

APPLYING TO COLLEGE FROM PIONEER HIGH SCHOOL – F.A.Q.

On-line Applications: Most students will do online applications to colleges. We suggest that you download a copy of the application before starting. Use it as a practice to make sure you have complete information before starting the actual online application. If you need to download a copy and do not have access to a computer, come to the Career Center for assistance.

When you download the application, there will likely be at least one page that someone at Pioneer needs to complete. There may be a counselor recommendation page, a secondary school page, and/or teacher recommendation forms. We DO NOT do online recommendations or send transcripts online. We have a huge number of applications (nearly 3,000) that we submit every year and have developed a process we know works for our students.

What do you do with these pages?

Give the teacher recommendation pages to the teachers you have asked to do recommendations for you. Some schools have special pages for teachers; others ask for a teacher recommendation but do not have a special teacher recommendation page. It is a good idea to give the teachers envelopes addressed to the colleges, including stamps! Remember that they may need 2-3 weeks to complete their recommendation letter for you.

Turn in the rest of the pages (counselor recommendation form, school form, mid-year grade report form) together at the General Office. We do not need envelopes or stamps unless the college has provided a specific envelope they want you to use. The first application is free; additional ones cost \$1 to help cover the costs of copying and mailing.

There were no extra pages and I have completed the online application. Am I finished?

No. You need to request that a transcript of your academic record (and test scores if you have submitted the permission form) be mailed to the college. Go to the General Office and fill out the online transcript request form. You will need to have the name of the college and the address where your transcript is to be sent.

My college wants me to fill out a paper copy of the application. What should I know about this?

We always want you to follow the directions each college gives you about submitting applications. You will turn in all the application materials at the General Office, just like the online application.

How do I submit Common Applications?

A large number of colleges now accept the Common Application. Submit them the same way as the other applications, at the General Office. However, you only need to bring ONE copy of the School page and a list of the colleges and their addresses where you want us to send them; we will make copies of the completed Common Application school page to send to the colleges you indicate on your list. Make sure you have looked carefully at each college website for “supplemental” pages they also require for admission.

What happens after I turn in the application materials at the General Office?

A routing slip is attached to your application materials at the General Office. It goes to the Records Office, where an official transcript is attached as well as your test scores IF you turned in the permission form requesting that we release your test scores to the colleges where you apply. From the Records Office it goes to your counselor, who will complete the counselor page and a recommendation if one is needed. Then it goes back to the Records Office for mailing. Processing lots of college applications means it may take up to 15 workdays from the time you turn it in until it reaches the US mail. Plan accordingly—check and recheck college deadlines to be sure your materials will get there by deadlines. Be sure to turn in all application materials prior to NOVEMBER 7, 2008 if you want to be sure they are mailed before our December winter break. Please DO NOT call the Records Office to ask when your application was mailed.

What else do I need to think about?

Many colleges visit Pioneer to recruit our students. Try to attend the college visits of colleges you will apply to. The admissions office representative who comes to Pioneer is usually one of the people who will help make the decision about admitting you. It's a time for you to meet that person and make a positive impression by being attentive and asking thoughtful questions.

We receive information daily about scholarships. Mrs. Williams in the Career Center has that information. We suggest that you make a weekly visit to her to make sure you have the most up-to-date information about scholarships for which you may be eligible. She also has information about financial aid, college view books, computers for you to do college research, etc.

Senior year is a stressful time. Plan what you need to do and then make sure you are following that plan. See your counselor if you need to talk—we've helped lots of students (and parents!) through the senior year!

OTHER HELPFUL INFORMATION

I need to do more research on colleges and I'm not sure how to start.

One option is to go back to Career Cruising and use the tools there. To get into Career Cruising, go on the internet and enter: www.careercruising.com. Enter our school's username (PIONEER) and password (AAPS). Click on the EDP button. Enter your student ID to begin. Most of you used your student ID for both the username and password. If that does not work, see your counselor for your username and password. You can look up college information from this point.

Other helpful websites for college research are:

- www.gocollege.com
- www.petersons.com
- www.smart.net/~pope/hbcu/hbculist.htm
- www.campustours.com
- www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/college/cosearch.htm
- www.collegeboard.com
- www.act.org

Look at the following websites for scholarship possibilities:

- www.MI-StudentAid.org
- www.salliemae.com
- www.fastweb.com
- www.fafsa.ed.gov

Pioneer's Career Center and its director, Mrs. Williams, are also excellent resources. We have many reference books for learning more about colleges, scholarships and financial aid. Make it a habit to see Mrs. Williams regularly about the most current scholarship information. The Career Center also has information about the armed services and career and technical schools.