, where do you plan on being in the future, and why?** Display your strengths and show your reviewers what you have done; make them want you. Nevertheless, don't get arrogant (please don't say, "Because I'm so awesome, you should accept me").

Please.



**Tip #3: Ensure that your essay addresses all parts of the question.** If the prompt has an "and" in it, make sure you answer the first **and** second part of the question. Try copying and pasting the essay prompt onto the document you're writing on in order to stay focused. Many colleges love creativity, but don't start writing in a Shakespearean tone because you want to seem poetic if that's not how you write (I've done that before). Colleges want to see how well you write.



**Tip #4: Re-read your essays!** Despite the fact that you get to be creative, you don't get to ignore grammar. Go ahead and insert those metaphors, similes, telegraphic sentences, and even start a sentence with "Because," but don't misspell, misplace your quotation marks, or forget the "the " before writing "basketball team."



**Tip #5: Ask someone else to read your essay.** What you've written may make sense to you, but to someone else it may be completely confusing. Remember that your college application reviewer will be "someone else," so you don't want to send in a confusing essay. Your editor can be your friend, parent(s), and (or) English teacher; just find someone who will tell you the whole truth. Remember, though, that you don't have to follow all of the edits made. If the changes alter the point you were trying to express, tell your reviewers that, find a different way to make that change, or just leave it. This is still your essay. Just try to see what point they are trying to make.

# SAT / ACT

## **What is the SAT/ACT?**

The SAT and the ACT, which stands for American College Testing, are standardized tests that show high school achievement and college readiness. Even though colleges look at grades to determine if a student is well suited for their schools, some school grading systems may be faulty in giving high grades to students who are undeserving of them. With that concern in mind, colleges require students planning on attending their schools to take the SAT or the ACT, in order to accurately judge if the student is well prepared for their schools. The subjects of the SAT/ACT are very broad, as almost all the colleges in America use these tests to determine the student's readiness.

## **Why are the SAT and ACT important?**

For the people who are wondering about what the benefits of the SAT/ACT are and why they should matter to you, things are about to be clarified. The SAT/ACT tells what you know and your actual level of college readiness on some school systems. In fact, the SAT/ACT are widely used because they are reliable and legitimate. Both decide the kind of college that you will be able to attend. Each college has a scale for the SAT/ACT scores that they will accept. If you are planning on attending a college, you will find it very useful to look up the SAT/ACT scores that they accept and then work towards obtaining that score. The SAT/ACT are also important because they save you money. They increase your chances of getting scholarship opportunities and some colleges might omit you from taking some college courses based on your scores on the SAT subject tests. The SAT/ACT are the first steps towards upper-level education and career goals. Plan on taking one or both of these tests.

## **When to start preparing for the SAT/ACT**

The earlier you begin preparing for the SAT, the more successful you will be with the tests. The biggest mistake people often make with the SAT/ACT is that they procrastinate when it comes to studying for them, thinking that they have more than enough time before the test date. Senior

year will be here before you know it. The more time you have the more you should study because the more you study, the higher your score is. For juniors who haven't started looking at the SAT/ACT, start as soon as possible! You really do not have time left especially if you plan on taking them several times to improve your score. It's never too early to begin working to secure your future.

### **What is the difference between the SAT and ACT?**

There are several key differences between the SAT and ACT. From the opinions of students who have taken both tests, it is said that the ACT is easier. The ACT is more straightforward than the SAT. The Questions on the ACT are easier to understand but for the SAT, one has to spend time reading the question several times in order to understand it. The writing sections for the ACT, which involves an essay and a writing test, are optional and would not affect your score, but many colleges require that section. There is a science section on the ACT but not on the SAT. The SAT puts stronger emphasis on vocabulary so if you aren't that good with words, the ACT would be a better fit in that aspect. The ACT has more advanced math subjects than the SAT. For example, on the SAT, you will apply Mathematical subjects such as algebra one and geometry, but on the ACT, there will be some trigonometry questions.

### **How to prepare for the SAT/ACT**

There are many resources out there that you should take advantage of and utilize to help you prepare for these tests.

- **The SAT Readiness Program**

The SAT Readiness Program is a system provided by College Board to help prepare students for the test. The program includes free or very affordable online services, print materials, and teacher workshops. The program consist of SAT practice questions and essay prompts that student could use for practice.

- **Take the PSAT/NMSQT**

Taking the PSAT/NMSQT would be very useful to you because it would let you experience what it's like taking the SAT. The score that you get on the test for each of the

sections would also provide you knowledge on what to focus on while you prepare for the actual test.

