

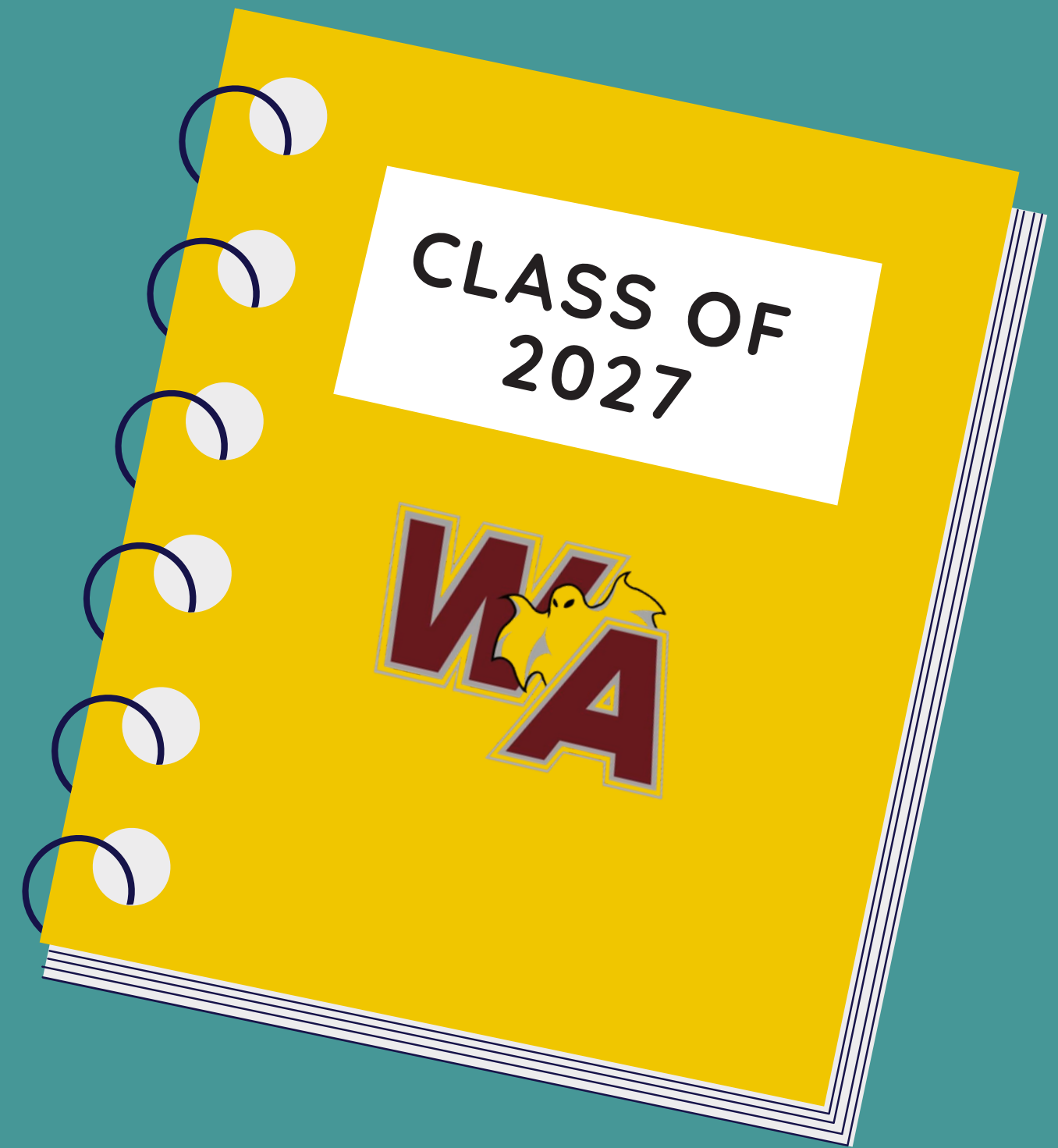
COLLEGE PLANNING

A DEEPER DIVE

WA Counseling Department

AGENDA

- Communication
- Graduation Requirements
- Application Components
 - School Records
 - SAT/ACT
- Making the college list
 - College Visits
 - SCOIR
- Next Steps



COMMUNICATION IS KEY



WA EMAIL

Main form of communication with students - check regularly!

