



A Publication of Dublin Jerome High School Guidance Department

ADVISOR

Attention: Seniors – August 2025

Selecting for Fit Rather than Reputation

The proliferation of college rankings and onslaught of articles proclaiming the increasing selectivity of college admissions leads students to believe that “most selective” means “best.” But a college education is not a “one size fits all” purchase; what’s right for one student may not be right for another with similar characteristics. Your ultimate success in life is not determined or limited by the college you attend. Select your school not for its reputation, but by how well it fits your requirements.

A degree from the most prestigious college will not guarantee you a higher-paying job, more chances for advancement in your career, or success in any way that you might define the term. Indeed, studies have shown that students who have been accepted at one of the most prestigious institutions but chose to attend lesser known schools attain the same degree of financial success as those who chose the more selective college. It is not the college that makes the difference but rather the innate attributes of the applicant. Drive, intelligence, work ethic, and leadership qualities will later translate to a successful career.

In selecting your college, you need to be attuned to those characteristics that you value the most. Look for colleges that help students find their own voices; those at which students are most engaged in the learning process. Try to look beyond the buildings and beauty of the surroundings, and focus on the students and professors with whom you’ll share your time. Find the colleges that support the way you learn best, and where the institutional mission and philosophy fits your goals for your own education. If you look first to who you are and understand the person you wish to be, you’ll be able to choose wisely and find the college that best fits you.

ACT and SAT Test Dates and Registration Deadlines

ACT Test Dates

September 6, 2025
October 18, 2025
December 13, 2025
February 14, 2026
April 11, 2026
June 13, 2026
July 11, 2026

Registration Deadline

August 1, 2025
September 12, 2025
November 7, 2025
January 9, 2026
March 6, 2026
May 8, 2026
June 5, 2026

SAT Test Dates

August 23, 2025
October 4, 2025
November 8, 2025
December 6, 2025
March 14, 2026
May 2, 2026
June 6, 2026

Registration Deadline

August 8, 2025
August 29, 2025
October 24, 2025
November 21, 2025
February 27, 2026
April 17, 2026
May 22, 2026

There are some colleges that will require a writing score from the ACT or SAT. It is highly recommended that you take at least one of these tests with the writing option.

Score Reporting Services

SAT: <http://www.collegeboard.org>

ACT: <http://www.actstudent.org>

Dublin Jerome High School College Application Process

*Please allow 10 school days to process transcript requests

*Please allow 15 school days to process transcript requests if you have also requested a letter of recommendation from a counselor

Applying to College

1. Apply online **FIRST** either with the Common Application or through the institution's website if it is not a Common Application school. If you have the choice – **USE THE COMMON APPLICATION**. When using the Common Application, make sure to check and see if there are any supplemental materials needed for the colleges to which you are applying. (Including letters of recommendation.) If you are not using the Common App, you can either apply directly to the institution through their website or you can use the Coalition Application, which is similar to the Common App, but not quite as many schools are a part of it.
2. Request a transcript through your SchoolLinks account.
3. Send test scores directly from ACT and SAT to the institutions you are applying to.

WWW.ACT.ORG

ACT phone # 1-319-337-1313

WWW.COLLEGEBOARD.COM

SAT phone # 1-866-756-7346

DUBLIN JEROME HIGH SCHOOL CEEB CODE NUMBER 365-076

Request Your Transcript Package Using SchoolLinks (Beginning mid-September)

Seniors must first complete their "senior inventory" in their SchoolLinks account before transcript requests can be processed.

REQUEST A TRANSCRIPT PACKET

1. From the SchoolLinks home screen, click "College" on the left-hand side
2. Then click "College Applications"
3. In the top right corner you should see "+ Add application" in blue
4. Once you add a school's application to your list – a transcript is automatically requested

**** If you're using the Common Application, you will be prompted here to link your SchoolLinks count with your Common App account**

College Admission Decisions

Non-Restrictive Application Plans

All of these plans allow students to wait until May 1 to confirm enrollment.

