

Welcome Senior 2026 Parents & Guardians

Graduation is in 274 days,
...What's Next?



The Clock is Ticking, We Are Here to Help!

- Counselors visited social studies classes last week to kick start senior planning.
- Students will receive an appointment between October-November to meet individually with their counselor.
- This meeting, known as the *Senior Planning Conference*, is a follow up from the meeting your child had with us last spring, known as the *Junior Planning Conference*.
- Last spring we discussed post graduation plans, this year's meeting is all about putting those plans into action.

Your Child's Plan is *Unique* to Them

❖ Post Graduation Plans Include:

- College
- Trade School
- Military
- Employment



Tonight's Focus is On Completing College Applications

- Out of all of the plans out there, applying to college, especially to four year colleges, is the lengthiest process.
- Tonight we will discuss:
 - How to Apply to College (*with an emphasis on 4 year applications*)
 - How to Apply for Financial Aid
 - How to Find Scholarships
- The purpose of tonight's presentation is to provide you with an overview of the college application process, this information will be customized to your child's needs at their Senior Planning Conference.

Senior Year Timeline

September

- Finalize college list and identify your application deadlines
- Check in with teachers regarding letters of recommendation
- Continue editing college essay
- Start college essay
- Take last standardized exams

October-
November

- Finalize college essay
- Complete college applications
- Match Common App & **SchoolLinks** accounts
- Take last standardized exams
- Fill out Pink Processing Sheet
- Send SAT/ACT scores if applicable

December-
February

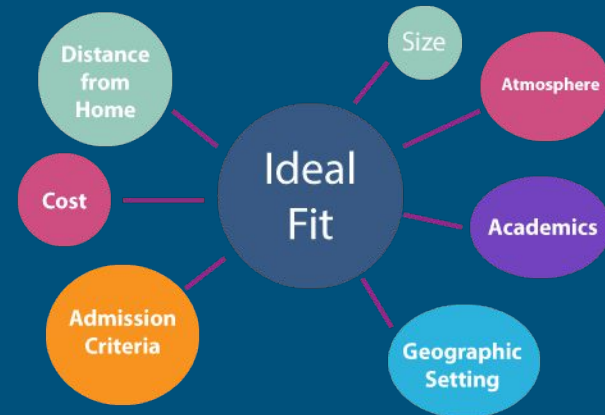
- Check emails regularly, colleges will reach out via email about next steps
- Complete the FAFSA application
- Complete the TAP application if applicable
- Research scholarships
- Complete BHS Local Scholarships Application - due in January
- Request request for mid-year reports to be sent to colleges

March-
May

- Track college acceptances
- Review financial aid packages
- Accept or decline loan offers
- Submit last scholarship applications
- May 1st National College Decision Day
- Complete senior survey indicating college attending for final transcript

Let's Rewind a Minute...

- During your child's junior planning conference, we:
 - Showed them how to use college search engines such as School Links, College Board, and College Score Card.
 - Educated them about the different factors that go into finding the right college.
 - Educated them about what colleges are looking for in applicants.
- By now your child should have generated a list of colleges.
 - List should include:
 - Academic reach, target and safety colleges.
 - At least 1 or 2 financially safe schools.



What if My Child Doesn't Know Where They Want to Apply?

- Encourage your child to attend our extra help sessions in the library on Monday and Tuesdays 2:00-2:30.
- Have your child make an appointment with Mrs. Merry, our College and Career counselor located in the guidance office.
- Attend upcoming college fairs (*see flyer*)



My Child's College List is Established...

In addition to establishing their college list, your child should have completed some *'guidance homework'* at the end of last school year.

- Requested letters of recommendation from 2 academic teachers and provided them with a filled out 'Teacher Letter of Recommendation' form.
- Submit Counselor Letter of Recommendation Form.
- Taken the SAT/ACT at least once. **School Day SAT Test: Tuesday Oct 7th**
- Started a rough draft of their college essay.

October and November are College Application Months

- Once your child has completed the list of to dos from last spring, then they are ready to fill out the actual college application.
- We suggest that students aim to complete college applications by Thanksgiving.
- The application itself is fairly straightforward, it's really the planning leading up to it that's the most time consuming.



