

Post-Secondary Planning for Seniors

Mrs. Mary James (A-K) and Mrs. Cortney Feige (L-Z)
School Counselors
mjames@perkinsschools.org and cfeige@perkinsschools.org



Early Senior Year Checklist

✔ Senior Timeline 2025-2026

✔ Retake the ACT & SAT

*Be sure to do your research this year as many colleges are still test-optional!

✔ Continue the college & career search

✔ Visit colleges/attend in-person & virtual visits (2 Days)

✔ Organize college materials

✔ Know how you are applying

- ❑ Common App
- ❑ College's website
- ❑ Coalition App (not typical)

✔ Know when you are applying

- ❑ Early Decision
- ❑ Early Action
- ❑ Regular Decision/ Rolling

✔ Ask for letters of recommendation early – Give at least 2 weeks notice!



IMPORTANT DATES

- October 1, 2025: FAFSA Opens
- October 1, 2025: 5pm Jostens (Cap and Gown)
  5:30 pm Financial Aid Presentation at PHS
- October 15, 2025 and January 15, 2025: Senior Headshots at PHS from 7am–11am FREE
- November 1– December 1, 2024: Early Decision/Action Deadlines
- January 2026: End of Course Retests (TBD)



IMPORTANT DATES CONT...

- January–February 2026: Many Erie County Community Foundation & Perkins Local Scholarships Open
- February–April 2026: Scholarships Due (Check Deadlines)
- March 20, 2026: All Diploma of Distinction and Honors Diploma paperwork due
- May 11, 2026: PHS Scholarship Night at 6:00 p.m.
- May 28, 2026: Honors Assembly, Senior Picnic, Graduation Practice
- May 29, 2026: Senior Walk Through at Elementary Schools
- May 31, 2026: GRADUATION at 2:00 p.m.



Ohio Public & Private Institution Updates

Colleges make changes to each year's application cycle. ACT/SAT testing policies and application deadlines may have changed. Fairtest.org is a great place to do your research!

For the most up-to-date information from Ohio's Public & Private Institutions, click on the links below:

Ohio Public Institutions

Ohio Private Institutions

What is the Common App?

Common App is one college application that is accepted by over 900+ colleges.

Most colleges using Common App require one of these essay prompts.

Common App Tutorial



What is Early Decision vs. Early Action?

Early decision is binding. That means if you get accepted, you will enroll in the school. You may only apply to one college early decision.

Early action is not binding. Early action deadlines are typically the merit scholarship deadlines, and you will get a decision on your application earlier. You may apply to as many colleges early action as you wish.

Main Application Options

Early Decision	Early Action	Regular/Rolling
Binding (if student accepted they MUST attend)	NOT binding	NOT binding
Must withdraw other applications if accepted	Need to check details-may be RESTRICTIVE early action	May notify on rolling basis or may notify all at once (e.g. all in April)
Not the right option if financial aid is a factor	Be aware of decision date	Have until May 1st to decide usually
Should have visited multiple times	Acceptance notifications come earlier than rolling	Deadlines: December to May
Deadlines: October-December	Deadline: October-December	



Need Tips on Writing the Essay?

- Must be the student's own original work written in the student's voice
- Not required by all schools
- Some schools require an essay and/or short answers
- Have someone else read it over-teacher, parent, friend
- College Essay Help from the Princeton Review
- Visit COLLEGEESSAYGUY.COM for lots of FREE tips!
- Here are some great essay examples to check out!



A Completed Application

- ❑ Application – completed by the student.
- ❑ Application Fee – waivers available for qualifying students. See your School Counselor.
- ❑ Official ACT/SAT scores – if required. Must be sent from ACT or College Board. (May send up to 4 colleges/universities for free if completed at time of registration. Additional reports cost extra.) School counselors do not send these for the student.
- ❑ Official Transcript – sent from your School Counselor through Slate, Parchment or through Common App.
- ❑ Official College Transcript – sent from the college for all CCP courses. BGSU Findlay Ashland LCCC
- ❑ Common App –All required materials uploaded and complete– Counselors and Recommenders will upload individually
- ❑ Letters of Recommendation – not always required but good to have for scholarships .
- ❑ Portfolio or Audition – fine art and music majors.
- ❑ FAFSA – Free Application for Federal Student Aid – not required, necessary for certain types of financial aid.
- ❑ CSS Profile – Some colleges (typically private colleges) may require an additional financial aid application called the CSS Profile

Financial Aid

What is your plan to fund college?



- Scholarships – must apply by deadlines, many offered by colleges without an extra application – FREE MONEY!
- Grants – must submit the FAFSA to be eligible (opens online October 1, 2024) – FREE MONEY!
- Work Study – must submit the FAFSA to be eligible
- Loans – must submit the FAFSA to be eligible



Scholarships – Where Do You Look?

Perkins Local Scholarships

- PHS awards scholarships that are ONLY open to our students.
- Keep track of deadlines!
- Perkins High School posts their scholarships HERE.

Local Community Scholarships

- Check banks
- Community organizations
- Private Clubs

Erie County Community Foundation

- The Erie County Community Foundation has a number of scholarships available to students in Erie County.

- These scholarships will be posted on their website and most will be due in February/March.

Scholarship Search Websites

- Fastweb.com
- Scholarships.com
- Myscholly.com
- Raise.me
- CollegeXpress.com
- CollegeBoard's BigFuture Scholarship

Search everywhere and apply, apply, apply!

Thanks For Joining Us!



Questions?

Google Classroom Code: dkupj2fy

Mrs. James, School Counselor (Last Names A–K)

mjames@perkinsschools.org

Mrs. Cortney Feige, School Counselor (Last Names L–Z)

cfeige@perkinsschools.org