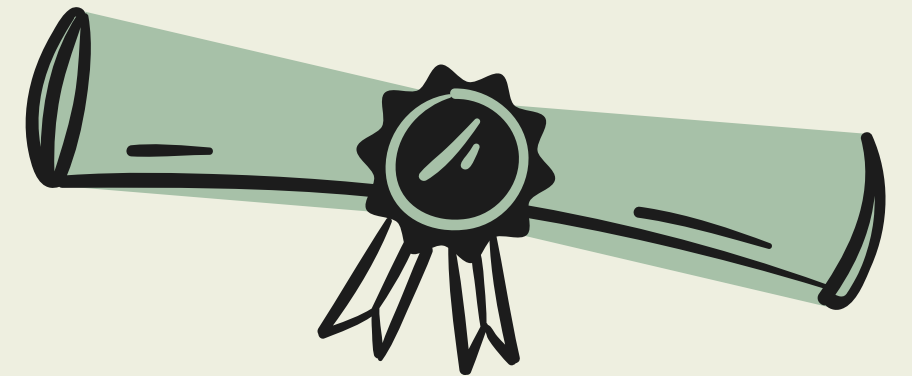
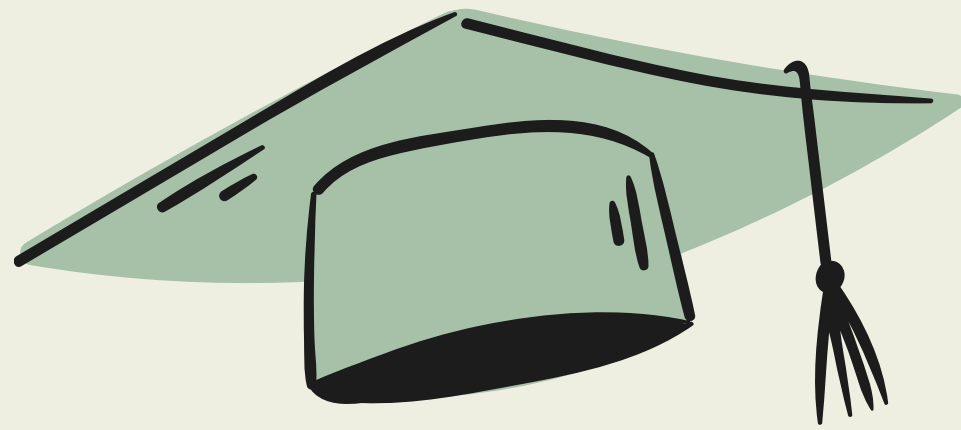




The College Application Process



Westford Academy Counseling Department
September 8, 2026



The 3-Tier Delivery Model for College Planning

Tier 1: Universal

Assembly Presentations

Class-wide and parent/caregiver presentations that cover timelines, college application components, and college planning resources.

Tier 2: Targeted

Classroom Workshops

Interactive push-ins during English classes. Counselors guide students through the Common App account setup and senior meeting checklist.

Tier 3: Intensive

1-one-1 Senior Meetings

Individual student-counselor meetings focused on finalizing college lists, essay feedback, and targeted application assistance.

Counselor Assignments

Counselor Assignments 2026 – 2027

Counselor	Class of 2027 SENIORS	Class of 2028 JUNIORS	Class of 2029 SOPHOMORES	Class of 2030 FRESHMEN
Greg Speliotis gspeliotis@westfordk12.us	A - Challa	A - Char	A - Br	A - Cha
Susan Lynch slynch@westfordk12.us	F - Kam Chan - Char	Go - Khr Chav - Chi	Bu - Gi	Che - Hasa
Brian Doherty bdoherty@westfordk12.us Long-term sub: Nikki Morrissey nmorrissey@westfordk12.us	Kan - McM Chat - Cra	Khu - Mil Cho - Chu	Gl - Kod	Hasi - La
Samantha DeMagistris sdemagistris@westfordk12.us	McW - Pat Cro - Dab	Mit - Pol Con - Dan	Koe - O'Bri	Le - N
Jenna Grossman jgrossman@westfordk12.us	Pav - Shan Dai - Dor	Pop - Sma Das - Ed	O'Co - Si	O - R
Heidi Hider hhider@westfordk12.us	Shar - Wh Dow - Eck	Smi - Wei El - Gh	Sn - Wea	S - V
Lauren Clark laurenclark@westfordk12.us	Wi - Z Eg - Ey	Wel - Z Gi - Gle	Web - Z	W - Z