Check in With Teachers

- Students should be checking in with their teachers now, regarding the letters they requested last year.
- The conversation should be as simple as:

“I am following up with you regarding the letter of recommendation I asked for last year. I want to make sure you have everything you need from me to write my letter.. P.S...thank you!”

- Students do not get copies of those letters. The letters are uploaded to School Links. Students can see that they were uploaded but they cannot read the letters.
- Students should let their teachers know if they are applying to a college that has an early deadline.

Let's Review Application Deadlines

- Submitting all college applications by Thanksgiving is a general suggestion (*unless your child is applying through an early admissions option*).
- Your child needs to know the application deadline for each college they apply to.
- Application deadlines can be found on the college website, School Links, and the Common Application.



Early Admissions Options: What Are They & Why Are They Helpful?

What Are They?

- Some colleges offer an option for students to apply early (*before their regular decision deadline*).
- Common early deadlines are October 15th, November 1st, and November 15th.

Benefits of Applying Early

- Receive admissions results sooner, find out about financial aid opportunities earlier.
- Some monies awarded by some colleges are first come, first serve.
- Applying early *can* help increase your child's chances of getting accepted because it suggests interest in the college.

Early Action VS Early Decision

Early Action

- Can apply as an early action applicant to more than one college.
- Not binding and you have time to review financial aid offers before making a decision.
- Applying with a smaller pool of applicants and suggests an eagerness to apply which can help an application.

Early Decision

- A BINDING AGREEMENT with ONE college.
- Can only apply to ONE school as an ED applicant.
- No chance to compare financial aid offers.
- Indicates a very strong interest in the college and can help an on the cusp applicant get in.
- Early decision applicants should have done an in person tour of the campus and know they can afford the cost of attendance prior to any financial aid offers.

Other Admission Options

Regular Decision

- The application must be submitted no later than deadline set by college, common dates are January 1 and January 15.
- Admissions results are not available until several weeks after those dates.
- Financial aid packages are not available until sometime in the late winter early spring.

Rolling Admissions

- Some colleges don't have a set deadline.
- Applications are accepted until college meets capacity.
- Apply when you wish, but it is suggested you apply as early as possible.
- Applications are reviewed as they come in and admissions results are released a few weeks later.

Types of Applications

- The Common Application
 - The majority of colleges will accept applications through the Common Application.
 - Allows applicants to apply to several colleges using one general application.
- The CUNY Application
 - The application for public colleges in NYC.
 - Most students completing the CUNY application will also need to complete the Common Application and/or a school specific application.
- School Specific Application
 - Some colleges are not on the Common Application and require applicants to complete a separate application for their school. Applications can typically be found on the college website.

The Common Application

www.commonapp.org



Dashboard

My Colleges

Common App

College Search

Financial Aid

Dashboard


Application Requirements

Sort my colleges by: College Name ▾



Adelphi University

[Add your term or admission plan](#)

 Application – *In progress*



Show more details ^



St. Joseph's University, New York - Long Island Campus

[Add your term or admission plan](#)



The College Essay

- The college essay gives applicants an opportunity to reveal their best qualities and show the admissions committee what makes them stand out.
- The essay topic can be on anything, however it's important to remember its purpose.
- Well written college essays are authentic, focused on deeper themes, and written with the reader in mind.

Helpful Tips:

- Have your child read their essay out loud.
- Ask others to read the essay (parents, teachers, counselors).
- Pay attention to form, max word count is 650.

Matching Common Application to SchoolLinks

- SchoolLinks is new this year
- Students using the Common App will need to link their Common App to SchoolLinks.
- Counselors use SchoolLinks to send transcript and letters of recommendation to the colleges.
- In order for counselors to submit these items, the two accounts must be linked.
- Step by step instructions on how to link accounts can be found on the hand out labeled, “Matching Common App to SchoolLinks”

Application Fees and Fee Waivers

- Colleges charge a fee to apply. Every college is different but \$50 is a common fee.
- The fees add up. \$50 per college application x 10 applications = \$500
- The Common Application offers a fee waiver, if your family meets certain criteria. Criteria can be found under-> *The Common App Tab-> Profile-> Common App Fee Waiver*)
- Many colleges offer fee waiver codes for visiting the campus, attending an informational session, or attending an onsite admissions event, just ask!
- SUNY Free Application Weeks.




