

NAVIGATING THE COLLEGE

ADMISSION PROCESS

Kim Jordan, WLHS College and Career Center



IS COLLEGE FOR YOU?

There are many things to consider when you think about the pathway options after high school. Tonight we will be focused on the college process, but please know that this is only one potential path for you!



GETTING STARTED

EMAIL ADDRESS

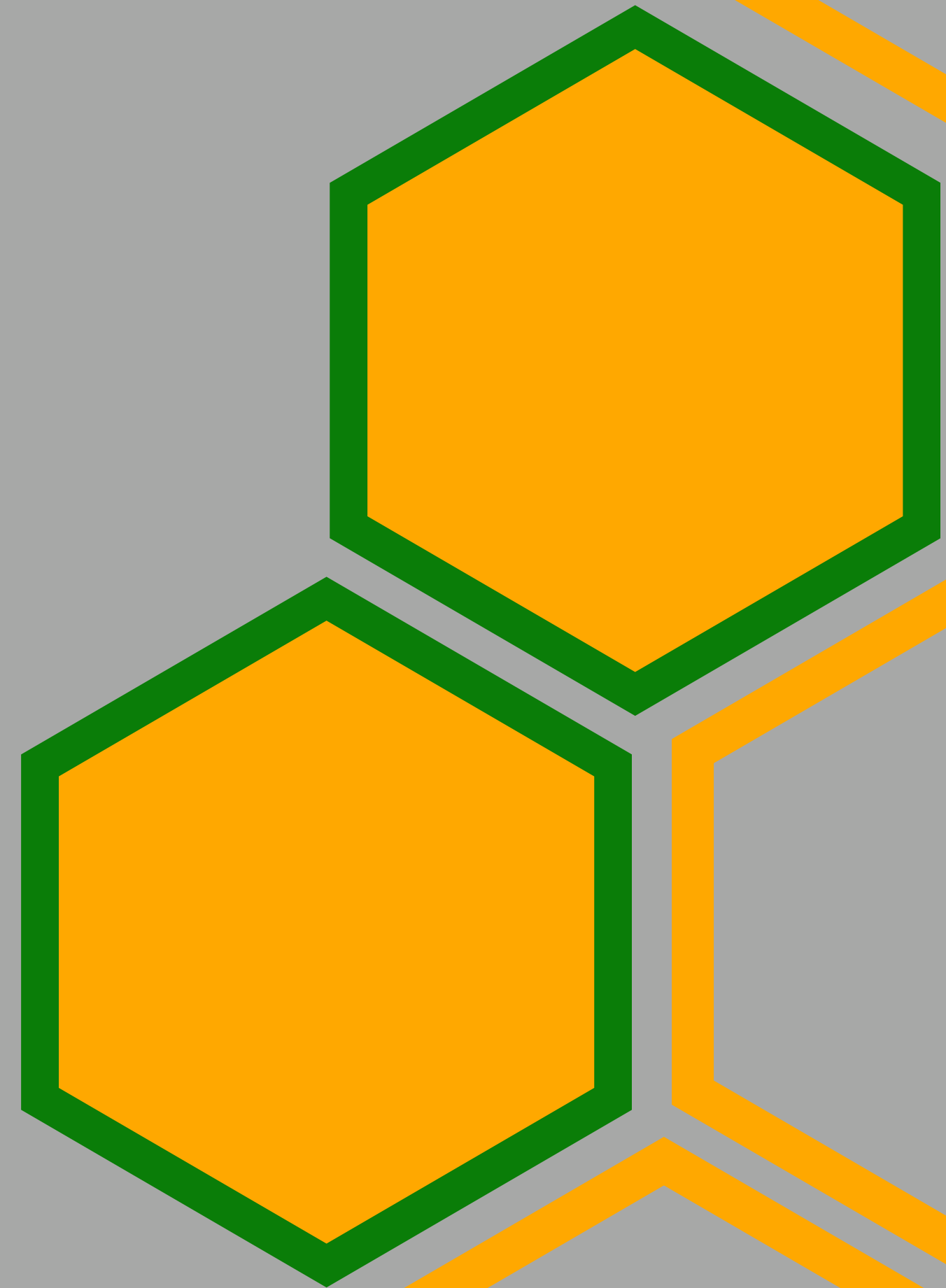
Do NOT use your school address! Consider creating a new email address for all things college.

INFORMATION GATHERING

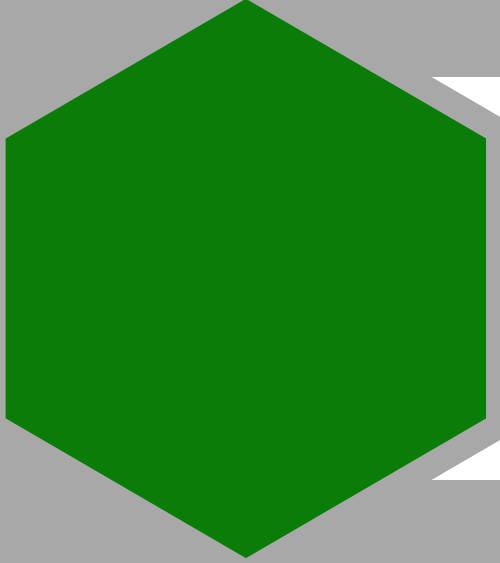
- Start organizing your information - [WLHS Organizer](#)
- [Student Info Form](#) - “brag sheet”

APPLICATION ORGANIZER

- Make a spreadsheet of potential schools, deadlines, etc
- Personal essay and short answer database



TYPES OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES



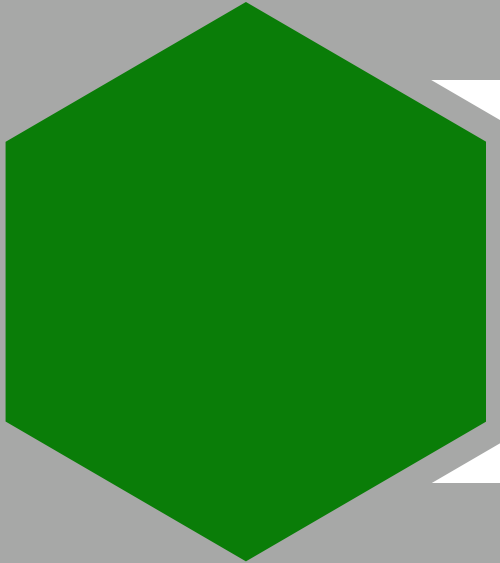
COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Community colleges are an affordable choice to get some general ed classes completed, earn an AA or certificate.



