

# College Planning

Freshmen &  
Sophomores

Classes of 2019 & 2020

# PLP College Planning Team

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*\*\* Parents are strongly encouraged to be checking CANVAS regularly for information regarding student grades and assignments. <https://youtu.be/iigCs2AaiVo>*

# Sophomore Counseling

- Conducting sophomore interviews in early spring
  - Reviewing transcript for accuracy from Freshman year
  - Discussing progression toward 4-year academic plan and goals

*An academic plan serves as a blueprint for course selections over all four years of high school*

- Reviewing graduation requirements
- Discussing recommendations for junior course selections and post-secondary plans
- Begin discussing post-secondary interests (institutions, majors, careers)

# Freshmen Counseling

- Conducting freshman interviews this spring
  - Discussing how freshman year is going academically and socially
  - Discussing progression toward 4-year academic plan and goals

*An academic plan serves as a blueprint for course selections over all four years of high school*

- Reviewing graduation requirements
- Discussing recommendations for sophomore course selections and post-secondary plans
- Introducing college search

# Student Responsibilities

- Start the process of finding the right college fit
- Maintain Naviance Account (emails, notifications, etc.)
- Attend campus tours & representative visits at PLP
- Explore standardized testing differences
  - [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)    [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)
- Explore Naviance College Search Tools
- Maintain a competitive GPA and course selections
- Begin the process of learning how to self-advocate

# PLP Responsibilities

- Provide support & guidance through the college search & application process
- Provide assistance (Naviance, preparing for campus visits, understanding test scores and the differences in standardized testing, etc.)

## **Key Fall Dates**

- PLP College Fair (10/12)
- PSAT (10/19) - 10th graders (optional)
- Pre-ACT (10/6) - 10th graders (mandatory)
- College Awareness Week (11/7 - 11/11)

# Tools to Assist you in Your Search



The screenshot shows the CFNC.org website. At the top left is the "CFNC.org" logo with the tagline "Helping you plan, apply, and pay for college". To the right is the "College Foundation of North Carolina" logo and the phone number "866-866-CFNC(2362)". Below the header is a navigation bar with tabs for "My CFNC", "Plan", "Apply", "Pay", and "Save (NC 529)". A search bar is located on the right. The main content area includes a "Log In" section with fields for "Username" and "Password", a "LOG IN" button, and links for "FORGOT YOUR USERNAME OR PASSWORD?" and "CREATE MY CFNC ACCOUNT". A large banner image shows a group of students with the text "It is never too early or too late to plan your future, no matter what your age." To the right of the banner is a vertical menu with options: "Student", "Parent", "Adult Learner", "Military / Military Dependent", "Education Professional", and "Account Holder". Below the banner are sections for "Check It Out" (with links to "Financial Aid Primer", "eLearningNC.gov", and "Financial Literacy"), "CFNC Events" (with a link to "Register for Webinars, Seminars and Other Training Opportunities"), and "Hot Topics" (with links to "Apply to College", "SAT? ACT? Test Prep Help", and "September is College Savings Month"). A "More financial security?" banner with a woman's face is on the right.



# Exploring Naviance

- Personality profile, college match, test prep, college applications and requests for transcripts and recommendations
- Students receive individual accounts and parents gain access ***through the student's account***
- Handouts “Introduction to Naviance” are attached to new username and passwords cards that are being distributed to your child’s 1st period teacher
- Counseling Department will be distributing 9th grade student usernames and passwords through the 1st period teacher. New 10th grade students will also be receiving usernames & passwords via their 1st period teacher.



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

## Welcome to Family Connection

Nice to see you again! Please log in.

e-mail

password

remember me

**Log In**

[forgot your password?](#)

[need additional help?](#)

are you new here?

