

College Readiness

For Class of 2016 Students and Parents



Presented by: Arundel High School Counseling Office

Goals for this Evening

- 1. Break down senior year and the college process into milestones
- 2. Identify resources for the college and financial aid search
- 3. Discuss choosing a college, getting accepted into college, and financing college
- 4. Identify resources provided by the school counseling office

Check your graduation requirements

- 4 English
- 4 Math
(Alg I + Geom. + 2 others)
- 3 Sciences
(Biology + 2 lab sciences)
- 3 Social Studies
(US Hist.+ World Hist.+ US Gov.)
- 1 Fine Arts
- .5 Health
- 1 Physical Education
(Fitness for Life + .5 PE Elective)
- Foundations of Tech A & B
- Program Completer
 - 2 same Foreign Language *or*
 - 2 Advanced Tech *or*
 - Career/Technology program
- Total of at least 26 credits
- Passed required HSA's
 - Alg, Bio, Eng 10
 - Score needed for US Gov't

Parking

- Parking forms distributed outside cafeteria during Pride Period each day this week
- Requirements:
 - Senior
 - 2.0 GPA
 - Drivers license
 - No obligations
- \$30 fee due at parking meetings in August
- Questions: Ms. Stickney – Business Manager
 - dstickney@aacps.org

Class Dues

- 2016 class dues are \$60
 - Due to Ms. Lange (E103)
 - Checks payable to “Arundel High School”
- Class Advisor: Mrs. Lange (elange@aacps.org)
- Class Administrator: Mr. Wajek (kwajek@aacps.org)

Assessing Post-Secondary Options

- Work
- Military
- Trades
- Apprenticeship programs
- College (2 year and 4 year)

Selecting an area of interest

- Approximately 80% of students change their major in college
- Students change their major 3 times, on average
 - Takes longer to graduate
 - Increases cost of education
 - 50% choose careers not in their major

(source: National Center for Education Statistics)

Researching Majors and Careers

- [CollegeBoard Big Future](#)
- [O*Net Occupation Database](#)
- [ACT College and Career Planning](#)
- [Holland's Code Quiz](#)
- [Naviance](#) (Talk to your high school counselor for login information)

Family Connections

<http://connection.naviance.com/arundelhs>



Welcome to Family Connection
Nice to see you again! Please log in.

e-mail

password

remember me

[Log in](#)

[forgot your password?](#) [need additional help?](#)

are you new here?
[I'm a guest](#)
[I need to register](#)

Arundel High School
1001 Annapolis Rd
Gambrills MD 21054-1033
p: (410) 674-6500

Arundel High School
Home of the Wildcats!

Family Connection features:

- Periodic emails & notifications regarding scholarships, special opportunities, & more.
- Complete a career interest profiler and explore various careers.
- Generate lists of colleges that may be a good match based on your GPA & test scores.
- See when College Reps will visit Arundel and sign up to attend.
- Request transcripts and track your transcript and recommendation requests.

Two Year vs. Four Year Colleges

Two Year

(e.g. AACCC)

- Associates Degrees and Certificates
- Transfer Agreements
- Lower Cost
- No Entrance Requirements
- Placement Test Required

Four Year

(e.g. University of Maryland)

- Higher Degree Awarded
- Needed for Advanced Graduate Work
- Campus Housing Availability
- SAT/ACT Usually Required

AACC Admissions Process

GETTING STARTED

1

APPLY FOR
ADMISSION

2

PLACEMENT
TESTING

3

MEET WITH
AN ADVISOR

4

REGISTER
FOR CLASSES

5

ATTEND
ORIENTATION

6

PAYMENT



AACC Visits to Arundel

- **March:** General presentation and application completion
- **April:** Accuplacer administration in computer labs
- **May:** Personal Registration Day, individual/family meetings with AACC advisor to register for classes

Your College Options

What is the best fit for you?

- Dream and Target
- GPA, Your Courses, Test Scores
- Cost
- Location
 - Distance from home
 - Urban, Suburban, Rural
- Majors
- Athletics, Greek Life, Religion

CollegeBoard's Big Future

www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org

College Search

Save Selections

Clear All
Selections

SELECT FILTERS

Test Scores & Selectivity

Type of School

Location

Campus & Housing

Majors & Learning
Environment

Sports & Activities

Academic Credit

Paying

Support Services

Diversity

Narrow down your college options by admissions criteria and college characteristics

Tips for the Application Process

- Common Application is accepted by over 500 schools
www.commonapp.org
- Early Decision (binding) vs. Early Action (non-binding)
- College research websites to check out:
 - www.collegeboard.org
 - www.zinch.com
 - www.collegeresults.org

What do colleges consider when they evaluate applicants?

- Academic Record – transcript, which includes current classes, course history, rigor, GPA, and class rank
- Test Scores- ACT or SAT; in some cases SAT II
- Letters of Recommendation (vary by school)
- Essay
- Extra Curricular Activities
 - Leadership
 - Community Service

2015-2016 Common App Essay Prompts

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from failure can be fundamental to later success. Recount an incident or time when you experienced failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you challenged a belief or idea. What prompted you to act? Would you make the same decision again?
4. Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma—anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.
5. Discuss an accomplishment or event, formal or informal, that marked your transition from childhood to adulthood within your culture, community, or family.

