

WELCOME **PARENTS** AND CLASS OF **2027!**

OTHS School Counseling Department
College Planning Presentation



MR.

COZAD



CLASS OF 2027

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

cozadr@oths.us

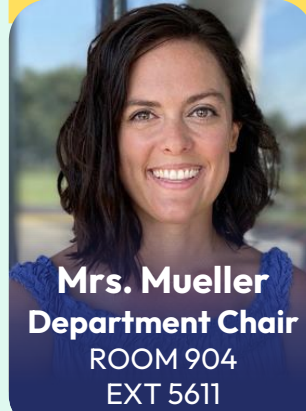


OTHS Social Work

Meet Our Team

Email Your Grade Level Social Worker For
An Appointment!

CLASS OF 2027



CLASS OF 2027



Class of 2027

PLAN. PREPARE. LAUNCH.

PATHFUL is an online career planning platform available to all OTHS students



PATHFUL can help your Senior explore and plan for the next phase of life.



GRADUATION is coming. Pathful helps students take their next step with a plan



Class of 2027

How Pathful Helps Your Senior



Set and Track goals for this year and beyond



Compare careers, salaries, outlook, and education paths



Templates that help build résumés, cover letter, and professional portfolio



Compare Schools using their school profiles to find the one best for your student



Find financial aid opportunities tailored to their unique backgrounds, skills, and needs.



Scholarship Search with quick links to explore and apply

DON'T JUST GRADUATE—LAUNCH YOUR FUTURE.

Class of 2027

How To Access Pathful



Navigate to the OTHS Homepage



Under students click Pathful on the right side of the drop-down box



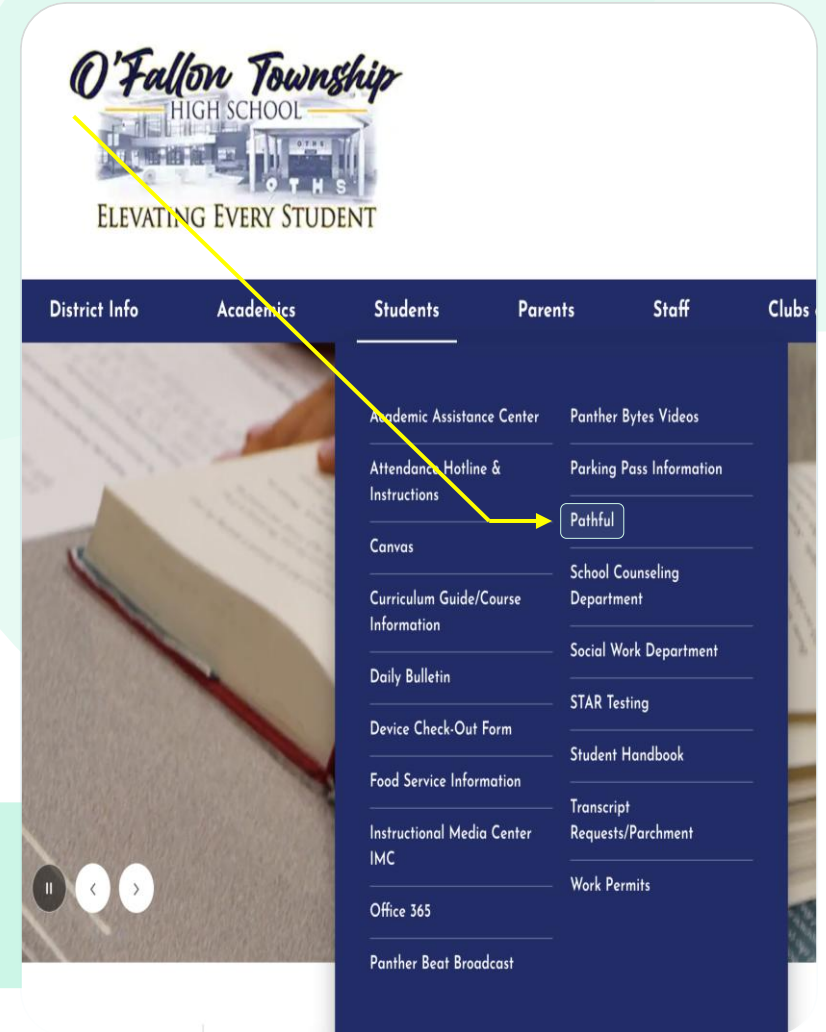
Have your student use the single sign-on option using their OTHS school email



Start with assigned activities or explore careers, colleges, and tools.

