

# HOW TO APPLY TO COLLEGE, MEET EVERY DEADLINE, *AND ENJOY SENIOR YEAR*

Ms. English  
Mr. Miller

SHS Post Secondary Counselors



# Where our hope our seniors are

- ▶ Have a non-SHS email account (appropriate).
- ▶ Finalize the list of colleges to which they are applying.
- ▶ Diversify the list, and have a “reasonable” number.
- ▶ Find an organizational system.
- ▶ Continue to visit/learn about colleges (virtually for now).
  - ▶ Sign up for their mailing list.
- ▶ Enjoy their senior year!



## GOALS FOR TODAY:

- ☐ College Visits
- ☐ Application Deadlines
- ☐ College Application Process
- ☐ Transcripts
- ☐ Scholarships
- ☐ Timeline for Senior Year (currently)

CLASS  
of  
2021



# COLLEGE VISITS AT STEVENSON

*only for SHS Juniors and Seniors - not for parents/guardians or underclassmen*

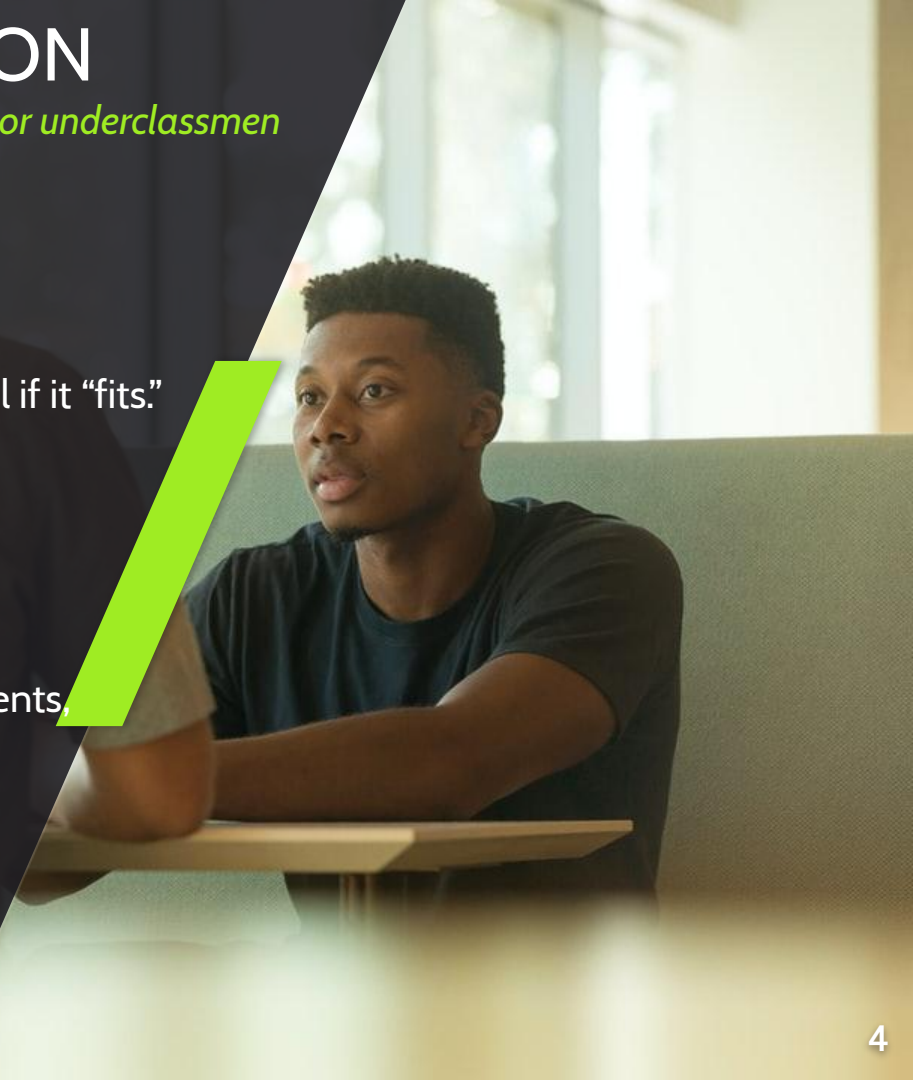
## Why students should join

- ▶ Have questions answered directly from the college.
- ▶ Learn a snapshot about the college in 37 minutes, feel if it “fits.”
- ▶ Meet the person (virtually) who could be reading the application.
- ▶ Demonstrates a genuine interest to the school.

Schedule can be found in Naviance, Morning Announcements, our CCC webpage, and Daily Digest.

*“Register” 2 school days prior through Naviance. Check out our video online on how to register.*

ALL visits will take place within Zoom.