OREGON PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

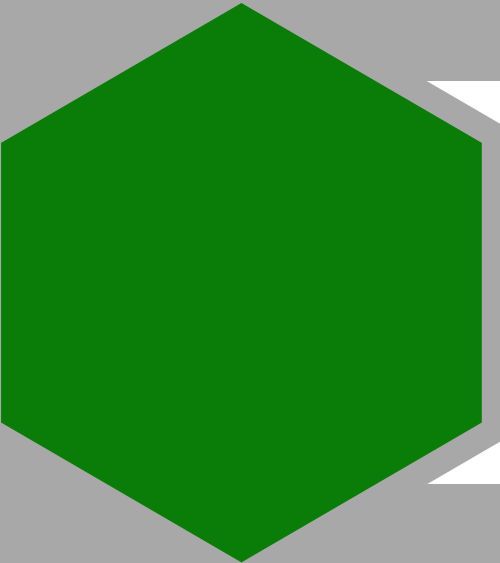
Oregon State (2), Univ of Oregon, Southern Oregon, Western Oregon, Eastern Oregon, Portland State, Oregon Institute of Technology (2)



WUE PARTNERS

Participating 2- and 4-year public colleges and universities across the West agree to charge out-of-state students no more than 150% of the institution's in-state rate. Tuition savings vary by school and/or major

TYPES OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES



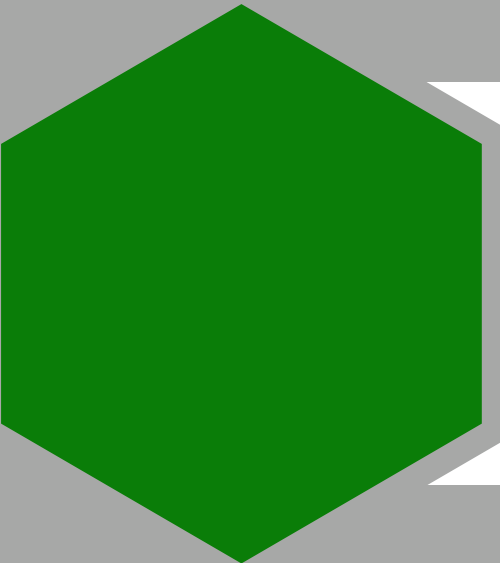
PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES

Private universities are (usually) smaller schools, located throughout the United States, that generally have a competitive fee structure for students.



MILITARY (SERVICE) ACADEMIES

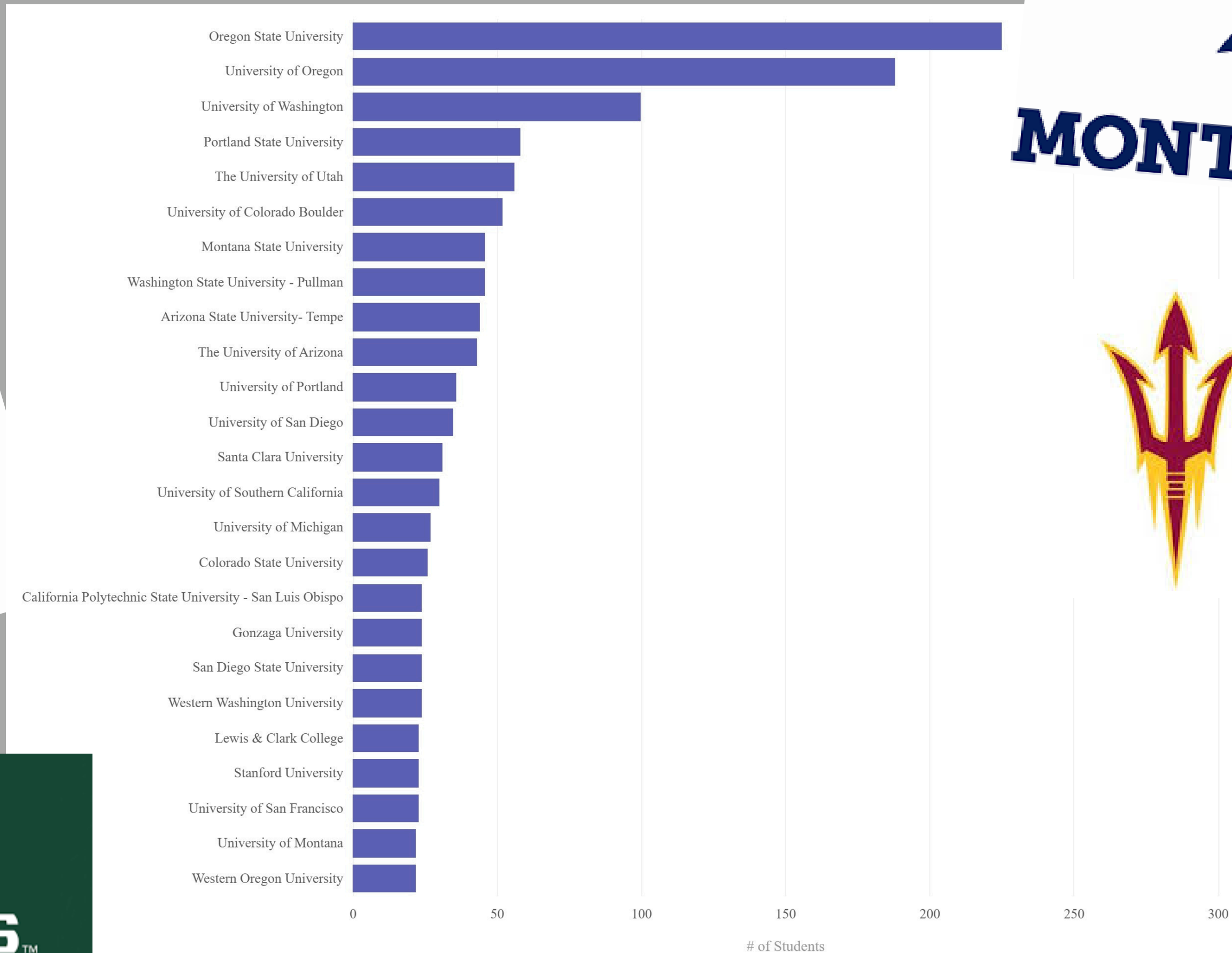
Air Force, Army, Navy, Merchant Marines and Coast Guard all run military academies and are highly competitive.



