

College Counseling Newsletter

October 2017



Year 13: College Application Season

Application Submission

Please log in to Naviance and make sure your list of “Colleges I’m Applying To” is accurate. Check the list of schools *and* application type (Early Action, Early Decision, etc.).

Transcripts

Be sure to hand in transcript request forms for all colleges that require an official transcript as part of the application.

BISC South Loop is responsible for sending the following items to colleges. We do not send ACT/SAT scores.

- Transcript
- Counselor Recommendation
- Teacher Recommendations
- Secondary School Report
- BISC South Loop School Profile

Once you submit your college application(s), you will likely receive information from the college(s) to track your application status online. Please remember that it takes time, sometimes weeks, for colleges to process application materials. BISC South Loop ensures that all materials are sent by the deadline, so please be patient if an item is marked as not yet received; this means the college is still processing the materials. If you receive a notification that an item is missing or you are concerned about this, please email Ms. Silvetti.

Check Your Email

Make sure to check your email often, especially the spam and junk folders, for important notifications from colleges.

Deadlines

Applications: November 1 is a popular deadline for Early Decision, Early Action, and Priority applications. November 15 is another popular deadline for Early Decision and Early Action applications.

Financial Aid: Check with colleges about deadlines for need-based financial aid. All colleges require the **FAFSA** for consideration of need-based financial aid. Some colleges, usually private institutions, require the **CSS Profile**.

Merit Scholarships: Many colleges also offer merit-based scholarships. Decisions are typically based on academic performance and do not require an application for need-based aid. Please keep track of merit scholarship deadlines and requirements at schools to which you are applying.

College Information Sessions

We are holding a series of student and parent college information sessions. Student attendance is compulsory, and parent attendance is highly encouraged. Please mark your calendar.

Year 10: Wednesday, March 7, 8:25 a.m.

Year 11: Tuesday, Feb. 6, 8:25 a.m.

Year 12: Wednesday, Jan. 10, 8:25 a.m.

Upcoming Test Dates

Year 12 Practice ACT on Nov. 8

All Year 12 students will sit a practice ACT at 8:25 a.m. on Wednesday, November 8. Students should bring No. 2 pencils and a calculator.

SAT Test Date on Dec. 2

Register by November 2 [here](#). Our School Code is 140666.

ACT Test Date on Dec. 8

Register by November 3 [here](#). Our School Code is 140666.

College Admission Interview Workshop

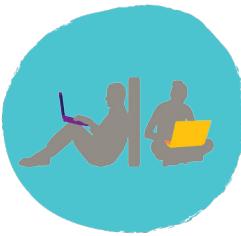
On Monday, October 23, students in Year 12 and 13 participated in the College Admission Interview Workshop. It focused on the skills and knowledge necessary to ace college interviews. For key takeaways from the panel, check out the next page.

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BRITISH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
OF CHICAGO, SOUTH LOOP
A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

6 TIPS FOR College Admission Interviews



KNOW YOUR STUFF

Whether the interview is evaluative or informational, be ready to talk about your high school experience, courses, and plans for college and beyond.



KNOW THEIR STUFF

Do your research. During the interview, you should be able to explain how the college's curriculum, resources, and community are a good fit for you.



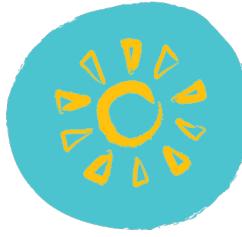
PRACTICE

So, you know your stuff and their stuff. Now practice talking about it with friends or family. They can listen and help you craft clear, genuine statements and answers.



BE AUTHENTIC

Forget what you "think" the interviewer wants to hear. How would you answer the same question if asked by a friend or family member? Be yourself and relax.



STAY COOL

Interviewers may ask questions that seem unrelated to the discussion, e.g. *What flavor ice cream would you be?*. Instead of thinking about why they asked a curve-ball, answer in a way that reflects you.



ASK QUESTIONS

Be prepared with a few questions for the interviewer. What you ask is a reflection of you and your interest in the college. So, be creative. Avoid asking questions you can find the answers to online.