

POST-SECONDARY FAQ's

Where do I go for help?

- Most of your basic questions can be answered here, but don't hesitate to email your counselor to get help with post-secondary planning.
- **Naviance:** Use your school-issued Naviance account to research colleges, careers, and scholarship opportunities! Access your account from the "Students" drop-down menu on the TFS website. Click "Naviance (Clever)," then "Log in with Active Directory." If prompted, use your school email address (ID number@students.tfd215.org) and district password to log in.
- **College representatives and guest speakers** from a variety of careers will host meetings with TFS students during the school day. Sign up using your Naviance account under "What's New" on the home page. Seats are limited.

How do I apply to college and send my transcript?

1. Complete an online application through the "Admissions" link on each college/university's website. Submit your application after carefully proofreading and completing all required sections. There is no need to wait for your transcript, test scores, or recommendations to submit your portion of the application.
2. Order your transcript through **Parchment**: Create an account at www.parchment.com or through the link on the TFS website using a personal email address (not your TFS email).
 - Log in to submit orders to send your transcript electronically to each individual school or scholarship organization to which you are applying (Click "Send Now"). Colleges do not accept academic records sent directly from students, so do not submit an order for "self-view." For your reference, copies of your unofficial transcript will be passed out to students during senior classroom presentations and mailed home to the address on file.
 - **Common Application:** You do NOT need to request an electronic transcript for Common App schools. Your counselor will upload your transcript and application fee waiver (if applicable), so be sure to sync your Common App and Naviance accounts.
 - **Final transcript request:** Submit an order through Parchment before graduation and click "Hold for Grades" to send your final transcript to the college you will attend. Transcripts will be uploaded and sent in June. Transcripts are sent free of charge while you are a TFS student. After you graduate, there will be a processing fee for all transcript orders.
3. If required, have your test scores sent directly from SAT/ACT using your student accounts at collegeboard.org/act.org.
4. **Application fee waivers** will be automatically uploaded for qualifying students through Parchment when transcript orders are processed. If you qualify for a fee waiver, be sure to submit your transcript request so they can be processed.

When should I apply to college?

- Apply ASAP, but completing applications by October 31st ensures you will meet early action deadlines, which typically fall between November 1st and November 15th.
- Applications for many schools are accepted throughout the year, but there are benefits to applying early: merit scholarship consideration, reducing stress, early completion of housing applications, assessing options, and applying elsewhere if not accepted.

How do I register to take the SAT/ACT?

Taking the SAT is a state requirement. ***Since the pandemic, many colleges and universities are remaining test optional for admission and scholarship consideration.*** This means your grades and the rigor of the courses you have taken are even more important, so work hard to earn the highest grades possible!

Test scores may be required by some colleges for merit scholarships, participation in Honors programs, or select majors. Strong test scores could also help balance out weaker parts of your application. If you wish to take/retake a college entrance exam, you will need to register online and select your preferred testing date and location from the website. Email your counselor if you qualify for a fee waiver to get a code to take the test for free.

- **SAT:** View testing dates and register online at www.collegeboard.org.
- **ACT:** View testing dates and register online at www.act.org.

What is the FAFSA and how do I complete it?

- All seniors in the State of Illinois are required to either complete the FAFSA or a FAFSA Nonparticipation Form to graduate.
- **Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** at www.fafsa.gov.
 - The FAFSA opens October 1st; aid money is limited, so complete the application as soon as possible.
 - The FAFSA determines whether or not you qualify for grants, loans, and scholarships and must be completed to be considered for financial aid. It may also be required by a college for merit aid consideration, which is not need-based.
 - Your parent/guardian's tax documents are required to complete the application.
 - Both the student and parent will need to create an FSA ID to fill out the FAFSA.
- **Scholarships**
 - The majority of scholarships are merit-based and issued directly from the college/university that accepts you. Contact the institution's Financial Aid Office for additional information.
 - A scholarship bulletin is located on the TFS Guidance webpage (Go to "Students," then "Guidance," and select "Financial Aid & Scholarships").
 - Use Naviance: Click "Colleges" and go to "Scholarships and Money" to find local/national scholarships and scholarships that match your profile.

What if I want to play sports in college?

- **NCAA Eligibility Center**
 - NCAA Division I or Division II college athletes must be academically eligible.
 - 16 credits of NCAA-approved courses in English, Social Studies, Science, Math, and World Language.
 - DI and DII athletes must register online at www.eligibilitycenter.org (not required for DIII).
 - Once registered online, your transcript will be uploaded to your Eligibility Center account.
 - The NCAA Code to send SAT/ACT scores is 9999.
- **National Association of Interscholastic Athletics (NAIA)**
 - NAIA college athletes must be academically eligible.
 - All potential student athletes must register online at <http://www.playnaia.org/index.php>.
 - Entering freshmen must meet two of the three entry-level requirements:
 - 2.0 cumulative GPA
 - Graduate in top half of your class
 - 18 ACT/940 SAT (NAIA code is 9876)