- **Full length practice on College Board**

College Board provides the practice full length SAT. The test would be very beneficial because it would let you know exactly what to expect on SAT day. It includes all the sections found on the SAT and it is also timed. Another good thing about it is that when it provides your score, you could take the test again and again.

- **Online practice**

There are some websites that you could go on to study. Some of the links are provided below.

- <http://www.4tests.com/sat>
- <http://www.majortests.com/sat/>
- <http://www.actstudent.org/sampletest/>
- [http://www.powerscore.com/sat/help/content\\_practice\\_tests.cfm](http://www.powerscore.com/sat/help/content_practice_tests.cfm)
- <http://www.varsitytutors.com/act-practice-tests>
- <http://preview.tinyurl.com/oyfcw9p> (*Khan Academy; SAT*)
- <http://preview.tinyurl.com/mls974d> (*Number 2; ACT*)
- <http://preview.tinyurl.com/k43wbgw> (*Number 2; SAT*)
- <http://www.4tests.com/act> (*a full-length ACT exam*)
- <http://preview.tinyurl.com/775rs> (*a full-length SAT exam*)
- <http://www.freetestprep.com/> (*Test Prep*)
- <http://www.mhpracticeplus.com/act.php> (*McGraw-Hill; ACT*)
- <http://www.mhpracticeplus.com/sat.php> (*McGraw-Hill; SAT*)
- <http://preview.tinyurl.com/84gmd5e> (*Test Prep*)

Use College Board's website for SAT practice, and the ACT's website for theirs. Check out a library for preparation booklets (the PGCLMS' Largo-Kettering branch has a bunch). Ask seniors or past seniors for their books or study tools. Flowers High School has a SAT Prep class

that you can take; talk to your counselor about it in the beginning of the school year if you don't see it as an option. Get a tutor! Ask for Mr. Jacob Andoh for SAT Tutoring, who tutors after-school at Flowers.

• **Increase your vocabulary**

The SAT/ACT, especially SAT deals a lot with vocabulary. Some things you could do to prepare are to print out the list of SAT/ACT words and prefixes and suffixes for studying.

**What's to expect on the SAT/ACT?**

With the SAT/ACT, timing is everything! You will be given little time to complete each section. Remember not to waste too much time on a question because you would run out of time sooner than you know.

The ACT consists of...

- 75 English questions in 45 minutes
- 60 math questions in 60 minutes
- 40 reading questions in 35 minutes
- 40 science questions in 35 minutes
- One optional essay in 30 minutes

As you may have heard, the SAT is going to change. Here is information on the two different tests:

SAT Tests	
For those testing <b>before March 2016</b>	For those testing <b>during/after March 2016</b>
This SAT will take 3 hours and 45 minutes. It is out of 2400, with each section counting for a minimum of 200 points and a maximum of 800. For every question you get wrong, you lose ¼ of a point. For student produced questions, you don't lose any. Here are the sections:	This SAT will take around 3 hours (and 50 minutes if you're taking the essay). It is out of 1600, with each section counting for a minimum of 400 points and a maximum of 800. The optional essay will give you 2-8 points per three sections. For every question you get wrong on the multiple-choice tests, you do not lose anything. The exam tests the following:

<p>① Writing (includes the essay)</p> <p>② Critical Reading</p> <p>③ Math</p> <p>① <b>The Writing section</b> is always the first aspect you will encounter because one of its components, the essay, is given first. The essay will take 25 minutes to write, and will be based on, what will seem to you, a random, insightful-seeking question. There will be a quote or some sort of statement, and then a question will be posed. You can find essay question examples (prompts) online.</p> <p>② <b>The Critical Reading</b> section will ask you to, well, critically read passages and complete sentences. Excerpts from certain sources will be given, and multiple choice questions based on those excerpts will follow suit.</p> <p>③ <b>The Math</b> section will include multiple choice questions and student-produced questions where you have to write in your answer. Most questions will be based on algebra and functions, while the rest will compose of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Numbers and operations</li> <li>• Geometry and measurement</li> <li>• Data analysis, statistics, and probability” (“Mathematics Section”).</li> </ul>	<p>① Evidence-Based Reading and Writing</p> <p>② An optional essay</p> <p>③ Math</p> <p>① <b>The Evidence-Based Reading and Writing</b> section will consist of questions that display your understanding of the passage, and then ask you to choose the best phrase that acts as evidence to your previous answer. This is called displaying a “command of evidence.”</p> <p>② <b>An optional essay</b> will be given to you. This essay will be 50 minutes long, and will ask you to analyze a document. Bring out your annotating skills! You must then write on how the author makes his or her persuasive argument.</p> <p>③ <b>The Math</b> section will test you on ratios, percentages, linear equations, linear systems, and more.</p> <p>Read more about this in the following link:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://tinyurl.com/nxz8ufu">http://tinyurl.com/nxz8ufu</a></li> </ul>
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### **So what exactly are SAT Subject Tests?**

SAT Subject Tests are sometimes referred to as the SAT II. They are tests that focus on a single subject, and thereby display your skill in that area. Subjects available include U.S. History, Literature, Math Level 1, Math Level 2, and even Modern Hebrew (along with others). Colleges may not ask for these tests as a requirement, but they do show how great you are in whatever subject you take. For some colleges, subject tests scores may cause you to skip an intro college course. Contact your prospective colleges to inquire about the use of SAT Subject Tests.

