



College Handbook

Class of 2012

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St. Pius X Catholic High School
Guidance & Counseling Office
2674 Johnson Road, NE
Atlanta, GA 30345
www.spx.org/guidance

Dear Student:

Choosing a college is a difficult but extremely important decision. Your experience in higher education will have a definite influence upon your future, likely affecting your choice of career, your associates, your social development, your choice of a place to live and, your overall perception of life (that may seem "heavy" but it's true)!

The most important step in choosing a college is an honest self-evaluation. What are your strengths and weaknesses? What are your values, needs, goals, etc.? Your response to these questions is critical to the selection of a college.

Your second stage in the college selection process is to begin exploring colleges that seem to match your interests and abilities. Your parents, teachers, counselors and college admissions personnel can be helpful in this area. **YOU**, however, have the major responsibility of arranging discussions with your counselors, exploring websites, taking standardized tests, arranging college visits and completing applications.

Please read this handbook carefully. It contains important information to help you take care of the main details involved in the process of college admissions. Hopefully, this booklet will help you when making your decision about your future educational plans.

Sincerely,

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SAT & ACT Test Dates and Deadlines

SAT 2010-2011	Test(s)	SAT 2011-2012*	Test(s)
October 9, 2010	SAT I/II	October 8, 2011	SAT I/II
November 6, 2010	SAT I/II	November 5, 2011	SAT I/II
December 4, 2010	SAT I/II	December 3, 2011	SAT I/II
January 22, 2011	SAT I/II	January 28, 2012	SAT I/II
March 12, 2011	SAT I Only	March 10, 2012	SAT I Only
May 7, 2011	SAT I/II	May 5, 2012	SAT I/II
June 4, 2011	SAT I/II	June 2, 2012	SAT I/II

Registration deadlines are approximately five weeks before each test date.

Register online at: www.collegeboard.com.

**The 2011-2012 dates may change*

ACT 2010-2011	ACT 2011-2012
September 11, 2010	September 10, 2011
October 23, 2010	October 22, 2011
December 11, 2010	December 10, 2011
February 12, 2011	February 11, 2012
April 9, 2011	April 14, 2012
June 11, 2011	June 9, 2012

Registration deadlines tend to fall approximately four weeks before each test date.

Register online at: www.actstudent.org.



Checklist for College Selection Process

Spring of Junior Year

- _____ 1. Make a list of colleges in which you are most interested. Work with your College 101 counselor to formulate this list.
- _____ 2. Check the college websites on your list to see which entrance exams (ACT, SAT and/or SAT Subject Tests) are required for admission.
- _____ 3. Check your high school grades and courses to see if they conform with the requirements for admission listed on the college websites.
- _____ 4. Plan to take the SAT and/or the ACT twice this year. Register online at www.collegeboard.com or www.actstudent.org. Some subject tests, such as Biology, Physics, Foreign Languages, and American History might also be taken after you finish the course this spring. Students who qualify for the SAT for Students with Disabilities or ACT special testing should consult with a counselor for the special forms.
- _____ 5. Plan college visits over a long weekend, during spring break, or in the summer. Try to visit the campus when classes are in session so you can get a true feel for the school. However, if your visit does fall on a school day, be sure to follow our **Informed Absence Policy** described in the St. Pius X Handbook.
- _____ 6. Begin financial aid search to see availability and submission deadlines (start with colleges of interest)

Senior Year

- _____ 7. Summer before senior year: Finalize your list of colleges and begin to work on college essays. Look at the online applications of the colleges to which you plan to apply. Most colleges require a non-refundable application fee (generally \$25 - \$75), so you may wish to narrow your list to three or four schools before applying.
- _____ 8. All Early Action and Early Decision applications must be submitted to the Guidance and Counseling Office by **September 12, 2011**. Early decision applicants are certain of their first choice college and usually have no financial need. If you plan to apply Early Decision be sure to familiarize yourself with the policies and stipulations and, if needed, discuss with your counselor.