# POPULAR COLLEGES VISITING SHS

Date	Time	College
9/1	5th	Ohio University
9/2	5th	Indiana University
9/3	2nd	University of Minnesota Twin Cities
9/8	5th	Wash U (in St. Louis)
9/9	4th	Marquette University
9/10	4th	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
9/14	2nd	Butler University
9/15	4th	University of Chicago
9/16	6th	Texas A&M
9/17	5th	DePaul University
9/21	4th	University of Miami (FL)
9/29	4th	University of Michigan
9/29	6th	Miami University (OH)

*\*\*\*check Naviance, many more coming...remember you need to register in Naviance & ASK your teacher if you are able to attend the visit, TWO schools days prior to each visit.*

# How College Visits Look in Naviance

[< Back](#)



[✓ Register](#)

SEPTEMBER


Thu 10

11:15AM

COLLEGE VISIT INFORMATION

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

📍 See Zoom link in reminder email one day prior.

 7

**REGISTER BY: Tuesday, Sep 8 2020, 11:15AM**

Status: Not Registered

Registration for this event is **open**.





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# MAJOR DEADLINE #1:

- ▶ All public university apps should be filed by Thursday, October 15th.
- ▶ Best consideration for admission and scholarship money.
- ▶ All *your* parts should be submitted at this point (essay, transcripts, test scores, etc.).
  - ▶ Letters can be submitted later.
- ▶ Extremely crucial at U of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Indiana U, Purdue U, and U of Michigan.





## MAJOR DEADLINE #2:

- ▶ Early Decision, Restrictive Early Action (or Single Choice), and Early Action.
- ▶ Complete the application by Thursday, **October 15th**.
- ▶ Remember that many of ED/REA/EA applications often require teacher/counselor letters of recommendation.

Students should be sure to ask teacher(s)/counselor by mid-September.



## MAJOR DEADLINE #3:

ALL four-year university applications should be filed by Monday, Nov. 30th (directly after Thanksgiving Weekend).

- ▶ Aim to finish entire college application process.

If applying to a 2 year college (i.e. College of Lake County), students should file by March 1st.





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# COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS

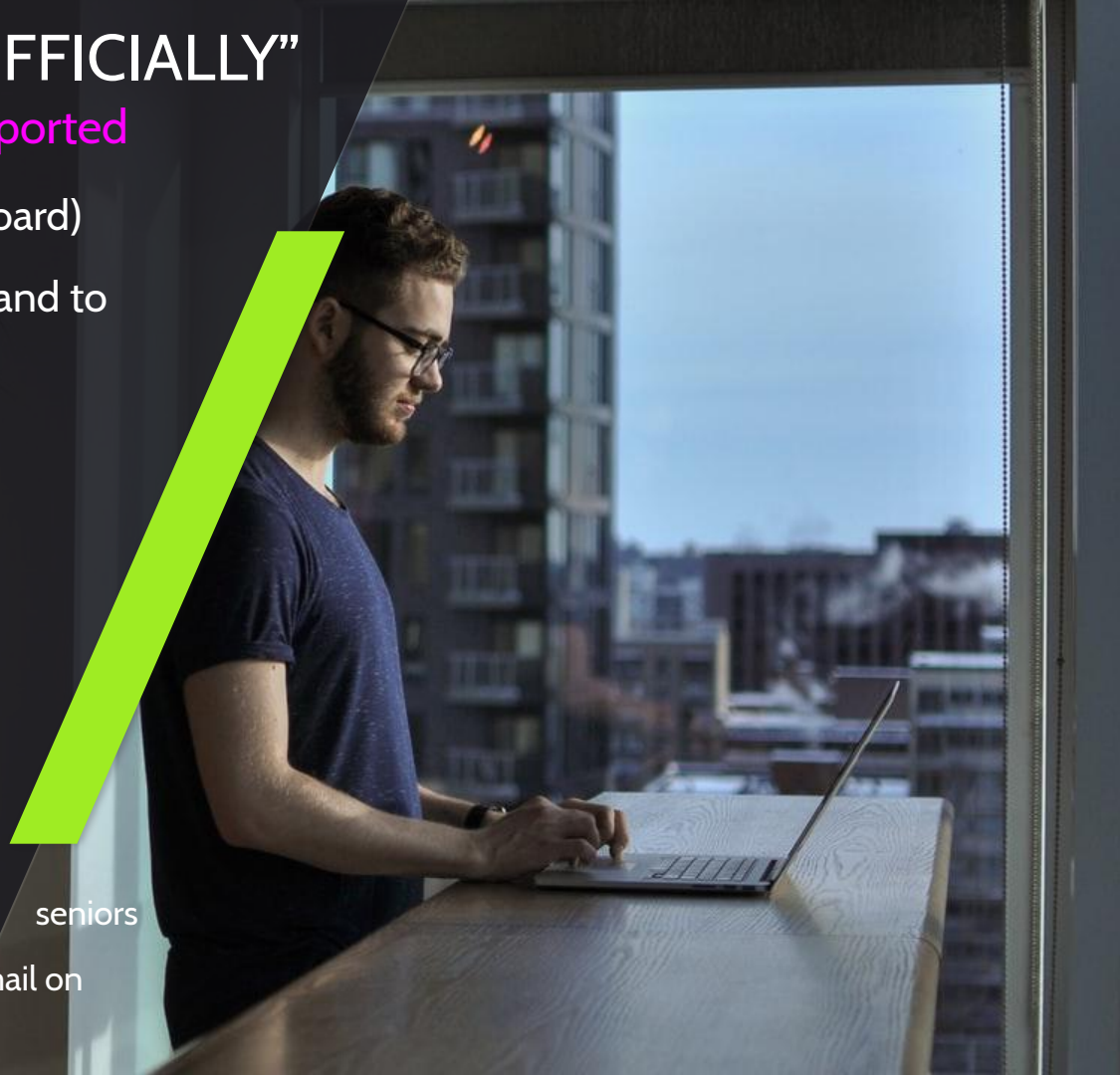
## General Tips:

