Life/Post Secondary Opportunities after Stevenson!

Ms. Hanson
Mr. Miller
SHS Post Secondary Counselors



Mr. Dan Miller

West Side

Room 2414J



- Mr. Ademi (Seniors)
- Mrs. Dwyer
- Mrs. Falk
- Mrs. Grove
- Mrs. Kogan
- Ms. Levenbrook
- Mrs. Scanio
- Mrs. Scardina
- Mr. Varghese
- Mr. Vazquez

Ms. Sara Hanson

East Side

6064G



- Mrs. Aulisio
- Mrs. Breuer
- Mr. Diambri
- Mrs. Kelly
- Mrs. Martin
- Mrs. Meiners
- Mrs. Puppolo
- Mr. Tad-y
- Mrs. Timm

GOALS FOR TODAY:

- ❑ Options after high school
- ❑ 4-Year College app process
  - ❑ Application Deadlines
  - ❑ Application systems
  - ❑ Transcript
  - ❑ Test scores
  - ❑ Essays
  - ❑ Letters of Rec
  - ❑ Scholarships
- ❑ Senior Year Calendar

Considering joining the Military, an Academy, or an ROTC Program?











Military Week:
Week of March 8th
ASVAB will be offered!

Considering Direct Entry to Careers?

Career Ready, Trades, & Military Expo
Wednesday, March 3rd, 2027



Automated Door Repair
Automotive
Cosmetology
Culinary
Fire/EMT
Medical Assistant
Medical Instrument Manufacturing
Manufacturing Technology
Real Estate
Police
Trades -building, plumbing, electrical, HVAC, welding
Veterinary Assistant
...and many more!













Need Help with Career Questions?

Career Resource Specialist in CCC - Ms. Bloomfield

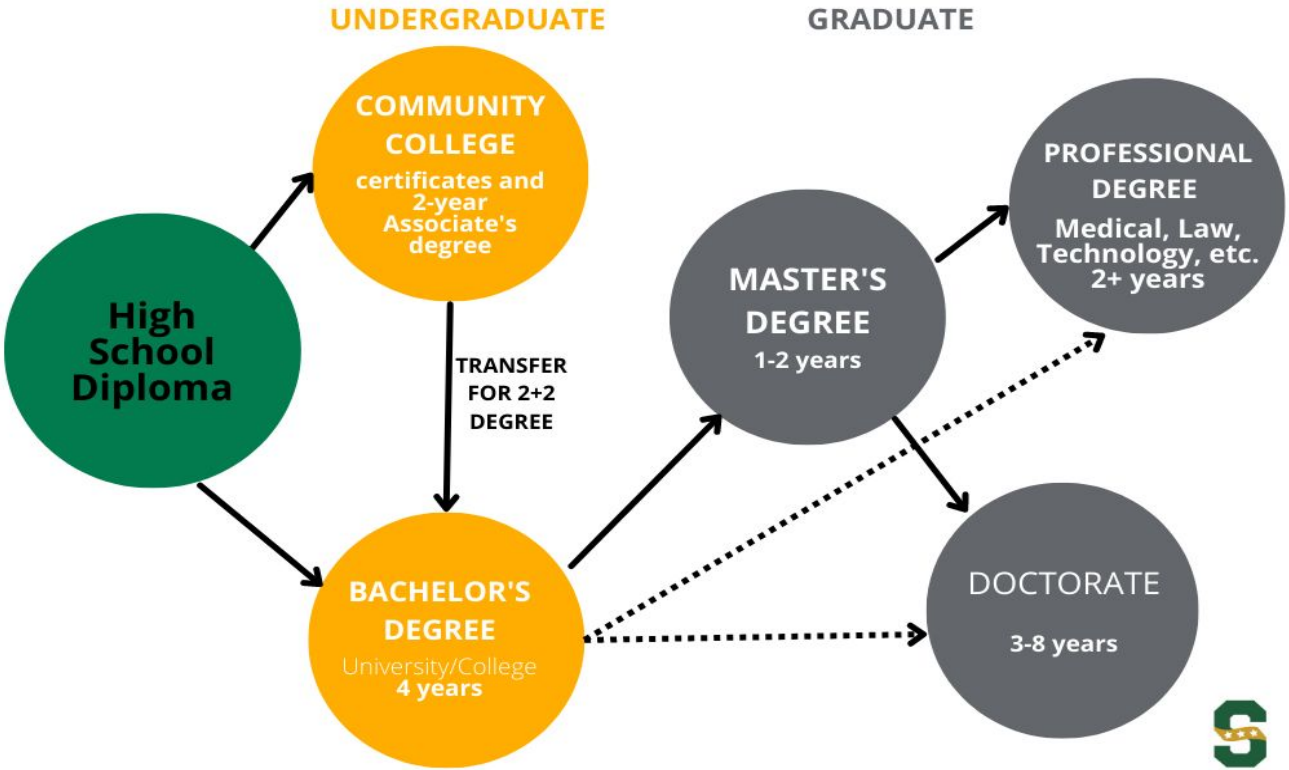
Students can stop into the CCC schedule an appointment.