NEWSLETTER

Sent on the first of every month through SCOIR

SCOIR

Email, career surveys, resume builder, college search, and where counselors send official school documents

**CLASS OF
2027
COUNSELING
GOOGLE
CLASSROOM**

VIDEO LIBRARY



Short, informative clips covering topics related to postsecondary planning:

**COLLEGE VISITS
LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION
STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES
SCOIR
AND MORE....**

These videos are posted on the WA
Counseling [Website](#)

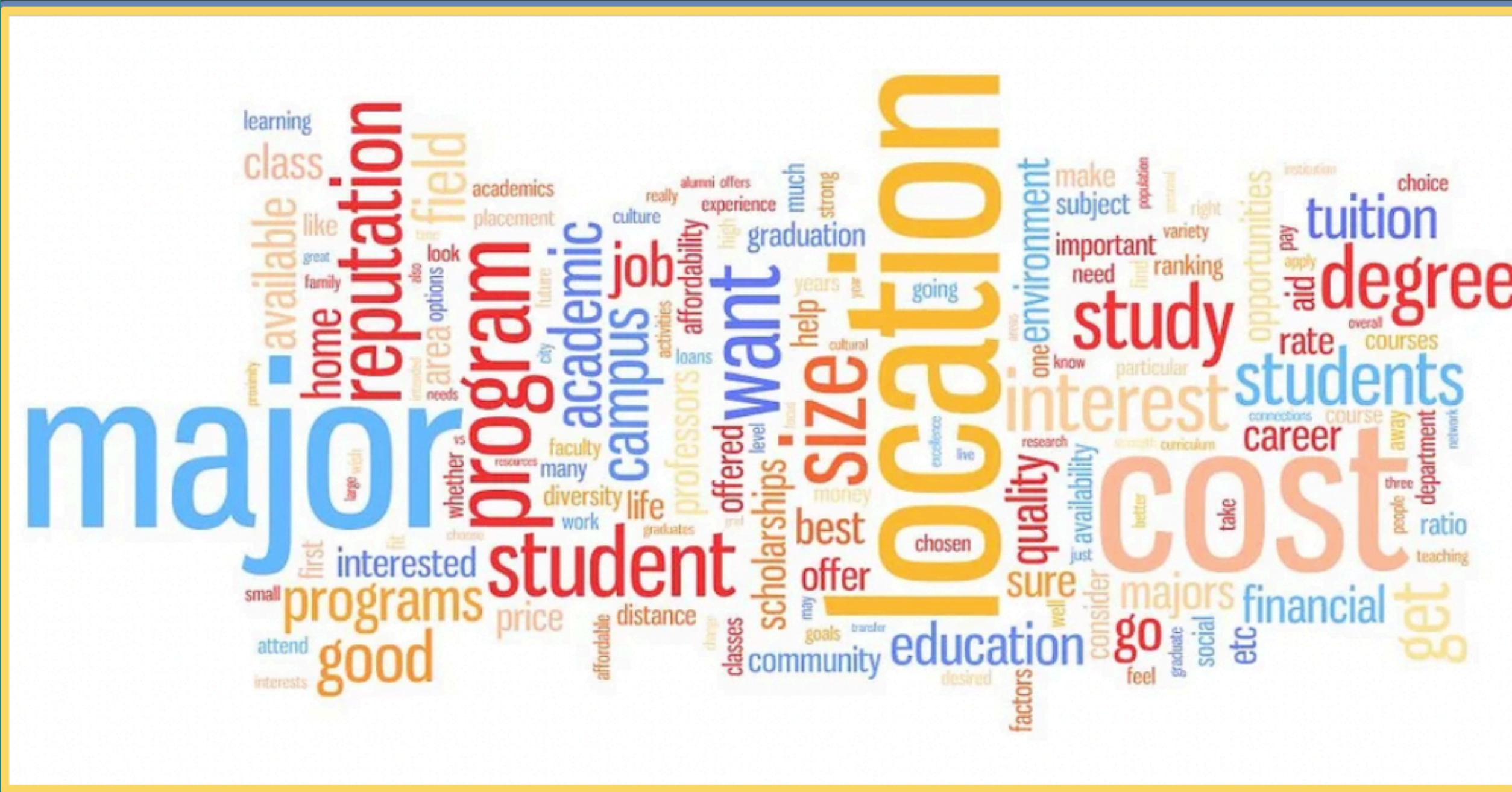
GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

