

Junior College Kickoff

Presented by the MLHS Counseling Team

Tonight's Agenda

- Scoir overview
- Researching colleges
- Recommendations
- Outlining the application process
- Standardized testing
- Financial aid & scholarships
- Tips & resources



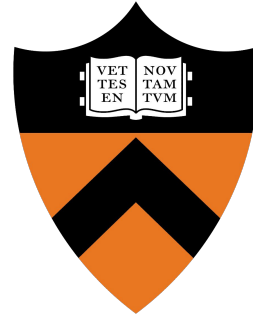
- ✓ Provide a roadmap for the next year & help families gain a better understanding of what to expect

STATE OF COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

- Application Volume is STILL climbing
 - Early 2025-26 data shows Common App volume up 10% through November 1
- Demand is outweighing supply
- “Test-optional” is still common, but the most selective schools are actively bringing testing back.
- What colleges value hasn’t changed: National Association for College Admission Counseling’s most recent national findings for four-year colleges show the top factors remain grades in high school courses and strength of curriculum.

RECENT ACCEPTANCES

- Boston College
- Boston University
- Bucknell University
- Clemson University
- Cornell University
- Lehigh University
- Northeastern University
- Northwestern University
- Princeton University
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- The College of New Jersey
- University of Richmond
- University of Virginia



SCOIR


What is Scoir & Scoir Tools

- Complete a college search
 - “Discover” > “Colleges” search schools by location, cost, size, and more to find your best fit
- Compare colleges
- View scattergrams
- See acceptance history
- College Posts #Topic Feature, including **Upcoming College Events** and **College Summer Programs**
- Track deadlines
- Take career inventories
- Develop a prospective & final college list
- View upcoming college visits
- Integrate with the Common App
- Request letters of recommendation
- Complete Brag Sheets


Researching Colleges

- Scoir College Search
- [Princeton Review](#)
- [College Board's Big Future](#)
- [Collegedata](#)
- **Individual College Websites:** sign up for tours & information sessions, virtual tours, webinars, and student panels
- In Scoir under **Discover** > **Events** = information sessions and more! & under **Discover** > **Posts** > **#VirtualTours**
- [Go See Campus](#)
- College Fairs: MLHS fair on 3/25/26 from 7-9pm
- In the Fall: Rep Visits & College Fair



Colleges I'm Following

- To add colleges to this list, click the  button
- This is a good way to keep track of schools you're interested in
 - Lets your counselor know what colleges you are considering, allows colleges to send you information about the school, and Scoir will suggest other schools that relate to the ones that you are following
 - Students, parents, and counselors can add colleges to this list
- Will eventually move schools to the “Applying” List

Selective

 Penn State University (University Park)
University Park, PA • 4-Year • Public • City

Admission Rate	Average SAT / ACT	Undergraduate Students
55%	1300 / 26	41,475

Recommendations

- Ask before the end of the school year - in-person
- Most students request 2 teacher recommendations
 - Core academic subjects: English, Math, Science, Social Studies, Foreign Language
 - See individual college requirements
- Teacher Brag Sheet
- Counselor Brag Sheet
- Parent Brag Sheet
- How to request recommenders (your counselor will go over this again with you during your Junior Conference)



Brag Sheets

Home Screen > Assignments, here you will see your Brag Sheets

SCOIR

Search for colleges



Home



Discover



My Colleges



Inbox

S

Me



Apply with Scoir

Good Evening, Sample

3 Assignments

Show archived



Counselor Brag Sheet Sample



Due in 240 days

Sample for counselors to show students



Go to Form



Mark as Complete



Teacher Brag Sheet #2



Due in 240 days



Teacher Brag Sheet #1



My Colleges

My Matches



Get mail from the colleges you like
Follow colleges to get messages
without sharing personal info.

