Planning Guide for Seniors
Class of 2021

Due to COVID-19 health concerns, dates and locations may be changed. Please refer to the school website, www.southriverhigh.org, for the most up to date information.
Contact the Counseling Office

410-956-5600  ext 210

School Counselors are assigned to students by alphabetical listing. They may be reached via e-mail at:

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Making Your Senior Year Count

**Plan a class schedule that is challenging and serves your future goals**
The courses you take in your senior year can affect how colleges perceive your application. Most colleges want prospective students enrolled, and doing well, in rigorous courses. While there is no need to stack the deck with all AP classes, a challenging course load shows you are serious about your work and improves your chances of acceptance.

**Get a head start on college level work**
Take courses for college credit while still in high school through the Anne Arundel Community College Early College Access Program (ECAP). Knock out some entry-level requirements and get a glimpse of what college-level work will be like once you become a full-time student.

**Take advantage of extracurricular activities & volunteer**
This is your chance to develop skills outside of the classroom. Involvement in extracurricular activities, community service, church, clubs or sports builds character, team spirit and leadership, traits colleges and employers crave.

**Check out a variety of colleges and university programs**
How can you know which college or trade school will fit you best? By asking questions. Meet admissions representatives at college fairs and in-school visits. Arrange a tour of the campus with a led by a current student. Get a feel for the community around the school. Get to know people who have taken classes at the school or who graduated from it.

**Apply for scholarships and research financial aid opportunities**
College is expensive. Look for financial assistance through scholarship and grant programs. Meet with the college financial aid officer. Use the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to win federal- and state-based assistance and look out for local, state and national scholarship opportunities.

**Explore career options through employment**
Working is about more than just earning a paycheck to cover gas and date nights. To be a successful employee, you must be reliable, responsible, presentable and flexible. To get the job, you have to apply and be interviewed. Once on the job, you have to figure out how to meet the needs of your employer. The experience you gain at work will be invaluable later on, no matter what career path you choose.

**Market yourself with a resume**
When you apply to college, you are selling yourself. The best marketing tool is a well crafted advertisement. While a great deal of weight is applied to your high school transcript, college admissions representatives and scholarship committees want to know more about who YOU are. Make it easy for them with a resume that outlines your talents, interests, experiences and awards. Get to know the organization you want to impress and craft your resume to demonstrate why you are the best candidate.
Requirements You Need to Graduate From High School

Minimum Credit Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Minimum Credit Requirements—26</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 credit in English 9</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 credit in English 10</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 credit in English 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 credit in English 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 credit in United States History</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 credit in World History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 credit in United States History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics**</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 credit in Algebra 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 credit in Geometry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 Math Elective Credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Algebra 2 for College Completers</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 credits in Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Education</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1/2 credit in Fitness for Life</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1/2 credit in Physical Education Elective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1/2 credit in Health Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic Technology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Foundations of Technology A &amp; B</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 credit in Principles of Engineering or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Honors Engineering Design (PTLW only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fine Arts</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Music, Art, Dance, and Theatre Arts courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Any elective course may count</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>(See World and Classical Language or Advanced Technology requirement for University System of Maryland Completer)</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

World and Classical Language Requirement
Students may elect to take two credits of a World or Classical language rather than two credits of advanced technology or a career completer program. The World/Classical Language option meets one of the minimum criteria for qualifying admission to the University System of Maryland. It is recommended, however, that students who elect this option complete 3 full years of consecutive World/Classical Language coursework.

Credit Earned in Middle School
Students may also earn high school credit in World/Classical Languages and Math Algebra by successfully completing the course(s) and meeting state testing requirements while still in middle school.

Advanced Technology Credit Requirement
Students may elect to take two credits of advanced technology rather than two credits of the same World/Classical Language or a career completer program. A student with the required math courses and two credits of advanced technology will qualify as a University System of Maryland Completer. However, the student must verify the admissions requirements for each University System of Maryland institution to determine if the advanced technology courses meet the institution’s admission requirements.

In addition to meeting the specific credit requirements, a student shall successfully complete one of the following:

- **Two credits of world or classical language (two consecutive years of the same language), OR**
- **Two credits of advanced technology education, OR**
- **A state-approved career and technology program.**

Students must attend high school for 4 years unless pre-approved for an AACPS alternative.

*Note: Magnet and Signature Programs may require 3, 4 or 5 credits of Science and World/Classical Language.

**Students seeking admission to a University of Maryland institution should review details of Math Elective Requirements with a school counselor. For more information in section 6 of the AACPS High School Program of Study.*
Completer Program Paths

The Maryland School Performance Program requires that high school students enroll in courses that prepare them for post-secondary education, gainful employment, or both. The school system has courses that when taken in proper sequence, will prepare students for employment. The three program completer options are:

University System of Maryland Completer
Career program Completer
Dual Completer

University System of Maryland Completer

The student pursues a sequence of courses in preparation for post-secondary education upon high school graduation. Minimum requirements include 2 years of the same World/Classical Language or 2 credits in advanced technology courses, as well as Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II.