### **How do I send my scores to colleges?**

For the SAT, you can choose to send your scores to 4 colleges when you're registering for free; but remember, you don't know what your scores are yet! If you want to wait to see what your scores are first, once they come out, log into your College Board account, and you may see a button on the left that says "SAT Scores." Click on "View & Send Scores" on the right, and then choose to "send available scores now." To send a score to a college, you will have to pay \$11.25. You may also mail them, but this takes longer. Check out College Board for more details.

For the ACT, you can also choose to send your scores to 4 colleges when you're taking the test. But you will not get to see your scores before they are sent. You can also send them through a regular report, or a priority report. The regular report costs \$12.00 and the priority report costs \$16.50 (priority report options will be sent faster). You can also send the ACT organization a letter of request, or call them, but with phone calls, you will be charged \$14.50 extra and can only order the priority report.

### **How do I get a fee waiver?**

The SAT and ACT are pretty expensive: the SAT costs \$52.50; the SAT Subject Tests cost \$26; the ACT costs \$38.00 (without writing) and \$54.50 (with writing). Also, if you miss the normal registration deadline, you may have to pay extra (late fee). So fee waivers are helpful.

If you have free or reduced lunch, talk to your counselor about getting a fee waiver and she/he can help you out with that. You will even be able to get a fee waiver if you fit one of these categories:

- Using the National School Lunch Program (NSLP)
- Using a government program that aids low-income families
- If you get public assistance
- If you are an orphan or a state ward
- If you are homeless, live in a foster home, or if your family “[l]ives in federally subsidized public housing” (SAT Fee Waivers).
- If you have a low family income as set by the USDA

Check out your eligibility at:

<https://sat.collegeboard.org/register/sat-fee-waivers>

# RECOMMENDATIONS

## **What are Recommendations?**

Letters of recommendations are letters of accreditation written by an individual who knows about your character and/or your activities. They are used by colleges or other forms of higher level facilities to certify your character, and are sometimes seen as quite decisive in the college review process (depends on the college).

## **Think of Possible Recommenders Early!**

In your junior year you should be thinking about possible recommenders. First muse on your teachers for your core classes (English, Math, and Science), for you may find that such recommenders are specifically asked for from some colleges. Also focus on getting a recommendation from an individual that teaches the profession you wish to embark upon. For instance, if you are an aspiring Music major or you simply love Music and have mentioned this in your application, then attempt to get a recommendation from your Music teacher. Then, begin to think of faculty members (faculty members include teachers and those who are not teachers). As an example, you may think of asking the librarian to be your recommender.

## **When to Ask for Recommendations?**

Ask for recommendations near the end of your junior year, during your summer break, and into the beginning of your senior year. The reason why you should start asking for recommendations so early is so that teachers have the opportunity to create beautiful letters for you during their summer break, so that you have a slimmer chance of being denied because that teacher has already been asked, and so that you can get your recommendations early. Even if you finish your application essay and all the different parts to it, without the recommendation (which is required by many schools), you will not have a complete application; meaning that you cannot receive your admission decision early. Ask early!

## **What to Do after You've Received and Used Your Recommendations**

So you've received and used all your recommendations, but have you thanked your recommenders? The people who spent their time to help you apply to college? The people whose recommendations may have further propelled admission reviewers to accept you? Ask for their favorite candy or treat and/or send them a little "Thank You" card. Showing them your appreciation in this way will make their day.

# REQUESTING TRANSCRIPTS

When trying to get a transcript for a certain college or scholarship you have to be able to answer these four questions:

1. Where should I get it from?
2. How many should I get?
3. Is the college asking for a mailed transcript or an emailed one?
4. Who is the college asking to send recommendations (the school, me, my counselor)?
5. When is the best time to get it?

Always check the college's website first. Sometimes, colleges have specific requests for transcripts, and you don't want to send in the wrong package.

