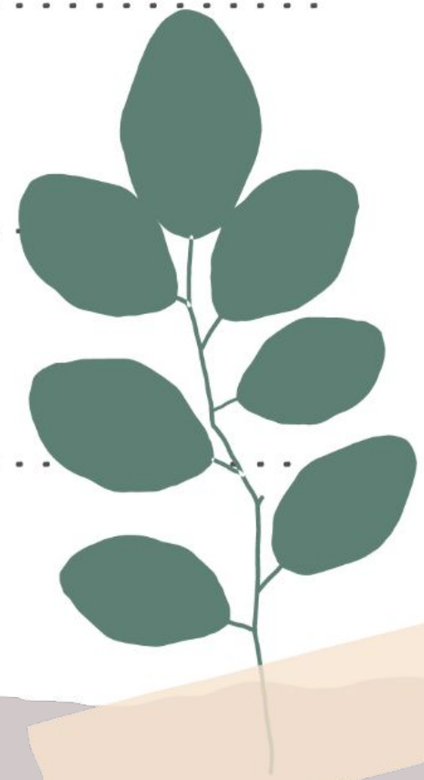
Junior Year
Class of 2024

Postsecondary Planning



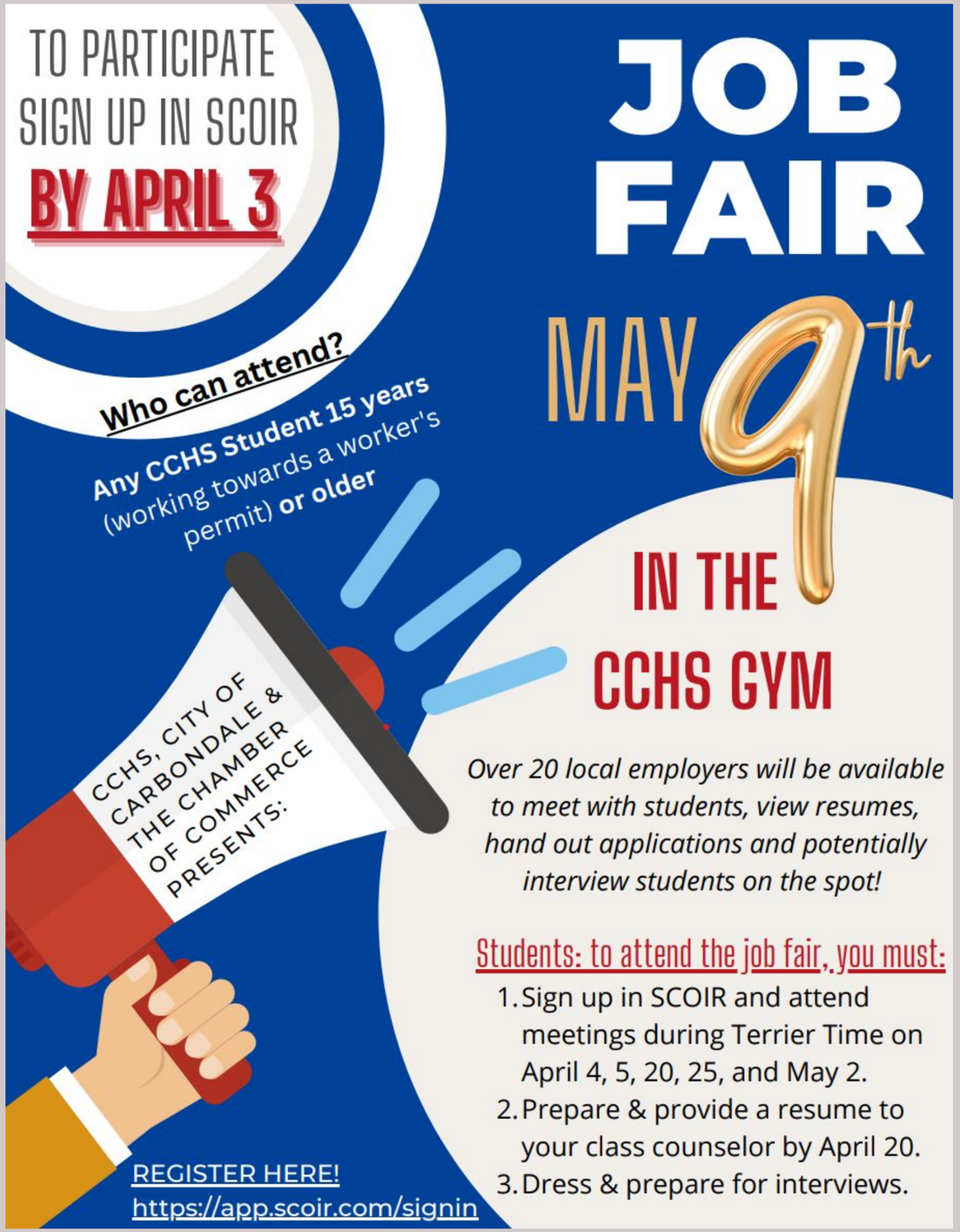
Today's Agenda

- [ ] Postsecondary Options
- [ ] Academic Considerations
- [ ] Admission Tests
- [ ] College Search & Visits
- [ ] Application Process, Next Steps, & Resources

Disclaimer: This slideshow is meant to be comprehensive in nature and serve as a resource for CCHS students and families in the postsecondary planning process. We will briefly go over each slide today and will not go in depth. This amount of information can be overwhelming, but is intended as a resource to come back to when relevant throughout your planning process. Please don't hesitate to reach out to your School Counselor with any questions you may have about information included or not included in this presentation.

CCHS Job Fair

- *Need a job?*
- *No plans this summer?*
- *Ready to make money?*
- JOIN OUR 2ND ANNUAL CCHS JOB FAIR by registering in SCOIR by **April 3**.
  - https://app.scoir.com/signin
- We will have 5 informational meetings/workshops to help you prepare for the job fair
  - Resume building
  - Interview prep & skills
  - What to wear to the job fair
  - And much more!
- Check out the flyer to the right for more details.



Postsecondary Options

Vocational or Trade Careers

- Group of labor jobs that require specific training and technical knowledge.
- You don’t need a four-year college degree, but you do need to be educated and trained.
- Type of training depend on the field and desired job.
- Training is usually specific to the field of work and generally requires no General Education classes (e.g. math, English, etc.)
- Training Options:
  - On-the-job training
  - Certificate Programs (at a community or four year college)
  - Apprenticeships
  - Trade Schools or Career & Technical Education Programs
- Planning & Next Steps
  - Determine the type of training needed
    - Research your future career online with SCOIR
    - Talk to your school counselor or college representative
  - Apply for a certificate program, apprenticeship, or job
    - Each will have different requirements & deadlines so make sure you keep track
  - Start training and potentially getting paid for it!

Certificate Programs

- Certificate Programs (at a community or four year college)
  - Can be a great way to get additional training in a specific area
  - Can be completed at a community college or four year college
  - Generally can be completed in 6-18 months and require no General Education classes (e.g. math, English, etc.)
  - Many can be “stacked” on top of previous certificates to make yourself more marketable when applying for jobs or moving up in your company
- John A. Logan College (JALC) offers 75 career preparation programs and 39 certificate options.
  - Examples: Automotive, Computer Information Systems, Cosmetology, Early Childhood Education, EMT, Graphic Design, HVAC, Medical Assistant, Nursing, Surveying Technician, Welding, etc.
- Southern Illinois Collegiate Common Market (SICCM)
  - Medical Laboratory Technology, Occupational Therapy Assistant, & Surgical Technology
- Culinary Arts at Rend Lake College

Apprenticeships

- An apprenticeship is **a paid job where the employee learns and gains valuable experiences**.
  - Alongside on-the-job training, apprentices some of their working hours completing classroom-based learning.
  - These programs and positions span a wide variety of career fields
  - The statistics on outcomes for individuals who complete apprenticeships are staggering:
    - 93% who complete a registered apprenticeship retain employment, with an average annual salary of $77,000.
    - Propell student career readiness and success and should be considered when looking at postsecondary options.
- Employers hire you, pay you a salary with benefits, plus pay for your education
  - You usually spend 1.5 -2 years minimum working for that company after your education is complete
  - Some employers will pay for your bachelor's degree afterwards
- Sample career fields: Banking and Finance, Bulldozer and Grader Operators, Insurance, CNC Precision Machining, Cybersecurity/Networking, Carpenters, Marketing and Sales Management, Roofers, Graphic Arts Print Production, Supply Chain Management, Industrial Maintenance Mechanic, etc.
- Resources for finding apprenticeships:
  - Arts2Work
  - Illinois Department of Employment Security
  - ICATT Apprenticeship Program
  - Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center
  - Apprenticeship Illinois
  - Local unions that represent the trade in which you are interested
  - Build Illinois

Trade Schools

- A trade school or technical school is a postsecondary educational institution designed to train students for a specific job in a skilled trade career.
  - Offers hands-on training to prepare students for actual work in their chosen field.
  - Focuses only on relevant job training, which is different from 2-year or 4-year colleges that require general education courses, such as English or Biology.
  - The 8 Benefits of Going to a Trade School
- Examples: Universal Technical Institute, Ranken Technical College, or Illinois Institute of Technology
- Career and Technical Education is really about high demand, high wage, & high skills jobs!
  - No longer the image of grease under your fingernails and mud on your boots.
  - Discover how you can get your education and get on with your life!
  - Don't just make a living but make a life with your interests and your passions.
  - 15 Certification Programs for Careers that Pay Well

Local Trade Options

- **Southern Illinois Construction Career Expo**, DuQuoin: attend this early fall field trip
  - Meet with and experience hands-on activities with a wide variety of experts in the construction trades at the Expo
  - Students learn about the requirements, required assessments, job availability, job outlook, and apprenticeship opportunities in Southern Illinois
  - Mr. Terry and the CCHS CTE Department are all knowledgeable resources for workforce and practical information related to workforce skills and demand

Trade	Contact	First Year Apprentice Pay
Bricklayers	(618)401-9960 sgarrison@bac8il.com	$14.50/hr + benefits
Carpenters	(618)277-2051 carpdc.org	$15-19.79/hr + benefits
Cement Masons & Plasterers	(217)356-9313 opcnia.org	$15.12/hr
Electricians	(618)932-2102	$20.08/hr + benefits
Iron Workers	(618)874-0313 ironworkers.org	$22.42/hr + benefits
Laborers (LIUNA)	www.local773.com/apprenticeship	$20.62/hr
Operating Engineers	(618)644-1969 oe520.org	$22.38/hr
Plumbers & Pipefitters	(618)684-4521	$16.80/hr
Sheet Metal Workers	(618)397-1443 local268.com	$15.42/hr + benefits
Coal Miners	(270)339-1724	$18-$30/hr

Workforce & Trade Career Resources

Explore high growth career fields in technology, healthcare, retail, culinary, and many other areas through hands on learning.