SUNY/CUNY Free Application Weeks

- ❖ SUNY Free Application Weeks:
 - Oct 20th- Nov. 3rd ONLY!
 - Apply to up to 5 SUNY Schools for free (that's \$250 in savings!)
 - Apply to SCCC for free (that's \$45 in savings!)
 - Apply to NCC for free (that's \$55 in savings!)
- ❖ CUNY Free Application Weeks:
 - Nov 10th-21st

Communicate Submissions With Us

- In order for an application to be considered complete, your child's counselor needs to send their transcript and letters of recommendation to the college.
- Colleges do not communicate with counselors about a student's application status.
- The only way for us to know that a student applied to a college is by communicating that with us.
- Students must fill out a google doc called the **Pink Sheet**, which can be found in the Guidance Google Classroom *under Classwork*.
- Students must complete 1 **Pink Sheet** for every college they apply to.
 - 10 college applications=10 completed pink sheets

[The Pink Sheet](#)



Pink Sheet - College Application Processing Form

Please use this form to inform your counselor that you have applied to colleges and need your college application materials to be sent to the school! **You MUST complete this form in order for your counselor to send your transcript, letters of rec and other materials.** College materials will not be sent without the completion of this form and parent acknowledgement sent.

Please allow at least 10 days for the school to process your request. Please see the deadlines below and make sure you submit this form in enough time.

Please complete this form for **EACH** college you applied to - so fill it out 5 times if you are applying to 5 different schools.

bensalata@southcountry.org [Switch account](#)

Not shared

* Indicates required question

Sending SAT/ACT Scores

- SAT/ACT scores are sent by the applicant to the the colleges through the test websites:
 - SAT: www.collegeboard.org
 - ACT: www.act.org
- Test scores must be sent if:
 - The college requires them.
 - The specific major that your child is applying to requires them.
- Superscoring:
 - The college uses the best section-level scores, even if they are from different test dates.
- **Test Optional Colleges:** **More than 80% of colleges will remain test optional for the Fall 2025 admissions. All SUNY and CUNY colleges remain test optional.*
 - Colleges will review scores if you send them, but they are not required.
 - Send scores if they are a good indicator of ability and they fall within range of average test scores of admitted students.

Athletes

- Athletes looking to play collegiate sports at the Division I or Division II level must create an account on NCAA's Eligibility Center website:
 - www.eligibilitycenter.org -> Register-> Option 3: Academic and amateurism certification account.
- The NCAA Eligibility Center certifies whether prospective college athletes are eligible to play sports at NCAA DI or DII institutions. It reviews the student-athlete's academic record and amateur status to ensure conformity with NCAA rules.
- Fee waivers available for those who qualify:
 - Create account first
 - In account, select *fee waiver*
- Accounts are NOT required for Division III colleges.

Guidance Classroom Class of 2026

- The classroom is a great resource, we announce all things related to post graduation planning:
 - Scholarship opportunities
 - College visits
 - College Fairs
 - Onsite Admission Days
- The classroom has all the BHS forms needed to complete applications:
 - Pink Sheet
 - Teacher and Letter Request forms

Stream

Classwork

People

Grades



Scheduling 2023-2024 Information

Posted Nov 23, 2022



College Planning



COLLEGE AND CAREER PLANNING GUIDE

Edited Feb 26



Pink Sheet - College Application Process...

Posted Dec 13, 2024



Pink Sheet - College App...
<https://docs.google.com/forms>

[View material](#)



Request for Teacher Letter of Recommen...

Posted Dec 13, 2024



Request for Counselor Letter of Recomm...

Posted Dec 13, 2024



CHECKLIST College and Career Planning ...

Posted Dec 13, 2024



BELLPORT SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
ON SITE
COLLEGE ADMISSION EVENTS



**SENIORS CAN SIGN UP TO MEET WITH LOCAL COLLEGE
ADMISSION REPRESENTATIVES AND RECEIVE AN
ON THE SPOT APPLICATION DECISION!**

*THE
REGISTRATION
FORM CAN ALSO
BE FOUND IN
THE
CLASS OF 2026
GUIDANCE
GOOGLE
CLASSROOM*

MEET WITH:

SUNY Oneonta: November 13th
SUNY Old Westbury: November 17th
Long Island University: November 19th
St. Joseph's University: November 20th
SUNY Delhi: December 3rd
SUNY Farmingdale: December 5th
Suffolk County Community College: December 9th



