Post H.S. Planning

Class of 2027

Class of 2025

74% Attended a 4-Year College

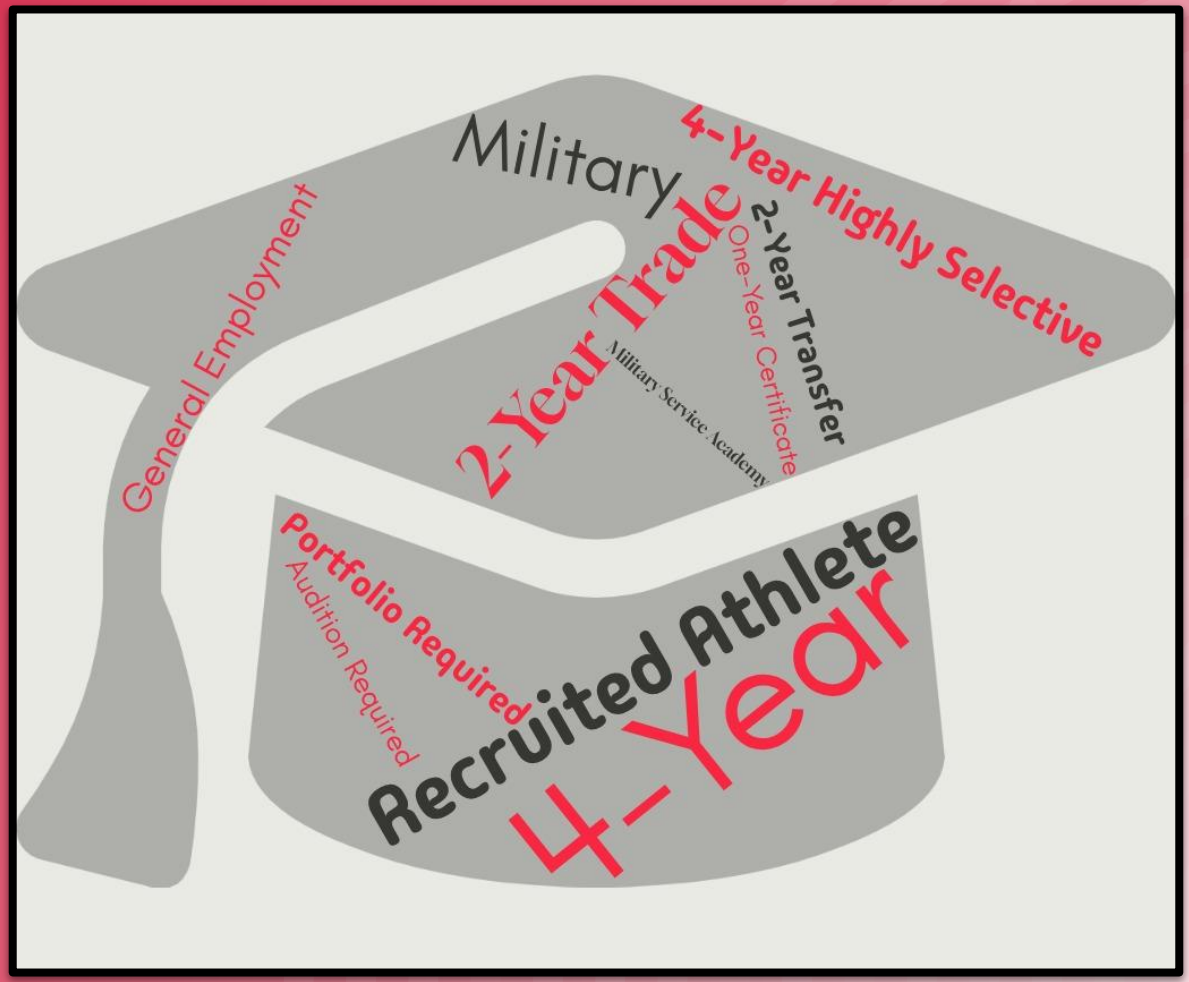
13% Attended a 2-Year College

7% Sought Employment

2% Other Post-secondary

1% Enlisted in the Military

Counselors want to help you plan for life after high school...whatever that is.


