

Frequently Asked Questions

GENERAL

Q: What is the CEEB code for Chaparral?

A: 030397

Q: How do I send my transcripts?

A: All Official transcripts are sent through Naviance, whether electronic or paper. Add college(s) to your list on Naviance under the “colleges I’m applying to” and click Request Transcript box.

Q: How do I receive college credit from my Dual Enrollment classes?

A: You will need to request your transcript from Scottsdale Community College to the college you are attending. Information can be found [here](#).

Q: What grading scale does Chaparral use?

A: 5.0 scale. On the transcript, your GPA will show the weighted and unweighted GPA.

SAT/ACT

Q: How do I sign up for the SATs/ACT? How do I send my SAT or ACT scores?

A: To register for the tests and to send scores, go to: www.collegeboard.org for SAT and www.act.org for ACT

Q: When should I take the SAT/ACT?

A: Most students should take either test for the first time in the Fall of your junior year. If you are in AP classes, the best time to take the SAT Subject Tests would be in May when you are studying for the AP exams.

Q: Should I take the SAT or ACT? Which is better for college admissions?

A: This is by far the most common question we are asked related to standardized exams. The truth is it does not matter. Truly. We have spoken to dozens of college admissions officers and there is not a preference nor is there one that will help gain an edge in admissions. It’s simply the scores.

Q: Should I retake the test (SAT or ACT)?

A: Students often ask us how many times the optimal number is. The most we recommend is 3 attempts. After that, it appears to us and to admissions officers that you are taking the test too many times and should focus your energy on switching tests, your activities, and your grades.

COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

Q: When should I start applying to colleges?

A: You may start filling out many of your college applications in the summer before senior year. Some schools have their applications available as early as July 1st. There are over 400 colleges and universities that now accept the Common Application which comes out August 1st. The goal is to complete the majority of your applications by fall break.

Q: How many colleges should I apply to?

A: We recommend applying to a manageable list of diverse colleges. The standard thinking is: **reach** colleges, **target** colleges, and **safety** colleges.

Think before you apply to more than ten colleges. It's probably not necessary and could be a waste of effort. With college applications, quality is better than quantity. You must complete each section of an application carefully, and admission officers can tell if you're not serious about their school. In fact, they look for students who seem to really want to go to their school.

Q: Tips on writing an effective college essay?

A: Based on information we hear from college admission counselors that visit Chaparral, they recommend: first and foremost, answer the essay question, talk about yourself on the personal statement, authenticity (they can instantly spot if your parent has written the essay which will automatically be put in the deny stack), be sure you state the correct college in the essay – Ohio State does not want to see Michigan on the essay, and proof, proof, proof. Click [here](#) for more suggestions.

Q: How do I request letters of recommendations?

A: In late August, seniors are given a College Portfolio envelope with information from their counselors. You must ask your counselor and teachers to write your recommendation at least 3 weeks prior to the due date. When asking counselors for letters of recommendation, you will need to make sure you have returned College Portfolio envelope. You should also update the list of colleges you are applying to in your Naviance account prior to asking for rec letters. Important: you must notify your counselor and teachers if you apply to a college after the initial requests. Naviance does not send notices of added applications.

COLLEGE INTERVIEWS

Q: What kind of questions will they ask me during an interview?

A: Here are some tips: [12 Questions You Should Be Ready to Answer in Your Interview.](#)

NCAA/NAIA

Q: Do I have all the necessary courses to be NCAA eligible?

A: Please refer to the NCAA [Eligibility Center Resources](#) page. If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Kunitzer, Guidance Counselor/NCAA, at kkunitzer@susd.org.

Q: How do I register with the NCAA or NAIA Eligibility Centers if I want to play sports in college?

A: Go to the Eligibility Center to get registered with the NCAA. Those students who are planning to play at the Division 1 or 2 level needs to register preferably at the end of junior year.

FINANCIAL AID (FASFA & SCHOLARSHIPS)

Q: How can I get help filling out the FAFSA application (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)?

A: Each year we have a financial aid officer from one of the state universities do a presentation on how to fill out the FAFSA form, usually at the end of September. The presenter will go through the FAFSA, offer tips and answer any questions you may have.

Q: How can I find out how much it will really cost to attend an individual college?

A: Every college is required to have a [Net Price Calculator](#) on their website. The estimate is pretty accurate, based on the information you enter.

Q: I didn't get a lot of financial aid from my college. How else can I get money?

A: Merit Scholarships, typically based on test scores and/or GPA, are usually given when the student is accepted to the college. You may apply to other scholarships offered by the college through their scholarship portal. Try Fastweb.com for additional scholarships. For many of our local scholarships, check the "College" section on Naviance.