High school coursework requirements in the table below apply to students seeking admission to any University of Maryland institution. Each has guidelines for evaluating applicants who have not completed all courses required for admission.

In some cases, students who lack a required course are permitted to take it their freshman year in college. In other instances, students are permitted to demonstrate their competency in a given field as an alternative to passing a required high school course. While these represent the minimum high school course requirements for entry in the University System of Maryland institutions, individual campuses and programs may have additional requirements.

Career Program Completer

Career Completer
The student pursues a sequence of courses to develop skills in preparation for employment upon high school graduation. These courses and programs are offered at both Centers of Applied Technology or at the high schools through the Business Education, Family and Consumer Sciences or Technology Education Departments. These career completer programs are approved by the Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Career and Adult Learning.

Tech Prep Completer
Some of the career completer pathways are identified as Tech Prep pathways. The students completing these pathways pursue a particular sequence of study through vocational programs or specified coursework in the high school. Certain Tech Prep programs have articulation agreements with local post-secondary institutions. These agreements allow students to earn college credit for courses taken in high school.

Dual Completer

The student pursues a sequence of courses that fulfills both Career and University System of Maryland completer requirements.
Service Learning Requirement

Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) graduation requirements include Service Learning. Anne Arundel County Public Schools integrates this requirement into existing course curricula, starting with the 5th grade. Students complete Service Learning projects and activities as part of a course assignment in order to meet Service Learning graduation requirements by the end of the 11th grade year.

Service Learning Implementation in AACPS

- Students in the 5th grade will complete 5 hours of Service Learning through social studies activities. Students in the 6th through 8th grades will complete 10 hours of Service Learning in each grade level for a total of 30 hours.

- Students in grades 9 through 11 will earn Service Learning hours through projects in the following courses:
  - US Government - 10 hours
  - Grade 10 Science - 10 hours
  - English 11 - 10 hours
  - Health Class - 10 hours

All students transferring into an Anne Arundel County public high school from out of state must complete 40 hours of Service Learning to meet the MSDE graduation requirement at the high school level. All students transferring into an Anne Arundel County public school from within the state of Maryland must have documentation for 40 hours of Service Learning from their previous school(s) or complete the balance for a total of 40 hours.

State-Mandated Assessments

Students are required to take and/or pass a number of tests prior to leaving high school. These assessments may include the High School Assessment (HSA) for US Government, the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College & Careers (PARCC) tests for Algebra and English 10, and the Maryland Integrated Science Assessment.

Additional assessments may be required to meet Anne Arundel County Public Schools and Maryland State Department of Education College & Career Readiness standards, which may include PARCC Algebra 2, Accuplacer and/or the ACT exam.

See the Graduation Notification Agreement for specific assessment requirements.
Special Conditions to Complete Graduation Requirements

In addition to earning credits during the regular school day and year, credits may be earned, at the discretion of the local school system, through various other programs.

No student may earn credit more than once for the same course.

Additional ways to earn credit include:

Summer School
The secondary summer school program provides students the opportunity to make up work in which they were unsuccessful, to improve grade averages in sequential subjects and to earn credits in order to meet high school graduation requirements.

Evening School
The Evening High School program offers students who are currently attending a daytime high school the opportunity to make up credits or take additional courses. For those students who do not finish high school, Evening High School offers the chance to complete the high school education and earn a high school diploma.

Early College Access Program (ECAP)

The Early College Access Program (ECAP) at Anne Arundel Community College (AACC) is jointly sponsored by AACC and the Anne Arundel County Public Schools. With the approval of the high school principal and school counselor, students age 16 and older can take college-level coursework through AACC.

College credits earned through ECAP may be transferable to a four-year college or university. Students may tackle first-year basics or start exploring career options in architecture, business, information technology, homeland security, teaching and more.

The ECAP Program also gives current high school students a 50% discount on AACC course tuition.

To get started:

1. Complete the AACS ECAP Application (see appendix) and get all necessary signatures from parent/guardian, high school counselor and principal. You will also need a copy of your transcript for enrollment in your first ECAP course.

2. Apply Online at aacc.edu to get an AACC student ID number and access to the student portal, myaacc.

3. Get Tested – If you have not taken the SAT or ACT or do not have the minimum scores required by AACC to enter most college classes, you may need to take the Accuplacer Test.

4. See an Admissions Advisor – meet with Mrs Diane Bennett, AACC School Liaison, in the Media Center during NEST, or contact dbennett@aacc.edu, to get more information about which classes you should take.

5. Pay Your Bill – Payments may be made in person, by mail or online. Submit a copy of the completed ECAP form with your payment to the Cashier’s Office at the time of course registration or include a copy of the ECAP form with your payment online or by mail in order to qualify for a 50% reduction of your tuition.

***ECAP offers a 50% reduction of course tuition ONLY.

Fee reduction does NOT apply to books, lab/registration fees or other expenses.
ONE OPPORTUNITY.  
LIMITLESS POSSIBILITIES.

