

College Planning Workshop for Parents of Juniors

...



WELCOME!
Please mute your microphone.
We'll get started soon.

We're in this together...

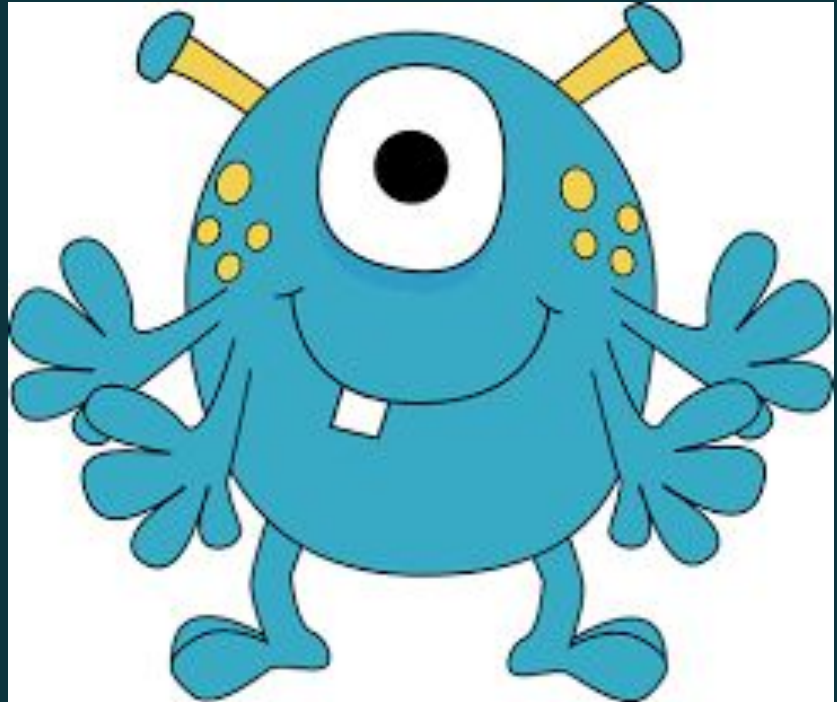
Lara Naughton
lbaughon@nocca.com

College Counselor
Former NOCCA Creative Writing Faculty
Playwright and Author
Compassion and Mindfulness Trainer

The Many Arms of College Planning

Today we'll cover:

- Guiding Principles/Approach
- College Search
- Application
- Financial Aid
- Conversation Starters



Guiding Principles/Approach

Ideally, college planning is
a **student-driven**
family process
supported by the school



Student: intrinsic motivation
Family: positive and active support of student's goals
School: guidance and facilitation of the process

NOCCA's Guiding Principles of College Counseling

- Artists and intellectuals are **vitaly important** in the world.
- College is a **primary path** toward achieving your artistic, educational, and professional goals.
- A career in the arts is a **viable option** and a worthy pursuit.
- Your college and career readiness is a **collaborative and caring endeavor** that involves the entire NOCCA community.
- You have a right to **personalized and equitable support**, resources, and advocacy.
- Your talent, potential, and future are **not defined** by an admissions decision.
- The “best” school is the school that’s **best for you**.

Don't do something to "look good" to colleges.

Be true to yourself and your talent.

That undeniably looks good.

“Where you go does not determine who you’ll be.”

