

# College Applications 101 & Post HS Planning Resources

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FALL 2025

# Overview

Topics covered in this presentation:

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Welcome to your senior year at Issaquah High! In this presentation we are going to discuss the specifics of the college application process to help guide you through your senior year.

Congratulations on your hard work and we look forward to helping you in the next few months!

- IHS Counselors



Transcripts: Parchment



Application Types, Timelines, & Components



College & Career Center + Other Resources



LOTS of options for your personal post-high plan. This presentation focuses on 2 & 4 year colleges but don't forget about: military, apprenticeship, gap year, volunteering, meaningful employment!

# Issaquah High Counseling Team

(located on 2nd floor above main office)

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**EVERY STUDENT WILL NEED TO ACCESS A TRANSCRIPT AT SOME POINT**

# Transcripts = Parchment



Issaquah High School uses a transcript service called Parchment for ALL transcript requests.

Make an account through Parchment.com ([instructions on Counseling website](#))--See Ms. Lipsen to receive your account code if you have not set up Parchment already.

Order an **UNOFFICIAL** self-view of your current transcript. Ms. Lipsen releases every transcript request so please note this does not happen instantly.



This is your final chance to **review** your transcript to ensure it is correct. Check for middle school grades, summer courses, grade bumps, etc. If there are any errors or questions, work with your counselor to address.

Order your transcript! In most cases you will order directly to Common Application (it will go to all colleges on your Common App)

*First 5 **official** transcripts are free. \$5.25 per additional.*



# Application Types

**Four Year Schools:** Schools may use one or more of the following:

- Common Application
- Scoir/Coalition Application
- Slate
- School specific application – e.g. MIT, Georgetown, CWU
- “System” specific application – e.g. University of California
- QuestBridge

**Two Year Schools:** Online admission application

- Individual school application (go to each school’s website)
- One application for Community & Technical Colleges – WA State Board (example)

# Admission Terms



**Rolling Admissions:** Colleges evaluate applications as they are received versus waiting to evaluate at a set deadline

**Early Action:** Students receive an early response to their application but do not have to commit to the college early

**Early Decision 1 & 2:** Students receive an early response to their application and are in a binding agreement (must attend that college) - **notify your counselor if you are applying ED**, we have to sign off on this as well

