



# College Application Process

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August 30, 2017



# Five Steps to the Application Process

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- Make final list of colleges
- Determine your timeline
- Complete Naviance sections
- Complete and submit applications
  - Nuts and Bolts Booklet
- Send scores from testing agency
  - No scores on OPRF transcripts



# Make a Final List

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- Apply to 6-8 schools
- Assess selectivity
  - Safety, Match, Reach
  - Scattergrams: five years OPRF data
  - Reminder: OPRF does not rank its students



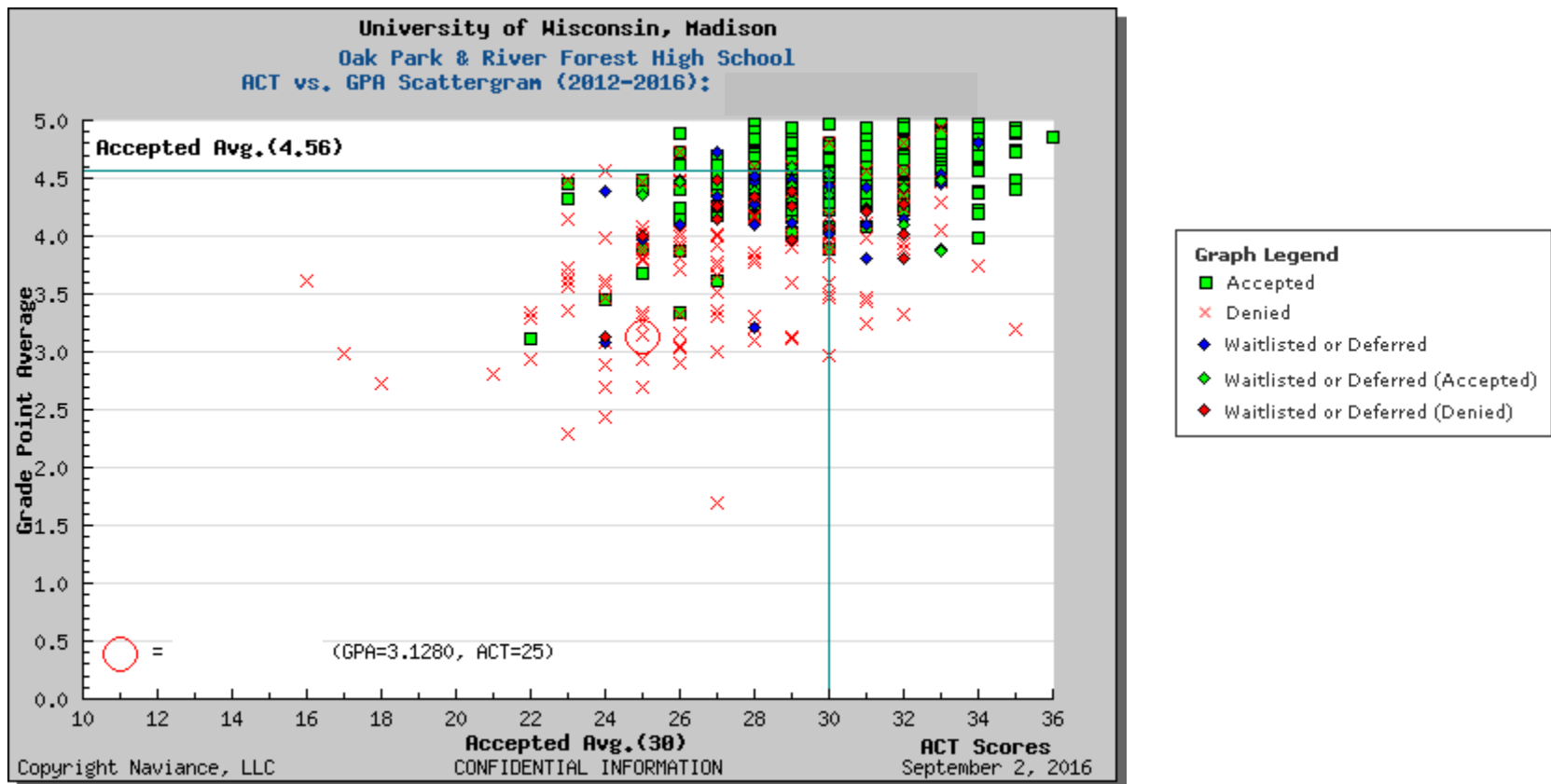
# Senior Year Testing

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- Colleges determine score reporting rules
  - Superscore vs Highest Composite Score
- SAT – October 7, 2017 (Deadline 9/8) or November 4, 2017 (Deadline 10/5);  
[www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)
- ACT – October 28, 2017 (Deadline 9/22);  
[www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)
- Test Score Optional: More than 900 Colleges don't require standardized tests for admission  
[www.fairtest.org](http://www.fairtest.org)

