

# Class of 2022: College Night for Junior Families

December 9, 2020

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Post Secondary Counselors

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Career Exploration  
Manager

# College Search Process

Goals for tonight:

- How to Choose a College
- How a College Chooses You
- Next Steps

PASSION  
AND  
DRIVE



# Your Questions/Thoughts for Tonight

- Take a moment with your family
- On the reflection sheet:
  - Write down 1 – 3 expectations/questions you have for tonight



# The process has changed since 80s/90s

- Online
- SAT = ACT (really!!)
- Holistic review
- Applications have skyrocketed
  - More selective/competitive
- Legacy plays less of a role
- Admission plans
- Students visit campuses more
- Demonstrated Interest



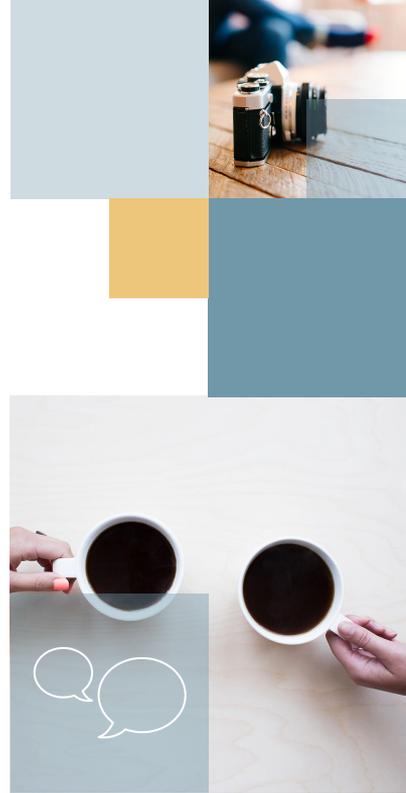
# How is the process different in the U.S. than other countries

- Rankings are more subjective - not governmental
- There isn't a "best" school in particular areas
- Undergrad is typically 4 years
- In particular with highly selective schools, there is **no** GPA or test score that guarantees admission
- Admission is holistic
- Visiting is important
- Applications happen in the fall of **senior year**
- Accelerated programs are rare, and very competitive
- Undecided is okay (and common)



**What is the best car?**

**Take 30 seconds to discuss...**

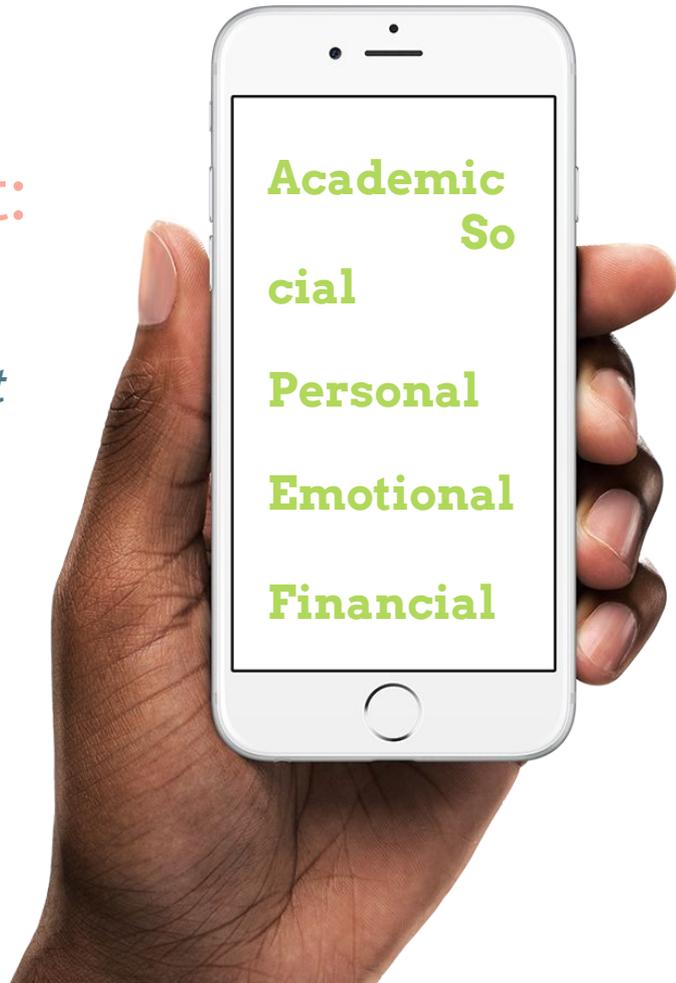


# How to Choose a College:

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## Find the Fit:

- Find the *right* school not *best* school.
- Fit varies from student to student.