To send a request form you must first go to the guidance office and fill out a transcript form. As soon as you enter the glass door of the guidance office there should be a big table to the left with a lot of papers. One of those papers will say "request form." Be sure you have your school ID# on you just in case you don't know it. The paper asks you for your name, your first period classes, your graduation date, how many transcripts you need, and what colleges you are sending them to. If you would like the school to send the transcripts over, write "Please send to:" and put in the colleges' mailing addresses. If you wish to pick up the transcript yourself, do **not** include the mailing address.

As soon as you're done filling out the information, have the transcript signed by one of your parents, sign it yourself, and give it to whoever is behind the front desk. **Note: Do not pay. Transcript requests are free.**

After that, the process may take some time to complete, which is why **you must send in your transcript request at least 3-4 weeks before the transcript is due to your college.** If you wished to pick up your transcript, come back as often as you can to ask the secretary if your transcripts are ready. She will direct you to a cart that is on her left, and there you will check to see if your name is on a folder. The folders are ordered alphabetically using last names.

Within the folder should be your transcript(s).

Official transcripts cannot be opened so if you're picking it up, do not open them. However, **we advise that you order at least one transcript for yourself that you can then open**, just to see what you'll be sending to colleges and to ensure that the information on it is correct. If you see something wrong, talk to your counselor to hopefully get it changed.

# FINANCIAL AID

Welcome to probably the most important section of the application process, besides the actual application. Financial aid can make and break you. It decides whether or not if you can go to your top college. Some people start worrying about the money once the acceptance letters have been received. I'm sorry to say that is a preconceived notion that should be broken. So, I want you to eliminate that notion out of your mind right now.

In actuality you should start worrying about financial aid during your freshman year of high school. During your freshman year of high school, you should start applying to numerous contests and scholarships. You should also do your research so that when senior year comes, you will know what to do and be stress free. If you have already past your freshman year of high school and you still have not considered financial aid then your behind. To all those looking for financial aid we have provided some information that should give you a jump start.

## **Section#1-FAFSA**

FAFSA stands for The Free Application for Federal Student Aid, and is used to determine the amount of financial aid the government can give you, as well as your EFC (Expected Family Contribution). The EFC is basically the amount of money that the U.S. Department of Education determines that your family will be able to pay for your college education. The FAFSA opens on January 1<sup>st</sup> for the year that will be graduating from high school; so if you're graduating in 2016, on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, the 2016-17 FAFSA will be available. If you make an account earlier than January 1<sup>st</sup>, you will be making an account for the 2015-16 year (which is wrong).

Even if your parents haven't filed their taxes yet, apply for government assistance through the FAFSA, as there is an option where you can state that they "will file." The application is free, so do not use websites that ask you to pay to apply for the FAFSA. Apply early because **"the funding is on a first come basis"** ("What is FAFSA?")! Website: <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>

## **Section#2-CSS Profile and IDOC**

There is another financial tool that some colleges use to determine financial aid. The CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE<sup>®</sup> is used to give non-government awarded financial aid to students. PROFILE reports cost \$25 each and \$16 for additional reports. However, if you come from a low-income family, you will gain a fee waiver. The CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE is conducted by College Board – the same organization that conducts the SAT. In a case where you or your parents have not worked in the mentioned year, you should complete the non-filer document as well as the substitute for the W-2 form. Sign up for your PROFILE at least 2 weeks before the deadline posted on the scholarship or college website.

CSS profile website: <https://student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile>

IDOC (the Institutional Documentation Service) website: <https://idoc.collegeboard.org/idoc/>  
(This website will collect your information from the CSS application).

## **Section#3-Academic and Sport Scholarships**

There are numerous academic and sport scholarships out there – you just need to know where to look. One way to get scholarship information is through your PGCPs email. Numerous educators in your school tend to send scholarship information to that email. Another way is to talk directly to your counselor, believe it or not but they are actually there to help. Another way is to join the scholarship club led by Mrs. Coelho-Tooley. Mrs. Coelho-Tooley will provide you with the information you need to get those scholarships. Three ways she gets the information out there is through her website: <http://mzcoelho.edublogs.org>, the scholarship club Edmodo page (code: zx6zsf), and through her twitter page: [@MrsCTooley](https://twitter.com/MrsCTooley). One other important person to talk to is Mr. Summers (The Scholarship Guru). Mr. Summers has the necessary information to help you find numerous scholarships. We have also included a scholarship list to give you a jumpstart.

## **Section#4-Raise.me**

Raise.me is a new way to earn money for college. With Raise.me, anyone can earn money for college starting from 9th grade based on their achievements in school and life. Grades, after-school activities, community service, and more will help you gain micro-scholarships from

specific colleges on the website. Then, when you submit your scholarship within the provided deadline, you are guaranteed a minimum of that amount when you are accepted into that college (scholarships are distributed among a four-year period. So, if you raise \$16,000 from College-A, you would be getting \$4,000 a year).

