Senior Roadmap 2026-2027

Graduation credits, postsecondary choices, applications, and paying for college



Counselor Resources



Mrs. Walters
A-G



Mrs. Green
H-N



Mrs. Schlegel
O-Z



Mrs. Chupp

Class Link

Request to Visit Counselor Form
- Emergency vs. non-emergency
- Parent consent (SB 12)

Varsity Tutors

Website

Testing Calendar
- SAT, ACT, TSI

Course Catalog
- GPA, Class rank, Grad requirements

Official Transcript Form
Newsletter

Minga

College/Career/Military Lunch Visits

Tribe Times

Go Center

Other: Scholarships, College Fairs, Groups, etc.

SchooLinks

College Application Manager

Scholarships

Brag Sheet

Resumes

Graduation Requirements

Distinguished Diploma

Requires:

- 4 credits Math (inc. Alg 2)
- 4 credits Science
- At least 1 Endorsement

Benefits:

Eligibility for Top 10% automatic admission to Texas public universities.

Acknowledgments

Outstanding achievements recognized on your final transcript:

- Dual Credit (12+ hours, 3.0+)
- Bilingualism & Biliteracy
- PSAT, ACT, or SAT scores
- AP Exams (Score 3+)
- State or National Certifications

Other Requirements

STAAR EOC Exams:

Must pass English I & II, Algebra I, Biology, and US History.

Others:

- FAFSA or Opt-out
- Speech Proficiency
- CPR Exposure
- Police Interactions

Postsecondary Pathways

- Community College
- Trade School
- Military
- University
- Apprenticeship / Internship
- Workforce
- Mission Trips / Gap Year



Costs, duration, and admissions shape which path fits you.

Military

- **Take the ASVAB for Eligible Careers**
- **Connect with a Recruiter**
- **Mrs. Walters can help!**



Benefits:

- Tuition Assistance
- Financial Security / Benefits
- In-Demand, Specialized Training
  - Aviation, Engineering, Logistics, Intelligency, Healthcare, Cybersecurity
- Travel and Cultural Exposure

Enlisting in the U.S. Military: Key Requirements

- **Basic Eligibility:**
  - **Age:** 17–28+ (varies by branch; up to 42 for Air Force/Space Force)
  - **Citizenship:** U.S. Citizen or Green Card holder (fluent in English)
  - **Education:** High school diploma (preferred) or GED
- **Testing & Medical:**
  - **ASVAB Test:** Required for all branches; determines eligibility and job options
    - Submit AFQT score, with minimum scores varying by branch
  - **Fitness & Medical:** Must pass a physical exam and branch fitness test
    - Background check and drug screening are also required
- **Next Steps:** Contact a recruiter (Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, Navy, Space Force) to start the process!

Workforce

Benefits:

- No Academic Debt
- Immediate Earnings
- Real-world Experience
- Some Employers pay for On-the-job Training
- Benefits like insurance, 401K, paid time off



McDonald's

SAFRAN

Peterbilt

QT

Walmart Distribution Center

Entering the Workforce After Graduation?

- **Build Your Application Toolkit:**
  - **Resume:** Highlight high school jobs, volunteer work, CTE courses, and soft skills (teamwork, punctuality).
  - **Certifications:** Have physical and digital copies of any industry credentials earned in school (e.g., OSHA, CPR, CMA, AWS).
  - **References:** Ask for letters of recommendation or references from teachers
- **Master the Search & Application:**
  - **Local Job Boards:** Create profiles on *Indeed*, *LinkedIn*, or local workforce commission sites.
  - **Professional Email:** Ensure you have a clean, standard email address for applications (e.g., *firstname.lastname@email.com*).
- **Ace the Interview:**
  - **Practice Basic Questions:** Prepare short stories showing how you solve problems or handle tough situations.
  - **Follow Up:** Send a quick thank-you email within 24 hours of any interview to stand out.
- **Pro Tip:** Visit your local Workforce Solutions office or see your counselor for help polishing your resume before graduation!

