Holland Patent High School

12TH GRADE HANDBOOK

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- ACT: Check ACT Website
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College Night @ RFA Gym
October 7th from 6:30PM-8PM

Morrisville Campus Visit/Tour
October 15th - All Day

MVCC Fall Open House
Nov 13th @ 9:30AM-12:30PM

FAFSA Completion Night
November 4th @ 5PM - HP HS

Ongoing College Visits: Check Announcements

College/Career Support: During Advisory!

Graduation Requirements

Credit Requirements

A minimum of 22 units of credit are required for graduation. Typically, a course meets one period a day, five days a week, for a full school year and receives one credit. Students accumulate credits toward graduation while fulfilling core requirements. Any additional credits needed to complete the 22 credits for graduation may be met with elective courses.

English: 4

Social Studies: 4

Math: 3

Science: 3

Language Other Than English: 1
(3 for Advanced Designation Endorsement)

Fine Arts: 1

Physical Education: 2

Health: ½

Freshman Seminar

Senior Seminar

Electives: # of credits will vary

Completed Portfolio

5 Hours Community Service

Total: 22 Credits

Assessments & Diplomas

Regents Assessment requirements are intended to assure that high school graduates have met the New York State Learning Standards in English, Social Studies, Math and Science. An additional assessment may be required in a Foreign Language. To earn a NY State High School Diploma, a student must pass Regents assessments with a score of 65 (or NYS Ed. Approved Alternatives) in the following areas:

Regents Diploma

5 Total Regents

English Language Arts

US History & Government

Global History

Math (Algebra I)

Science (Life or Physical)

Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation

8 Total Regents

English Language Arts

US History & Government

Global History

3 Math (Alg, Geo, Alg 2)

2 Science (1 Life, 1 Physical)

World Language Assessments

HPHS College Course Offerings and AP Courses

Holland Patent High School has a number of college level courses offered through MVCC, Syracuse University, SUNY Cobleskill and Herkimer College and AP courses. Earning college credits now is a great way to save time and money! Talk with your counselor to see it these offerings are a good fit for you.

Take college level courses on a college campus while attending high school. Students with an 85+ GPA can take courses through MVCC or Utica College. See your school counselor for more information. There are fees associated with these classes on campus.

Dual Enrollment Courses

Western Civ.	U.S. History	Government
Psychology	Sociology	Economics
College Alg/Trig	Inter. Math	Statistics
Calculus	Pre-Calculus	Mandarin 3 & 4
Public Speaking	English	Music Appreciation
Spanish 4 & 5	French 4 & 5	ASL 3 & 4
Fine Arts	Graphic Design	CAD 1&2
Keyboarding	Intro to Business	Business Ent.
Personal Finance	Computers & Society	Lifesaving
Animal Science	Plant Science	Food Science
Pre-Vet Science	Ag Business/Leadership	
Fitness Center	Strength Training	

AP Courses:

English Composition
Biology
Calculus
World Modern History
U.S. History
Government
Music Theory

SUPA Courses:

English 12
Presentational Speaking
Physics
Chemistry
Learning Strategies

HELPFUL WEBSITES

Career Exploration
- https://www.oneida-boces.org/linkstosuccess
- www.bls.gov/?oco
- https://app.schoolinks.com/login/k12

College
- www.collegeboard.org
- www.princetonreview.com
- www.suny.edu
- www.commonapp.org

College Athletics
- www.ncaaclearinghouse.net

Financial Aid
- www.studentaid.gov
- www.hesc.com
- www.finaid.org
- www.fastweb.com
- www.studentscholarships.org

Resume Writing
- http://www.jobstar.org/tools/resume/index.php

Testing Tips and Info
- www.collegeboard.org
- www.khanacademy.org

Music & Art Majors

- Considering art or music as a major or career? Talk with your teacher and counselor about developing a portfolio to show to college admissions representatives.
- Each college will have different portfolio requirements, so do your research and start gathering your work together now.

Holland Patent High School

12TH GRADE

Choosing a Career

It's okay if you're still figuring out what you see yourself doing!

Here are somethings to consider:

- What is the difference between a job and a career?
  - Job- no benefits, not sustainable
  - Career- Benefits, paid time off, long term, has growth
- What are your interests?
  - Understanding your strengths, personality
  - What do you enjoy doing?
- How important is money to you?
  - The number of years in college does not always mean more money
- What do you want your work week to look like?
  - Work from home?
  - Flexible hours/days?
  - 4-10 hour shifts, 3-12 hour shifts, etc
- What does the job growth look like?

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Unsure what to Major In?

- Start at a 2-year community college
  - The first 2 years at a college are almost the same classes no matter where you go, this is because you must take general education classes
  - This may also save you money as you figure it out!

- Take electives that are of interest!

- If you are in between majors, make sure you pick a college that has all interested majors
  - Ex: Torn between Business and Criminal Justice? Go to a school that offers both and then when you make your decision, there won't be a need to transfer

How do I decide what career is right for me?

- The first step in knowing what you want in a career is knowing about yourself! There are many resources available to you to learn about yourself and careers. As you explore your future options keep these things in mind:
- There is no such thing as the “one perfect occupation” out there.
- There are most likely many jobs that would satisfy your career goals and make you happy in the world of work.
- It is OK to not know! Even if you are unsure, you can still plan.
- At this stage in your career, look for majors and fields of interest. Then narrow your search to specific occupations. If you are not sure what to do right now, then choose a path that leaves many options open to you in the future.
- You are not making the one and only career decision of your life.
- Many people change majors, and careers in their lifetime. The key to future success is to explore your options and choose the best one right now. You will reevaluate your choices throughout the next year and throughout college...most likely throughout your life!
- Use the resources available to you. Your counselor can help point you in the right direction if you don’t know where to start!
- The next section focuses on career assessment tools. Use these tools to make the best decisions you can. Talk with your counselor about the assessment results and how to make meaningful choices.

Career Assessments: Your Guide to Making Career Choices

How can Assessments help?

- Career assessments can help you learn about yourself. They can help you learn about your top skills, interests, values, and more. Furthermore, they can attach careers and career clusters to those skills, interests, and values to help you narrow your search and find an occupation that is a great fit for you!
    - Sign up to take the ASVAB as a free Career Assessment tool
- Look at recommended occupations and gather information about what type of education or training is required, what colleges offer your major of interest, and what steps you need to take to reach your goals!
- Career Exploration can be a long journey but there is help along the way. Career assessments are just one resource you can use. Here are some other important tools to help you reach a great fitting occupation:
    - Career Counselors (these are available in high schools AND colleges)
    - Job Shadowing, Interviews, Videos, Teachers/Professors/Others

Preparing for the Military: Local Resources

- Thinking about going into the military? Start exploring your options! Research each branch, their mission and values and see which aligns best with you.
- You also should consider the commitment, physical requirements and career opportunities of each

Taking the ASVAB

- ASVAB is being offered in school on November 18th at 8AM
  - Free for you to take! Can take it every year
- When you take the ASVAB in school you do NOT have to give your scores to the recruiters. If you take the ASVAB with a recruiter they have to use that score
- ASVAB is NOT just for students going into the military. You can use the ASVAB as a career assessment and your scores will NOT go to a recruiter.

Army

1726 Black River Blvd N
Rome NY 1344
Phone: (315) 337-6320

Army National Guard

State Armory
1700 Parkway East
Utica, NY 13501
Phone: (315) 732-2802

Navy

1726 Black River Blvd N
Rome NY 1344
Phone: (315) 967-4265

Marines

1726 Black River Blvd N
Rome NY 1344
Phone: (315) 377-7550

Air Force

1726 Black River Blvd N
Rome NY 1344
Phone: (315) 870-6620
New Hartford: (315) 656-2940

Coast Guard

Phone: (973) 674-2993

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT INTERVIEWING

BEFORE THE INTERVIEW

- When offered the interview, ask for the names and titles of your interviewers.
- Ask approximately how long the interview is expected to be.
- Practice, practice, practice! Review your resume and work history. Make sure you are prepared to answer a variety of questions!
- Make sure you do your research and know information about the position and the company. Show your interest!
- Consider doing a dry run beforehand. Get up, get dressed, drive to interview location, etc.
- Find a business professional outfit.
- Arrive early – but not TOO early.
- The interview lasts from the time you pull into the parking space to the time you pull out of the parking space.

DURING THE INTERVIEW

- First impressions are key! Smile, make good eye contact, offer a firm handshake, and greet the recruiter using his/her name (e.g., Mr./Ms./Dr.)
- Be a good listener!
- Don't sit down until you are invited to do so.
- Avoid criticizing others and oversharing or being too personal.
- Be positive, friendly, confident, and enthusiastic (but not gushy, fake, or arrogant).
- Maintain direct eye contact during the interview.
- Answer questions with examples of specific circumstances, action, and results achieved.
- You may find that you are talking about 75% percent of the time. Be careful not to ramble, watch your grammar and avoid jargon, colloquialisms, slang.
- If you aren't sure what the employer is asking, feel free to ask for clarification, and take time to think before you answer.

AFTER THE INTERVIEW

- FOLLOW UP! Send each interviewer an individual thank you note via e-mail or U.S. mail (or both).
- Make reference to specific things you discussed in the interview or during your conversation. Or use the thank you to reinforce: key points that sell you, your interest in the position, something you failed to share during your interview but should have.
- Request a connection via LinkedIn.
- If you haven't heard from them after the time frame that they provided at the end of your interview (your last question should always be, "When can I expect to hear from you?"), call or e-mail to check on the status of the position and reiterate your interest.

QUICK TIPS

Be yourself! Be authentic, upbeat, focused, confident, candid, and concise. Let your personality shine through.