- **Regular Decision** is the application process in which a student submits an application to an institution by a specified date and receives a decision within a reasonable and clearly stated period of time. A student may apply to other institutions without restriction.
- **Rolling Admission** is the application process in which an institution reviews applications as they are completed and renders admission decisions to students throughout the admission cycle. A student may apply to other institutions without restriction.
- **Early Action (EA)** is the application process in which students apply to an institution of preference and receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date. Students who are admitted under Early Action are not obligated to accept the institution's offer of admission or to submit a deposit prior to May 1. Under non-restrictive Early Action, a student may apply to other colleges.

Restrictive Application Plans

These are plans that allow institutions to limit students from applying to other early plans.

- **Early Decision (ED)** is the application process in which students make a commitment to a first-choice institution where, if admitted, they definitely will enroll. While pursuing admission under an Early Decision plan, students may apply to other institutions, but may have only one Early Decision application pending at any time. Should a student who applies for financial aid not be offered an award that makes attendance possible, the student may decline the offer of admission and be released from the Early Decision commitment. The institution must notify the applicant of the decision within a reasonable and clearly stated period of time after the Early Decision deadline. Usually, a nonrefundable deposit must be made well in advance of May 1. The institution will respond to an application for financial aid at or near the time of an offer of admission. Institutions with Early Decision plans may restrict students from applying to other early plans. Institutions will clearly articulate their specific policies in their Early Decision agreement.
- **Restrictive Early Action (REA)** is the application process in which students make application to an institution of preference and receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date. Institutions with Restrictive Early Action plans place restrictions on student applications to other early plans. Institutions will clearly articulate these restrictions in their Early Action policies and agreements with students. Students who are admitted under Restrictive Early Action are not obligated to accept the institution's offer of admission or to submit a deposit prior to May 1.

CHECK WITH THE COLLEGE OF YOUR CHOICE FOR THEIR ADMISSION POLICIES

Letters of Recommendation (if required by university)

One of the most important parts of your college application isn't written by you: the letter of recommendation. But that doesn't mean you're off the hook. Get the best recommendation you can to make a winning impression.

Who Should Recommend You?

Choose adults who know you well. Teachers can comment about your academic skills. But also consider other people who can write about your talents and abilities, like coaches, employers, community and church leaders.

Many colleges do not require letters of recommendation, while some schools require more than one letter of recommendation from counselors or teachers in particular subjects. Carefully read the instructions on the application before choosing someone to write the recommendation.

Timing is Everything

Give your recommenders enough time to write thoughtful and articulate letters. At the beginning of your senior year, make a list of people who could write positive recommendations based on your personal character and academic qualities. Many college applications are due in November, December and January, so start asking for recommendations early.

Provide Additional Information

Your recommender can probably comment on your positive qualities and merits, but the most persuasive letters give specific information about your strengths and weaknesses.

Make sure your recommenders have everything they need to write your letter and submit it on time. That includes:

- Deadline information
- Completed *Parent Brag Sheet* and *Senior Inventory/Profile* in SchoolLinks
 - Both items should appear as a "To Do" at the top of your account

Make an appointment to speak with your recommenders **at least three weeks** before the application deadline. Remember, your recommenders are doing you a favor. Show your appreciation by sending a thank-you note.

Request Letters of Recommendation in SchoolLinks!

1. Identify teachers who you believe know you well enough to write a good letter
2. Have a face-to-face conversation with that teacher to ask them if they will write you a letter
3. Complete Senior Inventory/Profile and Parent Brag Sheet in SchoolLinks
4. Once you have completed items 1-3 above, you must log into your SchoolLinks account and electronically invite teachers to write a letter. This important step allows teachers to link their letter to your other application materials. In order to do this, you must select "Colleges" on the left hand side menu bar. Then select "College Applications" and once there, click on the school(s) for which you need a letter. Then, select "Request Teacher Recommendations" and select the teacher that has agreed to write the letter.

