

# Senior College Planning Packet



Class of 2023

## Concurrent Enrollment

Many students are taking a Tompkins Cortland Community College course through the CollegeNow Concurrent Enrollment Program at Marathon High School. There are many benefits of this program including working on your degree and earning college credits at no cost to you.

These are official college courses. They will show up on a college transcript and thus it is very important for these classes to be taken seriously. Please expect to work at the college level. This will include rigorous course work, outside reading as well as higher grading standards. Attendance is important! Absence from class is considered a serious matter, and an absence never excuses a student from class work. Your grade will be impacted by your absences. Taking a college course, you will be expected to manage your time wisely and keep up on deadlines and assignments. Do not hesitate to ask for help.

**Transferring Credits:** Many colleges will accept the credits you are earning through the Concurrent Enrollment Program. In order to transfer, a grade of C or higher is required. However, each college has their own transfer policy. Don't be afraid to reach out to the colleges you are interested in applying to, to see if they will accept your credits. If you are planning to transfer your credits, your college will need an official transcript from TC3. You can order an official transcript on TC3's website by logging in to your account, click on the grades tab, then on the request transcript tab. Click on the Transcripts Plus logo to begin the ordering process. The transcript will cost \$8.

If you do not maintain a 2.0 (a C: 75%) or higher, you may be placed on Academic Probation or Academic Suspension. Tompkins Cortland Community College defines these as:

**Academic Probation:** Status of students who fail to achieve the minimum academic standards. A student on academic probation will have a hold on their account but may register for classes after completing a "Student Success Plan" but will be limited to a maximum of 13 total semester credits. The notation "Probation" will be placed on the student's academic record (transcript).

**Academic Suspension:** Status of students who fail to meet academic standards for two consecutive semesters. Academic suspension is for the period of one semester, including any intervening summer session, and suspended students will be de-registered from classes. The notation "Suspension" will be placed on the student's academic record (transcript).

On October 1st, all students' progress in their classes will be reviewed to ensure everyone is on track. If you are on Academic Probation or Academic Suspension, it may harm your chances of financial aid and may prevent you from being admitted into your chosen major. Colleges will see this notation on your transcript. You may wish to drop or withdraw from the course to avoid receiving a low grade on your transcript. Dropped courses do not appear on the transcript or impact the student's GPA.

**Please keep the following deadlines in mind:**

| <b>Fall 2022</b>                                 | <b>Spring 2023</b>                           |
|--|--|
| Last Day to Add: October 5                       | Last Day to Add: March 14                    |
| Last Day to Drop: October 12                     | Last Day to Drop: March 21                   |
| Last Day to Withdraw w/o GPA Penalty: December 5 | Last Day to Withdraw w/o GPA Penalty: May 9  |
| Last Day to Withdraw w/ GPA Penalty: January 17  | Last Day to Withdraw w/ GPA Penalty: June 12 |

**MARATHON CLASS OF 2023**  
**INSTRUCTIONS FOR SENIORS PLANNING FURTHER EDUCATION**

The following information has been assembled to help seniors who plan to go for further education after high school. It is of necessity condensed to a minimum, but it should answer some of the questions which have been most confusing to students and their parents. Read it carefully, and follow through on what applies to you.

- **Research** – Decide where you want to apply. Visit the high school counseling office where you'll find college brochures, catalogues and other information. Research the colleges you are interested in online and request additional information. Find out about campus life and housing options. Look at academic requirements, class size, costs and financial aid. Be organized. Keep a file of possible colleges and worksheets that evaluate the pros and cons of each.
  
- **Securing college application forms** - Most colleges use the Common Application which can be found at [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org). If you would like assistance filling the online application out, please visit Ms. Camenga in the Guidance Office. It can take upwards of forty minutes to complete the majority of the application so please make an appointment for before or after school or during a study hall. Pay attention to deadlines. Please use your school email to apply. You will need this to match your common application to your Naviance account. This way, your letters of recommendation will be uploaded into Naviance and can be sent to your selected colleges.
  
- **Time of application** – It is very desirable to do this early this fall. Some colleges take action on applications in the order they are received. Submit your applications as soon as possible and arrange to have your high school transcripts and letters of recommendations sent. Transcripts are sent out through the Guidance Office only.
  
- **Number of applications** – Some of you may want to apply to more than one school, but in most cases, it should not be necessary to apply to more than 3. Each application will likely cost \$50. Some private colleges charge \$60-70. Community College applications are typically free as long as you apply through their college website. If you complete an application on your own, please let Ms. Camenga know what colleges you have applied to so she can send out your transcripts.
  
