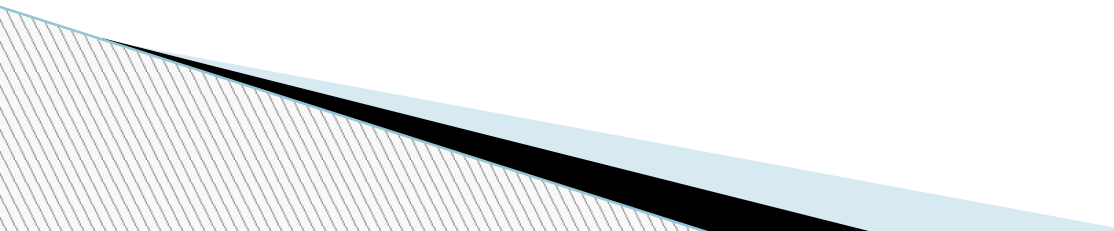# Monona Grove High School

Junior Seminar

2023–2024

Agenda

- Welcome
- High school graduation requirements and credit review
- Post-secondary options
- College admission requirements
- AP Courses
- Essay and personal statements
- Activities resume
- How to select a college
- Junior/Senior timelines
- College application review

Graduation Credit Review

Please check your material for an individualized credit summary and a copy of your transcript.

Subject Area	Required	Earned (transcript)	In Progress (sem. 1)	Scheduled (sem. 2)	Senior Year	Notes
Electives	8.0					
English	4.0					
Mathematics	3.0					
Science	3.0					
Social Studies	3.0					
Physical Education	1.5					
Health	0.5					
Personal Finance	0.5					
American Government	0.5					
Total Credits	24.0					

Post–High School Options

More Education	Apprenticeships & Employment	Military Service	Gap Year
4-year college	Apprenticeship programs	Military academy	Americorps
2-year college	Job market	ROTC	Travel abroad
Trade school		Enlistment	

Post–Secondary Options

★ 4 year (public and private)
- UW System Schools
- UW Help
- Wisconsin Private Colleges
- Academic and Career Planning

★ Technical College Degree Programs
- Madison College
- Wisconsin Technical College System

★ 2 Year Transfer Programs
- Madison College Liberal Arts Transfer Program

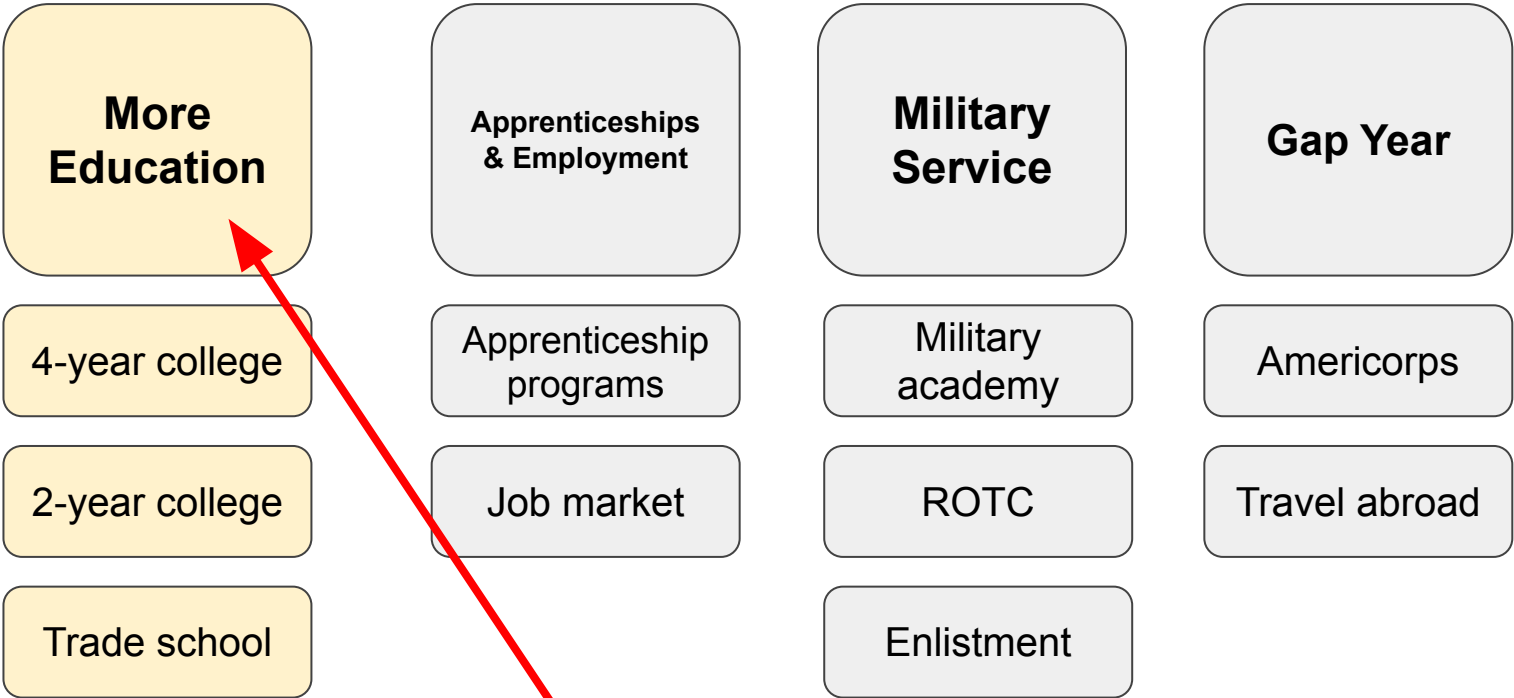★ Apprenticeships (Adult)
- Department of Workforce Development