- ▶ Look for the application requirements checklist on the college's website.
- ▶ Use your “legal” name that is on official documents (birth certificate, passports, etc.).
- ▶ Besides the application, schools may ask for:
  - ▶ fee, transcript, essay(s), letters of recommendation, sample work, test scores (often official, but some may allow for self-reporting), resume of activities.
  - ▶ Apps may be school specific, Common App, or Coalition App.
    - ▶ No schools can prefer one over another.

# SENDING TEST SCORES “OFFICIALLY”

Many schools are now allowing self-reported

- ▶ Log into the account (ACT or College Board)
- ▶ Select the test date(s) you are sending and to which schools you are sending
- ▶ Have a credit card available
- ▶ Allow, at least, 3 weeks to process
- ▶ Test scores are not on your transcript
- ▶ Upcoming Test Dates
  - ▶ Go to College Board and ACT for more information for a Saturday administration
  - ▶ SHS is providing a free ACT and SAT to all seniors (communication was sent out via email on August 13th)



# Test Optional?

- ▶ Can the student take one?
- ▶ Does the college allow it?
  - ▶ Check into specific majors (nursing or engineering in particular).
  - ▶ Consider potential scholarship opportunities.
- ▶ Does the score fall close to the mid-50% (freshman admission profile) published by the college?
  - ▶ Use Naviance Scattergrams/Counselor Notes for guidance.
- ▶ Test Optional Schools/Resources on admission:  
<https://fairtest.org/>
- ▶ Difference between Test Blind / Test Optional
  - ▶ NIU is Test Blind (will not consider a test score).





# Test Blind Institutions (currently)

Cal Tech (2 year trial)

Catholic Univ

Cal State system (1 year trial, 23 campuses)

Hampshire College

Idaho publics (1 year trial, 4 campuses)

Loyola U (New Orleans)

Northern Illinois U

Northern Michigan Univ

Reed College (2 year trial)

Univ New England

Washington State Univ (1 year trial)



# LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION TIPS

- ▶ Prior to asking, check to see if the college requires a letter.
- ▶ Adhere to the minimum.
- ▶ Usually 1-2 from a core academic teacher in the past year. May allow for “other” recommenders (i.e. club sponsor, coach, employer, friend, non-core).
- ▶ Students ask teacher(s)/counselor *at least 3 weeks* prior to any deadline.
- ▶ Complete “Brag” Sheet for counselors, and “Reflection” Sheet for each teacher.
- ▶ Provide a list of colleges, with deadlines, and application system.
- ▶ Follow up with a written/emailed “thank you.”

# TO WAIVE OR NOT TO WAIVE... THAT IS THE QUESTION.

- ▶ The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a Federal law to protect the privacy of students.
- ▶ Students are given an option to waive their right to access their recommendations (asked in Common App, Parchment, and other applications).
- ▶ We highly suggest to waive your rights:
  - ▶ Shows colleges student is not “afraid” of what is written.
  - ▶ Some colleges may disregard letters if not waived.





# COMMON APPLICATION -

[WWW.COMMONAPP.ORG](http://WWW.COMMONAPP.ORG)

- ▶ Almost 900 schools across the world accept Common App.
- ▶ Students should add schools, select the deadlines, and talk to recommenders (teacher(s)/counselor) soon.
- ▶ We are on a 4.0 weighted scale (not 5.0).
- ▶ Students can attend a workshop on Common App (via Zoom):
  - ▶ Friday, Aug. 28<sup>th</sup>, 8th period *repeated on*
  - ▶ Thursday, Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7:45am

The background of the slide features a top-down view of school supplies on a white surface. On the right, a portion of a silver laptop is visible, showing the keyboard and trackpad. Below the laptop, a pair of black-rimmed glasses with clear lenses lies horizontally. To the left of the glasses is a yellow pencil with a silver eraser and a sharpened lead tip. Further left is a white spiral-bound notebook with a black cover. A bright green diagonal bar is positioned behind the notebook. The Common App logo, consisting of the words 'common app' in a sans-serif font and a blue stylized 'C' icon, is located in the bottom right corner.

common  
app



# COMMON APP SCHOOL FORMS #1

- ▶ Students will “invite” their counselor to be a recommender.
  - ▶ Prior to “inviting” make an appt. with their counselor.
  - ▶ The counselor receives an email to submit forms.
- ▶ Counselors will upload official transcript, school profile, and letter of recommendation (if needed). *Students should make an appt. with their counselor to talk about their letter.*
- ▶ *No separate transcript request needed (no need for Parchment).*

**Tip:** Student should follow up after any electronic invite to ensure it was received. If you need a letter, fill out a “brag sheet” prior to your appt.



