

HAMMOND

College Counseling Senior Bulletin
December 2007

College Applications

All college applications should be completed by December 3. However, if you have any other applications that need to be mailed before January 15, you must turn them in BEFORE December 7.

It is always a good idea to check with the schools to which you have applied to make sure your application file is complete. Do so about three weeks after everything has been submitted. Some colleges provide this service online. USC and College of Charleston are two examples.

Check the *Daily Announcements* often. Mrs. Bickley and Ms. Easler use this as their main form of communication when issues arise concerning your applications. When you are requested to come to the College Counseling Office, it is in your best interest to do so immediately.

First semester grades and updated transcripts will be submitted to all the colleges to which you have applied. First semester exams are just around the corner. Exams can and will make a difference.

Scholarships

Seniors should check the College Counseling website regularly. Scholarship information is made available as it comes into the College Counseling Office and is publicized on the website under *From the Director's Desk*.

Continue to check with individual college/university financial aid offices about institutional scholarships for which you might be eligible.

The *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA) is required by most college/universities before you can be considered for financial aid. Before beginning the FAFSA your family should apply for a US Department of Education personal identification number (PIN) at www.pin.ed.gov. A PIN is required in order to complete the FAFSA. The FAFSA can be found at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Families can begin submitting the FAFSA beginning January 1.

Some private colleges/universities also require the CSS Profile which can be found at www.collegeboard.com.

LIFE and Palmetto Fellows Scholarships

If you have not met SAT/ACT qualifications for the South Carolina LIFE Scholarship and plan to attend an in-state public/private college/university, you may continue to take the SAT/ACT through June 2008. The minimum SAT/ACT score for LIFE is 1100/24 with a 3.0 GPA. The LIFE is worth \$5000/year during your freshman year and may be worth more during your sophomore, junior, and senior years due to program enhancements. Go to www.che.sc.gov for more information on program enhancements. Click on *Students and Parents*. Click on *Scholarships and Grants*. Click on *LIFE Scholarships*.

Eligibility rules for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship require an SAT/ACT of 1400/ 32 and a 4.0 GPA *or* that a student be in the top 6% of the class at the end of the sophomore/junior year with an SAT/ACT of 1200/27 and a 3.5 GPA. This scholarship can be used at any in-state public/private college/university. It's not too late to retake the SAT/ACT in order to qualify for the Palmetto Fellows. You can take it through June 2008. Palmetto Fellow Scholarships are worth \$6700 during the freshman year. Due to program enhancements, they may be worth up to \$10,000 during sophomore, junior, and senior years. Go to www.che.sc.gov for more information on program enhancements. Click on *Students and Parents*. Click on *Scholarships and Grants*. Click on *Palmetto Fellow Scholarships*.

Please Note: If you believe you qualify for the Palmetto Fellow Scholarship but have not spoken with Mrs. Bickley, please see her ASAP.

Admission Decisions

As you receive admission decisions, please let Ms. Easler/Mrs. Bickley know so that your admission records can be updated. Colleges do not send acceptance information to the Office of College Counseling.

If you applied Early Decision and are accepted, it is your responsibility to *immediately* withdraw applications at all other schools. You need to do so in writing.

Second Semester Senior Year

Contrary to popular opinion, second semester grades do count. If you have already received an admission decision, colleges expect you to maintain or improve the status under which you were admitted. Unfortunately, there are examples of admission offers being rescinded when second semester grades are submitted in June. If you have not received an admission decision, be aware: It is not unusual for colleges to contact high schools to request grade updates during second semester.

In addition, LIFE and even Palmetto Scholarship awards are contingent on cumulative GPA at the end of your senior year.

Good Manners

If you have not already done so, you should write thank you notes to the individuals who have written letters of recommendation for you. This includes both teachers and outside people who have spoken on your behalf.