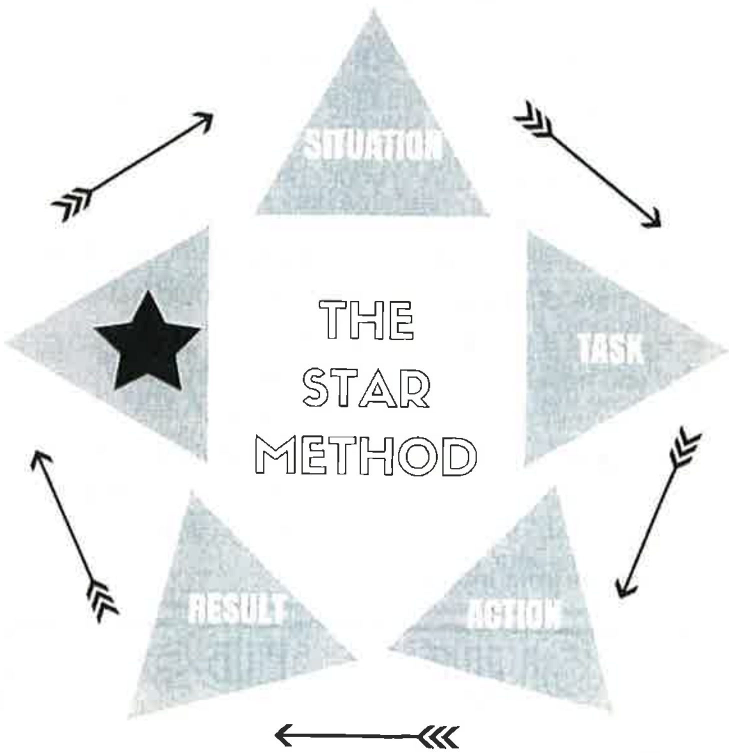
Arrive on time (that means 10-15 minutes early), relaxed, and prepared for the interview.

Speak slowly, avoid 'um' and 'like', and use examples. Remember, at its most basic form, interviews are a conversation.

Be prepared. Have extra copies of your resume, notify your references, update your LinkedIn. Come with examples and stories that not only tell the employer you are good at something or have experience but also show them exactly what you have done!

HOW TO ANSWER

BEHAVIORAL BASED QUESTIONS



Behavioral interviewing is a common style of interviewing frequently used by recruiters. Because past performance is the best indicator of future performance, the employer may ask open-ended questions about how you reacted in particular situations. Use the STAR Method to knock those questions out of the park!

PREPARE	Practice! Think of stories and examples that best demonstrate suitable behavior.
SITUATION	Describe the situation you were in. Provide some context!
TASK	Share the the task or problem for which you were responsible.
ACTION	What did you do? Discuss the specific action(s) that you took.
RESULT	What happened? Wrap up by explaining the results of your actions.

QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT EXPECT IN AN INTERVIEW

- Tell me about yourself.
- Why did you choose to attend IUP?
- Why did you choose to major in ________ ?
- What are your strengths? Weaknesses?
- What courses did you like best? Least? Why?
- What are your career goals?
- What future training do you plan?
- What do you know about our organization? Why did you choose to interview for this position?
- What skills, training, and experience do you have that qualify you for the position?
- Which job did you like best? Why?
- Have you had any supervisory or administrative experience? Please tell me about it.
- What motivates you?
- How do you motivate others?

QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT WANT TO ASK

- What kinds of assignments might I expect during the first six months on the job?
- How is success in this job measured and rewarded?
- What is the largest single problem facing your staff or organization currently?
- In what ways is a career with your organization better than one with your competitors?
- Is there a lot of team/project work?
- What qualities are you looking for in the candidate who fills this position?
- Do you have any concerns about my candidacy for this position?
- Are there any questions for which I could provide more information?

Visit our website iup.edu/career to view career resources for more detailed information.

IUP Career and Professional Development Center * 302 Pratt Hall * 724-357-2235

Sample Resume Guide

Your Name

123 Your Street
Your City, ST 12345
(123) 456-7890
no_reply@example.com

OBJECTIVE

To find a position that will utilize my skills and interests in the area of __________.

EDUCATION

Holland Patent Central School, Holland Patent - *Regents/Advanced Regents Diploma*

September 20XX - June 20XX

- List some relevant courses and/or advanced courses. Example: Welding, AP Bio, SUPA Presentational Speaking

EXPERIENCE (Your most recent/current job will be listed first)

Company Name, Location - *Job Title*

MONTH 20XX - PRESENT

- Talk about some of the things that you did in your job
- Example

Dunkin Donuts, Barneveld, NY - *Team Member*

September 2021 -June 2022

- Responsibility of closing store
- Responsible for making bank deposits

SKILLS

- Talk about different skills you have
- Example: Good Communication skills

AWARDS

List your awards that were given through academics, sports and clubs/activities.

Writing Your Cover Letter

- Attach a cover letter to the front of your resume. The letter should be written specifically to the Company you are sending it to. Write a different letter for each company.

Your Name
123 Your Street
Your City, ST 12345
(123) 456-7890
no_reply@example.com

4th September 20XX

Ronny Reader
CEO, Company Name
123 Address St
Anytown, ST 12345

Dear (Use Employer's Name),

Use your first paragraph to tell your employer why you are writing and how you found out about the job opening. Show your interest in THIS company/position.

Use the second paragraph to highlight information on your resume that will be particularly useful to this particular company. Be brief and to-the point. The cover letter should be no longer than one side of a single page.

You should tell the reader what you want to gain from the job. For example, I would like to acquire more experience working in a management position. It is important that the company meets your needs as it is that you meet theirs,

Finally, use your last paragraph to plan for action. Don't forget to thank them for considering your application.

Sincerely,

Sign here

Your Name

Senior Brag Sheet
Holland Patent High School
Class of 20____

Student's Name: ____
(Last) (First) (Middle In) (Preferred Name)

Date of Birth: ____________________ Career Goal: ______________________________

Future Plans
Check any of the following that apply to:

Major: ____

Why you are pursuing that Major:
____
____
____

Name of schools being considered

- 4-year College ______________________________
  2-year College ______________________________
- Vocational School ______________________________
- Apprenticeship Program ______________________________
- Employment ______________________________
- Armed Services ______________________________
- Other ______________________________

Paid Work Experiences (please indicate self-employed ventures, i.e., lawn mowing, babysitting, work, etc.)

Dates	Employer	Hrs per week	Duties

Volunteer Experience (Church, hospital, community, etc.)
____
____
____
____

Out-of-School Activities which have helped me prepare for work or further education (Travel, community service, church activities, workshops, etc.)

Sports Activities:

Activity	Yr. in school (9, 10,11,12)	Awards	Office(s) Held

Extra-curricular activities in which I have participated in:

Activity	Yr. in school (9, 10,11,12)	Awards	Office(s) Held

Personal Strengths: highlights that colleges or employers should consider (Hobbies/interests, special abilities, talents, special circumstances, etc)

3 Qualities others would use to describe you:

1. ____________________
2. ____________________
3. ____________________

List two teachers who could be contacted as references:

12th GRADE TIMELINE

SUMMER - Prior to your senior year

- **Take** the SAT II subject tests if your potential colleges require them and you have finished the curriculum which would help you score well.
- **Narrow** your list of colleges to 4-8. Make sure these are a right match for you. Just because a relative attended an Ivy League school, doesn't mean it is a good fit for you.
- **Visit** the three schools at the top of your list. (Be sure to include SUNY.) Schedule your visit in conjunction with a family vacation or when colleges are hosting events.
- **Decide** whether you'll apply as an Early Decision or Early Action candidate and begin preparing your application for admission. These deadlines are typically in early to mid-November of your senior year.
- **Compose** rough drafts of essays and ask your family, friends, and teachers to review your essays for grammar, punctuation, readability, and content.
- **Contact** coaches, if applicable, and include your high school sports schedule and game tapes. Be sure to tell them why you are interested in their program and school.
- **Preview** application questions now and begin to draft your answers. Worksheets for the SUNY application can be found at www.suny.edu/attend/learn-more/forms-and-publications.
- **Create** an arts portfolio, if applicable, to showcase your performing, visual or creative arts work. Your portfolio may inlude essays, photographs, illustrations, slides or other forms of artwork. A portfolio should represent your best creative work from class projects or assignments and be consistent with portfolio instructions given by an individual campus program.

FALL

- **Have** a strong senior year. Take at least four academic courses and earn good grades. Colleges may ask to review your mid-year grades.
- **Review** your high school transcript to be sure it is accurate.
- **Plan** ahead! This is a busy time for your school counseling office. Provide your counselor with a list of schools to which you intend to apply and give him/her a list of dates for letters, forms, etc.
- **Discuss** essay topics with your teachers and/or counselor. If you haven't done so already, write a first draft of your college essay.
- **Create** a résumé which includes your high school graduation date, grade point average, class rank, standardized test scores, special courses taken, academic honors and awards, activities (including athletics, leadership, community service, and work), interests and major goals. Keep your résumé brief – one to two pages maximum.
- **Apply** to SUNY at www.suny.edu/applySUNY. The application is available August 1.
- **Apply** for federal financial aid. Obtain your FSA ID, then complete the FAFSA at fafsa.gov. Use your tax information from the previous year. The application is available October 1.
- **Keep** your counselor updated about where you've applied for admission and let him/her know how you've applied (SUNY Application, Common Application, etc.).
- **Organize!** Create a folder for each college to which you are applying and make special note of deadlines. Also create separate folders for tests you've taken or plan to take, financial aid forms and fee waivers.
- **Identify** teachers and counselors from whom you will ask for letters of recommendation. Give serious consideration to teachers that can speak to the rigor of your curriculum and your potential for success.

- **Attend** upcoming college fairs - most will occur in September, October and November.
- **Follow-up** with your counselor and/or teachers to ensure that your letters of recommendation have been sent.
- **Contact** colleges regarding support services if you have a learning or physical disability.
- **Continue** to investigate scholarship opportunities. A good resource is FastWeb at www.fastweb.com.
- **Plan** on auditioning for a music program or scholarship? Each SUNY campus has its own process for scheduling auditions. In some cases, the department will contact you directly to schedule an audition after receiving your application. Other programs ask that you schedule your audition as soon as possible whether you have submitted your application or not. Check with each campus about how and where to schedule an audition.
- **Plan** on playing a sport? Be sure to file the proper paperwork with the NCAA Clearinghouse. See your coach, athletic director or counselor, or go to www.eligibilitycenter.org.
- **Practice** your college interview skills by participating in a mock interview. Ask your counselor for information or to organize an interview.

WINTER

- **Stay** focused and keep studying.
- **Ask** your counselor to send mid-year grades to colleges to which you've applied, if required.
- **Register** for May AP exams.

SPRING

- **Look** for decision letters.
- **Make** photocopies of all decision letters and scholarship letters/awards you've received and give them to your counselor. These copies will help your counselor know from whom you've heard and will enable him/her to compile yearly school profile statistics.
- **Maintain** good senior year grades. Failure to do so may result in your acceptance offer(s) being rescinded.
- **Review** financial aid and scholarship offers you've received. If you have questions, call offices directly.
- **Make** your college decision by May 1. Notify the colleges you won't be attending so other students who were placed on waiting lists can be admitted.
- **Send** your tuition deposit (if required).
- **Notify** your guidance counselor of your college decision and request that a final transcript to be sent to that college.
- **Notify** your counselor and those who've awarded you a scholarship (for scholarship recipients) about where you'll attend as most will send a scholarship check directly to the college you plan to attend.
- **Ask** your counselor to send your final transcript to the NCAA Clearinghouse (for athletes).