- _____ 9. Begin working on your applications as soon as possible. (Some applications are quite lengthy and involve a great deal of time and thought). If you need teacher recommendations you must request them from the teacher a minimum of four weeks prior to the application deadline. Teachers should sign your college envelopes.
- _____ 10. Plan to attend the workshop hosted by Guidance and the English department titled: **“Writing your Way into College: The College Application Essay.”**
- _____ 11. Attend the Westminster College Day Program in September.
- _____ 12. Parents complete the Parent Brag Sheet and students complete the Request for a Counselor Recommendation. (These are completed electronically on Naviance. Instructions will be sent to you over the summer). Applications cannot be processed without them.
- _____ 13. Many college representatives visit our campus throughout the year; plan to meet with a variety of them. You **must** register to attend the visit through Naviance.
- _____ 14. You should plan to visit the campuses of your top college choices. A good time to visit colleges is on "senior holidays" such as PSAT test day or teacher workdays.
- _____ 15. Get the information for the testing programs required by your colleges. SAT (www.collegeboard.com) and ACT (www.actstudent.org) registration is available through their websites. Check to see if the SAT II is required. When registering for the SAT and/or ACT, be sure to indicate **St. Pius' CEEB Code (110226)**, and also put in the codes for the colleges to which you are applying. Your test scores must be sent through the testing agency.
- _____ 16. **September 12, 2011** is Early Action/Early Decision deadline. **November 2, 2011 is our deadline for the submission of all other applications!** Make copies of applications for your records - including online applications. Print the confirmation page as well. The Guidance and Counseling office does not need a copy of your application.
- _____ 17. When you have completed EACH application, bring the application envelope to the Guidance Office. (Do not bring bits and pieces). You will fill out a tracking envelope for each college. We will then send your application forms, along with a copy of your transcript and recommendations (if required) to the college.



- _____ 18. Call or check the status of your application online **before** the application deadline to verify the application has been received. Consistently check your email to stay current on communication.

- _____ 19. If you plan to apply for **financial aid (including HOPE)**, you should do so soon after the first of the year. It is always a good idea to check with the financial aid office at the college you plan to attend, as different schools have different requirements. (www.gacollege411.com)

- _____ 20. When you receive your acceptance letter from a college, you are under **NO** obligation to attend that school (unless you applied "early decision"). Most colleges will ask for a confirmation concerning your intention to attend their school, along with a room deposit (if you plan to live in a dorm). Once you have chosen your college, return your room deposit **ASAP** (in order to assure your dormitory reservation).

Winter of Senior Year

- _____ 21. Some colleges may have responded by now if the college is on "rolling admissions" or if the student applied under an "early program."

- _____ 22. It is your responsibility to notify us (in January) to send senior grades to the colleges that require them. The counseling office will go into homerooms the first Wednesday in January so you can fill out the form to tell us where first semester grades need to be sent.

Spring of Senior Year

- _____ 23. Some colleges send out acceptance letters at this time.

- _____ 24. Inform colleges to which you have been accepted that you will or will not attend. Respect deadlines – do not be late or you may lose your spot and financial aid. May 1st is universal decision day, or the last day to respond to your college (Candidate Reply Date).

Complete Senior Exit Survey on Naviance.



How Do You Choose a College?

DO base college selection on the following factors:

1. The most important factor of all is whether the college is right for the student in terms of his/her motivation, goals, abilities, interests, needs, and personality. What makes a college right may involve many things including its size, location, facilities, admission requirements, and the kind of intellectual demands placed on students by the faculty.
2. Family finances are often a very important factor in the college selection process. It is essential that parents discuss with their children the amount of money that they can contribute to his/her college education. It is very important to have a realistic understanding of the finances available. However, do NOT rule out a college in the exploratory stages because of the cost. There is often financial aid available!
3. If interests are already developing along specific career lines, then the strength of the college in those areas should certainly be investigated.
4. It is also important to remember that a college education should prepare students for living as well as for earning a living and that wisdom is a more valuable commodity than knowledge.

DO NOT base a college selection on the following:

1. Even if a parent did graduate from "the best college in the world," the student's future does not depend on whether or not he/she studies in the hallowed halls of that institution.
2. Be careful when taking suggestions by acquaintances or distant relatives. Such people may (or may not) know a great deal about the colleges they recommend, but they are not in a good position to know how well suited the colleges are for a particular individual. Too often, a college-bound student is unduly influenced by Uncle Silo's brother-in-law or by his father's partner's best friend.