- English: 20 credits
- Math: 20 credits
- Science: 15 credits
- Social Studies: 15 credits
 - World History, US I and US II
- World Language: 10 credits
 - Two years of the same language
- VPA: 2.5 credits
- PE: 10 credits
- Health: 2.5 credits
- Other credits needed: 22.5

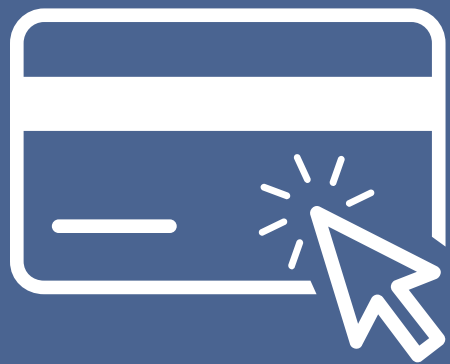
Total minimum credits: 117.5



BUILDING THE COLLEGE LIST



RESOURCES TO HELP BUILD COLLEGE LIST



WA COUNSELING WEBSITE

College resources and
more!

[Link here](#)



LOCAL COLLEGE FAIRS

Research online or click
link below for upcoming
local college fairs

[www.neacac.org/spring-
college-fairs-2026](http://www.neacac.org/spring-college-fairs-2026)



NATIONAL & VIRTUAL COLLEGE FAIRS

Upcoming:
April 27 & 28, 2026
Hynes Convention Center
900 Boylston St
Boston MA 02115

[Register Here](#)



COLLEGE SEARCH ENGINES

SCOIR

Collegexpress.com
[CollegeBoard](#)

...and more!



COLLEGE VISITS TIPS

- Register online for campus tour/info session
- Try to tour a variety of schools for comparison
- Make sure to visit your comfortable and target schools
- Have each family member take notes, take pictures, make pros/cons, take down names of those you meet (tour guide, admissions counselor, student)!
- Try to make it fun!
- Follow-up with thank you note or email to admissions representative