General Employment
Military
4-Year Highly Selective
2-Year Trade
2-Year Transfer
One-Year Certificate
Military Service Academy
Portfolio Required
Audition Required
Recruited Athlete
4-Year

“College” is not always what you think

- One-Year Certificate → Career
- Two-Year Degree →Career
- Two-Year Degree → Four-Year Degree → Career
- Two-Year Degree → Four-Year Degree → Graduate Degree →Career
- Four-Year Degree → Career
- Four-Year Degree → Graduate Degree → Career

Degree Terms

One-Year Degree	Certificate
Two-Year Degree	Associate's
Four-Year Degree	Bachelor's/Baccalaureate
Post-Graduate Degree	Master's Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
Professional Degree	Doctor of Medicine (MD) Juris Doctorate (JD) Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) Etc.

As you start this process,
keep in mind....

College admission is a match to be made, not a race to be won.

Noncompetitive Admission

- Two-Year college *is* Trade School
- One-Year Certificate Programs
- BOCES Workforce Development
- Northland Workforce Training Center

Competitive Admission

- The majority of schools accept the majority of students.
- Highly selective schools are far less common than you might think - they take up a disproportionate amount of the college conversation.
  - There is a place for everyone!

Factors in Admission

- GPA and the schedule you've taken is by FAR the most important factor.
- Possibly test scores.