Trade Schools

- **Specialized Training in Specified Fields like Welding, Automotive Tech, Diesel, Electrical, Plumbing, Cosmetology, Culinary**



Benefits:

- Lower Cost
- Short Term
- Often Have Paid Apprenticeships
- Core Classes Not Required
- No SAT/ACT Exams Required (sometimes TSI)
- Strong Income Potential

OGLE SCHOOL

TSTC Texas State Technical College

Community College

- **Career Certifications**
- **Associate's Degree - 2 year**
- **Pathway toward Bachelor's Degree**

Benefits:

- Lower Tuition
- Reduced Living Costs
- Direct Transfer Agreements with 4-year Universities
- Flexible Schedules
- CTE courses: Cosmetology, Nursing, Welding, Automotive, Electrical
- Smaller Class Sizes
- Closer to Home

COLLIN COLLEGE

NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS COLLEGE

DALLAS COLLEGE

4-Year University

- **Bachelor's Degree and Beyond**

Benefits:

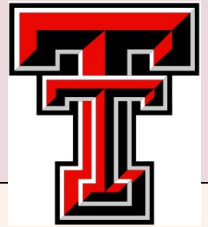
- Experience student housing, clubs, sports, and traditions from day 1.
- Build friendships and networks quickly by living alongside fellow freshmen.
- Complete your full degree at one school without losing course credits.
- Practice living on your own with built-in campus support systems.
- **Pro Tip**: Apply early to maximize housing options and merit scholarships!













Things to consider...



MAJOR

*Make sure the school you are considering offers what you want to study you want.

*Consider a similar major that is not as impacted



LOCATION

*Close to home?
*In-State?

*Dorm?



COST

*What is your budget?

*Do you have a range that is affordable to you and your family?



ADMISSION CRITERIA

*What are their requirements ?

*Are they requiring SAT/ACT?



ADMISSION RATE

*What is their admissions rate?

*What is their average GPA?

*What is their average SAT/ACT score?



SIZE

*What is your comfort level?

*Big/small class sizes?

Decide what is important to you and your family...

Automatic Admissions

- Students in the **top 10%** of their class are **guaranteed** admission to any public college in Texas.
- **Exceptions:** UT = top 5%, private and out-of-state colleges do not follow 10% rule
- **You must complete all admission requirements (application, FAFSA) by the college's deadline to qualify.

Tarleton - Distinguished HS Partners Program

- Automatic admission - top 50%
- $1000 scholarship for top 10%; $500 for others
- President's Scholarship Program

TWU - Pioneer Promise

- Automatic admission - top 30%
- Enhanced scholarship opportunities

UNT - Eagle Advantage

- Automatic admission for top 20%
- Enhanced scholarship opportunities

COMMON APP VS. APPLYTEXAS

Which Application Should You Use?

COMMON APP

A single application accepted by hundreds of colleges and universities across the United States and around the world.

OPENS AUGUST 1

APPLYTEXAS

A college application platform designed primarily for Texas public universities, with some Texas private colleges participating as well.

OPENS JULY 1

HOW ARE THEY SIMILAR?

- Both allow students to apply to multiple colleges through one platform.
- Both offer fee waiver options for eligible students.
- Both collect academic, extracurricular, and personal information required for admission.
- Both are accepted by many Texas colleges and universities.

WHICH ONE IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

Applying only to Texas public universities?
ApplyTexas is likely your best option.

Applying to both Texas and out-of-state colleges?
Common App can simplify the process by allowing you to use one application for many schools.

Most Texas colleges accept both applications,
so always check each college's admissions website before applying.