Check out the Career Exploration website

www.d125.org/academics/career-exploration



US Post Secondary Educational System




COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Lots of help 2nd semester
Students should apply by March 1st.
Community College Week: Feb 8th
College of Lake County
Harper College

College Lake County™

Monthly visits - CCC

Monday, Sept. 14th - 4th period

Monday, Oct. 19th - All lunch periods
(focus on applying/onboarding)

Monday, Nov. 9th - All lunch periods
(focus on early grads - but open to all)

Monday, Dec. 7th - All lunch periods

Monday, Feb. 8th - All lunch periods & 8th period
(application/onboarding)

Monday, May 17th - All day
(Seniors only)

CLC Field Trip

Friday, Feb 5th - 1st - 4th

English Placement - 6110

Friday, March 5th - 1st - 4th

Math Placement - 6110

Friday, Mar 12th - 1st - 4th periods

Advising- CCC

Friday, Apr 16th - by appointment

COLLEGE VISITS AT STEVENSON

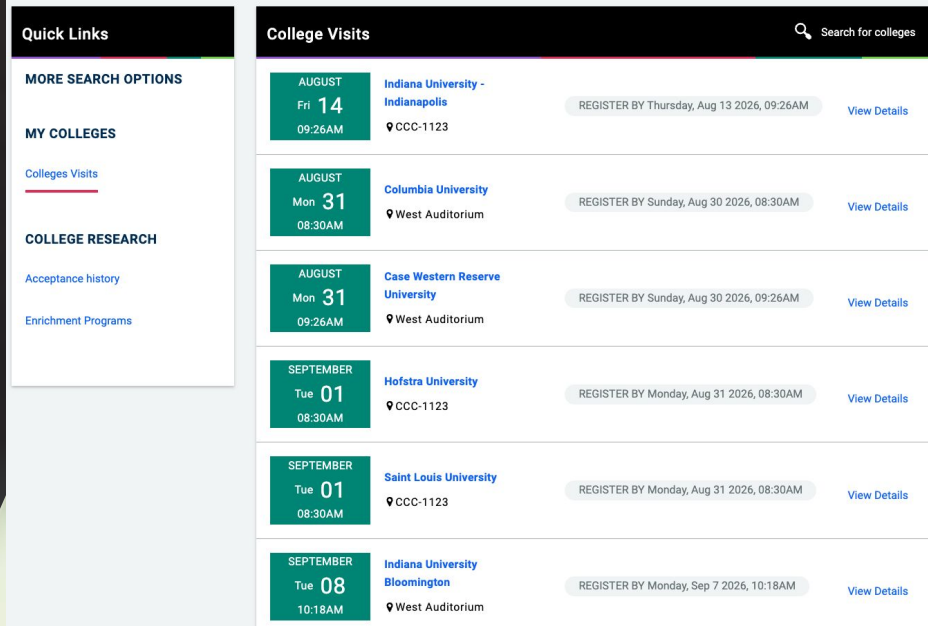
only for SHS Juniors and Seniors - not for parents/guardians or underclassmen

Schedule can be found in Naviance, Morning Announcements, our CCC webpage, and Daily Digest.

"Register" 2 school days prior through Naviance. Check out our video online on how to register. Arrange for missed work 2 days prior.

MOST visits will take place within the CCC (unless noted).





POPULAR COLLEGES VISITING SHS

Date	Time	College
Aug. 31st	2nd period	Case Western Reserve University
Sept. 8th	3rd period	Indiana University
Sept. 11th	7th period	Northwestern University
Sept. 16th	2nd period	University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Sept. 14th	1st period	University of Toronto
Sept. 15th	3rd period	Purdue University
Sept 22nd	1st period	University of Iowa
Sept. 23rd	4th period	Michigan State University
Oct 1st	3rd period	University of Wisconsin-Madison

******check Naviance, many more coming...remember students need to register in Naviance & check their teacher regarding work they are missing, TWO schools days prior to each visit.***