Is your student unsure what to do after high school?

Students can use the assessment tools to take a career interest survey at any time.



DON'T JUST GRADUATE—LAUNCH YOUR FUTURE.

Class of 2027

Questions?



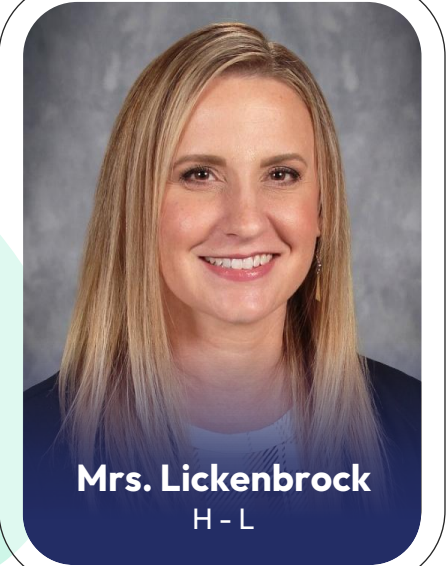
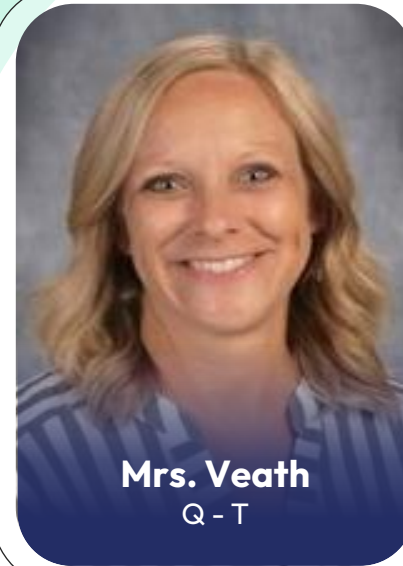
Email Mrs. Buehler:
Buehlerc@ohts.us



Stop by my table in the 600
hall anytime during
tonight's Open House



School Counseling Department



Topics for Discussion



Post-Secondary
Planning



College & Career
Exploration



Finding the
“Right Fit”



College Application
Process



Financial
Aid/FAFSA



Student/Parent
Responsibility

Post-secondary Plans



Class of 2026



Armed Services	5%
Direct Employment	2%
Gap Year	1%
Career/Technical School	7%
Community College	21%
Four-Year College/University	58%
Undecided	4%



Class of 2026 Self-Reported Data

Top Community College Reported

Southwestern Illinois College

Top Four-Year Colleges Reported

- SIU Edwardsville
- Illinois State University
- University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- SIU Carbondale
- McKendree University
- Auburn University
- Ranken Technical College
- University of Missouri (Mizzou)
- University of Arkansas
- Missouri S & T

Top Reported Majors:

- Undecided
- Marketing
- Nursing
- Music
- Engineering
- Pre-Professional (Medical)
- Psychology
- Automotive
- Business Admin.
- Finance
- Cybersecurity
- Life Science
- Accounting
- Allied Health Science
- Computer Science



Your Future Your Choice

PATHS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Community College



- Associate degrees
- Transfer pathways
- Career certificates

01.

Skilled Trades & Apprenticeships



- Earn while you learn
- Union programs
- Industry credentials

02.

Career Training



- Advanced manufacturing
- Transportation
- Healthcare

03.

