PLANNING YOUR FUTURE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

The College Admissions Process

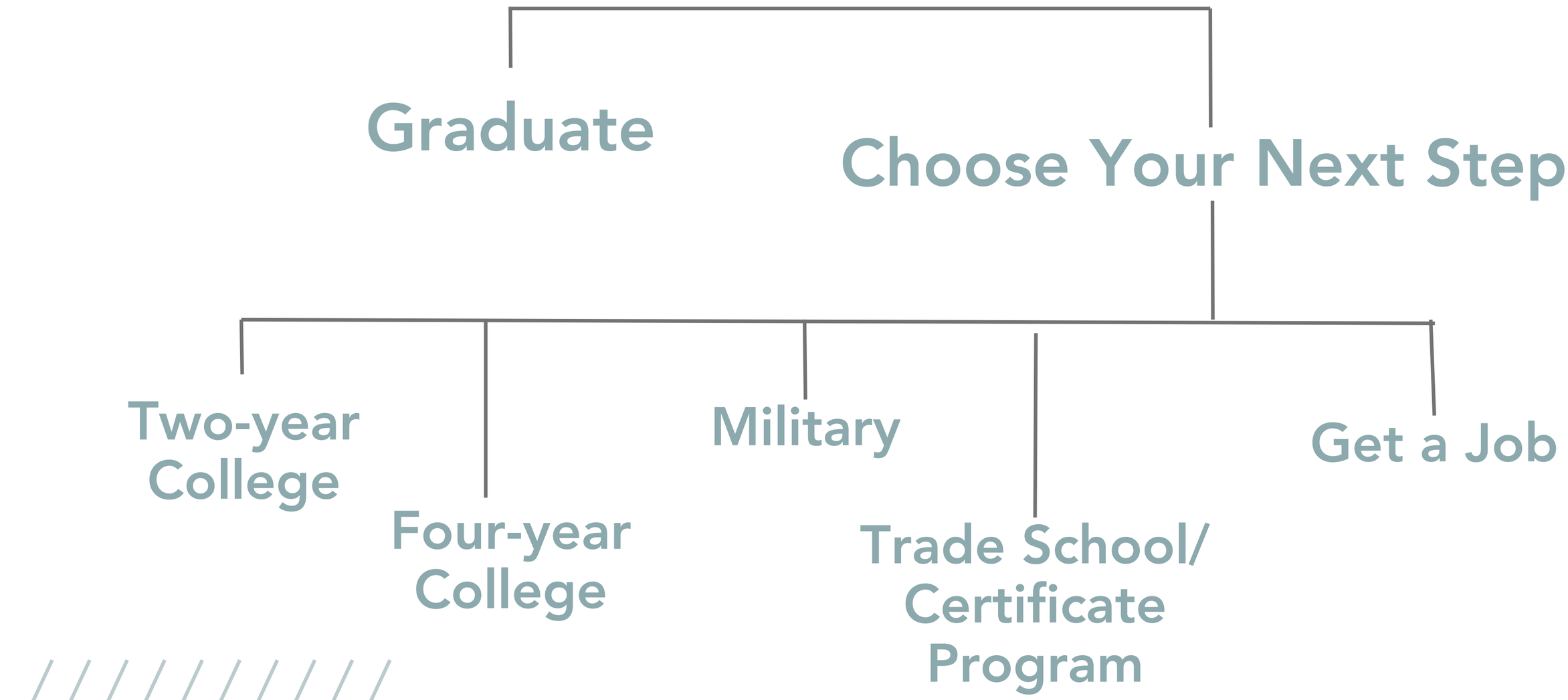
March 12, 2025

HELLO!

Jennifer Hann-Deschaine
Brandywine School District High School Career Center Advisor

Concord- Tuesdays
Brandywine- Wednesdays
Mount Pleasant- Thursdays
Mondays/Fridays- Rotating

GOALS FOR BSD STUDENTS



01. WHY COLLEGE?

02. CREATING A COLLEGE LIST

03. THE COLLEGE APPLICATION

04. DECISIONS & REPORTING

01.

WHY COLLEGE?

The Process of Self-Discovery

WHAT ARE YOUR STRENGTHS?

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY?