How College Visits Look in Naviance



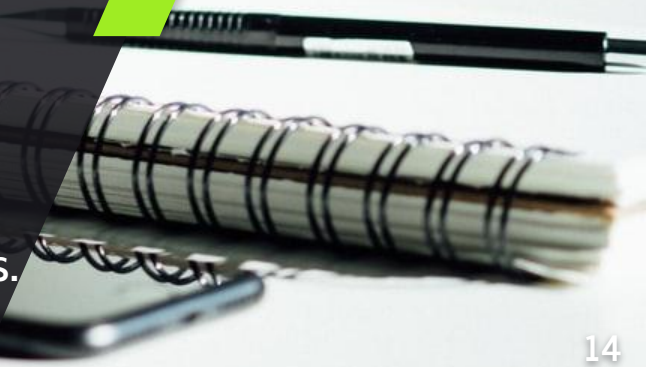
Students MUST register 2 days in advance to attend.

GOALS FOR TODAY:

- ❑ Options after high school
- ❑ 4-Year College app process
  - ❑ Application Deadlines
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  - ❑ Test scores
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  - ❑ Letters of Rec
  - ❑ Scholarships
- ❑ Timeline for Senior Year

General Tips for 4-Year Colleges

- **Review Transcript (see IC) - GPA waivers in by next week**
- Have a non-SHS email account (appropriate).
- Finalize the list of colleges to which you are applying in three categories.
- Diversify the list, and have a "reasonable" number.
- Use an organizational system.
- Continue to learn about colleges.
- Sign up for their mailing list.



Admission Plans

Each school offers different plans

- **Early Decision** - binding plan (will need to attend a mandatory session) usually at private schools (Northwestern, Vanderbilt, Wash U, U Michigan)
- **Restrictive Early Action** (or Single Choice) - Not binding, but restricts application plans at other schools (Stanford, some Ivy league)
- **Early Action** (sometimes call Priority)- almost all public schools offer EA, where scholarship money is prioritized
- **Regular** - later in the cycle
- **Rolling** - no fall deadlines, notifications roll out (Iowa, U Pittsburgh)

MAJOR DEADLINE #1:

Oct. 15th

- Early Decision, Restrictive Early Action (or Single Choice), and Early Action.
- All public university apps.
- Extremely crucial at *most* Big 10 campuses (i.e., U of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Indiana U, U Wisconsin Madison, and U of Michigan).
- Best consideration for admission and scholarship money.
- All *your* parts should be submitted at this point.

MAJOR DEADLINE #2:

Nov. 30th

ALL four-year university applications should be filed by Nov. 30th.

- Aim to finish entire college application process.

If applying to a 2 year college (i.e. College of Lake County), students should file by March 1st.

Application Options

- School specific (their own application)
- Common App
- Coalition App (not used often)
- QuestBridge (for students with special criteria)

If a college offers multiple ways to apply, they do not have a preference on a system.

COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS

Application Tips:

- Look for the application requirements checklist on the college's website.
- Use your **"<u>legal</u>"** name that is on official documents (birth certificate, passports, etc.).
- Besides the application, schools *<u>may</u>* ask for:
  - Fee
  - Transcript
  - Essay(s)
  - Letters of recommendation
  - Sample work
  - Test scores (self report/official)
  - Resume of activities
  - Interview (optional)

Find the checklists on the college website directly

STEP 3 – Apply

STEP 4 – Submit required materials

These items, plus the Common Application and the applic… waiver, make up a **complete application**. We must receive all items by the application deadline. Any outstanding requirements will be posted to your Applicant Center, so be sure to check your application status regularly after you apply.

☐ Official transcripts

Request that your school counselor send your high school transcript (that includes your senior year courses) to Ohio State, electronically, if possible.

If this course work was completed at a school outside of the United States, note that foreign language documents must be translated into English by the issuing institution, an authorized translator or a teacher of the language.

☐ Official ACT or SAT scores

How do I submit my scores?

We must receive your official ACT or SAT score sent directly from the testing agency. Scores from transcripts will not be considered. Read more about score requirements in STEP 1.

☐ Optional: Recommendation from a teacher or counselor

While not required, your counselor may send a maximum of two letters of recommendation electronically through the Common Application or through an electronic system such as Naviance.

If an electronic option isn't available, your counselor may email your letter(s) to ugdocs@osu.edu. The letter must include your first and last name and OSU ID number, found on the email we send acknowledging receipt of your application. Letters sent via email are subject to sender verification.