Workforce & Employer Programs



- Pre-employment training
- Employer-sponsored programs
- Direct-to-work opportunities

04.

Not sure which path is right for you? Your school counselor can help you explore your options.

OTHS Transcripts



PARCHMENT^{TMTM}

OTHS uses ParchmentTM to electronically and securely send your high school transcripts.

CHECK YOUR EMAIL

An email was sent to all seniors on 8/19 covering the following

- Tutorial Video
- Link to create your Parchment account
- Additional Instructions



When Should My Senior Apply To College? _____

**The time to apply is
here!**



September 1 - November 1 is considered a “Priority Filing Period” for college applications.

**Research shows that
85%**



Of students that apply during this time period receive acceptance to the college/program of their choice. So, increase your chances and reduce your stress by applying by halloween.



Examples of Priority Deadlines (Early Action)

Clemson University
OCTOBER 15

University of Illinois (UIUC)
NOVEMBER 1

SIUE/SIUC
DECEMBER 1



Things To Consider Before Applying...

01

Degrees Offered & Admissibility

02

Accreditation

03

Size of school – Small,
Medium, Large

04

Location – Rural,
Suburban, Urban

05

Private vs. Public

11.

NCAA/NAIA

Financial Aid (**Costs**)

06

Honors Program

07

Transfer of credits

08

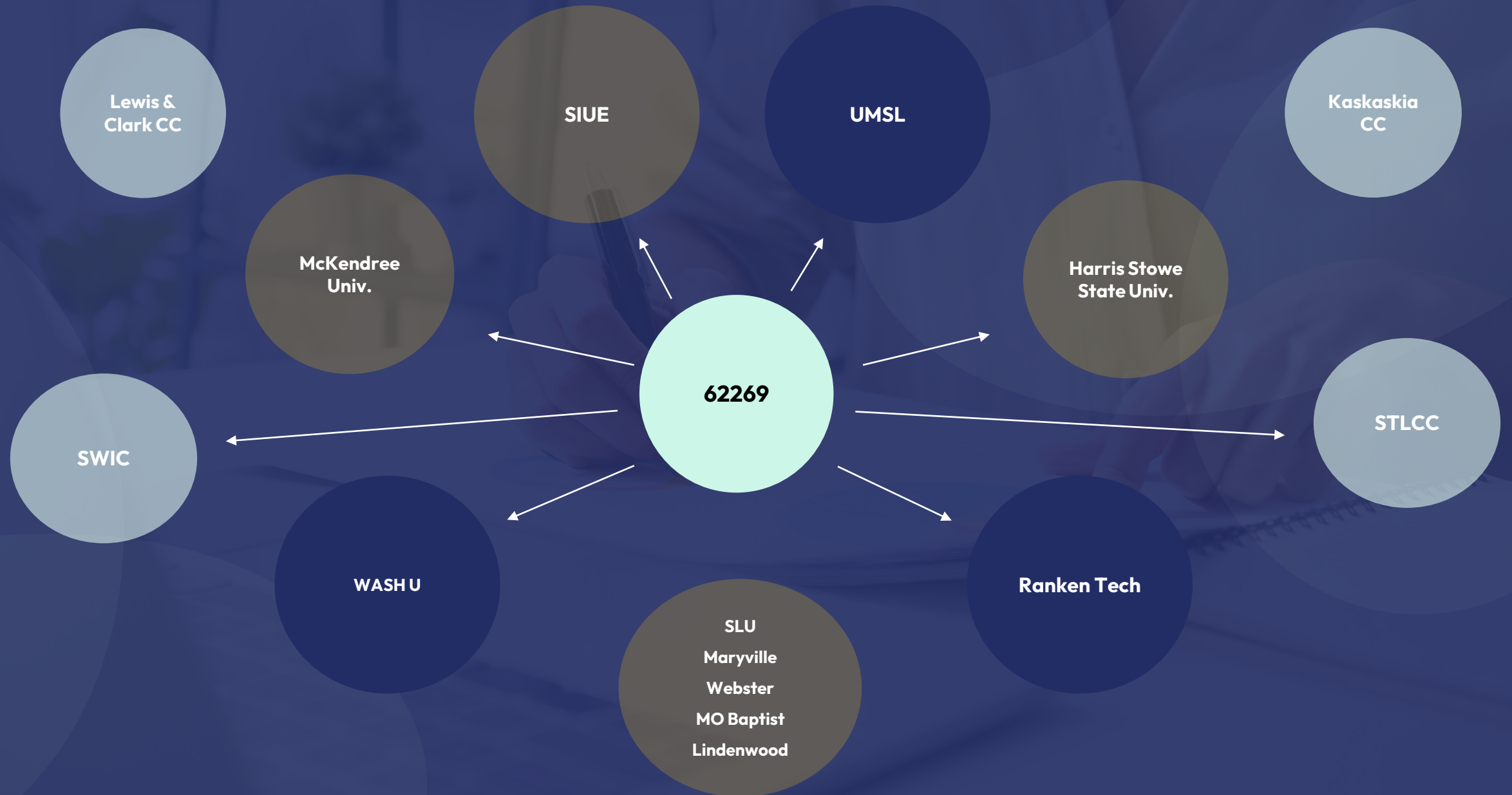
Extra-curriculars / School
Culture / Greek Life