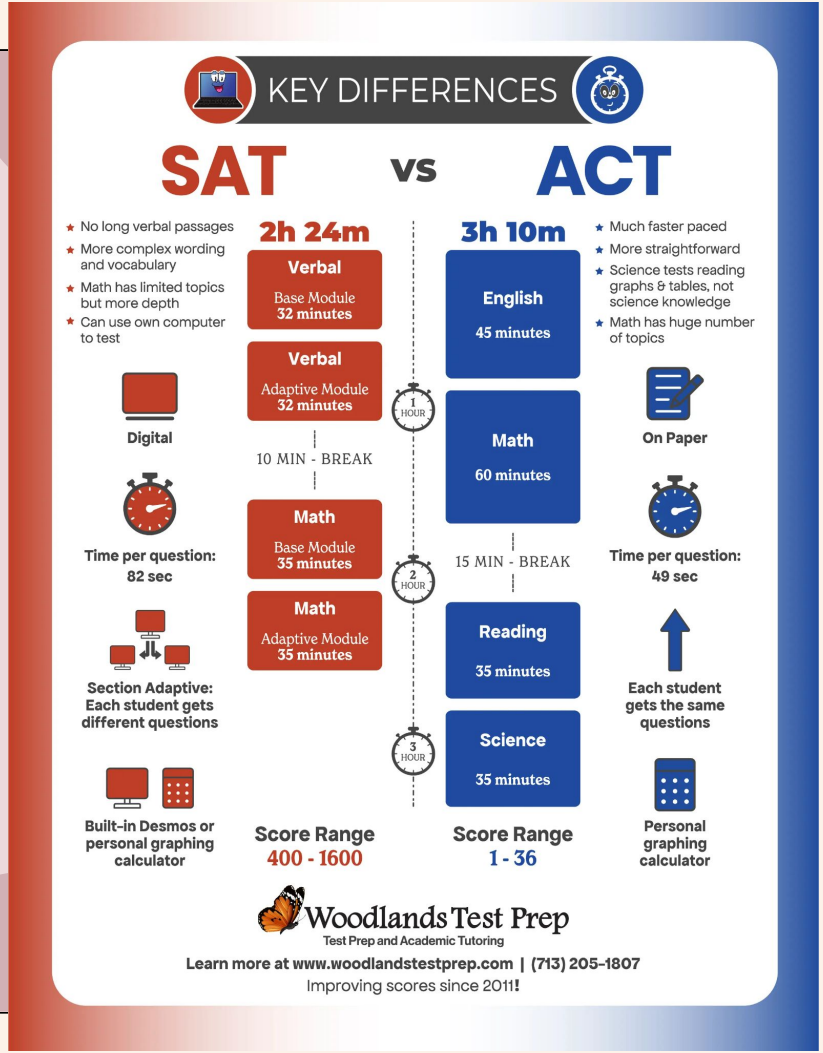
BEFORE YOU APPLY, create your college list and verify which application each institution accepts. A little planning now can save time and reduce stress later!

ccmrwithmsthrash.com/seniors/application-types

Free Apply Texas Week - Oct. 11-17

SAT vs. ACT: Which fits you?

- **Format & Pace:**
  - **ACT:** Paper or Digital | Fast-paced | Longer test
  - **SAT:** Digital only | More time per question | Shorter test (wordier/harder vocab, more focused on literary skills)
- **Math & Tools:**
  - **ACT:** Covers all math types
  - **SAT:** Focused on Algebra | Built-in **Desmos** graphing calculator
- **Science:**
  - **ACT:** Includes a Science Reasoning section for data analysis (graphs, tables)
  - **SAT:** Weaves data analysis throughout
- **Takeaway:** Choose the test that matches your strengths to boost your score!



SUPERSCORING CAN HELP BOOST BOTH YOUR SAT & ACT SCORES.

Many colleges allow students to submit a superscore, which combines your **HIGHEST** section scores from different test dates to create your strongest overall score.

SAT EXAMPLE

MARCH SAT	MAY SAT	AUGUST SAT	SAT SUPERSCORE
Reading & Writing 580	Reading & Writing 580	Reading & Writing 640	Highest Reading & Writing 640
Math 570	Math 650	Math 620	Highest Math 650
Total 1150	Total 1230	Total 1260	NEW SUPERSCORE 1290

ACT EXAMPLE

SEPTEMBER ACT	DECEMBER ACT	ACT SUPERSCORE
English 21	English 25	English 25
Math 24	Math 22	Math 24
Reading 20	Reading 24	Reading 24
Science 22	Science 23	Science 23
Composite 22	Composite 24	NEW SUPERSCORE 24+

Merit scholarships are based on SAT/ACT, GPA, Class Rank

WHY SUPERSCORING MATTERS:

- Can improve college admissions competitiveness
- May increase scholarship opportunities
- Allows students to focus on improving one section at a time
- Reduces pressure to earn your best score in one sitting

PRO TIP:

Always check each college's testing policy. Many universities superscore both the SAT and ACT for admissions and merit scholarships.