☐ If English is not your native language: Additional test scores

Submit one of the following scores if English isn't your native language:

- TOEFL (internet-based test or internet-based test Home Edition): 79

Expand all | Collapse all

+ 1. Admissions Application
+ 2. Application Fee
+ 3. Two Essays
+ 4. Course and Grade Information
+ 5. One Required Letter of Recommendation
+ 6. TOEFL, IELTS, AND DET Scores (English Language Proficiency)

What Admissions Considers

- High school courses completed
- Grade point average
- SAT/ACT scores and subscores (if submitted)
- Optional academic personal statement

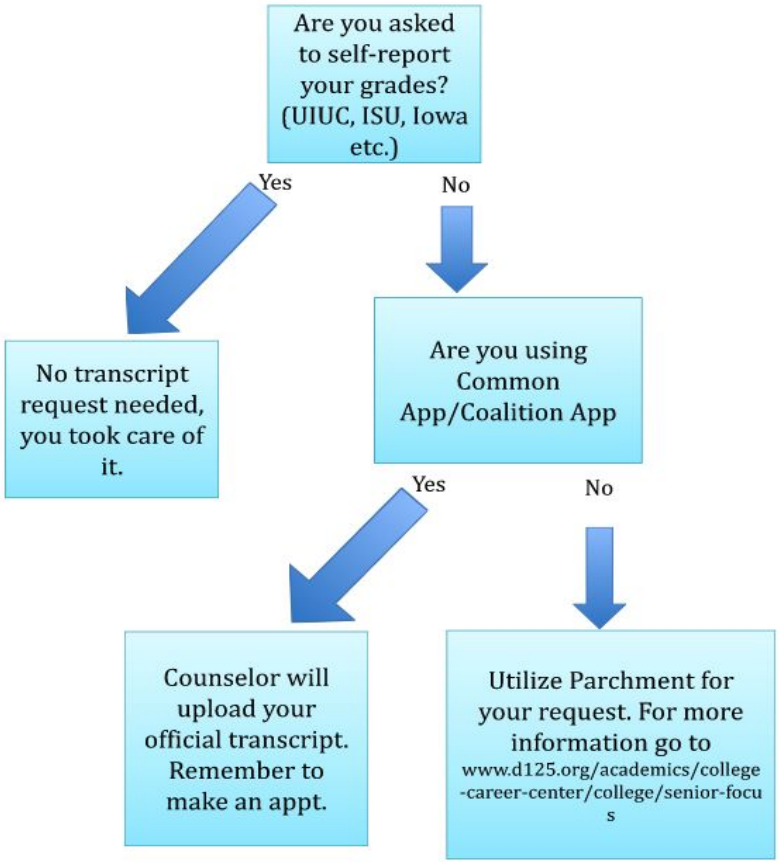
Sending Transcripts

Please check/verify your transcript in IC and submit GPA waivers within the week!

All schools will request transcripts, in a specific manner.

- Self-reported/SRAR/STARS
- Common App/Coalition
- Parchment

How your Initial Transcript is Sent to Colleges:



***Please note, all final transcript requests (sent after graduation) will be through Parchment.com.**

SELF-REPORTED ACADEMIC RECORD SYSTEM STARS/SRAR

(SRAR-pronounced "suh-RAHR," as if you were a little kid imitating a dinosaur)

Some colleges will ask students to self-report their grades.
Some are:

U of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, U of Iowa, U of California System, U Florida, U Pittsburgh

Tips:

- Students can access a transcript in Infinite Campus.
- List classes and grades exactly as they appear on the transcript.
- We are on a 4.0 **weighted** scale (not 5.0).
- Great place for an adult's eye!