THE 3 FIT FACTORS

ACADEMIC FIT

Majors offered
Required courses
Class sizes
Online vs lecture vs hands on
Internships/Co-Op/Research
% of undergrads/grad students

SOCIAL FIT

Distance from home
Types of Housing Available
Types of Food/Meal Plans
City/Suburb/Town/Rural
Size of Student Body
Commuter or Residential?
Diversity
Greek Life
Clubs or Activities Available

FINANCIAL FIT

Which options are affordable?
What is the family budget?
Who will pay for what?
Will students take out loans?
Will families take out loans?
Set expectations early

02.

CREATING A COLLEGE LIST

Make a plan for success

MYTH #2

There are only a few
“Good Colleges”

MYTH #1

It’s hard to get into
college

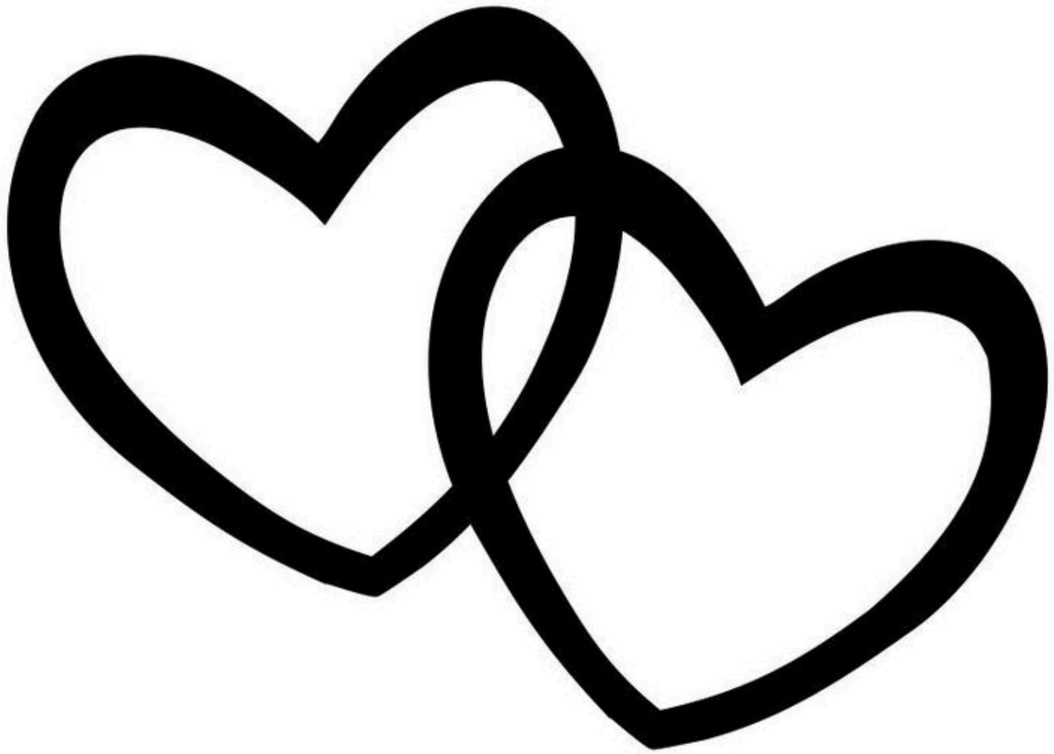
CREATE A BALANCED LIST

Includes at least 2 colleges with high likelihood of acceptance AND that you know will be affordable



LOVE YOUR WHOLE LIST

You have the right to keep your list private



Online or in Books

There are many websites and books that can help. Don't be afraid to explore colleges that are unknown to you now.



In Person

Visit local colleges first to get a sense of what you like

HOW TO FIND GOOD COLLEGE FITS FOR YOU

03.

THE COLLEGE APPLICATION

SENIOR YEAR TIMELINE

AUG 1 COLLEGE APPLICATIONS OPEN

OCT 1 FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS OPEN (FAFSA & CSS PROFILE)

APR 1 COLLEGE DECISIONS AND FINANCIAL AID PACKAGES ARE ALL RELEASED

MAY 1 DECISION DAY

APPLICATION TYPES

ROLLING

R

As applications roll in, decisions roll out
When class is full, it is full

EARLY ACTION

EA

Apply early, find out earlier
Non-binding

EARLY DECISION

ED

BINDING!