More college readiness resources:
ccmrwithmsthrash.com

Example of Merit Scholarship

FRESHMEN MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Award amount is determined by test score and unweighted high school GPA.

National Merit Finalist 100% of original federally approved cost of attendance.	HIGH SCHOOL GPA (UNWEIGHTED)					
TEST SCORE	**4.0-3.96**	**3.95-3.86**	**3.85-3.76**	**3.75-3.66**	**3.65-3.5**	**3.49-3.0**
1500-1600 SAT or 34-36 ACT	$9,000 per year	$8,000 per year	$7,000 per year	$5,500 per year	$5,000 per year	$4,000 per year
1400-1490 SAT or 31-33 ACT	$8,000 per year	$7,000 per year	$6,000 per year	$4,500 per year	$4,000 per year	$3,000 per year
1300-1390 SAT or 28-30 ACT	$6,500 per year	$5,500 per year	$4,500 per year	$3,000 per year	$2,500 per year	$1,500 per year
1200-1290 SAT or 25-27 ACT	$6,000 per year	$5,000 per year	$4,000 per year	$2,500 per year	$2,000 per year	$1,000 per year
1100-1190 SAT or 22-24 ACT	$5,000 per year	$4,000 per year	$3,000 per year	$1,500 per year	$1,000 per year	$1,000 per year
***Test Optional** **Add $1,000 if Top 10%*	*$4,000 per year	*$3,000 per year	*$2,000 per year	*$1,500 per year	*$1,000 per year	

ACT composite score; SAT reflects evidence-based reading and writing, and math; the highest section scores from multiple tests on the ACT and SAT will be used to maximize score
These awards are for the 2024-2025 academic year and are subject to change without notice. No additional application is required. Students must enroll in a minimum of 12 hours for fall & spring terms.

RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS

Awards of $7,000-$9,000	3.5 GPA & 30 TTU hours
Awards of $3,000-$6,500	3.25 GPA & 30 TTU hours
Awards of $1,000-$2,500	3.0 GPA & 30 TTU hours

Awards are renewable for up to 4 consecutive years (eight total terms).

Free / Reduced Lunch = Free Tests & Applications!

- **Testing Fee Waivers:**
  - **2 Free SATs** + unlimited score reports sent to colleges
  - If you used a fee waiver to take the SAT, you get college application fee waivers **automatically** delivered to your College Board online account.
  - **Up to 4 Free ACTs** + free prep materials & score reports
- **Free College Applications:**
  - **Common App / ApplyTexas:** Submit for free via electronic counselor approval
- **How to Get Them**
  - **Ask Your Counselor**
  - **Enter Codes Online:** Input the codes when registering on your College Board or MyACT accounts.
  - **Select "Fee Waiver" on College Apps:** Check the box stating you qualify for a fee waiver due to financial eligibility, and select your counselor to verify it.

Senior Year College Application Timeline

Aug.-Oct.

Meet with counselor; Verify grad requirements and discuss future plans; Retake exams; Finalize college list; start FAFSA (Oct 1); draft essays; Submit ApplyTexas (Oct. 12-18). Create scholarship spreadsheet.

Oct.–Dec.

Request teacher recommendations; submit applications - some colleges (UT/A&M) have Dec. 1st deadlines! Clean up social media accounts. Apply for scholarships.

Jan.–Feb.

Request mid-year transcripts; follow up on teacher recommendations. Follow up FAFSA verification. Apply for scholarships. Avoid senioritis!

Mar.–Apr.

Receive admission decisions; Compare aid letters. Apply for scholarships. Finish strong!

Apr.–May

Accept offer; pay enrollment deposit; register for orientation; complete senior exit survey with final college choice/submit final transcripts.

What is FAFSA?

