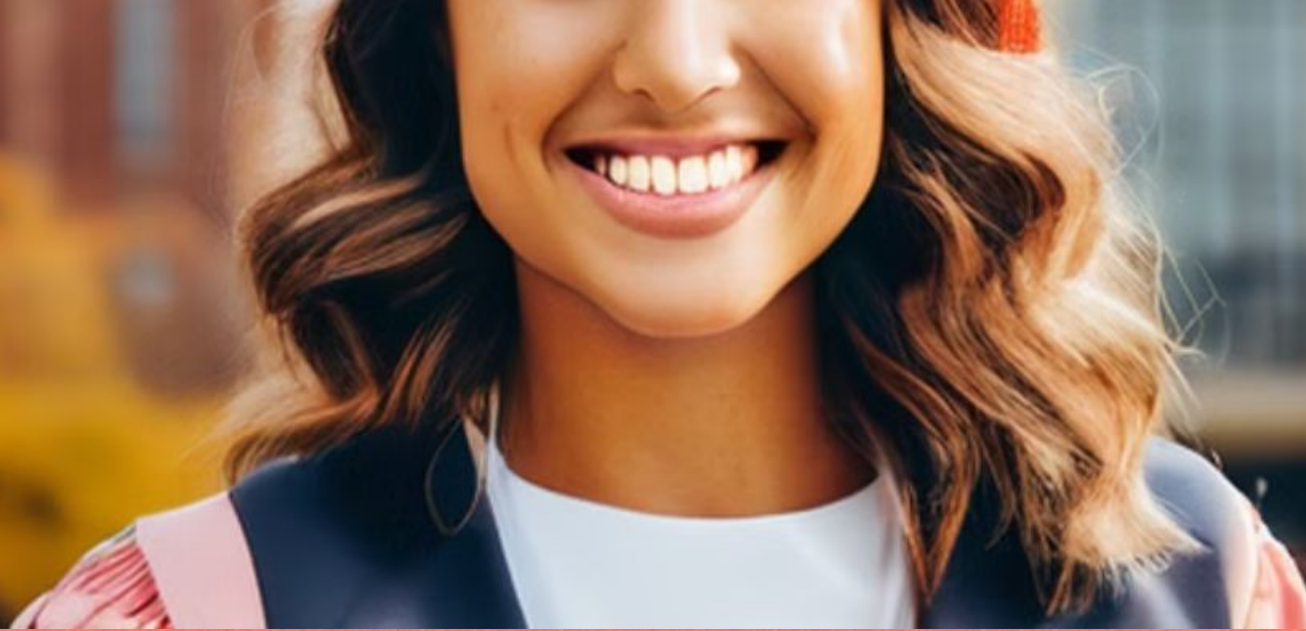




College 101: A Guide for Parents and High School Seniors

Navigating the path to college can be both exciting and overwhelming. This comprehensive guide will help you and your high school senior make informed decisions about choosing, applying, and thriving in the right college environment.

B by Blythe Masura



Why Choose College?

1

Expand Your Horizons

College offers the opportunity to explore new subjects, engage with diverse perspectives, and challenge your intellectual boundaries.

2

Prepare for Careers

A college degree equips you with the knowledge, skills, and credentials needed to pursue your dream job and build a successful career.

3

Develop Independence

The college experience fosters personal growth, decision-making abilities, and the transition to adulthood.

Choosing the Right College

Community/State/Private

Academic Programs

Consider the majors and courses offered, as well as the quality of the faculty and research opportunities.

Campus Culture

Evaluate the social environment, student organizations, and overall campus life to find the right fit.

Location and Facilities

Assess the college's location, transportation options, and the quality of dorms, dining halls, and other amenities.



Reach, Target, Safety



Visiting Campus



Applying to College



Choosing the Right Classes

Taking the required courses for graduation from Grant High School does not ensure that you have the appropriate courses for college acceptance. Please check specific college entrance requirements.