Academic  
Social  
Personal  
Emotional  
Financial



# How to Choose a College:



## Take a Moment

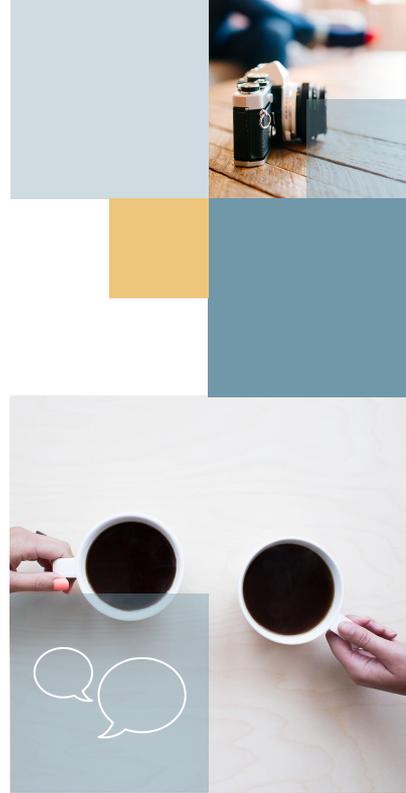
### Student

#### – Why College?

- What motivates you to go?
- What are your personal goals for after SHS?

### Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

- What do you hope for your child?



# How to Choose a College:

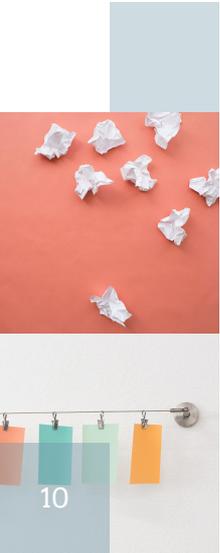
## Academics:

- Internships, co-ops, study abroad, direct admit programs, support, etc.
- In many instances, you do not need to choose your major until the end of the 2nd year of college!
- Discover what interests you



# How to Choose a College: Requirements for Admission

- Core Subjects
  - World Language
- Fine Arts (CA public schools, University of Washington in Seattle)
- Min. GPA
- ACT/SAT (maybe)



# How to Choose a College: Location, Distance, and Size

- Distance – consider logistics of coming home
- Setting: Rural, Urban, Suburban
  - Urban can be a defined or blended into the city.
- Size: Small (under 5,000) vs Large (15,000+)



# How to Choose a College:

“I want something bigger than the size of SHS.”

- Value of smaller schools
  - Smaller class sizes
  - More personalized experiences
  - Closer relationships with professors
  - Resources and research opportunities may be easier
- No college is one building 😊
- Majority of colleges are smaller than *SHS*



# How to Choose a College:

Take a  
moment...

- What is your reaction to this...
- What benefit(s) could a small school provide for you?



# How to Choose a College: Personal Factors

- Why do I want to go to college?
- How do I learn?
- How independent am I?
- What do I want to be involved in?
- Do I have special talents?
- Do I have special needs?

PASSION  
DRIVE



# How to Choose a College:

## Cost

- Have “*the talk*” about cost
- Public vs. Private
- “Sticker Shock” - Use the Net Price Calculators
- Need vs. Want
- Ability vs. Willingness
- “Scholar”- ships (Merit)
  - How to look



# How to Choose a College: Prestige/Rankings

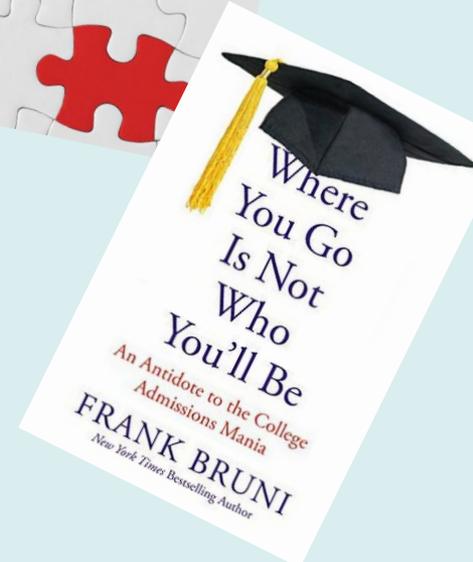
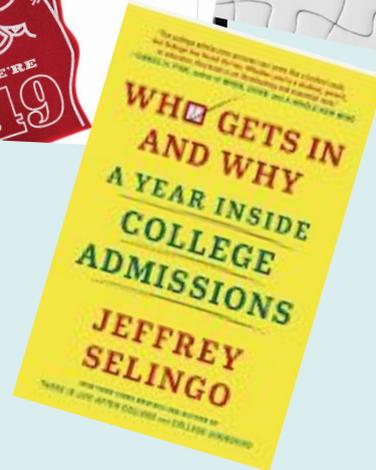
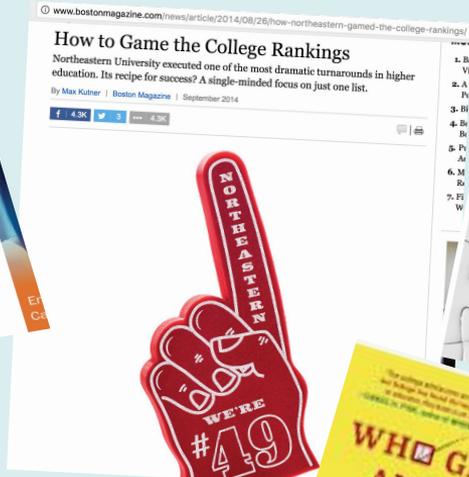
## The Truth about COLLEGE ADMISSION