250-650 words

College Admission Testing

SAT

- Scoring:
 - 200-800 on each section
- Sections (3)
 - Verbal, Math, Writing
 - Math – through Algebra II
- Total score = 3 sections combined
- Minus $\frac{1}{4}$ point for wrong answers
- Average score = 500 per section
- Redesigned SAT debuts March 2016

ACT

- Scoring:
 - 1-36 on each section
- Sections (4/5)
 - English, Math, Reading, Science Reasoning, Writing (optional)
 - Math includes some pre-calc
- Total score = average of each section score
- No penalty for wrong answers
- Average score = 20-21

How to apply for testing & when?

- Senior year SAT/ACT dates
 - **Dates**
 - **SAT** – Oct., Nov., Dec., Jan., Mar.*, May,* Jun.*
 - **ACT** – Sept., Oct., Dec., Feb., Apr., Jun.
- Registration deadlines are one month before the test date

*The *new* SAT will begin in spring of 2016

Where to apply?

- SAT
 - www.collegeboard.org/sat
- ACT:
 - www.actstudent.org
- *Fee Waivers available for students with financial need (ask your counselor)*

Preparing for College Admission Tests

- Free Online Courses: College Board's SAT Online Course and at ACT.org
- Review your PSAT score report
- ACT/SAT workbooks in school and local library, and available for purchase online and at bookstores
- Test-prep courses through local agencies and AACC
- Question of the Day
 - www.collegeboard.org/sat and www.ACTstudent.org

Financial Aid

FAFSA

- All college-bound students and parents should fill out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) during their senior year
- Available online December 1st at www.fafsa.gov, but cannot be submitted until January 1st
- Submit by February 15th to have best access to available aid
- *Financial Aid Night* will be in November at Arundel High
- Many scholarships can only be submitted if a FAFSA has been completed

Sources of Financial Aid

- Federal government
- State government
- Colleges and universities
- Private foundations
- Employers and private companies
- Professional and service organizations



Home



About Us



PIN Site



StudentAid.gov



Help

SEARCH

English

Español

Get help paying for college

Submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)



New to the FAFSA?

Start A New
FAFSA

Returning User?

- Make a correction
- Add a school
- View your Student Aid Report (SAR), and more...

Login

- Takes **less than 30 minutes** to complete online at <https://fafsa.ed.gov>
- Real-time **help is available** by phone at 1-800-4FED-AID , or via on-line chat
- IRS Data Retrieval Tool **pre-populates tax information**: <http://studentaid.ed.gov/fafsa/filling-out#financial-info>
- Determines families' ability to contribute to cost of attendance

Understanding Student Loans

Federal Loans First:

Understand differences between federal and private loans

<http://StudentAid.ed.gov/types/loans/federal-vs-private>

Borrow Smart:

Free money first; consider accepting less loans than offered

<http://StudentAid.ed.gov/types/loans>

Understand the various repayment plans and other options:

Deferments

Forgiveness/Discharges

Consolidation

Scholarship Resources

- www.zinch.com
- www.fastweb.com
- www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search
- www.arundelscholarships.edublogs.org
- [Maryland Higher Education Commission](#)

12th Grade Action Steps

- **Summer**

- Visit colleges with your senior.
- Help your senior finalize a college list.
- Find out about colleges' actual costs.
- Encourage your senior to get started on applications (including application essay and letter of recommendation request).

Checklist for a Campus Visit

- Meet with an admission counselor
- Verify admission requirements
- Determine actual college costs
- Ask about financial aid opportunities
- Take a campus tour
- Investigate your academic program(s)
- Attend a class
- Talk with students and faculty

12th Grade Action Steps

- **Fall**

- Encourage your child to meet with their school counselor.
- Create a calendar of application deadlines and other important dates.
- Help your child prepare for college admission tests. Many seniors retake college admission tests, such as the SAT and the ACT, in the fall.
- Offer to look over your senior's college applications.
- Help your child find and apply for scholarships (online and through the school counselor).
- Encourage your child to set up college interviews. An interview is a great way to learn more about a college and for a college to learn more about your child.
- Request official transcripts and letters of recommendation.

Requesting Transcripts and Letters of Recommendation

- Official transcripts sent by registrar: Mrs. Sears (ssears@aacps.org)
 1. Enter transcript request into Naviance
 2. Fill out transcript request form and turn in to Mrs. Sears
- Letters of Recommendation
 - Counselor: fill out self-evaluation and turn in to counselor
 - Enter request on Naviance and fill out teacher recommendation request and turn in to teacher.
- Transcript and recommendation forms available on the counseling office website and in the counseling office

12th Grade Action Steps

- **Winter**

- Complete any remaining college applications and follow up with colleges to make sure all pieces of the application have been received.
- Work together to apply for financial aid. Contact the financial aid offices at colleges to find out what forms students must submit to apply for aid. Funds are limited, so the earlier you apply, the better.
- Fill out the FAFSA to apply for aid. Now it's easier than ever to fill out this form because you can automatically transfer your tax information online from the IRS to the FAFSA.
- Learn about college loan options together.

12th Grade Action Steps

- **Spring**
- Help your child process college responses.
- Review financial aid offers together. Your 12th-grader will need your help to read through financial aid award letters and figure out which package works best.
- Help your child complete the paperwork to accept a college's offer of admittance. Once your child has decided which college to attend, he or she will need to accept a college's offer, mail a tuition deposit, and submit other required paperwork.

Questions?

A-Dam – Ms. Heck (hheck@aacps.org)

Dan-Hog – Ms. Bloch (kbloch@aacps.org)

Hoh-Men – Mr. Wilhelm (lwilhelm@aacps.org)

Meo-Scp – Mr. Diggs (asdiggs@aacps.org)

Scq-Z – Mrs. Smith (rsmith2@aacps.org)



Thank you for attending!