HIGHLY SELECTIVE UNIVERSITIES

Those with an acceptance rate that is under 10-15%

Applications by College (Top 25), Class of 2026





A NOTE ABOUT OSU AND UO

1

GPA MINIMUM

The GPA minimum for both schools is 3.0
UO reports that students with a 3.4 high school GPA are found to be successful at UO

2

C- OR BETTER IN CORE ACADEMIC CLASSES

You need to have a C- or better in your Lang Arts, Math, Science and Foreign Language classes

3

NOT EVERYONE GETS IN

These are large, competitive and academic schools - is this the right fit for you?

BUILDING YOUR COLLEGE LIST

FIT AND ALIGNMENT

- Your major or interests are represented
- Research/internship opportunities
- Class size
- Graduation rate

CAMPUS CULTURE

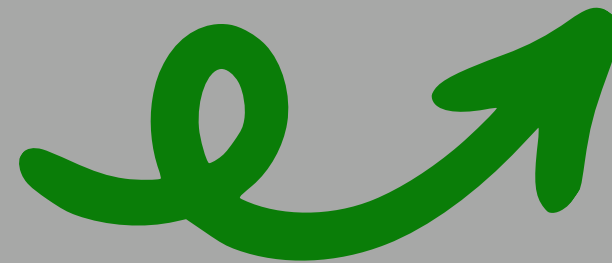
- Do not discount VIBE
- Clubs, Greek life, extracurriculars
- Weather
- Location and size of campus



Choosing a Major - it's ok to not know!

**Around 80% of college students change
their majors.**

Just a few examples of the
trends in major changes



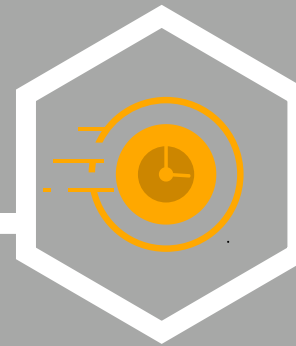
- » 52% of Math
- » 50% of Engineering
- » 40% of Natural Science
- » 37% of Education
- » 36% of humanities
- » 35% of all STEM
- » 31% of Business

COLLEGE SEARCH TOOLS



NAVIANCE

Login using your school email address - great for creating a list that you can save and revisit



BIG FUTURE

Run through CollegeBoard



COLLEGE NAVIGATOR

National Center for Educational Statistics - US Gov run

PARENT ROLE IN COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

1

SUPPORT

Encourage and listen! This can be an overwhelming and emotional time for your student.

2

FINANCIAL CLARITY

Talk to your student about WHO is going to pay what. Set clear expectations about money.

3

SET EXPECTATIONS

Discuss how you will make the ultimate decision as a family.

4

FOSTER INDEPENDENCE

Your student needs to be able to problem-solve and make decisions as an emerging adult.

It is CRITICAL that students drive the application process!

COLLEGE APPLICATION PLANNER

May: Junior Year

- Work on Organizer and/or Info Form
- Summer plans
- Register for Aug SAT, if you are taking

June/July: Senior Summer

- Start college list
- Brainstorm essay and short answer topics
- Work on CA (if using) profile
- Finalize "Organizer" or "Info Form"

August: Senior Summer

- 8/1 Common App Opens
- Take SAT (8/22)
- Request Letters of Recommendation
- Work on Common App
- Finalize College list

September: Senior Yr

- School starts 9/1
- Connect CA with Naviance
- Update Naviance with any non-CA schools
- Naviance: Request Transcripts
- Naviance: Request LORs

October/November: Senior Yr

- File the FAFSA/ORSA after Oct 1
- CSS Profile, if needed
- Fill out OSAC if attending Comm Col

Dec/Jan/Feb: Senior Yr

- Identify and work on scholarships
- WL Scholarships open 2/1
- Regional scholarships open Dec/Jan/Feb
- Get logged into application portals

March/April: Senior Yr

- Work on your specific college checklists
- Housing portals
- Second visits, if needed
- WL-based scholarships

May/Graduation: Senior Yr

- Decision Day - May 1
- Senior Exit Interview
- Graduation
- Request Final Transcript

HOW DO YOU APPLY FOR COLLEGE?

COMMON APP (CA)

Helpful if you are applying to more than one school and some schools only use CA

It is **IMPERATIVE** that you match your CA with Naviance. Otherwise WLHS cannot submit your transcripts.