Links to non-SUNY websites and information are provided for your convenience and do not constitute an endorsement.

CollegeBoard

FOR STUDENTS

College Planning: 12th Grade

Want to know if you're on track in the college application process? This checklist shows you what you should be doing, and when.

FALL

- ☐ **Narrow your list of colleges to between 5 and 10.** Meet with a counselor about your college choices and, if you've not yet done so, download college applications and financial aid forms. Plan to visit as many of these colleges as possible.
- ☐ **Create a master list or calendar that includes:**
  - Tests you'll take and their fees, dates, and registration deadlines
  - College application due dates
  - Required financial aid application forms and their deadlines (aid applications may be due before college applications)
  - Other materials you'll need (recommendations, transcripts, etc.)
  - Your high school's application processing deadlines
- ☐ **Ask a counselor** to help you request a fee waiver ,or self-identify when you register, if you can't afford application or test fees.
- ☐ **Take the SAT® one more time:** Many seniors retake the SAT in the fall. Additional coursework since your last test could help you boost your performance. Plus you already know what to expect on test day.
- ☐ **Be sure** to have your SAT scores sent to the colleges to which you are applying.
- ☐ **Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®):** To apply for most financial aid, you'll need to complete the FAFSA. October 1 is the first day you can file the **FAFSA**.
- ☐ **Complete the CSS Profile:** **CSS Profile®** is an online application used by certain colleges and scholarship programs to determine eligibility for their aid dollars.
- ☐ **Prepare** early decision/early action or rolling admission applications as soon as possible. November 1–15: Colleges may require test scores and applications between these dates for early decision admission.
- ☐ **Ask a counselor or teacher** for recommendations if you need them. Give each teacher or counselor an outline of your academic record and your extracurricular activities. For each recommendation that a teacher must mail, provide a stamped, addressed envelope and any college forms required.
- ☐ **Write first drafts** and ask teachers and others to read them if you're submitting essays. If you're applying for early decision, finish the essays for that application now.
- ☐ **Complete** at least one college application by Thanksgiving.
- ☐ **Ask your counselor, or appropriate school official,** to send your transcripts to colleges. Give counselors the proper forms at least two weeks before the colleges require them.

WINTER

- ☐ **Keep photocopies/electronic folders** as you finish and send your applications and essays.
- ☐ **Give the correct form** to your counselor if the college wants to see second-semester grades.
- ☐ **Have your high school send a transcript**—it is sent separately to colleges if you apply online.

SPRING

- ☐ **Keep active in school.** If you are waitlisted, the college will want to know what you have accomplished between the time you applied and the time you learned of its decision.
- ☐ **Visit your final college before accepting.** You should receive acceptance letters and financial aid offers by mid-April. Notify your counselor of your choice. If you have questions about housing offers, talk to your counselor or call the college.
- ☐ **Inform every college** of your acceptance or rejection of the offer of admission and/or financial aid by May 1. Colleges cannot require your deposit or your commitment to attend before May 1. Talk to your counselor or adviser if you have questions.
- ☐ **Send your deposit** to one college only.
- ☐ **Take any AP® Exams.** Show what you've learned in your AP classes. A successful score could even earn you credit, advanced placement, or both, in college.
- ☐ **Waitlisted by a college?** If you intend to enroll if you are accepted, tell the admission director your intent and ask how to strengthen your application. Need financial aid? Ask whether funds will be available if you're accepted.
- ☐ **Work with a counselor** to resolve any admission or financial aid problems.
- ☐ **Ask your high school** to send a final transcript to your college.
- ☐ **Review your financial aid awards:** Not all financial aid awards are the same, so it's important to choose the aid package that's best for you and your family. Be sure to note what you have to do to continue receiving financial aid from year to year, and how your aid might change in future years.

CollegeBoard

College and Career Planning Checklist—12th-Grade Tasks

Keep track of key steps to take during each grade of high school to help you plan for college and career. Find a digital checklist at bigfuture.collegeboard.org/checklist.

First Semester

☐	Strengthen and finalize your college list.	A strong college list includes a mix of schools where you can thrive both academically and socially. Using your GPA and test scores, you can identify colleges on BigFuture that are a good fit for you. Incorporate at least three reach schools, two match schools, and one safety school.
☐	Meet with your school counselor.	Meet with the school counselor to talk through your final list of colleges to apply to. Review any tasks you need to complete before deadlines.
☐	Complete the FAFSA.	The most common way to apply for financial aid is by filling out the FAFSA—the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.
☐	Decide if you want to retake the SAT.	Many students take the SAT a second time to improve their score. Ask your counselor if your school is offering the SAT on a school day this fall. If not, you can register to take it on a weekend at a test center near you.
☐	Complete and submit your college and scholarship applications.	Once you've reviewed your application(s), it's time to send them off to your chosen schools and scholarships. Include the required components, such as essays and test scores. Be mindful of the application deadlines.

Second Semester

☐	Review your college acceptances and financial aid offers.	Once you've received admissions decisions from your college applications, it is time to review your acceptances. Notify colleges that you're declining their offers of admission.
☐	Decide on your plans after high school.	After considering your acceptances, financial aid offers, and discussing them with your family, decide what your plans will be after high school.
☐	Submit necessary documents to your college.	If going to college in the fall, notify the college that you'll be attending. Watch for emails from the college regarding documentation that will be needed to complete your enrollment.
☐	Make necessary deposits	Secure your seat and housing, if applicable, by making the required deposits by deadlines indicated in correspondence from the college.

*Complete checklist can be found at **bigfuture.collegeboard.org/checklist/12th-grade**

BigFuture Scholarships FAQ

What are BigFuture Scholarships?

BigFuture Scholarships help students start planning for their future. Starting in 10th grade, when students complete college and career planning steps on BigFuture, they're automatically entered into monthly scholarship drawings. Two $40,000 scholarships and multiple $500 scholarships are awarded every month. There's no required essay, minimum GPA, or test score.

Who's eligible for scholarships from BigFuture?

Sophomores, juniors, and seniors are eligible for BigFuture Scholarships. They must have a College Board account and attend public, private, or home school in the United States, Puerto Rico, or any other U.S. territories, or be U.S. citizens and residents attending Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) schools outside of the U.S. and U.S. territories.

How do students qualify for entries for scholarship drawings?

Whenever a student completes one of the qualifying steps, they earn one entry into monthly drawings for $500 and $40,000. Unselected entries will automatically roll over to the next month's drawing. The more steps you complete and the sooner you start, the more chances you have to win.

Are there family income requirements to earn scholarships?

No. These scholarships are open to students regardless of their family income. At least half of all the scholarships will be designated for students whose families earn less than $60,000 per year.

Are the scholarships only for tuition?

We want these scholarships to help students meet their expenses associated with attending college. Winners can use scholarships to cover tuition, fees, books, and other relevant educational expenses.

What are the college and career planning steps for BigFuture Scholarships?

Start your Career List

Save three or more careers on Career Search.

Opens: December of sophomore year

Deadline: By the end of February of senior year

Start your College List

Save three or more colleges on College Search.

Opens: December of sophomore year

Deadline: By June 30 of junior year

Start your Scholarship List

Save three or more scholarships on Scholarship Search.

Opens: July 1 before senior year

Deadline: By the end of February of senior year

Strengthen your College List

Save one safety, two match, and three reach schools on College Search.

Opens: July 1 before senior year

Deadline: By October 31 of senior year

Complete the FAFSA

Complete the FAFSA, submit a state aid form, or be legally ineligible to submit both the FAFSA and a state aid form.

Opens: December 1 of senior year

Deadline: By the end of February of senior year

Apply to Colleges

Submit applications to at least two colleges.

Opens: October 1 of senior year

Deadline: By the end of February of senior year

CollegeBoard

FOR FAMILY

Family Action Plan: 12th Grade

Senior year is a whirlwind of activities. This is a big year for your child as he or she balances schoolwork, extracurricular activities, and the college application process. Use the suggestions below to help you and your child successfully navigate this important time.

SUMMER

- **Visit colleges together.** If you haven't already, make plans to check out the campuses of colleges in which your child is interested. Use the **Campus Visit Checklist** to learn how to get the most out of these experiences.
- **Ask how you can help your senior finalize a college list.** You can help him or her choose which colleges to apply to by weighing how well each college meets his or her needs, for example. Find out more about **how to finalize a college list**.
- **Find out a college's actual cost.** Once your 12th-grader has a list of a few colleges he or she is interested in, use the **Net Price Calculator** together to determine the potential for financial aid and the true out-of-pocket cost — or net price — of each college.
- **Encourage your child to get started on applications.** He or she can get the easy stuff out of the way now by filling in as much required information on college applications as possible. Read about **how to get started on applications**.
- **Help your child decide about applying early.** If your senior is set on going to a certain college, he or she should think about whether applying early is a good option. Now is the time to decide because early applications are usually due in November. Read about the pros and cons of **applying early**.
- **Gather financial documents.** To apply for most financial aid, your child will need to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®). You'll need your tax returns and an FSA ID to complete the FAFSA, which opens Oct. 1.

FALL

- **Encourage your child to meet with the school counselor.** This year, he or she will work with the counselor to complete and submit college applications. Learn more about **the counselor's role in applying to college**.
- **Create a calendar with your child.** This should include application deadlines and other important dates. Your child can find specific colleges' deadlines in **College Search**. If your child saves colleges to a list there, he or she can get a custom online calendar that shows those colleges' deadlines.
- **Help your child prepare for college admission tests.** Many seniors retake college admission tests, such as the SAT®, in the fall. Learn more about helping your 12th-grader **prepare for admission tests**.
- **Help your child find and apply for scholarships.** He or she can find out about scholarship opportunities from the school counselor. Your high school student will need to request and complete scholarship applications and submit them on time. Learn more about **scholarships**.
- **Encourage your child to take AP® Exams.** If your 12th-grader takes AP or other advanced classes, have him or her talk with teachers now about taking these tests in May. Read more about the **AP Program**.