Free Application for Federal Student Aid is the official government application that unlocks federal, state, and college financial aid, grants, loans, and work-study. Your eligibility is based on:

1. **Family Income & Assets:** Wages, bank balances, and investments (excluding primary homes and retirement funds).
2. **Family Size & Household:** Number of dependents supported in the household.
3. **Student Status:** Dependency status (dependent vs. independent) and student income/assets.
4. **Tax Data:** Prior-prior year tax returns imported directly from the IRS.

Opens Oct. 1

FAFSA Timeline

Create FSA ID

Student and parent (if dependent) create their FSA IDs to sign and access federal aid.

Gather Docs

Collect Social Security numbers or ITIN, 2025 tax returns, and W-2s.

Submit FAFSA

Complete the FAFSA at studentaid.gov, starting October 1.

List Schools

Enter up to 10 schools (add more via portal if allowed).

After Completing FAFSA: Aid Timeline

Verification

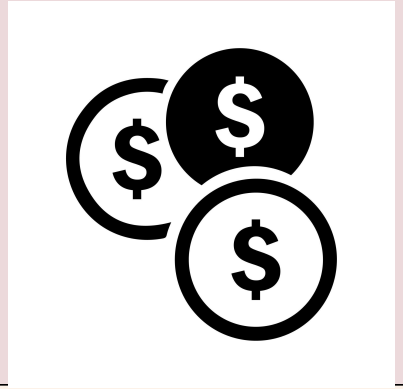
Respond promptly to any verification requests from colleges to keep aid offers on track.

Award Review

Compare financial aid letters and net price to choose the best offer.

Note

Keep copies of confirmations and deadlines for each school.



Graduation Cords

- Earn a CCMR point, receive a cord for graduation. Here's how:
  - Certain score on the SAT/ACT/TSI
  - 3 or higher on AP test
  - Dual Credit / OnRamps
  - Earn a National or Industry based certificate with a completed plan of study
  - Enlist in military and earn a 31 or higher on ASVAB

Upcoming Dates / Resources

- Aug. 19-Sept. 10 - Senior Individual Meetings with Counselors
- Aug. 28th - Registration Deadline for Sept. 12th SAT @ SHS
- Sept. 8 - NorTex College Fair @ TWU
- Sept. 18th - Registration Deadline for Oct. 3rd SAT @ SHS
- Oct. 1 - FASFA Opens
- Oct. 12 - Oct. 18 - Free TEXAS Application Week (ApplyTexas)
- Oct. 16 - TSI Friday Testing
- Oct. 28 - Registration Deadline for Nov. 4th ASVAB
- Go Center
- Work On It Wednesdays / Tribe Times
- **SHS Testing Calendar**
- **ccmrwithmsthrash.com**

Accessing Transcript

- Go to Classlink.
- Click on School Links icon.
- Click on student tab to the left of the screen.
- Click records request.
- Download transcript.
- These are updated in SchooLinks at the beginning of each semester.