How Do Colleges Choose Students?

Before they decide whom to admit, admissions directors and their committees consider many qualities of the applicant and his/her credentials. The emphasis that a college places on these criteria will vary from college to college.

1. The ACADEMIC RECORD in preparatory school:
 - a. Grade point average (GPA) -usually compiled in academic courses only
 - b. Type of courses taken (did the student challenge himself/herself?)
 - c. Quality of performance, e.g., steady improvement, consistency, under-achievement, marked decline in grades, the number of failing grades, honor courses, advanced placement courses, ability to do independent study.
2. Test Scores
 - a. SAT (and/or SAT Subject Test)
 - b. ACT (American College Testing Program)
3. Indications of special ability: music, leadership, athletics, drama, art
4. School ratings on character and personality
5. Service to the school
6. Service to the community: participation in community affairs
7. Extra-Curricular activities
8. Neatness and accuracy of the application
9. Letters of recommendation
10. Legacy factor
11. Geographic location
 - a. Some schools want a certain % of students from an area of the country outside their region.
 - b. Some state schools take a certain % of in-state students before considering out-of-state applicants, thus making competition for the remaining spots keen (i.e., University of Virginia and University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill)
12. Sex/race

**Some state colleges use the Freshman Selection index which consists of the SAT/ACT score and GPA. Please refer to the individual colleges for this information.



Your College Visits

Students should include visits to colleges high on their list of things to do in the college search process. Visits to colleges accomplish a number of goals, the most important of which is to give the student a "gut feeling" about the institutions. The college may appear to be the perfect place after the student has read literature and talked with people, yet not "feel right" when the student visits the campus. The visit to the campus also provides the opportunity to meet with admissions personnel and faculty who may provide information that is not included in the publications.

Before You Visit

1. Visit the college website, especially the sections on admissions requirements, costs, financial aid and programs of study.
2. Review your high school record so questions about academic performance in high school and scores on standardized tests can be discussed.

The Visit

1. Allow enough time to get the "feel" of the campus. Arrange to visit classes, if possible. Over-night stays can be very eye-opening and helpful.
2. Don't hesitate to discuss finances, including scholarships, loans and work opportunities.
3. Do feel free to ask for some estimate of your chances for admission - but don't expect any firm commitment at this time.
4. Obtain financial aid forms or refer to the college's website.

The Interview with the Admissions Officer

1. Check the website for information on how to arrange a meeting. If you need financial aid answers, be sure to mention this so an appointment with that office may be arranged.
2. Don't ask for information that you could have found in the college catalog or website.
3. It is fine to have your parents along, but most college admissions officers stress that you, not your parents, should do most of the talking.
4. Don't brag about your accomplishments; mention them in a matter-of-fact way without a false humility.
5. Be absolutely certain that you're on time for the interview. If you see that you'll be late, call.
6. In discussing extra-curricular activities, don't try to impress him/her by reeling off a long string of activities. Mention a few important ones in which you've held office or been highly committed.

Please note: Don't think you're "in" because the interviewer liked you.



Some Musts for Your Campus Tour

1. The college library - Even a ten minute visit can tell you something about the size and scope of its collections, study facilities, specialized areas such as "listening rooms," etc.
2. Academic facilities - You may have an opportunity to sit in on a class or seminar. If you're a future science or engineering major, try to visit a typical undergraduate laboratory; if languages are your specialty, you may be interested in seeing the language lab.
3. Living quarters- Try to visit a typical dormitory room, dining hall, student lounge, and recreation area. If there are fraternity or sorority houses on campus, you may want to see these, too.
4. Students - It's important to get some idea of the kind of people you'll live and work with on campus. If a student guide accompanies you on your tour, feel free to ask him/her about any aspects of college life. She'll/He'll welcome some clues about your interests - sports, debates, dramatics, and other interests.