**SCAN OR
CLICK HERE
TO REGISTER
*YOU MUST BE LOGGED
IN ON YOUR SCHOOL
ACCOUNT**



Financial Aid

LOANS

- GOVERNMENT FUNDED OR PRIVATELY FUNDED
- REQUIRED TO BE PAID BACK

GRANTS

- FREE MONEY
- INCOME BASED
- GOVERNMENT FUNDED
- NO SEPARATE APPLICATION REQUIRED
- DON'T HAVE TO BE PAID BACK

SCHOLARSHIPS

- FREE MONEY
- MERIT OR CRITERIA BASED
- APPLICATION REQUIRED
- FUNDED THROUGH ORGANIZATIONS, SMALL BUSINESSES, OR INDIVIDUALS
- DON'T HAVE TO BE PAID BACK

WORK-STUDY

- WORKING PART TIME TO PAY TOWARD TUITION & OTHER EXPENSES



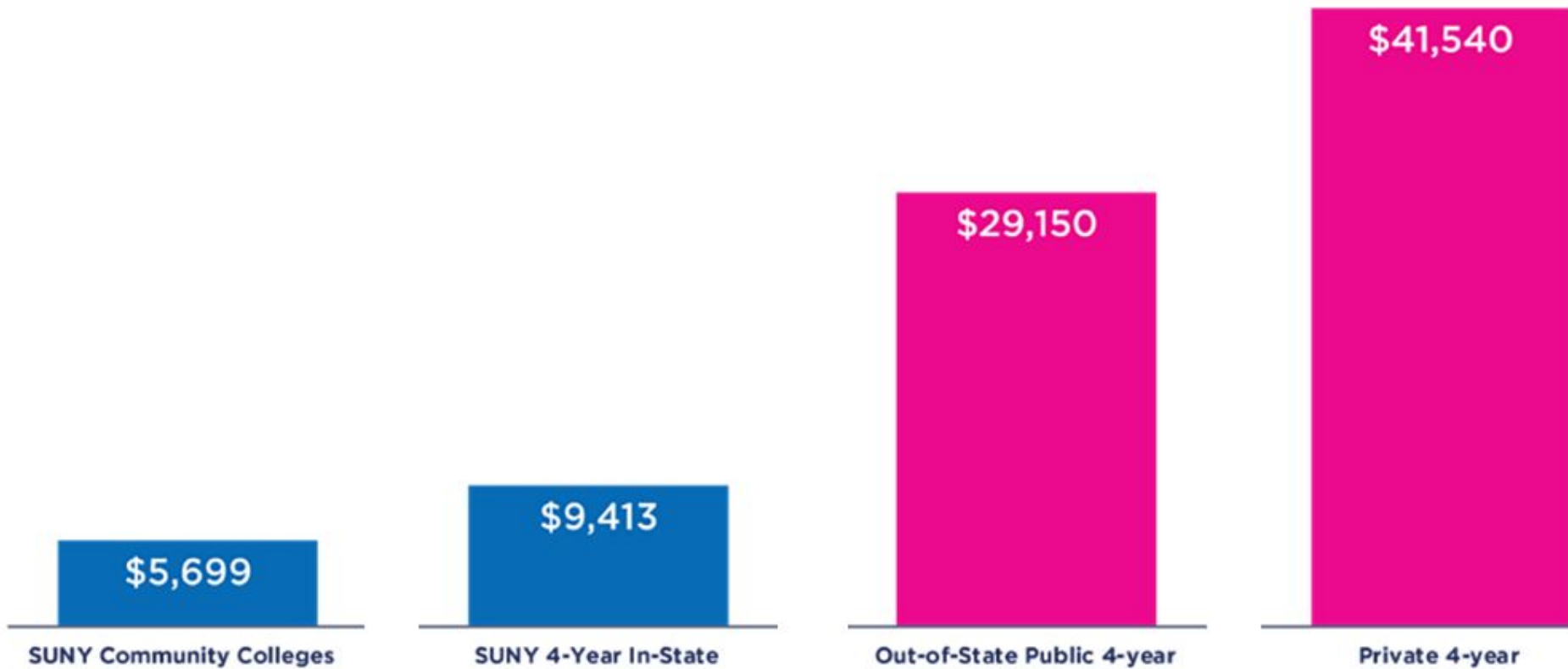
FAFSA COMPLETION REQUIRED FOR ALL

Financial Aid Applications

Financial Aid Night @ BHS: Thurs. November 13th 7PM

- FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
 - Must be completed by all students.
 - Expected to open around October 1st.
 - Parents will need to assist their child in completing their application.
 - Student and 1 parent will need to create an FSA ID.
 - Student will indicate the colleges they are applying to directly on the FAFSA, that information is then sent to each college.
- TAP (Tuition Assistance Program)
 - NYS residents applying to colleges in New York should apply.
 - Application must be completed after the completion of the FAFSA.
- CSS Profile
 - Only certain select private colleges may require the CSS profile to determine need based aid.

TUITION & FEES
(Enrollment Weighted)



State-Operated Campuses Baccalaureate Degree Programs

State-operated campuses include University Centers, University Colleges and Technology Colleges.

		New York State Residents		Out-of-State Residents ¹
		Living on Campus	Commuter	Living on Campus
Direct Costs ²				
	Tuition ³	\$7,070	\$7,070	\$17,610 ⁴
	Student Fees ⁵	\$1,830	\$1,830	\$1,830
	Housing and Food	\$16,340	\$4,680	\$16,340
	TOTAL DIRECT COSTS	\$25,240	\$13,580	\$35,780

Finding Scholarships

- Join the **Guidance Class of 2026 Google Classroom**
- Visit college websites for school specific scholarships
- Use College Board's online scholarship search
- Complete the **Local Scholarship for Seniors Application** online in January 2026

Full Tuition Scholarships (*some highlights in NY state*)

Applications open end of senior year

NYS Excelsior Scholarship - Students from families earning \$125,000 or less can attend a state-operated SUNY or CUNY college tuition free!

NYS DREAM Act - Provides undocumented students with access to the Excelsior Scholarship, the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) and other state-administered scholarships including Opportunity Programs