DIRECT APPLICATION

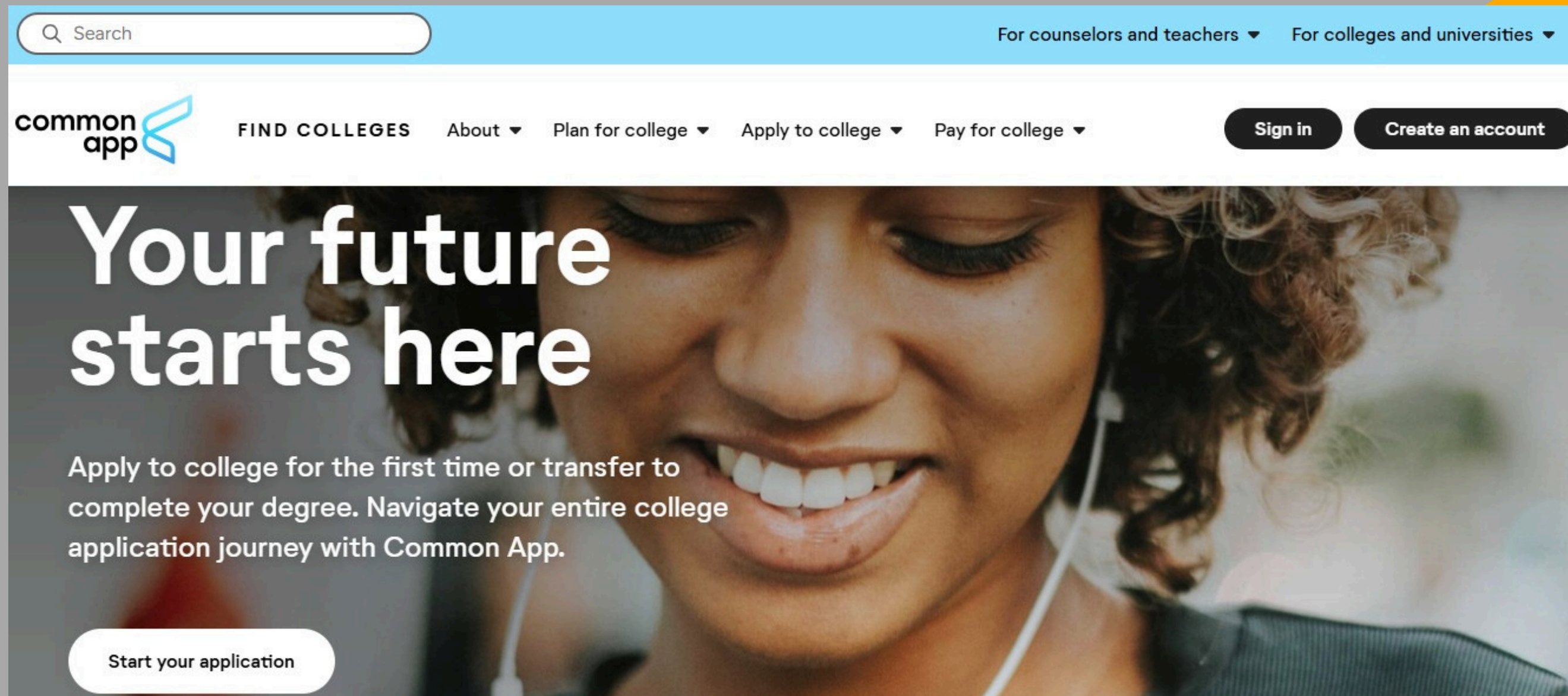
Simply using the APPLY button on the school's website

UC OR CAL STATE PORTAL

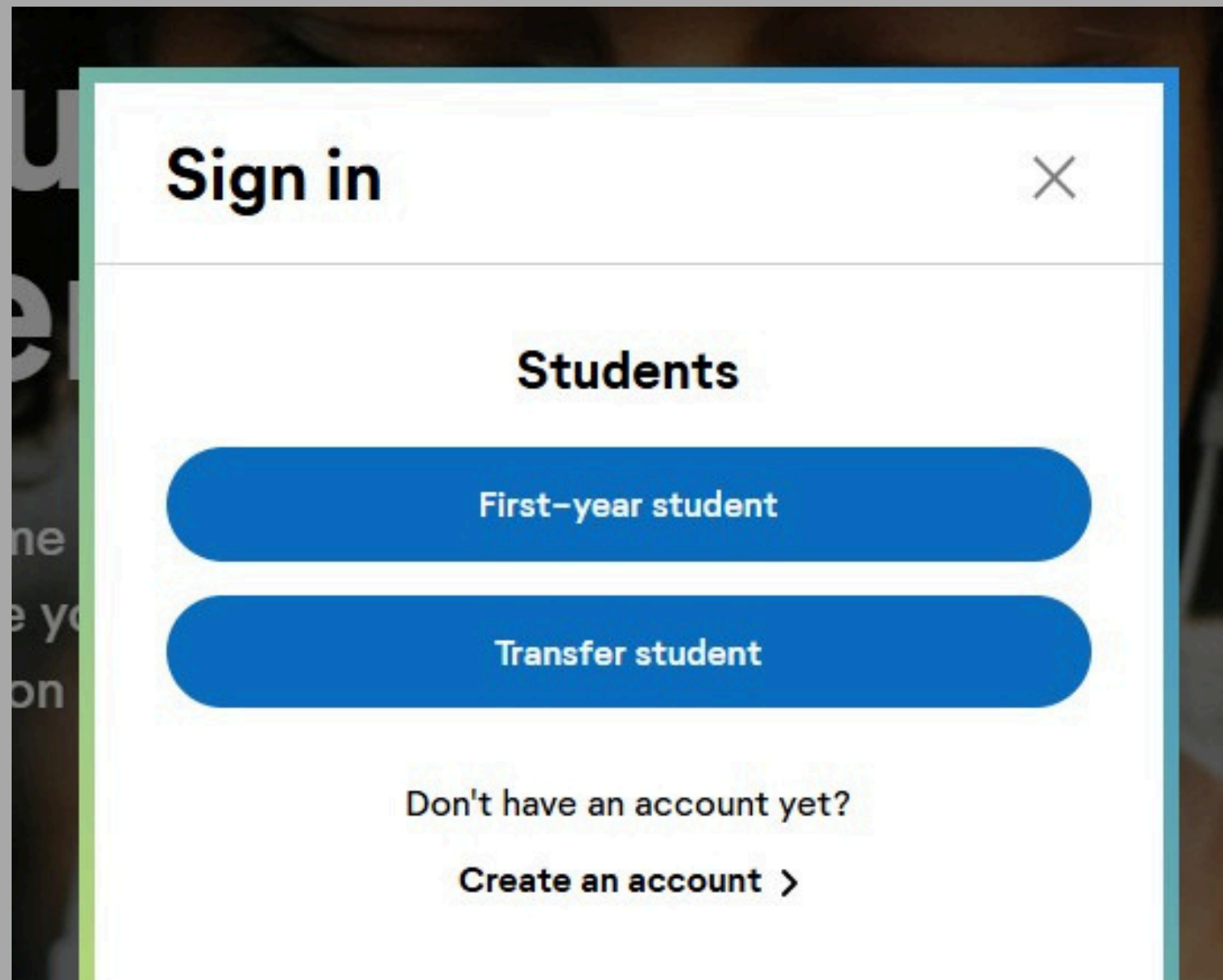
Specific to a group of schools in California