Things to Ask on Tours:

1. student life
2. teachers
3. classes (rigor, etc.) (hard to get ones you want?)
4. political activity
5. alcohol
6. career placement
7. off campus housing
8. single sex dorms
9. safety
10. cafeteria
11. "if there's anything you'd change..."

After Your Visit

Make some notes on your reactions to the college; they will be useful later when you're trying to evaluate various institutions. They may suggest some additional points for discussion with your guidance counselor or parents.



Jargon for the College Bound

A. Financial Aid

1. Financial Aid: Loans, grants-in-aid, work-study programs, and other financial assistance for college students.
2. Financial Aid "Package": A combination of grants, scholarships, loans and campus jobs.
3. Grant: Gift aid which does not have to be repaid; sometimes referred to as grant-in-aid; usually given to students with outstanding ability in academics, athletics, or the arts.
4. Loan: Money borrowed from federal, state, college sources, or commercial banks; usually interest-free while you are in school. Repayment normally begins nine months after leaving school.
5. Need-Analysis Service: Means by which colleges and others who award financial aid obtain a standard and consistent evaluation of a family's ability to contribute to college costs. Forms used include:
 - i. PROFILE – the financial aid application service of the College Board
 - ii. FAFSA – Free Application for Federal Student Aid
6. Scholarship: Gift aid which does not have to be repaid and may be based upon merit and /or financial need. These include financial awards given to students with outstanding ability in general scholarship, athletics, the arts, etc.
 - i. HOPE – Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally—is Georgia's unique scholarship program that rewards students' hard work with financial assistance. (www.gacollege411.com)
7. Scholarship-Loan: A grant to a student which is advanced as a loan, but all or part of which is canceled following service provided to the grant agency. For example, state government assistance: prospective teachers or medical students may cancel the loan by serving as government workers, teachers, or doctors in rural areas for a specified period of time.
8. Work- Study Program: A federal program which provides part-time employment on campus and in community agencies. Students typically work ten to fifteen hours a week, according to their class schedules.



B. General Admissions

1. Accredited: The program, procedures, and facilities of a college meet a standard set up by an association of schools and colleges.
2. ACT and SAT: The examinations most frequently required for college admission or placement.
3. Arts and Sciences: A program of courses that does not primarily have a vocational aim; sometimes referred to as Liberal Arts.
4. Audit: Attend a class without earning credit.
5. Bachelor's Degree: A degree usually given by a college or university to a person who has completed a four year course of study or its equivalent.
6. Calendar Plan: A description of the number and length of terms per year: semester (2 terms); trimester (3 terms); quarter (4 terms, including one summer session); and various plans such as "4-1-4", (a 4 month term, followed by a 1 month term, followed by another 4 month term); etc.
7. Candidate's reply date: A date generally agreed upon by most colleges (around May 1) when a college may require an accepted applicant to notify the college whether he/she plans to attend.
8. Class rank: The standing of a student based on his academic record in comparison with that of the other members of his/her class. St. Pius does not rank its students.
9. College: A school of higher learning that grants a bachelor's degree; may be a division of a university.
10. College Profile: A graphic or numeric representation of a college which includes the most relevant facts and statistics of the institution.
11. Coeducational: A student body that includes men and women.
12. Consortium: A group of institutions which have joint educational programs and have joined together to promote their institutions.
13. Continuing Education: Extension of education to persons who have completed or withdrawn from full time school or college programs.
14. Credit: System of assigning a given number of credits to a particular college course based on the standard principle of one credit hour per week per term of class meeting. Exceptions would include laboratory classes.
15. Curriculum: All the courses of study offered at a university or school.
16. Deferred Admission: Acceptance of students for "later" admission, i.e., at some future date other than the beginning of the next term.



