



First Generation College Symposium

Palatine High School
Thursday, September 26, 2019

6:30 – 6:50 p.m.
Cafeteria

“Welcome, Overview, and First Generation Parent Perspective”

1. Welcome and overview: Michael Murphy, College and Career Counselor, HEHS
2. Parent Perspective: Darrell Young
(HEHS Parent of an Old Dominion University student)

6:50 – 7:15 p.m.
Cafeteria

“Session 1”- Financial Aid Overview

Presented by: Dada Ibrahimovic, Illinois Student Assistance Commission

7:15 - 7:20 p.m.

Break

7:20 - 7:40 p.m.

“Session 2” – Grade Level Presentations

Select one of the following sessions:

1. **Class of 2022 & Class of 2023** - Identifying College Prep Courses
Presented by: Megan Wajda, Elmhurst College
Room 388-390
2. **Class of 2021**- Timeline of College Related Events
Presented by J.C. Brown, College and Career Counselor, CHS
Cafeteria
3. **Class of 2020**- College Application Process
Presented by: Emily Marr, University of Illinois at Chicago
Room 191-193

7:45 – 8:05 p.m.

8:10 – 8:30 p.m.

“Session 3” – What are the Benefits of Going to this Type of School?

3 workshops simultaneously at 2 different times

Select two of the following three:

1. Large University

Presented by: Emily Marr, University of Illinois at Chicago
Room 191-193

2. Small University

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3. Community College

Presented by: J.C. Brown, College and Career Counselor, CHS
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D211 FIRST GENERATION COLLEGE SYMPOSIUM

Making the Most of a College Fair Questions to Ask University Admissions Representatives

1. What are your admission requirements? Do you require applicants to have taken World Language courses or a Fine Arts course in order to be admitted?
2. What is the average GPA and ACT/SAT of an admitted student? Do you have an automatic admission policy based on GPA or ACT/SAT?
3. Is the admission application also used for university awarded scholarships or is there a separate application that I need to complete?
4. How does the university show a commitment to diversity?
5. What is the freshman to sophomore year retention rate?
6. Describe any programs you have in place for first year students.
7. What is the total cost of attendance?
8. What is the average loan amount for graduates?

The Financial Aid Process



1

Sources of Financial Aid

- Financial aid comes from a variety of sources

**Federal
Government**

**State
Government**

**College
(Institutional Aid)**

**Outside/
Private
Sources**

2

The Big Grants

- Maximum award amounts for 2019-20



MAP Grant
Up to \$5,340 (est.)

Pell Grant
Up to \$6,195

- Total = \$11,535

U.S. Department of Education



Federal Grant Program	2019-2020 Award
Federal Pell Grant	up to \$6,195
Iraq & Afghanistan Service Grant	up to \$5,829
TEACH Grant	up to \$3,764
Campus-Based Program	2019-2020 Award
Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)	\$100-\$4,000
Federal Work-Study	Colleges determine annual minimum or maximum amounts

Federal Work-Study



- It is a need-based employment program that provides on- and off-campus jobs to students.

A completed FAFSA is required

It is a campus-based financial aid program; funds are limited and available only at participating postsecondary institutions

Priority deadlines may apply

Compensation is at least the current federal minimum wage

A student must earn these funds

2020-2021 FAFSA

WHEN

- As soon as possible after October 1st (First day to submit FAFSA)

WHO

- High school seniors and college students
- U.S. citizens and eligible non-citizens

HOW

- Available on-line at www.fafsa.gov

WHY

- Determine eligibility for federal and state aid programs
- Some institutions use it to award institutional aid

Information Needed for the FAFSA

What information is needed?

- **Social Security Number** – Be sure it is correct!
- **Alien Registration Number** – if not a U.S. citizen.
- **Records of income** – 2018 Federal Income Tax Return (1040, 1040A, or 1040EZ), W-2s, other records of income earned from work, business, child support paid or received, and any other untaxed income.
- **Information about assets** – Savings, certificates of deposit, stock options, bonds, 529 plans and other college savings programs, and investment real estate, business, and farms
- **An FSA ID to sign electronically**

Note: A student must report parental information until the age of 24 unless they meet the criteria to file as an independent student as determined by the FAFSA.

Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID)

- The FSA ID is your electronic signature for the FAFSA
- Students and parents must each have their own FSA ID
- You will need your FSA ID to renew the FAFSA every year
- **Note:** Parents who do not have a Social Security Number cannot obtain an FSA ID but can print a signature page instead

FSA ID Requirements

- Username
- Password
 - Uppercase letters
 - Lowercase letters
 - Numbers
 - Special Characters
- Challenge questions

Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

- A need analysis formula established by Congress determines a student's **Expected Family Contribution** using information reported on the FAFSA.

What?	Why?	Where?
The amount a family can be expected to contribute in one academic year	Used to determine a student's eligibility for most federal and state aid programs	Shown on the Student Aid Report (SAR)

Financial Aid Awards

- The financial aid administrator at the college will package all available aid and send an award offer for consideration.
- Use ISAC's Financial Aid Comparison Worksheet at: **studentportal.isac.org/finaid** to make an informed decision.

- | | |
|--|---|
| • What is the total cost of attendance? | • What is the Expected Family Contribution? |
| • What is a student's financial aid eligibility? | • What types of financial aid are included? |
| • Was financial need met? | • What is the out-of-pocket cost? |

ISAC College Q & A

- Questions about financial aid?
 - Illinois Student Assistance Commission:
 - 800.899.4722
 - www.isac.org
 - isac.studentservices@Illinois.gov
 - Text with our experts!

(847) 243-6470

Harper District ISAC Rep: Dada.Ibrahimovic@Illinois.gov



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D211 FAFSA Completion Workshops

- Conant High School
 - *Thursday, October 3rd, 6:30 – 8:30 pm*
- Schaumburg High School
 - *Saturday, October 5th, 10:00 – 12:00*
- Hoffman Estates High School
 - *Wednesday, October 9th, 11:00 – 1:00 & 6:00 – 8:00 pm*
- Palatine High School
 - *Monday, October 28th, 10:00 – 1:45 & 6:00 – 8:00 pm*

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“Session 2”

Grade Level Presentations

7:20 – 7:40pm

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College Prep Course Selection Current Freshmen & Sophomores

Academic Area	District 211 Graduation Requirements*	Community College, Career Programs & Vocational Schools	4 Year Colleges & Universities	Highly Selective Colleges & Universities
English	4 years	4 years	4 years; emphasis on written and oral communication and literature	4 years
Math	3 years including a 300 level course	2 years	3 years; Algebra, Geometry, Algebra 2 and Trigonometry	4 years; recommended through Calculus
Science (laboratory sciences)	2 years	2 years	3 years; recommended core areas: Biology, Chemistry and Physics	4 years; recommended core areas: Biology, Chemistry and Physics
Social Studies	2 years: US History and Social Science Survey or an equivalent	2 years	3 years; emphasis on history and government (requirement varies)	3 to 4 years
World Language	1 year or 1 year Vocational Education/Fine Arts	None required	2 years**highly recommended	2 years required; 3 to 4 years highly recommended
Vocational Education or Fine Arts	1 year or 1 year World Language	None required	2 years**; may include courses from Applied Technology, Art, Business Education, Family and Consumer Science and Music	1 year recommended

** World language preparation may be recommended or required by colleges or universities. State-supported universities in Illinois may accept vocational education or fine arts courses in lieu of foreign language. Check with a counselor for details.