NYS STEM Scholarship - Top 10% of the class who attend SUNY or CUNY and are pursuing a degree in a STEM field

Due 11/17/25
6pm

CUNY Macaulay - High achieving students attending a CUNY

Preparing for Their Senior Planning Conference

- ❑ Follow up with teachers regarding the request for a letter of recommendation.
- ❑ If not done, submit the *Counselor Letter of Recommendation* form.
- ❑ Finalize college list.
- ❑ Identify college deadlines and decide if applying early.
- ❑ Take last standardized tests **Tuesday, October 7th College Board testing day.*
- ❑ Continue to work on college essay.
- ❑ Create an account on the Common Application. www.commonapp.org
- ❑ Sign up for upcoming virtual college visits!

Options Other Than 4 Year College

- 2 Year Colleges- Community College, Associate Degree Programs:
 - Suffolk Community College and Nassau Community College are great options for LI students.
 - Many students can attend Suffolk Community College for free through NYS Excelsior Scholarship.
 - College students can earn an Associates Degree and then transfer to a 4 year college for their Bachelors.
- Trade School/Vocational Programs:
 - Programs are focused on the training and skills required for a specific career
 - Popular trade programs include: Carpentry, HVAC, Electrical, Barber/Hairdresser, Esthetician, Mechanic, Medical Assistant, Plumber, Veterinarian Tech, Welder
- Military
 - Interested students should connect with a recruiter, recruiters visit the HS throughout the year.
 - Will need to take the ASVAB exam.
 - Financial incentives, educational opportunities, travel opportunities, full or part time options.

What if My Child Doesn't Know What They Want

- Rather than them leaving BHS with no plan, consider talking to them about attending Community College to earn an Associates Degree:
 - Suffolk Community College and Nassau Community College are great options for Long Island students.
 - By attending a community college (even if it's only part time) students are working towards *something...* in 2030 they will be glad they did it.
 - Many students can attend Suffolk Community College for free through NYS Excelsior Scholarship.

Stay Connected With Us

- ❖ Visit the Guidance Class of 2026 Google Classroom frequently for updates.
 - Code: ox5e5ax
- ❖ Check us out on Instagram @Bellportguidance.
- ❖ Also be sure to check out Parentsquare and Studentsquare



Questions

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