Courses Required for most college admissions

English

Math

Science

*Social Science

Foreign Language, Music, Art

How many years required for most college admissions

4 years

3 years (recommended 4)

3 years

3 years

2-3 years

College Application Types

RD (Regular Decision)

1

Deadline: Mid Dec/Mid Jan
Binding: No
Are acceptance rates higher with this method: No
Benefit: More time to apply
Drawback: Long wait for decision

Early Action

2

Deadline: Early to mid-November
Binding: No (unless restrictive)
Are acceptance rates higher with this method: Yes
Benefit: Receive earlier decision and increased acceptance odds
Drawback: None

Roll (Rolling Admission)

3

Deadline: Varies August - April
Binding: No
Are acceptance rates higher with this method: If received early - Yes!
Benefit: Many
Drawback: none - apply early

ED (Early Decision)

4

Deadline: Early to mid-November
Binding: Yes
Are acceptance rates higher with this method: Yes
Benefit: learn decision early and increased acceptance odds
Drawback: Must commit no flexibility with financial aid

ED II (Early Decision II)

5

Deadline: Mid-December to mid-January
Binding: Yes
Are acceptance rates higher with this method: Yes
Benefit: learn decision early and increased acceptance odds
Drawback: Must commit no flexibility with financial aid

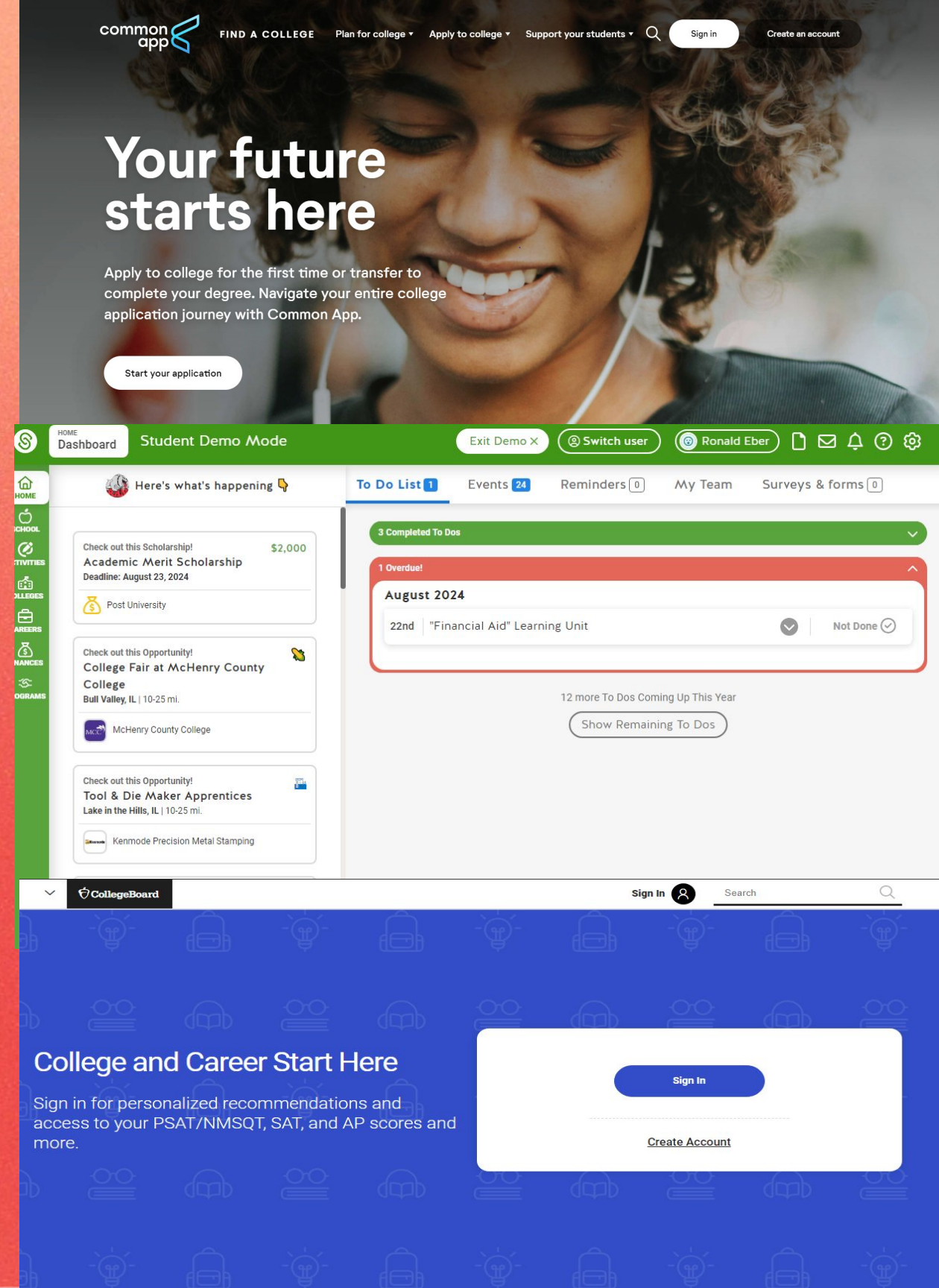
Application Process and Cost

Where to apply

- The School's Website
- Coalition Application
- Common Application
- Specific State Systems (Wi, Tx, Ca, etc.)

Costs for the application

- Application fees \$40-\$100+
- ACT - \$20 to send scores



The image shows the Common App website and a student dashboard. The top section of the website features a large photo of a smiling woman with curly hair, with the text "Your future starts here" and a "Start your application" button. Below this is a navigation bar with links like "FIND A COLLEGE", "Plan for college", "Apply to college", and "Support your students". The dashboard, titled "Student Demo Mode", shows a "To Do List" with three items: "Academic Merit Scholarship" (\$2,000), "College Fair at McHenry County College", and "Tool & Die Maker Apprentices". It also shows a "Completed To Dos" section with "Financial Aid" Learning Unit and a "Sign In" button.

common app

FIND A COLLEGE Plan for college Apply to college Support your students Sign in Create an account

Your future starts here

Apply to college for the first time or transfer to complete your degree. Navigate your entire college application journey with Common App.

Start your application