## COMMON APP SCHOOL FORMS #2

- ▶ After checking into the school's requirements for letters of recommendations, students should ask teacher(s) directly, prior to “inviting” and “assigning” them to write on their behalf.
- ▶ Students will “Invite” and then “Assign” teacher(s) as a recommender to particular colleges.
  - ▶ The teacher receives an email from Common App to submit the letter once you **assign** them.

Tip: Students should complete a “Reflection” Sheet for each teacher they are asking. A discussion should happen prior to sending any electronic invite.

*Please do not “over ask” teachers.*





“The Coalition for  
Access, Affordability  
and Success”

A newer application,  
over 140 schools are  
using.

Only one school is “Coalition  
Exclusive”

**University of Washington  
(in Seattle)**

Since the application is newish,  
students may want to consider  
Common App rather than  
Coalition.

Students can attend a Zoom  
workshop on Coalition App:  
▶ Wed., Sept. 9th 8th pd

# U OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

- ▶ Allows for self-reported test scores
- ▶ Early Action: apply by October 15th (SHS internal)
  - ▶ Notification date: Mid-February
- ▶ Self-report transcript (SHS Transcript in IC)
  - ▶ Might take 30-45 minutes, attention to detail very important
- ▶ Essay topic(s):
  - ▶ “Explain your interest in the major you selected and describe how you have recently explored or developed this interest inside and/or outside the classroom. You may also explain how this major relates to your future career goals.” (limit of 300 to 400 words)

## Tip:

- ▶ Choose 2 majors on application (required to write 2 interest essays)



Zoom Workshops offered

Thurs., Sept 3rd 8th pd

and repeated on

Wed., Sept. 9th @7:45 am

Application goes live  
September 1st





COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE

Students should  
apply by March 1st.

Community College  
Week:  
Nov. 30th -  
December 4th





Considering joining the  
Military, an Academy, or  
an ROTC Program?



Military Week:  
Week of Nov. 9th

# Considering the Trades?

Week of Nov. 16th

Plumbing  
Electrical  
HVAC  
Welding  
Auto Repair  
Automated Door  
Repair  
Apprenticeship Training Programs  
Culinary  
Cosmetology  
Real Estate  
Construction



# ESSAY / PERSONAL STATEMENTS

Top 6 tips:

- ▶ Optional isn't *really* optional...(with a few exceptions).
- ▶ *Answer the prompt.*
- ▶ Have someone proofread.
- ▶ Should be the “student’s voice” shining through.
- ▶ For length, quality is better than quantity.
- ▶ Give time for the process.

**Essay Workshops offered through the CCC:**

Friday, Aug. 28<sup>th</sup>, 7:45 am and repeated on

Wednesday, Sept 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8th pd.



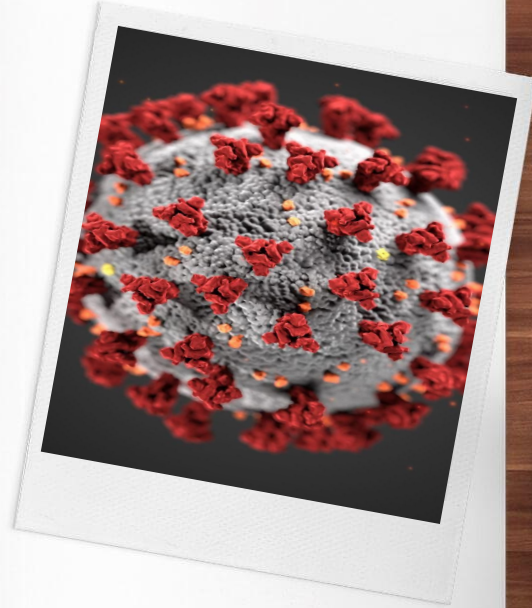
# TYPES OF ESSAYS/PERSONAL STATEMENTS

- ▶ “Why Us” – shows genuine interest in a school, needs to be *very* specific
- ▶ “Why this major” – be clear on how you have explored it, and reasons for studying
- ▶ “Additional information” to share – academic journey, personal circumstances (e.g. significant hiccup on transcript, IEP or 504, illness that impacted you academically)
- ▶ Analytical questions - No right or wrong answer, want to learn more about you.
  - ▶ What can actually be divided by zero?
  - ▶ “Do you feel lucky? Well, do ya, punk?” - Eleanor Roosevelt. Misattribute a famous quote and explore the implications of doing so.
  - ▶ Who is a significant person in your life?
- ▶ “Which Ben & Jerry’s ice cream flavor (real or imagined!) best describes you?”