A FAMILY GUIDE  
TO GETTING IN AND STAYING TOGETHER

- Finding the right school
- What the college rankings really mean
- The truth behind standardized testing
- Creating a compelling college essay
- Behind the scenes of college admission

GET ON  
THE ROAD TO A  
Positive  
COLLEGE SEARCH  
AND ADMISSION  
EXPERIENCE

BRENNAN BARNARD, High School College Counseling Director  
RICK CLARK, Washington State College Counselor



View Washington Post's article [here](#)  
View Boston Magazine's article [here](#)  
View Inside Higher Ed's article [here](#)

# How to Choose a College:

A school that is a reach for some, may be a target for others.

## Safety Schools

- “Slam Dunk” for admission
- Financially reasonable

## Target Schools

- Meet all admission requirements
- Financially attainable

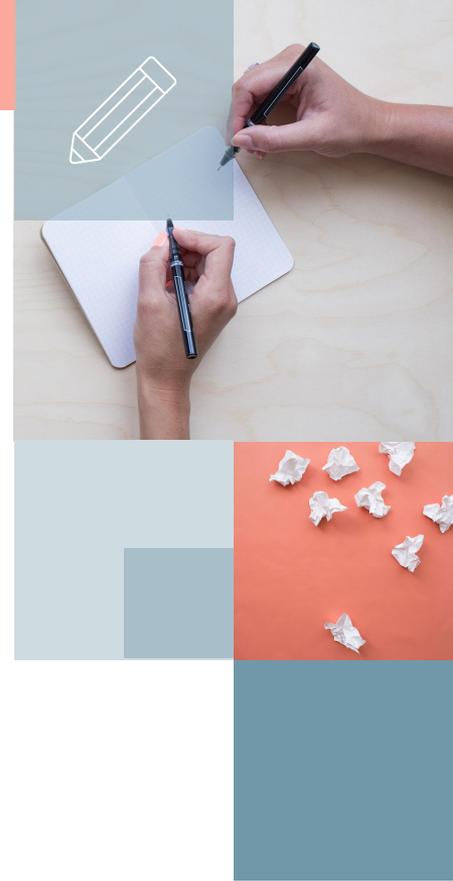
## Reach Schools

- May be deficient in some admission requirements
- May be a financial reach
- **All colleges with under 25% admit rate (regardless of students academics)**

**\*\*\*Utilize Naviance Scattergrams to reference SHS admission data.**

# Dispelling Rumors

- UIUC (or anyone else for that matter) does not have a SHS admission quota
- It is better to go in with a declared major(s)
- It is better to go in undecided



# How to Choose a College:

## Take a moment

- Students, share how you think you will choose a college?
- Parents/Guardians:
  - If you attended college, share how you chose a college?
  - How do you hope to support your child in this process?



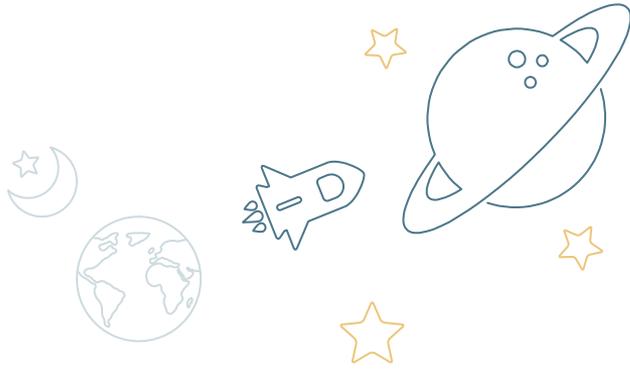
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Goals for tonight:

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- How a College Chooses You
- Next Steps

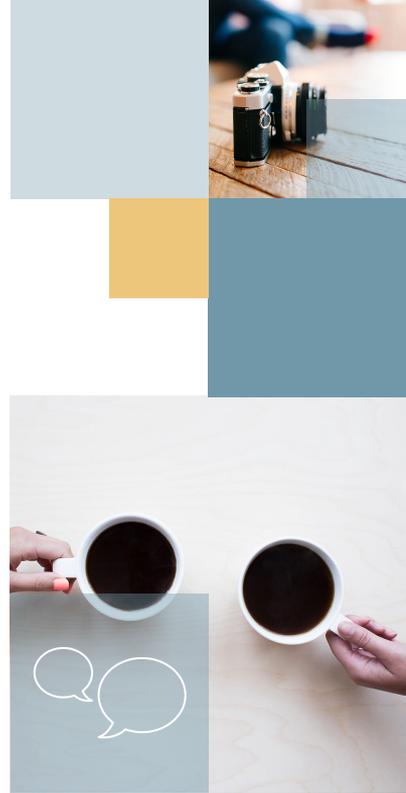
PASSION  
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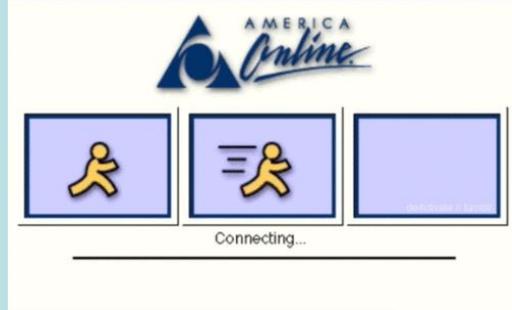




Parents/Guardians, if you applied to college, how many colleges did you apply to?