[I'm a guest](#)



**Pine Lake Preparatory**

104 Yellow Wood Circle

Mooresville NC 28115

p: 704-237-5377

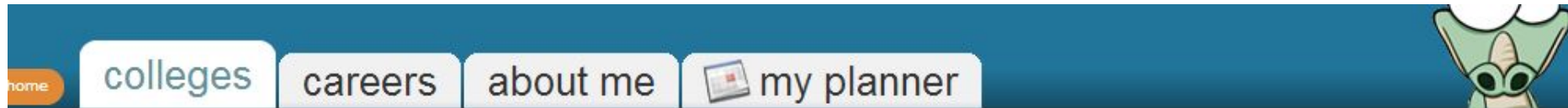
# Getting to Know Naviance

- Student & Parent Share Login Information
- Accounts for New Transfer Students & 9th Graders Have Been Created & Will Be Distributed Through English Classes

The screenshot shows the 'family connection' page on the Naviance website. The header is dark blue with the text 'family connection' in white. Below the header is a navigation bar with buttons for 'home', 'colleges', 'careers', 'about me', and 'my planner'. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- resources**: A list of links including PrepMe, college board, cost projector, cfnc, fast web, fafsa, federal student aid, ncaa clearing house, princeton review, federal aid youtube, and ap credit policy.
- links**: A list of links including act, college board, cost projector, cfnc, fast web, fafsa, federal student aid, ncaa clearing house, princeton review, federal aid youtube, and ap credit policy.
- what's new**: A section with two email notifications: 'You received an e-mail: Scholarship Opportunities from Tim Rhodes.' and 'You received an e-mail: College Bus Tour from Tim Rhodes.'
- PLP Welcome**: A section with a welcome message and two paragraphs of text. The first paragraph states: 'Welcome to Pine Lake Preparatory's College Planning Resources from Naviance. The goal of the college planning program at Pine Lake Preparatory is to help students identify their interests and goals in order to find the right college fit. All Upper School students utilize the Naviance system to track their activities, interests, and interact with their grade-level guidance counselor.' The second paragraph states: 'Grades 9 and 10 are focused on creating college awareness, emphasizing the importance of earning good grades, and getting involved in activities that reflect the student's interest. It is important for students to understand that the work they do throughout high school will be part of the transcript sent to the colleges they choose. It is also important for underclassmen to find a balance between academics and extracurricular activities of merit.' The third paragraph states: 'Grades 11 and 12 are focused on narrowing the college search, exploring schools that match the individual student's interests, goals and family considerations. Students have the opportunity to work one-on-one with a counselor to plan testing, college visitations, and college applications.'
- Academic Partners**: A section with the text 'Academic Partners -'.
- Get the mobile app!**: A banner for the Naviance Student mobile app, available on the App Store.
- updates**: A section with two updates: 'Senior Planning Presentation' and 'Upcoming College Visitations'.
- messages**: A section with a message notification: 'You have 2 new messages'.
- document library**: A section with a link to the document library.
- contact us**: A section with a link to contact us.

# Naviance College Planning Tools



search for colleges:

[MORE SEARCH OPTIONS >>](#)

resources

- [transcripts](#)
- [test scores](#)

## my colleges

- [colleges I'm thinking about](#)
- [colleges I'm applying to](#)

### Upcoming college visits

No upcoming visits.

## college research

- [SuperMatch™ college search](#)
- [college match](#)
- [college compare](#)
- [college lookup](#)
- [college search](#)
- [college resources](#)
- [college maps](#)
- [scattergrams](#)
- [acceptance history](#)
- [enrichment programs](#)

# Course Planning Basics

- Challenge yourself to take honors, AP and college level courses as appropriate, but be careful not to over schedule
- Take courses you are interested in
- Add a 3rd lab science if you want to attend a public SC school (Earth/Environmental doesn't count)
- AP's are limited per grade level
  - Highly/Most Selective Schools are looking for an A not a B
  - Selective schools are looking for an A/B, not a C/D
  - Taking honors and AP courses only helps your GPA if you earn high grades in them
- Colleges only see the final grade in each course

# Dual Enrollment

Eligible 11th & 12th graders may take college classes for both college credit AND elective high school honors credit FOR FREE!

- Up to 34 hours of college courses that have a 100% transfer-guarantee to any UNC-system institution
- Many courses satisfy the general-ed requirements at UNC-system schools
- Courses can be taken at local community college campuses in the afternoon or evening or online
- Tuition is free, except for the cost of books, which can save parents hundreds of dollars per semester hour

# Factors in a Holistic Review

- Student transcript – GPA (weighted vs. unweighted), grades, strength of schedule (transcript reflects end of junior year grades and senior year schedule)
- Test scores – ACT, SAT, Subject Tests
- Student Essay & /or Personal Statement
- Recommendation letters (2)
- Extracurricular activities, employment, & / or community service
- Demonstrated interest in the school – including campus visits, emails to admissions office, phone calls, etc. Most document communications in your file!