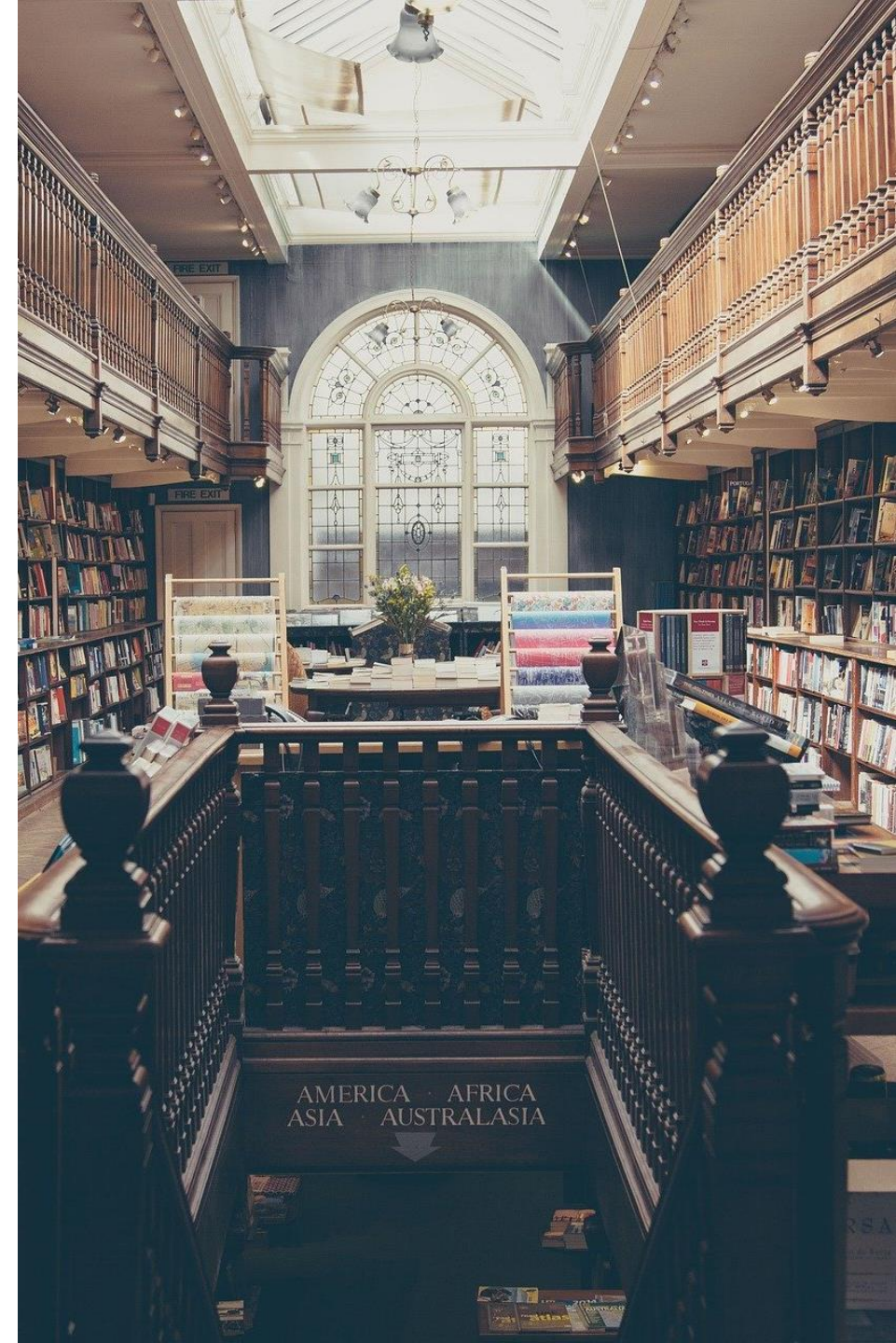
**Pooling Admissions:** Colleges evaluate applications in a “pool”. No applications are reviewed until the deadline. Example: UW

**Deferred Admissions:** A second chance at admissions, rather than rejecting students being deferred means you will be reviewed again at a different time

# Application Process & Components: 4-Year Colleges

*Really 'know' the schools you are applying to - from deadlines to areas of study, housing, and culture. Do your research!*

- **Data entry:** basic information, extracurriculars, activities, work experience, and in some cases, self-reporting your academics
- **Transcripts:** Order your transcript(s) on Parchment - one for EACH school if NOT on Common App (*or send to Common Application to cover multiple schools on that portal*).
- **Test Scores (AP, ACT, SAT):** Many schools accept self-reports during the application process, but some want official copies. Follow your college's application steps and if necessary, order scores directly from College Board or ACT.
- **Personal Statement/Essays:** Do your homework on school specific essays in particular!
- **School Profile/School Report:** Your counselor will upload this
- **Letters of Recommendation:** Not required at most public 4-year colleges. If required (ONLY), submit the Letter of Rec form for your counselor online – min. 2 week notice required
- **Financial:** FAFSA/WASFA and possibly CSS Profile



# Common Questions & Tips

Students can work with their School Counselor and/or the College & Career Center team prior to Senior year to begin planning for college. During your Senior year, you will work closely with your Counselor for many components of the application process. Here are resources for the most commonly asked questions.

## — Application Components

- **Transcript Requests**
  - Students applying through Common Application **MUST** order their transcript directly to Common App
- **Letters of Recommendation** (need a Counselor Letter - fill out the form found on this page)
- **IHS School Profile**
- **School Report** - Counselors submit a school report (primarily for schools on the Common Application) to confirm your good standing and *do not need additional information from you.*
- Class of 2026 size: **640** Students
- **GPA** - listed on your transcript. WA State uses **UNWEIGHTED** GPAs. ISD **does NOT RANK** students.

### Common App support resources

- **How to order transcript to Common App** - visual
- **How to assign a recommender in Common App** - video
- **How to assign a recommender in Common App** - visual
- **How to add Courses and Grades in Common App** - video
- **How to add Courses and Grades** - visual

Add your counselor by email (this is required for any school documents, including Counselor letter of recommendation, to be sent). You can find your counselor's name on the **Contact Us** page.