What is your guess on how many colleges a SHS student applies to on average?



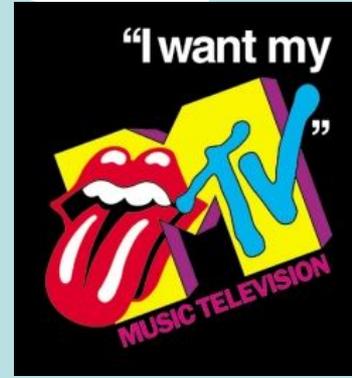
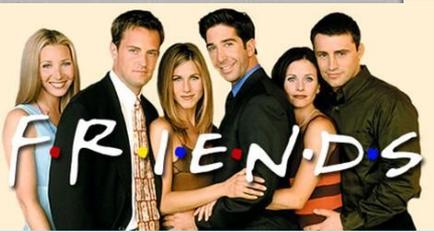


In 1990...

Price of gas \$1.08 a gallon

Ford Mustang Convertible \$15,000

UIUC total cost was \$6,500



# Then and Now...

- 1990
  - Columbia U admit rate was 32%...in 2020 it was 6.3%
  - U of Michigan admit rate was 64%...in 2020 it was 26%
- 1997
  - Northwestern had a 32% admit rate...in 2020 it was 9%
  - Vanderbilt had a 66% admit rate...in 2020 it was 11.6%
- 2001
  - Tulane had a 61% admit rate, in 2020 it was 11%

# Evolution of Applications

<b>College</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2020</b>
Northwestern U	27,615	32,124	39,261
U of Pennsylvania	26,938	37,267	44,205
U Chicago	19,370	30,192	34,372
U Michigan	31,613	51,797	65,899
U Wisconsin Madison	21,390	28,007	45,941

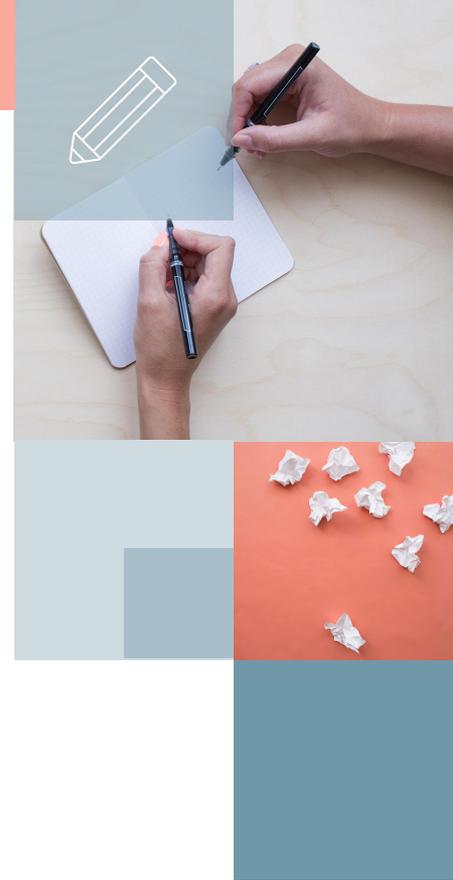
# Take Away

- *Things have changed...*
- *More applications by students and for schools*
- *Lower admit rates (higher selectivity)*
- *Harder to predict*
- *< 25% admit rate = "reach/highly selective schools"*
- *Use Naviance to help gauge*
- *Avoid those "other" sites*



# How a College Chooses You: Holistic Admissions - *Highlights*

- High School Transcript
- ACT/SAT Scores – Writing/Essay?
- Essays/Writing Samples
- Counselor and/or Teacher Recommendations
- Demonstrated Interest
- Choice of Major(s)
- Co-curriculars/Work
- Diversity, Legacy, State or Country of Residence



# Changes due to the Pandemic

- *Transcript details even more valued*
- *Test scores may still be optional...*
  - *Test-blind movement (NIU, Cal Tech)*
  - *SAT Subject tests*
- *May have additional essays*
- *Graded paper/essay/assignment*
- *Letters of Recommendation*
- *Demonstrated interest looks different*