17. Early Admission: A program in which an outstanding high school student applies and is accepted for admission to a college upon completion of the eleventh grade in high school.
18. Early Decision and Early Action: Programs where students submit an application to their first choice school in the fall and the college renders a verdict by mid-December. But, the programs differ significantly: early action is non-binding (meaning the student is not bound to the college). Early decision requires the student to attend the college if accepted.
19. Graduate and Professional Schools: Institutions offering master's and doctor's degrees, and professional schools such as medicine, law, etc.
20. Honor's Program: A plan designed to encourage superior students to engage in a more challenging program in their area of concentration than is required. This may include special honors sections of available courses.
21. Ivy League: An association of colleges in the Northeast United States comprised of Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, Princeton, The University of Pennsylvania, and Yale.
22. Matriculated Student: A student who has registered or enrolled in a college or university as a candidate for a degree.
23. Pass-Fail Option: A student elects to take a course on a pass-fail basis and receives the grade of either "pass" or "fail." The grade is not included in his/her overall average. This option is to encourage good students to explore fields of learning in which they are not expert and might avoid for fear of lowering their scholastic average.
24. Proprietary School: A private trade, technical, business, nursing, etc., institution which offers programs usually shorter in duration and more job-oriented than those given by two year and four year colleges.
25. Public, Private, Church-Related, State-Related: Refers to "control" of the institution. "Public" means government-owned, usually by the state. "Private" institutions, not government owned, are often church related. A "Church-related" institution may have a close relation to the denomination specified, but often such a religious affiliation is more relevant to the institution's background than to its current program. "State-related" refers to a private institution that has contracted for government financed programs and has different in-state tuition rates.
26. ROTC- Reserve Officer's Training Corps: Two and four year programs of military training culminating in an officer's commission.



27. Rolling Admission: A college gives an admission decision as soon as possible after an application is completed and does not specify a deadline.
28. Transcript: The official and complete record of a student's academic performance at a given institution.
29. Tuition: The payment or cost of instruction.
30. Two-Year, Four-Year, Four-Year + Graduate: "Two-year" usually refers to junior or community colleges with first and second year programs designed to provide credit for transfer to a four-year college or to culminate in an associate degree. A few "two-year" colleges offer only third and fourth year programs leading to a bachelor's degree. "Four-year" refers to institutions which grant bachelor's degrees. "Four-year + graduate" refers to institutions which offer advanced degrees (master's and/or doctor's) in addition to bachelor's degrees.
31. University: An institution for higher education that includes one or more schools or colleges for graduate study, and grants master's and doctor's degrees.



Financial Aid Information

Financial aid today is usually awarded in a "package" combining a monetary award, a loan and (possibly) work. Distribution can be based on merit or financial need. Most financial assistance is administered through the financial aid office of individual colleges. Care should be taken to make applications for financial aid at each of the colleges to which the student applies. In many instances this requires a separate application from the one submitted to the admissions office.

Colleges typically use a need analysis to determine financial aid awards. There are two major need-analysis services:

1. Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is a relatively simple form which allows you to apply for federal and many other financial aid programs. All students applying for financial aid must complete this form. The online application may be found at www.fafsa.ed.gov and www.fastweb.com. A limited number of paper applications are available in the Guidance Office. PLEASE NOTE: If you complete the FAFSA, you do not need to complete a separate application for the HOPE Scholarship. For additional information regarding FAFSA, you may call 1-800-4-FED-AID or access www.studentaid.ed.gov for online resources.
2. The College Scholarship Service, (CSS Financial Aid PROFILE), the financial aid application service of the College Board. Many colleges use this form to collect additional information to assist in the awarding of aid. You may access the PROFILE at www.collegeboard.com.



Financial Aid Do's and Don'ts

DON'T...think the Financial Aid Form is an application form. It's a need analysis report that must be submitted along with a college's application form to help them decide on the amount of aid they can offer you.

DON'T...worry about hurting your chances for admission by applying for financial aid. After you are accepted, the financial aid office decides if, how much and what kind of aid it can offer you.

DON'T...be afraid to apply because you think your parents' income is too high. Income is not the only factor in estimating your family's need for financial aid. Expenses, debts, assets, siblings attending college, and special financial circumstances could reduce or increase the family's financial strength. So if you need help, apply!

DON'T...be put off by expensive colleges. They may have more money for aid than low-cost ones.

DON'T...worry about your grades being too low to apply for a scholarship. Most financial aid is given to the people who need it the most.

DO... start early, and remember that deadlines are important. You should apply for aid in the first half of your senior year, at least four weeks before the earliest financial aid application deadline set by the colleges you choose.