HOME Dashboard Student Demo Mode Exit Demo X Switch user Ronald Eber

Here's what's happening

To Do List 1 Events 24 Reminders 0 My Team Surveys & forms 0

3 Completed To Dos

1 Overdue!

August 2024

22nd "Financial Aid" Learning Unit Not Done

12 more To Dos Coming Up This Year

Show Remaining To Dos

CollegeBoard Sign In Search

College and Career Start Here

Sign in for personalized recommendations and access to your PSAT/NMSQT, SAT, and AP scores and more.

Sign In

Create Account



SchoolLinks

Helpful Tips for Seniors

[Sign up for
College Rep
Visits @ Grant](#)

- SchoolLinks is a
- college and career
- readiness platform
- to help students
- create an
- individualized
- roadmap to your
- future. Click on the
- links to view helpful
- tips.

Video Tutorial:

[SchoolLinks
College App
Manager Video](#)

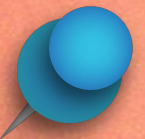
[SchoolLinks Student
College Application
Manager Guide](#)

[SchoolLinks Guide
to Common App](#)

Video Tutorial:

[Searching for
Colleges and
Manage
Applications](#)

[How to Complete your
Letter of Rec Brag Sheet](#)



Senior Timeline

Fall

- Meet with school counselor/college & career counselor to review plans
 - Request teacher/counselor recommendations
- Complete college applications/essays
 - SAVE COPIES
 - Review applications with parent and/or counselor
- Complete FAFSA online Application Expected to open October 1st
 - Required for graduation. If don't complete FAFSA must complete a waiver
- Scholarships

Senior Timeline

Winter

- Re-evaluate your college list
- Consider all possibilities
- Scholarships



Senior Timeline

Spring

- Make final decision and notify university by May 1st
- Inform other colleges that you will not be attending
- Take note of important deadlines such as housing, financial aid, etc.
- If waitlisted or denied, make new college list or appeal their decision
- Continue to work hard in classes – final transcripts can affect acceptance

Tips for Planning a College Visit

- Make appointment with college ahead of time
- Bring transcripts, activity list, GPA
- Visit classes, dorms, computer labs, etc.
- While on campus, be sure to speak to students and faculty
- Try to visit on days when classes are in session
 - Ask to sit in on a freshman course
- Bring a list of questions to ask when visiting the college
- Take notes and photographs

Visiting a College on a School Day

Grant High School Procedure

- Complete college visitation form and return it to your school counselor 24 hours prior to visit.
- Parents must speak with the counselor, or leave a voicemail, to confirm visit.
- Student must notify all teachers.