- American Job Center SI
- Illinois Career Information System has a variety of resources to help you with your job search from start to finish
  - To access, log in as an Illinois Resident (find your city or town and type in your zip code) and click on Employment.
- Apprenticeship Programs
- Use the MyNextMove tool for career exploration and job analysis.
- Find training programs: compare completion rates, employment rates, and more on TrainingProviderResults
- Visit CareerOneStop for career exploration training and jobs.
- Explore the Occupational Outlook Handbook (OOH) for detailed information about over 300 occupational profiles.
- SkillUp Coalition connects workers with the right tools, resources, and support so they can make career shifts, find quality living-wage jobs, and position themselves for promising career growth.

John A. Logan College:

- Apprenticeships in: Accounting Technology, Auto Body Collision Repair, Automotive Technician, Certified Nursing Assistant, Child Care Development Specialist, CNC Machine Builder, Construction Craft Laborer, Electronics Technician, HVAC Installer and Service, Industrial Maintenance Repairer, Medical Assistant, Surgical Technologist, and Welder
- Nursing Programs
- Public Service Programs
- Applied Technology Programs
- Program Guides

Explore Skilled Trades & Trade Labor Unions:

- Air Traffic Controllers/Federal Aviation Admin.
- Build Illinois
- Construction Trades Guide Book
- Non Destructive Testing
- 7 Types of Unions & How They Work
- List of Unions in Illinois
- 22 Best Labor Union Jobs in IL

Explore Careers & Vocational Schools:

- Career & Technical Education
- 10 Best Trade Schools in Illinois
- SCOIR & YouScience
- Big Future: Explore Careers

**Note: Look for schools accredited by Accrediting Commission of Careers, Schools, and Colleges

Begin Building Your Resume

A resume is a formal document an applicant creates to showcase their background, skills, and qualifications for a job, internship, summer program, or college. Here are some things to think about:

- **Performance**: When a resume is coupled with a student's transcript, colleges can see how well a student balances activities and academics.
- **Personality**: While transcripts are limited by academic options, the resume is where a student's major interests have a chance to flourish. Chances are that some of the co-curricular activities a student has listed show the types of areas they're interested in outside classes. The resume also offers hints to how a student might be involved once they get to their college campus.
- **Participation**: Most colleges want to see all the things a student chooses to do with their time. In particular, they're curious about the **depth** of commitment, the **breadth** of interests, and the **impact** a student has had through pursuing those activities.
  - **Depth:** Outlines how involved a student has been in a particular activity throughout the years.
    - Example: leadership positions, both formal and informal that a student has
  - **Breadth:** Specifies the amount of time a student has spent on one activity, and the diversity of activities students have participated in across the high school experience.
  - **Impact:** Something that you can measure, either quantifiably or through qualitative stories
- **Take a look:**
  - What are employers looking for? The world of work is changing, find out what employers look for now.
  - Skills to highlight in your resume. Bucknell University shows how to highlight skills and not just list activities.

Your Resume

Here are some tips to help you prepare your resume:

How to Format a Resume:

- Resumes should be kept to one page, easy to read, consistent formatting, and a legible font, usually in the 10 to 12 size range. You can choose from three popular formats, or create your own.It's best to choose a format that will best highlight your work experiences and skills: Click here to see samples.
  - **Chronological Resume:** focuses on work experience, listing them from most to least recent.
  - **Functional Resume:** highlights skills by using categories to separate particular skills. Each category includes 3-4 descriptive statements about your responsibilities, duties, and the results you achieved.
  - **Combination Resume:**highlights skills and experiences first, followed by employment history from most to least recent.
- Check out Indeed and ZipRecruiter for more resume tips!

General Resume Tips:

- Snapshot of your interests, skills, and accomplishments.
- Use action verbs to describe your strengths, experiences, and interests. Action Verb examples:
  - The Power of Action Verbs
  - List of Action Verbs for Resumes & Professional Profiles
  - YouScience: "Describing You" Section
    - Use these terms and phrases to assist you in your list
    - **Strongly recommend** you download the **discussion guide** so that you have access to this information
- Proofreading is important. Ask a school counselor, teacher, administrator, mentor, or family member to review your resume for any spelling or grammatical errors.
- If relevant, include your foreign language, computer, software, or web skills and tools.
- Continue to track experiences and update the content in your resume.
- Your resume should include your contact information. If needed, create a professional email.
- Your resume should include the most relevant experience for the desired position. When appropriate, your resume can even include community service involvement and babysitting.

Interview Tips

The interview is your opportunity to let your personality shine through. Since interviews can vary in length, preparing beforehand is key. Here are some tips to help you prepare:

Tips Before an Interview:

- Share why you are interested in the position, scholarship, or college.
- Research the company or organization. Do a Google search and become familiar with the mission, core values, and the organization's online presence, such as social media updates and blog posts.
- Practice answering sample interview questions. The more you practice, the more comfortable you will become speaking about yourself. The most important thing to remember is to just be you.
- Develop questions you would like to ask interviewer(s).
- Visit UC Davis' Internship and Career Center to view examples of sample interview questions and sample questions to ask your interviewer.
- For a more detailed guide of interview preparation including general interview tips, questions, what to wear, etc. download UC Berkeley's Interview Guide.

Tips for the Day of Interview:

- Print copies of your resume for yourself, the interviewer(s), and always being a few extra with you, just in case.
- Bring a paper and pen to take notes and to write down key information so you can refer to it later.
- Be on time for your interview. Make sure to calculate the distance to your interview meeting location beforehand, and give yourself extra time so you will not feel stressed.
- Afterwards, be sure to send a thank you note or email to the people who interviewed you. This is a personal touch that shows your gratitude for their time and your interest in the opportunity.
- Remember to apply to a number of positions, scholarships, or colleges. It can be helpful to keep a list of jobs you are applying for, and to dedicate time every day to sending out your resume.

Military...

- **Branches:**
  - **Army:** the main ground force of the US. Active duty population: 471,000
  - **Air Force:** defends the US through air and space. Active duty population: 322,000
  - **Navy:** maintains the freedom of the seas. Active duty population: 324,000
  - **Marine Corps:** specializes in amphibious operations. Active duty population: 184,000
  - **Coast Guard:** consists of ships, boats, aircraft, and shore stations that conduct a variety of missions. Active duty population: 36,000
  - Careers in the Military
- **Enlisting:** Recruiters from branches of the military visit CHHS - Check SCOIR for upcoming visits.
  - There are a few requirements to join (or enlist) in the military. You must:
    1. Be 18 (17 with parental consent) and a U.S. citizen or resident alien.
    2. Have a high school diploma (preferred), but GED may be accepted.
    3. Take the ASVAB test to determine job placement. Each job/service requires a different score.
    4. Pass a physical fitness exam. Some jobs may have additional requirements.
- **Active Duty/Full Time:**
  - Similar time commitment to working at a full-time civilian job.
  - Live on base or in military housing and are immersed in military culture.
  - After boot camp, recruits are stationed at a base either domestically or overseas.
  - Active-duty soldier's terms typically last 2-6 years.
    - Length of deployment varies depending on a unit's specific mission.

...Military

- **Reserve/Part Time: available in each branch of the military**
  - Maintain trained units at home while active-duty service members are deployed.
  - Available for active-duty deployment in times of war or national emergency.
  - Some active-duty service members switch to the reserve to finish out commitment.
- **National Guard/Part Time: two branches–Army National Guard and Air National Guard**
  - Main focus is on homeland security and humanitarian relief.
  - Units help communities during emergencies like storms, floods, fires and other natural disasters.
  - Each state and US territory has an Army National Guard & Air National Guard that report to that state's governor.
  - Service members deployed overseas may see combat, also assigned noncombat humanitarian tasks, like building schools/hospitals, training local peacekeepers & other community-building projects.
- **ROTC** (Reserve Officer Training Corps): College program offered at over 1,700 colleges across the US that prepares young adults to become officers in the US Military. The goal is to train college students for future service in the military. In exchange for a full or partial paid college education and a guaranteed post-college career, cadets commits to serve in the military after graduation.
  - Find your ROTC pathway: Army ROTC, Air Force ROTC, or Navy ROTC
  - SIUC Army ROTC Scholarship & Tuition Waivers
- **Military Academies:** If you are interested in applying for one of the 5 service academies, such as the Naval Academy or West Point, talk to your School Counselor at the start of 2nd semester junior year.
  - ROTC Scholarships vs Military Service Academies

Local Military Recruiters

- Our military recruiters are very accessible and visit CCHS throughout the year
- Register to meet with them through SCOIR
- Occasionally they will host lunch meetings outside the cafeteria for students to ask questions
- See your School Counselor or the Counseling Secretary to set up an individual meeting if preferred
- It is ***strongly*** recommended that you keep parents/guardians informed of your conversations and plans of military enlistment

Branch	**Regional Recruiter**	**Contact Info**
Army	Staff Sgt. Donnell McCray	jarek.d.mccray.mil@army.mil (618)457-8812 (office) (618)737-4617 (cell)
Army ROTC SIUC Campus		armyrotc@siu.edu (618)453-5786
Marines	Sgt. Keith Joseph	keith.joseph@marines.usmc.mil (618)529-2344 (office) (314)853-3759 (cell)
Navy	Cody Smith	cody.d.smith54.mil@us.navy.mil (618)529-1013 (office) (618)841-0145 (cell)
Coast Guard		HQS-SMB0CGRC-ROSTLOUIS@uscg.mil (314)521-3845
Air Force	TSgt. Stephanie Gonzalez	stephanie.gonzalez.6@us.af.mil (618)420-2471
Air National Guard	TSgt Madison Spires	madison.spires@us.af.mil (618)222-5700 (office) (618)698-2985 (cell)
National Guard	Sgt. Chris Henry	christopher.d.henry12.mil@army.mil (618)972-3112

Gap Year

Resources:

- Gap Year Fair
- Ultimate Guide to Taking Your Dream Gap Year
- Gap Year Association

What is a Gap Year?

A natural break in the educational process after high school to gain life experience, explore interests, and personal growth through work or travel before embarking on another 4+ years of school.