09

Family Tradition

10





When Should My Senior Apply To College? _____

0
1

Create a List

Where do you want to apply? Prioritize applications by preference, deadline date.

0
2

Application Type, Dates & Deadlines

- » Common App? Coalition? Institutional App?
- » EA, ED, Priority, & Regular Deadlines
- » Supplemental Material Deadlines- transcripts, LOR, and test scores

0
3

Gather Application Materials

- » Unofficial Transcript
- » Test Scores
- » Letters of Recommendation

0
4

Tackle The Application

- » Demographic Data
- » Self Reported Academic Record
- » Extracurricular Involvement

0
5

Write Your Essays

- » Answer the prompt!
- » Proofread!



HOW TO APPLY
TO COLLEGE IN
6 STEPS



Check Your Application Status

Send Transcript via Parchment , Are there additional requirements needed , Check your email, or applicant portal , Celebrate!

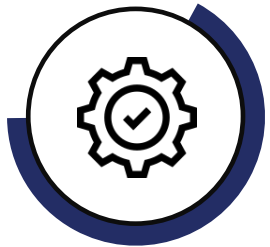
Types Of Applications



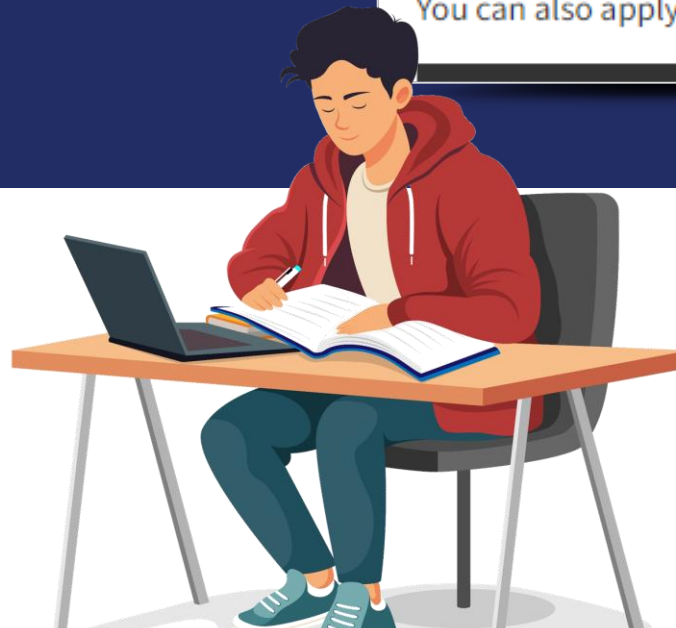
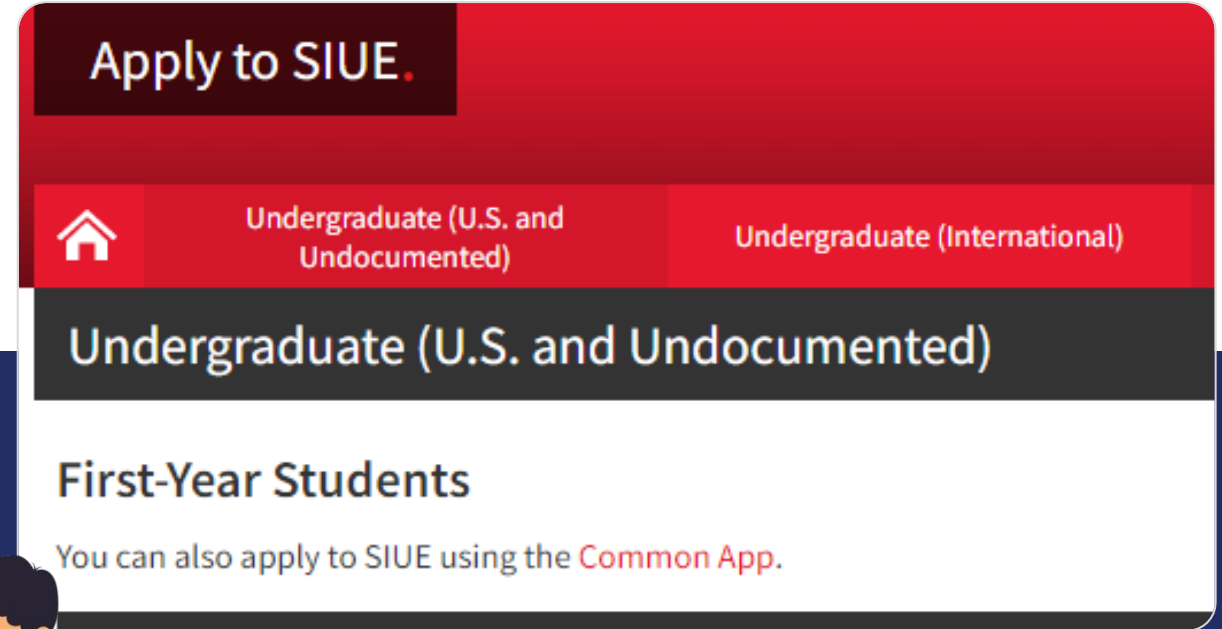
Common
Application



Institutional
Application



System
Application



Definitions Of Admission Options In Higher Education

Students: which college admission process best suits you?

Regular Decision



DEFINITION

Students submit an application by a specified date and receive a decision in a clearly stated period of time

COMMITMENT
Non-binding



Rolling Admission



DEFINITION

Institutions review applications as they are submitted and render admission decisions throughout the admission cycle.

COMMITMENT
Non-binding



Early Action (EA)



DEFINITION

Students apply early and receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date.

COMMITMENT
Non-binding



Early Decision (ED)



DEFINITION

Students make a commitment to a first-choice institution where, if admitted they definitely will enroll and withdraw all other applications. The application deadline and decision deadline occur early

COMMITMENT
Binding



Restrictive Early Action (REA)



DEFINITION

Students apply to an institution of preference and receive a decision early. They may be restricted from applying ED or EA or REA to other institutions. If offered enrollment, they have until May 1 to confirm.

COMMITMENT
Non-binding



Students are not restricted from applying to other institutions and have until May 1 to consider their options and confirm enrollment.

Students are responsible for determining and following restrictions.

College Entrance Exams

Test-Optional:



Colleges with a test-optional policy allow students to decide whether they want to submit standardized test scores as part of their application. Students who choose not to submit test scores won't be penalized, and the college will focus on other factors such as GPA, extracurriculars, essays, and recommendations.