DO...notify the financial aid officer at the college you plan to attend if your family's financial situation changes. You may be reconsidered for aid even if you weren't eligible before.

DO...investigate every possibility so you'll have the best possible chance of getting the money you needed to pay for college.

DO...check all Financial Aid guides in the Guidance office.

DO... explore websites such as FastWeb.



Georgia's HOPE Scholarship Program

HOPE—*Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally*—is Georgia's unique scholarship program that rewards students' hard work with financial assistance.

To be eligible for HOPE you must earn a 4-year core cumulative average of 3.0 or above. Core classes include English, math, science, social science and foreign language. All core class grades, including electives, will be used in calculating your core GPA. *Please note that additional credit received for AP classes is removed for HOPE calculation and .5 is added to AP classes.*

If you attend a Georgia public college or university, your award includes tuition, HOPE-approved mandatory fees, and a small book allowance.

If you attend a Georgia private college or university, you may receive an award of \$3,000 & book allowance per academic year if you are a full-time student (12 hours). Full-time students attending eligible private colleges also may be eligible for a Georgia Tuition Equalization Grant.

How to apply: Students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the GSFAPPS application which can be accessed online at www.GAcollge411.org.

After graduation your final transcripts are sent to the Georgia Student Finance Commission for processing. As soon as HOPE eligibility is determined, we will mail a letter to the home of every recent graduate informing them of their final eligibility status.



Financial Aid Application Checklist

- _____ 1. If the school's application materials did not include a financial aid application, visit the school's financial aid webpage. Complete the application and return it to the financial aid office promptly.
- _____ 2. Investigate private aid sources such as civic groups, clubs, religious organizations, and businesses that may offer scholarships and loans.
- _____ 3. Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible after Jan. 1. After four to six weeks you will receive the Student Aid Report (SAR). The SAR has several parts; review all of them for accuracy. If the information is correct, sign the appropriate section and send it to the college's financial aid administrator.

Please note:

The college may require that a copy of the student's and/or parent's federal income tax form 1040, 1040A, or 1040EZ be sent along with the SAR.

- _____ 4. If required by your college's financial aid office, complete a supplemental form, such as the PROFILE.
- _____ 5. Contact the college's financial aid office to see if you must complete additional application procedures not included in this checklist.

REMEMBER: NO FINANCIAL AID AWARD CAN BE MADE UNTIL THE STUDENT IS OFFICIALLY ADMITTED TO THE COLLEGE. ALL FINANCIAL INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE IS COMPLETELY CONFIDENTIAL.



Important Reading Material

Literature about the college admissions process and about specific institutions is available in a variety of forms. Some major categories of books are listed in recommended order of reading. Many of these books are available in the Guidance Office for reading in that location as well as for limited borrowing.

Comprehensive Guides

These are large "facts & figures" compilations including brief descriptions of nearly all of the institutions in the country. These guides are usually prepared from questionnaires distributed to the colleges, then compiled and updated every year by non-college personnel. These guides are organized alphabetically either by institution name or state of location. Most of the comprehensive guides contain "selectivity indices" and tables of majors available for cross-reference purposes. It is important to check the current edition for the most up-to-date information as these guides are reissued each year. A good resource at the beginning of the search process, these guides are sold at commercial booksellers.

Examples:

- The College Board's, The College Handbook
- Barron's, Profiles of American Colleges
- Lovejoy's College Guide
- America's Best Colleges, U.S. News and World Report

There are some variations on the "comprehensive guide" theme: smaller books which contain facts and figures and brief descriptions on a purposefully limited group of colleges. Examples:

- Barron's Educational Series: Regional Editions of American Colleges (South, Mid-Atlantic, Northeast, West); Guide to the Most Prestigious Colleges; etc.
- Peterson's Guide to Two-Year Colleges and Guide to Four-Year Colleges
- Peterson's Colleges for Students with Learning Disabilities or AD/HD
- The Princeton Review, K&W Guide to Colleges for Students with Learning Disabilities
- Penguin Books, Colleges That Change Lives
- Greenes' Guides to Educational Planning, The Hidden Ivies



View Books/Catalogs (printed by the specific institutions)

These booklets are the literature of the colleges and universities. Some institutions include both general information and course listings together in the same catalog; other institutions have separated these functions into the "view book" and "curriculum guide." These books are sent to the college advisor each year and upon request to interested students. Those students who sign up for the Student Search Program of the College Board (upon registration for SAT's and Achievements) will automatically have literature sent, although these students will also want to write to those colleges in which they are interested but from which they have not already received information. Visiting representatives also bring literature. Students either write or call admissions offices to be put on the mailing list.