- **Letters of Recommendation:** Letters of recommendation from teachers, school counselors, coaches and managers can help college admissions officers get a more complete picture of applicants. Some schools don't ask for any letters of recommendation, while others may require at least 3. Give your reference plenty of time to write you a letter of recommendation.

- **College Representatives-** Colleges send representatives to visit our school during the year. Talking with these representatives puts you under no obligation, so take advantage of these opportunities to learn more about schools and colleges.

| <u>College</u>       | <u>Date</u> | <u>Time</u> | <u>Location</u> |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|
| St. John Fisher      | 9/20/22     | 11:00am     | Guidance Office |
| Niagara University   | 9/29/22     | 12:30pm     | Guidance Office |
| Paul Smith's College | 10/17/22    | 1:30pm      | Guidance Office |
| SUNY Brockport       | 10/26/22    | 11:30am     | Guidance Office |
| SUNY Oneonta         | 11/1/22     | 12:00pm     | Guidance Office |

- **College Visits** –It is recommended to visit a college if at all possible before you decide to apply. Visiting the college will give you an idea of what your next 2-4 years will be like. Is the campus too big? Too small? Does it have your major? What are the dorms like? Are there activities that the college offers that you'd be interested in? Are you required to live on campus the first year? Can you have a car on campus? What part time jobs are available on campus? Campus tours give you a first-hand experience of the college, and a chance to talk to students, faculty and admissions staff. When you set up an appointment for a college visit, you will meet with a tour guide, who are also usually college students themselves, and they will be happy to answer all your questions.
- **College Interviews:** Some private colleges require an interview. An interview is an opportunity for you to ask questions as well as answer them. After you apply to your chosen college, if an interview is required, you will receive notice from the school requesting your attendance. Please call them at your earliest convenience to set up an appointment. Most Admissions Offices are open on Saturday mornings and may also be open on some days when Marathon High School will not be in session because of holidays.
- **How to prepare for your college visit/interview**
  1. Bring your transcript and a student resume with you.
  2. Read the catalogue and any other literature from the college
  3. Review your academic record, identify for yourself your strengths and weaknesses.
  4. Review your non-academic areas of interest (sports, extracurriculars, etc.).
  5. Identify what you want from this particular college.
  6. Identify what unique qualities you can bring to this college.
  7. Prepare questions you have for your interviewer
  8. Present yourself in a professional manner.

- **College placement exams** – Some colleges require students to make an appointment to take a placement exam. Colleges use placement tests in subjects like math and English to check the academic skill levels of entering students. Then the college can place each student in classes at the right level.

### College Entrance Examinations

**SAT** – Scholastic Aptitude Test – This is a three-hour examination which measures the student’s ability to communicate and to reason with words and abstract concepts. Most four year colleges require this exam with the essay component prior to admission. Cost for the SAT is \$60. Late registration fee is an additional \$30. To register, please visit [www.sat.org/register](http://www.sat.org/register).

**ACT** – American College Testing Program – This exam is a four part, two hours and forty-minute test of the abilities which students will need to succeed in college work. The following areas will be tested: English, Math, Reading, and Science. Cost for the ACT exam with Essay is \$88.00. Late registration fee is an additional \$30. To register, please visit <https://services.actstudent.org>.

You may take either the SAT or ACT, most colleges except either.

#### SAT Test Dates 2022-2023

| Test Dates       | Registration Deadline | Late Registration Deadline |
|------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| August 27, 2022  | July 29, 2022         | August 16, 2022            |
| October 1, 2022  | September 2, 2022     | September 20, 2022         |
| November 5, 2022 | October 7, 2022       | October 25, 2022           |
| December 3, 2022 | November 3, 2022      | November 22, 2022          |
| March 11, 2023   | February 10, 2023     | February 28, 2023          |
| May 6, 2023      | April 7, 2023         | April 25, 2023             |
| June 3, 2023     | May 4, 2023           | May 23, 2023               |

#### ACT Test Dates 2021-2022

| Test Dates         | Registration Deadline | Late Registration Deadline |
|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Septmeber 10, 2022 | August 5, 2022        | August 19, 2022            |
| October 22, 2022   | September 16, 2022    | September 30, 2022         |
| December 10, 2022  | November 4, 2022      | November 11, 2022          |
| February 11, 2023  | January 6, 2023       | January 20, 2023           |
| April 15, 2023     | March 10, 2023        | March 24, 2023             |
| June 10, 2023      | May 5, 2023           | May 19, 2023               |

## **TRANSFERRING TO A FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE**

If you are planning on attending a two-year college and transferring into a four-year college, please keep the following suggestions in mind:

1. Students who intend to transfer should parallel their two year course of studies with that of the four-year college
2. Four year colleges are looking for a specific group of required courses. If a student has not satisfactorily completed the courses at a two-year institution, then the student may be asked to take the required prerequisites and lose a semester of college.
3. Students need to talk to admissions personnel at the four-year college to ascertain the transfer policy.
4. Get to know the transfer counselor on the two-year college campus very soon after beginning the freshman year. They will help keep you on track.
5. Students must do the appropriate paperwork at the college they are leaving. The registrar's office must be notified of your intent to withdraw.