REGULAR DECISION

RD

Clear Application Deadlines
Find out later

WHAT MIGHT COLLEGES LOOK FOR?

01. TRANSCRIPT- GRADES & RIGOR

02. ACTIVITIES & HONORS

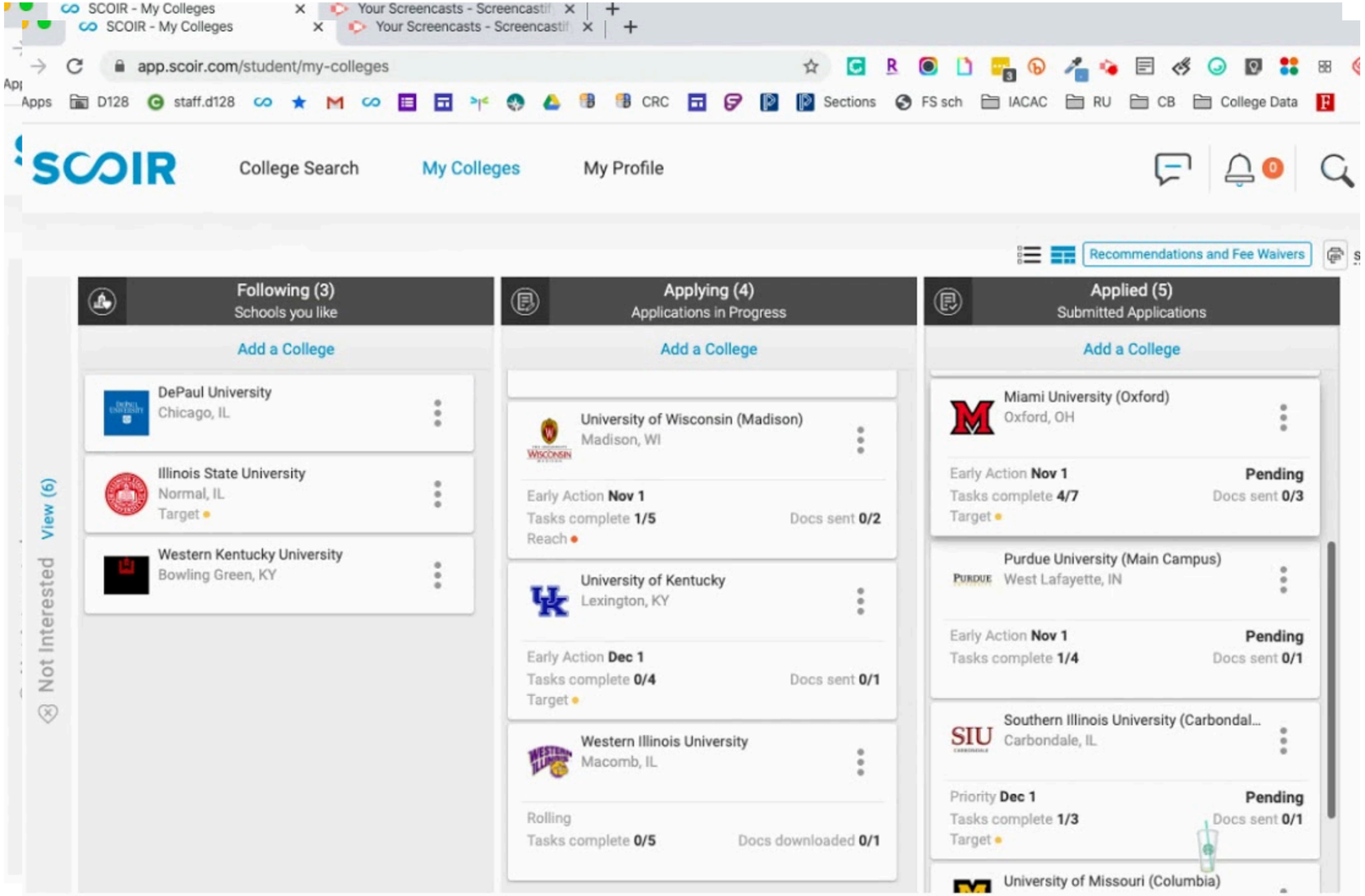
03. DEMONSTRATED INTEREST

04. FIT/MATCH BETWEEN THE STUDENT & THE COLLEGE

05. A POLISHED APPLICATION

Where to Apply

- Common Application
- Black Common Application
- College Websites
- SCOIR

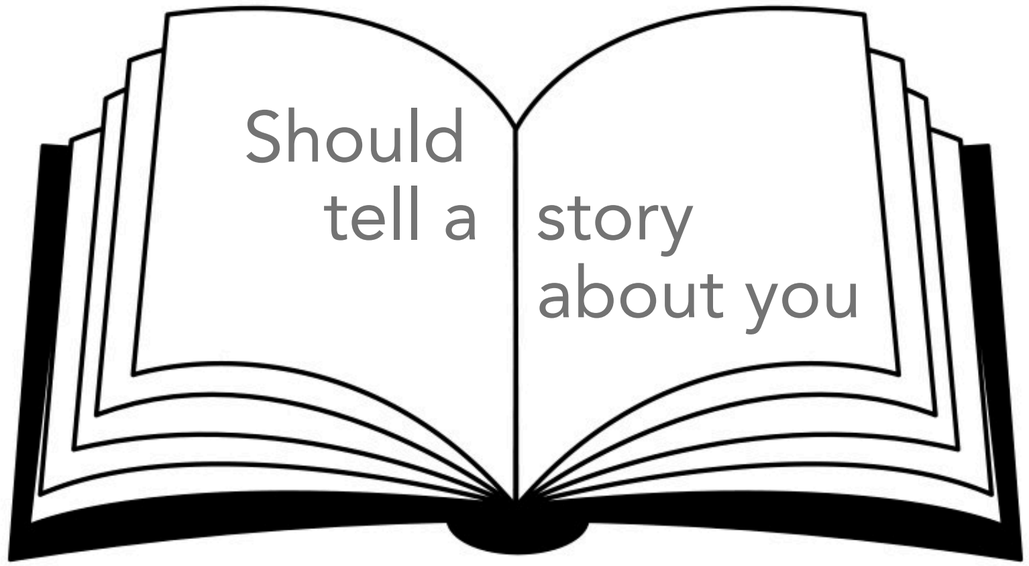


PARTS OF THE STUDENT APPLICATION

DEMOGRAPHICS

ACADEMIC INFO

ACTIVITIES



HONORS

PERSONAL STATEMENT/ ESSAY

COLLEGE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

OTHER PIECES OF THE APPLICATION

TRANSCRIPT/ SCHOOL PROFILE

COUNSELOR LETTER OF REC

TEACHER LETTER(S) OF REC

FEE WAIVERS



FINANCIAL AID FORMS

STANDARDIZED TEST SCORES

INTERVIEWS

AUDITIONS/ PORTFOLIOS

SUPRISE! THERE'S SOMETIMES MORE!

UPLOAD YOUR OWN TRANSCRIPT

SRAR (SELF-REPORTED ACADEMIC RECORD)