"Opinionated" Guides to Colleges

These guidelines contain both facts and figures along with narrative description or commentary which reflect the editor's viewpoint. Frequently, these guides are compiled from limited distribution of questionnaires to or interviews with college students - the material is then "screened" by the editors. (Some guides have a rating scale comparable to restaurant guides). These books make for interesting, often provocative, reading and add to the overall impression acquired from reading the large comprehensive guides and the literature of the specific institutions. These guides are also useful source material for taking tours with college students. ("The Brand X Guide to Colleges gives the impression that one must belong to a fraternity at this school in order to have a decent social life - do you agree?").

Examples:

- Barry Beckman, ed., [The Black Student's Guide to Colleges](#)
- Edward B. Fiske, ed., [Selective Guide to Colleges](#)
- The Yale Daily News, [The Insider's Guide to Colleges](#)
- [The Gourman Report: A Rating of Undergraduate Programs](#)
- Penguin Books, [Looking Beyond the Ivy League](#)
- Erlene Wilson, [The 100 Best Colleges for African-American Students](#)
- Frederick Rugg, [Rugg's Recommendations on the Colleges](#)
- Robert Mitchell, [The Multicultural Student's Guide to Colleges](#)

NACAC (National Association for College Admission Counseling) offers brochures, booklets and pamphlets for college-bound students and their parents. For a listing of these publications and purchase instructions, please visit their website: www.nacacnet.org/PublicationsResources



Sample College Correspondence

After you have made your choice of a college (hopefully from the many that accepted you) you should write the others to inform them of your decision.

Month Day, Year

Dean of Admissions
College/University
City, State, Zip

Dear Sir/Madam:

This is to inform you that I have selected another college for admission. My reason for this choice is (if you decide to give a reason). I thank you for the interest that you have shown in my application.

Sincerely,

Your Name (sign above this line)



Naviance Family Connection

Naviance Family Connection enables our counseling office to offer a comprehensive website that you and your child can use to help in making decisions about colleges and careers. It also allows you to track your applications once they are handed into the Guidance & Counseling office. Naviance Family Connection is linked with Naviance Counselor's Office, which we use in our office to track and analyze data about college and career plans, so it provides up-to-date information that's specific to our school.

Family Connection will allow your child to:

- Keep track of the process - Build a resume, complete on-line surveys, and manage timelines and deadlines for making decisions about colleges and careers
- Research colleges - Compare GPA, SAT/ACT scores, and other statistics to actual historical data from our school for students who have applied and been admitted in the past. In addition, you can access all of the college websites through Family Connection including college applications (since most applications are now done on-line)
- Sign up for college visits - Find out which colleges are visiting our school and sign up to attend those sessions

Family Connection also lets us share information with you and your child about up-coming meetings and events, local scholarship opportunities, and other Web resources for college and career information. In addition, the site includes a link that you and your child can use to send us an e-mail message.

We have provided your child with a personal access code and registered them in Family Connection. You, too, now have easy access to all Family Connection has to offer. The Web address for Family Connection for our school is: <http://connection.naviance.com/spx>

If you have not yet received your personal access code, please contact Jane Gennaro Udell, Guidance Secretary, at judell@spx.org.