Deadlines & Registered Visits



No upcoming events

Students in Scoir

- How to Sign in?
 - We will be registering your accounts tomorrow and you will be able to log in through Clever
- Click on the Scoir Icon and you will automatically be logged in (if you have any issues with this please see your School Counselor)
- You will be receiving an email with a **“Getting Started as a Student”** guide

Getting Started as a Student

Table of Contents

- 3 Register Your Account
- 4 Watch the Overview Video
- 5 Build Your Profile
- 6 Discover Colleges
- 7 Explore #Posts
- 8 Explore Events and Programs
- 9 Build Your List
- 10 Student College List and Application Process Management
- 11 Discover Careers
- 13 Download the Mobile App

Parents in Scoir

- How to Sign in?

You will be receiving a Welcome email with instructions on how to set up your account. (Please reach out to your child's School Counselor if you have any questions)

- This email will also include resources such as a **“Getting Started”** guide and more!

Getting Started as a Parent/Guardian

Table of Contents

3 What is Scoir

4 Creating Your Account

5 Your Student's Account

6 Your Student's Document Requests

7 Searching for and Suggesting Colleges to Your Student

10 Financial Information and Estimates

11 Messaging and Surveys

Creating a Balanced List

LIKELY

(2-3)

TARGET

(3-5)

REACH

(3)

Focus on the FIT

“We encourage you to look beyond the rankings, name-recognition and ‘prestige’ of a college. Selectivity is not the only marker of a ‘good’ school. A ‘good’ school will be different for every student: think about who you are and the kind of environment where you will thrive. It’s about finding the best fit!”

-Lincoln-Sudbury Regional HS Guidance Office

THE APPLICATION

How to Apply

- Apply through the Common Application (www.commonapp.org) whenever possible
- Institutional Specific Application



Application Components

- Student and Demographic Data
- Academic Information
- Extracurricular Activities/Honors/Awards
- Essay(s)/Supplements
- Electronic Signature & Payment
- Self-report or Send Test Scores (AP, SAT, ACT, etc.) (when required)
- STARS-(Self-Reported Transcript and Academic Record System) (when required)
 - [STARS](#) *Remember that you must go to a separate website*

Students submit their applications once completed (do not wait for counselor/teacher submission)

Next Steps in the Application Process

- Fall 2026 –Sign Authorization/FERPA form in Scoir & Submit Transcript Request Form to counselor
- Match CA-Scoir accounts after CA FERPA waiver is electronically signed
 - [How to Match Accounts](#)
- Counselors submit the following documents via Scoir:
 - School Profile, Secondary School Report Form, Counselor Recommendation, Transcript
- Teachers submit recommendations via Scoir

MLHS Transcript Request Form

Student Name _____ Date _____

Counselor Name: _____

Please submit this form to your school counselor at least THREE WEEKS prior to your FIRST college deadline. Forms can be submitted via email or in person.

If My College Deadline Is:	Submit This Form To Your Counselor By:
October 15	September 24
November 1	October 11
November 15	October 25
December 1	November 11
December 15	November 22
January 1-15	December 9

Name of College	Application Deadline	Application Type (Circle one)	Common Application? (Circle One)
1.		ED EA RD	YES NO
2.		ED EA RD	YES NO
3.		ED EA RD	YES NO
4.		ED EA RD	YES NO
5.		ED EA RD	YES NO
6.		ED EA RD	YES NO
7.		ED EA RD	YES NO
8.		ED EA RD	YES NO
9.		ED EA RD	YES NO
10.		ED EA RD	YES NO

Please send your college applications out when you are ready. You do not need to wait for counselor/teacher documents to be submitted.

Student Responsibilities:

Please make sure that the following tasks are completed:

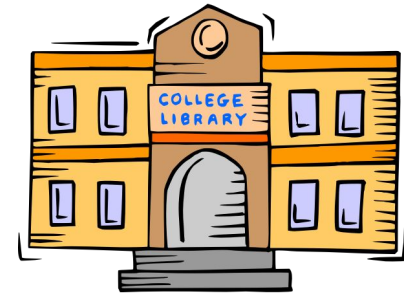
- Complete the permission to release school records (FERPA waiver)
- Request letters of recommendation from teachers in Naviance
- Make sure all colleges are listed in Naviance under "Colleges I'm Applying To"
- Send your standardized test scores to college/universities, if applicable
- Ensure Student Brag Sheet is completed in Naviance (for counselor)