★ Employment

★ Military Options

★ Gap Year
- AmeriCorps
- Study/Travel Abroad

Post–High School Options

More Education	Apprenticeships & Employment	Military Service	Gap Year
4-year college	Apprenticeship programs	Military academy	Americorps
2-year college	Job market	ROTC	Travel abroad
Trade school		Enlistment	

Today's Focus: More Education

College Admission Requirements

Criteria varies from school to school, but all colleges focus on the strength and quality of your high school transcript. Requirements may change from year to year, so always check with your college of interest for the most up to date information.

Public Universities
English ……………..…...4 years
Mathematics …….……3-4 years
Science ……………..…..3 years
Social Studies …………..3 years
Academic Electives …….2 years
Foreign Language ……. 2 years*
*Only applies at some public universities

Private 4-year Colleges
English …………………….……4 years
Mathematics ……………..…...3 years
Foreign Language ………......2-4 years
Science ………………………3-4 years
Social Studies ……….…….…3-4 years
Academic Electives …..………..2 years
*Some have higher admission minimum requirements, be sure to check with your schools
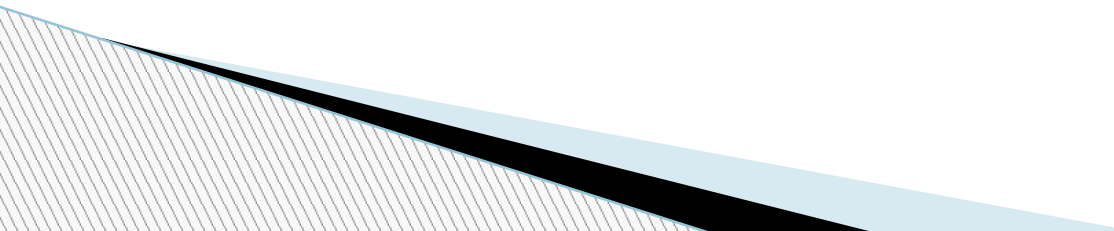
Highly Selective Colleges
English ……………..………4 years
Mathematics ……….....…...4 years
Foreign Language ………4 years
Lab Science ………….....…4 years
Social Studies ………...3-4 years
Academic Electives …….2 years

Technical/Community Colleges
Varies greatly from an open door admissions policy to selective course requirements by different departments or programs.

Specific programs may have more stringent requirements and deadlines.

