

College Application Info for Seniors

Skyline HS Class of 2026



Meet the Counseling Center Team



School Counselors

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4 Year College Application Process

- Types of Applications & Fees
- Completing Applications
- The Common Application
- Schools not on the Common Application
- Secondary School Report
- Letters of Recommendation
- Essays
- Test Scores
- Transcript(s)
- Financial Aid & FAFSA
- Virtual College Visits
- Application Timeline & Your To Do List





Types of Applications

Early Decision

Apply to only one early decision college. If the college accepts you & provides enough financial aid, you must attend that college.

Early Action

You can apply to more than one early action college. If you're accepted, you can choose to accept or decline their offer.

Early Action Single Choice

Same as Early Action except that you can only apply to one school under this option.

Regular Admissions

Apply during regular admissions.



Application Fees

- College application fees vary, but generally it costs from \$50 to \$80 to apply to each college
- Fees are nonrefundable.
- Many colleges offer application fee waivers to students who can't afford to pay. Talk to your School Counselor if you may need a fee waiver.
- <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/applying-101/college-application-fee-waivers>



How to Apply

- College applications are online through various sites such as the Common Application, Coalition, SendEdu, or independent portals
- Check each college's website for specific application instructions
- If using Common App or Coalition, on the Recommender/FERPA tab, invite your school counselor to complete the Secondary School Report
- You will be able to invite your counselor and/or teachers to the portal if you are required to submit letters of recommendation if necessary
- Order your transcript from Parchment.com (more information to follow)
- Be sure to complete all sections



Transcript Requests

- Visit the SHS Home page and click “Academics” -> “Transcripts”
- Create a Parchment.com account and be sure to “update” your account. Click here for transcript instructions
- Request a Self-View transcript and make sure everything looks as it should.
- Choose where to send transcripts
- All schools on the Common Application should be sent to "The Common Application" instead of each individual school. For counselors to complete the secondary school report on Common App, your transcript must already be uploaded by Parchment. Once that is complete, your counselor will review it, approve it, and complete their section. Not requesting your transcript delays the application process.
- For schools that are not on The Common App, choose to send your transcript directly to the school to which you are applying
- You must request transcripts separately from programs such as Dual Credit and Running Start to transfer credits
- *The first 5 transcripts are free – each additional transcript may incur additional cost depending on method of receipt*



Letters of Recommendation

Some (not all) colleges require one or more letters of recommendation. In this situation our advice would be to consider who in the school knows you the very best. This is often teachers, club advisers, coaches, administrators and even school counselors. It is very important to understand what your application requires of you and to not send materials that are not needed.

If a counselor letter is required, submit the digital Counselor Recommendation Request Form at least three full weeks prior to your first college deadline that requires a letter of recommendation.

If you are applying to a school/scholarship that requires one or more letters from teachers/advisers/coaches/admin please read the following:

To request a letter -- your first choice may not be able to write your recommendation, so you need to ask, and then have a back-up plan in mind in case your first choice of is not available.

Our advice on which teachers to ask -- ideally, it would be a core subject teacher from your time at SHS or the college if you attend Running Start. Students often ask junior year instructors as they already know you well and have been able to observe your college readiness.



Letters of Recommendation

Ask early -- give staff at least 3 weeks ahead of your first due date.

Invite this staff member as a recommender to your online application by submitting their ISD email address in your application. Be sure to double check they received your notice and if they need anything additional from you to complete this for you.

Remember - Letters are confidential, and generally submitted directly online. Students will not receive a copy of the recommendation. In the very rare case where a hard copy of a recommendation must be mailed in, you will need to provide a pre-addressed envelope with sufficient postage for direct submission to your recommender for their use.

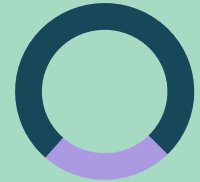
Due to the high number of recommendation requests, it is critical that you follow these instructions closely. Doing so will allow adequate time to process your requests. This helps staff ensure timely, quality recommendations. Make sure to say thank you!



Secondary School Report

A Secondary School Report is a section of the application that is completed by your School Counselor and typically includes the following items:

- ✓ School profile
- ✓ Class size (538)
- ✓ GPA (unweighted only)
- ✓ There is no ranking in Issaquah School District
- ✓ Senior year schedule
- ✓ Level of course rigor
- ✓ Level of involvement in leadership, volunteer service, etc.
- ✓ Please note that mid-year and final reports are also completed when required





The Essay

- Find out if you need to write one as not all colleges require it
- Share a story/event that illustrates personal growth
- Be aware of supplemental essay prompts in your application
- Think of it as a personal interview on paper
- Go through the editing process...It is important
- If you're having trouble getting started, record yourself talking about the question and then listen back to it and type what you hear. Now you have a starting place!