Gap Year Plans

- ➔ Travel
- ➔ Volunteer/Conservation Programs
- ➔ Work & Save Money
- ➔ Culture/Language Immersion

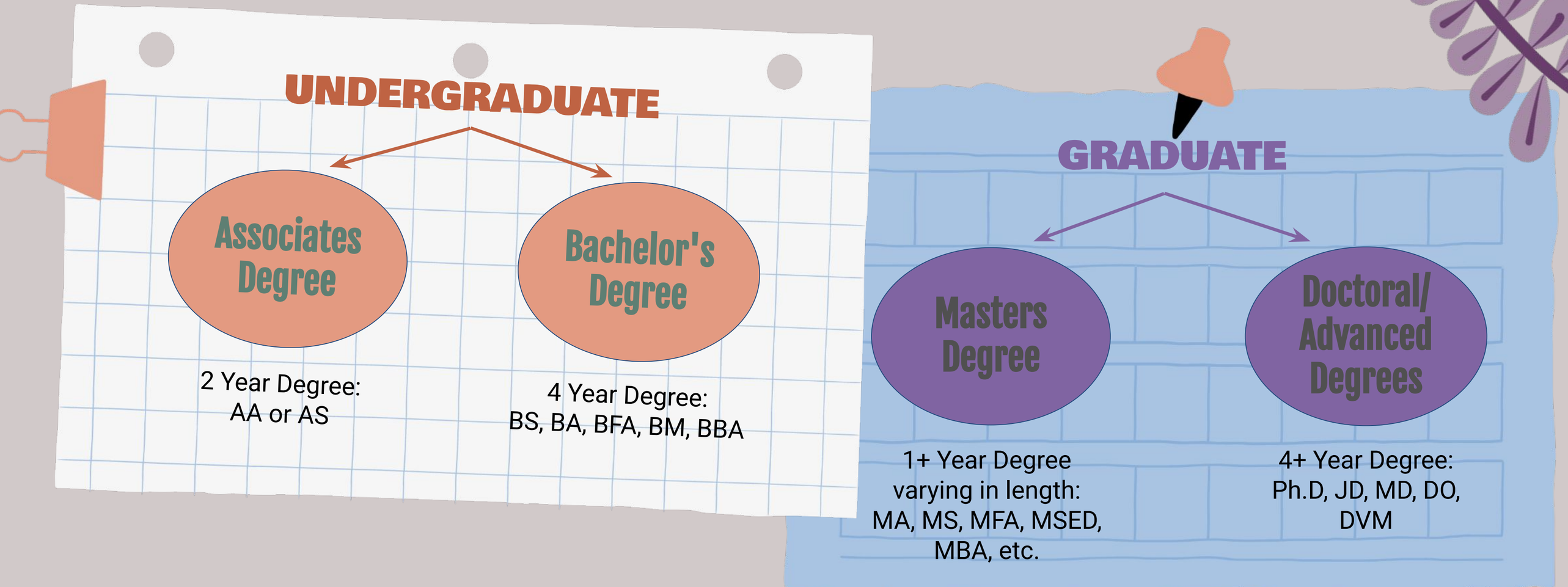
- ➔ Develop New Skills:
  - ❑ Cooking or Art
  - ❑ Sailing or SCUBA
  - ❑ EMT or Coding

Gap Year 101

It is recommended that students go through the college application process and then decide if they would like to do a Gap Year. Colleges generally allow accepted students to defer enrollment for a year of planned activities.

College

- There are different degrees that you can earn in college.
- Below, on the left, you will see the two undergraduate degrees you can pursue immediately after high school.
  - If you choose to start at a 2-year college or community college, you can earn a degree called an Associate's Degree. There are many jobs that you can enter into with a 2-year degree, or the next step could be to transfer into a 4-year college or university to pursue a Bachelor's degree.
  - You can also go straight into a 4-year university to earn a Bachelor's degree.
- After you obtain your Bachelor's you can pursue the graduate degrees on the right, which could be a Master's or a Doctoral/Advanced degree.
  - These degrees can take a minimum or 2 years and a maximum of 4-6, depending on the degree.



2-Year & Community College...

- 2-Year Colleges & Community Colleges offer programs that last up to two years that lead to a certificate or an associate degree.
- Type of school that offers enrollment to those that live in the surrounding community.
- Typically open enrollment (can enroll at at the beginning of any semester) for students who have graduated from high school.
- At a 2 Year or Community College, you can:
  - Earn a Certificate to obtain job-specific skills. Generally completed in 6-18 months.
  - Earn an Associates Degree to enter the workforce or transfer to a 4-Year institution.
    - Use Transferology to assist in your transfer from 2-year to 4-year schools
  - Complete an apprenticeship: earn money while working & taking courses toward your degree
- Associate's Degrees & Transfer Programs
  - Degree programs to prepare for the workforce or to transfer to 4-year institutions.
  - Academic counselors help you choose classes based on where you want to transfer

...2-Year & Community College

- Benefits of Community College:
  - $$$--More affordable than 4-year institutions and Closer to Home
  - Smaller Class Size with Academic & Personal Support
  - Fewer Admission Requirements
  - More Flexibility and Opportunity for Online Classes
  - Path to 4-Year University
  - Direct Workforce Training & Lots of Job Opportunities
- Some community colleges offer housing. Here are some examples:
  - Kirkwood Community College (near University of Iowa)
  - Spoon River College (housing at Western Illinois University)
  - Parkland Pathways: (housing at University of Illinois Urbana Champaign)
  - University of Wisconsin System (two-year schools with housing)
  - Colorado Mountain College (Leadville, Glenwood Springs, Steamboat Springs)
  - Moberly Area Community College (MACC) Tiger Pathway bridge program with Mizzou. Tiger Pathways students have access to MACC and Mizzou services and facilities including residence halls, the library, recreation center, student organizations and athletic events.
  - See complete list here.

Admissions

John A. Logan College (JALC)

- Check out the JALC Viewbook to see what JALC has to offer! Here are a few highlights:
  - JALC offers over 90 Areas of Interest and 39 certificates.
  - In addition, if JALC does not offer the certificate or degree program you are interested in, you can request to attend a different community college in Illinois for the price of that school's in-district tuition through a joint agreement.
    - Students should apply to both colleges.
    - Example: Culinary Arts is not offered at JALC, students can attend Rend Lake College in Ina, IL and receive JALC in-district tuition to attend.
  - JALC has Joint Agreements with several Colleges & Universities to work towards your 4-year degree upon completion of your Associate's Degree
    - In certain degree areas, once a student completes their AS degree at JALC, they can go on to attend SIUC online and qualify for the Saluki Step-Ahead partnership: an $8,000 scholarship over two years plus other benefits
  - Free Admissions application and open enrollment at any time (no acceptance requirements)
  - Free parking, free printing, free tutoring to all students
  - JALC Yearly average Cost of Attendance: $5,832.00
  - Average number of students each year ranges from 3,000-4,000
- The JALC Scholarship is one easy application that qualifies students for 100’s of scholarships

4-Year Institutions & Majors

- Four-year colleges offer four-year programs that lead to a bachelor's degree. These include universities and liberal arts colleges.
- CLICK HERE for a full description of the types of 4 year colleges, including liberal arts colleges, historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs), Hispanic-serving institutions (HSIs), Arts Colleges, and single sex colleges.
- Choosing a major: While you are able to apply to college as an undecided major, it is often an advantage to choose a major when you first apply. It is not uncommon for students to change their major during college as their interests change. Colleges are typically interested in your academic areas of interest even if you do not declare a major upon freshmen admission.
    - To find college majors that may appeal to you:
        1. Spend a little time on self-reflection… What courses do you like? What are your academic strengths? Are any of your favorite extracurricular activities related to a possible major?
        2. Use SCOIR to review the results of your career assessments.
        3. Explore College Board for many great resources:
            - Explore Careers
            - College Majors
4. Check out these sites for some ideas: on "What can I do with this major?"
    - What can I do with this major?
    - What Can I Do with a Major In…?
6. Look at "Academic Programs/Majors/Degrees" on college websites and find information about the majors you are considering. By viewing a 4-year plan of the courses required for a particular major, you will get an idea of whether that major appeals to you.
7. Get an internship or job in a field of interest.
8. Register for a senior year or summer school course to explore a potential area of interest.
9. Join a club or activity related to your interest.

Admissions

SIUC

- Get started with SIUC Admissions
  - No test score required with 2.75 high school GPA
  - Freshman SIUC Checklist
  - **To be considered, you must submit:**
    - A completed application for admission.
    - A $40 non-refundable application fee**. Fee waivers available.
      - ***SIUC typically have a free application event for all students, your School Counselor will share details, so be on the lookout in the fall for more info!*
    - Current, official transcripts from each high school and college you've attended.
  - **Applications will be eligible for automatic admission if they are on track to complete the high school course pattern requirements and meet one of the following criteria:**
    - A cumulative high school GPA of 2.75/4.0.
    - A ranking in the top 10% of their graduating class.
    - A test score equivalent to a 23 ACT or 1130 SAT.
  - Undergraduate students who do not meet one of the three criteria above will be reviewed for admission under a holistic review process. Certain academic programs may continue to have additional admission requirements.
  - **Additional Requirements**
    - An additional step or screening process is required for certain programs. Requirements for direct entry into some programs exceed university admission requirements. Please be sure to read the Special Conditions section.
- **Priority application deadline** (for merit scholarship awards): **December 1**
- SIU Day–group of CCHS students can attend this field trip in the fall to explore different programs at SIUC and tour the campus
- SIUC Cost of Attendance (COA):
  - Estimated COA On-Campus: $30,089/year
  - Estimate COA Off-Campus: $30, 183/year
  - Estimated COA with Parents: $21,513/year
  - Net Price Calculator

Saluki Commitment Grant & Scholarships

SIUC

- Saluki Commitment, part of the Illinois Aim High Grant:
  - The **Saluki Commitment** is our pledge that all **NEW and TRANSFER** students who meet certain criteria are guaranteed that tuition and mandatory fees will be fully covered for four (transfer students) or eight (freshman students) consecutive semesters at no cost to students or families. In other words, if you qualify for the Saluki Commitment and your financial aid package does not completely pay for your tuition and mandatory fees, we will close the gap to make sure there are no financial barriers between you and your education.
- Freshmen Merit Scholarships: New freshmen applicants must first be admitted to Southern Illinois University to be considered for our new freshmen merit-based scholarships. Applicants are automatically reviewed for merit scholarships upon acceptance to SIUC.
  - **Saluki Maroon**: $1,500/year for 4 years (Criteria: 2.75-2.99 unweighted GPA)
  - **Saluki Silver**: $2,500/year for 4 years (Criteria: 3.0-3.49 unweighted GPA)
  - **Saluki Gold**: $3,500/year for 4 years (Criteria: 3.5-3.79 unweighted GPA)
  - **University Excellence**: $5,500/year for 4 years (Criteria: 3.8+ unweighted GPA or 3.5+ unweighted GPA with 28 ACT/1310 SAT)
  - **Chancellor's Scholarship:** Full tuition, mandatory fees, and on-campus housing and food for 4 years, total value of more than $104,000 (Criteria: Recipient of University Excellence Scholarship and complete the Scholars Program Application before November 1, with a possible interview.)
  - **Donor Funded Scholarships**: Applications for donor-funded scholarships are reviewed by colleges, schools and departments across campus and any awards would be in addition to a student's major merit scholarship offer.
    - To apply: Admitted students may sign in to the Saluki Scholarship Portal to submit a General Scholarship application before **February 1** and other supplemental applications for college, school or major.
- Legacy Tuition Rates: children of SIUC graduates save on tuition.