If you want to play sports at an NCAA Division I or II school, start by registering for a Certification Account with the NCAA Eligibility Center at eligibilitycenter.org. If you want to play Division III sports or you aren’t sure where you want to compete, start by creating a Profile Page at eligibilitycenter.org.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

To play sports at a Division I or II school, you must graduate from high school, complete 16 NCAA-approved core courses, earn a minimum GPA and earn an ACT or SAT score that matches your core-course GPA.

CORE COURSES

Only courses that appear on your high school’s list of NCAA core courses will count toward the 16 core-course requirement; visit eligibilitycenter.org/corecurriculum for a full list of your high school’s approved core courses. Complete 16 core courses in the following areas:

**DIVISION I**

Complete 16 NCAA core courses, including seven in English, math or natural/physical science, before your seventh semester.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGLISH</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH (Algebra I or higher)</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NATURAL/PHYSICAL SCIENCE (including one year of lab, if offered)</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCIAL SCIENCE</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADDITIONAL COURSES (may select from foreign language or comparative religion/philosophy)</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADDITIONAL COURSES (may select from English, math or natural/physical science)</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DIVISION II**

Complete 16 NCAA core courses, including seven in English, math or natural/physical science, before your seventh semester.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGLISH</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>SOCIAL SCIENCE</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADDITIONAL COURSES (may select from foreign language or comparative religion/philosophy)</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADDITIONAL COURSES (may select from English, math or natural/physical science)</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GRADE-POINT AVERAGE

The NCAA Eligibility Center calculates your grade-point average based only on the grades you earn in NCAA-approved core courses.

- DI requires a minimum 2.3 GPA.
- DII requires a minimum 2.2 GPA.

SLIDING SCALE

Divisions I and II use sliding scales to match test scores and GPAs to determine eligibility. The sliding scale balances your test score with your GPA. If you have a low test score, you need a higher GPA to be eligible. Find more information about test scores at ncaa.org/test-scores.

TEST SCORES

You may take the SAT or ACT an unlimited number of times before you enroll full-time in college. Every time you register for the SAT or ACT, use the NCAA Eligibility Center code 9999 to send your scores directly to us from the testing agency. We accept official scores only from the ACT or SAT, and won’t use scores shown on your high school transcript. If you take either test more than once, the best subscore from different tests are used to give you the best possible score.
Taking Steps Toward College

Want to be prepared to meet college application deadlines and be among the first on the accepted list? Here are the things you will need to do:

- Get to know your High School Counselor
  Your Counselor has been watching your progress since 9th grade, making sure that you are on track to graduate, but how well do they really know you? Make an appointment to talk about your hopes for the future and let them help you figure out how to make it happen.

- Take the SAT, ACT, or Accuplacer
  Standardized tests help colleges compare you with other applicants.

- Attend college fairs, in-school meetings with admissions representatives, college campus tours
  Learn all you can about the school you are interested in attending and see if what you find out matches your future plans for a college experience.

- Request letters of recommendation from teachers, mentors, counselors, employers, etc
  Good character references can make you a more desirable candidate for admission to a college. Ask a variety of adults, not just teachers, to send a letter of recommendation.

- Practice writing college essays
  A college essay gives the admissions counselor a glimpse of who you are and what you are about. Take your time, be honest and edit carefully before submitting your work.

- Complete college applications and request high school transcripts well ahead of deadlines

- Explore financial aid options and start looking for scholarship opportunities
  Take advantage of web-based financial aid and scholarship search engines and check out scholarships listed on Naviance/Student.

- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
  Schools use the data from the FAFSA to determine scholarship packages and financial aid offers. Start your application as soon as it opens in October, and get it done before Maryland’s March 1 deadline.

- Keep up with your high school coursework and outside activities
  Just because you have been accepted DOES NOT mean that you can slack off on school work. Colleges have been known to withdraw their offers if grades take a sudden downturn.

- Provide supplemental transcripts, as needed, throughout the year
  Many colleges continue to track your progress long after you have turned in that initial application. Mid-year reports and additional transcripts may be required. If so, be sure to have them sent soon after the semester ends.

- Choose the college you plan to attend by May 1

- Watch for additional information from the college for orientation, course selection, housing applications, payment, parking, work/study options, etc. Keep to the deadlines, follow all the instructions, and contact the school for help if you need it!
Welcome to Naviance/Student!

Naviance/Student has a modern look and mobile-responsive design. Now you can use any device – tablet, mobile phone, laptop, or desktop. No more tabbed interface! Instead, look for the drop-down menus for each section at the upper-right hand corner of any Naviance/Student page.

All the same great features that made Naviance useful are still here:

College Search Tools, including NEW College Super Match and College Confidential. Super Match compares how you fare among other college applicants, based on GPA and test scores. College Confidential, a popular college admissions forum, offers insights into admissions chances, financial aid, and school life.

Build a Resume - keep track of everything you have accomplished including jobs, clubs, sports and other activities in an easy save/print format

Online Surveys for Letters of Recommendation - give your counselor and teachers some information to base their letters of recommendation on. Sharing is good!

