

Your College Application Journey with CIALFO: An Overview for *Juniors*...

Your junior year is where your college application journey really begins in earnest. This is when you seriously start to research universities, explore your interests and priorities in the schools you may wish to attend, register for and take any prerequisite exams needed for your application, start building your resume, and initiate the actual process of applying to colleges and universities.

Start thinking about your priorities and preferences



Set up your **Profile** on CIALFO and answer the questions to the **Preferences Fit**

On your **Profile** page, you will be able to view the following sub-sections:

- Personal Information
- Application Details
- Tests *
- Extra-curricular Activities
- Grades *
- Contacts

Your Preference Fit in CIALFO asks you to provide information that CIALFO can use to help to recommend universities that fit the type of schools or regions as well as courses and majors you may have interest in looking into further.

Find ways to Connect with universities and start building your University list.



Start your research by using the **University Search** on CIALFO, Connect with universities and add them to your **University List**.

Use CIALFO's **University Search** to search for universities and refine your search by courses offered, scholarships available, different regions, admission requirements, and more.

Build your **University Lists** with results from your search. In "Longlist." Include the schools you have an interest in. As you evaluate and make decisions, move some to your "Shortlist," and then, finally, identify the specific schools to which you plan to apply.

Stay up-to-date with university events, meetings, presentations, etc..



Sign up and join university **Events** on CIALFO

University **Events** are a great opportunity for you to connect with universities and ask them your questions. Keep in mind that these events are not limited to information sessions on universities. You will also find various topics of interest all the way from developing skills, writing personal statements, country specific admission requirements, and more. You can register or "watch" events using CIALFO.

Work closely with your counselor.



Communicate with your counselor about your college questions, plans, and thoughts using your CIALFO Inbox and schedule counseling appointments via the Meetings feature.

Use CIALFO's **Inbox** feature to communicate directly with your counselor, especially for things relating specifically to your college applications and questions or issues. You can also use the Inbox to upload and send documents.

The **Meetings** feature in CIALFO lets you schedule and keep track of meetings with your counselor. {Before you employ this feature, you need to confirm that she or he is set up to accept meeting invitations sent through CIALFO.}

Keep track of your extracurricular activities.



Create your resume using CIALFO's Resume Builder.

The **Extra-curricular Activities** section of your CIALFO **Profile** is where you can add information about many different kinds of experiences, programs, academic courses (outside of VCHS – they'll already be on your transcript!), clubs, volunteer activities, and jobs. CIALFO will use these to help make recommendations for you and can also help to build your resume for colleges and even employers! Be sure to keep your Extra-curricular Activities section up-to-date.

At Valley Christian High School, the Counseling Team uses CIALFO as the primary tool to support and track applications to colleges and universities for our students. CIALFO is the central repository for student, school, and college and university data. We use CIALFO to consolidate and simplify the often complex demands and processes involved in selecting colleges and universities, making sure that applications are complete, along with any supplemental materials required by individual schools, and that all of these materials are submitted completely and in a timely manner as required by the institutions to which our students apply.

CIALFO offers a simplified and consistent platform for counselors, students, and parents alike to search out college and university information and requirements, to store, track, and review data, and to forward application materials to target schools. Please help us to support our students by fully utilizing the tools available on our CIALFO platform. Keep your information current, and communicate with your counselor any problems or discrepancies that may arise.

The VCHS "[Grade 11's Guide to Using Cialfo](#)" (a GoogleSlide show) is available online on the Academic & College Counseling page at Learn@vcs.net, under the "Juniors" tab.