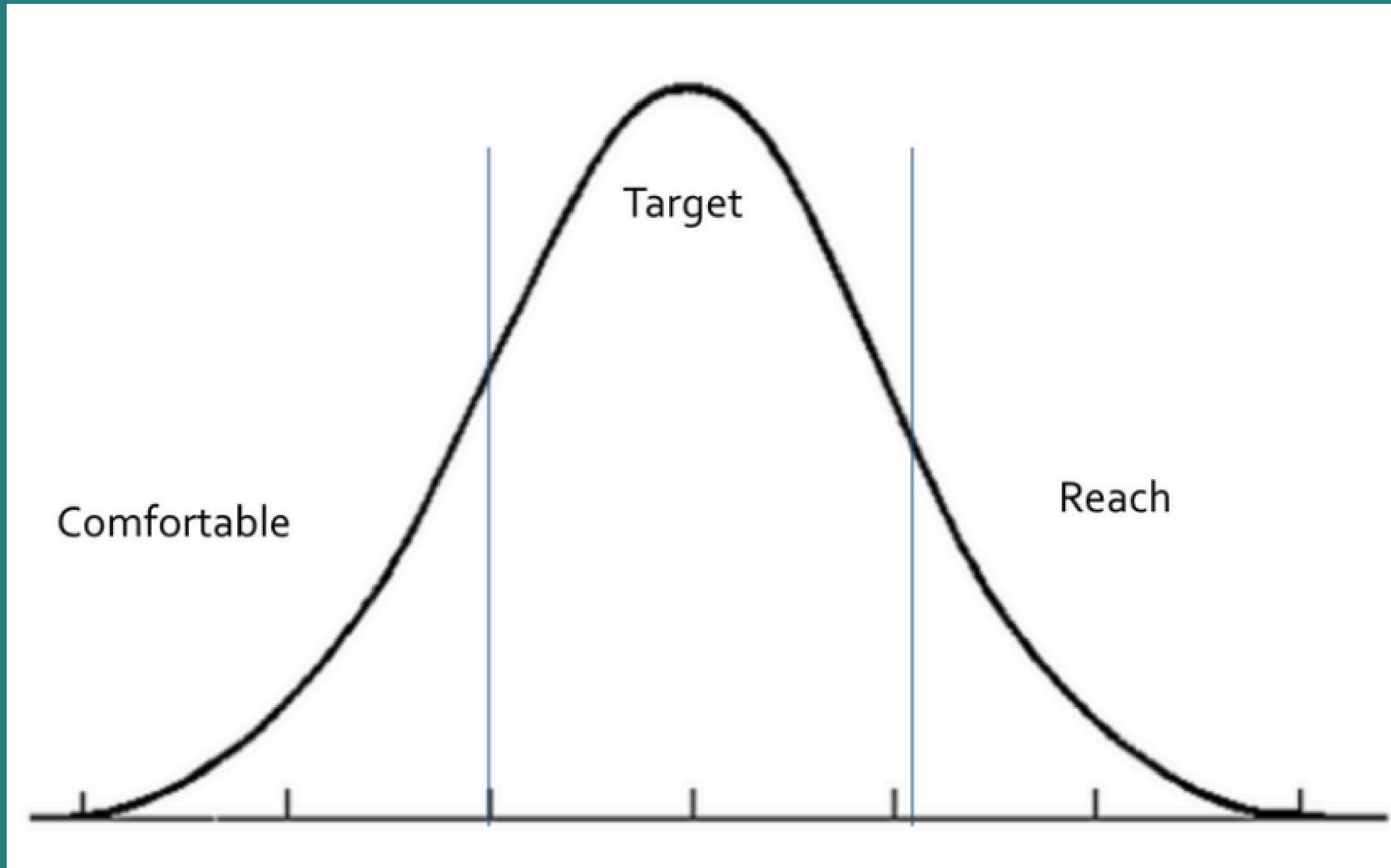
COLLEGE REP VISITS AT WA

FALL 2026

- Approximately 100 college admission counselors come to WA every fall during the school day or virtually after school
- Students are encouraged to go to these visits to learn more about the schools, meet admissions counselors and ask questions
- Students are limited to 8 visits in total (during the school day)
- Sign up is through Scoir, the confirmation email is your pass for your teacher