Common App Matching & Electronic Transcript Submissions - Naviance/Student links to the Common and Coalition Applications with faster, more secure transcript processing

Calendar Planner and Task Manager Features - track your application progress, set up deadline reminders and organize your life

Careers Exploration Tools and the Career Interests Profiler - find out what careers might suit you based on a personality profile, then explore any number of options related to your results.

Road Trip Nation - a video library housing interviews of candid conversations with leaders about their successes and failures and how they were able to navigate life’s many challenges to pursue endeavors that matter to them.

Naviance/Student still offers communication by e-mail to keep you and your family informed of college visits and fairs, scholarship opportunities, deadline warnings, internships and employment opportunities.

How To Get There

Visit www.southriverhigh.org, look for the Links Menu and click Naviance/Student.

Access to student pages requires a passcode - contact the Counseling Office at 410-956-5600, ext 210, for assistance - or enter as a GUEST to access college/career search and scholarship features.
The SAT and ACT Exams

The SAT is the nation's most widely used college admissions test, a distinction that it has held for more than seven decades. It is taken by more than two million students every year and is accepted by virtually all colleges and universities. SAT tests measure knowledge of subjects learned in the classroom, including reading, writing, and math, and how that knowledge can be applied inside and outside of school. It helps colleges get to know a student better by giving them insight into how the student thinks, solves problems, and communicates. The SAT offers an optional writing portion, as well as subject-area specific assessment opportunities. Register for the SAT on-line at www.collegeboard.com.

The ACT is a curriculum based test that assesses a high school student's general and educational development and their ability to complete college-level work. The multiple choice tests cover 4 skill areas - English, Mathematics, Reading and Science. The writing test, which is optional, measures a student's ability to plan and write a short essay. Register for the ACT on-line at www.actstudent.org.

Use the South River High School Code 210494 when applying for either exam

To send SAT and ACT scores to colleges, the scores must be requested directly from the host organization - SAT from www.collegeboard.com, ACT from www.actstudent.org. If requesting scores after tests have been administered, payment of a fee is required (you may request free score reports to be sent to the schools of your choice at time of test registration).

High Schools do not have permission to send SAT or ACT scores to colleges.

Anticipated SAT Exam Dates 2020/2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SAT Date</th>
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<td>Aug 29</td>
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<td>Oct 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 7</td>
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<td>Dec 5</td>
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Anticipated ACT Exam Dates 2020/2021

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<tbody>
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<td>October 10</td>
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<td>October 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 24</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 25</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
How Do You Decide Which College?

Summer is a good time to start your college search, using Naviance/Student. With tools like College Super Match, where you create a personal profile for matching schools, Scattergrams, to show how you fit among your peers who were accepted, and College Maps where colleges are separated out into specific categories, it is easier than ever to find schools that can meet your personal needs and interests.

In addition, South River High School provides juniors and seniors with opportunities to meet with college representatives from across the country. Students are invited to attend as many as 6 of these sessions. Sign-ups for college visits can be found on the colleges menu in Naviance/Student.

College admissions representatives are well versed in the unique benefits of their institution. Many representatives were once students at the school and are often the very same people who will be reading your application! They will happily explain degree programs, course options, finances, housing, extracurricular and sports activities, and what the off-campus community is like and will let you know just what it takes to get accepted.

College fairs are also a good place to browse college options. Local organizations offer opportunities for one-on-one meetings with multiple college representatives at fairs all over the region. NACAC sponsors college fairs in Baltimore and Washington DC. Locally, Broadneck High School hosts a fair in October and Anne Arundel Community College holds theirs in March.

When meeting with representatives in any setting, keep an open mind. Ask for a viewbook, information on majors and financial aid, and get a business card. Review your notes again when you get home. Call or email the representative if you need more information.

It is good to have some idea of what you want out of your college experience - what programs you are interested in, possible career choices or areas of interest, maybe a plan for the future. Nothing is set and you can, and probably will, change your mind, but a plan helps ease the anxiety of having too many options. Use Naviance/Student's Careers Interest Profiler to discover where your talents lie.

Pick a few top-choice schools and take a trip to visit their campuses or do a virtual tour, preferably while classes are in session. Some things to keep in mind during your tour:

- Each college has a personality, which is reflected in its general student body. Figure out what that personality is and whether it will be a good fit for yours.

- Some schools are easier to pay for than others. Check out what it will cost to go to school, including room and board if needed, and explore opportunities for financial aid, work-study and employment off-campus.

- How accessible are professors, advisors and counselors? Will it be easy to get help when you need it? Look for supplemental services such as a Writing or Math Lab, a Careers Advisor, tutoring, research assistance and library/media services.

- How far from home do you want to be when you go to school? If you live on campus, is there plenty to keep you busy when you are not in class or studying so you don't get too homesick? Ask about the accommodations, the food, the social scene.