Internet Searches

College Searches	Web Address
College Board On-Line	www.collegeboard.com
Peterson's Education Center	www.petersons.com
Campus Tours	www.campustours.com
College View	www.collegeview.com
The Princeton Review	www.review.com
College Board College Search	www.collegeboard.com/csearch/
College Edge	www.collegedge.com

Major & Career Searches	Web Address
Job Web	www.jobweb.com
Futures (for military careers)	www.myfuture.com
Career Path	www.careerpath.com
College Board Majors & Career Search	collegeboard.com/csearch/majors_careers/profiles/
College Majors 101	www.collegemajors101.com

Financial Aid/Scholarships	Web Address
College Board Pay for College	www.collegeboard.com/student/pay/
Free Application for Federal Student Aid	www.fafsa.ed.gov
Federal Student Aid	www.studentaid.ed.gov
Georgia Student Finance Commission	www.gsfc.org
Georgia College 411 (HOPE Scholarship)	www.gacollege411.org
FinAid!	www.finaid.org
FastWeb	www.fastweb.com
Atlanta Scholarships	www.atlantascholarships.com
Scholarships.com	www.scholarships.com

These are a few of the many resources available on the Internet. Please visit www.spx.org/guidance for more links to resources.



Fact Sheet for St. Pius Students

All juniors are required to participate in a 6-session career/college awareness group, College 101. Students explore their interests, values, and talents to help them begin the process of choosing a college and a career.

99%(+) of St. Pius graduates go on to college immediately after graduation.

Our College Board code: 110226 (CEEB code).

This number is required on all college applications. Memorize it like your phone number!

The SAT may be taken at SPX on the test dates in October, November, January, March, and May.

Our guidance and counseling department sends out a periodic electronic newsletter, through Naviance, updating Juniors and Seniors on important upcoming events (college fairs, test dates, and more). The newsletter generally runs from September through November and may also be found on our website.

The guidance and counseling department has information on available scholarships, including requirements and deadlines. Information may be found in Naviance:

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

Contacting the Guidance & Counseling Office at St. Pius X:

Contact Name	Telephone	Email
Mrs. Jenniffer Kapp	(404) 636-3023 x235	jtk@spx.org
Mr. Chuck Byrd	(404) 636-3023 x237	cbyrd@spx.org
Dr. Meredith Miller	(404) 636-3023 x238	mmiller@spx.org
Mrs. Deborah Navin	(404) 636-3023 x236	dnavin@spx.org
Mrs. Mariane Kauh	(404) 636-3023 x268	mkauh@spx.org
Mrs. Jane Gennaro Udell	(404) 636-3023 x234	judell@spx.org

Address: 2674 Johnson Road, NE, Atlanta, GA 30345

Web Site: www.spx.org/guidance

Fax: (404) 636-2118

STUDENT NAME (Last, First) _____

COLLEGE/SCHOLARSHIP/PROGRAM (circle one) _____ COLLEGE DEADLINE _____

CIRCLE ONE: EARLY ACTION / EARLY DECISION / REGULAR DECISION / ROLLING ADMISSION

Is this a common application school? Yes No If yes, did you apply through the common application? Yes No

Please check the appropriate box:	Online	Enclosed	Not Required
Application:			N/A
Confirmation Page:	N/A		N/A
Counselor Form/Secondary School Report:			
Application Fee:		N/A	

TRANSCRIPT REQUEST:	
I request that the Guidance Office mail to the Institution named above a copy of my official transcript. I will request that my standardized test scores be sent directly by the testing agencies (if required by the college).	
Student Signature:	
Parent Signature: (if student is under 18)	

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ONLY IF A RECOMMENDATION IS REQUIRED:	
TEACHER/COUNSELOR'S RECOMMENDATION REQUEST: I request that my teacher(s) and/or counselor listed below submit a descriptive statement in support of my application to the above-named institution. (I understand that this statement is confidential, and I hereby waive any rights to review its content). I fully understand that it is my responsibility to notify the teacher(s) of this request.	
Student Signature:	
Counselor Name (Printed):	
Teacher 1 Name (Printed):	
Teacher 1 Signature:	
Teacher 2 Name (Printed):	
Teacher 2 Signature:	

Any special instructions?

OFFICE USE ONLY:	
Date Submitted:	
Sent Via:	Mail GAcollege411 Naviance
Date Mailed/Sent:	



St. Pius X Catholic High School | Guidance & Counseling Office
2674 Johnson Road, NE, Atlanta, GA 30345

Phone: (404) 636-3023 | Fax: (404) 636-2118

www.spx.org/guidance