Tip: 1/3 about the experience/answer, 2/3 about you

# Optional COVID Essay

- ▶ Truly Optional.
  - ▶ Consider keeping any COVID related essay in this section. Show more sides of “student” in the other essays.
  - ▶ Keep big picture in mind, if nothing really to say, no need to write in this section.
- ▶ Illness or loss within your family or support network
  - ▶ Employment or housing disruptions
  - ▶ Food insecurity
  - ▶ Toll on mental and emotional health
  - ▶ New obligations such as part-time work or care for siblings or family members
  - ▶ Availability of computer or internet access required to continue your studies
  - ▶ Access to a safe and quiet study space
  - ▶ A new direction for your major or career interests







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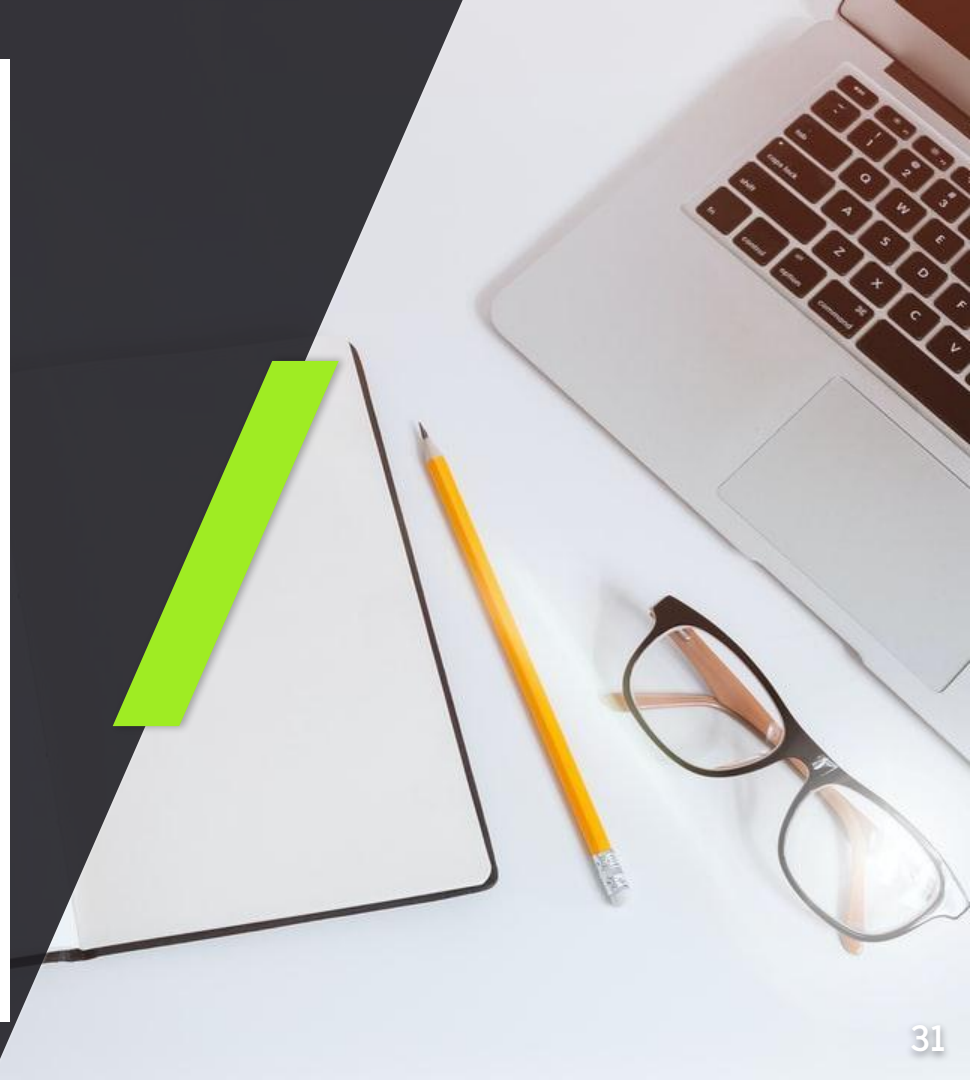
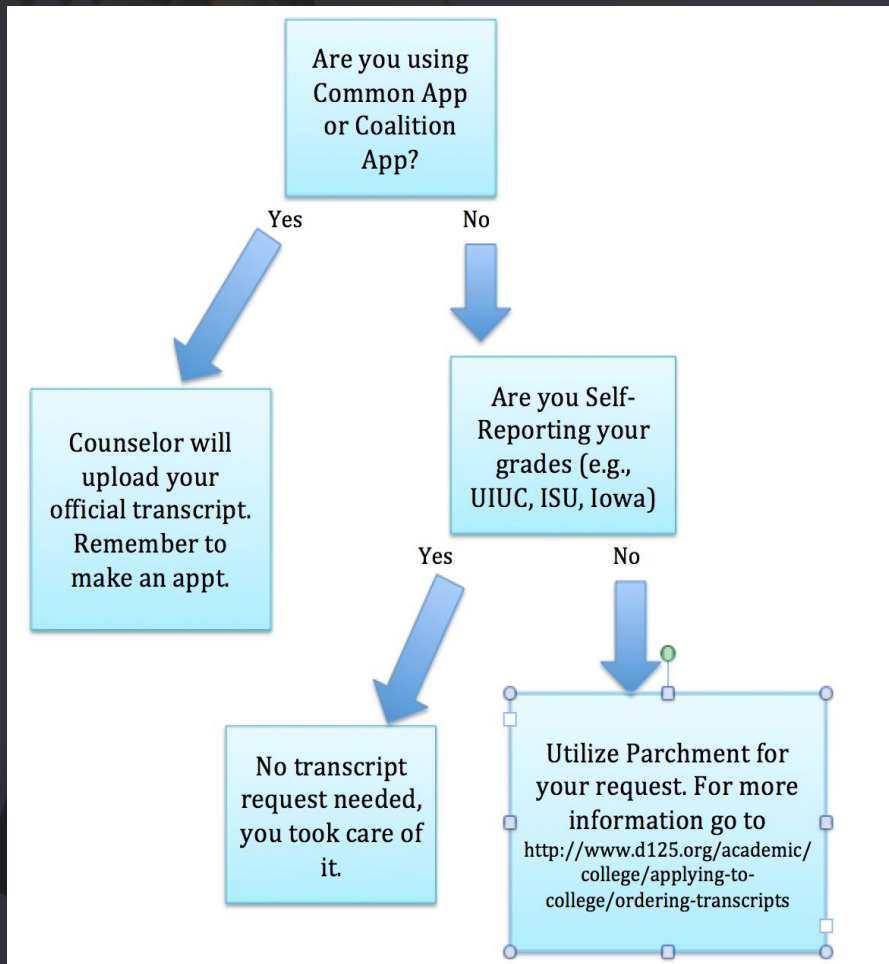
# TRANSCRIPT OPTIONS