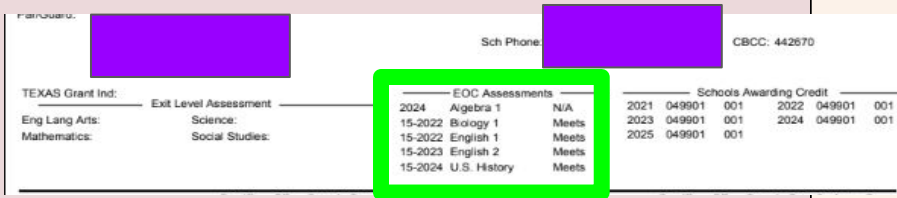
Personal Information

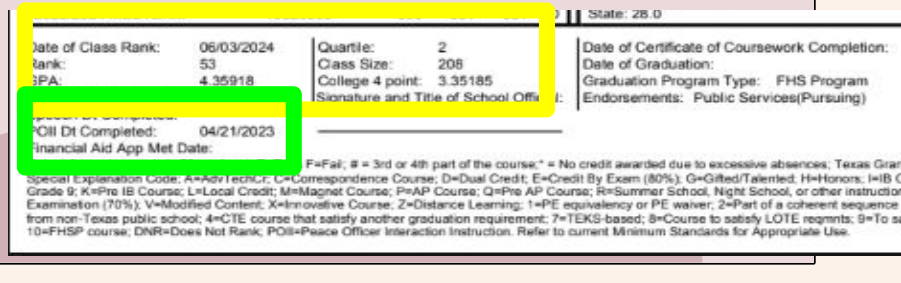
Other Grad Requirements

Completed Courses

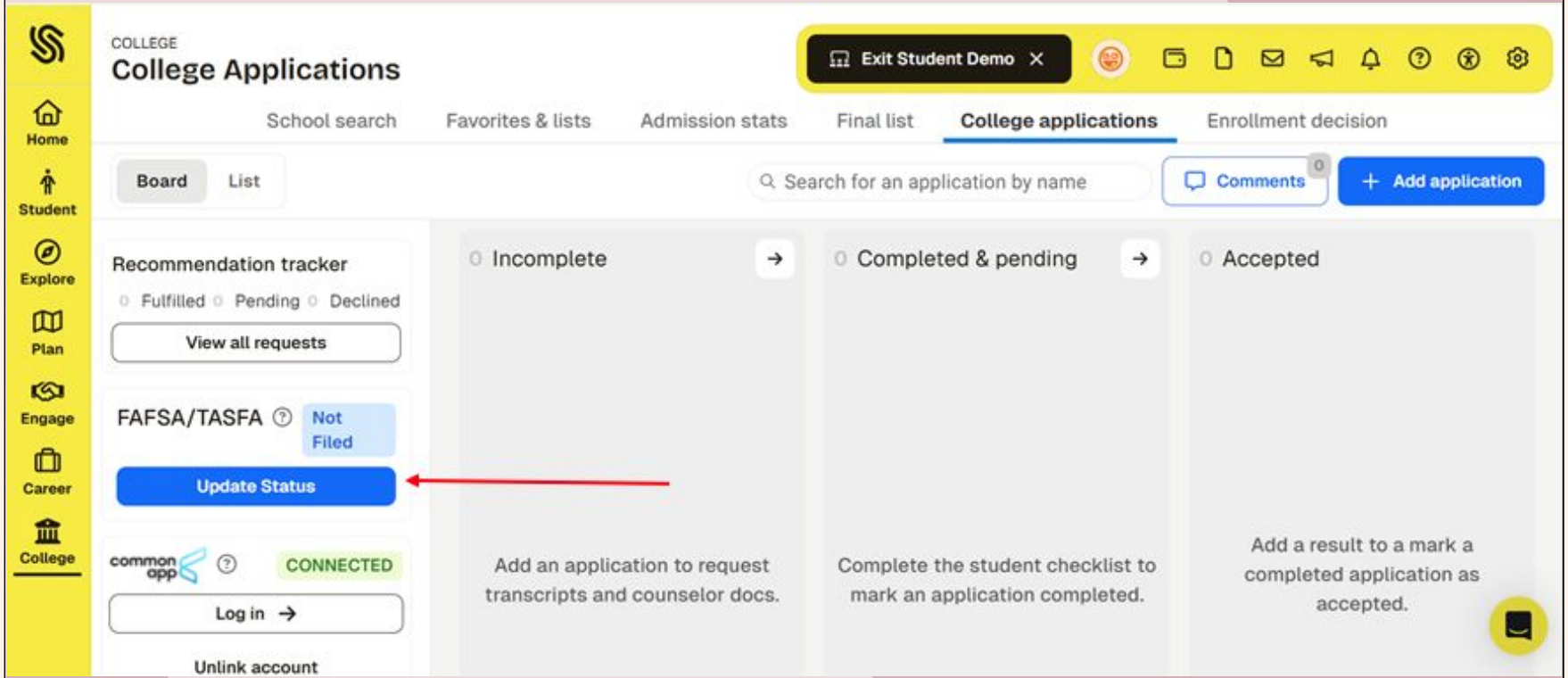
Current GPA and Rank

	Svc ID	SE	Sem 1	Sem 2	Avg	Cr
Language Arts						
2021/2022 ENG 1	03220100	Q	088	085	087	1.0
2022/2023 ENG 2	03220200	H	090	090	090	1.0
2023/2024 ENG 3	03220300	D	073		073	0.5
2023/2024 ENG 3	03220300	D		083	083	0.5
2024/2025 ENG 4	03220400	D	070		070	0.5
Mathematics						
2020/2021 ALG 1	03100500	H	080	080	080	1.0
2021/2022 GEOM	03100700	Q	085	090	088	1.0
2022/2023 ALG 2	03100600	H	087	089	088	1.0
2023/2024 CPMAT	CP111200			P	P	1.0
2023/2024 PRE CALC	03101100	H	095	085	090	1.0
Science						
2021/2022 BIO	03010200	Q	081	083	082	1.0
2022/2023 CHEM	03040000	H	087	080	084	1.0
2023/2024 FORENSCI	13029500	H	093	083	088	1.0