Dean Assignments	Betsy Murphy - Dean	Bob Ware - Dean	Amanda Welch - Dean	Robert Ware - Gr 9 (A-F)
				Amanda Welch - Gr 9 (G-M)
				Betsy Murphy - Gr 9 (N-Z)



- Mr. Speliotis replaced Mrs. Birnkrant.
- Mrs. Morrissey will cover Mr. Doherty's caseload through the end of October 2026.

Upcoming Events

September 14: Senior meeting scheduling opens

September 16 @ 6 pm: College Affordable presentation

September 16, 17, 18: Counselors visit English classes

October 7 2nd lunch: CommonApp drop-in

Counselors to English classes

September 16, 17 & 18

Topics we will cover

- Link CommonApp & SCOIR
- Review CommonApp Sections
- Review College Deadlines
- STARS Profile
- How to schedule senior meetings



College Planning Resources



**Monthly
Newsletter**



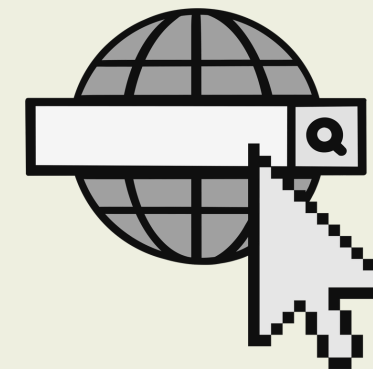
Instagram
@WA_Counseling



SCOIR



**College
Affordable**



**WA
Website**



**Google
Classroom**

Additional Resources



NACAC Virtual Fair
Sundays
Sept. 20, Oct. 18, Nov. 8
1pm - 6pm
Register here

College
Essay
Guy



How to video:
Completing
the CommonApp



Senior timeline
with important
deadlines for
applications



Senior Check List

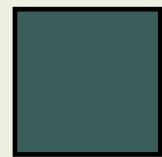
complete before senior meeting



Senior Data Sheet in SCOIR



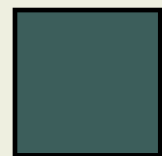
Connect CommonApp & SCOIR



Add colleges to “My Colleges” in CommonApp



Share activity list with counselor - SCOIR or Resume or PDF from CA



Once above is complete, schedule senior meeting using your counselor’s booking link (accessible on google classroom, counseling newsletter and in counselor email signature)

Topics covered in the senior meeting

- Review transcript
- Application timeline
- Sending test scores (if applicable)
- Balanced college list
- Recommendations
- CommonApp
- College essay & supplemental questions
- Anything else you have questions about!





Application Plans & Deadlines

Early Action - (non-binding)

Oct 15, Nov 1, Nov 15, Dec 1

Early Decision - (binding contract)