# Academic, Social and Financial Fit

Don't focus on getting into a "good" college but the right college

**MATCH = Do you match the academic profile?**

- Grades, test scores, GPA
- If a student "matches" there is a good chance he/she will be admitted

**FIT = Do you see yourself fitting in well on campus?**

- Size, support, activities, majors, weather, distance from home, focus
- If a student "fits" they are likely to be happier and more successful academically

# Grade Point Average

- **Grades** and **Rigor of Courses** are the most important factors in college acceptance
- GPA's are more competitive than ever
- Colleges see grades up through end of junior year
- Every year counts
- Colleges may recalculate GPA based on core curriculum
- Weighting for Honors & AP
  - Honors - .5
  - Dual Enrollment- .5
  - AP - 1.0
- Some colleges may use unweighted GPA
- B's are routine; more selective institutions expect A's



# Grading Scale

90-100	A	4.00
80-89	B	3.00
70-79	C	2.00
60-69	D	1.00

# Standardized Testing

- **9th GRADE** - No required testing
- **10th GRADE** -
  - PreACT TEST (mandatory) October 6
  - PSAT (strongly encouraged) October 19
- **11th GRADE** -
  - PSAT again for National Merit consideration
  - ACT in February at PLP, again independently
- Consider SAT twice Junior year
- Do not wait for fall of senior year in finish testing

# Standardized Testing

- ACT is an achievement-based test measuring what you've learned with an optional writing portion (Scoring 1-36)
- SAT is an evidence-based exam, assessing skills with an optional writing portion (Scoring 400-1600)
- **9th GRADE** - sign up at College Board to receive SAT question of the day, etc. FREE
- **10th GRADE** - Naviance Prep Me begins to prepare for the ACT - FREE

[satpractice.org](http://satpractice.org) (College Board & Khan Academy) FREE Test Prep

Future Prep Test Site (paid tutoring offered onsite at PLP)

# Extracurricular Involvement

- Show commitment in a few activities and demonstrate leadership
- Community Service Hours - Students who don't complete and submit hours show incompletes on their transcripts
- Internships, summer opportunities, shadowing experiences can all show initiative (don't have to cost \$)