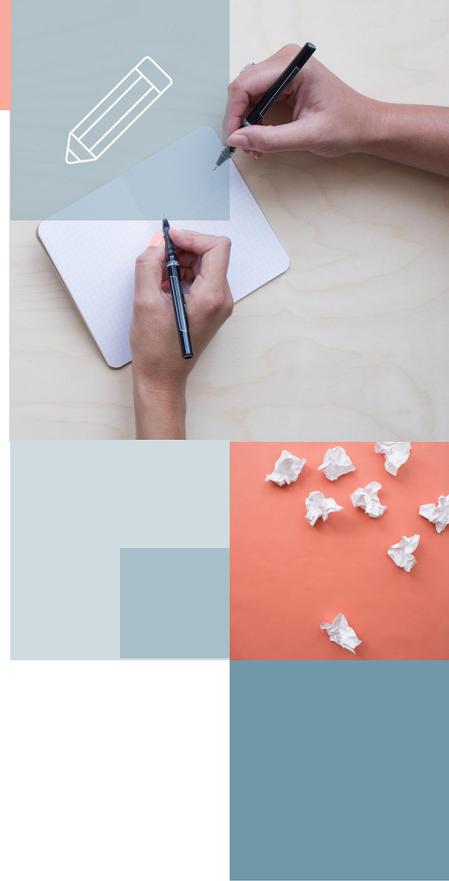
# How a College Chooses You: A Tale of Two Transcripts

Student A	Student B
3.54 wtd (9th)	3.00 wtd (9th)
3.50 wtd (10th)	3.12 wtd (10th)
3.08 wtd (11th)	3.57 wtd (11th)

↓ 3.37 wtd

Cumulative GPA

3.25 wtd ↑



# How a College Chooses You:

## High School Transcript

- Many colleges admit on 6 semesters
- Weighted GPA
- Looking for a college prep curriculum:
  - English: 4 years                      Math: 3-4 years
  - Science: 3-4 years                      Social Studies: 3-4 years
  - World Language: (same) 2+ years/levels
  - Fine Arts: 1 year\*\*

\*\* (CA Public, 1 semester for UW Seattle)

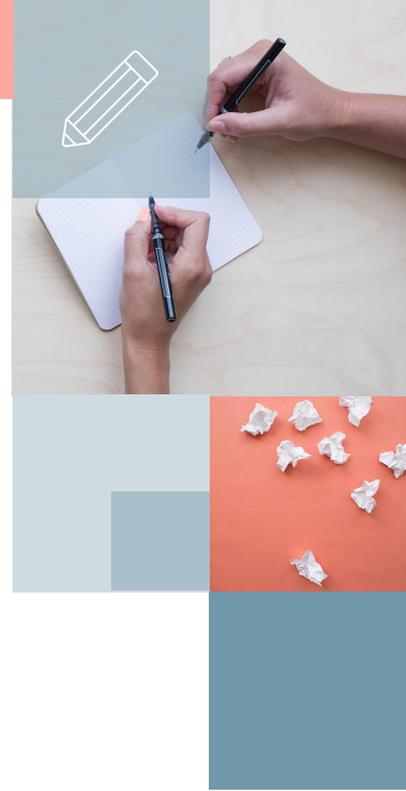
- Grades in college prep classes most important
- Grade trends
- Senior classes



# How a College Chooses You:

## SAT/ACT Scores

- All colleges (who aren't test blind) will accept SAT or ACT
- Colleges will look at the best Composite Score
- Superscore? ACT Section testing?
- “not a co-curricular activity”
- SAT subject tests may be required or recommended by highly selective colleges ([www.compassprep.com](http://www.compassprep.com) and college sites)
- Some schools require all testing history
- Self-reporting scores may be an option



# How a College Chooses You: Essays and/or Writing Samples

- Hear *student's* voice
- Personalize to the college – “why us”
  - Take notes during visits
- Summer School Workshops
- Save a graded paper- sometimes a college will ask for one



# How a College Chooses You:

## Teacher vs. Counselor Recommendations

### Teacher

- Usually a “core” academic teacher often junior year.
- May ask before summer, but know requirements, and avoid “over” asking.

### Counselor

- Big picture perspective of your time during high school.
- Hiccups, challenges, personal circumstances.
- You in context of your high school.
- SCoPE Meetings



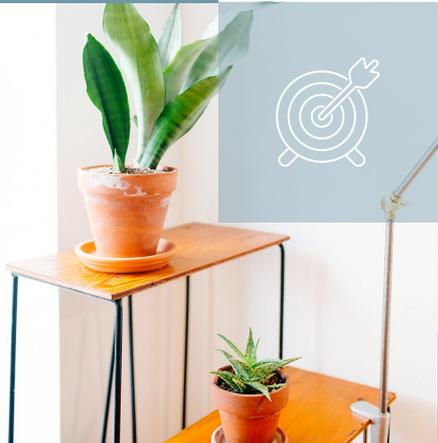
# How a College Chooses You:

## Demonstrated Interest



*Students can “demonstrate interest”:*

- Attend a college fair (virtual counts!)*
- Schedule an official campus visit or attend a virtual visit*
- Visit with reps at SHS and/or in the Chicagoland area.*
- Email/call colleges with questions (not easily found online)*
- Respond to emails that ask for a response*
- Essays*
- Interviews (if offered)*



# How a College Chooses You:

## Majors

- Some colleges directly admit students to certain programs
- Some programs are often direct admit (“more selective”):
  - Nursing
  - Engineering
  - Architecture
  - Business
- Undecided is okay!!!