Oct 15, Nov 1, Nov 15, Dec 1

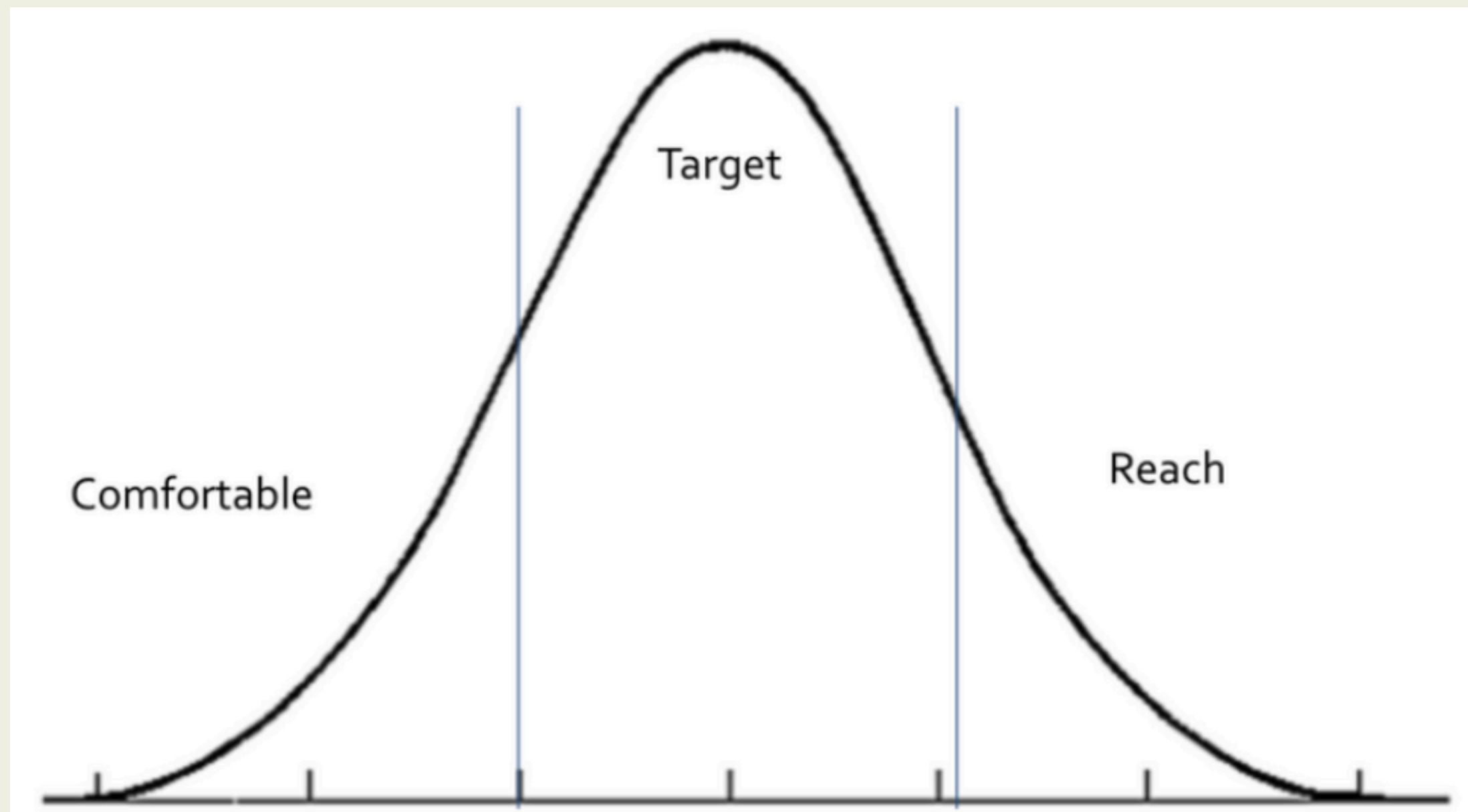
Regular Decision

Jan 1 or later

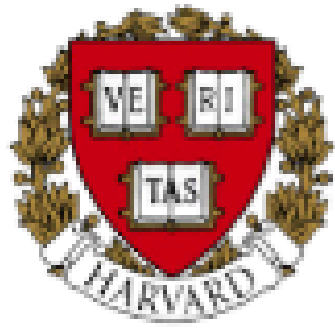
Q1 & Mid-year Grades

Rolling Admissions

Lets review the COLLEGE LIST



everyone's reach



PRINCETON
UNIVERSITY

Yale 

DARTMOUTH



 Penn
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

BROWN Carnegie Mellon Stanford

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Georgetown
University

Ucla

...and others

almost everyone's reach

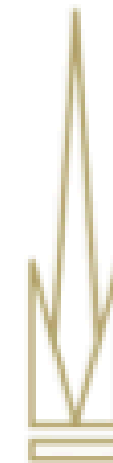


BOSTON
COLLEGE



NYU

Georgia
Tech



Colby



...and others

Test Optional

- Approximately 90% of schools are now test optional, test free or test blind
- Listing of all test optional schools: www.fairtest.org
- Be sure to check on the college's website - policies can be updated at any time!

 Test optional	1,941 colleges	86.4%
 Test free	80 colleges	3.6%
 Require scores	161 colleges	7.2%
 Policy not yet confirmed	65 colleges	2.9%



2026 SAT Digital Test Dates



October 3

Deadline for registration
9/18/26

&

late registration 9/22/26



November 7

Deadline for registration
10/23/26

&

late registration
10/27/26



December 5

Deadline for registration
11/20/26

&

late registration
11/24/26



2026 ACT Digital Test Dates



October 17

Deadline for registration 9/11/26
&
late registration 9/29/26



December 12

Deadline for registration 11/6/26
&
late registration 11/29/26

College Rep Visits at WA