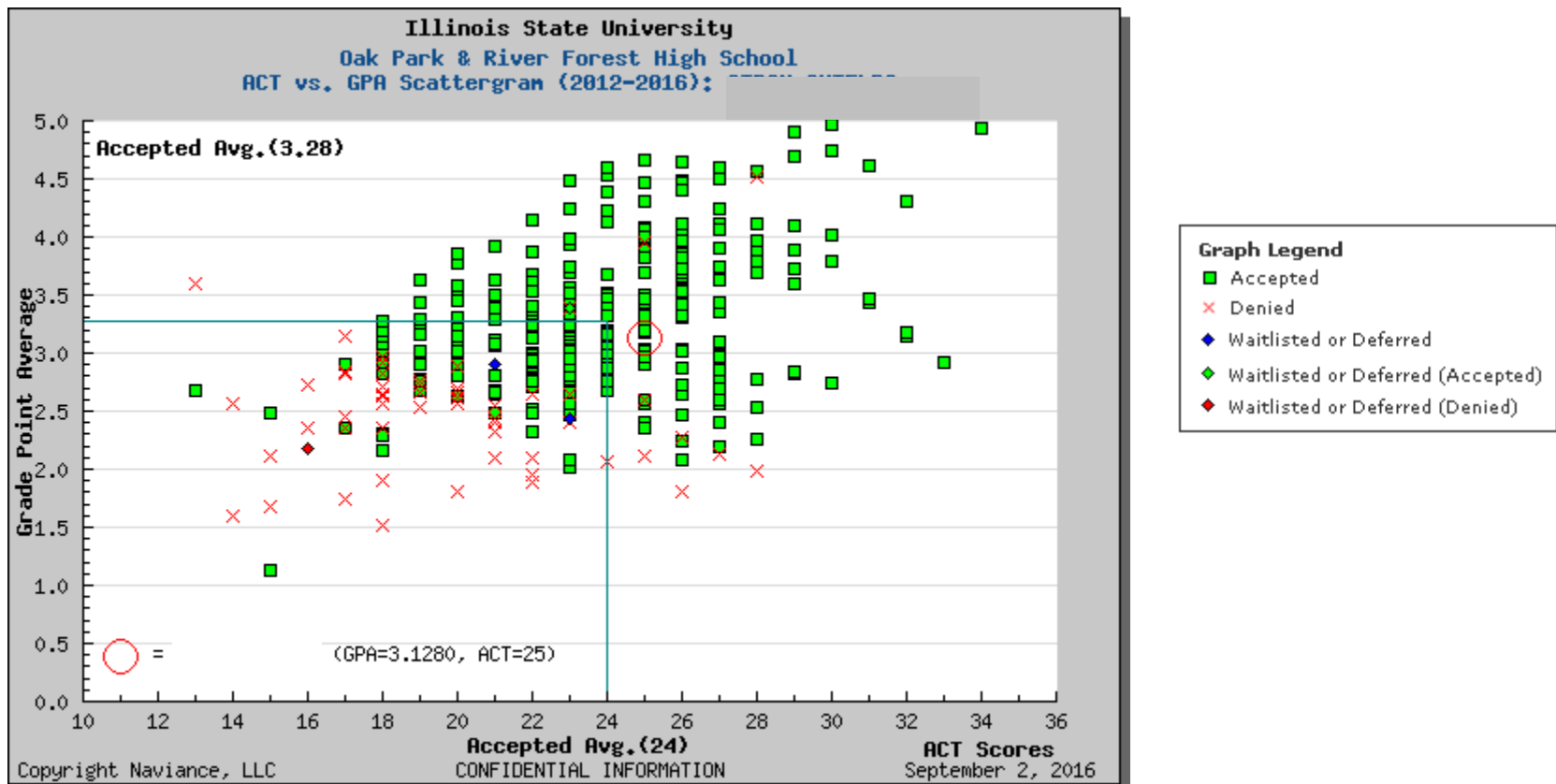
# OPRF Applicant, Top 50%

## U of Wisconsin - Madison



# OPRF Applicant, Top 50%

## Illinois State University





# College Fairs

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- NACAC College Fair
  - October 14, 2017, McCormick Place, 11 AM – 3 PM
  - Pre-register online at [www.gotomyncf.com](http://www.gotomyncf.com)
- NACAC Performing and Visual Arts College Fair
  - October 3, 2017, UIC Forum, 6:30 PM – 9 PM
- 100 Black Men of Chicago College Scholarship Fair
  - October 7, 2017, UIC Pavilion, 8 AM – 5 PM
- CHOICES for Students with Disabilities
  - October 25, 2017, Glenbrook North High School, 6 PM – 9 PM
- Gap Year Fair
  - TBA (January 2018), New Trier High School



# What Colleges Seek

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- Academic Rigor
- Grades – Upward Trend
- Competent Writing Ability
- Test Scores (Commensurate with Achievement)
- Student's Demonstrated Interest
- Degree of Involvement
- Evidence of Growth (Academic and Personal)
- Impact in Classroom (Teacher Recommendations)



# *Remind* Notifications for College Callers

- To receive weekly **text message notifications** regarding the College Callers schedule, send the following text message:

College Callers would like you to join  
College Callers OPRFHS!



To receive messages via text, text  
**@7bc68h** to **81010**. You can opt-out  
of messages at anytime by replying,  
'unsubscribe @7bc68h'.

Trouble using 81010? Try texting  
**@7bc68h** to (630) 755-3351  
instead.



\*Standard text message rates apply.



# *Remind* Notifications for College Callers

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- To receive weekly **email notifications** regarding the College Callers schedule:

Or to receive messages via email, send an email to [7bc68h@mail.remind.com](mailto:7bc68h@mail.remind.com). To unsubscribe, reply with 'unsubscribe' in the subject line.



New message

Recipients [7bc68h@mailremind.com](mailto:7bc68h@mailremind.com)

Subject *(You can leave the subject blank)*



# Determine Your Timeline

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- Know what you need to do:  
Recommendations? Activities Chart?  
Essays? Mid-Year reports? Interviews?  
Audition? Portfolio?
- Plan when you will do it
- Adhere to admission deadlines



# Essay Writing Tips

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- Answer the question asked