Special Program

AmeriCorps

- Through AmeriCorps, individuals of all ages and backgrounds address the state's education, public safety, human, and environmental needs through service.
- John A. Logan College and SIUC students (from any major) provide literacy tutoring for K through grade 8 students in local schools.
- In return, members receive a living allowance and education award to help finance their college education or vocational training, or pay back student loans after successful completion of service.
- To learn more, click HERE
- Also check out the AmeriCorps brochure for contact information at JALC and SIUC

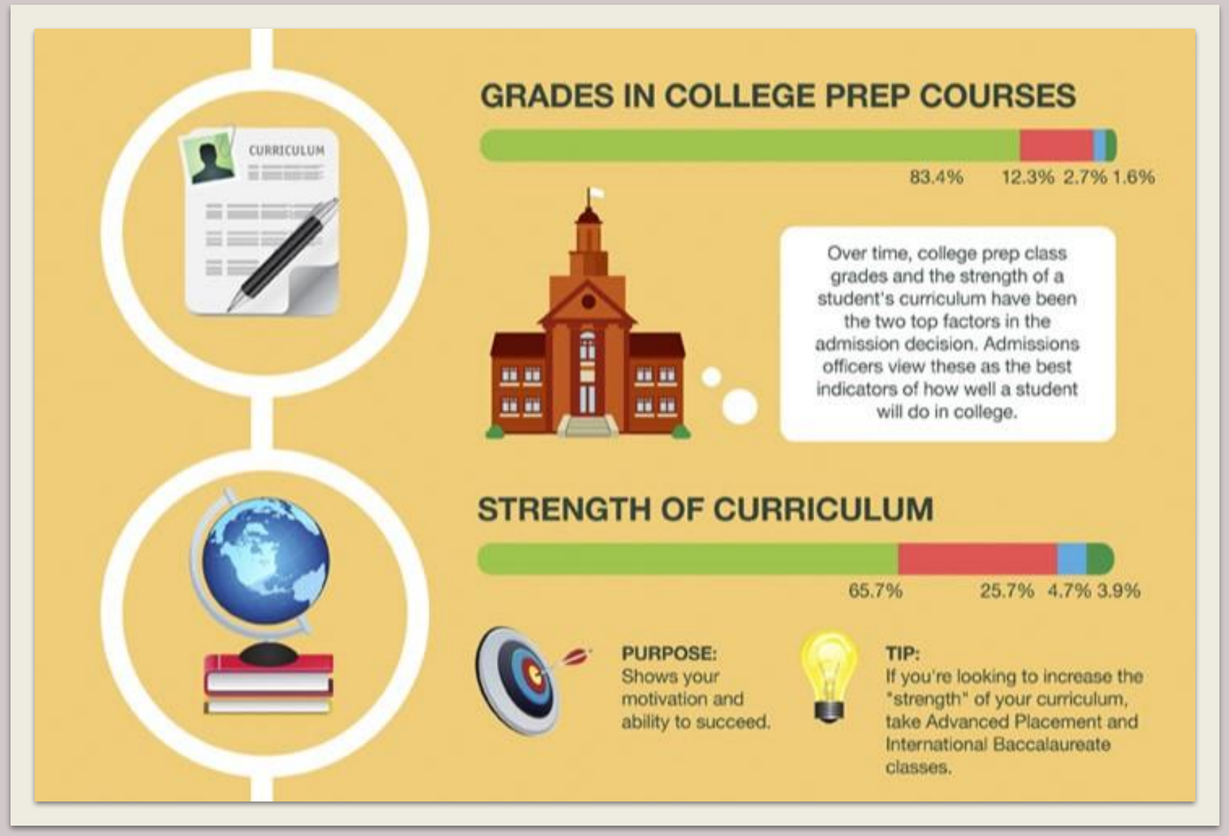
Special Program

First Generation Scholars Network

- First Generation students in Illinois who will be the first person in their family to earn a college degree should join the First Generation Scholars Network (FGSN) from ISAC.
- The goal of FGSN is to connect first generation college students with one another so they can support each other through this network, receive additional support year-round from ISAC's FGSN mentors, combat summer melt, and help make their transition to college a whole lot easier—and successful.
- ISAC and our ISACorps of near-peer mentors have been working with and supporting students through the college going process with activities including, but not limited to, one-on-one mentoring, presentations on financial aid opportunities, and assistance with college admission and financial aid applications.
- FGSN allows us to extend this college going work to help students develop a sense of belonging as they move from high school to their respective campuses in the fall. This sense of belonging can improve their persistence through the first term and first year of college.
- In addition to the other college going support, students in the network can:
  - Meet other first generation students attending their college
  - Hear stories from current first generation college students and first generation college graduates at different points in their career
  - Join live and virtual events created specifically for them throughout the state
  - Engage with professionals who are first generation college graduates

Academic Considerations

Factors Considered in College Admission



Holistic Review

Most colleges use a holistic review or committee based evaluations, which take into consideration the applicant's academic preparation, personal attributes, extracurriculars, essays, recommendation letters, as well as the value an applicant would contribute to the education community.

NACAC Survey Results in order of importance:

- ➔ **Grades in All Courses**
- ➔ **Grades in College Prep Courses**
- ➔ **Strength of Curriculum**
- ➔ Testing (if required)
- ➔ Essay or Writing Sample
- ➔ Student's Demonstrated Interest
- ➔ Counselor Recommendation
- ➔ Teacher Recommendation
- ➔ Extracurricular Activities
- ➔ Portfolio
- ➔ AP Scores
- ➔ Interview
- ➔ Work

Grades

Transcript & School Profile

- A transcript includes the all courses you have taken, semester grades, and overall cumulative GPA (both unweighted and weighted). Quarter grades/finals are not reported on the transcript.
  - Students should check their transcript for accuracy before sending.
  - Colleges, employers, and military may ask for your Official Transcript
    - Colleges may ask for a self reported academic record (SRAR) on your application, but an final official transcript will need to be sent to the school you accept after graduation
    - Official transcripts are ordered the CCHS website with Parchment (one of the red buttons), on paper through the CCHS Registrar, or sent through the common application.
    - Unofficial transcripts can be viewed/printed on Infinite Campus.
- The CCHS School Profile provides colleges with detailed information about our school, community & students. You can view the profile on the CCHS website.
  - Students are evaluated in the context of where they went to high school - what courses does CCHS offer and how well did you challenge yourself within the context of what was offered.
  - Essentially, the profile provides the school context, which colleges value in their review process.

Admission Tests

Admission Tests

- The SAT is slightly longer, the score range does vary. Check out the concordance table to compare ACT and SAT scores.
- Illinois requires the SAT as a state mandated graduation requirement.
  - **ALL Juniors will be taking the SAT on April 12 at CCHS**, which does include the essay*.
    - *National test dates no longer include the essay.
- ‘Test Optional’ policies are currently practiced at over 80% of 4 year institutions
  - Test Optional schools will consider scores if submitted, but they let students decide if they want to submit a test score or not.
  - Check to see if a school you are interested in is ‘Test Optional’ and if there are additional requirements to submit if you choose ‘Test Optional’ when applying. A list of ‘Test Optional’ schools can be found at FairTest
- ‘Test Blind’ schools won’t consider a test score even if you submit it.

ACT

- 2 hours, 55 min. without writing
  - Additional writing test optional
- Score Range: 1-36
- Register at: actstudent.org
- Concordance Tables (ACT scores compared to SAT scores)

Test Optional

1,800+ Institutions

(Over 80% of 4-year colleges)

SAT

- 3 hours without writing
- Score Range: 400-1600
- **ALL Juniors will take a school-day SAT on April 12**
  - WILL include a writing portion
- To register to retake the SAT: collegeboard.org

Compared: ACT vs. SAT

	ACT	SAT
Total Time	2 hrs, 55 mins without Writing 3 hrs 35 mins with Writing	3 hrs without Essay 3 hrs 50 mins with Essay
Order of Sections	1. English 2. Math 3. Reading 4. Science 5. Writing (optional)	1. Reading 2. Writing & Language 3. Math No Calculator 4. Math Calculator 5. Essay (School Day Only)
Time Per Section	**English:** 45 mins **Math**: 60 mins **Reading:** 35 mins **Science:** 35 mins **Writing (optional):** 40 mins	**Reading:** 65 mins **Writing & Language:** 35 mins **Math No Calculator:** 25 mins **Math Calculator:** 55 mins **Essay (School Day Only):** 50 mins
# of Questions	**English:** 75 questions **Math:** 60 questions **Reading:** 40 questions **Science:** 40 questions **Writing (optional):** 1 essay	**Reading:** 52 questions **Writing & Language:** 44 questions **Math No Calculator:** 20 questions **Math Calculator:** 38 questions **Essay (School Day Only):** 1 essay
Scoring	**Total Score Range: 1-36** Each section uses a scale of **1-36**. Your total score is the **average** of your four section scores The optional Writing section uses a scale of 2-12 and does not count toward your final score.	**Total Score Range: 400-1600** The Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (EBRW) and Math sections each use a scale of **200-800** and are combined for a total score. The school-day Essay uses three separate scales of 1-8 and does not count toward your final score.