FALL (CONTINUED)

- **Offer to look over your senior's college applications.** But remember that this is your child's work so remain in the role of adviser and proofreader and respect his or her voice.
- **Fill out the FAFSA to apply for aid beginning Oct. 1.** The government and many colleges use the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to award aid. Now it's easier than ever to fill out this form because you can automatically transfer your tax information online from the IRS to the FAFSA. Read **How to Complete the FAFSA** to learn more.
- **Complete the CSS Profile™, if required.** If your child needs to submit the PROFILE to a college or scholarship program, be sure to find out the priority deadline and submit it by that date. Visit **cssprofile.collegeboard.org**.
- **Encourage your child to set up college interviews.** An interview is a great way for your child to learn more about a college and for a college to learn more about your child. Get an overview of the **interview process**.

WINTER

- **Work together to apply for financial aid.** Have your child contact the financial aid offices at the colleges in which he or she is interested to find out what forms students must submit to apply for aid. Make sure he or she applies for aid by or before any stated deadlines. Funds are limited, so the earlier you apply, the better.
- **Learn about college loan options together.** Borrowing money for college can be a smart choice — especially if your high school student gets a low-interest federal loan. Learn more about the **parent's role in borrowing money**.

SPRING

- **Help your child process college responses.** Once your child starts hearing back from colleges about admission and financial aid, he or she will need your support to decide what to do. Read about **how to choose a college**.
- **Review financial aid offers together.** Your 12th-grader will need your help to read through financial aid award letters and figure out which package works best. Be sure your child pays attention to and meets any deadlines for acceptance. Get more information on **financial aid awards**.
- **Help your child complete the paperwork to accept a college's offer of admittance.** Once your child has decided which college to attend, he or she will need to review the offer, accept that college's offer, mail a tuition deposit, and submit other required paperwork. Learn more about your high school senior's **next steps**.

Visit **bigfuture.collegeboard.org** for more information and to access these resources.

/MyBigFuture @MyBigFuture @bigfuture.official

CollegeBoard

FOR STUDENTS

College Admission Glossary

What's a transcript? What's the difference between early action and early decision? When applying to college, you are bound to come across unfamiliar terms. This glossary can help you make sense of all the information you're sorting through.

ACT

A standardized college admission test that features four main sections: English, math, reading, and science—and an optional writing section.

Admission Tests

Also known as college entrance exams, these tests are designed to measure students' skills and help colleges determine if students are ready for college-level work. The ACT and SAT® are two standardized admission tests used in the United States. The word "standardized" means that the test measures the same thing in the same way for everyone who takes it. Visit **bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/testing/which-college-admission-tests-do-i-need-to-take**.

Articulation Agreement

An agreement between two-year and four-year colleges that makes it easier to transfer credits between them. It spells out which courses count for degree credit and the grades needed to get credit.

Candidates Reply Date Agreement (CRDA)

An agreement many colleges follow that gives applicants until May 1 to accept or decline offers of admission. This agreement gives applicants time to receive responses from most of the colleges to which they have applied before deciding on one.

Class Rank

A measurement of how your academic achievement compares with that of other students in your grade. This number is usually determined by using a weighted GPA that takes into account both your grades and the difficulty of the courses you've taken.

Coalition Application

A standard application form accepted by members of the Coalition for Access, Affordability, and Success. You can use this application to apply to any of the more than 90 colleges and universities that are members of the Coalition. For more information, visit: **coalitionforcollegeaccess.org**

College Application Essay

An essay that a college requires students to write and submit as part of their applications. Some colleges require applicants to answer specific questions, while others simply ask them to write about themselves. Colleges may refer to this as a "personal statement." Visit **https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/essays**.

College Credit

What you get when you successfully complete a college-level course. You need a certain number of credits to graduate with a degree. Colleges may also grant credit for scores on exams, such as those offered by College Board's AP Program and CLEP®. Visit **http://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/testing/learn-about-the-ap-program**.

Common Application

A standard application form accepted by all colleges that are members of the Common Application association. You can fill out this application once and submit it to any one—or several—of the nearly 700 colleges that accept it. For more information, visit: **commonapp.org**

Deferred Admission

Permission from a college that has accepted you to postpone enrolling in the college. The postponement is usually for up to one year.

Early Action (EA)

An option to submit your applications before the regular deadlines. When you apply early action, you get admission decisions from colleges earlier than usual. Early action plans aren't binding, which means that you don't have to enroll in a college if you are accepted early action. Some colleges have an early action option called EA II, which has a later application deadline than their regular EA plan. Visit **http://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/applying-101/the-facts-about-applying-early-is-it-right-for-you**.

Early Decision (ED)

An option to submit an application to your first-choice college before the regular deadline. When you apply early decision, you get an admission decision earlier than usual. Early decision plans are binding. You agree to enroll in the college immediately if admitted and offered a financial aid package that meets your needs. Some colleges have an early decision option called ED II, which has a later application deadline than their regular ED plan. Visit **http://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/applying-101/the-facts-about-applying-early-is-it-right-for-you**.

Financial Aid

Money given or loaned to you to help pay for college. Financial aid can come from federal and state governments, colleges, and private organizations. Visit **https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/financial-aid-basics/what-is-financial-aid/how-does-financial-aid-work**.

Grade Point Average (GPA)

A number that shows overall academic performance. It's computed by assigning a point value to each grade you earn. See also Weighted Grade Point Average.

Legacy Applicant

A college applicant with a relative (usually a parent or grandparent) who graduated from that college. Some colleges give preference to legacy applicants (also called "legacies").

Need-Blind Admission

A policy of making admission decisions without considering the financial circumstances of applicants. Colleges that use this policy may not offer enough financial aid to meet a student's full need.

Open Admission

A policy of accepting any high school graduate, no matter what their grades are, until all spaces in the incoming class are filled. Almost all two-year community colleges have an open-admission policy. However, a college with a general open-admission policy may have admission requirements for certain programs.

Placement Tests

Tests that measure the academic skills needed for college-level work. These tests cover reading, writing, math, and sometimes other subjects. Placement test results help determine what courses you are ready for and whether you would benefit from remedial classes. Visit **https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/plan-for-college/after-youve-applied/what-are-college-placement-tests**.

Priority Date or Deadline

The date by which your application—whether it's for college admission, student housing, or financial aid—must be received to be given the strongest consideration.

Registrar

The college official who registers students. The registrar may also be responsible for keeping permanent records and maintaining your student file.

Rolling Admission

An admission policy of considering each application as soon as all required information (such as high school records and test scores) has been received, rather than setting an application deadline and reviewing applications in a batch. Colleges that use a rolling admission policy usually notify applicants of admission decisions quickly.

SAT

College Board's standardized college entrance exam. It features two sections: Reading and Writing section and the Math section.
For more information, visit: **sat.org**

Sophomore Standing

The status of a second-year student. A college may grant sophomore standing to an incoming freshman if they have earned college credits through courses, exams, or other programs.

Test Blind

Whether or not a student decides to send their test scores, the scores won't be considered as part of the application evaluation.

Test Flexible

Students choose which type of test (or tests) they'd like to submit with their application.

Test Optional

Students decide whether or not they want to submit test scores with their application.

Transcript

The official record of your coursework at a school or college. Your high school transcript is usually required for college admission and for some financial aid packages.

Transfer Student

A student who enrolls in a college after having attended another college.

Undergraduate

A college student who is working toward an associate or a bachelor's degree.

Universal College Application

A standard application form accepted by all colleges that are Universal College Application members. You can fill out this application once and submit it to any one—or several—of the more than 3,044 colleges that accept it. For more information, visit: **universalcollegeapp.com**

Waitlist

The list of applicants who may be admitted to a college if space becomes available. Colleges wait to hear if all the students they accepted decide to attend. If students don't enroll and there are empty spots, a college may fill them with students who are on the waitlist. Visit **bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/making-a-decision/what-to-do-if-youre-wait-listed**.

Weighted Grade Point Average (GPA)

A grade point average that's calculated using a system that assigns a higher point value to grades in more difficult classes. For example, some high schools assign the value of 5.0 (instead of the standard 4.0) for an A earned in an AP class. Visit **https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/plan-for-college/collegebasics/how-to-convert-gpa-4.0-scale**.

CollegeBoard
FOR STUDENTS

Make Your Social Media Work for You

The impression that you make on a college admission officer may involve more than just an essay, a transcript, and some test scores. According to new data, colleges and universities do pay attention to what prospective students post on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, etc. In addition, potential employers for internships or permanent positions may also review your public social sites.

WHAT YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA TELLS OTHERS

- It sheds light on your interests and passions.
- It may give a more in-depth look at your volunteer work or special projects.
- Your creativity and technology skills may be spotlighted.
- It may provide evidence of your interest in a particular major, college, or career.

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA TIME

- Keep your profile information up to date.
- Consider providing a link to your social media sites in your college application materials (provided the college allows/encourages this).
- Invest the time to maintain quality in your postings, blogs, and videos.
- Showcase your leadership, awards, or expertise in a meaningful manner.

REMINDERS

- Review your email address to ensure it doesn't include rude or inappropriate language or references.
- Carefully consider your tweets and other comments, particularly any negative references about prospective colleges, your teachers, or your peers.
- Monitor what photos you choose to post. Don't include those that may depict alcohol and certain party and peer activities that would reflect poorly on your judgment or character.
- A good rule of thumb is: Don't put anything on social media that you wouldn't include with your college application.

Finding the Perfect College

CollegeBoard

FOR STUDENTS

Most students want to find the "perfect" college. The truth is, there's no such thing. You can find many colleges where you can be happy and get a great education. The college search is about exploring who you are and what you want and then finding colleges that will meet your goals.

BEFORE SEARCHING, CONSIDER THESE 8 FACTORS

Size

Location

Available majors and classes

Available extracurricular activities

Distance from home

Makeup of the student body

Housing options

Campus atmosphere

Questions to consider:

- Which of these aspects are things you feel you must have to be comfortable at a college?
- On which factors are you flexible?
- What do you want to accomplish in college?
- Do you want to train for a specific job or get a wide-ranging education?
- If you have a major in mind, do the colleges you are considering specialize in that major?

Bigfuture.collegeboard.org is a great option to sort through the many options out there, based on your preferences.

Here are steps you can take to find colleges where you will thrive.

KEEP AN OPEN MIND

Although it's good to have some ideas in mind about what sorts of colleges will be good for you, stay open to all the possibilities at the beginning of your search.

TALK TO PEOPLE WHO KNOW YOU

Tell family, teachers, relatives, friends, and your school counselor about your goals, and ask if they can suggest colleges that may be a good fit for you.