All schools will request transcripts.  
Options that may be used:

- ▶ Common App or Coalition App (counselor uploads)
- ▶ Self-Reported Academic Record (SRAR)
- ▶ Parchment ([www.parchment.com](http://www.parchment.com))

\*\*\*MIT and Georgetown talk directly to your counselors.





# SRAR: SELF-REPORTED ACADEMIC RECORD

Some colleges will ask students to self-report their grades.

Some are:

U of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, U of Iowa, U of California System, Illinois State U, U of Kansas, U of Georgia, Northern Illinois U

Tips:

- ▶ Students can access a transcript in Infinite Campus.
- ▶ List classes and grades exactly as they appear on the transcript.
- ▶ We are on a 4.0 weighted scale (not 5.0).
- ▶ Colleges will require a final transcript (after graduation) through Parchment.
- ▶ Colleges will review SRAR, be sure to be accurate (great place for an adult's eye).





# PARCHMENT – [www.parchment.com](http://www.parchment.com)

- ▶ Not already registered, register manually:
  - ▶ Select high school correctly (Lincolnshire, IL not Michigan)
  - ▶ Graduation year - 2021 (not last year completed)
- ▶ “Credentials” = Transcripts.
- ▶ No need to utilize the other services Parchment offers.
- ▶ See handout or online video for a walk-through.
- ▶ Every student needs a Parchment account.
  - ▶ All final transcripts, after graduation, are sent via Parchment.



# PARCHMENT – [www.parchment.com](http://www.parchment.com)

- ▶ Strongly encouraged to wait until after Labor Day to request transcripts.
  - ▶ If sent one prior, please resend after Labor Day.
  - ▶ All colleges must treat students equally through Oct. 15th.
- ▶ If student changes schedule, a new transcript must be sent.
  - ▶ Contact college, via email, and let them know of change.
- ▶ Allow for some processing time (especially on the college side).
- ▶ Contact Registrar (Ms. Goosman) for questions or concerns with transcript requests.