And when the end of April arrives, you will fully prepared to use everything you have learned to pick the RIGHT school for you.
Glossary of Admissions Programs

There are a number of admissions programs used by the colleges and universities. Although these programs differ widely, some of them require you to do considerable planning well before the senior year.

The various admissions programs are:

**Early Decision**
This plan is suggested for students who are academically strong and know that they want to attend a particular college. With Early Decision, students apply in November or December and are notified of acceptance about a month later. Candidates who are accepted are required to withdraw their application to other colleges and agree to matriculate at the college that accepts them. Students should not apply to more than one early decision program and should understand clearly the commitment they are making.

**Early Action**
This differs from early decision in that students are not required to accept admission or withdraw other applications if accepted. Early action is offered chiefly by selective institutions. Students have until the regular admission deadline to decide whether or not to attend.

**Rolling Admissions**
Colleges using Rolling Admissions accept students who meet the academic requirements on a first-come/first-served basis until it fills the freshman class. No strict application deadline is specified. Applications are reviewed and decisions are made immediately (usually within 3 - 4 weeks).

**Regular Admissions**
Colleges require applications to be received by a certain date and then notify all candidates at one time, usually in the spring.

**Early Admission**
Colleges allow high school students to enroll before they complete graduation from high school. Admissions standards are more stringent for early admission.

**Open Admission**
A policy adopted by a number of institutions which allows virtually all applicants to be accepted, regardless of academic qualifications. Anne Arundel Community College offers open admissions.

**Mid-Year Admission**
An option offered by some colleges to certain candidates; students are allowed to start classes in the second semester instead of the fall.

**Concurrent Enrollment**
High school students may be permitted to enroll in college courses while still attending high school. The Early College Access Program (ECAP) at Anne Arundel Community College is an example of Concurrent Enrollment.

**Deferred Admission**
Accepted students are allowed to postpone enrollment for one year.
The **Common App** is a modern, simplified interface that speeds the process of applying to colleges.

Once completed, your application can forwarded to any number of participating schools. You spend less time on repeating the same information on individual school applications and more time on your college research, essays and senior coursework.

Link your Common App to **Naviance/Student** to sign the FERPA (a electronic release of records form), and to request counselor and teacher letters of recommendation to supplement your applications.

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**COALITION for ACCESS, AFFORDABILITY, and SUCCESS**

The **Coalition Application** is an alternative online application for private schools and public institutions who prefer a simpler, more personalized application format.

The Coalition’s “Locker” (a private storage and organization space), allows for upload of documents, video, images, spreadsheets, and other media, which can be attached to the application.

The FERPA release on Coalition is attached to each college application and counselor/teacher forms are submitted separately through Naviance/Student.
Crafting That College Essay

College admissions counselors use everything on an application to determine whether the candidate for enrollment will be a good fit for the school, including a personal essay. A good essay can bump your application to the top of the selections pile; a feeble one makes you look bad to the people you want to impress.

Make yourself stand out from the pack by following a few simple tips:

1. **Start Early** - Give yourself plenty of time to craft a good essay. It takes time to put your thoughts in order, edit, and get it proofread to make that final draft just right.

2. **Be Natural** - Write about what is important to YOU, something personal, that moves YOU; an issue, event or person that is significant and affects your view of the world.

3. **Be Honest** - After looking at thousands of essays, college admissions counselors can spot lazy writing and plagiarism a mile away.

4. **Be Creative, Take a Risk** - Don't settle for easy. Or common. Stay away from sports analogies or loss of a loved one. While important milestones to you, these are themes counselors see too often. Be different, be sincere, be concise, skip cute and silly. Be a good storyteller and write an entertaining piece.

5. **Be Focused** - Keep your essay on a single theme. No grocery lists here, applications already cover all your accomplishments. Stick to the subject of your essay and use anecdotes to support your thinking.

6. **Write Freely, Then EDIT, EDIT, EDIT** - On your first draft, let the words flow. Put down whatever comes to mind. Once you have said all you can say, start cutting. This is not a high school paper; during the editing process, knock off the introductory and summarizing bits and go right to the meat of your story.

7. **Get a Second Opinion** - Once the essay suits you, pass it to a qualified person (teacher, mentor, friend from the school newspaper, etc) to look it over. Ask for suggestions and be open to their advice.

8. **Give it a Final Once Over** - Before you hit the send button on your application, be sure your essay meets the word count requirements, is free of spelling and syntax errors and is directed to the correct school or person. And remember, an on-line application is a formal communication, not e-mail or Twitter. Skip the use of acronyms and emoticons in your correspondence when sending your work.

Be sure your essay is as well written as you can make it, but keep in mind that it is not the only part of your application that admissions counselors see during the decision-making process. A good essay brings your personality to the page - make yourself come alive!
Types of Scholarships and Financial Aid

College Specific Awards
Colleges often have scholarship money available and use it to develop financial packages offered to applicants who has been granted admission. These scholarships are available under a variety of terms that may include maintaining a certain GPA, pursuing a specific major, etc.
Scholarship awards can be offered to students for achievement in athletics, academics or service or from individual academic departments.