- Have someone proofread your essay
- Check grammar, spelling, and typing
- Keep copies of all essays
- Authentic voice is key
- Essay Writing Workshop:  
September 13, 2017, 7 PM



# Recommendations

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- Colleges prefer confidential recommendations
- College deadlines control the processing timeline
- Colleges determine permissible number of letters
- We need a minimum of 15 working days processing time
- We welcome early submission of materials



# Recommendations (continued)

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- Students must ask the teacher/counselor personally — make no assumptions
- After speaking personally to teacher, request teacher letter through Naviance
  - Common App online requires online submission
  - Student chooses which teacher for which college
  - Teachers will see exact date and time of request
- Allow teacher/counselor at least **15 working days** to complete letter
- Students will see when letters are submitted

# Teacher Letter Status

This is an image **connection** [home](#) [courses](#) [colleges](#) [careers](#) [about me](#) [my planner](#)

Letters of recommendation

## Your requests

You can track the most recent status of your teacher recommendation requests here.

Showing 17 requests [Add Request](#)

Recommendation For ▾	Deadline ⇅	Recommender(s)	Status ⓘ	Cancel Request
Bates College 2 required / 3 allowed / 3 requested	Jan 01, 2017		<div style="background-color: #333; color: white; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>Letter of Recommendation Statuses:</b></p> <p>✉ <b>Requested:</b> Student has requested a letter of recommendation</p> <p>📄 <b>In Progress:</b> Teacher has written the letter of recommendation</p> <p>🚀 <b>Submitted:</b> High school faculty member has sent letter of recommendation to designated college(s)</p> <p>✖ <b>Cancelled:</b> Either the student, teacher, or counselor has cancelled the request</p> </div>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
George Mason University 2 required / 2 allowed / 2 requested	Dec 01, 2016			<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising - Orange County 2 required / 3 allowed / 3 requested	Jan 01, 2017			<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
St. Lawrence University 2 required / 3 allowed / 2 requested	Jan 01, 2017	Virginia Dean Cheryl Rostad	Requested In Progress	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>