Website: <https://www.raise.me/>

### **Section#6-The QuestBridge Program**

Under the QuestBridge Program, you, as a low-income high school senior, will get admitted to and obtain a needed scholarship for a selective college. With this program, you can apply under early applications or regular applications. If you apply under the early application, just like early decision applications, you are bound to that school. Contrastingly, if you apply under the regular applications, you are not. Apply for this program as soon as possible (the deadline is October 13<sup>th</sup>),

All Juniors should apply for their college prep program because they provide you with help getting scholarships and into top rated colleges for free. The application deadline for the college match program is October 13 and the deadline for the college prep program is March 25.

Website: <http://www.questbridge.org/>

## Scholarship List

### \$ **Gates Millennium Scholarship**

“The Gates Millennium Scholars (GMS) Program, funded by a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, was established in 1999 to provide outstanding African American, American Indian/Alaska Native\*, Asian Pacific Islander American\*\*, and Hispanic American students with an opportunity to complete an undergraduate college education in any discipline area of interest. Continuing Gates Millennium Scholars may request funding for a graduate degree program in one of the following discipline areas: computer science, education, engineering, library science, mathematics, public health or science” (“Gates Millennium Scholars Program 2014”).

### \$ **“Beautiful Minds Scholarship**

– minority graduating high school seniors (high school GPA of 3.0 or higher) who are attending school in the US and planning to enroll in a regionally accredited post-secondary institution; essay on the topic "Finding My Purpose."

### \$ **First Things First Scholarship**

- graduating high school seniors who will be the first in their immediate family to attend college, are attending school in the US and plan to enroll in a regionally accredited post-secondary institution, have a high school GPA of 3.0 or higher; essay on the topic "Education as a tool for success."

### \$ **The Dreamer Scholarship**

- [A] current undergraduate majoring in either a Business or Science discipline with a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

Award: \$1,000

Deadline: March 31

### \$ **Jack & Jill of America Foundation**

Contact: <http://www.jackandjillfoundation.org>

Eligibility: High school seniors with a 3.0 GPA who will become and maintain full-time status at an accredited, four year post secondary institution beginning in the fall of the year working toward a bachelor's degree.

Award: \$1,500 - \$2,500

Deadline: May 25

### **\$ Herbert Lehman Scholarship**

Contact: [scholarships@naacpldf.org](mailto:scholarships@naacpldf.org), <http://naacpldf.org/herbert-lehman-education-fund-scholarship>

Eligibility: High school seniors, high school graduates or freshmen currently enrolled in college or university must be planning to attend or currently attending an accredited, four-year college or university; must be of excellent character and be able to present strong academic records, test scores, and personal essays; and must have a demonstrable record of community and school involvement that reveals exceptional leadership potential with a capacity to work well in diverse settings.

Award: \$2,000

Deadline: March 31

### **\$ Minority Geoscience Undergraduate Scholarships**

Contact: (703) 379-2480 or [mpp@agiweb.org](mailto:mpp@agiweb.org), <http://www.agiweb.org/mpp/application.html>

Eligibility: Applicants must be geosciences majors (or a related field) who are US citizens and members of an underrepresented ethnic minority group. Related geosciences fields include geology, geophysics, hydrology, meteorology, physical oceanography, planetary geology, and earth-science education.

Award: Up to \$10,000 per year

Deadline: March 15

### **\$ Kohl's Cares Scholarship Program**

Contact: <http://www.kohlscorporation.com/communityrelations/scholarship/index.asp> \

Eligibility: Must be between the ages of 6 and 18 and not yet a high school graduate. Award: Regional winners will each be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship for post-secondary education.

National winners will each be awarded a total of \$10,000 in scholarships for post-secondary education and Kohl's will donate \$1,000 to a non-profit organization on each winner's behalf.

Deadline: March 15

§ **Maryland PTA Scholarship Fund**

Contact: <http://www.mdpta.org/forms.html>

Eligibility: Applicant must be a high school senior, a high school graduate, or currently enrolled in an accredited college or university with a 2.75 unweighted minimum GPA who plans to pursue a career in education in the public schools of Maryland. Applicant must obtain sponsorship of a Maryland PTA local unit in good standing.

Award: \$500.

Deadline: March 15

§ **Christa McAuliffe Teaching Scholarship**

Contact: <http://www.bcf.org/tabid/248/Default.aspx?sid=7>

Eligibility: Applicant must have resided in Maryland for at least six months and have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher. Must also be a graduating high school senior or a college student enrolled at an accredited Maryland college or university which has an approved teacher education program leading to certification.