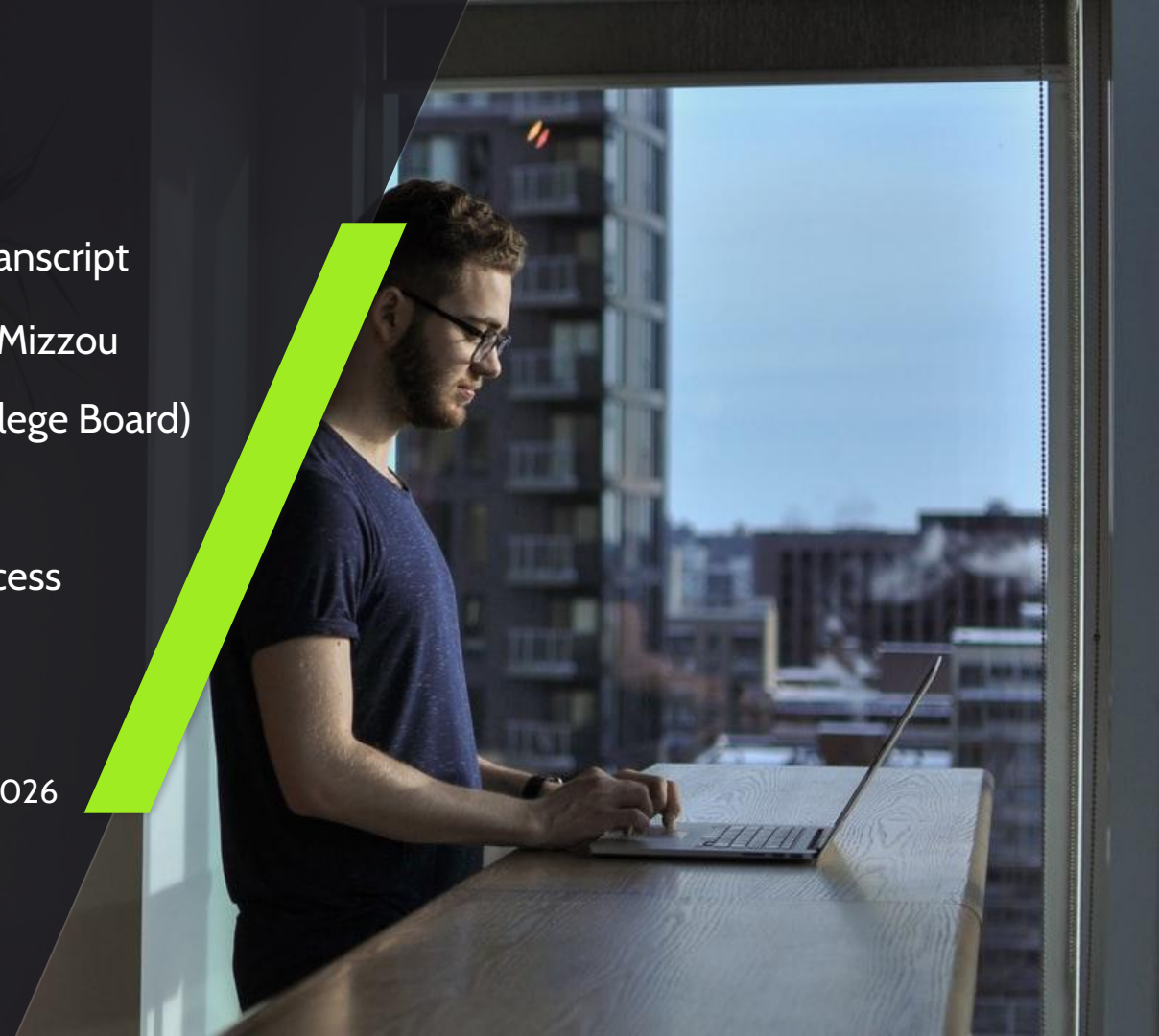
Should I go Test Optional?

- Does the college allow it?
  - Check your school.
  - Consider if there is impact on scholarship opportunities.
- Mid-50% (freshman admission profile).
- Test Blind / Test Free
  - NIU & U California Public Universities are both test blind/free.
- Fairtest.org
- Have you been in an English speaking country for less than 3 years? Check the schools' sites.
  - You might need an English Proficiency Exam (IELTS, Duolingo, TOEFL)



Reporting Test Scores

- Self-Reported
- "Official" Test scores are not on transcript
  - I.e., Ohio State, UW Madison, Mizzou
  - Log into the account (ACT/College Board)
  - Have a credit card available
  - Allow, at least, 3 weeks to process
- Upcoming Test Dates
  - Sign-up directly on testing site
  - SAT on Sept. 12 (@SHS) and Oct. 3, 2026
  - ACTs on Sept. 19 and Oct. 17, 2026 (both @SHS) - limited seats available



FERPA

TO WAIVE OR NOT TO WAIVE…

THAT IS THE QUESTION.

- The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a Federal law to protect the privacy of students.
- Students are given an option to waive their right to access their recommendations.
- We highly suggest to waive your rights:
  - Shows colleges student is not “afraid” of what is written.
  - Some colleges may disregard letters if not waived.



LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION TIPS

- Prior to asking, check to see if the college **requires** a letter.
- Adhere to the *minimum. Please don't over ask teachers.*
- Usually 1-2 from a core academic teacher in the past year or two. May allow for "other" recommenders (i.e. club sponsor, coach, employer, non-core).
- Ask teacher(s)/counselor *at least 3 weeks* prior to any deadline.
- Complete an electronic "Brag" Sheet for counselors, and "Reflection" Sheet for each teacher.
- Provide a list of colleges, with deadlines, and application system.
- Follow up with a written/emailed "thank you."

