

SENIORS AND THE COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS



BELLEVUE HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL CODE: 480070

CLASS of 2012
SENIORS and the college application process

Welcome to your senior year at Bellevue High School! This is the year that all the hours of hard work, diligence, and rigor begin to pay off as you consider your post-secondary choices and the many options ahead of you.

Last spring, counselors met with all juniors (now seniors) in small groups to discuss the college application process and to guide students in their research of colleges. Among other things, we talked about the junior and senior timeline, standardized testing, college visits, and the importance of finding “the fit”. Each student received a packet detailing everything they needed to get started and this junior packet contains valuable information that students may want to continue to refer to as they start the college application process. The packet is called the Junior College Planning Workbook and copies of the workbook are available on the BHS website at: <http://schools.bsd405.org/bhs/homepage/>. On the right hand side of the page, below “Information Center”, the junior workbook is listed.

The enclosed senior packet is tailored specifically for students applying to two and four year colleges. It contains up to date information on colleges within our state as well as the procedures for applying to public and private institutions. Counselors will be visiting classrooms to review the contents of this packet with all seniors and we will be encouraging students to share this information with their parents/guardians.

College representatives are scheduled to visit Bellevue High School on various dates throughout the fall semester. Dates, times, and locations are posted in the Counseling Center and on our school’s website at: <http://schools.bsd405.org/bhs/homepage/> - find the list of colleges under the “Information Center”, *College Visits Fall 2011*. We encourage students to attend these meetings as it provides them with an opportunity to get questions answered in a more intimate setting, often with the college representative who will be reading their application. For visits listed as asterisked and italicized, it is possible the visit will occur when the student is in class (not during their lunch time (per 5). Students should see Mrs. Anderson, the Counseling Secretary, to sign up to attend visits that occur during their 5th period class when they are not at lunch. Students must sign up 2 days in advance of the visit. A pass to release a student from their 5th period class will then be sent to the morning of the visit.

Students will undoubtedly have questions this fall as they complete their college applications and they are welcome to stop by the counseling center to meet with their counselor or send an email with their questions.

Congratulations on your hard work and we look forward to helping you in the next few months!

Mrs. Long, Ms. Rohde, Mr. Sissom and Mrs. Travaille

Counselors

Office Hours: 7:00 – 3:00 Office Phone: (425)-456-7031
High School CEEB Code: 480070

<u>Counselor</u>	<u>Email contact</u>	<u>Seniors (last name)</u>
Hunter Sissom	sissomh@bsd405.org	Last names A – F
Katie Long	longk@bsd405.org	Last names G - KI
Virginia Rohde	rohdev@bsd405.org	Last names KL – Q
Maureen Travaille	travaillem@bsd405.org	Last names R - Z

Planning Resources

College Search

www.princetonreview.com Extensive college search to find a “good match”.
www.washingtoncouncil.com Washington state public university information.
www.sbctc.ctc.edu The Washington State Board for Community & Technical Colleges.

Financial Aid/Scholarships

www.fafsa.ed.gov Web version of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
www.thewashboard.org for scholarship listings, based on student-specified parameters
www.fastweb.com free scholarship search service.
www.finaid.org source for grants, loans, and scholarships.
Remember: You should not have to PAY for scholarship information.

College Testing/Test Preparation

www.collegeboard.com
www.act.org
www.toefl.org

Careers

www.myroad.com
www.mapping-yourfuture.org
www.sbctc.ctc.edu

Services for Students with Disabilities

www.collegeboard.com (SSD = Services for Students with Disabilities)
www.act.org Special testing.
www.salt.arizona.edu The University of Arizona SALT Program: Strategic Alternative Learning Techniques Center. Start here to see a nationally recognized student services program model, then contact the SSD (Services for Students with Disabilities) office at each college or university on your list. Communicate directly with the SSD office staff and the admissions office staff.

Student Athletes

<http://web1.ncaa.org/eligibilitycenter/common/>

Student athletes need to register with the NCAA and submit transcript waivers to the counseling office. Please bring in two copies of the signed waiver along with two envelopes with postage and addressed to the NCAA Clearing House - one copy for the beginning of the year and the 2nd copy for the end of the year.

PUBLIC (four year) COLLEGE Transcript Procedures

(Examples: University of Washington, Central, Western, Eastern, Evergreen, Washington State, University of Oregon, and Montana State)

- **Order official transcripts** from the counseling secretary (Mrs. Anderson) at least FIVE (5) days in advance of mailing your application. The University of Washington and the University of California system do not require that you send official transcripts; instead, you will need to transcribe your transcript on their application forms. You may request an unofficial transcript from Mrs. Anderson to help you with this process.
- **Order test scores** from testing agencies to be sent directly to your college/university (www.collegeboard.com or www.act.org). Your high school cannot send them.
- The counseling secretary will send you a note when your transcripts are ready to be picked up. **DO NOT OPEN** the sealed envelope containing your transcript.
- Submit your online application to the college within the same time frame that you mail your official public transcript.