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# SCHOLARSHIPS

- ▶ Students register with a free database ([fastweb.com](http://fastweb.com))
- ▶ Check Naviance weekly
- ▶ Subscribe to the Daily Digest
- ▶ Check into your community (e.g. employers, credit unions, religious organizations, etc.)
- ▶ Apply for Stevenson Foundation Scholarships (in January)
- ▶ Research your schools to which you are applying
- ▶ School-specific scholarships available to SHS applicants:
  - ▶ Wells (Indiana U), Jefferson (U of Virginia)





# STEVENSON FOUNDATION Scholarship Program



Over 25 scholarships offered each year ranging from \$500 - \$5,000

Scholarship applications open  
January 2021

Questions?  
Contact Ms. Baumann  
[kbaumann@d125.org](mailto:kbaumann@d125.org)  
847-415-4471

<http://www.stevensonfoundation.org/scholarships>



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# APPLICATION ASSISTANCE

## CANVAS CLASSROOM COMING FOR STUDENTS

- ▶ **Drop-in Tuesdays**, every Tuesday from 9/1 – 10/27 7:45 am & 8<sup>th</sup> pd
- ▶ **Essay Writing Workshop**
  - ▶ Friday, Aug. 28<sup>th</sup> - 7:45 am
  - ▶ Wed, Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> pd
- ▶ **Common App Workshop**
  - ▶ Friday, Aug. 28<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> pd
  - ▶ Thursday, Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> - 7:45 am
- ▶ **UIUC Workshop**
  - ▶ Thursday, Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> pd
  - ▶ Wednesday, Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> - 7:45 am
- ▶ **Coalition Workshop**
  - ▶ Wednesday, Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> pd
- ▶ **University of California System Application Workshop**
  - ▶ Thursday, Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> - 7:45 am
  - ▶ Monday, Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> pd
- ▶ **Interview Workshop**
  - ▶ Tuesday, Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> - 7:45 am

**\*\*ALL Workshops through ZOOM**



## How STUDENTS MEET WITH US

**Essay Reads:** 15–20 min individual meetings to read 1–2 essays (student only) – Calendly.

**General Questions:** usually best answered during drop-in Tuesdays, but can schedule an individual appt. or send an email. (appointments are student only) – Calendly, or Drop-In Tuesday Zoom link.

**\*\*Post Secondary Counselors will attend/facilitate each college rep visit**

### Post Secondary SCoPE

**Meetings:** For families that didn't complete this meeting in the spring and would like a list of colleges to consider. *Parent/Guardian must be in attendance (virtually).*

Worksheet must be completed, and sent to [mdoczi@d125.org](mailto:mdoczi@d125.org), who will confirm and schedule a meeting with all parties.