Award: \$1,000

Deadline: March 15

§ **The Leonard M. Perryman Communications Scholarship for Racial Ethnic Minority Students**

Contact: Leonard M. Perryman Scholarship Committee, United Methodist Communications Communications Ministry Team, PO Box 320, Nashville, TN 37202-0320

[http://www.umcom.org/site/c.mrLZJ9PFKMG/b.3584835/k.34FF/Leonard\\_M\\_Perryman\\_Communications\\_Scholarship.htm](http://www.umcom.org/site/c.mrLZJ9PFKMG/b.3584835/k.34FF/Leonard_M_Perryman_Communications_Scholarship.htm)

Eligibility: Open to ethnic minority United Methodist undergraduate students who intend to pursue a career in religion journalism through study at an accredited US college or university. Award: \$2500

Deadline: March 15

⌘ **Federal Employee Education and Assistance & Blacks In Government Scholarship Fund**

Contact: <http://www.bignet.org/>

Eligibility: Applicants must be children, stepchildren, or grandchildren of financial BIG (Blacks In Government) members, who have been a member in good standing for at least two consecutive years. Sponsors must have at least three (3) years continual employment.

Applicants to the FEEA/BIG Scholarship Fund will compete based on merit alone.

Applicants must be at least high school seniors planning to enroll in a two- or four-year post-secondary, accredited undergraduate degree program. Applicants must have at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale.

Award: \$1,000

Deadline: March 25

⌘ **Jackie Robinson Foundation Scholarship**

Contact: <http://www.jackierobinson.org/apply/application.php>,  
[scholarships@jackierobinson.org](mailto:scholarships@jackierobinson.org) or 212- 290-8600

Eligibility: Minority graduating high school senior showing leadership potential, demonstrating a dedication to community service, and demonstrating financial need.

Award: up to \$7,500

Deadline: Mar 30

⌘ **The Buick Achievers Scholarship**

Contact: <http://www.buickachievers.com/home> [buickachievers@scholarshipamerica.org](mailto:buickachievers@scholarshipamerica.org) or  
1-800-537- 4180

Eligibility: Be high school seniors or high school graduates who are first-time college students, plan to enroll in full-time undergraduate study at an accredited four-year college or

university, plan to major in a course of study that focuses on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, or Math), demonstrate an interest in pursuing a career in the automotive or related industries using these areas of study, and be US citizens and have permanent residence in the US.

Award: \$2,000 - \$25,000

Deadline: March 31

**\$ US Bank Internet Scholarship:**

Contact: <http://www.usbank.com/student-lending/scholarship.html>

Eligibility: The program is open to current high school graduating seniors and college undergraduates at eligible four-year colleges or universities.

Award: \$1,000

Deadline: March 31

**\$ Janice M. Scott Memorial Scholarship Fund**

Contact: <http://www.usd108.org/Counselor/Janice%20M%20Scott%20Scholarship.htm>

Eligibility: US Citizen or permanent resident of US. High school senior with a GPA of 3.0/4.0 or higher who will matriculate full-time at a US accredited four-year college or university within the fifty states or District of Columbia starting at the beginning of the fall semester or quarter. Student must have demonstrated leadership abilities through participating in community services or other extracurricular activities. Combined adjusted income of the parents cannot exceed \$100,000. Award: \$500 - \$2,500

Deadline: March 31

**\$ Legacy of Life Scholarship**

Contact:

[http://www.beadonor.org/index.php?Itemid=64&id=35&option=com\\_content&task=view](http://www.beadonor.org/index.php?Itemid=64&id=35&option=com_content&task=view)

Eligibility: Entrant must be a senior who both legally resides in AND attends high school in one of the following locations: Virginia (Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William, Stafford, and Fauquier counties and cities of Alexandria, Falls Church, Fairfax, Manassas,

and Manassas Park); Maryland (Montgomery, Prince George's, and Charles counties); and the District of Columbia and intending to enter a college or university following high school.

Award: \$1,000 - \$5,000

Deadline: March 31

§ **LULAC National Scholarship Fund (LNSF)**

Contact: [http://www.lnesc.org/index.asp?Type=B\\_BASIC&SEC=%7b3AEDB506-F425-4E58-B9F6-44867E2FD943%7d](http://www.lnesc.org/index.asp?Type=B_BASIC&SEC=%7b3AEDB506-F425-4E58-B9F6-44867E2FD943%7d)

Eligibility: Applicants must be a US citizen or legal resident and have applied to or be enrolled in a college, university, or graduate school, including 2-year colleges, or vocational schools that lead to an associate's degree.