COMMON APP



COMMON APP



A screenshot of a mobile app's 'Sign in' modal for students. The modal has a white background with a blue border. At the top left is the title 'Sign in' and a close button (X) at the top right. Below the title is the heading 'Students'. There are two large blue buttons: 'First-year student' and 'Transfer student'. At the bottom, there is a link 'Don't have an account yet?' followed by a button 'Create an account >'.

Sign in

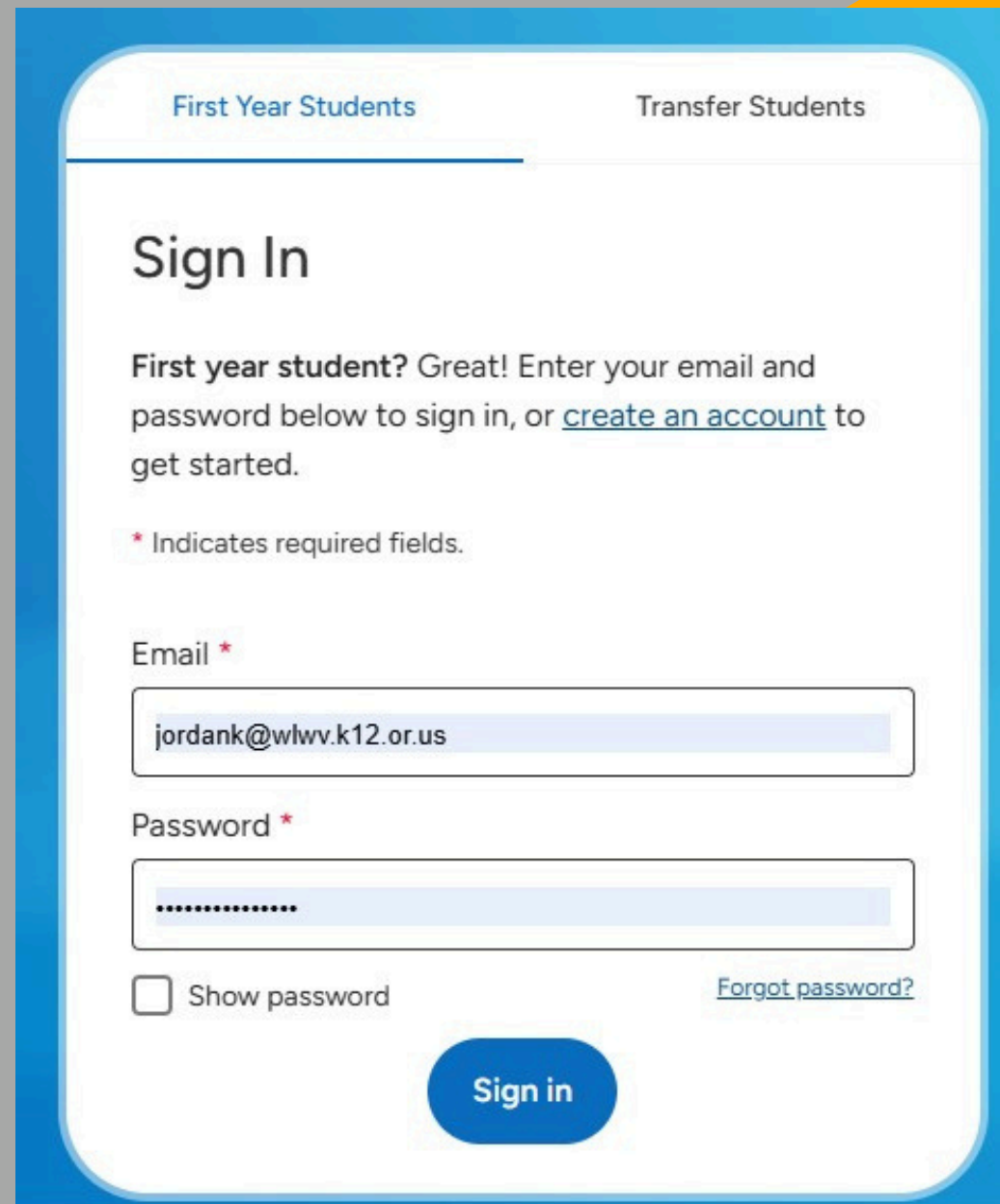
Students

First-year student

Transfer student

Don't have an account yet?

Create an account >



A screenshot of a web form for 'First Year Students' to sign in. The form has a blue header with two tabs: 'First Year Students' (selected) and 'Transfer Students'. The title is 'Sign In'. Below the title is a paragraph: 'First year student? Great! Enter your email and password below to sign in, or [create an account](#) to get started.' There is a note: '* Indicates required fields.' The form has two input fields: 'Email' with the value 'jordank@wlwv.k12.or.us' and 'Password' with masked characters. Below the password field is a checkbox 'Show password' and a link 'Forgot password?'. At the bottom right is a blue 'Sign in' button.