RESIDENCY QUESTIONS



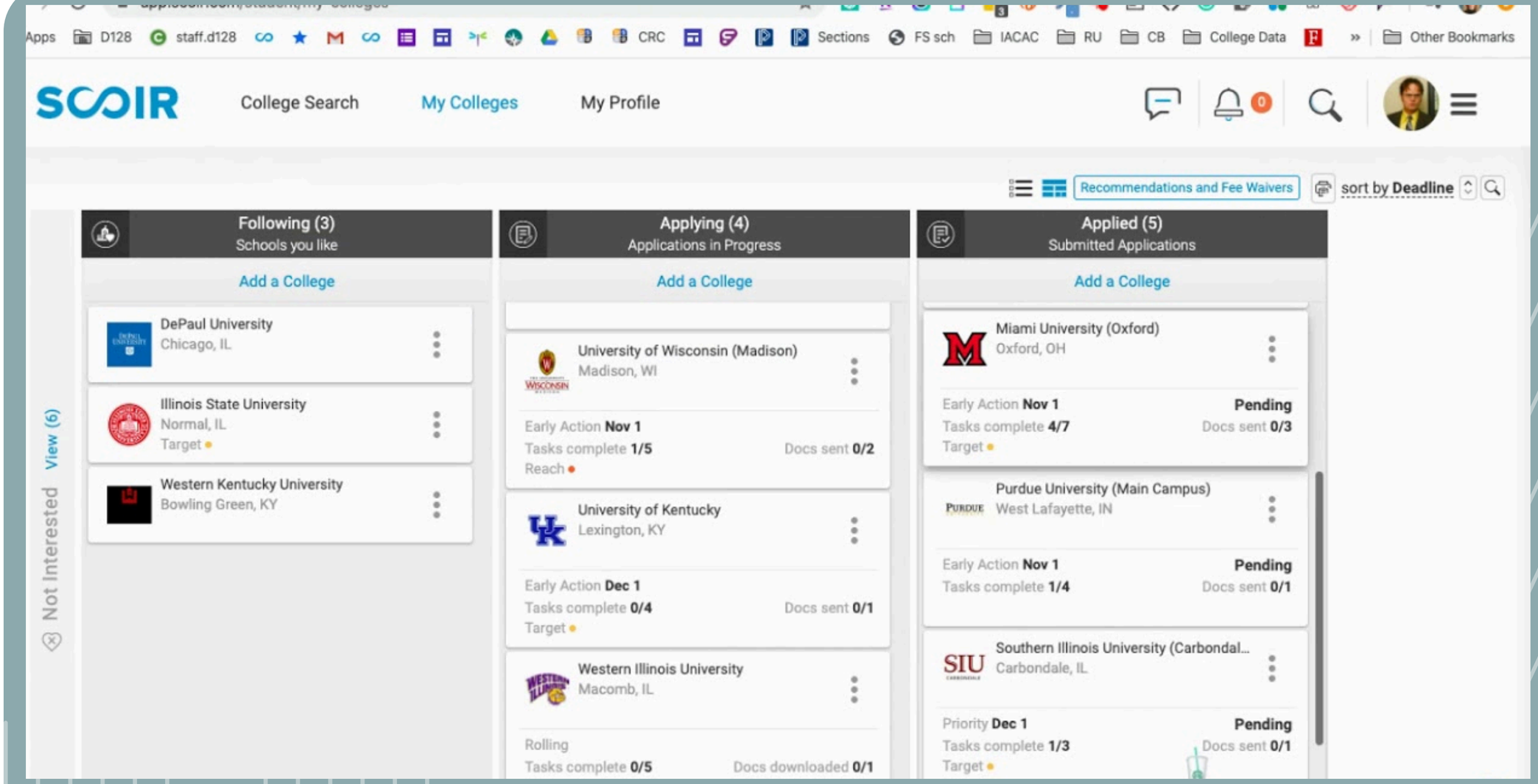
MID-YEAR REPORTS