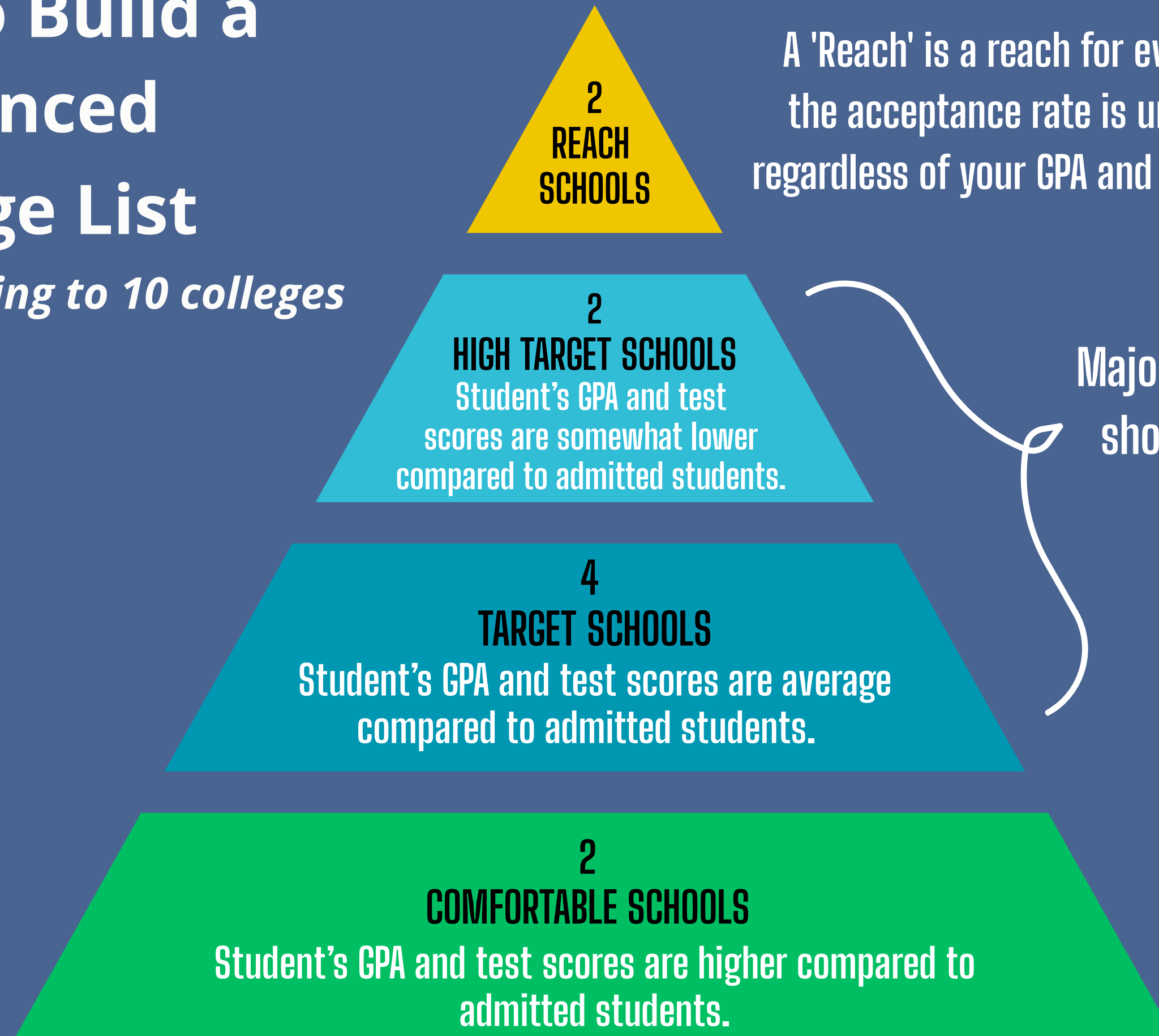
BALANCING THE LIST



On average, students in the class of 2026 applied to approximately 10 schools.

How to Build a Balanced College List

based on applying to 10 colleges



A 'Reach' is a reach for everyone if the acceptance rate is under 10%, regardless of your GPA and test scores.

Majority of colleges should be targets

Tip: Put at least the same amount of time/research/focus into "comfortable" schools as the rest. These are often schools where students get a better financial aid package with merit scholarships.

WHERE ARE WESTFORD ACADEMY STUDENTS APPLYING?

TOP 10 COLLEGES BY APPLICATION VOLUME (2025-2026)

01	University of Massachusetts (Amherst)
02	University of Connecticut
03	Northeastern University
04	University of Massachusetts (Lowell)
05	Boston University
06	University of New Hampshire (Main Campus)
07	Penn State University (University Park)
08	University of Maryland (College Park)
09	Rutgers University (New Brunswick)
10	Worcester Polytechnic Institute