TRANSCRIPT FEES

The first three transcripts are free for public schools. Each additional transcript is \$5.00 with the fee payable to the BHS Accountant. Show the receipt for the transcript order to the counseling secretary and you will then be able to order your additional transcripts.

(see the last page for public college fall 2011 admission statistics and fall 2012 application and financial aid deadlines)

PRIVATE (Four Year) COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

(Examples: Whitman, Seattle University, Stanford, Princeton)

THE FOLLOWING MUST BE DONE AT LEAST 3 WEEKS BEFORE YOUR APPLICATION DEADLINE!

- Pick up a ***Private College Counselor Letter of Recommendation packet*** from your counselor. Be sure to **RETURN THE COMPLETED PACKET** to your counselor no later than **3 WEEKS BEFORE** your application deadline.
- The application that you are completing online will refer to both a School/Counselor Supplemental form and a Midyear form that need to be completed by our office. If you are using the Common Application form and applying online, your Counselor will be submitting these school and midyear forms online also. In order for your Counselor to complete these forms online, you need to “invite” your counselor by giving the Common App your counselor’s email address. **Note:** Be sure that you have spelled your Counselor’s name correctly – otherwise they may not get the notification that you have applied to the school. Be sure to enter your senior year courses completely and correctly.
- Private schools not on the common app: Some private schools are not on the common app but allow for an online submittal of school forms and counselor/teacher letters of rec. If this is the case, follow the school’s instructions for “inviting” the counselor and teachers using their email addresses. Schools not allowing for on-line submittals of forms will be handled by paper copy. Along with this packet you must submit addressed (8”X11”) envelopes (include 3 first class stamps for each) for every letter to be sent to a non-common application college by your Counselor. Include a completed copy of any required school form or report with your envelopes.
- **Transcripts:** if you are submitting your application via the Common App or another online process, your transcript will be uploaded and sent to private colleges on your common app list and you will not be charged an upload fee. If you require paper transcripts that are mailed to each college, you will receive three free transcripts (public or private). All additional transcripts are \$5.00 each and must be paid in advance to the BHS Accountant.
- SAT and ACT Test Scores must be sent directly to the colleges by the testing agency and cannot be sent by Bellevue High School. **To send SAT scores**, log in to your College Board account and follow their instructions. **To send ACT scores**, log into your ACT account and follow their instructions.
- **Teacher Recommendation Letters:** Most private colleges require two teacher recommendation letters in addition to the counselor letter. Be sure to approach a junior or senior year teacher in plenty of time for them to write you a letter. They may require background information from you as well.

The Application Process for Two Year Colleges

Washington's two-year technical and community colleges offer a wide range of programs for students to help them prepare to transfer to a university, get job training, gain basic education skills and take continuing education classes. There are five technical and 29 community colleges in the state of Washington. For more information about each college, including academic programs, admission requirements and deadlines and financial aid programs, please see www.sbctc.edu.

In brief, there are **four steps to enroll** in classes as a first time college student at a community or technical college:

1. Complete the online admission application for the community college and pay their application fee. Classes are on a first come, first served basis. New students are admitted and assigned registration access in the order in which their registration materials are received. Students can apply for Fall 2012 admission once they turn 18 or once they graduate from high school, whichever comes first. Some community colleges have instituted a late spring deadline for **Priority Fall Admissions** and students do not need to wait until they turn 18 or graduate from high school to apply. For example, Bellevue College now allows early admissions with a fall priority registration date of May 18, 2012. Please check college websites for up to date information on registration details.
2. Register for and take the COMPASS exam (a math and English placement exam).
3. Make an appointment to meet with an academic advisor to choose classes.
4. Register for classes.

Note: Community colleges don't require SAT or ACT tests and don't require a transcript during the application process.

Many community colleges partner with one or more four year universities to offer bachelor's degrees on campus. Visit the College Transfer page at the SBCTC site, www.sbctc.ctc.edu/college/e_transfer.aspx and select *University Center Partnerships*.

Community and technical colleges offer a full range of financial aid programs. To be eligible for scholarships and financial aid, families must first fill out the FAFSA (free application for federal student aid). To complete the FAFSA, go to www.fafsa.gov.