What Matters Most in Admissions

- ****Grades**** (most important component)
- Strength of curriculum (rigor of courses you're taking)
- Test scores (if submitted)
- Essay (make sure it is authentic and triple check spelling/grammar)
- Recommendations
- Extracurricular Activities
- Interview (if offered)
- Demonstrated Interest (check to see if school tracks this)
- Major
- Fit
- Institutional Priorities

Finding Your Best Fit

- Majors offered
- Location
- Setting: urban, suburban, rural
- Type of school: public, private, religiously affiliated, single sex vs. coed
- Size of school
- Activities (Greek life, athletics)
- Curriculum (core curriculum vs. open curriculum)
- Class size
- Standardized Testing Policy



College Visits

- Start the process early
 - Do searches on Scoir
 - Visit local schools to get a feel (large, small, city, etc) for what you like
- Virtual tours
 - Via websites and Scoir
- In-person tours
 - Ask [questions](#)
 - Get student perspectives (MLHS alumni, family, friends)
 - Visit academic departments / reach out to professors
 - Have a meal in the dining hall
 - Explore the campus library and student center
 - Get financial aid information
 - Academic supports on campus
- Plan your visits
 - Online platforms to help with planning: myrouteonline or goseecampus
- Social Media
 - Explore campus media

Deadlines Defined

- **Early Action**-Early deadline that is non-binding
- **Restrictive Early Action or Single Choice Early Action**-REA is non-binding, but students may only apply to one private school with REA. They can't apply ED to other schools, but can usually apply EA to public schools
- **Early Decision I & II (Binding)**-If accepted, student is expected to attend
- **Priority**-Same as early action
- **Regular Decision**-Standard application deadline, generally December or later
- **Rolling Admission**-Apps are reviewed on a rolling basis until the class is full

Financial Aid & Scholarships

- MLHS hosts a financial aid evening presentation in the fall
- [FAFSA](#) (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)-Generally opens in October
 - Graduation requirement
- CSS Profile-Online application used by colleges and scholarship programs to award non-federal institutional aid
- Net Price Calculators-Found on the college's website
- Apply for outside scholarships - check MLHS website for opportunities
- Types of aid: Federal Student Aid (Grants, Loans or Work Study)
 - Grants: Financial aid that generally doesn't have to be repaid
 - Loans: Borrowed money for college or career school; your loans must be repaid with interest
 - Work-Study: A federal work program through which undergraduates and graduate students at participating schools earn money to help pay for school

Standardized Testing

- Colleges have no preference for one over the other (try both)!
- **SAT:** Evidence-Based Reading & Writing and Math
 - Scored on a scale of 400–1600
- **ACT:** English, Math, Reading, Science Reasoning (Science is optional)
 - Scored on a scale of 1–36
- MLHS School Day Testing – Registration will be sent out tomorrow!
 - SAT – March 10, 2026 and ACT – March 24, 2026
 - Register for exams EARLY (collegeboard.org or act.org)
 - It is not necessary to test more than 3 times
 - Students should still take SAT or ACT in case standardized testing is required for one of their colleges, a particular major, or for a scholarship
 - Understand your college’s testing policy
 - Test optional, test flexible etc. [Fairtest.org](https://fairtest.org) for a list of test-optional schools

What Should I Be Doing Now?

- Schedule Junior College Meeting with School Counselor
 - Parents can join by phone/zoom
- Prepare and register for SAT/ACT exams
- Research & visit colleges. Remember to add schools to “Colleges I’m Following” on Scoir
- Prior to the end of the year, we will send out our MLHS College Application Manual, including an application checklist, which will help you with your college application process



Tips & Resources

- **Start early** – the earlier you start (researching colleges, working on essays), the less stressful this process will be
- **Check your email** frequently
 - And use the same email address for all college stuff
- **Stay organized** and stay on top of deadlines
- **Work together as a family.** Identify a consistent, mutually agreed-upon time to talk about college: “if you isolate this time...you will help bolster family unity and ensure that your relationship does not unnecessarily narrow to a focus solely on college”



QUESTIONS?