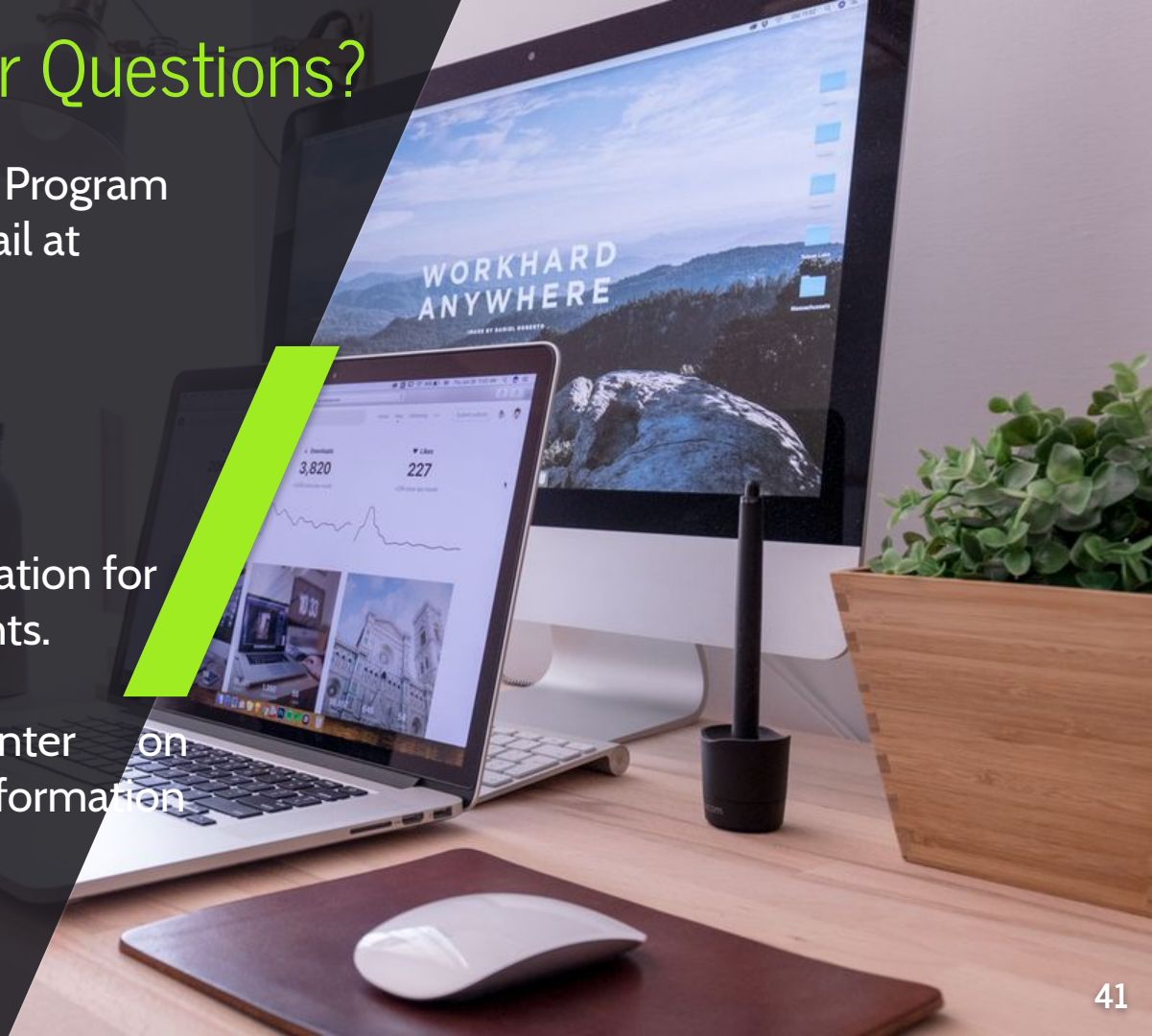


# Need Help with Career Questions?

Connect with Mrs. Willock (Career Program Manager) contact her through email at [dwillock@d125.org](mailto:dwillock@d125.org) to schedule an appointment.

Make sure to check out the Career Exploration website at [d125.org/academics/career-exploration](http://d125.org/academics/career-exploration) for helpful guides and upcoming events.

Follow the @SHSCollegeCareerCenter on Facebook for up-to-date career information





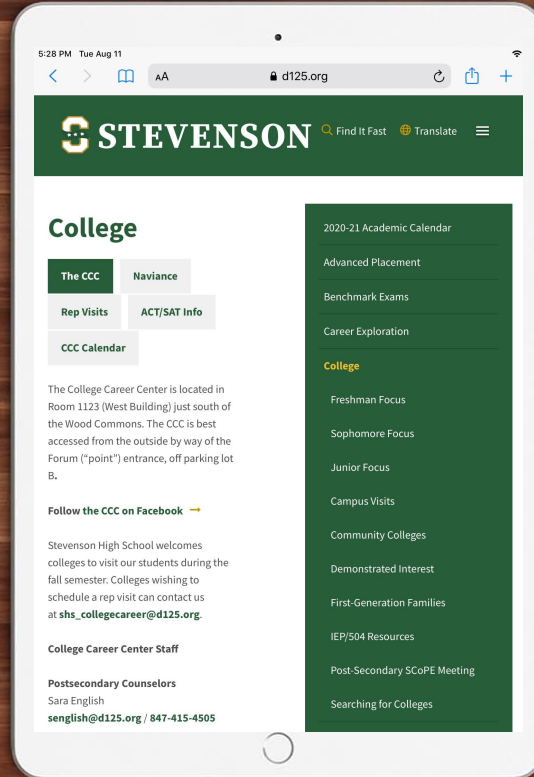
@SHSCollege  
Career  
Center



Still have  
questions?

Need more info?

Check out our  
website!





New Grad  
Requirement  
more details to come:  
FAFSA  
State Aid Form  
Opt out form (not available yet)

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## ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS FOR STUDENTS

- ▶ Continue to connect with colleges during Remote+ Learning.
- ▶ Don't wait to apply because you haven't visited.
- ▶ Be specific to the college on why you are applying to them.
- ▶ Electronic does not mean instant...allow time for processing...and outages.
- ▶ Explore "adulthood" (i.e. laundry, \$\$, waking up on your own, managing deadlines).
- ▶ We are here to help, feel free to contact us.
- ▶ **Enjoy your Senior Year!**





# What “adulthood” skill do you need to work on the most?



# SENIOR TIMELINE

Sept. 10 - North Suburban NCAA Evening, Stevenson HS, 7:00-8:30 pm

Oct. 1 -Financial Aid Night, 7:00pm

-Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) opens

Sept 13, Oct 12, 18, Nov 8 -

NACAC National Virtual College Fairs: To learn more and register, visit:

[www.nacacfairs.org/virtual](http://www.nacacfairs.org/virtual)

Oct. 8 - First Gen to US Undergraduate Admission Night

Oct. 15 - SHS deadline for public colleges, or if using an ED, REA, or EA deadline

Oct. 22 - FAFSA Completion Night, by appt. only (TBD)

# SENIOR TIMELINE

Oct. 20 - Choices Fair *Maine South High School* for students with IEP/504

Nov. 30 - SHS deadline for all “other” 4-year college applications

Jan - Complete the Stevenson Foundation Scholarship Application

Jan. TBD - GAP Year Fair at New Trier High School

Mar. 1 - SHS deadline for 2-year college applications

Mar. TBD - Summer Job Fair

May 1 - National Candidate Reply Date