Four–Year College Option

▶ Earn a Bachelor's degree:
- ◦ Bachelor of Arts (BA) for humanities, social sciences, arts
- ◦ Bachelor of Science (BS) for science, math, engineering

▶ Highly varied:
- ◦ Can be public or private
- ◦ Varying in size, academic standards, course offerings, cost

▶ Admissions criteria is usually stricter:
- ◦ Usually for students in top ½ of their class
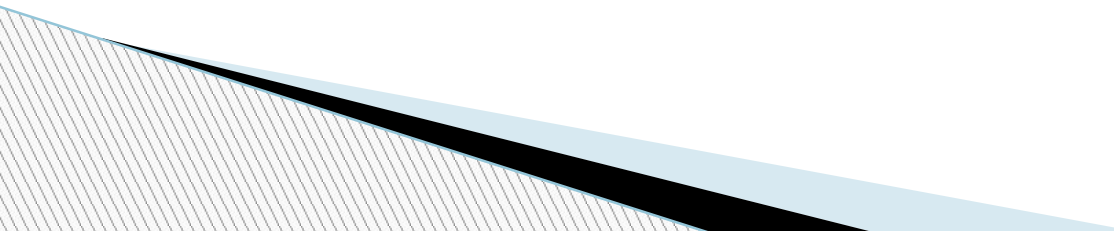
▶ Typically completed in four to five years

Technical College Options

► Admission requirements are specific to the program

► Various degrees offered ([Madison College](#)):
  ◦ Associate Degree
  ◦ Two-year Technical Diploma
  ◦ One-year Technical Diploma
  ◦ Less than one year Technical Diploma
  ◦ Certificate

► Coursework specific to the field of study

► Associate Degree and the liberal arts transfer program have more general education requirements as they are preparing students for a transition into a four year college

► Contact: Jennifer Helminski: JHelminski@madisoncollege.edu

Trade / Vocational School

▶ Usually specialized schools offering education/training in specialized areas of employment
- ◦ Training time ranges from few weeks to couple years
- ◦ Sometimes in-person, sometimes remote/distance learning

▶ Aimed at students who want to start working ASAP

▶ Examples of careers/jobs that might benefit from trade school:
- ◦ Auto mechanic, cook/chef, hairdresser/barber, nurse's aide, truck driver

▶ Watch out for:
- ◦ Higher tuitions – because these schools are usually for-profit businesses (check programs at technical colleges first as they are often more cost effective)
- ◦ Certification & accreditation – to make sure it's worth it. Also, only accredited schools are eligible for financial aid!

Other Admissions Factors

▶ Rigor of Coursework

▶ Essay and/or personal statement

▶ Clubs, sports, volunteer, work experiences

▶ Leadership positions and special honors/awards

▶ Letters of recommendation

▶ Standardized test scores (mostly optional; submit if it enhances your application)

AP Courses

▶ How many AP courses should be taken?
  ◦ BALANCE

▶ How is COLLEGE credit awarded?
  ◦ To earn college credit, students must take an AP exam for the course. Students who earn a 3, 4, or 5 on the AP exam will typically be granted credit.
  ◦ For specific information on how colleges grant credit, please access the College Board website

▶ How do I report my AP scores to the college that I will be attending?
  ◦ Students choose to send AP scores to the college they will be attending. They can do this when they take the exams in May or from the College Board website.

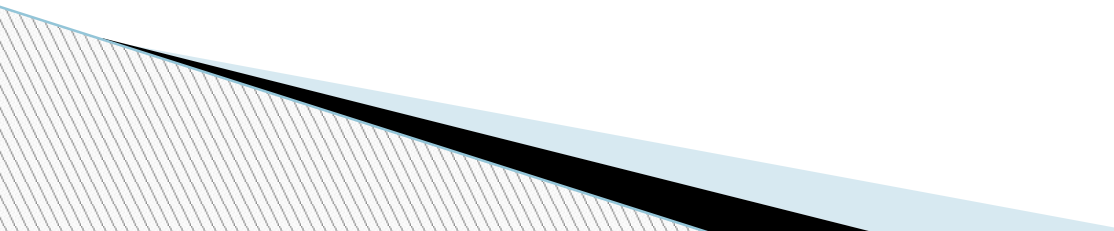# Essays and Personal Statements

▶ Answer the prompts/questions

▶ Provide specific examples

▶ Pick a topic that sets you apart from other applicants

▶ Avoid buzzwords or clichés (I've always wanted to be a Badger)

▶ Have several people read it (i.e. English teacher, parent/guardian)

▶ Longer isn't necessarily better– do not go beyond the maximum length

▶ Address weak academic records or other extenuating circumstances – this is your chance to tell your story!

