

COLLEGE APPLICATIONS 101



SEPTEMBER 2010

Robin E. Bedwell, Director of Student Services
The High School of Saint Thomas More

THE HIGH SCHOOL OF SAINT THOMAS MORE

GENERAL INFORMATION

- 3901 N. Mattis Avenue, Champaign, IL 61822
- (217) 352-7210, (217) 352-7213 fax
- SCHOOL CODE: 140-599
- www.hs-stm.org
- Robin E. Bedwell, Director of Student Services, rbedwell@hs-stm.org

THE HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT

WHAT'S ON IT?

1. Your grades
2. Your seventh semester classes
3. Your community service hours
4. Your demographic information
5. Cumulative GPA
6. Mean weighted and unweighted gpa for the entire senior class
7. Number of students in the senior class

METHODS OF APPLYING TO COLLEGES

- Online (preferred)
- Paper
- Common Application
 - A limited number of colleges participate
 - Use hard copy or download from Internet
 - www.commonapp.org

THE APPLICATION

1. Parts may (not always) include:
 1. The application – student completes – PROOFREAD!
 2. The Secondary School Report (Counselor Report) – Mrs. Bedwell completes
 3. The Mid-year Report – Mrs. Bedwell completes

THE APPLICATION

4. Teacher Recommendation Forms – teachers complete
 1. THEY CAN SEND ON THEMSELVES OR GIVE TO MRS. BEDWELL TO SEND
 2. THEY CAN SOMETIMES COMPLETE ONLINE

5. The End of Year Report – Mrs. Bedwell completes

**ACT/SAT SCORES
SEND ONE? SEND ALL?**

**SUPERSCORE? WHAT IS IT? WHAT
COLLEGES DO IT?**

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|---------------|
| | | |
| NAME OF STUDENT | SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER | DATE OF BIRTH |

ACT Assessment®

| | | | | | |
|---------|----------------------------------|------|---------|---------|-----------|
| SCORES: | ENGLISH | MATH | READING | SCIENCE | COMPOSITE |
| | 29 | 32 | 33 | 29 | 31 |
| | PERCENT AT OR BELOW NAT'L COMP.: | | | | 98 |

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| COMBINED ENGLISH/ WRITING | WRITING (SCORE RANGE 2-12) |
| -- | -- |

| |
|-----------------------|
| TEST DATE & TEST TYPE |
| 12/04 |
| NATIONAL |

ACT™

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|---------------|
| | | |
| NAME OF STUDENT | SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER | DATE OF BIRTH |

ACT Assessment®

| | | | | | |
|---------|----------------------------------|------|---------|---------|-----------|
| SCORES: | ENGLISH | MATH | READING | SCIENCE | COMPOSITE |
| | 28 | 34 | 31 | 34 | 32 |
| | PERCENT AT OR BELOW NAT'L COMP.: | | | | 99 |

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| COMBINED ENGLISH/ WRITING | WRITING (SCORE RANGE 2-12) |
| 27 | 09 |

| |
|-----------------------|
| TEST DATE & TEST TYPE |
| 02/05 |
| NATIONAL |

ACT™

ACT/SAT SCORES WHO SENDS THEM?

- CHANGE IN STM'S POLICY -
 - STUDENTS WILL SEND THESE SCORES
 - WWW.ACT.ORG TO SEND ACT SCORES
 - WWW.COLLEGEBOARD.COM TO SEND SAT,
SAT SUBJECT AND ADVANCED PLACEMENT
SCORES

**APPLYING TO THE
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN?**

**PLEASE LET MRS. BEDWELL
KNOW BY SEPTEMBER 24TH.**

RESPONSIBILITIES - Things for students to do...

- Browse college applications online and submit the “Secondary School Report” to Mrs. Bedwell. This may be called the Counselor Report.
 - Complete the demographical information part, then give to Mrs. Bedwell
- If a “Mid-year Report” is included in the college application packet, submit this to Mrs. Bedwell when you submit the Secondary School Report.

Things for students to do...

Students:

■ Complete applications

- Once you click “submit” let Mrs. Bedwell know and she will send your transcript
 - Allow three to five days turnaround time on my part
 - This is a university’s busiest time!!!
- Let Mrs. Bedwell know you have submitted your application by signing the sign-up sheet in the office OR writing her a note and having one of the secretaries place it in her mailbox
 - WRITE NEATLY and BE SPECIFIC

RESPONSIBILITIES - Things for students to do...

- If you have taken any class at *any* institution of higher learning (i.e. Parkland, UIUC) you must request a transcript of those classes to be sent to any college to which you are applying.
- Students must request these; Mrs. Bedwell cannot. There is usually an associated fee.

TYPES OF ADMISSIONS DECISIONS

- <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/apply/the-application/104.html>
- - for admissions decisions defined
- Rolling admissions – apply early
- Early Decision – choose one school, binding
- Early Action – non-binding

Letters of Recommendation

You are asking a professional to provide information that cannot be found in the regular application.

Letters of Recommendation

- Who should write for you?
 - Someone who has directly observed your performance
 - Teachers/coaches/significant adults who have seen you mature
 - You don't have to have earned an "A" in their class
 - Extensive/meaningful volunteering?

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

- Letter of recommendation request form
 - Located in US Gov/Econ room
- Students need to ask
 - Provide necessary paperwork
 - Be aware of time constraints on their part
 - Send a brief thank you note
- Give them as much information as you can

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

- Gather letters of recommendation
 - One to two weeks notice
 - In person
 - Write letter writers a “thank you” note

The Personal Statement

- What life experiences make you the unique person you are?
- Correct spelling and grammar
- You want colleges to say: Wow! What a neat kid! What is it going to take to get him/her to come to our school?

The College Essay

What is an Admissions Committee looking for?

- Proper punctuation, spelling and grammar
- The name of their school spelled correctly
- Your sense of humor (is it lively? Dry? Doesn't matter...they just want to see.)

The College Essay

- Your 'sense of self'
- Don't try to be "right" – be yourself
- Your expressiveness – don't try to force anything – be yourself
- How you see yourself fitting into your world

YOU HAVE CLICKED "SUBMIT!!" NOW WHAT???

- Continue to check your status online
- Keep Mrs. Bedwell informed of pieces that may not have reached Admissions

AN ACTUAL ADMISSIONS OFFICE



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AN ACTUAL ADMISSIONS OFFICE



THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Make copies of everything you submit
- Proofread everything – twice
- December 1st is the deadline to submit all secondary reports to Student Services for college/universities that have a Jan. 1st deadline.
- Student Services is not open during Christmas break – watch January 1st deadlines.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

- We DO NOT rank our students
 - We will provide a decile rank for each student
- GPAs are calculated on a 4 point scale
- We provide a weighted AND an unweighted grade point average

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GENERAL INFORMATION

- Class of 2011: 97 students
- Three Advanced Placement courses are offered:
 - AP English
 - AP Studio Art
 - AP Music Theory (first year offered 09/10)