

Naviance 101: An Online Tool for Investigating College and Career Interests

Selecting a college and/or career can be one of the most important decisions made during the high school years. Council Rock students and their parents have many resources, such as Naviance, available to them through the Counseling tabs on the North and South high school websites.

What is Naviance? Naviance is an online college and career tool available to Council Rock High School students through their counselor. It includes a Myers-Briggs based personality inventory, a skills inventory, a list of colleges making fall visits to the home high school, a college acceptance history for the home high school covering the previous five years, scholarship opportunities, and a series of scattergram plots that depict the GPAs and SAT/ACT scores of admitted/waitlisted/denied students from the home high school.

Note that 'home' high school refers to either North or South, i.e., if the CR North Naviance site is viewed, only North student information is included in the scattergrams and acceptance history; conversely, if the CR South Naviance site is viewed, only South student information is included in the scattergrams and acceptance history. The Naviance site also allows students to compare their GPA and their SAT/ACT scores (all input by the counseling staff 2-3 months after receipt) to see if these match up to the averages from the colleges they are interested in. Once college acceptances are received, students, in consult with their counselors, self-report their status as admitted, waitlisted, or denied. General notices are sent to the student email address contained in Naviance. The parent will also receive Counseling Department emails, only if the student includes his/her parent's email address in the student account information.

How can I get access to Naviance? A student login ID and password provided by the counselor are needed to create an account for full utilization of the site; parents can request their own login credentials by directing an email or phone call to their child's counselor. This allows parents to view their student's information but changes to that information can only be made through the student's account. Anyone visiting the site can have guest access, which does not require login credentials, by simply going to the North or South high school home page, clicking on the Counseling tab, selecting Naviance from the menu options, and following the guest prompt. Guest access for each high school's Naviance site currently includes access to scattergrams, college compare and profiles, and acceptance history from the home school; for full site capability, however, a student login ID and password are required.

What changes to Naviance have occurred for the 2013-14 school year? High school transcripts will now be sent to colleges electronically, and there will be a notification on Naviance identifying the date each transcript was transmitted so students can easily keep track of their paperwork. There is no longer a \$2 fee for each requested transcript as in previous years. The student must still download and print the transcript request form, fill it out, and bring it to his/her counselor at least 10 school days prior to the college's due date. The counseling staff will be reviewing the guest access features in the next few months to decide if more or less capability is warranted, and Citizens For Education will report on any modifications.

When and how is Naviance introduced and used by students? South students are introduced to the features of Naviance in their 10th grade English classes as part of their sophomore year research paper. North students are first introduced to Naviance in their 9th grade English classes; however, they also receive Naviance training in 10th grade via group instruction in the latter part of the year. Students can complete the personality and skills inventories to assist them with career and college major selections. Students in 11th and 12th grades continue to use Naviance to research colleges and report their college acceptance status.

Recommendations. Citizens For Education recommends that students and parents review the high school Counseling webpages as early in the high school timeline as possible to take full advantage of the information offered there. In addition, parents of high school students must contact their child's

counselor to receive a login code that allows expanded Naviance site usage, and the student must include the parent email in the student account for the parent to receive counseling notices directly.

To ensure equivalent Naviance site offerings between the North and South high school sites, Citizens For Education recommends that an annual counselor in-service be conducted to share best practices used on each site regardless of whether guest access or password authorized login is used. Lastly, following North's lead in introducing Naviance to students in 9th grade would likely benefit South students by enhancing earlier awareness of resources for use in college and career planning.

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