Activities Resume

Activities resumes are helpful when completing college and scholarship applications, and requests for letters of recommendation (page 2 of the "Senior Info Form").

What to include:

► Extracurricular activities – doesn't need to be a long list, but it should show commitment

► Can include activities in and out of school

► Include community service and volunteer work

► Include employment

► Highlight leadership – captain, officer, tutor, first chair, trainer, coach, camp counselor, Sunday school teacher, etc.

► Highlight recognitions – Solo & Ensemble, All Conference, MVP, Most Improved, Sportsmanship, manager, academic letter, Badger State Award, artwork display in museum or gallery, etc.
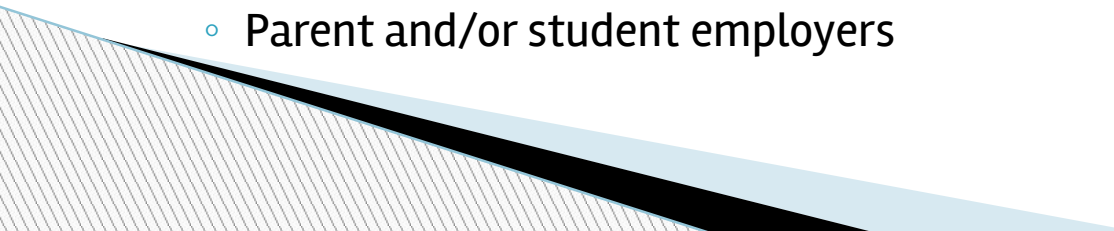
How to Select a College

▶ What do you want to study?

- UW Help
- Private Wisconsin Colleges
- Xello
- CollegeBoard BigFuture

▶ What type of degree do you need?

▶ Wisconsin Education Fair (WEF)

▶ College Visits – What features are important to you?

- Location, size of city/campus, class sizes

▶ Do you meet admission requirements?

- College prep curriculum
- G.P.A.
- ACT/SAT

Another Important Factor....Money

► How much does it cost?
  ◦ All college websites include a Net Price Calculator
  ◦ College Navigator is a helpful resource.

► Make sure to apply for financial aid!
  ◦ MGHS Financial Aid Night – October 2024
  ◦ Complete the FAFSA starting October 1, 2024
  ◦ Assistance is available (College Goal Wisconsin, one-on-one)

► Scholarships
  ◦ MGHS scholarship list
  ◦ Local scholarship program
  ◦ College specific
  ◦ Nationwide scholarship databases (ex. FASTWEB, Big Future, etc.)
  ◦ Parent and/or student employers

Interested? Your next steps

**If you want to explore college or more education:**

- ▶ Figure out which kind of college you're interested in.
- ▶ Put together a target college/school list.
- ▶ Schedule on-campus college visits and/or attend lunch visits by recruiters
- ▶ If needed, request letters of recommendation and/or take the SAT/ACT.

Links to helpful websites:

- ▶ 4 year (public and private)
  - ◦ UW System Schools
  - ◦ Wisconsin Private Colleges
  - ◦ Academic and Career Planning
- ▶ Technical College Degree Programs
  - ◦ Madison College
  - ◦ Wisconsin Technical College System
- ▶ 2 Year Transfer Program
  - ◦ Madison College Liberal Arts Transfer Program