First Year Students

Transfer Students

Sign In

First year student? Great! Enter your email and password below to sign in, or [create an account](#) to get started.

* Indicates required fields.

Email *

jordank@wlwv.k12.or.us

Password *

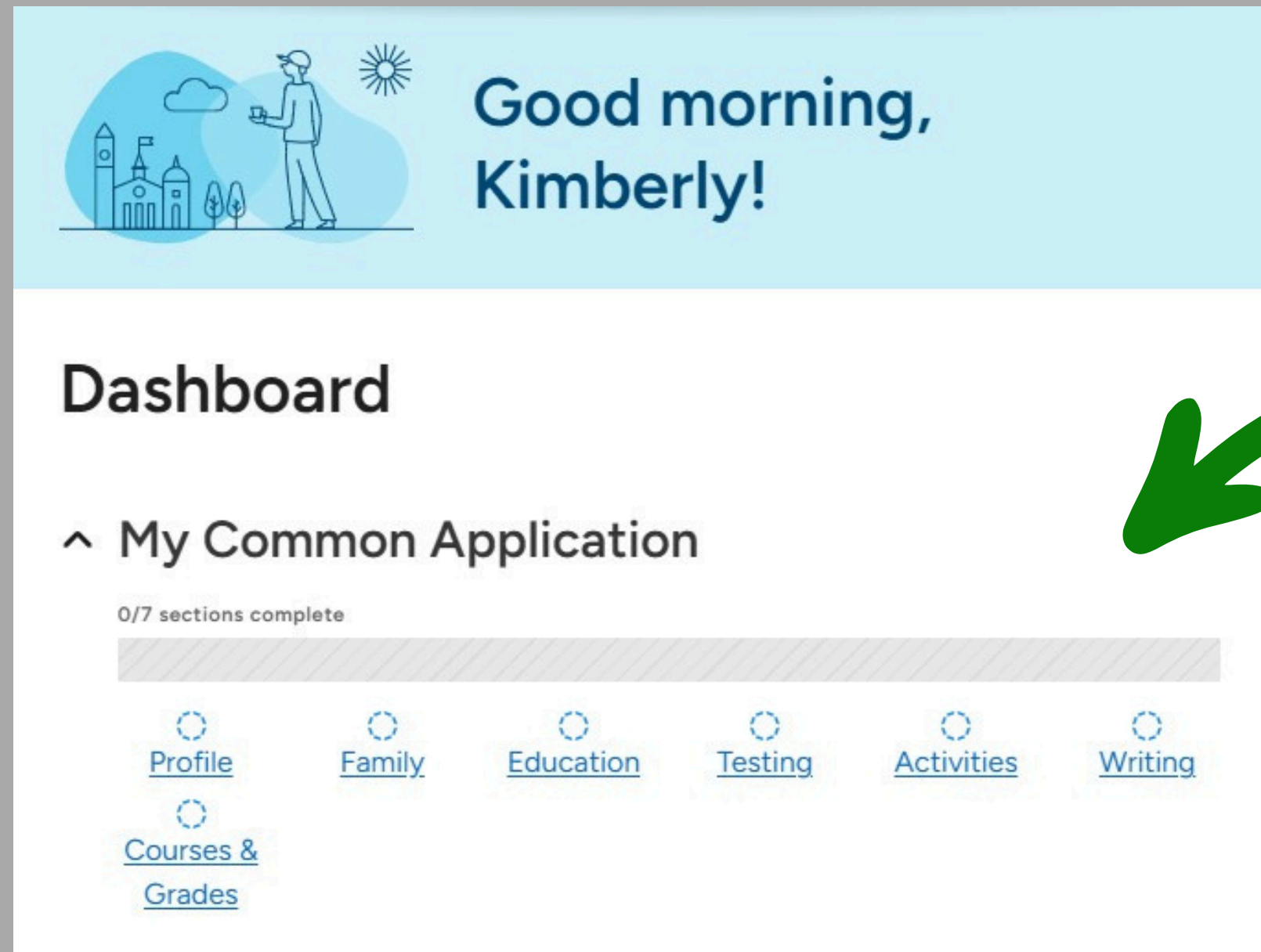
.....

☐ Show password

[Forgot password?](#)

Sign in

COMMON APP



These are all the sections that you can fill out before August 1



ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

1

ACADEMIC RECORD

Colleges look at your GPA, course rigor, and academic achievements to assess your readiness for college-level work.

2

STANDARDIZED TEST SCORES

Some colleges require SAT or ACT scores as part of the admission process to evaluate your academic abilities.

3

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Colleges seek well-rounded students who demonstrate leadership, community involvement, and passions outside the classroom. This can also be paid work!

4

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Strong letters from teachers, counselors, or mentors can provide valuable insights into your character and potential.

5

ESSAY AND SHORT ANSWERS

At the beginning of your senior year, you will spend time in your LA class working on your entrance essay.



1

WLHS reports weighted GPA on a “4” point scale

2

WLHS reports exact rank with class size of 430 for class of 2027

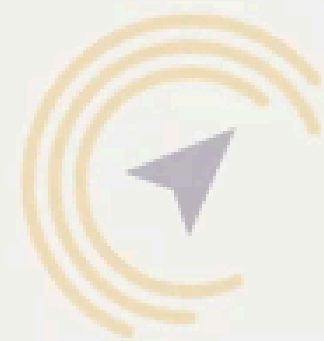
3

School code is 381250
Start date for Class of 2027 would be
August 2023

Mark/GPA Pts Legend GPA Summary UnweightedGPA 3.982 Rank: 21 out of 470 WeightedGPA-H 4.193 Rank: 56 out of 470		
Enter Date 09/08/2021	Graduation Status 4A - RegularDiploma	

SAT AND ACT TESTING DATES

Test Dates:



SPRING

Mar 14 (SAT)

Apr 11 (ACT)

May 2 (SAT)

Jun 6 (SAT)

Jun 13 (ACT)

SUMMER

Jul 11 (ACT)

Aug 22 (SAT)

FALL

Sep 12 (SAT)

Sep 19 (ACT)

Oct 3 (SAT)

Oct 17 (ACT)

Nov 7 (SAT)

Dec 5 (SAT)

Dec 12 (ACT)

**Consider Signing Up for the SAT or ACT -
You don't have to send your scores**

Graphic from CGN (College Guidance Network)



How to Request a Letter of Recommendation for College Applications

A letter of recommendation can be a valuable addition to your college application, but it is important to give your recommender all of the tools they need to write you an amazing letter.