ADDITIONAL ESSAYS

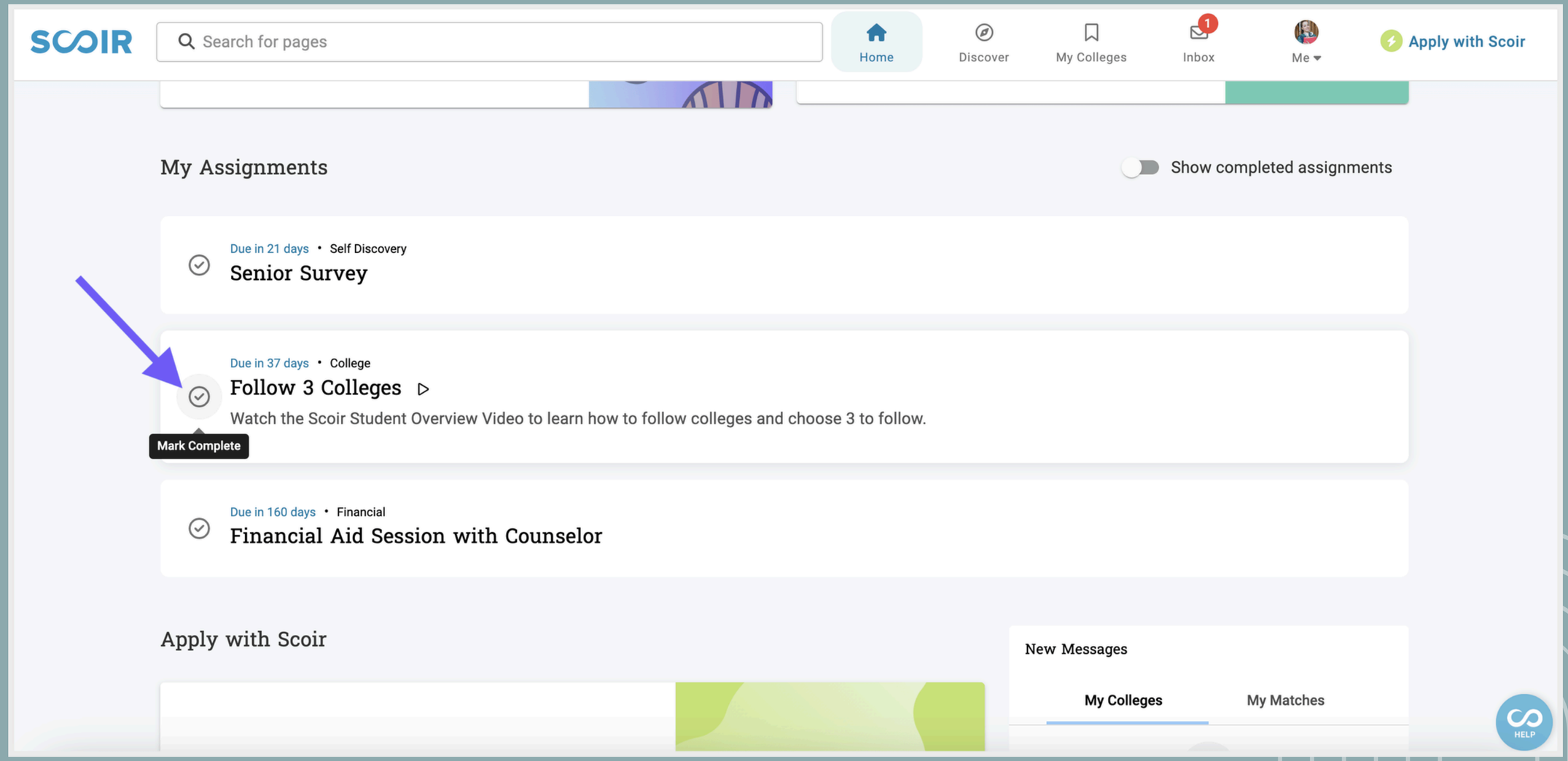
VIDEOS/ INTERVIEWS

04.