UW System Fall Workbook

The Fall Workbook is available digitally for high school students/families. This publication is a step-by-step guide to help students prepare for college in the UW System. Download a copy today!
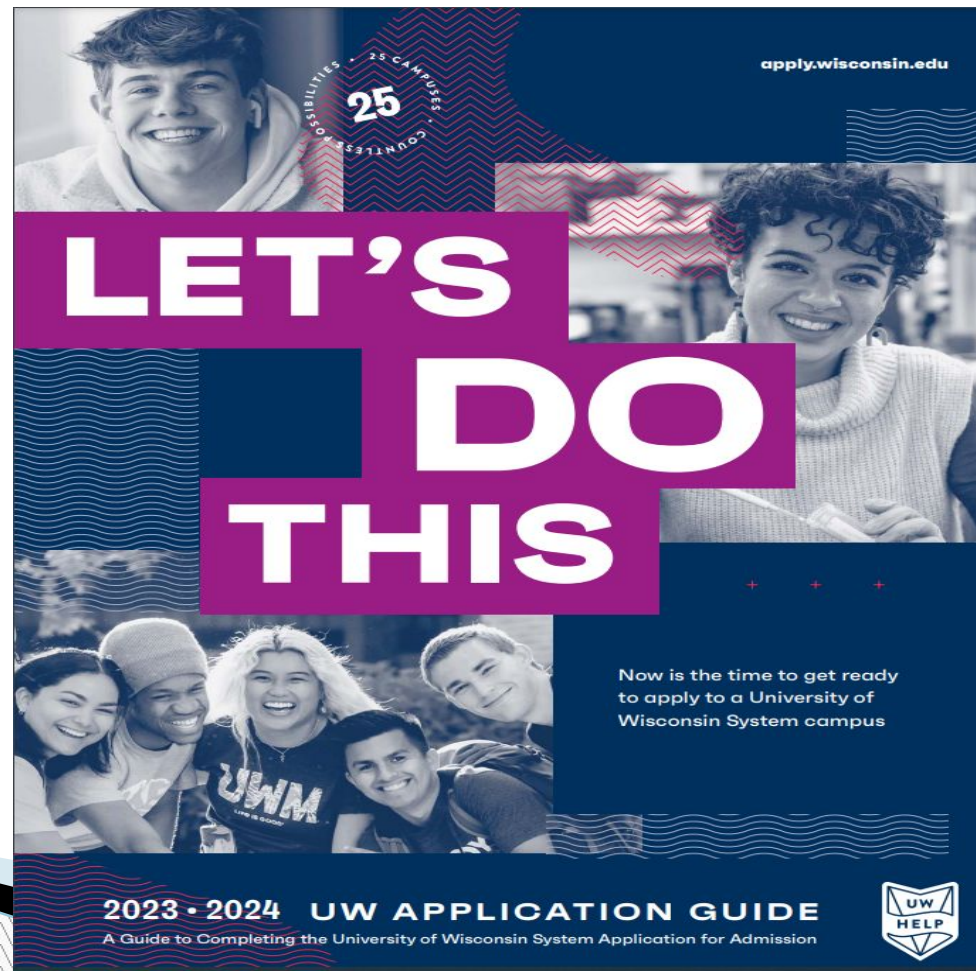
Common App Ready

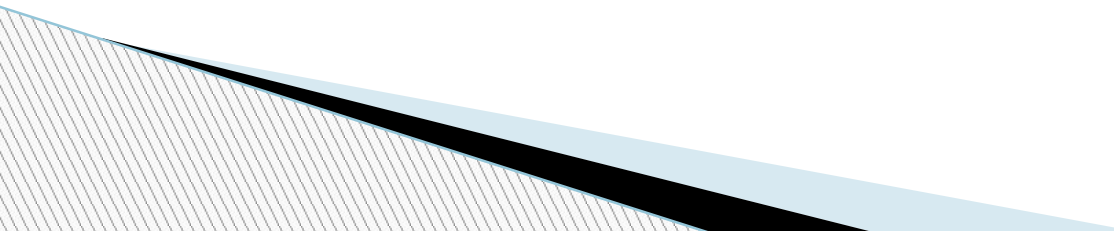## (many parts are helpful for *all* colleges)

This site is a complete toolkit of tips and best practices designed to help your students complete their applications successfully and on time.

Examples of included resources: My College Requirement Workshop, How to Approach the Essay, Understanding Application Fees, Understanding Your Financial Aid Offer, and MORE!