Submitting Test Scores

- It is very possible that you do not have to submit standardized test scores as part of the admission process as most if not all colleges have waived this requirement. Please see the admission's website of your college choices for more information and see if they are test blind, test optional or are offering their own assessment option.
- SAT & ACT scores can only be ordered from their websites and submitted to your colleges if needed. Skyline cannot do this for you as we do not collect this data
- IB Scores cannot be predicted. Please check your application carefully to make sure and not check it as a requirement. Do not check the box in Common App for this. There are few exceptions such as for colleges outside the US. Please contact Mr. Phelan in this case.

Financial Aid and FAFSA (More Info next week during Flex!)

Whether you pay as you go, take out a loan, receive scholarships or grants or participate in work study, funding your college education takes planning.

All students must fill out the FAFSA Free Application for Federal Student Aid to qualify for the four types of aid: grants, loans (both parent and student loans), work study positions, and need-based scholarships.

Students should complete the FAFSA regardless of whether or not they think they will need it...just in case.

Think you can't afford a private school? Remember that the amount of financial aid given to families will change depending on the price of the school. Parents are encouraged to fill out the form regardless of their income level and apply as soon after the form opens as possible to take advantage of state and federal funds given on a first come first serve basis.

Additionally, some schools require the FAFSA on file prior to awarding some need-based scholarships.

Applying for the FAFSA is always free. <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>

College Visits at SHS

College Visits at the High School provide a personal touch that may not be available on a school's website. Students learn about school admission processes, deadlines, campus life, housing, majors available, scholarships and more. This is a valuable opportunity to ask questions and in many cases, personally meet the “first reader” of a college application.

The vast majority of the college visits are from September through December. There will be approximately 35 colleges conducting virtual information sessions on Wednesdays, before school, and at lunch. Also, there will be some during Flex Time on some Fridays. Check the Skyline College and Career website regularly for any calendar updates.



Skyline HS College Applications Timeline

Sept 18, 2025 Senior Information

FAFSA opens (coming soon!)

Oct – June College Application Deadlines (varies)

SHS College and Career Center college visits

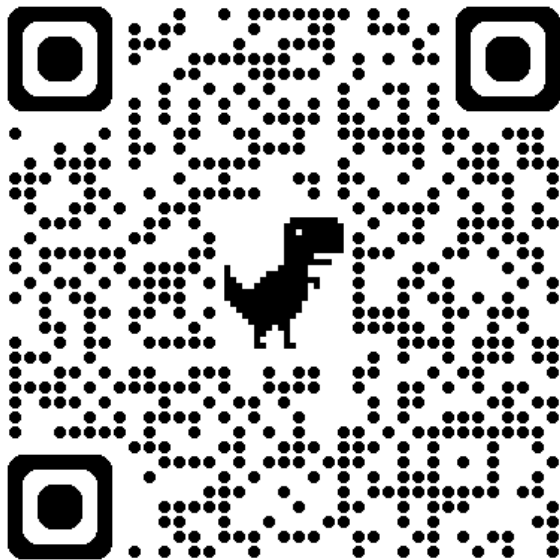
<https://skyline.isd411.org/student-life/college-and-career-center>





School Counselor LOR Requests

- All letter of recommendation requests will be done digitally.
- Please select your specific counselor's form.



4 Year College To-Do List

Before you begin, check your email address and make sure it is professional.

Research application deadlines for your colleges

Complete your applications and essay

Go to [Parchment.com](https://www.parchment.com) and request your transcripts

Check Skyward for your cumulative GPA

Check to see if any of your programs/colleges require letters of recommendation

Contact your teachers about letters of recommendation

Fill out the counselor letter of recommendation form if needed

Go on SAT/ACT website and request your test scores to be sent if applicable

Breathe!!!



Contact Information

Name & Email	Role
Christine Watson	Counseling Assistant
Heidi Hendrickson	Registrar
Hayden Kersey	Counselor for alpha A-CRO
Todd Caffey	Counselor for alpha CRP-HOO
Megan Rieke	Counselor for alpha HOP-LOP
Stephanie Anderson	Counselor for alpha LOQ-PAS
Adam Dickenson	Counselor for alpha PAT-SPE
Kristen Flemer	Counselor for alpha SPF-Z
Danielle Vermeulen	College and Career Specialist
Mallory Jamison	College and Career Specialist

Check out our Instagram!





Thank you!