ESSAY / PERSONAL STATEMENTS

Top 7 tips:

- Optional isn't *really* optional...(with a few exceptions).
- *Answer the prompt.*
- Have someone proofread.
- Should be the "student's voice" shining through.
- For length, quality is better than quantity.
- Give time for the process.
- If used, AI: ChatGPT/related tools are meant to be utilized as a resource in developing ideas - students MUST add their voice - check college sites to determine their "policy."

Essay Workshops (brainstorming exercises) offered through the CCC:

- Tuesday, Aug. 25th, 7:45am, AND repeated on
- Wednesday, Sept. 2nd, 8th period

TYPES OF ESSAYS/PERSONAL STATEMENTS

- "Why Us" – shows genuine interest in a school, needs to be *very* specific
- "Why this major" – be clear on how you have explored it, and reasons for studying
- "Additional information" to share – academic journey, personal circumstances (e.g. significant hiccup on transcript, IEP or 504, illness that impacted you academically)
- Analytical questions - No right or wrong answer, want to learn more about you.
  - What advice would a Wisdom Tooth have?
  - Who is a significant person in your life?
  - "Which Ben & Jerry's ice cream flavor (real or imagined!) best describes you?"

Tip: 1/3 about the experience/answer, 2/3 about you

COMMON APPLICATION -
WWW.COMMONAPP.ORG

- Students should add schools, select the deadlines, and talk to recommenders (teacher(s)/counselor) soon.
- We are on a 4.0 weighted scale (not 5.0).
- Students can attend a Common App Workshop (*repeated sessions*):
  - Wednesday, Aug. 26th, 7:45 am
  - Tuesday, Sept. 1st, 8th period

Check out the CA App in self-service!



common app

Common App Counselor Invite

- Students will “invite” their counselor to be a recommender.
  - The counselor receives an email to upload forms.
  - Counselors will upload official transcript, school profile, and letter of recommendation (if needed & requested).

Make an appt. with your counselor to talk about your letter.

Tip: Follow up after any electronic invite to ensure it was received. If you need a letter, fill out a “brag sheet form” prior to your appt.



Common App Teacher Letter (if needed)

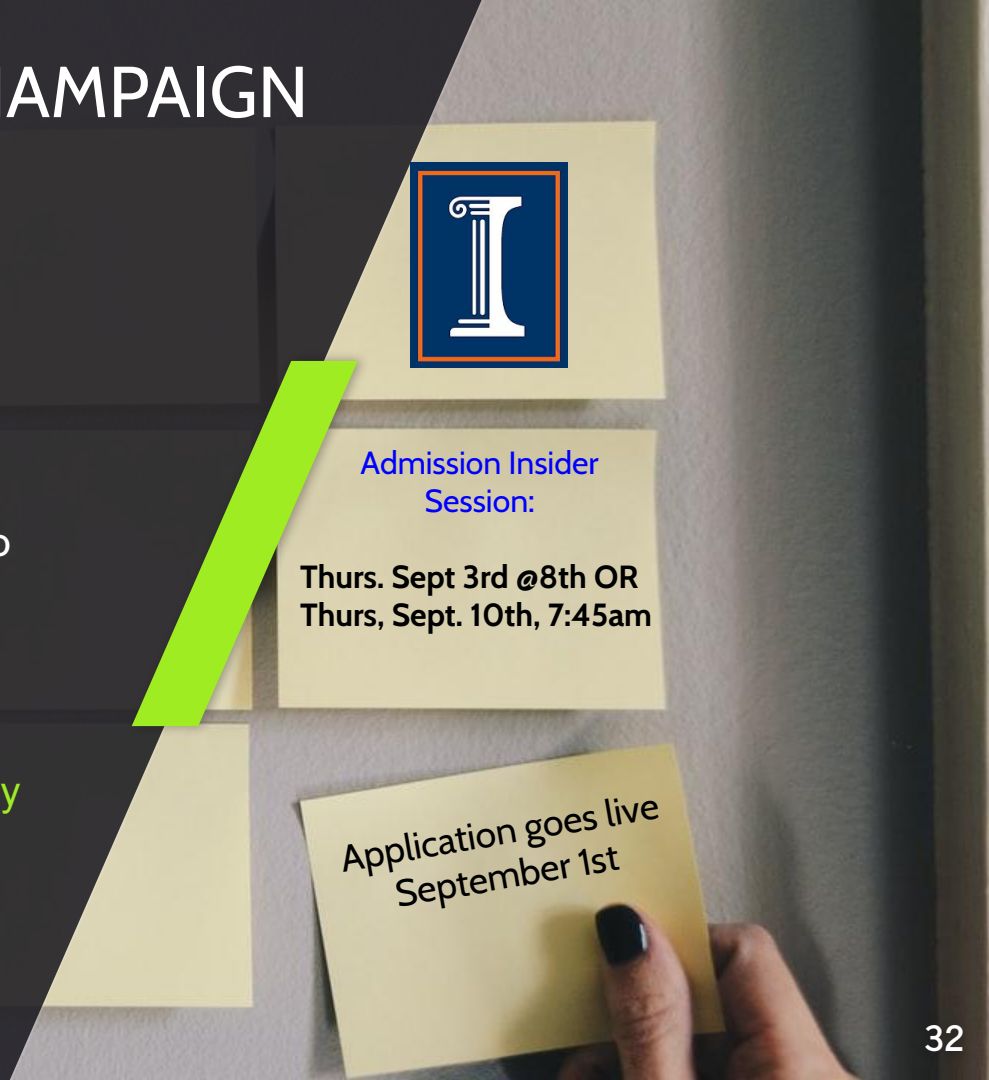
- Students should ask teacher(s) directly (with reflection sheet).
- Adhere to Minimum
- Students will “Invite” and then “Assign” teacher(s) to particular colleges.
  - The teacher receives an email from Common App once you **assign** them.

U OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

- Allows for self-reported test scores
- Early Action: apply by October 15th (SHS internal)
  - Notification date: January 29, 2027
- Self-report transcript (SHS Transcript in IC)
  - Might take 30-45 minutes, attention to detail very important
- Essays:
  - Two to three prompts
  - Each response should be approximately 150 words

Tip:

- Choose 2 majors on application (required to write 2 interest essays)



SCHOLARSHIPS



- Register with a free database (fastweb.com, appily.com)
- Check Naviance weekly
- Subscribe to the Daily Digest
- Check into *your* community (e.g. employers, credit unions, religious organizations, etc.)
- Apply for Stevenson Foundation Scholarships (in January)
- Research your schools to which you are applying
- School-specific scholarships available to SHS applicants:
  - Wells (Indiana U), Jefferson (U of Virginia)

SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

APPLICATIONS OPEN IN JANUARY 2027

- **$60K+** in scholarships available to graduating SHS seniors
- Scan the QR code below to learn more



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  - ❑ Scholarships
- ❑ Timeline for Senior Year

Application Assistance – Check Out Your Canvas

****ALL Workshops in the CCC**
Students cannot miss a class

- **Drop-in Tuesdays**
  - Every Tuesday from 8/25 – 10/27, 7:45 am & 8th pd
- **Early Decision Session (*mandatory* for students using any ED plan)**
  - Thurs, Sept 24th - ALL Lunch pds (only ½ lunch needed)
  - Thurs, Oct. 1st - 8:00 am & 8th pd
- **Essay Writing Workshop (brainstorming)**
  - Tues, Aug. 25th - 7:45 am
  - Wed, Sept. 2nd- 8th pd
- **Common App Workshop**
  - Wed, Aug. 26th - 7:45 am
  - Tues, Sept. 1st - 8th pd
- **UIUC Admission Insider Session**
  - Thurs, Sept. 3rd - 8th
  - Thurs, Sept. 10th - 7:45 am
- **University of California System Application Workshop**
  - Thurs, Sept. 24 - 7:45 am
- **Interview Panel - 2104**
  - Tues, Oct. 20th - 7:45 am

How to meet with us – individually

Essay Reads: 15-20 min individual meetings to read 1-2 essays (student only) – Calendly.

General Questions: usually best answered during drop-in Tuesdays, but can schedule an individual appt. or send an email. (appointments are student only) – Calendly, or Drop-In Tuesday.

Open Office Hours – In our respective offices, most Thursdays before school and 8th periods: 9/3 – 10/29

Post Secondary SCoPE Meetings: For *families* that didn't complete this meeting jr. year and would like a list of colleges to consider. *Parent/Guardian must be in attendance (virtual is possible).*

Worksheet/Form must be completed, and sent to shs_collegecareer@d125.org, Team CCC will confirm and schedule a meeting with all parties.