Common App Ready Link

Junior Year Timeline

► Begin/continue your college search by reading about majors, careers and colleges. Xello/ACP is a great resource and can connect to school websites
  ◦ Compare college costs, learn about financial aid and scholarships

► College Visits
  ◦ MGHS: Visit with admission counselors in student services
  ◦ Campus Visits

► College Admissions Test
  ◦ ACT ~ March 12, 2024

► Study for the Advanced Placement (AP) exams in May

► Be well balanced: volunteer, get an interesting job, intern, join a club, musical or sports team

Senior Year Timeline

► Schedule an appointment with your school counselor in September or October

► Narrow your list of school choices and APPLY. All college applications should be submitted by individual college deadlines ~ don't wait, it is a stressful time

► Most applications open on August 1 ~ visit each school's website to determine your application plan and then BEGIN YOUR APPLICATION

► Ask your teachers, coaches or advisors for recommendations if needed. Remember to allow at least 2 weeks for teachers/counselors to write the recommendation and follow-up with a thank you note. Use a "Senior Info Form" to document all of your activities.

► **With Early Decision/Early Action deadlines, plan accordingly so that your recommenders and counselors have enough time to complete things for which they are responsible (minimally 2 weeks) prior to the due date**

Senior Year Timeline

▶ If required, order your high school transcript to be sent to your colleges through Parchment (if not applying through Common Application). Most colleges allow for you to submit for purposes of admission (official transcripts must be requested for final transcripts).

  ◦ If applicable, order your **college** transcripts to be sent to your colleges (one example UW Green Bay – Spanish 5/French 5)

▶ Financial Aid

  ◦ Attend Financial Aid Night (October) and complete FAFSA starting October 1
  ◦ <mark>SPECIAL NOTE: Financial Aid Night is December 13, 2023 @ 6:00pm</mark>
  ◦ Review scholarship opportunities throughout the year
  ◦ The local scholarship application will be available online in the spring

▶ Upon completion of first semester, submit mid–year transcript, as needed
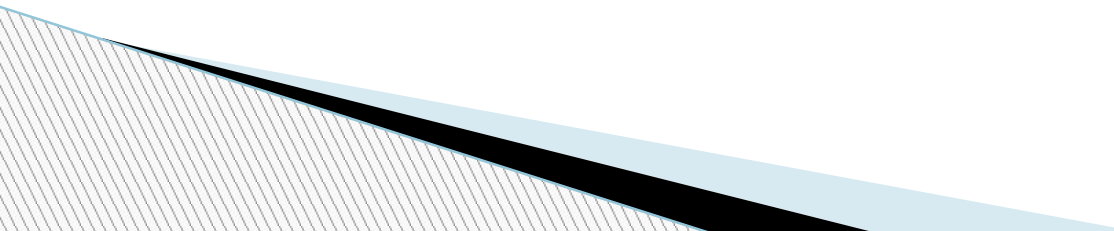
College Applications Review

▶ **UW Systems**
  ◦ August 1: Most applications will be available for applying/submitting

▶ **The Common Application**
  ◦ Used by over 900 colleges (including UW Eau Claire, UW Madison, UW Milwaukee, UW River Falls, UW Stevens Point, UW Stout, UW Whitewater and University of MN – Twin Cities)
  ◦ Application is available on August 1

▶ Early Decision & Early Action
  ◦ Early Decision: Student applies early and decision is binding
  ◦ Early Action: Student applies early and decision is non–binding
  ◦ UW Madison is an early action school

Please complete the evaluation survey before leaving:

STUDENT SURVEY LINK

PARENT/GUARDIAN LINK

Thank you!

Post–Secondary Options ~ Your turn to try

★ 4 year (public and private)
  - [UW System Schools](#)
  - [Wisconsin Private Colleges](#)
  - [Career Cruising](#)
★ Technical College Degree Programs
  - [Madison College](#)
  - [Wisconsin Technical College System](#)
★ 2 Year Transfer Programs
  - [Madison College Liberal Arts Transfer Program](#)
  - [UW Colleges Guaranteed Transfer Program](#)
★ Apprenticeships (Adult)
  - [Department of Workforce Development](#)
★ [Military Options](#)
★ Employment ~ set up an appointment with Ms. Deibele to work on your resume