DON'T LIMIT YOUR SEARCH

At the start of this process, you may rule out colleges because you think that they are too expensive or too hard to get into, but this may not be the reality. Remember that financial aid can make college more affordable, and colleges look at more than just grades and test scores.

DO YOUR HOMEWORK

Once you have a list of schools, it's time to do some research. To learn more about the colleges you're considering, check out college guidebooks and websites.
Jot down your questions and get answers by:

- Talking to your school counselor or teachers
- Checking out colleges' student blogs, if available
- Contacting college admission officials
- Asking admission officials to recommend current students or recent graduates with whom you can have conversations
- Visiting college campuses or viewing virtual college tours, if possible

FAQ: College Entrance Exams

CollegeBoard

FOR STUDENTS

GENERAL

What are college entrance exams? These tests are designed to measure students' skills and help colleges evaluate how ready you are for college-level work. The SAT® and ACT are both accepted by nearly all colleges and universities.

Do all colleges require a college entrance exam as part of the application process? Most four-year institutions accept a college entrance exam score. Those that do not require these scores will indicate that in their admission policies. Providing your score gives you the opportunity to strengthen your application.

How many times should a college entrance exam be taken? Most students take a college entrance exam twice—once in the spring of the junior year and once at the beginning of the senior year.

SCORES

How do colleges use test scores? They are used to apply a common standard for all students no matter where they went to high school. Colleges look at your test scores, along with your high school grades and courses, to see how well prepared you are for college-level work. Some colleges use these scores for scholarship eligibility and course placement. Check with your colleges to find out how test scores are used.

Does a college receive all scores from every college entrance exam you've taken? Some colleges will allow you to select which scores you would like considered for admission and others might have specific instructions about which scores get reported. This information, along with how they require them to be sent, will be included in their application guidelines.

PREPARING

What is the best way to prepare for a college entrance exam? The best way to prepare is to work hard both inside and outside the classroom. Take challenging courses, study hard, and read and write as much as you can.

What are other ways to prepare for the tests?

- Know what to expect. Being familiar with the test's format is the single best way to prepare for that test. Go to the testing organization's website to get familiar with the various test sections and the instructions for each part.
- Take preliminary tests. These tests (such as the PSAT™ 8/9, PSAT™ 10, and PSAT/NMSQT®) have the same format and question types as the admission tests. You can use your score reports to help identify specific areas you need to focus on.
- Practice, practice, practice. Students can use Official SAT Practice to practice for the SAT for free with a world-class platform offering personalized and instructional content. Using free practice tests from the testing organizations' websites, you can discover your strengths and weaknesses and learn how to manage your time wisely during the test.

CollegeBoard

FOR STUDENTS

College Planning: How to Get Started

STEP 1: GET STARTED

Assess your strengths, weaknesses, goals, passions, learning style, and social skills. What is most important to you in the college-search process? What do you hope to learn from the process?

STEP 2: MAKE SOME BASIC DECISIONS

- Where do you want to live?
- Will you go to college full time? Part time?
- Do you want to attend a single-sex school, a technical college, a public or private college, a large university, a small liberal arts college, or a historically black or religiously affiliated college?
- Are there majors and opportunities that will lead to my potential career?

STEP 3: ENLIST HELP

Who do you want to assist you in this process (family, teachers, siblings, relatives, friends)?

STEP 4: CONSULT REFERENCES AND WEBSITES

Look at college directories (College Board's *College Handbook*, Barron's, Peterson's) and use college searches (**https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/**). Visit the websites of the colleges that interest you.

STEP 5: TALK

Discuss your goals and plans with your family, teachers, and school counselor. They can provide helpful advice.

STEP 6: MEET WITH COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES

Visit with college representatives when they come to your high school. Make a list of your important questions to ask the representatives. Also meet college personnel at area college fairs.

STEP 7: VISIT CAMPUSES

Try to go to the college campus and take a tour, meet with admission and financial aid representatives, and ask students what they think about the college. Can't make the trip? Many colleges provide virtual tours on their websites.

CollegeBoard

FOR STUDENTS

20 Questions to Ask College Representatives

Whether you meet them at a college fair or on a campus visit, college representatives genuinely enjoy talking to high school students and answering questions about their college. The following questions will help start a good dialogue.

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1. What makes your college unique?
2. For what academic programs is your college known?
3. How would you describe the students at your college? Where are most of them from?
4. Where do students hang out on campus?
5. What happens on weekends — are there things to do on campus or in town, or do most students go home?
6. How does the college integrate technology into the classroom?
7. What are the housing options for freshmen?
8. Do many students live off campus?
9. Is there a sports complex or fitness center?
10. What are the most popular clubs and activities?
11. What's the security like on campus?
12. What's the surrounding area like? Is it easy to get around?
13. What are the most popular majors?
14. How would you describe the academic pressure and workload?
15. What support services (academic advisers, tutors, etc.) are available?
16. What is the student-to-faculty ratio?
17. What's the faculty like? Are they accessible outside of class?
18. Are there opportunities for internships?
19. Is there job placement help for graduates?
20. Are there any big changes in the works that I should know about?

Campus Visit Checklist

CollegeBoard

FOR STUDENTS

Visiting a college campus helps you get a sense of what a college — and life at that college — is like. This can help you decide whether the college is a good fit for you.

GATHER INFORMATION

Find out what you need to do to apply, and see if the college's class and major offerings are what you want:

- ☐ Take part in a group information session at the admission office.
- ☐ Interview with an admission officer.
- ☐ Pick up financial aid information.
- ☐ Sit in on a class that interests you. If classes aren't in session, just see what the classrooms are like.
- ☐ Meet a professor who teaches a subject that interests you.
- ☐ Talk to students about what they think of their classes and professors.
- ☐ Get the names and business cards of the people you meet so you can contact them later if you have questions.

EXPLORE THE CAMPUS

Get a feel for student life, and see if this college is a place where you will do well:

- ☐ Take a campus tour.
- ☐ Talk to current students about the college and life on campus.
- ☐ Check out the freshman dorms, and stay overnight on campus if possible.
- ☐ Visit the dining hall, fitness center, library, career center, bookstore, and other campus facilities.
- ☐ Talk to the coaches of sports that you may want to play.
- ☐ Walk or drive around the community surrounding the campus.

CHECK OUT CAMPUS MEDIA

Tune in to learn what's happening on campus and what's on students' minds:

- ☐ Listen to the college radio station.
- ☐ Read the student newspaper.
- ☐ Scan bulletin boards to see what daily student life is like.
- ☐ Go to the career center and learn what services it offers.
- ☐ Browse the school's website and any campus blogs.
- ☐ Read other student publications, such as department newsletters, and literary reviews.

GET THE MOST OUT OF A CAMPUS VISIT IN 6 STEPS

1 DECIDE WHERE AND HOW

See if your school arranges group trips to colleges or if you could get a group of friends together and visit the campus. A family trip is another option and allows you to involve your family in the process.

2 PREPARE FOR YOUR VISIT

Before you set out, get a map of the college campus and pick out places of interest. Call the college's admission office to schedule a guided tour of the campus.

3 TAKE YOUR OWN TOUR

Just wandering around the campus on your own or with friends can be the best way to get a feel for what a college is like.

4 EXPLORE THE FACILITIES

Finding the spots on campus where students gather or asking a student where the best place to eat is can give you a feel for the character of the college. Visit the library and check out the gym or theater. Ask an admission officer if you can tour a dorm and a classroom.

5 MAKE CONNECTIONS

Talk to current students. Ask the students at the next table or sitting nearby what they like best about the college.

6 TAKE NOTES

During your visit, make notes about your experience. What did you see that excited you? Are there aspects of the college that you don't like? If so, what are they?

Questions to Ask During Your Visit:

ASK TOUR GUIDES/STUDENTS

- What are the best reasons to go to this college?
- What's it like to go from high school to college?
- What do you do in your free time? On the weekends?
- What do you love about this college?
- What do you wish you could change about this college?
- Why did you choose this college?
- What is it like to live here?
- What does the college do to promote student involvement in campus groups, extracurricular activities, or volunteerism?

ASK PROFESSORS

- What are the best reasons to go to this college?
- Can a student be mentored by professors, graduate students, or upperclassmen?
- How are professors rated by the college? Does the college think mentoring and meetings for project guidance are important?
- How does the college help students have access to professors outside class? Do professors join students for lunch, help with community service groups, or guide student organizations?
- How many students do research or other kinds of projects for a semester or more?

ASK FINANCIAL AID OFFICE

- How much has your total college cost for each student risen in the past year?
- How much do your students usually owe in loans when they graduate?
- What is the average income of graduates who had the same major that interests me?
- Will my costs go up when your tuition goes up, or can we use the same tuition rate I started with so I'll know the costs for four years? What should I expect in terms of increases in living expenses?
- How many students usually graduate in the major that interests me? How long do these students usually take to get their degrees ? In what ways does the college help students graduate in four years?

CollegeBoard

FOR STUDENTS

How to Get the Most Out of a College Fair

GOING TO A COLLEGE FAIR

- Take a pen and a small notebook.
- Take a bag to carry the brochures you pick up.
- Print out some address labels with your name, address, phone number, email address, high school, and year of graduation. Spend your time at the college tables asking questions, not filling out contact cards!
- When you arrive, check out the floor plan and find out where the tables for your top choice colleges are located so you can go directly to them.
- Make note of your most important questions in advance so you don't forget them.
- Check on whether any information sessions, such as financial aid, are being offered. Interested? Budget your time accordingly.
- Jot down notes about a college while your memory is fresh, such as right after visiting the table.
- Pick up the business cards of any representatives you talk to, so you can contact them if you have any more questions.

AFTER YOU GET HOME

- Make a point of going through the materials and your notes within one week after the fair. You'll probably remember more about your conversations with college representatives while the memories from the fair are still fresh.
- Follow up with any college that interests you by contacting the admission office to ask further questions and, if possible, plan a visit to the campus.

Source: Associated Colleges of the Midwest (acm.edu).

How to Make the Most of a College Interview

While not all schools offer interviews, the opportunity to interview offers you a chance to learn about the college and allows the interviewer to learn about you. Use it as a tool to assist your college selection. The interview can have a positive effect on your admission — rarely a negative one. Relax and be yourself!