2024/2025 PHYSICS	03050000	H	094			0.5
Social Studies						
2021/2022 W HIST	03340400	Q	084	085	085	1.0
2022/2023 POLISCI1	13018300	H	090	091	091	1.0
2022/2023 SOC	03370100	D	077		077	0.5
2022/2023 SPTSS	03380002	D		070	070	0.5
2023/2024 US HIST	03340100	D	070		070	0.5
2023/2024 US HIST	03340100	D		070	070	0.5
2024/2025 GOVT	03330100		094		094	0.5
P.E./Equivalent						
2021/2022 SUBATH1	PES00000		100	100	100	1.0
2022/2023 SUBATH2	PES00001		100	100	100	1.0
2023/2024 SUBATH3	PES00002		100	100	100	1.0
2024/2025 SUBATH4	PES00003		100			0.5
Other Languages						
2020/2021 SPAN 1	03440100		090	090	090	1.0
2021/2022 SPAN 2	03440200		095	097	096	1.0
Fine Arts						
2021/2022 TH1	03250100	D		083	083	0.5
2022/2023 TH1TECH	03250500		097	100	099	1.0
Career/Tech Ed						
2021/2022 PRINHLSC	13020200		089	090	090	1.0
2022/2023 HLTHSCI	13020400		091	088	090	1.0