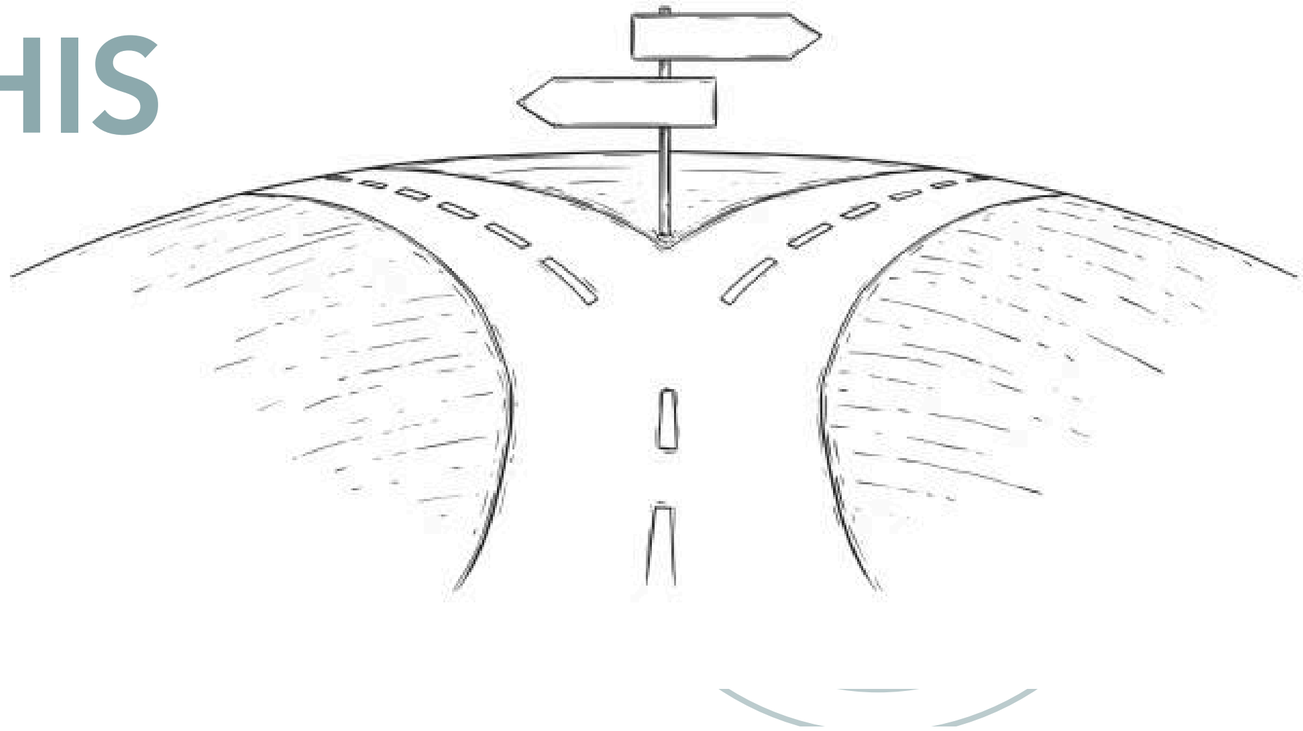
DECISIONS AND REPORTING


Apps
D128
staff.d128
CRC
Sections
FS sch
IACAC
RU
CB
College Data
Other Bookmarks
SCOIR
College Search
My Colleges
My Profile
Recommendations and Fee Waivers
sort by Deadline
Not Interested
View (6)
Following (3)
Schools you like
Add a College
DePaul University
Chicago, IL
Illinois State University
Normal, IL
Target
Western Kentucky University
Bowling Green, KY
Applying (4)
Applications in Progress
Add a College
University of Wisconsin (Madison)
Madison, WI
Early Action Nov 1
Tasks complete 1/5
Docs sent 0/2
Reach
University of Kentucky
Lexington, KY
Early Action Dec 1
Tasks complete 0/4
Docs sent 0/1
Target
Western Illinois University
Macomb, IL
Rolling
Tasks complete 0/5
Docs downloaded 0/1
Applied (5)
Submitted Applications
Add a College
Miami University (Oxford)
Oxford, OH
Early Action Nov 1
Pending
Tasks complete 4/7
Docs sent 0/3
Target
Purdue University (Main Campus)
West Lafayette, IN
Early Action Nov 1
Pending
Tasks complete 1/4
Docs sent 0/1
Southern Illinois University (Carbondal...
Carbondale, IL
Priority Dec 1
Pending
Tasks complete 1/3
Docs sent 0/1
Target

REPORT SCHOLARSHIPS

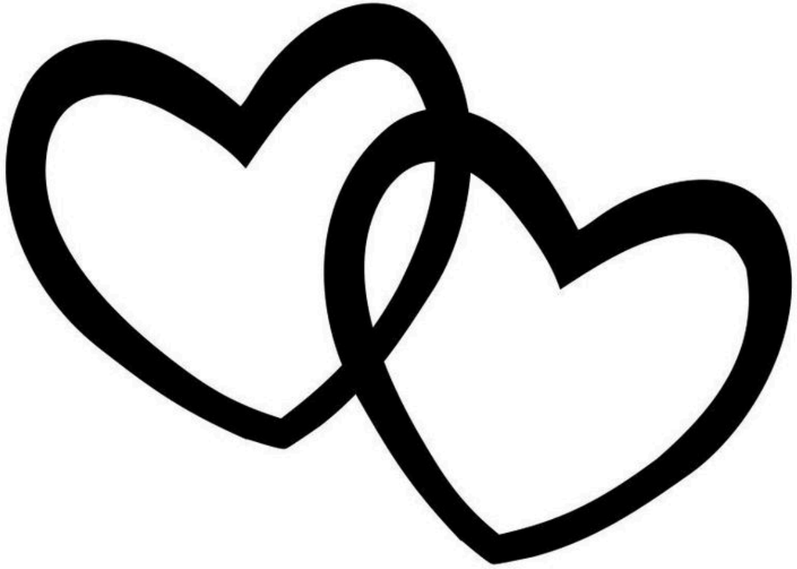


WAYS TO MAKE THIS PROCESS MORE POSITIVE









THANK YOU

Do you have any questions?