Private Organization Awards
There are thousands of private organizations that offer scholarship awards, ranging from $50 to $20,000 or more. Within the "Private" category, there are many types of organizations to consider, including:

- Corporations
- Religious Organizations
- Unions
- High School Communities or School Districts
- Local Chambers of Commerce
- Private Funds
- And many more...

State and Federal Sources
The federal government provides $33 billion in grant aid to post-secondary education students annually. The aid is offered in several forms, including:

- Need Based Federal Aid
- Pell Grant
- Subsidized Stafford Loans
- Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants
- Federal Work/Study
- Perkins Loans

Additional financing options include:

- Federal PLUS loans (also known as Direct Plus Loans)
- Unsubsidized Stafford Loans
- Private Bank Financing
- Alternative Student Loans

Most college-based and federal scholarships, grants and loans require completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in order to determine financial need. For more information on the FAFSA, visit www.fafsa.ed.gov.
The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is used by colleges and universities to determine a student’s eligibility for financial aid programs sponsored by the federal government, including the Pell Grant, federal work/study and Stafford loans.

The report generated by the application is also the primary tool used by financial aid counselors to determine school-based aid programs, including local work/study and private grants. Private organizations which offer financial need-based scholarships also rely on the FAFSA for proof that a student must have assistance in order to attend college.

The US Department of Education accepts FAFSA applications from October 1 through March 31. Applications are on-line at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

In order to complete a FAFSA application, students and their parents must provide certain personal and financial information, including social security numbers, citizenship and dependency status, income and supplemental earnings as listed on the Federal Tax Return form 1040 or 1040-A.

Once the FAFSA has been submitted, a Student Aid Report (SAR) is generated which shows your official Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The EFC number is then used by the college or university to determine how much and what kind of aid you qualify for.

Nearly every student is eligible for some form of financial aid. Students who may not be eligible for need-based assistance may still qualify for an unsubsidized Stafford Loan, regardless of income or circumstances.

**The FAFSA is FREE**

The Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 does allow third-party preparers to charge a fee, similar to the way income tax preparers, like H & R Block, work. It is buyer beware when using a third-party website - be sure to review fees, privacy and terms of agreement. The official site is sponsored by Federal Student Aid and supported by the US Department of Higher Education and is FREE. Visit www.fafsa.ed.gov for more information.
Appendix

High School Materials Needed to Process Applications and Transcript Requests

Appendix A
SRHS Release of Records Form

Appendix B
Transcript Checklist / Request Form
SRHS College Application Processing

Appendix C
How to Link Your Common App to Naviance and Sign the FERPA Waiver

Appendix D
Naviance Senior Letter of Recommendation Questionnaire Instructions

Appendix E
Early College Access Program Application

Appendix F
Find a College Worksheet
Find a Scholarship Worksheet
South River High School
Transcript Release of Records Authorization

A parent must consent to the release of student information for any child who has not graduated. Once a signature is on file, no additional release forms are required to process transcript requests throughout the remainder of the current school year.

I, the undersigned, give South River High School permission to release the records of:

______________________________  ______________________________
Student Name (print clearly)    Year of Graduation

to post-secondary institutions, prospective employers or scholarship organizations at the request of the student.

______________________________  ______________________________
Parent Signature                Date

School Counselors reserve the right of confidentiality for all letters of recommendation. No Records Request may be processed without parent permission.

Return Completed Form to the School Counseling Office
Transcript and Counselor Materials Processing Procedures

To process your request for transcripts, letters of recommendation and counselor forms for your college applications, you must have completed the following steps:

➢ Turn in the Release of Records form SIGNED by your parent 
   (required for your very first transcript request – not needed for additional requests later)

➢ Make sure that your Senior Questionnaire for Recommendation Letters is complete

➢ REQUIRED for ALL College Applications:
  1. Create a Common App Account (or sign in to your existing account)
  2. Under the Common App tab, complete the Education section (green check = complete)
  3. Add at least ONE college to the list under the My Colleges tab (add more as needed)
  4. In the My Colleges list, choose a college, then click the link to Assign Recommenders
  5. Complete the FERPA Release Authorization (be sure to mark ALL sections carefully)
  6. In Naviance/Student, go to “colleges I am applying to,” in the pink bar, click MATCH.
     Enter the email used to create your Common App account, confirm the birthdate, and click MATCH.

➢ Special Instructions for the Coalition Application: on Attaching Documents page – check the box “I will be sending my Grades separately and acknowledge that it is my responsibility to ensure that it is received...” DO NOT USE COALITION TO ORDER TRANSCRIPTS OR LETTERS OR RECOMMENDATION.

➢ In Naviance/Student - review the list of colleges that you are applying to:
  a) Be sure that ALL the schools you are applying to are on your “colleges I am applying to” list
  b) Confirm whether you are applying with Common App or sending “Direct to Institution”
  c) Confirm which decision type you are applying for

➢ If you need TEACHER letters of recommendation:
  – On Naviance/Student, on the “colleges I am applying to” page, add requests under the Letters of Recommendation section (note specific instructions, if needed, AND say Thank You)
  – Go to the teacher IN PERSON to ask nicely

Transcript Requests cannot be processed unless a SIGNED Release of Records is on file.