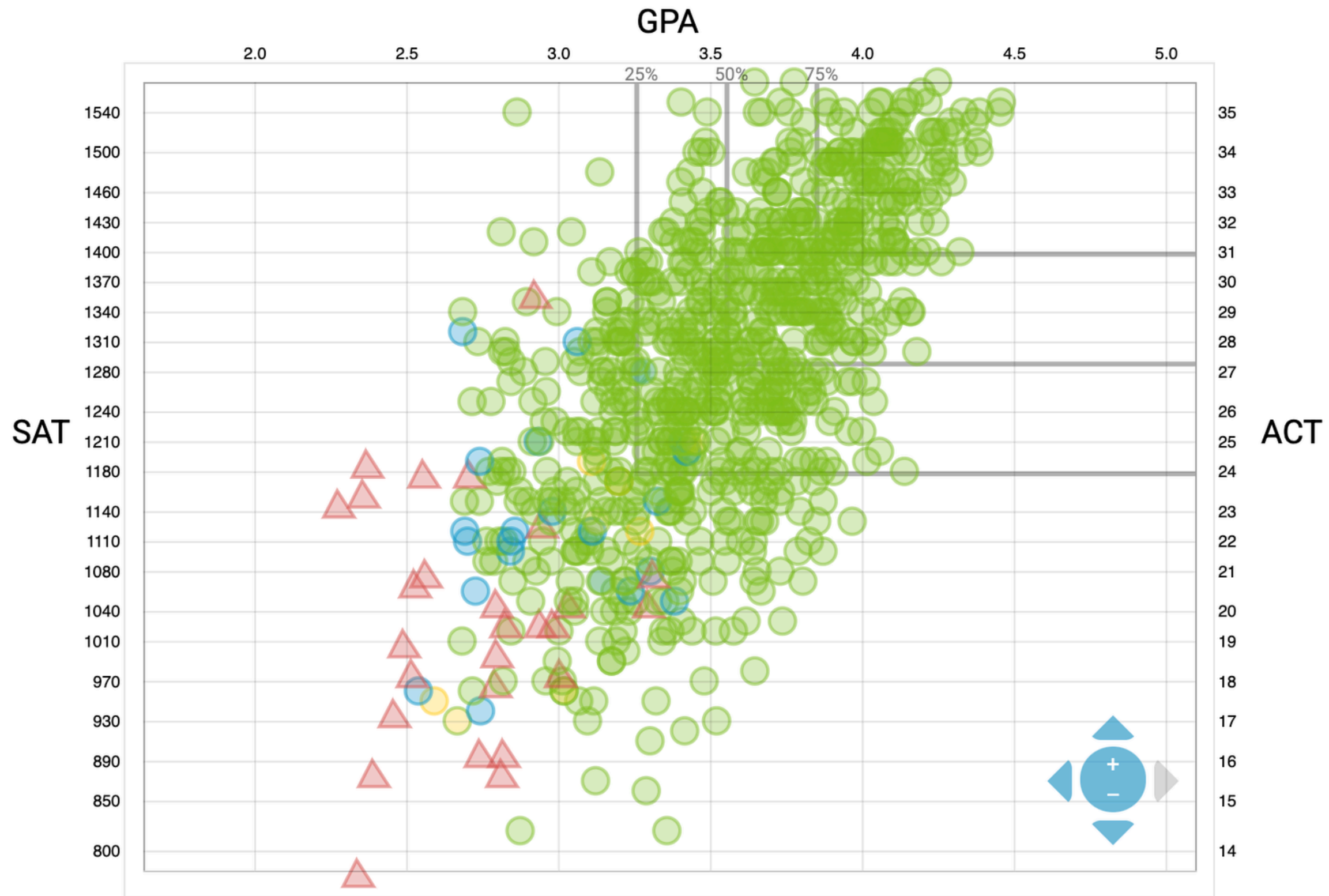
COMPETITIVE MAJORS

**NURSING
BUSINESS
COMPUTER SCIENCE
ENGINEERING**



****Applying to these majors affects Scattergrams.**

SCOIR DEMO



OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER



Athletic Recruiting

- D1/D2, must register for NCAA Eligibility Center
- Transcript uploaded, way for coaches to find you.



Theater Arts

- Programs in theater, music, and visual arts require supplemental materials, such as portfolios, pre-screening videos, and live auditions



Military Academies

- Require Congressional nomination
- Earlier application process - begins during junior year



IEP / 504

- Not a part of the college application process

[Guide for College Admissions for Students with Disabilities](#)



FEE WAIVERS

- SAT / ACT and college application waivers available for eligible students
- See counselor for more information.