College Representative Visits at Grant

- Numerous College reps visit Grant throughout the year to speak with our students about the university they represent
- Gives students the opportunity to ask questions about the school (ex. Admission requirements, tuition costs, activities on campus)

****Must sign up for visit on SchooLinks****



Campus Life and Student Resources



Housing

Live in on-campus dorms or apartments, and enjoy the convenience and community of campus life.



Student Organizations

Get involved in extracurricular activities, clubs, and organizations to explore your interests and connect with peers.



Student Support

Utilize academic advising, tutoring, career services, and mental health resources to ensure your success.



Dining and Wellness

Enjoy a variety of dining options, fitness facilities, and healthcare services to maintain a healthy lifestyle.



Academic Expectations and Support

1

Time Management

Develop strong time management skills to balance classes, studying, and extracurricular activities.

2

Effective Learning

Utilize active learning strategies, such as note-taking, group discussions, and hands-on projects, to excel academically.

3

Academic Support

Seek help from professors, tutors, and academic advisors to overcome any challenges and reach your full potential.

Life After College: Career Preparation

Internships

Gain valuable work experience and make professional connections through internships during college.

Career Services

Utilize campus career centers to explore job options, build your resume, and practice interviewing skills.

Networking

Attend career fairs, alumni events, and professional development workshops to expand your network and explore job opportunities.



Financial Aid and Scholarships

FAFSA

Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to be considered for federal, state, and institutional financial aid.

Scholarships

Research and apply for a variety of scholarships, including those offered by the college, your high school, and outside organizations.

Understanding Costs

Carefully review the cost of attendance, including tuition, fees, room and board, and other expenses, to determine your net cost.

Financing Options

Explore student loans, work-study programs, and other financing solutions to cover the remaining cost of attendance.



Coming up

- **Financial Aid Workshops**
 - **See next slide for more information**
- **College Application Workshops (Work-it Wednesdays)**
 - **College Application assistance**
 - **College Essay assistance**
 - **Located in the College and Career Center - Sign up through SchoolLinks**
- **CLC College Fair - Thursday, October 16th**
- **College and Career Navigator from College of Lake County - Tuesdays and Fridays**
- **Community Scholarships opening end of November**

Important
FAFSA
Dates

Tackle The **FAFSA** Thursday Workshops



+
**Sign up through
SchoolLinks**
**All events take place
in the College and
Career Center**

Mrs. Masura
bmasura@grantbulldogs.org

October 8th
12:30 - 2:30

October 22nd
12:30 - 2:30

November 5th
12:30 - 2:30

November 19th
10:30 - 12:30

**Get Free Financial Aid Help & College
Funding Assistance with Mrs. Masura
and ISAC**

Denver Keske (she/her)
Illinois Student Assistance Commission
(847) 857-8948 | denver.keske@illinois.gov
[ISAC.ORG](https://www.isac.org)



Students	Counselor	Extensions	Emails
• A-Coq	Mr. Smyth	3441	gsmyth@grantbulldogs.org
• Cor-Gue	Mrs. Schroeder	3443	jschroeder@grantbulldogs.org
• Gui-Lev	Ms. Smith	3440	esmith@grantbulldogs.org
• Lew-Pal	Mrs. Schaefer	3444	hschaefer@grantbulldogs.org
• Pan-Sha	Mrs. Gill	3442	ngill@grantbulldogs.org
• She-Z	Ms. Lara	3172	LLara@grantbulldogs.org

Please Take the Following Survey

Email: bmasura@grantbulldogs.org



Phone: 847-973-3439

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@GCHS_CCC