Allow at least 15 WORKING DAYS AHEAD OF DEADLINE for processing transcripts with Letters of Recommendation.
Transcript Processing During COVID-19 School Closures

- Forms for transcript requests must be submitted electronically to tchaffer@aacps.org.

- There is no fee for processing transcript requests from the school during this period.

- Official transcripts will be sent directly to schools, organizations, businesses or colleges via electronic transmission or US Mail.

- Transcripts are not available for pick up. School buildings remain closed to visitors.

- Students or parents in need of transcripts will receive unofficial copies only.

For all Transcript processing needs, please see the school website: www.southriverhigh.org/counseling-office/requesting-transcripts/

Parents of current senior students must sign a Release of Records form at the beginning of the school year. This release gives SRHS permission to process transcripts as needed.
How to Link Your Common Application to Naviance and Sign the FERPA Waiver

In order to process transcripts and letters of recommendation for college applications, you must have completed the following steps:

1. Log-in to your Naviance/FamilyConnection account

2. On the Colleges page, go to Colleges I Am Applying To; in the green box, click the link to www.CommonApp.org

3. At the Common Application site, Create an Account (or sign in to your existing account)

4. Under the Common App tab, complete the Education section (green check = complete)

5. Add at least ONE college to the list under the My Colleges tab (add more as needed)

6. In the My Colleges list, choose a college, then click the link to Assign Recommenders

7. Complete the FERPA Release Authorization (be sure to mark ALL sections carefully)

8. Select Authorize, Waive and Understand.

9. Complete the electronic signature

10. On Naviance/FamilyConnection, complete the Common App Match

In Naviance – Please be sure to review the list of colleges that you are applying to:
- Check that ALL schools you are applying to are on your list (add more as needed)
- In the column Applying Via Common App – mark Yes or No
Instructions for Students to Complete the Senior Questionnaire for Counselor Letters of Recommendation

To access the NEW Naviance/Student:
www.student.naviance.com/southriverhs

Select the Menu “About Me” From the drop down, click “My Surveys”

Complete the survey in its entirety, providing detailed responses to the questions. The more you include, the better your letters of recommendation will be!

When you have finished all your responses, click the “UPDATE” button.

Don’t Forget to E-Mail Your Counselor Let Them Know You Have Completed Your Survey!!!
Qualifying students 16 years of age with a GPA of at least 2.0 should present a completed PRE-POPULATED ECAP Application to the Cashiers office along with payment upon the completion of registration for approved course(s).
- ECAP Applications DO NOT prevent students from being dropped from their course(s) – Only payments do.
- Initial payment is required by the due date or student may be dropped from course(s)
- A new ECAP Application is required every semester.
  - FARM students must submit a new ECAP Application for all courses or course changes.
- Graduating 12th Grade Seniors DO NOT qualify for ECAP tuition reduction for Summer courses.

50% of the Tuition Charges only are waived by a qualifying completed ECAP Application.
- Students pay Registration Fee, General Student Fees, Lab Fees and Remaining 50% Tuition.
  - Registration Fee: $25 per semester.
  - General Student Fees: $25 per credit (most courses are 3 to 4 credits each).
  - Lab Fees (if applicable): Cost Varies Per Course.
  - In-County Tuition: $116 per credit ($58.00 per credit reduction with qualifying completed ECAP Application).
- Free and Reduced Meals (FARM) Students DO NOT pay any Tuition Charges.
  - FARM students only pay Registration Fee, General Student Fees and Lab Fees as described above.
  - Undocumented Student bills are adjusted to the in-county tuition rate and are charged as described above.

FULL PAYMENT is preferred but is not required. Students may participate in AACC’s payment plan. However, if a payment isn’t received within 5 days of the scheduled due dates, a $10 Late Fine will be assessed on the 6th day for each due date missed.
- Payment Types Accepted: Credit Cards (Visa, MC, Amex, Disc), Checks, Money Orders. Cash is only accepted at the main campus in Arnold.

Early College Access Grant (ECAG) of $200 per term (Fall and Spring semesters ONLY) is a per semester scholarship for students who are: 1) Dually enrolled in high school and AACC; 2) Maryland resident; 3) Demonstrate financial need; 4) U.S. Citizen or permanent resident, eligible non-citizen with asylum, parole or refugee status, or non-U.S. citizen eligible for in-state tuition under the Maryland Dream Act.
- Approved ECAG applications completed for Fall semester will cover both Fall and Spring semesters. If initial ECAG application is submitted for Spring semester, student will need to complete another ECAG application for the upcoming Fall/Spring semesters.
- ECAG Scholarship money is limited – Please submit this application as soon as possible.
- ECAG Application: http://www.aacc.edu/earn-college-credits-while-in-high-school/ecap-costs-and-paying/

Set up your MyAACC portal account as soon as you are registered. Go to http://aacc.edu/resources/technology/myaacc/ for information on how to set up your MyAACC portal account.
- MyAACC email is a method in which AACC communicates with its students. MyAACC email accounts should be monitored frequently for important notifications and information which may require action or response.
- Access your MyAACC email account, make payments, and view all of your academic information via this portal.