# Athletics

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- Division I and II, student-athletes must register with NCAA
- [www.ncaa.org/eligibilitycenter](http://www.ncaa.org/eligibilitycenter)
- Register after April 1, 2017 (Junior Year); review completed registration in autumn 2017 (Senior Year)
- ACT/SAT scores must be sent directly to the Eligibility Center (Code 9999)





# OPRF Processing Status in Naviance

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- Check current OPRF application processing status in Naviance
- Colleges often send postcards or emails indicating that a transcript has not been received when there is a processing backlog **at the college**
- Please first confirm with a college that it has processed all received transcripts before asking secretaries; repeated inquires to secretaries slow rather than speed processing



# OPRF Processing Deadlines

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## **Deadlines**

- November 1
- November 15
- December 1
- January 1 and 15

## **Materials Due**

- Friday, October 6, 2017
- Friday, October 20, 2017
- Friday, November 3, 2017
- Monday, November 27, 2017

Transcript requests and application materials received after November 27<sup>th</sup> will be processed after Winter Break.



# Submitting Common Apps.

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- Naviance linked to Common App submission
  - Students must match Common App in Naviance before school materials can be sent [see Nuts & Bolts handout]
  - Names, DOB, and email address must match
- All information submitted electronically
- Add [appsupport@commonapp.net](mailto:appsupport@commonapp.net) to contacts list.
- Mid-Year Report sent electronically after first semester; final transcript sent to one college



# Common Application Trends

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- Discipline Self-Reporting Expected
  - OPRF counselors do not report discipline infractions
  - Colleges can compel a student to release discipline record as a condition of admissions decision
- New members: Missouri, Oregon, W. Mich
- Procrastination adds to system crashes
  - College Board Survey: 31% write essays on eve of deadline – not wise
- No double deposits or senioritis



# Types of Admissions: When Will They Let You Know?

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- Regular – Specific deadline (January 1<sup>st</sup>)
  - Admission decision in April
- Rolling – Apply anytime
  - Admission decision in 4-6 weeks
- Early Action- Early deadline (November 1<sup>st</sup>)
  - Admission decision in December
- Early Decision –Early deadline (November 1<sup>st</sup>)
  - Admission decision in December
  - Binding agreement--Must attend



# Enrollment Decisions

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- Accepted
- Denied
- Deferred
  - Put into the regular pool from an early action/decision program
- Wait-Listed
  - May be admitted after May 1st
- May 1<sup>st</sup> : your decision due to college



# Other Routes to Admission

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- Eastern IL University: Gateway Program
- Northeastern IL University: Project Success
- Western IL University: Academic Services
- Southern IL University: Academic Success Center
- Marquette University: Frontier Program
- Triton College: Transfer to four-year university
- Parkland: Pathway to Illinois



# Financial Aid Websites/Forms

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- FAFSA accepted after October 1, 2017
  - [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
- CSS Profile: accepted after October 1, 2017
  - [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)
- Fastweb: [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
- Financial Aid Shopping Sheet
  - Standardized template from US Department of Education and Consumer Financial Protection Bureau lays out total cost of attendance, grants and scholarships offered, and net costs
  - Voluntary participation from colleges





# Financial Aid Information

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- OPRF Financial Aid Night: October 4, 2017, 7 PM
- OPRF Website and Naviance for scholarships
- Local scholarship apps due February 2018
- Don't assume private colleges cost more
- Parents/Students:
  - Define affordability
  - Select a Financial Safety School



# Alternatives to College

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- Gap Year
- AmeriCorps NCCC
- Military Service
- Gainful Employment



# Five Things for Parents to Remember

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- The process is not about you
- Ensure that students make college appointments, phone calls, and emails
- Never complete any portion of the college application, even if it is “just busywork”
- Prepare children for disappointment but also new opportunity
- There is no “One and Only”



# Five Things a Parent Can Do to Help

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- Relax. Parents can fuel student anxiety
- Allow students to drive the process
  - Rite of Passage
  - Students should seek appropriate college choices
- Ensure applicants meet all deadlines
  - October 6, 2017: OPRF Priority Admission Processing Deadline
  - November 27, 2017: College Sweatshirt Day
- Communicate: financial parameters and realistic options
- Exude: confidence and openness