# Starting Your College Search

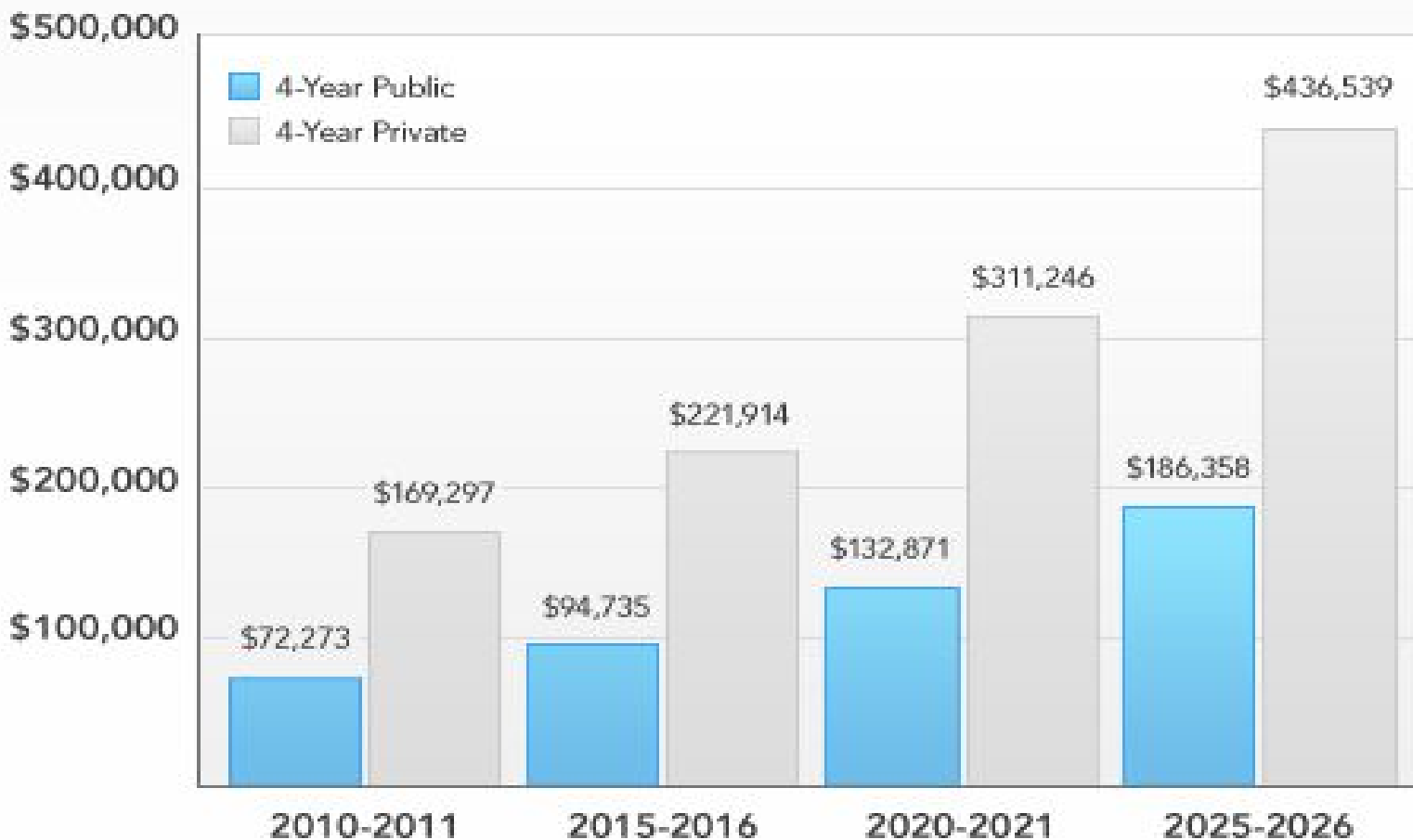
- Make a list of possible colleges, review their admission requirements and set goals
- Discuss factors individual factors in college choice like size, location, programs, costs, etc.
- Attend the NACAC college fair in Charlotte (March)
- Attend LKN College Consortium Case Studies event in April
- Attend the fall and/or spring college bus tours beginning sophomore year
- Attend visits from college representatives at PLP
- 3 days to visit different colleges each year - Excused Absences

# Preparing for College

- Keep a list & document all awards, honors, clubs, positions held, internships, summer programs, service projects in Naviance
- Stay on top of your course grades/classroom performance
- Build relationships with teachers, employers, community members
- Be mindful of your digital footprint
  - Don't post it or send it if you wouldn't want a college admissions officer seeing it
  - Set all online profiles to private
  - Delete questionable content immediately (including tags or references of you from others)

# Financial Fit

## Future Cost of a Four-Year College Education



Source: College Board

# Financial Aid

- Financial Aid Night at PLP:
  - Wednesday, October 5 - 6:30 pm STEM Auditorium
- Davidson College Financial Aid Night:
  - Tuesday, October 18 - 7-8:30 pm Davidson College - Baker Sports Complex/Red Ventures Room, Park in Baker parking lot off of Concord Road in Davidson
    - FAFSA – Free Application for Federal Student Aid
      - Required by all colleges
      - Calculates EFC (Estimated Family Contribution) for Federal Aid
      - [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
      - Application will be available October 1 of Senior Year



# West Coast Colleges Tour

- 6 Day All-Inclusive Tour via EF Education First
- June 12 - June 17

## **Schools Included**

- University of California Berkley or UC Davis
- University of San Fransisco
- Stanford of Santa Clara University
- California Polytechnic State University
- UC Santa Barbara
- Pepperdine or Occidental College
- California Polytechnic State University
- Claremont Colleges
- University of Southern California
- UCLA

# Resources

- 1) PLP College Planning (PLP website/Naviance)
- 2) [www.cfnc.org](http://www.cfnc.org)
- 3) [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)
- 4) <http://studentaid.ed.gov/fafsa/estimate>
- 5) <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>

# Questions