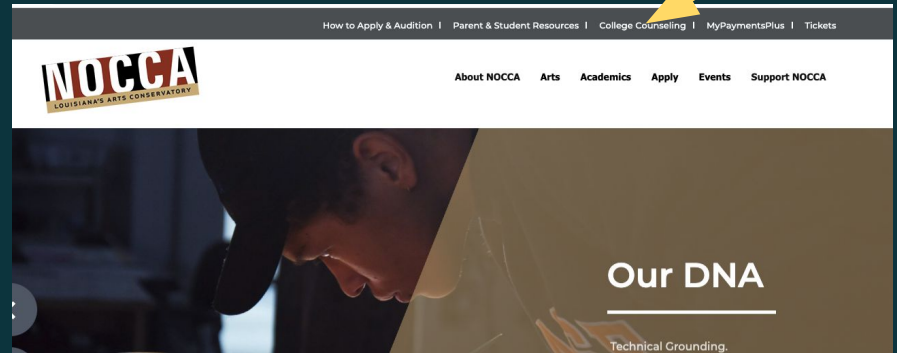
Frank Bruni

Communication

Weekly emails: Upcoming week's events

NOCCA Website: Check out the new College Counseling Page! This lists resources, college visits, and more.

SCOIR: Juniors will register this spring



I'm just an email away: lnaughton@nocca.com

...but Google it first!

The College Search

The College Search

“Why” Before “Where”

It's hard to know *where* to go to college until you're clear about *why* you're going to college. What purpose do you want it to serve? What do you want from your experience? Once you know your *why*, you'll be able to search for schools that will help you fulfill your specific goals and purpose.

Don't Be Fooled By Flash

Flashy websites and college brochures are simply marketing tools. College rankings are unscientific and largely manipulated to create hype. Delve deeper to investigate the arts and academic programs, campus life, and values of the school.

“Because it's a good school” is not enough reason to apply. Why is it a good school *for this student*?

Post-Secondary Options

- **University:** larger institutions with undergraduate and graduate programs
- **College:** smaller institutions that emphasize undergraduate programs
- **Conservatory:** focus on curriculum in the arts
- **HBCU:** historically black college or university
- **PWI:** predominantly white institution
- **Military Academy:** education in a military environment
- **All Women's College:** for students who live and identify as female or non-binary
- **Community College:** two-year school; associate degree or professional certificate
- **Technical College:** two-year school focused on technical career
- **Gap Year/Defer:** year between high school and college
- **Career:** professional job

The College Search

College Websites

Virtual Tours

Virtual Visits

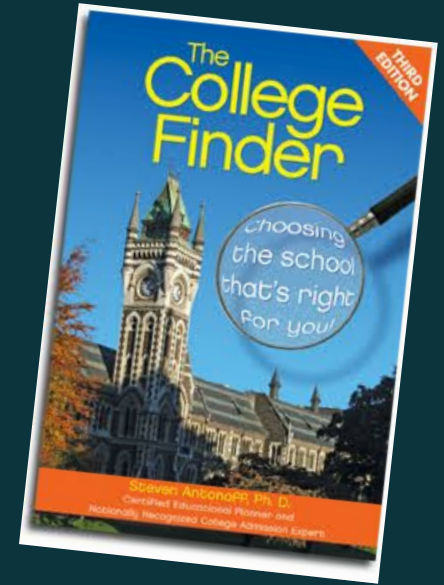
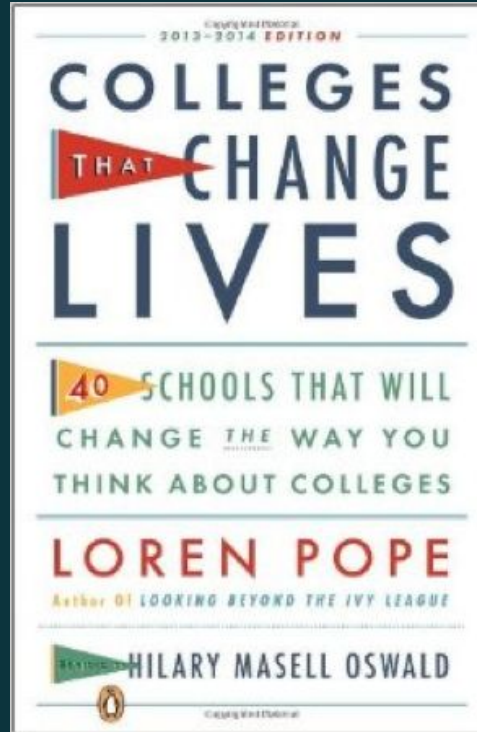
SCOIR

NACAC National

College Fairs: Sept 13,

Oct 12, Oct 18, Nov 8

virtualcollegefairs.org



Finding The Best (for you) School

Arts Academics GPA/ACT Cost Culture Location Other

Reach

Level

Likely

A match is more than “can I get in?”
Is the school a match in all/most areas?