<https://issaquahhigh.isd411.org/student-life/counseling/college-career>



Contact Us

College and Post-High School Planning

Course Guide

Course Request Process

Forms

Resource Directory

Running Start

Seniors & Graduation Info

Transcript Requests

# Essay Writing Strategies

Resume demonstrates your activities, essay demonstrates your **VALUES**

For school specific statements, **research the school** - what are their values and priorities and how do you fit within them?

Although it's uncomfortable, talk about yourself – this is not a time to talk about your observations of a family member, etc.

Use your authentic voice - it's good to have someone proofread, but it should sound like YOU (not a professional essay writer or chatGPT).

Make sure you are answering the question

Focus on small moments and outcomes, outcomes, outcomes

Favorite source of examples – Johns Hopkins "Essays that Work"



# Next Steps & Who Does What

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## Student

## School Counselor

- Set up Parchment & review your unofficial transcript
- Common Application (or other application)
  - Create your account
  - Waive FERPA rights (this allows Counselor to send info on your behalf)
  - Invite your school counselor as 'Counselor' (not as 'Advisor')
  - Communicate your earliest deadline (it's great to see/talk with your counselor!)
  - If a Counselor Letter is required – fill out the Letter of Rec form online (2 weeks notice!)
  - **Order your transcript to Common Application** or directly to any schools NOT on Common App
  - Tell your counselor if you are applying Early Decision or need a Fee waiver
- Apply for FAFSA, WASFA and possibly CSS Profile
- End of Year - **STUDENT is responsible for ordering a final transcript** to your school of choice (planting that seed now!)

- Available to meet with students to help with college or application questions, understand deadlines, review transcripts, etc.
- Submits School Report & School Profile for every student on Common Application
- Will sign Early Decision agreements or Fee Waivers after meeting with student
- Write and send letters of recommendation if required by college (2 week notice and information needed from student)
- Sends mid-year reports by February 14th – no action required by student

# College Application Work Time with counselor support

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Every Wed/FLEX in October – Room 2103

Sign up in Student Support Time

Look for Ms. Auffant's name

# Accessing your Counselor

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## IHS Counselors

- Hilde Tzemos: Last Names: A – Chen
  - [Email](#)
- Emily Combellick: Last Names Cheo-Gal
  - [Email](#)
- Rachel Auffant; Last Names: Gam-J
  - [Email](#)
- Maegan Pedersen; Last Names: K-Mb
  - [Email](#)
- Melanie Bonanno; Last Names: Mc-P
  - [Email](#)
- Nadine Leach; Last Names: Q-St
  - [Email](#)
- Steven Park: Last Names: Su-Z
  - [Email](#)

**Students** can make appointments using the QR code posted here.  
**Parents & Caregivers:** please email your students' counselor to make an appointment.

<https://issaquahhigh.isd411.org/student-life/counseling/contact-us>

# We are here to help!

We would love to meet with you to help you with the application process, research options, etc.

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Drop in before school, during lunch, or after school with quick questions! Or use our Calendly links to schedule an appointment.

Website: <https://issaquahhigh.isd411.org/student-life/counseling>

# Paying for College

## FAFSA/WASFA

### FAFSA

- The Free Application for Federal Student Aid. An online application to determine your eligibility for financial aid.
- Before each year of college (or technical or trade school) you use this form to apply for federal grants, work-study and low-interest loans
- Your college uses your FAFSA data to award their own aid

#### Key FAFSA info to remember

- OPENS OCTOBER 1ST. The earlier you fill it out the greater chance you have of receiving grants.
- You and your parent will each need to create an FSA ID before the FAFSA opens. The process can take 4-5 days. You and your parents will log in separately and answer questions in your own section.
- List ALL of the schools you are considering applying to, even if you haven't started the application
- Types of Financial Aid:
  - o **FREE MONEY** Grants and scholarships are usually based on financial need and don't have to be repaid.
  - o **BORROWED MONEY** Low interest loans that must be paid back. Remember it's an investment in your future.
  - o **EARNED MONEY** A work-study job at your institution that allows you to earn money while you're in school.