APPLICATION COMPONENTS



APPLICATION (INCLUDING ESSAY)

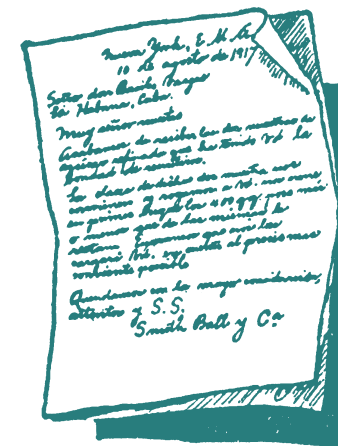
Common Application
College Website
SCOIR



STANDARDIZED TEST SCORES (IF APPLICABLE)



TRANSCRIPT/SELF REPORTED TRANSCRIPT



LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

- Teacher(s)
- Counselor

WHAT WA SENDS



TRANSCRIPT

Official High school transcript with most current grades available



LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Counselor writes one for every student applying to 4 year schools

One teacher letter



SCHOOL PROFILE

Official Transcript for:

Academic Term: Q1

Last Name Last name	First Name First name	Middle Name Middle name	Gender F	Student ID# 1234
Home Address Address	City Westford	State MA	Zip 01886	Home Telephone 978-692-5570
Parent/Caregiver Parent/caregiver name	Status	Total Earned Credits 70.00	Date of Birth 01/01/2009	Anticipated Graduation 2027
GPA GPA 3.9042 Based on 4 Semesters				

Course	Final	Credits	Course	Q1	Final	Credits
Grade 9			Grade 11			
23-24			25-26			
001 English 9 CP	95	5.00	040 English 11 H	97		
105 French III H	98	5.00	108 French Language & Culture AP	98		
200 World History II CP	97	5.00	210 US History II H	95		
308 Algebra 1 CP	95	5.00	335 Trig and Pre Calc CP	87		
351 Exploring Comp Sci pt A CP	94	2.50	362 Computer Sci A- AP	90		
410 Biology CP	97	5.00	452 Chemistry AP	90		
700 Foundations of Art	100	2.50	705 Drawing	100		
883 Basics of Kin. in Phy. Ed.	100	2.50				
887 Health Education	98	2.50				
Grade 10			Grade 12			
24-25						
039 English 10 H	93	5.00				
107 French IV H	94	5.00				
206 US History I H	93	5.00				
321 Geometry CP	91	5.00				
331 Algebra II CP	95	5.00				
358 Java Programming H	88	2.50				
422 Chemistry H	92	5.00				
885 Kin. of Individual/Dual Games	100	2.50				
			Junior Year Courses			
			040 English 11 H			
			108 French Language & Culture AP			
			210 US History II H			
			335 Trig and Pre Calc CP			
			362 Computer Sci A- AP			
			452 Chemistry AP			
			705 Drawing			
			886 Kin. of Fitness and Outdoor Pursuits			

WHAT GRADES DO COLLEGES REQUIRE?

DEADLINES OF NOVEMBER 5 OR EARLIER:

- Complete junior year and only senior courses

DEADLINES OF NOVEMBER 15, DECEMBER 1

- First quarter grades for senior year

REGULAR DECISION

- Mid-year grades for senior year

IMPORTANT NOTE:

- Early Action deadlines - 1st quarter grades will be available to all colleges regardless if they are required or not.
- Midyear grades will be available to all colleges on a students list.

SAT

VS

ACT

DIGITAL ONLY

ADAPTIVE - DIFFICULTY
DEPENDS ON
PREVIOUS ANSWERS

2 HRS, 14 MIN

98

READING/WRITING AND
MATH

MULTIPLE CHOICE AND
FREE RESPONSE (MATH
ONLY)

400 - 1600 (200 - 800
PER SECTION)

FORMAT

SECTION DIFFICULTY

TIME TO TEST

NUMBER OF
QUESTIONS

SECTIONS

QUESTION FORMAT

SCORING

DIGITAL OR PAPER

LINEAR (INCREASES
THROUGHOUT THE
TEST)

2 HRS, 5 MIN

131

ENGLISH, MATH AND
READING (OPTIONAL
SCIENCE & WRITING)