Be sure! Confirm your schools accept LORs



Be considerate

- It takes a lot of work and time to write a letter or recommendation. Make sure that you need one before you ask, not all colleges need and/or accept them



First ask is in person or by email

- Approach the teacher in person or by email for the initial ask



Student Information Form

- Provide the recommender with your information immediately, via email. The more information you provide, the better.



Request in Naviance

- Log in to Naviance and make the official request.



TWO WEEKS

- Give your recommender AT LEAST two weeks to write the letter after your Naviance request



Recognition required

- Write a thank you note to your recommender once they have completed their letter. If you need a blank thank you note, see the College and Career Center!

ESSAYS AND PERSONAL STATEMENTS



USE YOUR VOICE

The point of the essay and especially the short answers are to convey to the college
WHO YOU ARE



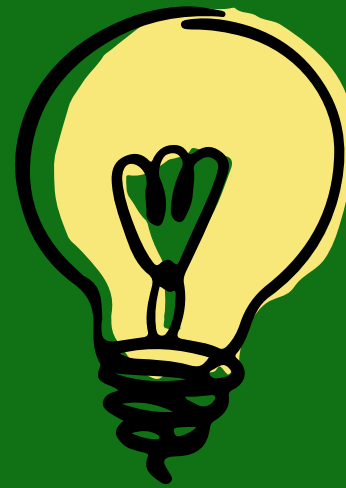
HIGHLIGHT MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCES, BUT

don't make anything up or contrive a story



WRITE IT YOURSELF

Do not use AI or have a parent write your essay - universities can tell and use AI readers



ESSAY PROMPTS

1

Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.

7

Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design

2

The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?

6

Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?

3

Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?

5

Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.

4

Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?

Describe an example of your leadership experience in which you have positively influenced others, helped resolve disputes or contributed to group efforts over time.

01

05

Describe the most significant challenge you have faced and the steps you have taken to overcome this challenge. How has this challenge affected your academic achievement?

Every person has a creative side, and it can be expressed in many ways: problem solving, original and innovative thinking, and artistically, to name a few. Describe how you express your creative side

02

06

Think about an academic subject that inspires you. Describe how you have furthered this interest inside and/or outside of the classroom.

What would you say is your greatest talent or skill? How have you developed and demonstrated that talent over time?

03

07

What have you done to make your school or your community a better place?

Describe how you have taken advantage of a significant educational opportunity or worked to overcome an educational barrier you have faced.

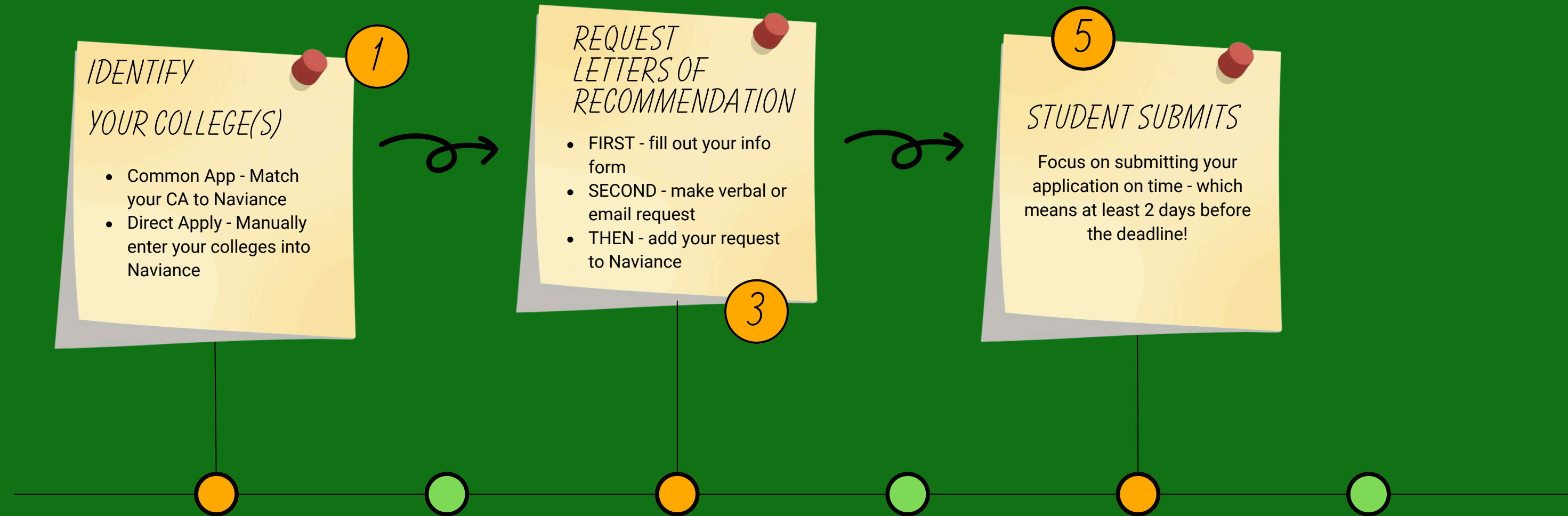
04

08

Beyond what has already been shared in your application, what do you believe makes you a strong candidate for admissions to the University of California?