- Your interview will usually be with an admission staff member, but it may be with a student, an alumnus, or a professional interviewer. Keep this person's perspective in mind.
- The interviewer is eager to get to know you and will try to put you at ease. The interviewer will answer your questions but will be more interested if you have helpful questions that show you have already done some research on the college.
- Be prepared. Know your rank, your test scores, and your present areas of interest. If you are undecided about your career, feel free to say so (half of college students change their intended major). Think through some areas you would like to explore, competencies you would like to develop, and projects or situations that intrigue you.
- Do your homework about the school to get the obvious questions answered. You don't want to be silent when asked, "What would you like to know about our college?" Questions or comments like, "What kinds of internships are offered, and how often do students take them?" show more maturity in your thinking than asking about the number of books in the college library.
- Interviewers may ask questions about your interests, extracurricular activities/jobs, books you've read, meaningful experiences, reasons for applying to this college, life at school, and similar topics. Be ready to talk about these subjects.
- Be honest. Everyone has strong and weak points.
- Plan to have your interview alone. Most admission officers prefer to speak with your family after talking with you, rather than during the interview.
- Choose appropriate clothes to wear for the interview.
- When you return home, send a thank-you note to the interviewer. Thank the person for his or her time and refer to something specific you discussed.

Source: Adapted from material prepared by Gloria Mueller, Glenbrook High School, Illinois.

CollegeBoard

FOR STUDENTS

Assessing Your List of Colleges

As you develop a list of colleges that interest you, be sure you can answer these questions about them.

THE BASICS

- Where is the college? Can you locate it on a map?
- Have you taken the course work the college requires for admission?
- What size is the college? How many students are undergraduates?
- What is the college's selectivity ratio (what proportion of applicants were admitted last year)?
- Does the college offer majors that interest you?
- Is the college coed or single sex?
- What percentage of students live off campus?
- How many of the students graduate in four years? Five years? Six years?
- How many first-year students return for their sophomore year?
- How much does the program cost? What is the total per-year expense?
- What type of financial aid is available?

WHERE WOULD YOU FIT IN?

- What are the admission requirements at the colleges of interest to you? Where does that place you?
- What were the high school GPAs of most of the freshmen last year?
- Are freshmen guaranteed on-campus housing? If not, where do they live?
- Are there extracurricular activities that interest you?

VISIT THEIR WEBSITES AND READ COLLEGE GUIDEBOOKS

- What are their strong academic programs? (Ask a college representative, students, graduates, and teachers.)
- What courses are required for graduation?
- Are the courses you need/want available each semester? At convenient times?
- Are there special programs (study abroad, internships, etc.) of interest to you?
- Do the pictures and the language the college uses to describe itself attract you?
- What is the social life like?
- What is your general impression of the college?
- Is the school accredited?
- If professional certification is required for employment in the field that interests you, how many students enrolled in the school's program pass the certification exam?
- What does the U.S. Department of Education's **College Scorecard** tell you about the school?

ADMISSION PROCESS

- When are applications due?
- What does the application contain? Are essays required?
- Is an interview suggested or required? Is an interview available from staff or alumni?
- When may you visit the college? What is its policy regarding campus visits?
- What are the financial aid deadlines? What financial aid forms are required?

NOW ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS

- Am I a strong candidate for admission to this college?
- If I am not a strong candidate, what are my chances?
- Do I want to visit this college?
- What additional information do I need?

Source: Susan Staggers, Cary Academy, North Carolina.

CollegeBoard

FOR FAMILIES

Tips for Families on Finding a Great College

How can your child find colleges that match specific needs? First, identify priorities. Next, carefully research the characteristics of a range of schools. Finally, match the two. Here are some college characteristics to consider.

SIZE OF STUDENT BODY

Size will affect many of your child's opportunities and experiences:

- range of academic majors offered
- extracurricular possibilities
- amount of personal attention your child will receive
- number of academic resources

In considering size, your child should look beyond the raw number of students attending. For example, perhaps they are considering a small department within a large school. Your child should investigate not just the number of faculty members, but also their accessibility to students.

LOCATION

Does your child want to visit home frequently, or is this a time to experience a new part of the country? Perhaps an urban environment is preferred, with access to museums, ethnic restaurants, or major league ball games. Or maybe it's easy access to the outdoors or the serenity of a small town.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

If your child has decided on a field of study, they can research the reputation of academic departments by talking to people in their field of interest. If your child is undecided, as many students are, they may want to choose an academically balanced institution that offers a range of majors and programs. Students normally don't pick a major until their sophomore year, and those students who know their major before they go to college are very likely to change their minds. Most colleges offer counseling to help students find a focus.

In considering academic programs, your child should look for special opportunities and pick a school that offers a number of possibilities.

CAMPUS LIFE

Before choosing a college, your child should learn the answers to these questions:

- What extracurricular activities, athletics, clubs, and organizations are available?
- Does the community around the college offer interesting outlets for students?
- Is housing guaranteed?
- How are residence halls assigned?

COST

In considering cost, look beyond the price tag. Because of financial aid, most students pay less than the "sticker price," so don't rule out a college that would be a good fit for your child before you find out how much financial aid it will offer. Most colleges work to ensure that academically qualified students from every economic circumstance can find financial aid that allows them to attend.

RETENTION AND GRADUATION RATES

One of the best ways to measure a school's quality and the satisfaction of its students is to learn the percentage of students who return after the first year and the percentage of entering students who go on to graduate. Comparatively good retention and graduation rates indicate that responsible academic, social, and financial support systems exist for most students.

The Anatomy of a College Application

CollegeBoard

FOR STUDENTS

In order to get your college application together, you need to gather many different pieces to give the admission team a glimpse into who you are. Be sure to stay organized and find out from your school counselor or other school official which of these items you have to send and which items your high school will send.

APPLICATION

Application Forms

This is the most common first step required to show your interest in a college. It might require information and forms from your family. Both online and paper application forms are available, as well as services (such as The Common Application and the Coalition for College application) that let you complete one application for multiple schools. It is recommended that you apply online if possible, to avoid delays.

Application Fees

Fees vary, but generally it costs from $40 to $90 to apply to each college. Fees are nonrefundable. Many colleges offer fee waivers to students who can't afford to pay. If you need application fee waivers, speak with your school counselor or principal. If you used an SAT® fee waiver, you are automatically eligible for application fee waivers to over 2,000 colleges.

SCORES AND REPORTS

College Entrance Exam Scores

Some colleges require that you send your scores from a college entrance exam (such as the SAT®). Many colleges will only accept scores that are sent directly from the testing organizations. Check with each college to verify whether they require test scores and their policy on receiving test scores.

High School Transcript

This is the record of the classes you have taken and your grades in each one. This is one of the most important parts of your application. Review your transcript for accuracy prior to completing your college application. Follow the procedure outlined by your high school for the submission of your transcript to your prospective colleges.

Secondary School Report

Some colleges require a Secondary School Report form to be completed by a high school official, usually a school counselor, with information about the school, the graduating class, and specific information about you. Your high school is responsible for sending this form to the college.

Midyear School Report

Much like the Secondary School Report, this form is submitted by your high school; it typically includes the fall semester grades of your senior year and updates to your spring semester schedule (if any apply). All colleges do not require this form.

LETTERS, ESSAYS, AND INTERVIEWS

Letters of Recommendation

Many colleges require letters of recommendation from teachers or other adults who know you well. Ask your references to write recommendations well in advance of the deadlines. It is helpful to give them a short written summary of your achievements, class contributions, and goals to help them write about you.

Essays

Many colleges require an essay or a personal statement as part of your application. Your essay is a chance for you to give admission officers a better idea of your character and strengths. Your essay should be drafted well in advance of the application deadline to ensure adequate time for review and revision.

Interviews, Auditions, and Portfolios

It is a good idea to ask for an interview, even if it is optional. It shows you're serious and gives you a chance to connect with someone in the admission office. Even if a college is far away, you may be able to interview with a local alumnus. If you're applying to music, art, or theater programs, a college may want to see samples of your work as part of your application. This means you may need to audition, send portfolios, or submit videos demonstrating your artistic ability.

College Application Materials Checklist

CollegeBoard

FOR STUDENTS

Use this checklist to keep track of the application forms and materials required by each school to which you're applying.

FORMS	College 1	College 2	College 3	College 4
Requires secondary school report	☐	☐	☐	☐
Requires midyear school report	☐	☐	☐	☐
TEST SCORES				
Requires entrance exam	☐	☐	☐	☐
Accepts entrance exam	☐	☐	☐	☐
Requires test scores be sent from testing agency	☐	☐	☐	☐
Requires other state test scores	☐	☐	☐	☐
RECOMMENDATION LETTERS				
Requires teacher letter of recommendation	☐	☐	☐	☐
Requires counselor (or other school official) letter of recommendation	☐	☐	☐	☐
ESSAYS/INTERVIEWS				
Requires essays	☐	☐	☐	☐
Requires interview	☐	☐	☐	☐
Recommends interview	☐	☐	☐	☐
FINANCIAL AID FORMS				
Requires FAFSA®	☐	☐	☐	☐
Requires CSS Profile®	☐	☐	☐	☐
Requires supplemental institutional form	☐	☐	☐	☐
Requires state form	☐	☐	☐	☐

College Application Tips

CollegeBoard

FOR STUDENTS

Here are some tips to keep in mind as you start your college application process.

STAY COOL

College applications can be stressful to complete, but this is also an exciting time. Work with your counselor, your family, and others to get through it all. You got this!

PLAN AHEAD

Review each part of the applications before you get to work. Some applications will require the same basic information and others will have unique requests.

GET ORGANIZED

Keep track of the materials and many parts for each application. Make a folder for each application to keep all materials together. Tell your counselor or other appropriate school personnel which materials your school needs to send to the college (such as your transcript and recommendations).

BE ACCURATE

Ensure that you put together an organized and accurate application. Review for grammar and typos. Make sure your name is the same on all elements of your application. Double-check that all documents you're submitting (like transcripts) are correct.

SUBMIT AND SAVE

Print and save the completed application before you send it and keep a copy for your files. And remember: only submit it once—either online or via mail.

USE A FEE WAIVER

If you used an SAT® fee waiver, you are automatically eligible for application fee waivers to over 2,000 colleges.

ASK FOR HELP

Ask your counselor, teachers, or family to review your application, essays, and other materials before you submit them. Request a letter of recommendation at least two weeks before your deadline and provide supporting material to help them write the best one for you.

SET A SCHEDULE

Allow for time to get your requirements together, get input from your counselor or other adults, review them as a whole, and revise as needed. Keep a close eye on the application deadline, along with other deadlines for financial aid and scholarships.