[Click here to learn more about FAFSA](#)

### WASFA

- The Washington Application for State Financial Aid is designed for students who are ineligible for federal financial aid due to:
  - Citizenship or immigration status
  - Parents do not file federal income taxes.
  - Other personal reasons

#### Key WASFA info to remember

- OPENS OCTOBER 1ST. The earlier you fill it out the greater chance you have of receiving grants.
- **SS** Must be filled out every year and student must maintain Washington state residency

[Click here to learn more about WASFA](#)

# Tools for Finding Your Way

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XELLO, BIG FUTURE, COLLEGE & CAREER CENTER

# Tools for Exploring Your Options

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Lots of great resources to help narrow down the options if you are unsure where to begin!



## Xello

Skills Assessment, Career Matchmaker



## ASVAB

Free, timed, multi-aptitude test that provides insight into current and future academic skills and strengths

Offered by IHS at least once during the year.



## Big Future: College Board

Lots of tools for comparing colleges, majors, careers, etc.



## College & Career Center

There is a wealth of information, quick links, calendars, and more!

# College & Career Center (CCC)

**LOCATED IN THE LIBRARY!**



Lindsay  
Eberhardt



Jenny Wang

## How can they assist?

- Post High School Planning
  - College Process: helping to narrow down lists, review essays, help with application questions
  - College Rep & Military Visits: huge calendar of rep visits are already set up!
  - Exploration of other pathways after high school
  - Career Exploration Events and Field trips
- Dual Credit Programs
  - WANIC Program
  - CTE Dual Credit

### Scholarships

- Deadlines occur all year long
- Scholarships available for IHS students
- Scholarships that are school-specific
- Check out the [IHS College & Career Website](#) for more information/if you need help knowing where to begin.

### Contact Us

#### Email:

[ihscollegeandcareer@issaquah.wednet.edu](mailto:ihscollegeandcareer@issaquah.wednet.edu)

#### Make an appointment:

<https://calendly.com/ihscollegeandcareer/30min-st?month=2024-09>

# RESOURCES!

## College Planning

Planning

Create a College List

Apply to College

College Essays

Paying for College

Scholarship Calendar

## Gain Experience

Student Opportunities

Internship

Volunteering



16	17	18
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Washington University St. Louis Admissions Rep Visit-1st Lunch</li> <li>🕒 11:30 AM - 12:05 PM</li> <li>IHS College &amp; Career Center</li> <li>● Western Washington University Admissions Rep Visit- 1st Lunch</li> <li>🕒 11:30 AM - 12:05 PM</li> <li>IHS College &amp; Career Center</li> <li>● University of Minnesota Twin Cities Admissions Rep Visit- 2nd Lunch</li> <li>🕒 10:55 PM</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Dartmouth College Admissions Rep Visit- 1st Lunch</li> <li>🕒 10:40 AM - 11:15 AM</li> <li>IHS College &amp; Career Center</li> <li>● WSU Instant Admission Day</li> <li>🕒 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM</li> <li>IHS College &amp; Career Center</li> </ul>

COLLEGE & CAREER CENTER  
PRESENTS

# COLLEGE CON 2025

6 PM to 8 PM

**College Fair with Over 50  
College and University  
Admissions  
Representatives**

6:15 PM to 7 PM

**How to Build Your Activities List**

University of Illinois Admission Counselor, Ryan Bottimore, will give a step by step presentation on how to maximize the potential of your activities list

7:15 PM to 8 PM

**Writing Your Personal Essay**

University of Oregon Admissions Counselor, Amanda Chappell will offer guidance and insight from the reader's point of view on creating an outstanding personal statement for your applications.

**September 30th**

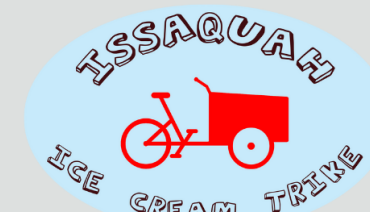
6:00 - 8:00 PM  
in the Issaquah High  
School Commons

700 2nd Ave SE  
Issaquah, WA 98027

**OPEN TO ALL  
ISD HIGH SCHOOL  
STUDENTS!**



@ihscollegeandcareer



Coming Up –  
September  
30th