

College Planning Workshop for Parents

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WELCOME!

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

We're in this together...

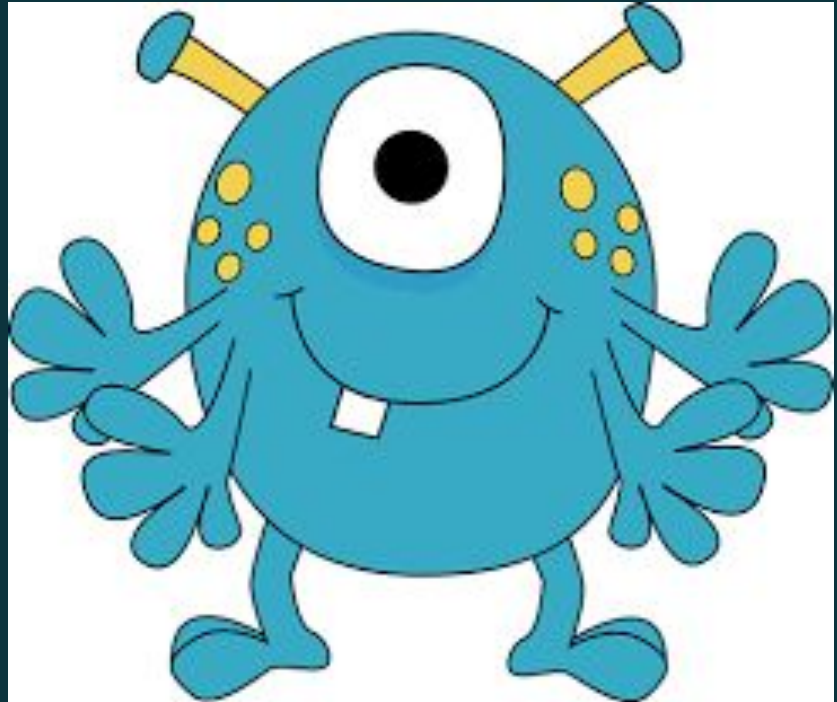
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The Many Arms of College Planning

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**.

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

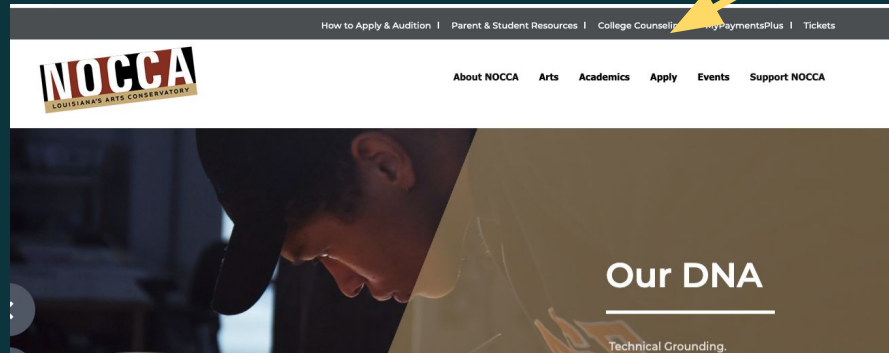
Frank Bruni

Communication

SCOIR: College visits, appointments

Weekly emails: Upcoming week's events

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



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 a student becomes clear about *why* they're going to college.

What purpose do they want it to serve? What do they want from their experience? Once they know their *why*, they'll be able to search for schools that will help them fulfill their 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

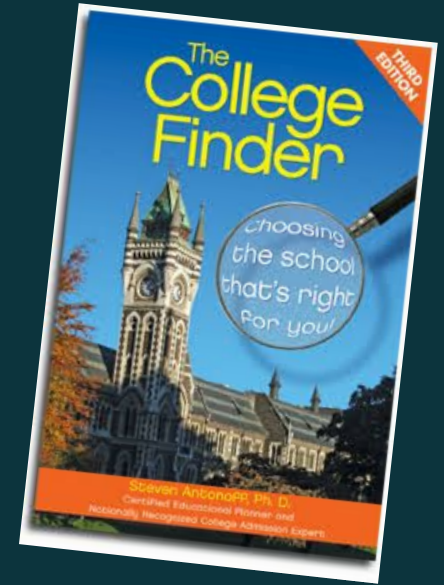
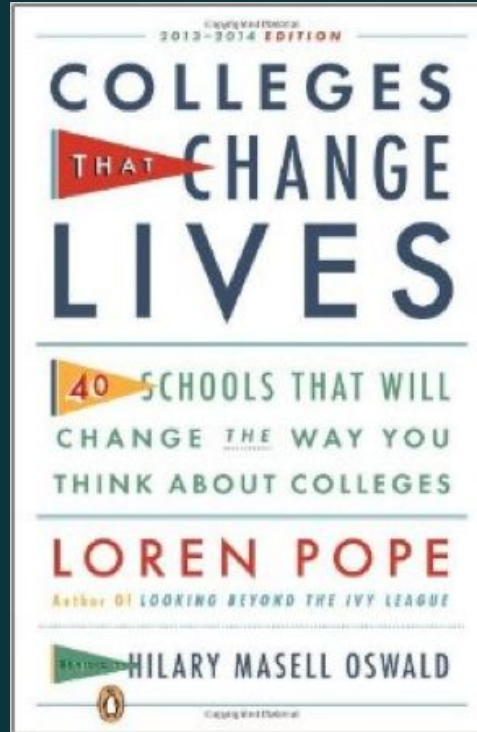
SCOIR

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 my child get in?”
Is the school a match in all/most areas?