ECAP Students must adhere to the same standards and policies of all students
- This includes dropping or withdrawing from a course. It must be done on time!


- One 3-credit AACC course will cost approximately: $274.00 for tuition and fees PLUS the cost of books and materials
  - FARM students - One 3-credit AACC course will cost approximately $100 for fees PLUS the cost of books and materials
- One 4-credit course will cost approximately: $357.00 for tuition and fees PLUS the cost of books and materials
  - FARM students - One 4-credit course will cost approximately $125 for fees PLUS the cost of books and materials
Printing a Pre-Populated ECAP Application

Students must now print their own pre-populated ECAP Application from the AACPS.ORG website!

Navigate to: https://www.aacps.org/ecap

Click on: PRINT YOUR APPLICATION

EARLY COLLEGE ACCESS (ECAP)

AACPS and Anne Arundel Community College (AACC) are joint sponsors of the Early College Access Programs (ECAP), which includes Non-Dual Credit programs. ECAP is designed to allow authorized high school students to explore college level coursework in a variety of academic areas.

This college level coursework can complete the academic day for approved high school students who are progressing toward high school graduation and/or provide the opportunity to study subject matter not otherwise available through the traditional secondary school curriculum.

PRINT YOUR APPLICATION

The link will take the student to a login screen

[Use High School Login]

Once the student enters their Username and Password, they can print their own pre-populated ECAP Application.
STEP 2: *YOU’VE FOUND YOUR MAJORS ... NOW FIND YOUR COLLEGE!*

The MyMajors College Search connects you to more than 7,200 Colleges, Universities and Career Schools. Refine your search using the space below and by logging-in to your MyMajors.com Profile page and go to “My Schools” tab. Search for your Major, State, and Institution Type. Use the “Request Info” button to on the school name to research more.

1. **What type of institution best fits your unique interests:**
   - □ 4-Year
     - Liberal Arts Colleges and Universities
       - Earn a Bachelor's Degree or Higher
       - Study a wide range of courses
   - □ 2-Year
     - Community Colleges
       - Earn an Associate’s Degree
       - Affordable, prepares you for a career or 4-year institution
   - □ 2-Year
     - Career Colleges or Vo-Tech
       - Career-focused, Gen-Ed courses not required
       - Earn a Certificate of Completion or Associate’s Degree
   - □ Public
   - □ Private, non-profit
   - □ Private, for-profit

2. **What size of institution best fits your unique needs:**
   - □ Small (Less than 5,000 students)
   - □ Medium (5,000 - 20,000 students)
   - □ Large (More than 20,000 students)

3. **Are you interested in Distance Learning/Online programs at a college or university?**
   - □ Yes
   - □ No

4. **Interested in the Military as a career or to help pay for college?**
   - □ Yes
   - □ No

5. **Based on your recommended majors, research three colleges or university profile pages and their websites. Below, write down the three schools and note one aspect that seems to make their campus and approach to your major unique.**
   a.
   b.
   c.

6. **Using the “Request Info” button on either the school’s profile page or on your unique list of schools, sign-up for more information online. You can also request more information by filling out the Reply Card in the middle of this book.**

7. **Ready to apply yet? Many schools have online applications making it easy and fast to apply. In the space below, write down three schools that you are interested in applying to along with the deadline for admissions.**
   a.
   b.
   c.

**RESEARCHED SOME SCHOOLS? NOW FIND A CAREER (STEP 3) »**

*This Activity Worksheet is Part 2 in a 3-part process. If you have not completed Step 1, please go to MyMajors.com and take the MyMajors quiz to find your major and find a college.*
**STEP 4: MAKE YOUR EDUCATION PAY FOR ITSELF!**

About 86 percent of students on MyMajors.com are looking for some kind of financial support while pursuing post-secondary options. Go online to MyMajors.com and click on the “Scholarships and Grants” link. Then, begin the process for researching two potential scholarships and, using the area below, write down the kind of information you will need when applying for these two scholarships.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOLARSHIP 1:</th>
<th>SCHOLARSHIP 2:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Scholarship Contact Information:</td>
<td>Scholarship Contact Information:</td>
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<td>Scholarship Eligibility Requirements:</td>
<td>Scholarship Eligibility Requirements:</td>
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<td>Amount of Scholarship (Award):</td>
<td>Amount of Scholarship (Award):</td>
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<tr>
<td>Checklist of items required for scholarship/award:</td>
<td>Checklist of items required for scholarship/award:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scholarship Due Date:</td>
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Interested in the Military as a career or to help pay for college? Research Military Academies, ROTC programs and Military careers on MyMajors.com.