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# How a College Chooses You:

## After 3:25 pm, Weekends, and Summer



- What do you like to do?
- How have you furthered your interests?
- Quality over quantity - meaningful engagement
- Looking for activities from Grades 9 – 12
- Colleges DO understand the past year has been challenging



# How a College Chooses You:

## Other Admission Factors

- Athletics / Talent
- Legacy (not a big factor)
- Diversity (in all areas)
- Admission plan used and deadlines

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# How a College Chooses You: Admission Plans

**Early Decision (ED)** – binding agreement, student is committing to enroll if admitted and must rescind all other applications

ED I or ED II are possible

**Restrictive Early Action (REA) or Single Choice Early Action** – not binding, but restricts how a student can apply to other colleges (will vary from school to school, see website for details)



# How a College Chooses You:

## Admission Plans

- Early Action (Priority) – non-binding, “no strings attached” plan. Scholarship money is often tied to this deadline. Strong preference given to these applications.
- Regular – later in cycle
- Rolling – Notifications are rolled out through the cycle, as applications are processed
- Open Enrollment – Community Colleges



# College Search Process

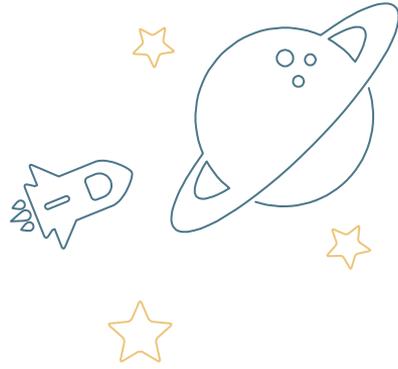
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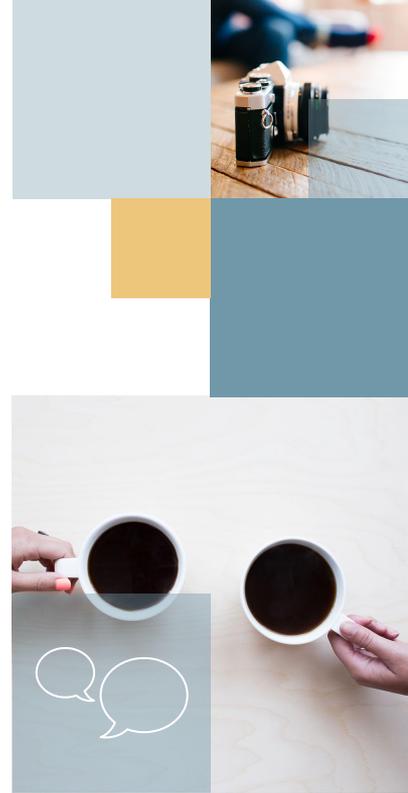
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DRIVE



# Next Steps: Research Career Interests



- Discover what interests you:
  - **Utilize your resources:** Naviance Assessments. Career Exploration Program, shadowing, events, programs and career panel - check out the website (<https://www.d125.org/academics/career-exploration>)

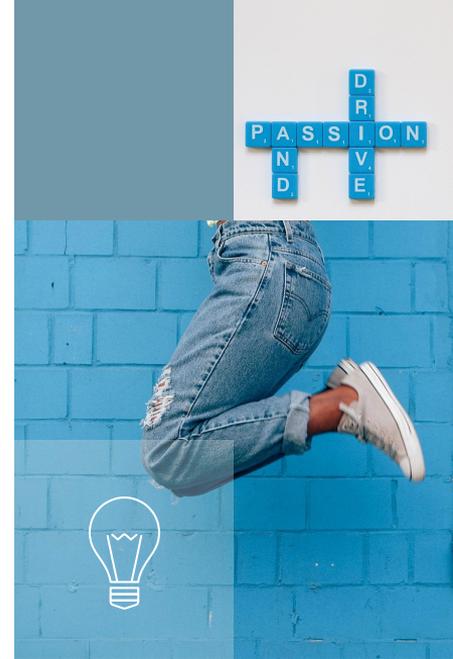


# Career Exploration Program

Mrs. Diane Willock, SHS Career Program Manager



- **Job Shadowing.** Students can participate in a half-day to full-day job shadow with a mentor in their interested career.
- **Professional Career Presentations.** Professionals present in either an individual classroom or in the College/Career Center.
- **Email Mentorship.** Students can participate in an email membership
- Career Expo
- Summer job fair-usually in spring
- Mock Interviews
- Summer Career Courses-M&H, Business, Law, STEM-all in June
- SPARK/Internships-summer-4-6 weeks
- General career guidance and planning
- Resume help