↕ Large Gap ↕

- Extracurricular activities
- Essay
- Teacher Recommendations

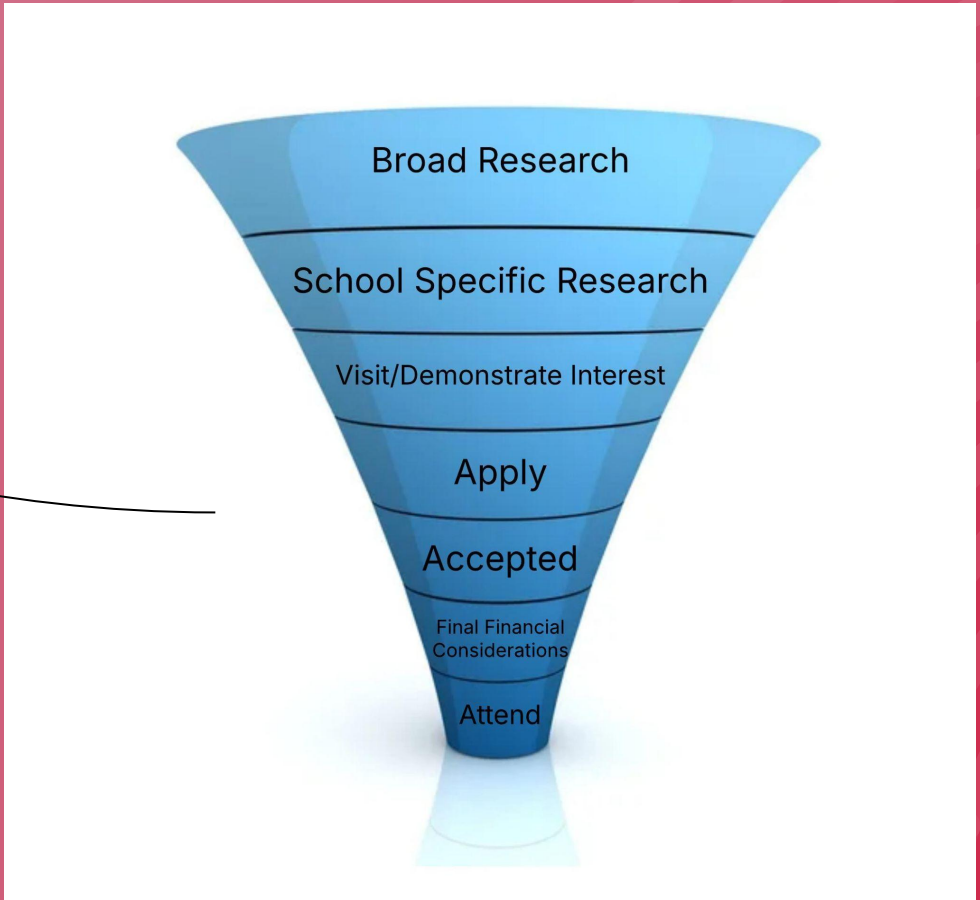
Testing

- Students considering a 4-Year college should take at least one standardized test.
- Most schools are test-optional.
  - If you don't like your scores, don't send them
- Some schools *require* tests - check the requirements on the college's website (most Ivies, MIT, Ohio St.).
- Colleges have no preference between the SAT or ACT.

Testing (continued)

- Test Schedule
  - SAT & ACT in the Spring.
  - Whichever test you preferred in the Fall.
- Superscoring
- Test Prep
  - Khan Academy
  - Private test prep - whichever fit your schedule and price range.
  - Not at the expense of your current classes.

So how's this whole thing work on my end?



Broad Research

- Use big criteria like size, location, and major to begin creating a list of what you *might* want.

- Tastes will evolve.
  - What you think you like/want at the start will change as you become more knowledgeable.

- Search databases like Naviance are a great resource.

School Specific Research

- Play the role of detective.
  - Find out as much as you can about the school through their website and social media.
- Look past the fancy drone shots of the campus.
  - What does the college value? Does it align with what you're looking for?
  - Read up on your potential major. Learn about their general education requirements.
- Take notes - if you're going to spend the time researching colleges try to stay organized so the information doesn't blend together.

Visit

- Easily the best way to learn about a school.
- Visit local schools (even if you're not initially interested in them) to get a sense of what you like, e.g. large, suburban, public, or small, rural, private.
- Sign up for an appointment in advance through the college's website.
- Use the admissions office and tours, but don't be afraid to get off the beaten path. Again, you're a detective.
- Again, take notes. Things can blend together after a few visits.
- **Come talk to the admissions representatives who visit the counseling office.**

Demonstrated Interest

Many schools (but not all!) rely heavily on something called “demonstrated interest” to make decisions on your application. Any contact you have with them is documented (email, social media, phonecall, visit). They can even tell if you open the emails they send you. If you’re truly interested in a school, you should have some digital breadcrumbs that signal your interest to them. You don’t need to go overboard interacting with them (more isn’t necessarily better), but you don’t want your application to be the only thing they see in your file.

Cost

- Probably the most important factor in where you'll go.
  - Unfortunately, you don't find out how much you'll pay until toward the end.
- Every college has a "Net Price Calculator". Use it to get an early snapshot of what you *might* pay.
- Talk with your parents early on about what they might be able or willing to contribute.

How can AI help?

- Like almost any task with AI, it can be a huge help. Use it as your assistant, but don't outsource the critical thinking.
  - Use it to review the previous six months of social media posts from a school - what themes stand out and what does the school value?
  - Use it to compare financial award letters once you're accepted.
- AI cannot and should not make decisions for you. There's no way it can know which college will be best for you, but it can help you be more informed.

What's next?

- College Planning Night - March 5th
- SAT @ CHS - March 14th (Sign up by 2/27)
- National College Fair - March 18th
- Skilled Trades Expo @ Depew HS - March (TBD)
- SAT @ CHS - May 2nd (Sign up by 4/14)
- Counselor Meeting - counselors will meet individually with juniors throughout the spring. We'll call you down, or you can make an appointment at your convenience. Feel free to see us as much as you need - we're here to help.

Good Luck!!!