§ **National Scholastic Achievement Awards**

- GPA of 3.5 or better on a 4.0 scale or equivalent. 29 or higher on the ACT test or 1350 or higher on the SAT test. Honors Awards - GPA of 3.25 or better on a 4.0 scale or equivalent. 23 or higher on the ACT test or 1100 or higher on the SAT test.

General Awards - Grades and academic performance will serve as indicators of potential; however, emphasis may be placed on the individual's motivation, sincerity, and integrity.

Need, community involvement, and leadership activities will also be considered.

Award: \$250 - \$500

Deadline: March 31

§ **Ladies of Imani Scholarship**

Contact: (202) 466-1624 or [ladiesofimani@ladiesofimani.org](mailto:ladiesofimani@ladiesofimani.org) Eligibility: Student must have a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA, submit an essay, and be a graduating high school senior residing in the Washington, DC Metropolitan area.

Award: contact for details

Deadline: April 1

### **§ National Sales Network (NSN) Scholarship Program**

Contact:

[http://www.salesnetwork.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=143&Itemid=83](http://www.salesnetwork.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=143&Itemid=83)

Eligibility: Juniors and/or Seniors with a minimum 2.75 cumulative GPA and minimum 3.0 GPA in major, pursuing a degree at one of the Historically Black Colleges or Universities. Must be enrolled as a full-time student and major in business although all majors will be considered.

Award: \$1,000

Deadline: April 1

### **§ Worldstudio AIGA Scholarships**

Contact: <http://scholarships.worldstudioinc.com/>

Eligibility: Applicants must be citizens of the US or be in possession of a Green Card. Applicants must be pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree in one of the design/arts disciplines listed under —areas of study - and plan to enter a career in the creative professions. Applicants must be matriculated (or planning to matriculate) at accredited colleges and universities in the US and intend on maintaining full-time status for the entire year. Though not a requirement, minority status is a significant factor considered in jury decisions. Students must have at least a 2.0 GPA. Scholarships are only awarded to those students who are in financial need.

Award: \$200 - \$3,000

Deadline: April 1

### **§ AICPA Scholarship for Minority Accounting Students**

Contact: <http://www.aicpa.org/Career/DiversityInitiatives/Pages/smas.aspx>,

[scholarships@aicpa.org](mailto:scholarships@aicpa.org) Eligibility: Student must be an underrepresented minority and must be pursuing an undergraduate or graduate-level degree in an —accounting-related - major and plan to pursue the CPA licensure. Student must maintain an overall and major GPA of at least 3.3 (on a 4.0 scale) and be an AICPA student affiliate member. Student must be a US citizen or permanent resident with some financial need

Award: \$3,000

Deadline: April 1

§ **National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) Scholarship Program**

Contact:

[http://www.noblenational.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=113&Itemid=101](http://www.noblenational.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=113&Itemid=101) (703) 658-1529 or [wleach@noblenatl.org](mailto:wleach@noblenatl.org)

Eligibility: Graduating high school senior interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement or criminal justice.

Award: \$1,500 - \$5,000

Deadline: April 1

§ **The Davis-Putter Scholarship Fund**

Contact: Davis-Putter Scholarship Fund, Post Office Box 7307, New York, NY, 10116-7307, [www.davisputter.org](http://www.davisputter.org)

Eligibility: These need-based scholarships are awarded to students who are able to do academic work at the college or university level and who are active in the progressive movement (active participation in struggles for civil rights, economic justice, international solidarity or other progressive issues). Graduate and undergraduate students and must be enrolled in an accredited school and receiving college credit for the time period covered by their grant. Applicants must be living in the US and planning to enroll in school in the US.

Award: up to \$10,000

Deadline: April 1

§ **Alpha Phi Alpha - Ira Dorsey Scholarship Endowment Fund, Inc.**

Contact: 908-943-8064 or [xal\\_education@apaxal.com](mailto:xal_education@apaxal.com)

Eligibility: Graduating high school males who live within the Greater Washington DC Metropolitan area (VA, DC, MD), possess a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or better on 4.0 scale, and plan to attend a four year college or university.

Award: \$1,500

Deadline: April 8” (*Eduserc*).

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## Web Resources

- fastweb.com
- salliema.com
- collegeboard.com
- wiredscholars.com
- scholarships.com
- collegenet.com
- usnews.com
- laef.org
- <http://www.shmoop.com/college/scholarship-america.html>
- <http://www.eduserc.org/scholarshipslist.pdf>

# Interviews with Seniors

When we asked current (class of 2015) seniors about their college application process, they gave awesome responses. Take a look at what they had to say, and the advice they're giving to you.