# Why do Career Exploration in High School?

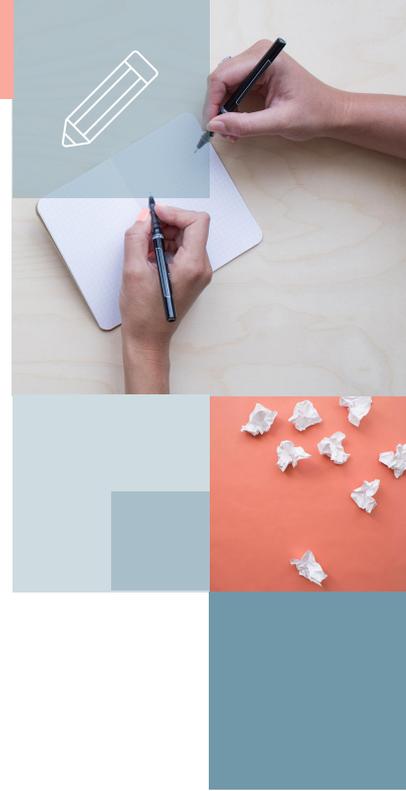
- Uncover likes/dislikes
- Provides knowledge on what type of education and skills are needed to succeed
- Provides sense of direction
- Provides motivation to succeed
- Increases sense of confidence about future

**\*\*Especially important for upperclassmen**



- **Make connections**

- ***Helps to make a better, more informed choice on college and major***

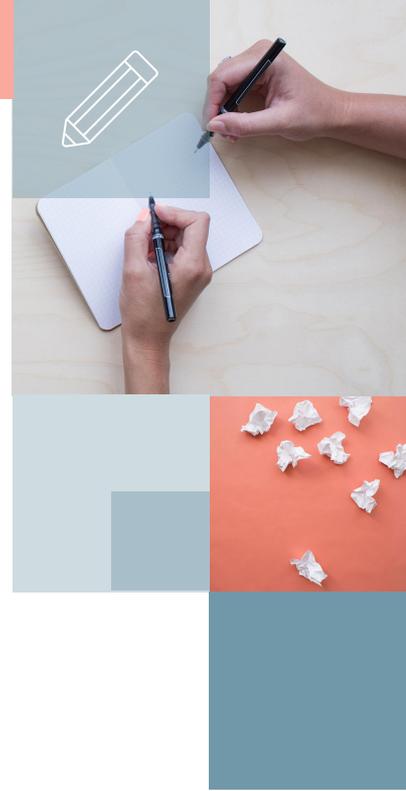


Students interested in meeting with me....

Fill out a *Career Interest Form* these can be found in the College Career Center or online at my Career Exploration page

<https://www.d125.org/academics/career-exploration>

You may also email me at [dwillock@d125.org](mailto:dwillock@d125.org)



# Resources

Career Exploration Page:

<https://www.d125.org/academics/career-exploration>

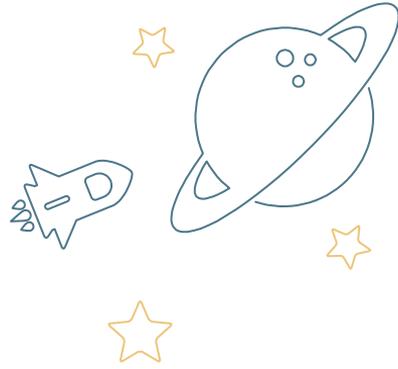


College Career Center Facebook page:

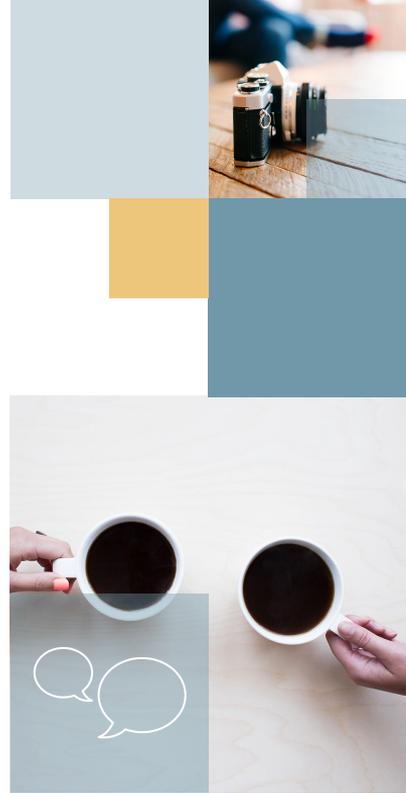
<https://www.facebook.com/SHSCollegeCareerCenter>



# Next Steps: Perhaps Consider a "Gap Year"



- A gap year is a year for students to explore other interests between high school and college.
- Gap Year Fair – <https://www.gooverseas.com/>



# Next Steps:

## Military, Community College, & Trades Week

- Military Week - week of Veterans Day
- Trades Week: week of Nov. 16th
- Community College Week: week of Nov. 30th

Be on the lookout for next year's dates



# Next Steps: Role of Community College

- Potentially earn transferable college credits.
- Significantly reduced tuition.
- Pathway for transfer to four-year institution.
- Opportunity for fresh start.
- Gain classroom knowledge/skills within challenging academic areas.

PASSION  
DRIVE



# Next Steps: How To Do Research

- Create a list of essential questions for you to have answered.
- Naviance and other search tools (College Board/Big Future).
- Use the CCC and the individual college websites.
- College fairs (virtual for now).
- College rep visits (fall of senior year, use Canvas).
- Visit college campuses (virtual is an option too).
- Speak to friends and family about their experiences.