College Path Checklist

Junior Year

- ☐ Consider what courses you should take your senior year to strengthen your transcript/application
- ☐ Take college admissions exams (ACT, SAT)
- ☐ Attend College Fair
 - ☐ D211 College Night
 - ☐ Chicago NACAC College Fair at Navy Pier
- ☐ Meet with your counselor in the Fall to begin the college search process
 - ☐ Narrow your list of schools to research based on:
 - ☐ Distance
 - ☐ Size
 - ☐ Setting
 - ☐ Intended Major
 - ☐ Admission requirements
- ☐ Attend visits by college admissions representatives that visit your school
- ☐ Explore college websites
- ☐ Visit college campuses
 - ☐ Take a campus tour
 - ☐ Sit in on a class or lecture
 - ☐ Attend an admissions information session
- ☐ Meet with your counselor again in the Spring to fill in the gaps

Summer before Senior Year

- ☐ Continue college visits
- ☐ Ask friends about their first year of college
- ☐ Read literature that is being sent from colleges and universities
- ☐ Prepare for college admissions tests (SAT, ACT) if you need to retake them
- ☐ Adjust your senior year schedule based on research conducted (some schools require a year of Fine Arts)

Senior Year

- ☐ Retake ACT or SAT if Needed
- ☐ Meet with your counselor early and often
- ☐ Identify which colleges need essays and letters of recommendation
- ☐ Fill out the appropriate paperwork before asking teachers and counselors for letters of recommendation
- ☐ Work on required essays and personal statements
- ☐ Apply to Colleges
 - ☐ Send in the required documents
 - ☐ Transcripts
 - ☐ Application fees
 - ☐ Personal statements
 - ☐ Letters of recommendation
 - ☐ ACT/SAT scores
- ☐ Continue to visit college campuses
- ☐ Investigate scholarships that may be available at the colleges you have applied to
- ☐ Research local scholarships that are offered and apply to all where you meet the criteria
- ☐ Fill out the FAFSA as soon as possible once October 1st has passed
- ☐ Continue to research local and private scholarship opportunities
- ☐ Compare Award Letters that you receive from colleges you have been admitted to so that the true cost of attendance can be determined
- ☐ Visit college campuses one final time
- ☐ Select your college by May 1st
- ☐ Send in necessary deposits to the school you have elected to attend
- ☐ Notify other schools that admitted you of your decision
- ☐ Notify your counselor where you have decided to attend
- ☐ Send in your final high school transcripts to show you have graduated

Application Tips

- Submit applications electronically
- Follow Instructions:
 - *Submit ALL required documentation*
 - Do the test scores have to come directly from the testing agency?
 - Are letters of recommendation REQUIRED?
 - *Submit only the required number of letters*
 - *Give letter writer two weeks to complete the task*
 - *Complete the appropriate recommendation request form*
 - Answer the essay/personal statement prompt
 - *Adhere to word limit*
 - *Transcripts*
 - Submit electronically through Parchment
 - Self-Reporting your transcript ... Be HONEST
- Meet ALL deadlines
 - *Do not wait until the last minute*
 - *Prepare for technical issues*

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Advantages of Attending a Large University

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- Less expensive
- More diverse student populations
- Variety of academic programs
- Extracurricular involvement opportunities
 - You can always make a big school small, but you cannot make a small school bigger ...
- Amazing student resources, i.e. rec centers
- Research opportunities
- School spirit surrounding athletic teams

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Advantages of Attending a Small College

- Small class sizes – discussion vs. lecture
 - *How do you learn best? Interactive vs. Passive learning, participation vs. observation*
- Attention from Faculty, including one on one time
 - *Research opportunities*
 - *Mentorship*
 - *Professors vs. graduate assistants*
- Easier to get involved on campus
 - *Average student on campus of >15,000 involved in 1 activity*
 - *Average student on campus of <3,000 involved in 5 activities*
- Higher Graduation Rates
 - *Six year grad rate is 65% vs. 58%*

Community College

- Affordable Tuition ...
- Scholarship & Resource Rich
- Undecided on a College Major ...
- Not quite ready to live on your own ...
- Fresh Start
 - *Improve academic record*
- Partnerships with 4 year colleges
 - *Guaranteed transfer admission pathways*