## **THE MILITARY**

You may be seriously considering joining the military. Although the military certainly provides secure employment, it is very important that you learn all the facts before making a commitment.

Recruiters from all services are readily available to discuss active duty and reserve programs. If you are planning to continue your education, you may also wish to ask about officer training programs. It is a good idea to discuss the alternatives offered by each service before making a decision. In most cases, recruiters are able to guarantee specific training in advance. If you are definitely interested in obtaining a certain type of training, make sure that you obtain this guarantee before signing up.

You will be asked to take the ASVAB exam, a free test given every year in February, during the week. Students can use their scores from the ASVAB test to enlist in the Military after graduation. These scores can also qualify you for certain jobs and training in the Armed Forces and are good for two years.

If you are under 18, your parents must consent for you to join the military, Because of this requirement, the recruiter will ask to meet with your parents before enlisting you.

Your eligibility for the military and specific training is based upon the scores you receive on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, also known as the ASVAB. If you wish to explore military options, you should make arrangements with a recruiter to take this test. Your scores will allow each recruiter to determine the types of training for which you qualify. The results might also assist you in identifying other career possibilities. Marathon High School offers the test, free of charge, annually in February. See Ms. Camenga in the Guidance Office for more details.

Recruiters from the following military agencies visit Marathon periodically:

- New York National Army Guard
- United States Army
- United States Air Force
- United States Marines
- United States Navy

For contact information, please see Ms. Camenga.

## SCHOLARSHIPS AND LOANS

Most scholarships fall under one of the following categories:

1. Those given by the college itself, usually depending on the need as well as the record of the student. Information on these scholarships will be found in the college catalog and on the college's website. If you are interested in applying for a specific scholarship from your college, you should contact the college's financial aid department to request an application form.
  
2. Those given by special groups or for certain field of study (Marathon Teacher's Association, Teacher Education, Elks, etc.) Information on some of these scholarships will be available in the Guidance Office. It might be well to check with the church or lodge with which you or your parents are connected to see what might be available. Starting in January, scholarships start to filter in and can be found in the white Scholarship Binder. Scholarships will also be sent electronically to your email. Reminders of upcoming deadlines will also be sent to your email, so check your email often! Scholarships can also be found on the school website at <http://www.marathonschools.org/hs-guidance-office.html> under the Financial Aid bubble.

## STATE, FEDERAL, AND BANK LOANS

- Direct Subsidized Loans: a federal loan for which the government pays interest while you are in school
- Direct Unsubsidized Loans: a federal loan for which interest accrues while you are in school but may be deferred until repayment
- Direct PLUS loans: federal loans for graduate students and parents of undergraduate students
- Private loans: loans from banks or other non-government sources

It is possible for students to borrow money from the State or Federal Government or the local bank for further education.

Fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (or FAFSA). Without it, you won't have access to federal student loans – many of which are not based on need or your income.

Always use federal loans first, such as the Perkins, Direct, and PLUS loans. They carry lower, fixed interest rates and often have more favorable terms than private (or alternative) loans.

If you need to use private student loans, consider all of the costs. Private loans can have origination fees, different ways of compounding interest, and higher interest rates or APRs.

Most student borrowers will need a credit-worthy co-signer to be approved for a private student loan. Most private loans have variable interest rates (meaning they will fluctuate over time), while government-backed (or federal) loans have fixed interest rates and more lenient repayment terms.

**\*\*If you would like assistance, please contact Ms. Camenga at [camengaj@marathonschools.org](mailto:camengaj@marathonschools.org) or 607-849-3229\*\***

### **FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA)**

You should fill out the FAFSA as soon as you can after October 1st of each year. Because the FAFSA asks for tax information from the previous calendar year, you may want to wait until your family has all of the necessary paperwork or has filed their income taxes. You can file the FAFSA before filing your income taxes using estimates, but you will need to go back later and correct any discrepancies.

The only deadline for filling out the FAFSA is June 30th at the end of the school year for which you are filing. In other words, for the 2021-2022 school year, the FAFSA will be available on October 1, 2021. You can file the FAFSA anytime between then and June 30, 2022. However, many states and schools allocate funds on a first-come, first-served basis, and some states have deadlines for filing the FAFSA to be eligible for certain kinds of aid. Please visit the Department of Education's Student Aid on the Web for more information.