# Next Steps: CCC Website



Find It Fast

Calendar

Visitors

Translate



STUDENTS

PARENTS

ACADEMICS

ATHLETICS

ARTS

ABOUT

## College

The CCC

Naviance

Rep Visits

ACT/SAT Info

CCC Calendar

COLLEGE REP VISITS 2019

The College Career Center is located in Room 1123 (West Building) just south of the Wood Commons. The CCC is best accessed from the outside by way of the Forum ("point") entrance, off parking lot B.

Follow the CCC on Facebook →

Stevenson High School welcomes colleges to visit our students during the fall semester. Colleges wishing to schedule a rep visit can contact us at [shs\\_collegecareer@d125.org](mailto:shs_collegecareer@d125.org).

### College Career Center Staff

#### Postsecondary Counselors

Sara English

[senglish@d125.org](mailto:senglish@d125.org) / 847-415-4505

2019-20 Academic Calendar

Advanced Placement

Career Exploration

### College

Freshman Focus

Sophomore Focus

Junior Focus

Community Colleges

Demonstrated Interest

First-Generation Families

IEP/504 Resources

Post-Secondary SCoPE Meeting

# Next Steps: Upcoming CCC Events

**Feb – June** – Post  
Secondary SCoPE  
Meetings

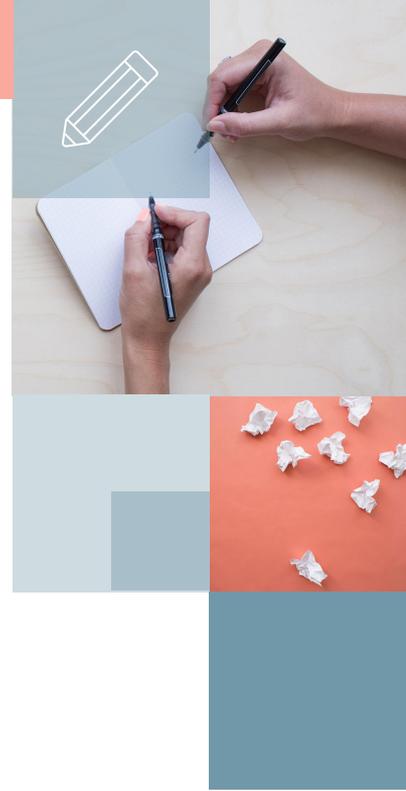
**April – Junior  
Seminars** –  
students will come  
into CCC out of  
math classes.



# Next Steps:

## Programming for next year

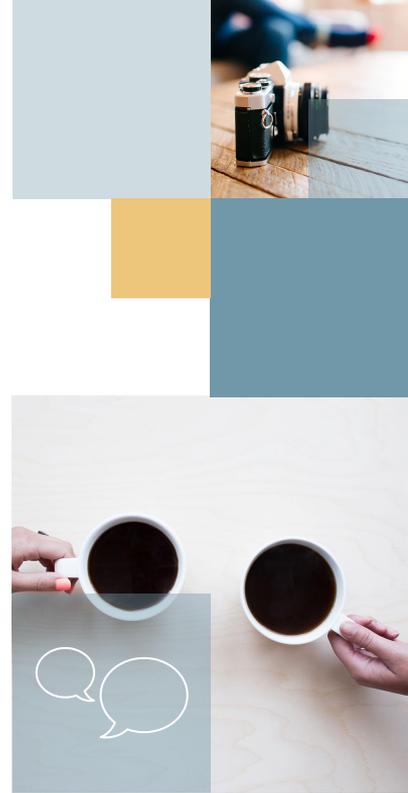
- Senior Groups (August – English Classes)
- Senior Parent Night (Late August)
- Financial Aid Night (Early October)
- FAFSA Completion Night (Early-Mid October)
- Workshops for students (Drop-In Tuesdays, Essays, Common App, UIUC, Coalition App, U CA app, Interview)



# Next Steps: Take a moment

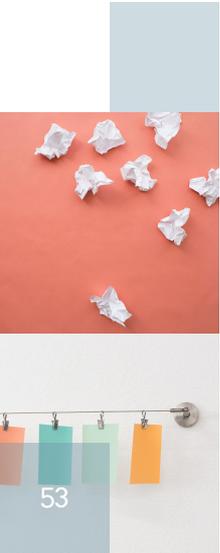
On your reflection sheet:

- 3 Action Steps  
between now and  
spring break



# Next Steps: Parting Thoughts

- It is all about finding the fit, and expanding options at first. There is not *only* one college that is a right fit.
- College rankings do not equal student success.
- Be optimistic, and realistic - diversify list.
- Don't wait to start. Use the virtual options.
- Explore Careers
- Set up times to communicate as a family.
- This is a journey, and time for students to learn more themselves, about self-advocacy, and adulting.



# Thanks for attending!



[www.d125.org/college](http://www.d125.org/college)



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College Career Center***