- Rep visits will be offered on open dates from September 14 - November 14 both in-person (during school hours) and virtually. **Students can register for visits in Scoir.**
- All rep visits offered virtually will be at 3:00 pm on open dates.
- Students are limited to 8 visits during the school day.
- See Google Classroom for more information

How students register for college rep visits in Scoir:

Register for Upcoming Events

- 

Visit from University of New Hampshire
Mon Sep 14 | 09:15 AM – 10:00 AM
Lecture Hall 144

 Register 
- 

Visit from University of Wisconsin
Mon Sep 14 | 10:30 AM – 11:15 AM
Lecture Hall 144

 Register 
- 

Visit from Boston University
Mon Sep 14 | 11:30 AM – 12:15 PM
Lecture Hall 144

 Register 
- [See All](#)

September 2026

14
Mon



University of New Hampshire
Durham, NH

Time:
09:15 AM – 10:00 AM

Location:
Lecture Hall 144

13 
Registered

Open to the following students:
Class of 2027



University of Wisconsin
Madison, WI

Time:
10:30 AM – 11:15 AM

Location:
Lecture Hall 144

12 
Registered

Open to the following students:
Class of 2027



Boston University
Boston, MA

Time:
11:30 AM – 12:15 PM

Location:
Lecture Hall 144

16 
Registered

Open to the following students:
Class of 2027



Rivier University
Nashua, NH

Time:
01:30 PM – 02:15 PM

Location:
Counseling Conference Room

0 
Registered

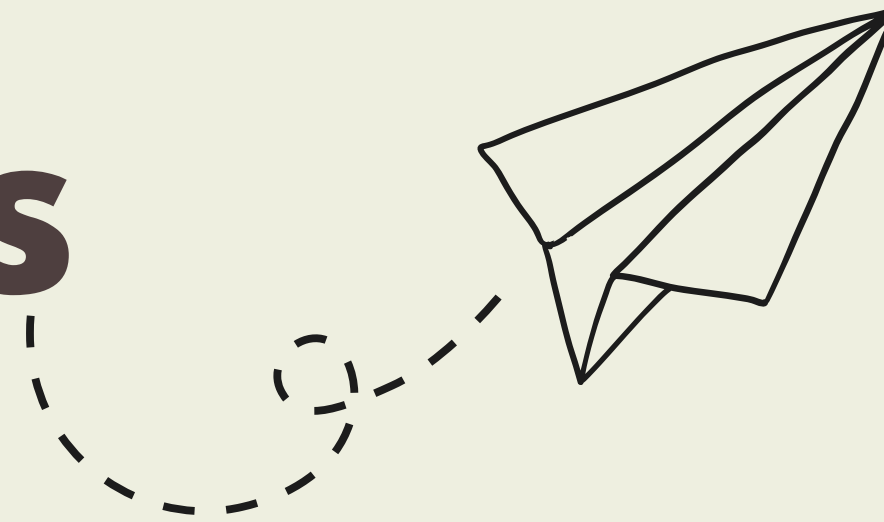
Open to the following students:
Class of 2027