Test-Preferred:



Colleges that have a test-preferred policy may suggest that students submit standardized test scores, but it's not mandatory. While students can still apply without them, the school may indicate that scores could strengthen the application or give the student a competitive edge.

In summary, test-optional gives more flexibility without any preference, while test-preferred subtly encourages submitting scores for a more complete application.

College Entrance Exams

Additional Information to Consider About Testing



- Students may still need a test score to be eligible for specific majors or scholarship programs
- Scores need to be RECEIVED by app deadline
- Sent directly from testing agency
- Take more than once – colleges may “superscore”

Ask Colleges What is the Latest Deadline for Submitting Test Scores for Scholarship Consideration

Some Colleges Continue to Evaluate Merit-Based Scholarships on a rolling basis



Scholarships

College Scholarships

Application for Admission typically serves as application for AUTOMATIC Merit-Based Scholarships

Ask Colleges About Any Additional Scholarship Applications (Competitive)

PAY ATTENTION TO YOUR EMAIL!

Local Scholarships

Posted on OTHS School Counseling Department Website

SCHOOL COUNELING TAB - SCHOLARSHIPS

Private Scholarships & Other Funding

Posted on OTHS School Counseling Department Website

P.E.O STAR SCHOLARSHIP 2026

Spend a Couple of Hours Each Week on Scholarship Searches

Beware of Scams: Never Pay a Fee or Give Important Financial Information For A Scholarship Search



NCAA Eligibility



The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) is an organization dedicated to providing a pathway to opportunity for college athletes.

There are three NCAA Divisions:

Division I, Division II and Division III

If you want to compete at an NCAA school, you must meet academic and/or amateurism standards set by NCAA members.

Ncaa Eligibility Is A Wholistic Process, Involving The Student, Parents/Guardians, School Counselor, High School Athletic Coaching Staff, Ncaa Eligibility Center Staff And Post-secondary Institutions. More Information About Ncaa Eligibility Can Be Found On Our Guidance Website.

How to plan your high school courses to meet the 16 core-course requirement:

$$4 \times 4 = 16$$

9TH
GRADE

(1) English
(1) Math
(1) Science
(1) Social Science
and/or additional

4 CORE COURSES

10TH
GRADE

(1) English
(1) Math
(1) Science
(1) Social Science
and/or additional

4 CORE COURSES

11TH
GRADE

(1) English
(1) Math
(1) Science
(1) Social Science
and/or additional

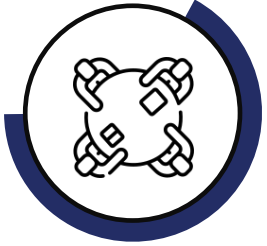
4 CORE COURSES

12TH
GRADE

(1) English
(1) Math
(1) Science
(1) Social Science
and/or additional

4 CORE COURSES

Upcoming Events



Workshop Wednesdays

College Application Workshops in the Guidance College & Career Lab during advisories in September – **December**



College Rep Visits

Announced in Daily Bulletin and on School Counseling Website – Sign up 24 hours in advance



FAFSA Completion Workshops



Upcoming Events



On-Site Admissions Fair



September 30, 2026



SIUE, SIUC, McKendree,
Murray State, SEMO



Thank you for attending! _____



Email



Schoolcounseling@oths.us

Website



www.oths.us/Schoolcounseling

Where To Next?

Review your student's schedule on Skyward to find room numbers. Administrators will be in the halls to help locate classrooms.

OTHS teachers will be available in their classrooms from 6:30pm - 7:30pm

- Free- Flowing = No Bell Schedule
- Families may move at their own pace and visit teachers in any order.
- This is a Meet and Greet format where you can introduce yourself, share contact information, and teachers can briefly share information about their classes.
- Please do not form lines in the hallways → More than one parent can be in a classroom at a time.

PLEASE NOTE:

Teachers and counselors will not be available for extended meetings or one-on-one conferences. Parents are encouraged to follow up via email with specific questions.