**Post Secondary Counselors will attend/facilitate each college rep visit

SENIOR TIMELINE

Sept. 17th - North Suburban NCAA Evening, 7:00 pm @ Vernon Hills High School

Sept. 26th - NACAC National College Fair @ Navy Pier (Chicago)

Sept. 27th - NACAC National College Fair @ Wisconsin State Fair Park (Milwaukee)

Sept. 28th -Financial Aid Night, 7:00pm

Sept. 30th - First Gen to US Undergraduate Admission Night PWC & Zoom

Oct. 1st - Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) opens

Oct. 6th - Choices College Fair for students with IEP/504 at Glenbrook South HS

Oct. 14th- FAFSA/IL Alt. Aid Form Completion Night, by appt. only at SHS (4pm - 7pm)

Oct. 15th - SHS deadline for public colleges, or if using an ED, REA, or EA deadline

Oct. 15th - College of Lake County College Fair, 6:00-8:00pm (Grayslake)

SENIOR TIMELINE

Nov. 30th - SHS deadline for all “other” 4-year college applications

Dec. 9th - Preparing for Admission Decisions and the Next Steps 7pm (Zoom only)

Jan. - Complete the Stevenson Foundation Scholarship Application

Jan. 23rd- GAP Year Fair at New Trier High School

Feb. 12th - Summer Job Fair - PWC all lunch periods

Mar. 1st - SHS deadline for 2-year college applications

March 3rd - Career-Ready/Trades Expo @SHS 8th pd - 6 pm.

May 1st - National Candidate Reply Date

CCC Senior Canvas Page:

YouTube: @SHSCCC

Still have questions?

Need more info?

Check out the Senior Class of 2027 website!

www.d125.org/student-life/seniors

NSON

Find it

STUDENTS PARENTS ACADEMICS ATHLE

Seniors: Class of 2027



Senior year is a major milestone for our Patriot families, and we're committed to working closely with students and their parents/guardians so they feel informed and confident every step of the way. This is a dedicated page for everything senior families need to know about key events and deadlines. Find out more about the college application process, graduation and other events/celebrations in the tabs below.

Important Dates

Date	Event
2026 FAFSA opens	Oct. 1, 2026
Application deadline for all public universities, or "Early Decision," "Restrictive Early Action," or "Early Action"	Oct. 15, 2026
Senior yearbook photo selection due *(See more information below)*	Nov. 1, 2026

Full Calendar of Events | Event Materials | Applying to College | Transcripts | CCC Helpful Links | Senior Portraits | Commencement

Full Calendar of Events

***NOTE**: Events held during the school day are for students only.*

DROP-IN OFFICE HOURS

- Every Tuesday: Aug. 25 - Oct. 27, 7:45 a.m. and 8th period
- Every Thursday: Sept. 3 - Oct. 29, 7:45 a.m. and 8th period

Date	Event
Aug. 24 (7 p.m.)	Senior Family Night
Aug. 25 (7:45 a.m.)	Essay Writing Workshop (Brainstorming)
Aug. 26 (7:45 a.m.)	Common App Workshop
Sept. 1 (8th period)	Common App Workshop
Sept. 2 (8th period)	Essay Writing Workshop (Brainstorming)
Sept. 3 (8th period)	UIUC Admission Insider Session
Sept. 10 (7:45 a.m.)	UIUC Admission Insider Session
Sept. 14 (4th period)	Monthly CLC Visit
Sept. 17 (7 p.m.)	North Suburban NCAA Evening (College Athletes) at Vernon Hills High School
Sept. 21 (7:45 a.m.)	University of California System Application Workshop
Sept. 24 (All lunch periods)	Early Decision Session (mandatory for students using any ED plan)
Sept. 28 (7 p.m.)	SHS College Career Center Financial Aid Night
Oct. 1 (8 a.m. & 8th period)	Early Decision Session (mandatory for students using any ED plan)
Oct. 6 (6 - 8:30 p.m.)	Choices College Fair (for students with an IEP or 504 Plan) at Glenbrook South High School
TBD	First Generation to United States Undergraduate Admission -- Night #1
Oct. 5 (6 - 8 p.m.)	Illinois Regional College Fair at College of Lake County
Oct. 14 (4 p.m.)	FAFSA and Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid Workshop
Oct. 19 (All lunch periods)	Monthly CLC Visit (focused on applying/onboarding)
Nov. 9 (All lunch periods)	Monthly CLC Visit (focused on early grads, but open to all)
TBD	Interview Panel

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS

- Don't wait to apply because you haven't visited.
- Electronic does not mean instant...allow time for processing...and outages.
- Explore "adulting" (i.e. laundry, $$, waking up on your own, managing deadlines).
- We are here to help, feel free to contact us.

Enjoy Senior Year!