Demonstrated Interest

Attend Virtual Events

Virtual Tour

Virtual College Visit

Virtual Interview

Don't overdo it. This isn't meant to become stressful.

Applying to College

SCOIR

Will allow the student to:

- Organize the process
- Research colleges
- Request transcripts
- Request letters of recommendation
- Message College Counselor
- See upcoming events
- YouScience Aptitude Assessment

Will allow the parent to:

- Follow the student's progress
- Research colleges

(parents are invited onto SCOIR through the student)

SCOIR is used *with* the Common App.

Frequently Used Terms

Common Application: standard application accepted by 900+ schools

GPA: grade point average (4.0 scale)

Weighted GPA: adjusted to give weight to AP/Honors/DE classes (5.0 scale)

TOPS GPA: unweighted; calculated using only core academic courses

Class Rank: academic comparison of students by grades; NOCCA doesn't rank

Test Optional: ACT /SAT score is not required to be considered for admission

No-Loan Schools: Colleges and universities that cover financial aid through grants, scholarships, and work study (no loans)

Net Price Calculator: *Estimates* how much you can expect to pay at that institution after financial aid

Application Deadlines

Early Decision -- binds you to financial aid offer and limits you to this school if they accept you. Are you certain?! Nov application / Dec offer / Instant decision.

***Early Action** -- keeps your options open but gives you plenty of time to choose. Often required for audition-based applications. Nov application / Dec offer / May decision.

Rolling Admission -- admission decision based on when the application is received.

Regular Decision -- puts you in largest pool of applicants. Jan or later application / April offer / May decision.

Parts of an Application

Application Form

Audition/Portfolio (work with arts faculty to prepare)

Essay and Supplemental Essays

Resume (create on SCOIR)

Transcript (sent by school counselors)

ACT Test Scores (sent through online test account; student designates)

Letters of Recommendation (sent by faculty)

Counselor Letter (sent by sending school counselor)

School Profile (sent by school counselors)

FAFSA and CSS Profile (completed by parent/guardian)

Fee Waivers are available for families qualifying for Free/Reduced Lunch

Fee Waivers for ACT, SAT, and college applications

# of People in Family	Total Yearly Income (before taxes)
2	\$31,894
3	\$40,182
4	\$48,470
5	\$56,758
6	\$65,046

Anyone qualifying for USDA National School Lunch Program (free or reduced lunch) or other federal, state, or local aid programs also qualifies for fee waivers.

Some schools have waived the application fee for all students.

The ACT

Academic Studio students are registered by NOCCA

½ Day students: register through high school or ACT website: www.act.org

LOSFA's ACT Code is 1595

NOCCA's School Code (CEEB) is 192109

LOSFA's SAT Code is 9019

In order to be considered for any (Louisiana) LOSFA Financial Aid Programs, including TOPS, then you must enter the appropriate code when you complete your ACT registration! Or call ACT to add the code.