Timing	ACT	SAT
Reading	53 sec/question	75 sec/question
ACT English/ SAT Writing	36 sec/question	48 sec/question
Math	60 sec/question	No Calculator: 75 sec/question Calculator: 87 sec/question
Science	53 sec/question	N/A
Total Questions	215	154

SAT gives students slightly more seconds per test question than the ACT: 215 ACT questions vs 154 SAT questions

Traditional Testing Timeline

WHO	FIRST SITTING	SECOND SITTING
Approximately half of junior fall into this category. Recommended for juniors who have either scored a 900-1200 on the PSAT.	ACT: April SAT: March	ACT: July or September SAT: August or October

<u>*Early Testing Timeline:</u> This is for 1 out of 6 juniors nationally who are taking multiple honors and/or AP courses, and have PSAT scores of 1200 or higher.

- First Sitting: recommended to be taken in December at the earliest, but February or March is also fine.
- Second Sitting: usually taken in the Spring or early Summer.
- Third Sitting: August SAT and July ACT are popular for students who decide to delay their 2nd sitting or choose to test a 3rd time before November early action/decision applications are due.

Upcoming SAT Details

- **School Day SAT: <u>Wednesday, April 12th, 2023</u>**
- **Schedule**:
  - 7:30-8:15 Breakfast is available in Gym Hallway
  - 8:00-8:25 You may enter the gym and sign in
  - 8:25 Instructions will be given, and testing material handed out.
  - Testing will continue until about 1:15
  - After testing students will get pizza and soda in the gym foyer. *Students will report to their 7th hour class, unless they have permission from parents to leave campus.
- **Please remember**:
  - Bring #2 pencils. You may not use mechanical pencils.
  - Bring a water bottle.
  - Bring your calculator
  - You may NOT have your phone or headphones during the test.
  - You will NOT have access to your backpack during the test.
  - The gym is cool, dress appropriately.

College Search & Visits

How do you make a college list?

The 5 P's of college planning.

People

Personality

Place

Program

Price

People

Student Body: coed vs. single sex institution.

Atmosphere: conservative, liberal, intellectual, spiritual, artsy, sport, etc.

Living: on-campus vs. commuting.

Religious: community service requirements.

Diversity: HBCU (historically black colleges & universities) or LGBTQ policies, programs, & practice.

The 5 P's of college planning:

1. People

The 5 P's of college planning:

2. Personality

Personality

What are your strengths/weaknesses?

How do you learn best?

Do you need immediate access to professors?

Would you enjoy more freedom or more structure in the courses you are required to take?

Would you prefer a very intellectual/scholarly emphasis or a more balanced intellectual/social campus?

Place

Living: on-campus vs. commuting.

Location: Which parts of the country interest you? Illinois, Midwest, West, East, etc?

Radius from home: how far from home are you willing to be? Drive or fly home?

Size, Type, & Setting of School: small, medium, large, very large; public, private, or religions; or urban, suburban, college town, or rural.

Weather: hot, cold, seasons.

List of Different Types of Schools to Explore

The 5 P's of college planning:

3. Place

The 5 P’s of college planning:

4. Program

Program

- **Major:** decided or undecided.
- **Minor:** If you have one.
- **Selectivity:** level of academic competitiveness.
- **Disability Services:** level of support.

- **Features:** study abroad, internships, ROTC, Honors College, etc..
- **Activities or Greek Affiliations:** athletics (Division I, II, III), clubs, music, dance, drama, debate, fraternities or sororities

Price

Is cost a factor?

Financial Aid: strong need, scholarships, grants, loans, work study, etc.

In-State vs. Out-of-State Tuition

Community College vs. 4-year College

Don't let the price scare you! Even though public universities have the cheaper price tag, private colleges can often be just as affordable.

Use the net-price calculators.

Focus on Net Price not Sticker Price.

The 5 P's of college planning:

5. Price

A “Good” College...

- ✓ The 5 P’s
- ✓ “Good” for YOU!
- ☐

...is the location/environment you want.

...offers the academics you are interested in.

...offers the internships, research opportunities, co-ops, & career placement you need.

...offers activities you are interested in.

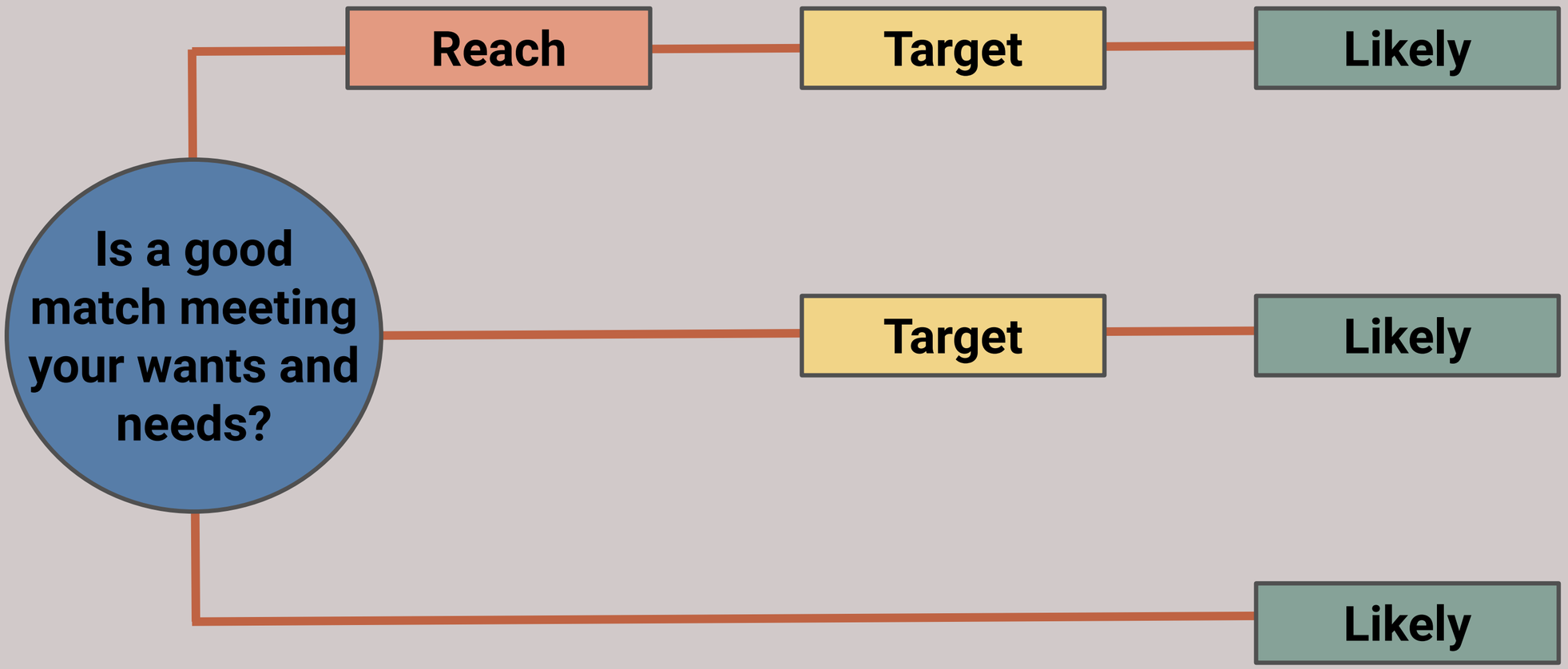
...is affordable for you and your family.

...is a place that will challenge and support you.

Creating Your
Balanced College List

- In developing your list of colleges, you need to make sure it is balanced in the range of selectivity represented and reasonable in the number of schools.
- The key to success, as well as maintaining your mental health through your senior year, is to cover the full range of selectivity, which you should be able to do with 6-8 applications.
- The following terminology is used to describe a student's chances of admission::
  - **Reach:** These are colleges where your academic profile is at the low end of admitted candidates based on past admissions history. Also, any college with an acceptance rate below 15% should be considered a REACH school, no matter how strong your academic profile. As the selectivity of a school increases, the academic profile becomes less predictable, whereas your extracurricular and personal profile, self-presentation, recommendations and factors outside your control become more significant.
    - Be sure to distinguish between what is a Reach and a "Far Reach" college. If your profile is significantly below the competitive range, your chances of admissions are therefore highly unlikely, and it may not be worth your investment of time and energy to apply.
  - **Target:** These are colleges where your candidacy is competitive based on your academic profile and the profile of admitted candidates. A "Target" means that your application will be in the running, but the decision could go either way. If your academic profile is slightly above the mean for grades and testing, you have probably found a good "Target" school. But remember, there is no formula to this process. These general guidelines may hold true if the acceptance rate at the school is above 30%. At more selective schools, grades and test scores become less reliable predictors of outcome.
  - **Likely:** These are colleges where your candidacy is very strong and the probability of your admission is 75% or better, if the admission trends at that college don't shift significantly (which is always an unknown factor in the process). If your grades are well above the mean for that college or if your scores are significantly above the middle 50% range that has been accepted in the past, then the school is in your "Likely" category.
- To help determine which colleges fit each of these "categories", look at the admission websites.
- Everyone should include at least two "Likely" colleges on their final list. Naturally, these should be institutions that you would happily attend. These schools should be researched as carefully and thoughtfully as your "Reach" colleges.
  - Don't apply to any college or university that you really would not like to attend. A " Likely" becomes useless to you if you don't intend to go there under any circumstances.

Making a Balanced List (first 7-8 choices)



Role in the College Search Process

Parent

Have honest conversations:

- Cost
- Location
- Talk about college one night per week
- Be supportive: help them prepare and let them perform
- Watch this Video: Tips for parents and guardians

Student

This is YOUR process, so own it!!