BE CAREFUL NOT TO

- Procrastinate! There is a lot to do, especially if you have several applications to complete and essays to write. You may not do the application (and yourself) justice if you leave it until the last minute.
- Type your essay directly into the application. Draft it separately, and then upload the final proofread version.
- Send a photocopy of your own test score report unless requested to do so. Ask the testing organization to send your official test scores directly to the colleges.
- Take on the application process alone. Your school counselor is your best resource in the college application process. Teachers and family can also help provide advice and support.

Application Portals

SUNY App vs. Common App

- Through both of these apps you are able to apply to multiple campuses through one application
  - Some private colleges/universities have their own portals that you will have to use
- SUNY App is ONLY for SUNY colleges, you can however apply to SUNY colleges through both the SUNY and Common App
- When you create an account, make sure you write your account information down. Use a personal email, not a school email.
- If you are unsure which is the right Application Portal to use, ask your counselor!

Apply to community colleges directly on their website for free!

Fee Waivers

- If you qualify for free/reduced lunch, you can get a fee waiver
- SUNY Free application week: Oct 19th-Nov 2nd
- See your school counselor for help!

What You Will Need to Apply

- Time! You can not rush through this process. Do NOT wait until the last minute to start your application
- A list of your activities, work and community service
- SAT and/or ACT Scores
- Academic honors and achievements
- Letter of recommendations: Your school counselor, and teacher(s) or other mentors
  - Give recommenders plenty of time to write their letter
- Parent/Legal Guardian information

College Application Steps

On Common App:

1. Create a Common App account for yourself at www.commonapp.org
2. Complete the EDUCATION section about yourself
    a. CEEB Code: 332410
    b. Holland Patent High School: 8079 Thompson Road Holland Patent, NY 13354
    c. Graduation Date: June 17, 2027
    d. Class Size: 96
    e. My School Counselor's Information:
        i. A-K: Elizabeth Pirnie- epirnie@hpschools.org
        ii. L-Z: Ricki Kuchler- rkuchler@hpschools.org
    f. See your counselor for your Rank & GPA. GPA scale is 100
    g. Rank is WEIGHTED, GPA is UNWEIGHTED
    h. Be sure in include PE in the list of classes you are taking
3. Click-My Colleges Search Tab (at the top of menu choices) and add colleges here
4. In the "My Colleges Tab"-Click-Assign Recommenders (on the left side of the page)
5. Click on the FERPA release
    a. You will be asked to complete a series of prompts
    b. To waive or not to waive? Under the terms of FERPA, you can review letters and accompanying forms after you enroll at a postsecondary institution. Why should you consider waiving? Waiving your right allows colleges to know that you will never try to read your recommendations. While you are free to respond as you wish, if you choose not to waive your right, some recommenders may decline your request and some colleges may disregard letters submitted on your behalf.
6. Type your name where it says signature

SchooLinks Application Manager

1. Go to ClassLink, login, and click "SchooLinks"
2. Click "Colleges" on the left hand side and then College Applications
3. Connect your CommonApp if you applied using CommonApp (On the left hand side)
4. Add your Applications in the top right corner
5. Request Teacher Recommendations
6. Complete your Application Materials and Track them

Full Directions on Next Page

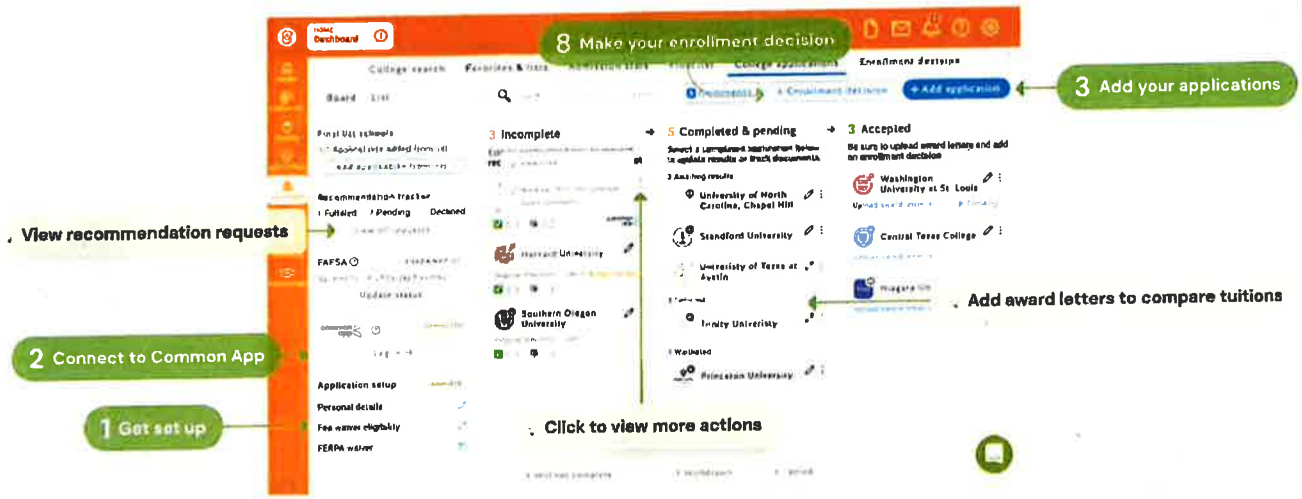
Teacher Recommendations:

1. If you are requesting letters of recommendation, make sure you ask in person with a resume/brag sheet completed. Please be sure to say please and thank you!
2. Request Letters in SchooLinks through your application manager
3. Please provide staff with ample time to write your letters of recommendation, we suggest you ask two weeks prior to needing your letters.

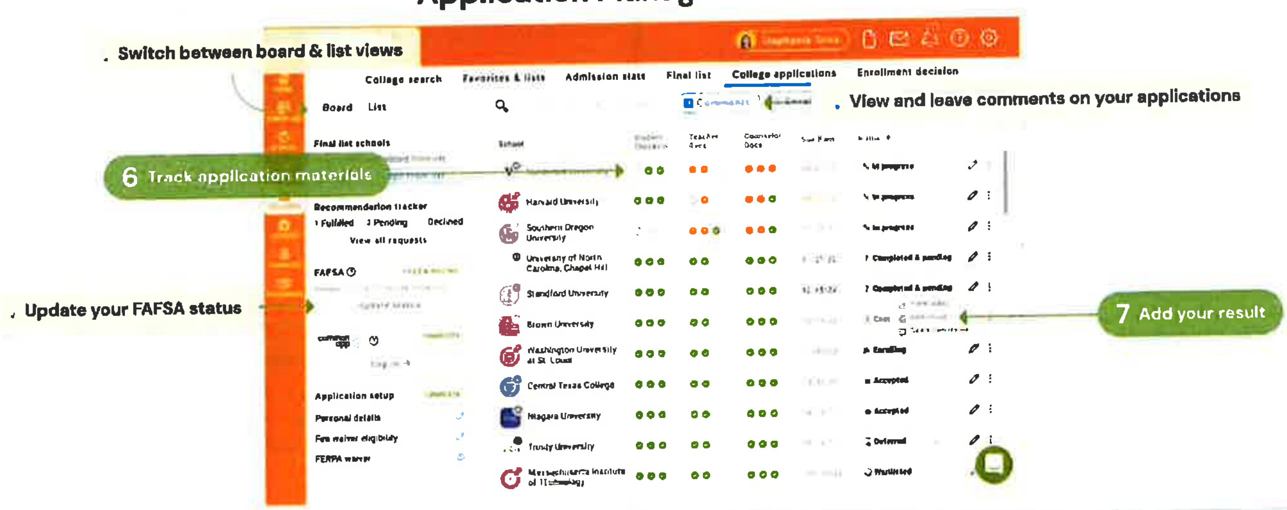
The Student's Map of

SchooLinks' College Application Manager

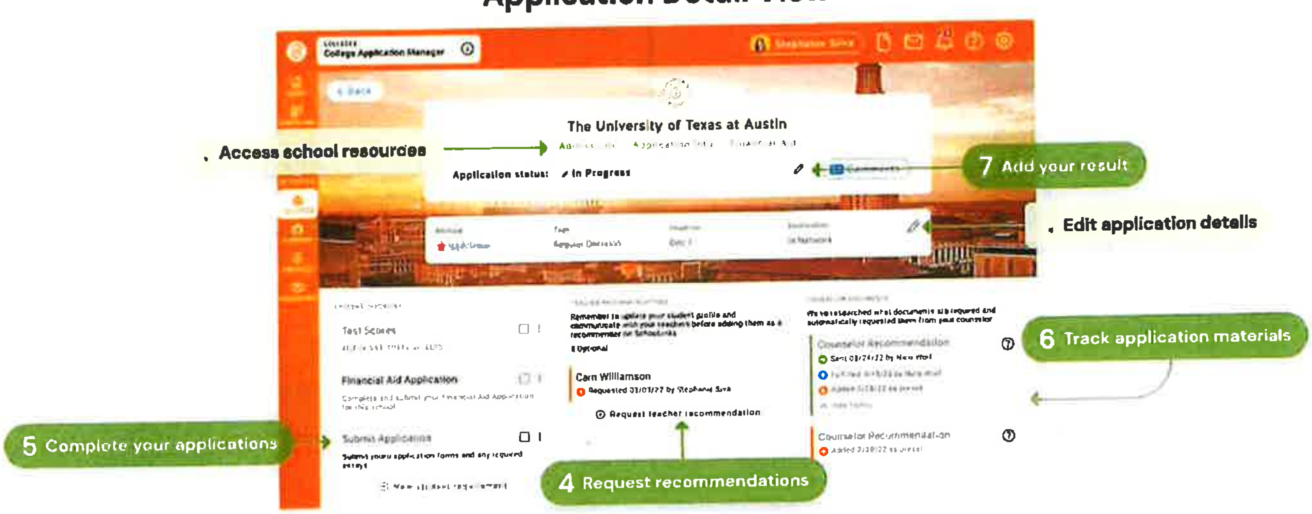
Application Manager Board View



Application Manager List View



Application Detail View



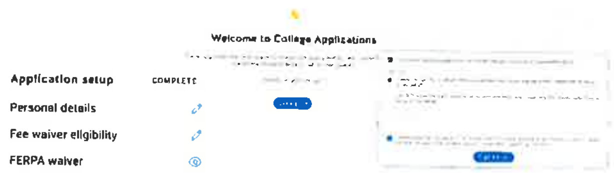
SchooLinks

The Student's Guide to SchooLinks' College Application Manager

Scan for updates!