Recommendations

- Students should re-connect with the teacher(s) whom they asked for letter(s) of recommendation in the spring and let them know their earliest deadline.
- Outside recommenders (employer, coach, etc.) go directly through CommonApp - WA does not send these letters.



WA sends



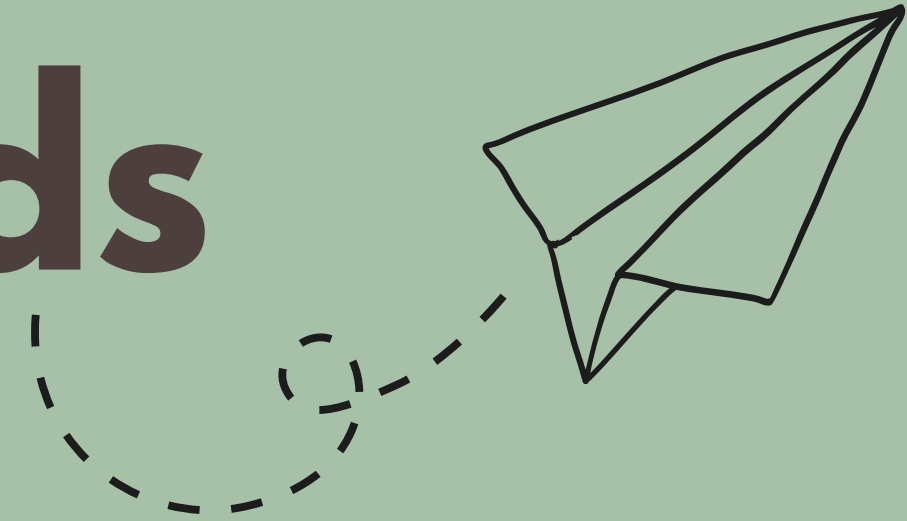
Official Transcript with senior courses

School Profile

Teacher Letters of Recommendation

Counselor Statement

Student sends



Completed Application, including
essay(s) and fees

Official test scores directly from
CollegeBoard or ACT, if applicable

Self-Reported Academic Transcript
(if required)

Financial Aid forms
(FAFSA and/or CSS)



