



DePaul Cristo Rey High School
College Counseling Handbook

Introduction

Students who enroll at DePaul Cristo Rey High School have already decided to pursue a college education.

At DPCR our goal is “all students will graduate from high school and college.” We believe that students, parents, teachers and staff are all partners in the journey to select the right college for each graduate.

I work with each student and family to navigate the college exploration and application process.

College Counselor

Ms. Jessica Smith

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Naviance

<http://connection.naviance.com/depaul>

- This is where you:
 - Communicate where you are applying to college
 - Communicate when you submit your applications
 - Request transcripts
 - Request letters of recommendation

Application Goals

- You will apply to at least 5 Colleges including:
 - 1 Cristo Rey Network Partner
 - 1 Common Application School
 - 1 local school

The average number of applications is 7-10

Cristo Rey Network - University Partners

The Cristo Rey Network's partners with universities to provide a platform upon which future programs will be built to ensure postsecondary access and success for Cristo Rey students.

University Partners	
Benedictine College	Saint Joseph's University
Boston College	Saint Louis University
Mount St. Joseph University	Saint Mary's College
College of Saint Benedict	Saint Mary's University of Minnesota
College of the Holy Cross	Saint Peter's College
Connecticut College	Santa Clara University
Creighton University	Seattle University
DePaul University	Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Dominican University	St. Thomas University
Fairfield University	Stevenson University
Fordham University	Stonehill College
Franklin & Marshall College	The Catholic University of America
Georgetown University	The University of Scranton
John Carroll University	Trinity Washington University
Loras College	University of Dayton
Loyola Marymount University	University of Notre Dame
Loyola University Chicago	University of Saint Mary
Loyola University Maryland	University of San Francisco
Marquette University	University of St. Francis
Providence College	Villanova University
Regis University	Wesleyan University
Rockhurst University	Xavier University

The College Application

Students can apply to most schools on-line. The first thing you want to do is check if your college(s) accept the Common Application. If so, use that, it is easy! If your school does not accept the Common Application, apply on-line through the college's website. There are a few different sites where you can apply to many schools with one application.

Applications where you can apply to multiple schools:

1. The Common Application: <https://apply.commonapp.org/Login>
2. The Common Black College Applications: <http://commonblackcollegeapp.com/>
3. The Coalition for Access, Affordability, and Success Application: <http://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/>

When Should I Apply?

Application deadlines vary from school to school. Regardless of deadlines, it is generally advisable for students to submit their applications as early in their senior year as possible. The goal would be to apply between the beginning of school and Thanksgiving Break.

The different admissions deadlines are as follows:

EARLY ACTION (EA) is a plan similar to ED, whereby you apply early and find out an admissions decision during the first semester of your senior year. However, you are not bound by contract to attend this institution if accepted, and you may apply to other schools & wait until May 1st to make your final decision. This plan should still be utilized for students' first-choice colleges, but you can apply to more than one college under EA.

REGULAR DECISION (RD) is the traditional plan where you complete and submit your application & supplemental materials by a given deadline (which typically varies from January to March). Colleges review the applications and send all admissions decisions at the same time, usually in late March/early April. Students then have until May 1st to notify the college they have chosen to attend.

ROLLING ADMISSIONS is a plan where colleges review completed applications as they are received from August through the end of the application cycle (spring of senior year). Once an application is evaluated, an admissions decision is sent. Though there may be no formal deadline, it is best to apply by December of senior year, before colleges limit their freshmen class enrollment.

EARLY DECISION (ED) is a plan for students who have a definite first-choice college where they are 100% certain they would want to attend if accepted. When you apply ED, you sign a binding contractual agreement that you will attend that college if admitted. You may apply to only one school under ED. If accepted, you must withdraw any other college applications.

College Campus Visits

- A campus visit is a great opportunity to learn more about a college. You should plan to visit 1-2 colleges with your family.
- An ideal time for visits is the beginning of your senior year.
- We suggest that you set up a tour and information session. Typically, you can schedule a tour and information session by going to the 'Admissions' page of a college's website.
 - It is also a good idea to eat in the cafeteria/dining hall, attend a sporting event and sit in on a class if you are able to.
- If the school has a program where you can overnight in a dorm, you should! That is a great opportunity to **really** see the campus.

Each DPCR senior can have 2 excused absences for a College Visit.
You must provide proof of the visit to your College Counselor.

Fly In Programs

One of the most important factors in deciding if a college is right for you is whether or not you can picture yourself as a member of campus and for many students this means a campus visit. If the college is not nearby, however, being able to make the visit might not be possible due to financial limitations. The good news is that a number of institutions offer free fly-in programs, travel assistance scholarships, overnight programs, and diversity programming that comes at little or no cost to students accepted to their programs!

Ms. Smith will post these opportunities on the College Counseling Page on Schoology and will often email these also. These are great opportunities for students to visit schools they may not otherwise be able to visit.

Financial Aid & Scholarships

There is much more to the cost of a college education than tuition alone. You must also consider room and board, fees, books, transportation, and other personal expenses. Each college deals with financial aid in a different way.

Your first step in applying for federal financial aid is filling out the FAFSA - Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Need, as defined by colleges, is the difference between the total cost of attending a college and the expected family contribution (EFC), as determined on your FAFSA. Your expected family contribution (EFC) will be the same amount whether you choose a college with a high or a low cost, so the aid offered to you will likely vary from college to college.

Some private schools, and a small number of public schools, require submission of a form called the CSS Profile in addition to the FAFSA. The CSS Profile is a deeper look at your financial situation. Schools may ask for this if they give out a lot of need-based aid.

A student's financial aid package can be comprised of all or some of the following:

1. Grants-These are awards that do not have to be repaid. Grants are typically based on need and come from three sources: the federal government, state governments, and college resources.
2. Scholarships- Scholarships can be based on merit and/or need. Many come directly from the colleges but some can come from outside sources. Each college has a different policy for applying for scholarships. Some schools automatically consider applicants who meet specific eligibility criteria, BUT others require separate applications for scholarships. Pay attention to HOW you get scholarships from college you are applying to.
3. Loans- These are borrowed money that must be repaid with interest. There are a variety of loan programs for students through the federal and state governments, and loans may be taken out by students and/or their parents.
4. Work-Study Programs- These programs provide part-time jobs to students, money earned can be used for tuition and other expenses.

Outside Scholarships

Scholarships from non-college based resources are widely available. It requires an investment of time and effort to apply for these scholarships. Sources include local businesses, local organizations, fraternal organizations, unions, church groups, employers (of the parents and students), etc. Many opportunities for scholarships will be posted on Schoology and discussed in Mr. Bailey's class.

Examples of outside scholarships that all students should apply for:

- Cincinnati Scholarship Foundation: <http://www.cincinnati-scholarship-foundation.org>
- Dell Scholars Program: <https://www.dellscholars.org/>
- Horatio Alger Scholarship: <https://scholars.horatioalger.org/scholarships/about-our-scholarship-programs/>

Useful Websites

- ACT: www.actstudent.org
- College Board: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search>
- College Greenlight: <https://www.collegegreenlight.com>
- College Navigator: <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator>
- Common Application - www.commonapp.org
- FAFSA: www.fafsa.ed.gov
- FSA ID: <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>
- I'm First: <http://www.imfirst.org>
- NCAA: www.ncaaclearinghouse.net
- FairTest (Test optional schools): <http://www.fairtest.org>