You will…

- decide what characteristics are important to you…it is all about FIT!! (click for video)
- do the research
- communicate with college representatives
- attend CCHS rep visits & college programs

Recommended Resources:

- Self-Survey to Choose the Best School for You
- SCOIR: College Search, Planning, & Application
- Big Future: College Search
- Resources on Data & Fit
- Finding Your Fit
- NACAC College Search
- College Navigator

College Visits

- In-Person Campus Visit
  - 2 college/career days
  - register on college website
- Virtual Campus Visit
  - Giant List of Virtual Tours
  - The College Tour
  - YouVisit
  - NACAC Virtual College Fairs
- Take advantage of days off at CCHS or Saturday visits
- Try to visit at least one of each:
  - Public & Private
  - Small, Medium, & Large
- Research the college before you visit
- Be prepared with questions you want answered
- If possible, sit in on a class and stay overnight in a residence hall
- Check out the town and what is available outside of campus
- After the visit, write down notes and your impressions
- If the college is a top choice, write a thank you card (or email)
- Use this College Visit Handout

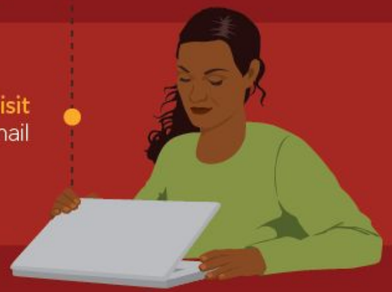
TIMELINE
FOR SCHEDULING VISITS

Six months before visit:
Determine 3-5 schools you'd like to visit

Three months before visit:
Purchase any domestic airfare and book hotel rooms for your college trip

One month before visit:
Schedule your college tour or visit at each school

Day of visit:
Arrive 15 minutes early



After visit
Send a follow up email

Source: bigfuture.collegeboard.org

BEST TIME OF YEAR TO VISIT

Fall or Winter
are good times for seniors who are narrowing down their choices.

Spring or spring break
are great times for juniors who are beginning their research, or those who are interested in fall sports programs or early admission.h

Late summer and early fall
are convenient because the fall semester often starts early for college and your child will not yet be in school.

Don't go
in early to mid-summer, during reading or exam weeks, winter break, or holidays.

Source: bigfuture.collegeboard.org

Application Process, Next Steps, & Resources

College Application Process/Timeline

Check out this College Application Timeline
Check out this printable Checklist
Check out these Applying to College FAQ's

Now:

1. **Conduct a college search online–use sites like SCOIR or Big Future**
2. **Create a list of schools and programs that you would like to know more about and/or visit**
3. **Go on college visits–in-person and/or virtual**
4. **Become familiar with common college admissions terms and lingo**
    a. **Learn more about Early Action vs. Early Decision vs. Regular Decision**
5. **Create your List of Activities**

Summer/ Early Fall

1. **Create your FSA ID for the FAFSA in the fall**
2. **Create your list of colleges you would like to potentially apply to**
    a. **Then narrow down and create your "Balanced College List" of schools you wish to apply**
    b. **Ideally 5-10 schools**
3. **Create a list of application deadlines and requirements to get organized**
    a. **Here is a sample College Application Organizer**
    b. **Use this checklist to keep track of application requirements, tasks, and deadlines**
    c. **Make note of special deadlines for merit based scholarships**
4. **Take an additional SAT and/or ACT if needed**
5. **Attend CCHS Application Workshop the week before school starts (sign-up info to come)**
6. **Ask your School Counselor and/or Teacher(s) for recommendations**
    a. **Request at least two weeks prior to the deadline (4 weeks prior is even better!)**
    b. **Complete required School Counselor questionnaire**
7. **Write first drafts of personal statements and essays**
    a. **Ask your teachers for feedback**

College Application Process

Check out this College Application Timeline
Check out this printable Checklist
Check out these Applying to College FAQ's

Fall/Winter

1. **Complete the CSS Profile if necessary (online application used by certain colleges and scholarship programs to determine eligibility for their aid dollars–check to see if your college(s) requires it before completing)**
2. **Complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), application opens October 1**
3. **Prepare Early Action & Early Decision as soon as possible, many EA & ED deadlines are November 1**
4. **Most colleges require a fee waiver when you apply. They can range from $30-$90.**
   a. **If you qualify, you can request fee waivers from your School Counselor (must qualify for and have a CCHS fee waiver on file)**
5. **Request transcripts to be sent to colleges at least 2 weeks prior to deadline**

Winter/Spring

1. **Keep active in school, your grades still matter!**
2. **Waitlisted by a college? Check out this link to find out what to do**
3. **Review Financial Aid Awards and determine which college is best for you**
4. **Begin receiving acceptance letters, now what?**
   a. **You should receive acceptance letters and financial aid offers by mid-April**
   b. **Notify your counselor of your choice**
5. **Inform every college of your final decision of your acceptance or rejection of the offer of admission and/or financial aid by May 1**
   a. **Colleges cannot require your deposit or your commitment to attend before May 1**
6. **Complete Housing Application**
7. **Send your deposit to your chosen school**
8. **Request your final transcript be sent to your chosen school**
9. **What to do the Summer Before College**

College Application Tips

- **READ ALL APPLICATION DIRECTIONS AND FOLLOW THEM!**
- **Start early and save often.**
- **Have someone check over your application before submitting.**
  - **Check for typos and full, complete sentences.**
  - **Do NOT use texting abbreviations or street lingo.**
- When creating an account for an application, use an **email address** that you check often. It is advised to create one just for college applications and communications with admissions representatives so that nothing gets lost in your main email. This email address is the means by which colleges communicate with you!
- Be sure to **keep track of all passwords**! While you are able to save login credentials on your computer, it is a good idea to write them down in a safe place if something should happen to your computer, or you use another computer to log in.
- **Use your full, legal name when completing applications.** It must match exactly with what is on your transcript and test scores. If your name is Caitlin and you go by Caitie, complete your applications with Caitlin.
- **Write classes exactly as they appear on your schedule!** You DO NOT need to include Terrier Time or lunch.
  - If you have an Early Bird class, you will include the class, but you do not need to include the “EB” acronym.
- Be sure to type your **counselor’s and teacher’s name and email address correctly**.
  - If it is incorrect, they will not receive your recommendation request.
- If you are asked to list GPA (and nothing says “unweighted” or “weighted”), use your **higher GPA**, which is usually your weighted.
- You can **send different pieces at different times** – colleges will collect all elements (application, test score(s), transcript, recommendation, etc.) and put them into a student file. Once all the pieces are there, it’s a complete application. It does not matter in which order the pieces arrive.
- **Submit all pieces of the application at least two weeks before a deadlines.**

College Application Resources

- College Application Organizer
- College Express Sample College Search Spreadsheet
- CEG My College List (Research + Essay Topic Tracker)
- College Comparison Spreadsheet
- College Application Activities List Template
- Questions You Might Not Have Considered Asking on a College or University Tour
- Decision Release Calendar

CCHS 2023-2024 Application Facts

- School CEEB: **140-510**
- Class rank reporting: **CCHS does NOT rank**
- GPA scale: **4.0 (for both weighted and unweighted)**
- Graduating Class Size: **232** (this could change next fall)
- Graduation Date: **May, 2024** (official date not set yet)
- Class credit value: **semester course=.5 credit; full year course=1 credit**
- Seniors (this will be YOU! next year) will start college: **Fall 2024**
- School Counselor & email: **Caitlin Klaybor, Caitlin.Klaybor@CCHS165.com**

Guide to
Application Essays

- Writing an essay for college admission gives you a chance to use your authentic voice and show your personality. It's an excellent opportunity to personalize your application beyond your academic credentials, and a well-written essay can have a positive influence come decision time.
  - Want to know how to draft an essay for your college application? Here are some tips to keep in mind when writing.
- A typical college application essay, also known as a personal statement, is 400-600 words. Although that may seem short, writing about yourself can be challenging. It's not something you want to rush or put off at the last moment. Think of it as a critical piece of the application process. Follow these tips to write an impactful essay that can work in your favor.
- Tips for Essay Writing (and check out the helpful FAQ's at the bottom of the article!):

  1. Start Early.
  2. Understand the Prompt and Instructions.
  3. Create a Strong Opener.
  4. Stay on Topic.
  5. Think About Your Response.
  6. Focus on You.
  7. Stay True to Your Voice.
  8. Be Specific and Factual.
  9. Edit and Proofread.
- Check-out this amazing resource: College Essay Guy

Guide to

Common App

- Common App is a free college application tool designed to make applying to college faster and easier.
  - One system to apply to multiple colleges and universities. More than 1,000 colleges use Common App! Go to commonapp.org/ explore to start exploring.
  - There are two main parts you fill out: a set of common questions and each college's own specific questions.
  - The best part is you only have to fill out the common questions one time!
- First Year Common App Steps:
  1. Add Colleges
  2. Stay Organized.
     a. Gather materials with this Checklist, use this Worksheet, and this Info Sheet to help.
     b. Help with the Activities section and the Essay.
  3. Complete & Submit
- Once you submit, your School Counselor and Recommenders will do their part.
  - Understanding the Recommendation Process
  - Connect with UStrive Mentors for online help with the college application process
  - Use these brag sheets to help your counselor and recommenders:
    - Family Brag Sheet, Counselor Brag Sheet, & Teacher Brag Sheet
- Common App application fees and waivers
- Common App and Scholarship Search through Big Future

Guide to
Common App

- Common App 2023-2024 Essay Prompts:
  1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
  2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
  3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
  4. Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?
  5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
  6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
  7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.
- Optional 2019 COVID Impact Question
- Writing Requirements by College
- Also check out College Essay Guy's Common App Essay Guide

Guide to
List of Activities

- **YouScience: “Describing You” Section**
  - Use these terms and phrases to assist you in your list
  - **Strongly recommend** you download the **discussion guide** so that you have access to this information
- 5 Ways to Make Your Activities List Awesome, from College Essay Guy:
  - You only get 150 characters to list an activity on your college app: how do you make the most of them? Like this:
    1. **TO FIT IN MORE INFO: USE LISTS, DON’T USE COMPLETE SENTENCES, CUT EXTRA WORDS.**
       Instead of: I raised money to donate to a school in Ghana in Africa by selling t-shirts and bracelets.
       Try: Arranged advertising events, organized fundraisers, and gave presentations at school meetings.
    2. **USE ACTIVE VERBS TO EXPLAIN WHAT YOU ACTUALLY DID–AND LIST YOUR TASKS.**
       So instead of: I worked at a clinic doing different things.
       Try: Organized patient diagnosis notes, sterilized tools for surgeries, assisted with x-ray analysis.
       See how that makes it sound like you actually were involved?
       - CEG’s Epic List of Activities List Verbs
    3. **USE THE PRESENT TENSE IF IT’S SOMETHING YOU STILL DO.**
       Instead of: I helped tour visitors around the campus and presented some information on school history and student life.
       Try: I give campus tours, providing info on school history, student activities, boarding life.
    4. **AIM FOR VARIETY IN YOUR LIST, MAKING SURE YOUR VERBS AREN’T REDUNDANT.**
       Instead of: Instructing, helping, teaching children tennis (how are these three different?)
       Try: Instructing in proper technique, while imparting lessons in sportsmanship, health and integrity.
    5. **STATE ROLE AND ORGANIZATION NAME IN TOP BOX, SO YOU DON’T WASTE CHARACTERS IN THE LOWER, 160 CHARACTER BOX.**
       Instead of:
       (top box) School newspaper
       (description box) I am the editor for the school newspaper (Don’t repeat words!)
       Try:
       (top box) Editor of International Column, School Newspaper
       (description box) Responsible for brainstorming, revising, and supervising articles by other writers for my column.