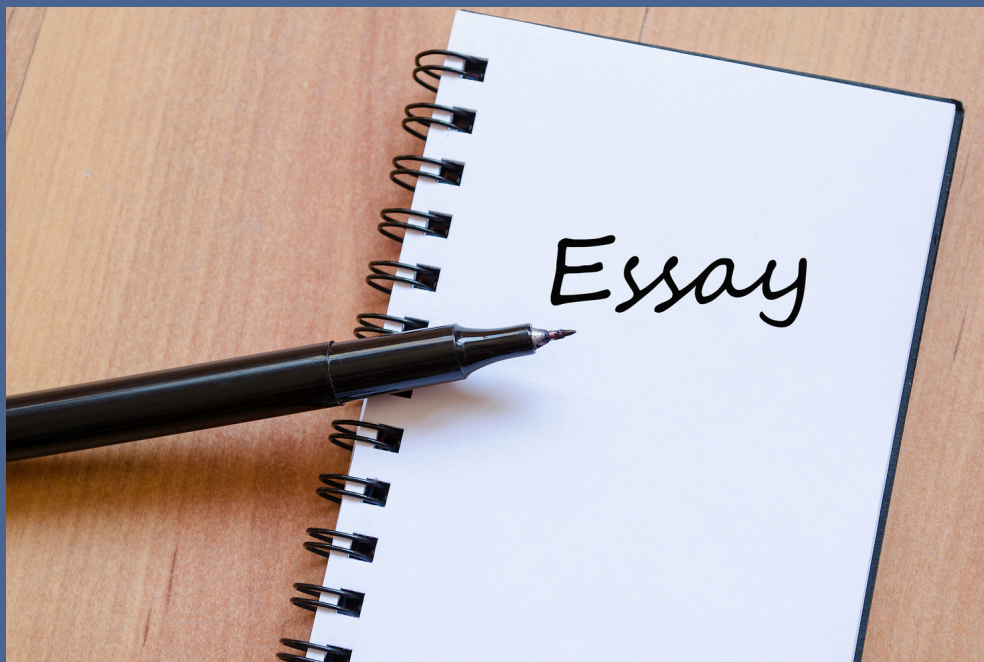
MULTIPLE CHOICE

1 - 36

TEST OPTIONAL LIST

NEXT STEPS

COMMON APP PERSONAL STATEMENT/ COLLEGE ESSAY



START BRAINSTORMING!

- 250-650 words
- [CommonApp Prompts](#)
- Resources:
 - College Essay presentation in April advisory
 - WA Counseling Website
 - [Brainstorming Worksheet](#)
 - College Essay Guy
 - [Free resources](#)

SPRING 2026

- **GO ON COLLEGE VISITS**
 - April break, long weekends, other days off, half days
- **COLLEGE ADMISSIONS PANEL IN MAY ADVISORY**
- **COLLEGE RESEARCH**
- **ASK TEACHER FOR LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION**
 - Go into SCOLIR to request a letter of recommendation by end of April
- **FINISH JUNIOR YEAR STRONG!**

SUMMER 2026



- Continue college research and visits
 - Complete career surveys in Scoir
- Utilize resources (such as Admission Intelligence in Scoir) to help build a balanced list
- Complete Senior Data Sheet Assignment in Scoir
- Complete Activities List (include awards and achievements)
 - in Scoir
 - Resume (upload to My Drive in Scoir)
 - CommonApp Activities section (upload to My Drive in Scoir)
- Work on Common Application www.commonapp.org beginning August 1-use personal email address
 - Open and start completing the individual college supplements after August 1
- Complete essay draft

PARENTS/CAREGIVERS - complete optional Parent/Caregiver Questionnaire in SCOIR - a very valuable resource for counselors. Please complete the survey by September 14, 2026.



COLLEGE AFFORDABLE

- 501(C)(3) THAT HELPS FAMILIES REDUCE THE COST OF COLLEGE, MINIMIZE DEBT AND INCREASE HIGHER ED. CHOICES
- PERSONALIZED HELP WITH THE FINANCIAL AID PROCESS
- ACCESS TO SELF-HELP TOOLS
- MONTHLY WEBINARS
- [WESTFORD ACADEMY - COLLEGE AFFORDABLE WEBSITE](#)