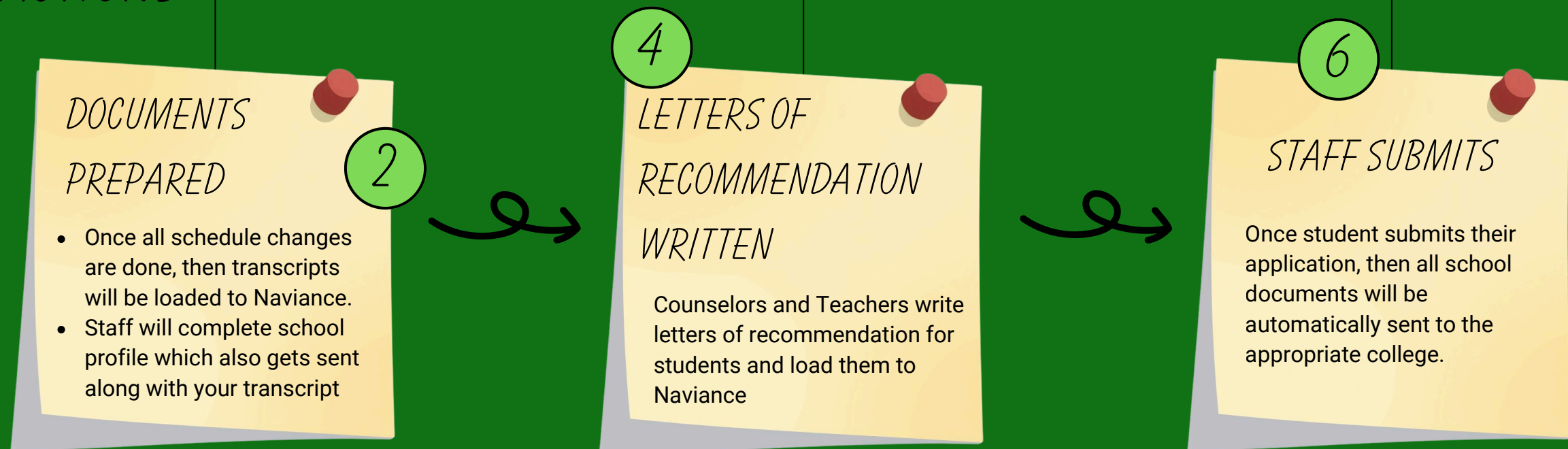
PIQs

STUDENT ACTIONS



WLHS STAFF ACTIONS

The only way for WLHS to submit your required documents is for YOU to keep Naviance updated!



FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are competitive awards that can cover all or part of your college tuition and expenses. There are numerous kinds of scholarships based on: need, merit, participation in sports/activities, character, etc.

GRANTS

Grants are need-based financial aid that you don't have to repay. Fill out the FAFSA to be considered for federal, state, and institutional grants.

LOANS

Federal student loans offer fixed interest rates and flexible repayment plans.

WORK-STUDY

The Federal Work-Study program provides part-time jobs for students with financial need, allowing them to earn money to pay for education expenses. These jobs are at the school the student attends and are managed directly through that school.



TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL COLLEGE APPLICATION

START EARLY!

Don't wait until the last minute. Begin preparing your application well in advance to ensure you have time to gather all required materials and put your best foot forward.



IT'S NOT OVER WHEN IT'S OVER

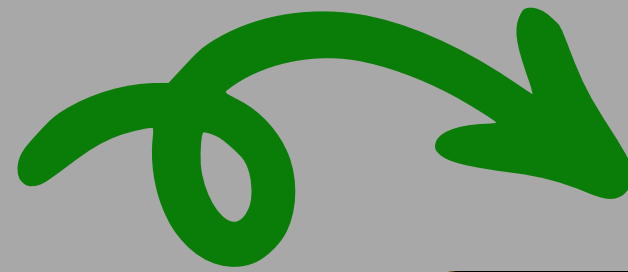
Once you submit your application you will receive an email confirmation from the university that will include information on how to access your university portal. You may have several logins for one school - BE ORGANIZED!

You will also have a “to do” list for each college with additional information or documents that you need to take care of.



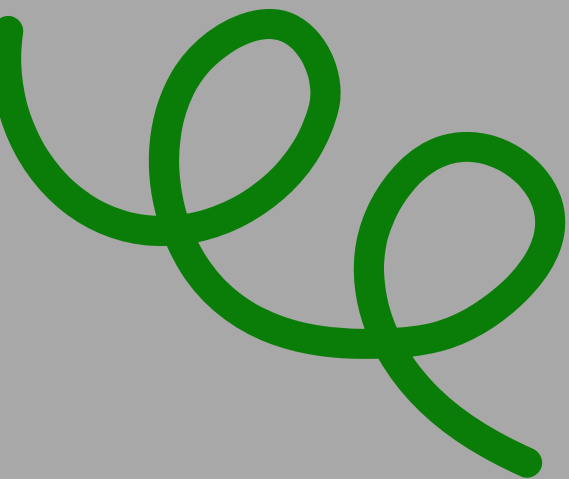
This is an exciting time!

I *literally* get paid to help you!



You have resources at WLHS - please take advantage of them!

- » Kim Jordan
- » Your Counselor
- » In-school college visits
- » Career fairs
- » In-class presentations and support



RESOURCES FOR A DEEP DIVE

1

ROI - RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Ranking 4,600 Colleges by ROI (2025)

GEORGETOWN
UNIVERSITY

McCourt School of Public Policy

CENTER ON
EDUCATION AND
THE WORKFORCE

2

AFTER EVERYTHING: STATE REPORT

Forecasted job growth for all 50 states and the District of Columbia from 2021 through 2031.

3

WHAT DO STUDENTS THINK?

Niche

The Princeton Review

THANK YOU !



JordanK@wlwv.k12.or.us