***Note** If using Common App – you will need to link your Common App and SchoolLinks accounts before you will be able to add recommenders in SchoolLinks.*

Senior College Planning Calendar

- Make sure you have all applications required for college admission and financial aid.
- Check on application and financial aid deadlines for the schools to which you plan to apply. They may vary and it is essential to meet all deadlines!
- If applying for early decision or early action, make sure that you are paying close attention to the deadline. Also prepare applications for back-up schools. Remember, if you are accepted under the early decision option, you are expected to enroll at that college and to withdraw all other applications.
- Be sure your list of colleges includes colleges appropriate to your academic and personal record. Review your transcript and co-curricular records to ensure their accuracy.
- Register for the fall ACT and/or SAT tests
- If the colleges require recommendations, ask the appropriate people to write on your behalf. At least three weeks before the due date, write a personal note of request to your counselor and teachers, employers, or coaches to write letters of recommendation. Write thank-you notes to those who write recommendations and keep them informed of your decisions.
- Plan visits to colleges (if you didn't get to them during the summer or if you want to return to a campus for a second time).
- Attend college fairs to investigate further those colleges to which you will probably apply.
- Be sure to have official test scores sent by the testing agency to colleges you are applying to.
- Be aware of your deadlines so that you are requesting transcript packets and leaving enough time for them to be processed.

Campus Visit Checklist

Here are things you shouldn't miss while visiting a college. Take a look at this list before planning campus trips to make sure that you allow enough time on each campus to get a sense of what the school -- and the life of its students -- is really like.

- ✓ Take a campus tour.
- ✓ Have an interview with admissions officer.
- ✓ Get business cards and names of people you meet for future contacts.
- ✓ Pick up financial aid forms.
- ✓ Participate in a group information session at the admissions office.
- ✓ Sit in on a class of a subject that interests you.
- ✓ Talk to a professor in your chosen major or in a subject that interests you.
- ✓ Talk to a student or counselor in the career center.
- ✓ Spend the night in a dorm.
- ✓ Read the student newspaper.
- ✓ Scan bulletin boards to see what day-to-day student life is like.
- ✓ Eat in the cafeteria.
- ✓ Ask a student why he/she chose this college.
- ✓ Wander around the campus by yourself.
- ✓ Ask a student what he/she loves about the college.
- ✓ Browse in the college bookstore.
- ✓ Walk or drive around the community surrounding the campus.
- ✓ Ask a student what he/she does on weekends.
- ✓ Try to see a dorm that you didn't see on the tour.
- ✓ Imagine yourself attending this college for four years.

**Common Application Education Page Answers
Class of 2026**

School Name: **Dublin Jerome High School (CEEB: 365076)**

Date of Entry: For students in their 4th year of high school, who have not attended any other high school, the answer is **August/2022**

Is this a boarding school: **No**

Did or will you graduate from this school: **Yes**

Graduation Date: **May/2026**

Education Progression: If your progression through secondary school was or will be delayed, accelerated or interrupted in any way, please check all that apply. Or if there was no change, click “No change in progression.”

Other Secondary/High School: If you have attended any other schools, please indicate number of schools. Select “**0**” if Dublin Jerome is the only high school you have attended.

College & Universities: If you have taken a college/university course beginning with 9th grade, please indicate the number of colleges. Then indicate which college(s) you attended. If you took College Credit Plus courses select “Dual enrollment with high school.” Then list corresponding date ranges.

Graduating class size: **495** (as of 8/25/25)

Class Rank Reporting: **None**

GPA Scale: **4**

Cumulative GPA: **Your transcript in “SchoolLinks” will have this information**

GPA Weighting: **Weighted**

Current Year Courses: select the number of courses that you wish to report. 0 minimum, 15 maximum. For each course you will need the title, course level (AP/Honors/IB). For College Credit Plus courses please indicate “Dual Enrollment” as the course level. Additionally, as a part of your transcript package, an official copy of your senior schedule will be sent by Dublin Jerome High School.

School Counselor Contact Information

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