Demonstrated Interest

Attend Virtual Events

Virtual Tour

Virtual College Visit

Virtual Interview

Write a genuine and honest “Why (this) college” essay

Apply early (Early Action or Priority Deadline)

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

Applying to College

SCOIR

Allows the student to:

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

Allows the parent to:

- Follow the student's progress
- Research colleges

(parents are invited onto SCOIR through the student)

The use of SCOIR is REQUIRED. It 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.

Common App

apply.commonapp.org

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 for the Oct 6 test

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

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 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.

FAFSA

What you'll need:

- **Social Security Card** - enter your name exactly as it appears on your SS card...even if your name changed!
- **2019 Income Tax Returns** - enter your name/address exactly as it appears on your tax returns...even if you moved!

Note: Financial aid eligibility is based on *prior prior* year income (2018 income as reported in 2019 tax returns)

- **W2's**
- **Bank statements and records of investments**

FAFSA, cont'd

1. Create an account at www.studentaid.gov
2. Your account will generate a **FSA ID**. Make sure you save your username and password somewhere safe because you'll need it!
3. Log in to FAFSA with student's FSA ID to **complete the 7 sections** of the form
Note: The parent to list on the form is the parent who the student lived with the longest in the previous 12 months (even if it's 1 day longer). If parents are divorced or separated, only list the parent in the primary home. If the primary parent is remarried, list both adults in the primary home.
4. FAFSA will generate your **Expected Family Contribution (EFC)**. This amount is what EVERY school will use to determine your financial aid. The EFC is a fixed amount but not necessarily what you will 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 new College Counseling Page!

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

SCOIR: www.scoir.com

Common Application: www.commonapp.org

FAFSA: www.studentaid.gov

CSS Profile: www.cssprofile.collegeboard.org

Big Future: www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org

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

Sept 19: College 101 for Parents of Juniors

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

Student Checklist

- √ **Finalize your college list** and download college applications and financial aid forms. Make sure you have a balanced list of likely, level and reach schools.
- √ **Create a master list or calendar that includes:** ACT test date and fees; College application due dates; Required financial aid application forms and their deadlines; Other materials you'll need (recommendations, transcripts, etc.)
- √ **Create a Common Application** account on Commonapp.org. Review the parts of the application.
- √ **Add your schools on SCOIR**
- √ **Complete the FAFSA and CSS Profile:** To apply for financial aid, complete these forms AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.
- √ **Prepare** applications as soon as possible. Nov. 1 is typically the early action/priority deadline.
- √ **Ask two teachers** for letters of recommendations, and list the teachers on your Common Application.
- √ **Prepare audition and portfolio materials:** Consult faculty for guidance preparing your arts-related materials.
- √ **Write first drafts of essays** and ask teachers and your counselor for feedback.
- √ **Apply to College:** Submit your applications to the schools that you want to attend.
- √ **List all schools where you're applying on SCOIR to ensure your transcript is sent to the proper schools.** Post your schools **at least two weeks** before the application deadline. This is required.

Parent Checklist

- √ Help organize a list of **application deadlines and requirements**
- √ Help your student **manage their time** and stay on track
- √ Fill out **FAFSA** and **CSS Profile** (October 1)
- √ Stay **encouraging**, optimistic and positive
- √ Recognize the **stress is real**
- √ Model **self-care**

Conversation Starters

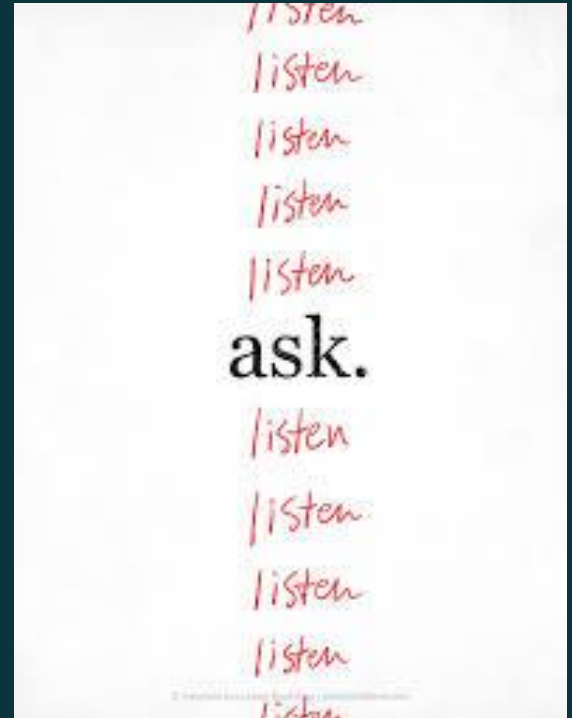
Conversation Starters

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

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