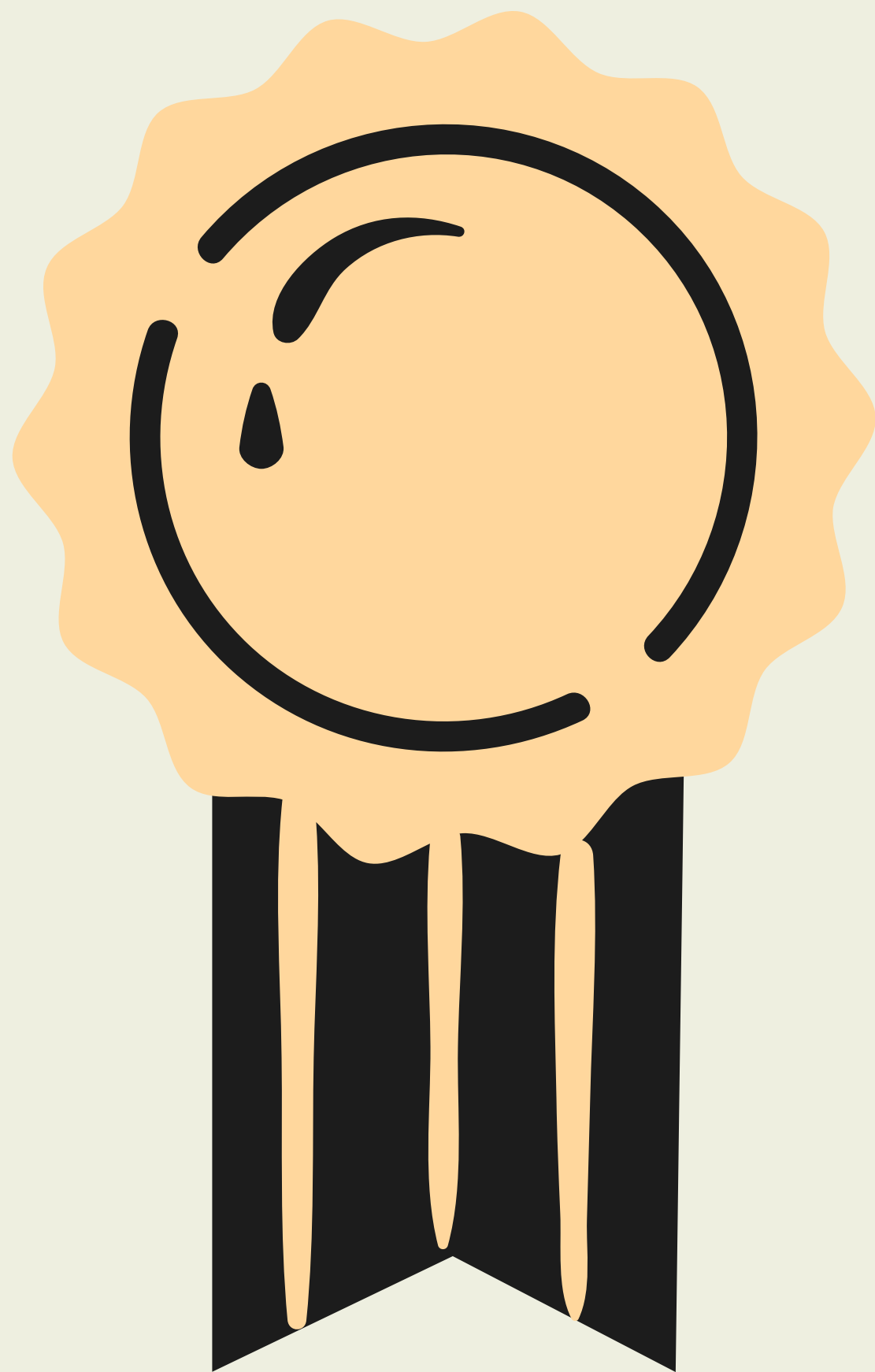
After student applies:

- Student should check email regularly
- Set up college applicant portal
- Receive decisions - Admit, Defer, Waitlist or Deny – UPDATE SCOIR
- Decide and deposit by May 1st



FREE Community College!

- Tuition and fees at all 15 Massachusetts community colleges are completely free for eligible state residents!
- Mass Transfer program
 - Students complete 2 years at a MA community college and transfer to finish their bachelors degree
 - Guranteed admission to 4 year schools
 - Students can save over 50% of their tuition and fees over the 4 years



Capstone

Capstone will be introduced to the Class of 2027 during the December 16 Advisory. More information can be found on the Capstone website!

Mandatory Dates to note in your calendar now!

- **Capstone Orientation: Friday, April 9, 8:15 am**
- **Capstone Presentations: Friday, May 21 and Monday, May 24. Please save both days (all day!) until you have been assigned a specific time.**
- **Capstone Exhibition: Friday, May 28 9-11 am**

Thank you!
**Scan the QR code to complete
a short survey!**