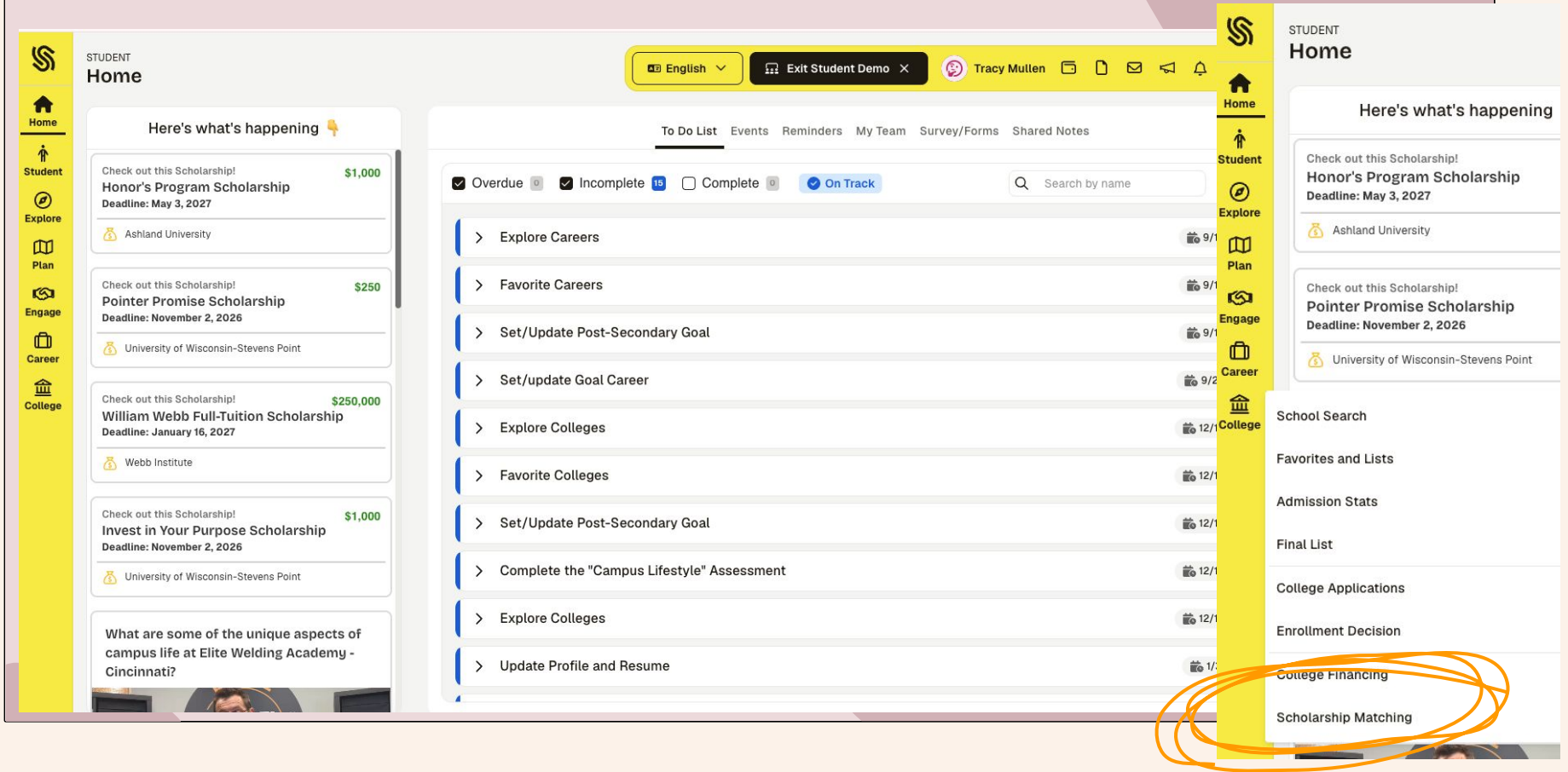




SchooLinks


COLLEGE
College Applications
Exit Student Demo
Home
Student
Explore
Plan
Engage
Career
College
School search
Favorites & lists
Admission stats
Final list
College applications
Enrollment decision
Board
List
Search for an application by name
Comments
0
Add application
Recommendation tracker
0 Fulfilled 0 Pending 0 Declined
View all requests
FAFSA/TASFA
Not Filed
Update Status
common app
CONNECTED
Log in
Unlink account
0 Incomplete
Add an application to request transcripts and counselor docs.
0 Completed & pending
Complete the student checklist to mark an application completed.
0 Accepted
Add a result to a mark a completed application as accepted.

SchooLinks


STUDENT
Home
English
Exit Student Demo
Tracy Mullen
Home
Student
Explore
Plan
Engage
Career
College
Here's what's happening
Check out this Scholarship!
Honor's Program Scholarship
$1,000
Deadline: May 3, 2027
Ashland University
Check out this Scholarship!
Pointer Promise Scholarship
$250
Deadline: November 2, 2026
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
Check out this Scholarship!
William Webb Full-Tuition Scholarship
$250,000
Deadline: January 16, 2027
Webb Institute
Check out this Scholarship!
Invest in Your Purpose Scholarship
$1,000
Deadline: November 2, 2026
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
What are some of the unique aspects of campus life at Elite Welding Academy - Cincinnati?
To Do List
Events
Reminders
My Team
Survey/Forms
Shared Notes
Overdue
Incomplete
Complete
On Track
Search by name
Explore Careers
Favorite Careers
Set/Update Post-Secondary Goal
Set/update Goal Career
Explore Colleges
Favorite Colleges
Set/Update Post-Secondary Goal
Complete the "Campus Lifestyle" Assessment
Explore Colleges
Update Profile and Resume
STUDENT
Home
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Favorites and Lists
Admission Stats
Final List
College Applications
Enrollment Decision
College Financing
Scholarship Matching