Many (not all) schools are test-optional

ACT score is required for TOPS

TOPS

Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA): www.mylosfa.la.gov

Fully funded for 2020-2021 school year

*2021-2022 funding will be announced in June after LA Legislative Session

	2021 (current Seniors)		2022 (current Juniors)	
	GPA	ACT	GPA	ACT
Honors	3.0	27	3.5	27
Performance	3.0	23	3.25	23
Opportunity	2.5	20	2.5	20

GPA is based on **core academic classes** only (it is NOT the same as NOCCA's GPA)

*ACT Registration: Must include LOSFA Code 1595 and NOCCA School Code 192109

Paying for College

Understanding Financial Aid

- Financial aid is highly personalized
- Financial aid is meant to supplement the cost of college, not pay for college
- The “published price” of a school is rarely what you will pay
- Every school has a Net Price Calculator so you can *estimate* your cost of attending
- Sometimes the most expensive schools offer the most financial aid
- Don't make a decision about a school based on cost until you receive the final financial aid award

Financial Aid Forms

1. **FAFSA Form:** Free Application for Federal Student Aid - this is required for federal and state financial aid. Also required for TOPS. Complete this **every year**.
www.studentaid.gov No \$\$\$ without FAFSA
2. **CSS Profile:** College Scholarship Service Profile - this is required by 400+ schools for institutional aid (beyond federal and state sources).
www.cssprofile.collegeboard.org.

Do you need to complete them both? YES!! Available Oct 1.

Terms to Know

Cost of Attendance (COA): Tuition + Room and Board + Books + Fees

*Pay attention to what the school includes in its **Published Price**; some only list tuition!

Expected Family Contribution (EFC): Amount determined by FAFSA
(fixed amount)

Net Price: What you actually pay

Financial Aid Eligibility

Cost of Attendance (COA)

-minus

Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

=equals

Financial Aid Eligibility

Example: \$50,000 - 5,000 = eligible up to 45,000 per year

TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

Federal Aid (determined by FAFSA)

Institutional Aid (determined by CSS PROFILE)



How to Cover the EFC and Any Unmet Need

1. Pay out of pocket
2. University payment plan
3. Additional parent or student loans

You can also appeal to the school's Financial Aid Office for more aid.

Resources

Great Resources

NOCCA Website: Check out the College Counseling Page

College Websites: tours, program information, application and financial information

Big Future: www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org

Scholarships

Fastweb Scholarship Search: www.fastweb.com

Scholly: www.myscholly.com

Unigo: www.unigo.com

Upcoming College Coffee Hours: Saturdays, 10 a.m.

Oct 3: Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA)

Oct 10: NOCCA Alumni Panel, hosted by Rachel Swan

Oct 24: Compassionate Communication for Parents and Students

Nov 7: Self Care for Parents, with Dr. Laura Cornell

Checklists

Goals

Pace ourselves to get it done

Decrease stress

Increase joy

Decrease indecision

Increase self-reflection

Junior Timeline

Fall 2020

Focus on arts and academics

Reflect on interests

Research schools

Practice for the ACT

Breathe

Spring 2021

Register on SCOIR

Take the ACT

Meet with college counselor

Breathe

Summer 2021

Write college essay

Narrow down list of schools

Prepare portfolio/audition materials

Summer program, job, etc.

Breathe

Fall 2021

Request letters of recommendation

Complete applications

File FAFSA and CSS Profile

Breathe

Junior Checklist

- √ Focus intensively on arts and academics.
- √ Explore colleges (virtual visits, websites, college fairs, campus tours)
- √ Make lists: what interests you; possible schools; questions; goals; requirements and deadlines
- √ Practice for the ACT
- √ Think summer!: Pre-College Programs, Arts Intensives, Internships, Jobs
- √ Ask yourself: If I were to go for it, what is “it”? Then take steps to do it!

Junior Parent Checklist

- √ Stay **encouraging**, optimistic and positive
- √ Help your student **manage their time** and do their best in arts and academics
- √ Have conversations about your **student's goals**
- √ Register for the spring **ACT (½ day students)**
- √ Attend virtual **college visits** and explore college websites
- √ Recognize the **stress is real**
- √ Model **self-care**

Conversation Starters

Conversation Starters

When you imagine your future, what brings you joy?

What are three things about college that have been on your mind?

How do you wish to grow as an artist and intellectual?

How can I support you through this process?



thank you

Lara Naughton

linaughton@nocca.com