It takes less than an hour to complete and submit the FAFSA. Please see Ms. Camenga for assistance. The FAFSA must be filed yearly and must be done individually on each child in college. If you are not sure you want or need to apply for financial aid, it is to your advantage if you do apply. If your financial aid situation changes, the FAFSA will be on file and can be adjusted accordingly. If you have any questions or concerns, call the financial aid office at the college you plan on attending. They're the "experts".

To apply please visit: [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)

To create a FSA ID please visit: <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>

### **TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

The Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) provides financial aid to students attending college in New York State. TAP awards are made on the basis of financial need.

Depending on the academic year in which you begin study, an annual TAP award can be up to \$5,165. Because TAP is a grant, it does not have to be paid back.

To apply please visit: <https://www.hesc.ny.gov/>

### **EXCELSIOR SCHOLARSHIP**

This scholarship is available annually beginning in March. An applicant must be a resident of New York State as well as a US Citizen and have graduated from high school or have earned a high school equivalency diploma. Applicant's family must have a combined federal adjusted gross income of \$125,000 or less. Applicant must be pursuing an undergraduate degree at a SUNY or CUNY college, including community colleges and Cornell University and Alfred University. Applicants must be enrolled in at least 12 credits per semester and complete at least 30 credits each year. The Excelsior Scholarship covers the normal four years. A recipient of an Excelsior Scholarship may receive up to \$5,500. This scholarship allows for tuition costs to be covered minus the amount of the TAP grant awarded to each student.

To apply please visit: <https://www.hesc.ny.gov/>



## JOB INTERVIEWS

### **Don't be late for the interview!**

Punctuality is very important when arriving to an interview. This is the first impression the employer gets, and if you're late, it gives the impression that you don't value the interviewer's time. Even arriving five minutes late can lose you the job - we're not kidding. Arriving 10-15 minutes early, on the other hand, will give you time to prepare. Be sure you have directions and you know how to get to your interview location. If you're unsure, go the day before to make sure you know how to get there.

### **Dress up**

Keep your interview outfit casual, but not too casual. Showing up in jeans and a T-shirt may be comfy but doesn't give the best impression, even if that's what you'd be wearing on the job. Khakis and a nice collared shirt, or a tailored top and (not mini) skirt are always a good choice. If you're applying for a retail clothing store, avoid wearing clothing with a competitor's logo. A full suit is probably too much, unless you're applying for an office support job or a prestigious internship.

### **Prepare, prepare, prepare**

Did I mention prepare? Know the company you are interviewing with and have questions ready for your interviewer. This shows the interviewer that you have an interest in the company. Keep in mind that it never hurts to practice. Make sure you know who you are and what skill set you possess. And always be yourself - you want them to hire the real you, not a fake version of you. Also know your schedule and your cell phone number. An employer may ask you when your availability is and it is a good idea to be prepared.

### **Be aware of your body language**

When you're nervous, do you tend to rub your arm? Jiggle your foot? Or click a pen? You are going to drive the interviewer *crazy* if you do any of those things! At the job interview, do your best to keep still, sit up straight and look the interviewer in the eyes. You want to appear calm and in control. Be polite and listen carefully and be attentive. Get plenty of sleep the night before your interview. Yawning during an interview can be viewed as rude.

### **Practice interview questions and answers**

- **"Tell me a little about yourself."**

This is always a tough one, because you ask yourself, "What do they want to know?" Focus on your skills, abilities and your interests. The interviewer wants to know about you and what your plans are for the present and the future. Definitely don't start talking about your childhood, the music you like, your soccer trophies or anything else that's not relevant to the job. Remember to keep the answer brief, because it can set the tone for the rest of the interview.

- **“Why do you want to work for us?”**

Here's your chance to tell the interviewer why you chose to apply for the job. Don't say because of the pay. This is your opportunity to talk about why you think you'd fit in really well and what you could bring to the team.

- **“What extracurricular activities do you participate in?”**

This is your chance to talk about you and show your personality - but again, keep it short! Your extracurricular activities should reflect your best traits and your interests.

- **“Why should I hire you?”**

Be honest. Let the interviewer know why you are the best for the job. This is your chance to sell yourself and set yourself apart from the other job candidates.

**Bring the following with you to the interview:**

- Completed job application (if the employer doesn't have it already)
- Working papers (if you need them)
- References
- Resume with updated contact information
- Notepad / pen
- Photo ID (they may need a copy for their records)
- Enthusiasm
- Positive attitude
- Any questions for the employer
- Be on time
- Dress appropriately
- Be confident
- Make eye contact
- Smile
- Calm your nerves, take deep breaths beforehand. The worst they can say is no.
- Be prepared
- Sell yourself
- Be aware of your body language