Guide to
Letters of Recommendation

- Used to consider an applicant's qualities, characteristics, and capabilities in and outside of the classroom
  - Do letters of recommendation help you get into college?
- Colleges are often looking to hear from 1 core teacher and potentially your school counselor
  - Your school counselor will require you to complete this CCHS Counselor Letter of Recommendation Form prior to writing your LoR
    - Must fill out this recommendation form if requesting counselor recommendation in Common App as well
  - YouScience: Provide a copy of your "Describing You" Section either in print or PDF email to your teacher and/or counselor
- ***Less than 2 weeks notice may result in your request being denied***, please do not wait until the last minute to ask for a letter!
  - **Requesting your LoR by April of your junior year is strongly encouraged**
- Students have the right to waive or not waive their right to access letters of recommendation submitted on their behalf
  - Students are encouraged to waive their right as it makes letters of recommendation more credible. Some recommenders will not write a letter if right to access is not waived.
- Once you have applied, write thank-you notes. Tell your recommenders how much you appreciate their support.
- How to Get a Great Letter of Recommendation
- Webinar: Adding Recommenders to your Common App

Guide to
Financial Aid...

- **What is Financial Aid:**
  - Financial aid refers to specific *borrowed*, *given,* or *earn*ed money that can be obtained from various sources to help pay for college and educational expenses.
    - Educational expenses may include: tuition, fees, books, room and board, food, school supplies (notebooks, pencils, laptop, special equipment, etc.), transportation to and from school, etc.
  - It is intended to make up the difference between what you and your family can afford to pay and what the college costs.
  - Learn How Financial Aid Works
  - Financial Aid Eligibility Requirements
  - Federal Aid Estimator
  - Go-to Guide for College Financial Aid
- **Types of Financial Aid:**
  - Gift Aid: Grants & Scholarships are money given or gifted to you that you do NOT pay back
  - Self-Help Aid: Loans (money you MUST pay back with interest) & Federal Work Study (earned money through work)
  - Learn the Differences Between Grants, Scholarships, and Loans
- **Understanding Your Financial Aid Offer**
- Utilize the Financial Aid Office at any college you visit to answer questions you may have
- Net price is the real price that a student pays to go to a college, often much lower than the published price. It is the net cost (the published price of the college) minus the gift aid the student receives.
  - Colleges offer a tool on their websites called a net price calculator. This online tool gives an estimate of the actual price you would pay to go to a certain college, based on information you enter about your finances.
  - Your net price will be different for every college, so it's a good idea to use each college's net price calculator.

Guide to
...Financial Aid

- Key Financial Aid Guidance:
  - Families should have an **initial conversation around finances, affordability, and paying for college**—the limitations and the expectations—before students apply anywhere and long before the admissions decisions and financial aid offers arrive in the spring of senior year.
    - Have you discussed as a family your overall finances and how to pay for college?
    - What's your debt tolerance? How much do you want to borrow for school, knowing that the average student graduates with some $30,000 in loan debt in addition to debt parents have taken on?
    - If taking on student loans, will parents help repay? Have you calculated what payments will look like?
    - Have you tried the net-price calculator on your initial college list and does it change your perspective on any of the schools?
  - Despite the high "sticker-price,", students should know that institutional aid can significantly reduce costs.
  - Colleges have different price points. Price is mainly driven by type of program (2 or 4 year), type of institution (public or private), and location.
  - There are many ways to finance college. Most families cover the cost of college with a combination of institutional aid, family savings, work- study, and loan(s).
    - Top 12 Tips to Manage the Cost of College
    - Loan Simulator
    - MyinTuition College Cost Calculator
    - College Affordability and Transparency Center
    - Webinar: College Admissions and Financial Aid

Guide to FAFSA...

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid or FAFSA:
  - If you are applying to a college/university for financial aid, you must complete this application.
    - Even if you believe you will not qualify for Financial Aid, you should complete the forms because colleges have access to this information and could be able to award private scholarships based on your information from the FAFSA.
  - The first official date to file for FAFSA, is October 1 of senior year. It is **highly recommended** to complete the FAFSA by November 15.
- To complete the FAFSA, you will need:
  - **FSA ID:** you can apply for your FSA ID now. Both you and your parent/guardian will need one
    - Be sure to make note of your password and answers to any security questions and keep this is a safe location that you will find later
  - **Social Security Number**. Be sure that it is correct! Correcting your SS# is lengthy and difficult!
  - **Records of income**, such as income earned from work and business, child support paid or received, and any other untaxed income. If available, refer to the W-2 Forms and the Federal Income Tax Return IRS 1040, 1040A, or 1040EZ.
    - Note: Parental information is *required* unless a student is at least 24 years of age or meets the criteria for filing as an *independent* student as described on the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid*.
    - A student must report his or her *income* and *assets* and those of the parents (if a dependent student) or spouse (if married).
    - Use income records for the year prior to the academic year for which a student is applying: for instance, if filling the 2023-2024 FAFSA, refer to 2023 tax information.
    - Utilize the Data Retrieval Tool for ease of inputting tax information
  - **Information about assets**, such as savings, certificates of deposit, stock options, bonds, 529 plans and other college savings programs, and investment real estate, business, and farm.
  - **Driver's license number**, if the student has one.
  - **Alien Registration Number**, if not a U.S. citizen.

Guide to ...FAFSA

- After FAFSA submission:
  - U.S. Department of Education (ED) will process your application within 3–5 days
  - Once ED processes your application, you'll receive a copy of your *Student Aid Report* (SAR).
    - The SAR summarizes the information you provided on your FAFSA form. Review your SAR and make sure all the information is complete and accurate. If there's any missing or incorrect information, complete or correct your FAFSA form as soon as possible.
    - Your SAR will include your Student Aid Index (SAI) (formerly known as the Expected Family Contribution or EFC). The SAI determines your eligibility for a Federal Pell Grant. Colleges use the SAI to assess your eligibility for other federal and nonfederal student aid.
  - Once ED processes your application, they send your information to the colleges you listed on your FAFSA form.
    - Each college will use the information on your SAR to determine your eligibility for federal and nonfederal student aid.
    - Each school that you listed on your FAFSA (and that your are accepted to) will send you a Financial Aid Award Letter
      - This letter shows the exact amount of money each school is willing to give you to pay for college costs.
      - The remaining amount is your responsibility to pay however you choose (family contributed, scholarships, loans, etc.)
      - You should contact the financial aid office at the college you plan to attend to find out if there are additional requirements for receiving student aid and to learn more about the process of applying for aid at that college.
- You filled out the FAFSA, now what?
- Applying for Federal Aid: FAFSA Process Defined
- Video: Tips for filling out the FAFSA
- FAFSA PDF library created by Cornell College to guide families through filling out the FAFSA
- Step-by-step information for filling out each section of the FAFSA created by the University of California, Santa Barbara
- You filled out the FAFSA. What happens next?

Illinois Graduation Requirement

FAFSA Completion

- **FAFSA Completion is a Graduation Requirement in Illinois**
  - Seniors students must either:
  - File a FAFSA, or if applicable, an alternative application for state financial aid (for undocumented students), **or**
  - Complete the Opt-Out Form to waive FAFSA completion indicating that the parent/guardian or the student (if 18) understands the FAFSA and has chosen not to apply.
    - Opt-Out-Form available senior year
- If you have any questions about Illinois FAFSA Completion Graduation Requirement:
  - Reach out to our representative from the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC).

Financial Aid

Federal Grants

- **Federal Grants:** form of financial aid for students attending 4-year institutions, community colleges, and career schools that is provided by the federal government to those with the greatest financial need that doesn't have to be repaid
  - unless, for example, you withdraw from school and owe a refund, or you receive a TEACH Grant and don't complete your service obligation
- **Federal Grant Eligibility:**
  - Most federal grants are awarded only to students with financial need
  - To qualify, you must fill out the FAFSA every year you are in school
  - Visit the individual pages to learn about additional eligibility and application requirements
    - Federal Pell Grants
    - Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG)
    - Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants
    - Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grants
    - Check out this resource that lists details and award limits for different federal student grant programs: Federal Student Grant Programs
  - Once you have submitted your FAFSA, you will receive a financial aid award letter from each school you applied to and listed on your FAFSA. This will let you know how much financial aid and what types you may receive.

Financial Aid

Illinois Grants

- The Monetary Award Program (MAP) provides grant assistance to eligible students demonstrating financial need. MAP grants are applied toward tuition and mandatory fees for undergraduate students, not to exceed the maximum award amount for the academic year.
- MAP grants, which do not need to be repaid, are available to eligible Illinois residents who attend approved Illinois colleges and demonstrate financial need, based on the information provided on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®).
- To determine financial need, an applicant completes and submits the FAFSA as soon as possible after October 1 preceding the academic year for which they are applying.
  - Students who are not eligible for federal financial aid and do not file the FAFSA may apply for MAP using the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid (Alternative Application).
  - Funding for the MAP grant is limited; to ensure full-year consideration for an award, an applicant must apply early.
  - It is strongly recommend all eligible students file a FAFSA or the alternative application for Illinois financial aid starting October 1st of your senior year (not earlier).
- MAP grants can be applied only toward tuition and mandatory fees.
- ISAC College Q&A
  - The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) now offers ISAC College Q&A - get your questions about college planning and financial aid answered via text message, and receive important information about college planning events and deadlines.
  - To use the service simply text your first and last name to the phone number to: (847) 243-6470 Servicio en español: (773) 823-0570

Guide to

Aim High Illinois Grant

- The Aim High Illinois Grant provides assistance toward a full-time undergraduate student's cost of attendance at one of Illinois' 12 public 4-year institutions
  - Renewable if you continue to meet the eligibility requirements
- Each university's AIM HIGH grant program is described in detail on the university's website. For complete program information, click on the name of the university below.
- To be eligible, you must:
  - have attended an Illinois high school
  - be engaged in a program of study that will be completed by the end of the school year
  - apply to be enrolled for the first time at the public university campus where the award will be used
  - be a resident of Illinois
  - be a U.S. citizen or an eligible non-citizen or meet the "undocumented student" criteria of the RISE Act
  - file the FAFSA and demonstrate financial need
  - meet the minimum GPA or ACT or SAT test score, as determined by the university
  - be enrolled in a participating public university as a full-time undergraduate student
  - meet any other criteria established by the university