SENIOR CHECKLIST

- Do you still have questions on what colleges are a good fit for you? Review the Junior College Planning Workbook that was distributed to you last spring. Copies of the workbook are available on the BHS website at: <http://schools.bsd405.org/bhs/homepage/>, below the “Information Center” section on the right hand side of the page.
- Check the websites of colleges/universities you will be applying to for information on admissions, academic programs, and scholarships/financial aid information. Determine admission deadlines, and based on these deadlines, construct a timeline for retaking SAT/ACT tests, completing essays, ordering transcripts, and finalizing the application.
- Open an “account” for each college application that you will be completing. Instructions for opening and completing these accounts are given on each college website.
- For each college application, you will be asked to complete a personal statement or essay or a series of short answers to several questions. Look through these questions and draft your answers.
- College representatives visit BHS to talk with interested students. Be sure to sign up for those meetings. Dates, times and locations are posted in the Counseling Center and on our school website.
- Does the private college or university require an interview as part of the application process? If so, contact the Admission Office of the school and schedule the interview.
- Are you applying **Early Action or Early Decision**? If so, those deadlines come up fast and are typically in early November. Be sure to return your background information for the letter of recommendation to your counselor by early October.
- Clean up your Facebook account, especially if you are applying to private colleges! Also, make sure you have a professional sounding email address and that you monitor it regularly. Email is the way that most colleges will be communicating with you.
- Attend the National College Fair at the Washington State Convention Center on Saturday, November 5, 2011 from 12 noon to 4:00 pm and/or the Performing and Visual Arts College Fair at the Seattle Center’s Fisher Pavilion on Monday, October 24th from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. See www.nacacnet.org for more details.
- Sign up online for college entrance exam testing or retesting. SAT Reasoning and Subject test dates can be found at www.collegeboard.com. The online registrations for the ACT (with writing) test can be found at www.act.org.
- If you are applying to public universities order one copy of your transcript for each university you are applying to from the Counseling Center (except for the UW and UC schools). First 3 are free. \$5.00 a piece after that.
- If you are applying to private universities pick up a Private College Recommendation packet in the Counseling Center and follow the directions inside. **Please return your completed packet to the BHS Counseling Center THREE WEEKS before your first college application deadline.**

Fall 2011 Admission Statistics for Public Four Year Washington State Colleges and Universities

College and Website	Applicants Freshman	% admitted	Avg GPA	Avg SAT	Avg ACT	Enrollment
Central Washington University (www.cwu.edu)	4508	78	3.25	1021	21.7	11215
Eastern Washington University (www.ewu.edu)	4468	79	2.9-3.6	880-1080**	18-24	10415
The Evergreen State College (www.evergreen.edu)	1921	84.3	3.1	970-1230	21-27	4,833
University of Washington Seattle (www.uw.edu)	24,539	59	3.7	1750-2030	26-31	43504
University of Washington Bothell (ww.uw.edu)	2068	73	3.2-3.7	970-1080	20-26	3272
Washington State University (www.wsu.edu)	13233	83.3	3.1-3.8	980-1190	24	18232
Western Washington University (www.wvu.edu)	9083	78	3.3-3.8	1560-1850	23-28	14979

**excludes the writing subscore

Fall 2012 Admission and Financial Aid Deadlines for Four Year Washington State Colleges and Universities

College and Website	Application Deadline	Financial Aid Deadline	Visitation programs and dates (go online to register and view other tour options)
Central Washington University (www.cwu.edu)	April 1	March 15	9/30 10/8 2/17 3/9 4/12
Eastern Washington University (www.ewu.edu)	Feb 15	Feb 15	Check Website
The Evergreen State College (www.evergreen.edu)	March 1	March 15	Fridays + 1/14
University of Washington Seattle (www.uw.edu)	Dec 1	Feb 28	Most weekdays and Saturdays
University of Washington Bothell (ww.uw.edu)	Jan 15	Feb 28	10/22, 11/19, 12/3
Washington State University (www.wsu.edu)	Jan 31	Feb 15	Check Website
Western Washington University (www.wvu.edu)	Jan 31	Feb 15	10/22 3/31 Check Website

How do I apply for admission to a public college or university?

- Go to the college’s website and follow the links to admissions → undergraduate → freshman → apply.
- Make sure you meet all admission requirements.
- When you are ready to submit your online application, mail an official transcript to the college (except the UW).
- Ask the College Board (SAT) or ACT to send your test scores directly to the college.

How do I apply for financial aid or scholarships?

- The FAFSA (free application for federal student aid) is the first step to receiving aid for college and is used by most schools and states to award financial aid and scholarships. To complete the FAFSA, go to www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- Information on college-specific scholarships/awards and financial aid can be found on each college’s website.
- There are many other websites that offer links to a wide range of general scholarships. Start with www.thewashboard.org, www.fastweb.com and www.finaid.org. Also check <http://schools.bsd405.org/bhs/homepage>, and follow the links to “counselors”, “college”, “scholarship list”.