

# The Road to College

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JMU Professor in Residence  
@  
Washington-Lee & Wakefield

## Why am I Here?

- Applications – colleges & scholarships
  - Essays
  - College Preparation
  - Personal, College, Career questions
  - Anything You Need
- 
- JMU sent me to help you!

## When am I here?

Every Other Monday  
in  
Mr. Sample's Room





# About Me:

- ❖ Undergraduate:
  - ❑ University of Mary Washington
  - ❑ Bachelors of Science in Psychology
- ❖ Graduate:
  - ❑ James Madison University
  - ❑ Masters of Education in School Counseling
- ❖ Work Experience:
  - ❑ Preschool Teacher for 6 years

# High School WILL Pay Off

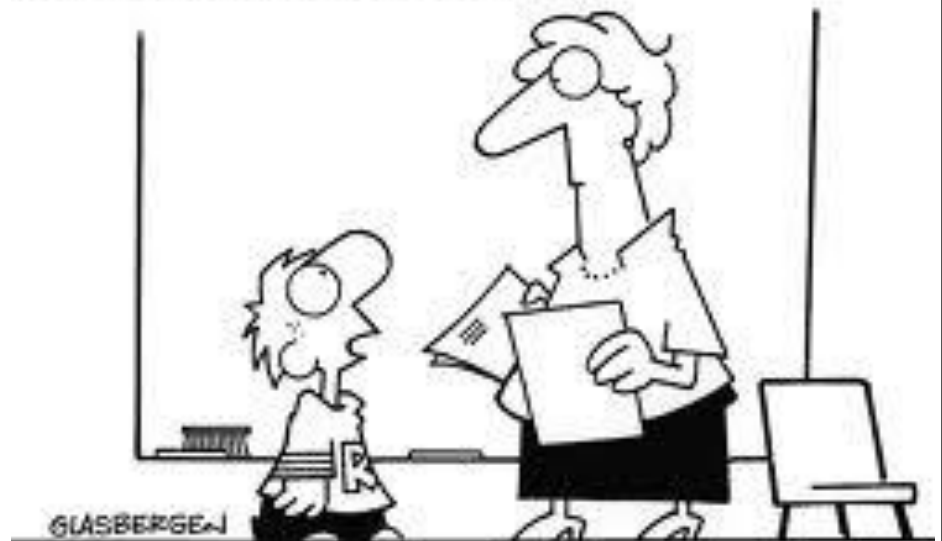
- Meet Jonard



# Freshman Year

- Get to know your counselor & teachers
- Study Hard
- Get Involved

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**"I couldn't do my homework because my computer has a virus and so do all my pencils and pens."**



Meet Patricia

## Preparing for your sophomore year

### Stretch Yourself

- Coursework
- Clubs
- Volunteer
- Sports

### Build Your Resume

- Naviance

### Visit Colleges

# Sophomore Year

- Talk to your teachers & counselors
  - Future letters of recommendation
- PSATs in October
- Talk with family about paying for college/saving for college
- Most Important: KEEP YOUR GRADES UP



# Junior Year

- Maintain or Improve GPA
- Take PSAT in October
- Consider AP/IB/Honors/Dual Enrollment courses
- Be involved in activities – leader?



## SATs & ACTs

- Prep course
- Study
- Practice tests
- Register
- Take the test!



# Junior Year



## Let the college search begin!

- **THINK** about the type of college
  - Size
  - Type
  - Population
  - Degrees Offered
  - Cost
  - Student Programs
  - Internship Opportunities
- **ASK** questions
- **VISIT** campuses
- **ATTEND** open houses, college fairs & presentations

# Senior Year

- GPA
- CHALLENGING courses
- Retake SAT/ACT
- College Visits
- Applications
  - Common Application
  - Specific Colleges

i've reviewed your college plan, and as your counselor, i don't think you should list "being cool" as your backup school



# The Application



- Basic Contact Information
- Demographics
- Family
  - Educational Background
  - Career
- Your Education

# The Application



## Your Education

- Schools attended (including Dual Enrollment)
- GPA
- Class Rank
- Courses

## Test Scores

- Dates Taken
- Best Scores
  - ACT
  - SAT
  - AP
  - IB
  - SAT Subjects



# The Application

## Extracurricular Activities & Work Experience

Start your  
resume on  
Naviance  
TODAY

- Activity/Job
- When you participated
- Hours per week
- Weeks per year
- During summer or school year
- Honors, Positions, Employers
- Activities that were involved
- Level of Importance to you
- Plan to continue in college?



## The Application: Essays

- ❖ Personal Statement
- ❖ Supplemental Essays



# Personal Statement

- JMU:

(optional) Complete a one-page personal statement. You may use your personal statement to highlight special interests, talents, goals or unique experiences. Include your full name, high school, and date of birth. There is a space on the application for you to include your personal statement; it will not be read if sent independently.



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# Common Application Essay Options

- Discuss some issue of personal, local, national, or international concern and its importance to you.

# Common Application Essay Options

- Describe a character in fiction, a historical figure, or a creative work (as in art, music, science, etc.) that has had an influence on you, and explain that influence.

# Common Application Essay Options

- A range of academic interests, personal perspectives, and life experiences adds much to the educational mix. Given your personal background, describe an experience that illustrates what you would bring to the diversity in a college community or an encounter that demonstrated the importance of diversity to you.

# Tips for Admissions Essays

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**"I read your college application essay. First of all the word 'COLLEGE' has two 'L's."**

- Get Real
- Be Truthful
- Proofread
- Ask others to read your essay:
  - Teacher
  - Counselor
  - Friends
  - Parents
- Take your time

# The Application

- 2-3 Letters of Recommendation
- Teacher Evaluations
- Counselor Evaluation
- Transcripts

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"Are all of these letters of recommendation  
from your mother?"



# The Application

## Supplemental Material:

- Additional Essays
- In-State Tuition Request
- Application Fee Waiver

## Additional Requirements:

- Audition
  - Music
  - Theater
  - Dance
- Portfolio Reviewed
  - Art
  - Digital
  - Film/Video



# Application Deadlines

- Early Decision
- Early Action (non-binding)
- Rolling Admissions
- Regular Admissions

# The Decision



Admitted

Deferred/Wait List

Rejected



There is a college for everyone who wants to go to college.

Your job now:

- ❑ Good Grades
- ❑ Increase Writing Skills
- ❑ Challenging Courses
- ❑ Activities/Jobs
- ❑ Get to Know Your Counselor & Teachers



Questions?