Guide to
Aim High Illinois Grant

- **Participating Public Four-year Illinois Institutions (**Details about each university's AIM HIGH grant program and how to apply are available by clicking on the university's name below.)
  - Chicago State University
  - Eastern Illinois University
    - AIM HIGH Main Program Page
    - EIU Promise Program
    - EIU Cost Match
    - Freshman and Transfer Merit Scholarship Bonus
    - EIU Local Scholars Program
  - Governors State University
  - Illinois State University
  - Northeastern Illinois University
  - Northern Illinois University
  - Southern Illinois University – Carbondale
  - Southern Illinois University – Edwardsville
  - University of Illinois – Chicago
    - Chancellor's Fellow Program
    - Institutional Grants
  - University of Illinois – Springfield
  - University of Illinois – Urbana/Champaign
  - Western Illinois University
    - Scholarships

Financial Aid

Scholarships

- Scholarships are another type of gift aid and are not required to be repaid
  - Money a student is awarded on the basis of academic/merit or other achievement to support a student's education.
  - Each scholarship has its own qualifying factors.
  - Please pay attention to the requirements of the scholarship and that you are willing to fulfill what they ask of you.
    - If you fail to meet a requirement after the initial award, you may be required to pay back the money.
- Scholarships can be paid directly to the school or to the awarded student
- Scholarships range in the amount of money awarded. No scholarship is too small, it all adds up!
  - Apply for as many as you want!
- Scholarship applications:
  - Similar to college admission applications
  - May ask specific questions, based on the requirements of the scholarship
  - May require an essay
  - Must be turned in ON TIME to the APPROPRIATE ADDRESS, PERSON, or OFFICE
    - It is YOUR responsibility to complete the application fully and accurately, with all required materials by the deadline and to the correct location
- Where can you find scholarships?
  - Shared through your CCHS School Counselor (Google Classroom)
  - Parent and Your Employers
  - Local Organizations
  - Online, but be careful!
    - Be aware of scholarship scams, if you are unsure, check with a parent or your School Counselor to be sure!
    - Only use trusted search engines and never provide your social security number or pay to apply for a scholarship–this should be FREE money!

Financial Aid

Loans

- **Loans: <u>utilize loans after all gift aid options have been exhausted and only if necessary</u>**
  - Money lent to a student to help pay off education costs.
  - Must be paid back with interest, which can make them dangerous.
  - Application process: Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
  - **Federal Loans**, there are two types: Subsidized & Unsubsidized.
    - To understand the difference between the two, think: *When will the interest begin to accrue?*
      - **Subsidized**: A need based loan. Interest is paid by the federal government while a student is in school at least ½ time, and during authorized periods of deferment. Typically a grace period of 6 months after graduation or discontinuing school before you are required to begin repayment.
      - **Unsubsidized**: NOT a need based loan. Interest begins accruing the day you take out the loan.
    - Current fixed interest rate (meaning rate will not change for the life of the loan): 4.99%
    - To learn more about Federal Loans, click HERE
  - **Private Loans**:
    - Offered by banks, credit unions, state agencies, or colleges
    - Interest Rates are typically higher, may not be fixed, and may require you to begin repayment while you are in college
    - Repayment Plans and Grace Periods may not be as friendly as federal loans
- **Managing student loans**:
  - Know the borrowing basics and be sure to research your loan options carefully
  - Only borrow the amount you need
  - Know what your future salary will allow you to afford
  - Know when you have to start repaying your loan
  - Keep track of all paperwork

Financial Aid

Federal Work Study

- **Federal Work Study:** money earned throughout the academic year by working a qualifying part-time job on your school's campus.
  - Money is capped at the amount listed in your offer letter and will come in a paycheck reflecting the hours you have work.
  - Not directly applied to your student account, it can be used for books, travel, & other personal expenses.
  - Note: on-campus jobs can be competitive. If you're eligible for a work-study job, it is your responsibility to find a job on-campus.
  - While working during college can help with expenses, full-time students should consider working part-time to avoid having a negative impact on academics.
- Click to learn more about Federal Work Study

Guide to

Local Scholarships

- Many local scholarships are provided by various individuals, families and partners in our community for students at CCHS and schools in our surrounding communities
- They are need-based, merit-based, and/or service-based, and each scholarship has different requirements.
- The odds of receiving one of them are higher than if you were to apply for a national scholarship because the pool of applicants will be much smaller
- Here is the 2022-23 CCHS Local Scholarship Deadline Spreadsheet. This spreadsheet can give you an idea of some of the scholarships available to you next year.
- CCHS General Scholarship Application: live December 1 to March 1 each year
  - One application will enter you for each scholarship within the CCHS General Scholarship Program for which you qualify
  - You will be given more information on how to access the application senior year
  - Notified of any CCHS General Scholarship that you receive during Senior Awards Night

Guide to
Scholarship Tips

Here are some additional tips for what you need to do to apply for financial aid and scholarship money:

1. **Fill out your FAFSA form**: The FAFSA form is the federal government financial aid form. To receive need-based grants or scholarships (some award $ just for filing the FAFSA), so we encourage all families to fill it out (even if you don't think you will qualify, most schools require the FAFSA to receive any financial aid–including scholarships!). And *just* by filling out the FAFSA, the average student gets about $15,000 in financial aid (grants, work-study, and lower-interest loans).
2. **Check with your colleges on any additional forms**: Some colleges (especially private ones) also require a form called the "CSS Profile," while other colleges have their own financial aid forms, in addition to the FAFSA. Make sure you find out what the deadline is to fill out those extra forms.
3. **Check for state grants/aid eligibility**: State governments also offer a range of state grants, particularly for students studying in-state at a public university or college. Check for these too!
4. **Apply for scholarships**: Where can you find Scholarships? We get asked this question every day and the answer is not as simple as you would hope. The most generous scholarships often come from colleges. Therefore students should concentrate first on the college they are attending as the greatest source of resources for your family. But there are outside sources that students can search. The next slide has lots of great places to start a scholarship search.

Guide to

Scholarship Search Tips

Scholarship Search TIPS

1. Look for institutional scholarships first. Scour your prospective colleges' websites for scholarships that match you. You will be far more likely to get these scholarships than ones you find in a national college search. Also, while some colleges invite students to apply to specific scholarships based on the quality of their applications, many do not. Seek out scholarships through your colleges and don't be shy about calling the financial aid office. Just don't call until you've checked online.
2. Think local. CCHS Local Scholarships, Rotary Clubs, Kiwanis Clubs, Lions Clubs, Chamber of Commerce, religious organizations , local businesses, parents' places of employment, etc. Any sort of civic organization will likely either have a scholarship or know of a scholarship. This takes some work and the amounts are often a few hundred dollars, but if you apply you have a really good chance of getting the scholarship.
3. Do NOT pay for a scholarship search. Scams exist. Avoid them.
4. No scholarship is too small. They all add up.
5. Apply for at least 5 times as many scholarships as you hope to receive. You are likely not the only qualified student to find a scholarship so don't put all your eggs in one basket.
6. Be aware. The money you earn through private scholarships (any scholarship not funded by the government or prospective college) may not actually increase your overall aid. Colleges will either allow you to use the scholarships you earn to decrease loans or work study OR they will decrease your grants which will be of no benefit to you.
7. Finally, make sure you have a financial likely college on your list.

Scholarship Search Websites

- BigFuture Scholarship Directory
- BigFuture Scholarships
- Cappex
- College Board
- CollegeExpress
- FastWeb
- Finaid (with information about scams to avoid)
- Going Merry
- Lendedu
- Scholarful
- ScholarshipAmerica
- Unigo
- Illinois Scholarship Directory, a list of 100+ vetted scholarships for students across the state, broken down by month.

Additional Resources

- Jeff Levy: Need Based and Merit Based list
- Jeff Selingo: A new way to think about your college list: the Buyers and Sellers
- Ethan Sawyer: Paying for College

Additional Resources

- Big Future
- Big Future Scholarship: earn up to $40,000 just by planning for your future!
- College Board
- College Essay Guy
- **Recommended Reading/Listening/Viewing**
  - Admission Beat Podcast
  - Read Grown & Flown.
  - The Science of Well-Being for Teens
  - The Truth about College Admission
  - The Price You Pay for College
  - FAN Network Recording
  - Browse the archive of Lieber's *New York Times* "Your Money" columns.
  - Watch Lieber's 2015 FAN talk, "The Opposite of Spoiled: Raising Kids Who are Grounded, Generous, and Smart About Money."
  - Read Lieber's September 25, 2020 "Your Money" column, "How to Predict Merit Aid in a Strange College Application Season."
  - Watch Lieber's January 26, 2021 FAN event, "The Price You Pay for College," with Lauren Rivera, Ph.D.
  - Read "Imagining the Hybrid College Campus," co-authored by Selingo and Cole Clark, October 8, 2021, *Harvard Business Review*.
  - Read a September 15, 2020 review by Anthony Abraham Jack (FAN '19) in the *New York Times Book Review* of both Selingo' book.
  - Sign up to download Selingo's "Buyers and Sellers" list.
  - Read Selingo's August 28, 2020 essay in *The Wall Street Journal*, "The Secrets of Elite College Admissions."
  - Watch Selingo discuss changes to the college admissions process due to the pandemic on *CBS This Morning*, April 15, 2021.
  - Browse the archives of Selingo's podcast *Future U.*
  - The College Essay Guy Podcast
  - College Admission: New Year, Same You
  - 13 Common College Admissions Myths Debunked

Parent Prep for College Planning

Parents, do...

1. Keep the focus on your student	✓
2. Find out what motivates your student	
3. Be authentic with your student	
4. Encourage your student to contribute	
5. Model & encourage gratitude	

Check this Out!

- College Admissions Red Flags
- College Conversation Starters
- Ethical Parent in the Process
- College Rankings
- Why College Engagement Matters
- More than Selectivity
- Sign up for 2024 Google Classroom
- Going Merry Parent Newsletter
- CollegeWise Blog

Next Steps

- [ ] Examine Priorities
- [ ] Check Class of 2024 Google Classroom & Email Often!
- [ ] Begin college search in SCOIR
- [ ] Register for SAT/ACT if needed

Thank you!

Students & Parents (with gmail accounts) use this link to join:

Class of 2024 Google Classroom

Credits

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