

College Corner

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DID YOU KNOW?

*Last month was a very popular month for application deadlines. Did you apply to all the colleges you were interested in attending? If not you are late, however you can still apply to colleges that have a rolling admission policy. If a college has rolling admission this means they will continue to accept applications until they've filled all the spots in their freshman class. Some colleges which have rolling admissions are St. John's University, Long Island University, Pace University, CUNY and SUNY. If you are applying to a college check the school's website for their application deadline. Once you have applied, please bring in any transcript requests forms to the College Office ASAP so we can process and send in your high school transcript!



The College Office would like you to **bring in your letters of acceptance/rejection. If you have received a letter from the colleges you have applied to, please bring in the letter so we can keep a copy in your records and share your excitement! If you haven't received any letters yet don't worry, because most colleges send their decision letters by April 15, the latest June. Please visit the bulletin board in the guidance suite Rm 130 and the College Office link on GCHS website: www.gchs.info to see you name posted to the school that accepted you. Remember if your name's not there that means we didn't know because you didn't tell us. So bring in those letters!

***Complete your FAFSA and TAP applications online. Priority deadline is February 1, 2012 however the final deadline for NY is June 30, 2012. Don't wait until June because the money might not be available to you even if you do qualify!!!!

Special points of interest:

- IF YOU HAVEN'T APPLIED TO COLLEGE APPLY NOW!
- FILE FAFSA/TAP/CSS PROFILE
- BRING IN DECISION LETTERS!
- BRING IN FINANCIAL AID PACKAGES
- MID YEAR GRADES

Filling out the FAFSA & TAP Form Online

The College Office, Room 306 has received the paper instructions for the FAFSA-On-The-WEB Worksheet. If you are worried about what types of questions FAFSA asks stop by the College Office and pick one up. We have English and Spanish versions. Please use this worksheet as a guideline for filling out the actual form online. It has very useful information about FAFSA's. FAFSA's website is www.fafsa.ed.gov

TAP - New York State TAP applications for the state financial aid will be automatically sent to you after the FAFSA is filed. A New York State College must appear on the FAFSA in order for an electronic TAP form to be issued. TAP IS ONLY FILLED OUT IF YOU ARE GOING TO ATTEND A PRIVATE NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE, SUNY OR CUNY. If you did not click on the TAP link after you completed your FAFSA application visit www.tapweb.org

What is a Financial Aid Package?

Based on the information given on your FAFSA, each college will send you a written statement telling you how much money you can expect to receive to help pay expenses. First, be sure you understand the terms in each letter. Each college will list the information in different formats. The money will come from Pell, SEOG, College Work Study, and the college itself. The package should also include an estimated TAP. As you receive the financial aid package from each college, **you must bring it to room 306**, so we can help you compare packages and choose the one that is best for you.



It's important not to miss deadlines for accepting financial aid. Aid is limited, so if you don't accept an award on time, it may go to another student. However, you will also need time to understand each award and explore your options. If you're faced with a difficult decision, consider asking the aid office to extend the response deadline. You can also use the **Award Letter Comparison Tool** to compare and contrast the financial aid packages from the colleges that have admitted you. In particular, it highlights differences in the cost of attending each school.

<http://www.finaid.org/calculators/awardletter.phtml>

Loan Repayment Calculator:

http://www.hesc.com/content.nsf/SFC/5/Loan_Repayment_Estimator

MID-YEAR GRADES

The Common Application, as well as many other applications, require students to submit a mid-year report along with their transcript. Colleges want to be sure that students are taking their high school classes seriously and not coming down with a case of senioritis. In order to check on this, the college will ask for another transcript after the first half of the year has ended. Once again, the colleges want students to continue progressing towards college and not slip back on their grades.

The midyear report will require the school counselor to verify the schedule the student wrote on the report. Additionally, the counselor will have to provide the college the rank and grade point average after the first term is finished. A drop in either may affect a student's acceptance. If you have received a request for Mid-Year grades or 7th term grades please bring these in as soon as possible so the College Office can process them. The deadline to hand in these requests will be on Friday, **February 17th, 2012** in the College Office Room 306.



Are you 18 years old? (Men Only)



In order to receive financial aid, you must register with the Selective Service within 30 days of your eighteenth birthday. It's easy; you can register at the nearest Post Office or on the website; <https://www.sss.gov>. Be sure to register otherwise, you won't receive financial aid.

Congratulations to all the January Graduates. Wish you all the best on your next adventure!