1. If you could make two changes or re-do two aspects of your college admission process, what would they be?
  - I would be on time with getting in letters of recommendations. Make sure you apply early – don't wait. For example, go to guidance counselors early and get to know them by the end of your junior year. Get your recommendations early by the end of your junior year or beginning of your senior school year. Take college application material to nearby colleges so as to meet the deadline earlier. Apply to at least one in-state school (they have cheaper tuitions). Get as many fee waivers as you can. Set a goal to apply to four scholarships. Don't block out HBCU's (Historically Black Colleges and Universities).
  
2. What did you find difficult about the process?
  - I found writing the essays difficult.
  - Nothing was difficult; the process was just tedious.
  - Staying organized.
  - Waiting was really hard. It was hard to overcome procrastination.

### 3. How did you stay organized?

- Interestingly enough, a lot of students who were asked this question responded that they did not stay organized. They initially planned to, but over time, they just stopped. One senior mentioned, however, that you all should make sure to keep your motivation.
- Keep a bag full of mails you get from colleges – you’ll need them later. For example, when you have to reject certain colleges, you’ll be able to look back into this bag and find all the forms you need to fill out to notify them that you’re declining their offer. Some colleges, though, don’t give these such forms, so you would have to email or call them.
- I kept a folder on my computer for all things college. In it, I had my essays, my initial and final college lists, scanned copies of my recommendation letters (which I can now easily send out for scholarships and college applications – maybe even when applying for graduate school), scanned copies of my transcripts, and a to-do list with specific dates for my college application process. I also had a table to help me keep organized that looked like this (these deadlines were for early action):

	<b>Application</b>	<b>SAT scores</b>	<b>Transcript</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
<b>College #1</b>	Sent	Sent	---	Waiting	October 3 <sup>rd</sup>
<b>College #2</b>	Sent	Sent	Sent	Sent	December 1 <sup>st</sup>
<b>College #3</b>	sent	Sent	Sent	Sent	November 1 <sup>st</sup>
<b>College #4</b>	Sent	Sent	Sent	Sent	November 15 <sup>th</sup>

Other tables I had (I had a lot of tables) were for college responses and weighing schools against each other based on criteria that were important to me. I would mush them into one table like this:

	Accepted or No?	Deposit	Yearly Expenses	Financial Aid Given	Distance	Diversity Figures	Major /Program	Student: Faculty Ratio
College #1	Accepted !!	--- by May 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2015	- Tuition: --- - Activity Fee: --- - Room: --- - Board: --- - Residential Tech Fee: --- - <b>Total:</b> ---	--- per year  <b>Amount paying:</b> ---	--- h --- min	White: --- Black: --- Hispanic: --- Asian: --- 2+ races: --- Nonresident Alien: ---	--- Pre-med	--- : 1
College #2	Accepted !!	--- And --- for residential al By May 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2015	- Tuition: --- - Activity Fee: --- - Books: --- - Other: --- - Room: --- (cheapest) - Board: --- (cheapest) - <b>Total:</b> ---	--- per year  <b>Amount paying:</b> ---	--- h --- min	White: --- Black: --- Hispanic: --- Asian: --- 2+ races: --- Nonresident Alien: ---	--- Pre-med program	--- : 1

4. When did you begin?

- October.
- July.
- In the beginning of October. Start as early as possible.
- During the summer before my senior year. I even applied to a college before I came back to school.

5. How did you select colleges?

- Pricing was the biggest criteria. I also looked at a college's proximity to home, its size, campus life (is a party school etc.), and diversity.
- I looked at a college's price. I did not want to take out loans. I also searched for colleges that had personal things of interest as well as the level of the school's academics. **I also made sure that the college was accredited** (if the college is not accredited, you will not be able to transfer grades and your degree may not even count)! **I used a website called *Niche*.**

6. Some people are against going to college. In your opinion, is it worth the cost?

- College isn't cut out for everybody. At least give it a try. You can do anything with an education.
- Depending on your major, college is or isn't worth the cost. Go to college for something serious; pick a smart degree that you can do a lot with.
- College is needed; you [may not be able to] get a job without a Masters.

**And don't forget!** You have a Prince George's County Public School Gmail account set up for you (if you don't know what it is, see the librarian). Use it! Counselors and other extremely helpful faculty members send all students scholarship information. You can also use websites such as *Fastweb*, and *Scholarship.com* to help you.

Also, don't forget to meet with the Scholarship Club once a week in Mrs. Coelho-Tooley's room (211 ~ second floor), and join the Edmodo group using this code: zx6zsf. Scholarships are posted frequently.

## Works Cited

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“Write Your Resume.” *The Career Center at Illinois*. The Career Center, n.d. Web. 10. Apr. 2015. <<https://www.careercenter.illinois.edu/students/resume/writing>>.

And to all the class of 2015 seniors who contributed to the interview portion of this booklet.