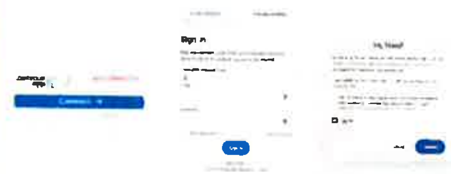
1 Get set up

Add your email and mailing address, determine your fee waiver eligibility, and complete the SchooLinks FERPA waiver in order to start tracking your college applications.



2 Connect to Common App

If your school uses Common App, follow the link to log in or create an account. Make sure you consent to share information with SchooLinks and add your high school. Complete the Common App FERPA in the colleges tab once you've added a college.



Scan to learn more!

3 Add your applications

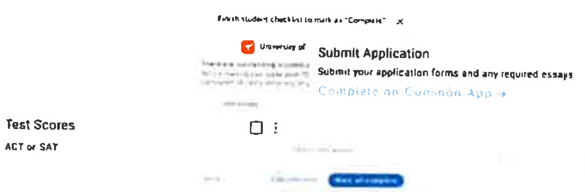
Add applications from your Final List and fill out the details. If it's a Common App application, you'll need to add it to "My Colleges" in Common App, then refresh the page back on SchooLinks.

4 Request recommendations

Once you've added an application, SchooLinks will let you know how many teacher recommendations are required. Select your teacher from a list, or add them manually.

5 Complete your applications

As you complete your applications, be sure to check off the items on your student checklist. You can also check all items at once by clicking "Mark as 'Complete.'"

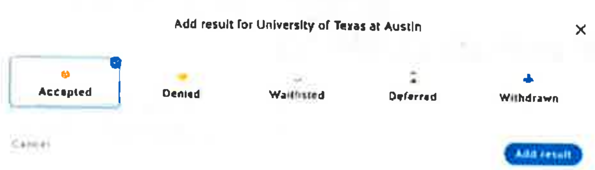


6 Track application materials

Check back in SchooLinks to see the status of all your application materials. With electronic applications, you can even see when the college has viewed your documents!

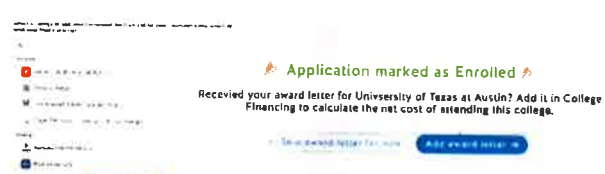
7 Add your results

When you hear back from colleges, add your results in SchooLinks to request any final transcripts and requirements.



8 Make your enrollment decision

Once you've made the big decision, add your decision in SchooLinks to let your counselor know and to request your final transcript.



SchooLinks

Paying for College

- FAFSA: Must be completed annually to qualify for any state or federal aid. Forms open up October 1st for the upcoming school year. Become familiar with this!! https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa
- Loans: Money given by the government or private lenders that must be repaid with interest.
- Scholarships: Money that does not have to be repaid.
- Defer: Some federal loans let you defer — or delay — paying the loan back until after you graduate.
- Grants: Money given to students demonstrating financial need. Does not need to be repaid.
- Work Study: Programs, usually through the college offering students the opportunity to work to assist in paying for school. Usually have very flexible hours!
    - Must complete FAFSA
- Interest rate: The interest rate is the cost of borrowing money, and is usually a percentage of the loan that is added to the amount you borrow. The higher your interest rate, the more you'll owe over time.
- Need-based: Aid that is need-based is awarded to students who are determined to have financial need; that is, the amount they are able to pay for college is less than the cost of attending the college. The federal government offers need-based loans to students. Eligibility for these loans is determined by the FAFSA.
- Subsidized: Some federal loans are subsidized, which means the government pays the interest on the loan while you're in college. Learn more about the rules for subsidized loans on ed.gov.
- Federal Pell Grant: The largest federal grant program offered to undergraduates and is designed to assist students from low-income households. A Pell Grant, unlike a loan, does not have to be repaid, except under certain circumstances. To qualify for a Pell Grant, a student must demonstrate financial need through FAFSA.
- Excelsior Scholarship: Scholarship given to qualifying NYS residents attending SUNY, CUNY, and Community Colleges covering the cost of tuition. See below for more information.
- EOP/HEOP: Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) provides a broad range of services to New York State residents who, because of educational and economic circumstances, would otherwise be unable to attend a postsecondary educational institution. Students must complete FAFSA in order to receive support and reach out to the HEOP office at the college/university. Students are provided with:
    - Academic support services, tutoring, counseling support, and summer programs
    - Tuition assistance
    - Supplemental financial assistance

Types of Loans

Need-Based Loans: Federal Loans may be awarded by colleges to students with the highest need. Federal Direct Subsidized Loans are interest-free while you're in college and have a borrowing limit that increases for each year of school you complete.

Non-Need-Based Loans: Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans charge interest, but allow you to add the interest fees to the amount you borrow until after graduation. However, doing this means you'll actually end up owing more.

Federal Direct PLUS Loans: allow parents (or graduate students) to borrow the total cost of college, minus any financial aid received.

Private Loans: Often require a cosigner — someone who promises to repay the money if the student fails to do so. Keep in mind that it's important to understand all the terms of any loan before you accept it. Some private loans might offer relatively low interest rates, but their other terms might not be as favorable as those of a federal loan. For example, federal loans generally offer flexible terms — if you don't have a job or become disabled, you might be able to adjust your payments — while private loans may not be as flexible.

College Athletics

- If you would like to play for a Division 1,2, or 3 college/university you will have to create a free profile on the NCAA Clearinghous website
- This is where colleges willl see the courses you have taken and get your information. You must be cleared in order to play.

Division I and Division 2

- If a college is recruiting you
- You will need to complete a profile and send and/or attach a transcript
- Classes that NCAA typically want you to take in high school are:
  - English- 4 Credits
  - Math: 3-4 Credits: Algebra, Geometry, Algebra II
  - Sciences: Biology
  - History: US History

Division 3

- **Division 3 athletes do NOT earn athletic scholarships, they can earn scholarships based on academics**

Club & Intramural Sports

- **These sports are chosen by the college/university**
- **Will have to sign up with a team**

For Families: Financial Aid Tips

CollegeBoard

FOR FAMILIES

College is usually more affordable than many families think, thanks to financial aid. The tips below can help you navigate the financial aid process and get the most money possible for college.

Create your Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID (username and password). You can do this by the end of your child's junior year. This is an easy step and one of the few that you can complete early in the financial aid application process. For the most up-to-date information, visit the federal student aid website at **studentaid.gov**.

Attend a financial aid presentation at your local high school or college fair. Learning about the financial aid process as early as possible is very helpful.

Ask financial aid questions when you visit a college campus. Ask the school representative if it's possible to visit the institution's financial aid office (if necessary, call ahead to make an appointment).

Ask financial aid representatives about cost medians instead of only looking at a college's published cost.

Complete the college's supplemental financial aid forms or the CSS Profile® if the college to which your son or daughter is applying requires it. Visit **cssprofile.collegeboard.org** to complete your Profile. Also, remember that some institutions' financial aid and scholarship forms may have deadlines that are PRIOR to the college application form deadline.

Review forms and deadlines required by each college. Creating a chart or spreadsheet can be very helpful for keeping track of the different requirements and dates.

Fill out helpful worksheets prior to filing the FAFSA® at **fafsa.gov**.

When in doubt, ask a financial aid professional. Call a financial aid office of any college in your area when you have a question, even if your son or daughter does not plan to attend that institution. Financial aid officers can answer many general questions and are happy to help.

Keep all tax records and documents up-to-date and handy when speaking with a financial aid officer. If your financial situation changes (health issues, loss of job, etc.), alert your financial aid officer immediately.

The FAFSA® application includes a feature called the Data Retrieval Tool (DRT) that allows you to transfer your tax return information to the FAFSA. Information is available on the FAFSA and IRS websites.

The FAFSA Submission Summary confirms you completed your FAFSA. It will provide your eligibility index for federal and state aid. If there are errors or incorrect information on the SAI, you can make corrections online.

Compare financial aid packages side by side. Using an award letter comparison tool will allow you to get a clearer picture of where your student's financial aid is coming from and will help you make a more informed decision. There is a "Compare Your Aid Awards" tool, along with other free tools, on the BigFuture® website, **bigfuture.collegeboard.org**.

Most important: When your child expresses an interest in a college, try to refrain from making your first question, "How much does it cost?" You can check on that later.

The College Essay

CollegeBoard

FOR STUDENTS

The college essay is your chance to use your voice to add to your college application. Many colleges require the essay as a way to hear from the student directly and to get a sense of who you are in your own words. It's a great opportunity to personalize your application beyond the grades, scores, and other information you've provided and can make a difference at decision time.

8 KEY POINTS THAT ADMISSION OFFICERS LOOK FOR:

- A command of the basics of good writing
- A direct answer to the essay question
- A strong opening paragraph that captures the reader's interest
- A comprehensive argument or narrative—make your point and stick to it
- A style that is comfortable for you and that is appropriate for the subject matter
- Correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling
- Correct data—check your facts, dates, and names
- Succinctness—pay attention to the recommended length

WHAT THE ESSAY CAN DO FOR YOUR APPLICATION:

- Demonstrate your writing ability, a key component of success in college.
- Show that you have thought carefully about where you are applying and why you are a good match for the college, in your own words.
- Explain your commitment to learning and that you are willing and able to be a contributing member to the college community.
- Draw distinctions between you and other applicants, something that selective colleges especially rely on.

An essay will rarely take an applicant out of consideration at a college, but it certainly can elevate an applicant in an admission committee's eyes.

MAKE IT PERSONAL:

- Often you will be asked to write about a personal experience, an achievement, or a person who has been significant to you. Go beyond the what or the who and dig into the how and the why.
- If you write about a trip or event, describe how this experience affected you and is meaningful to you.
- If you are writing about a person in your life, be personal and specific, not just sentimental. Explain how or what this person did for you that is important to you.

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

Revise, revise, revise. Take the time to reread and revise. This process will help you develop a strong opening and a solid direction, and refine what you are trying to express.

Show, don't tell. Give readers such convincing evidence that they will come to the conclusion that you want. Provide detailed examples instead of providing a list of things.

Be authentic. Don't stress trying to write what you think they are looking for—just showcase who you are!

Just get started! Writing something meaningful can be a long process, so get started right away to allow for time to draft and revise. Be sure to write your essay long before the deadline.

SENIOR YEAR: SUMMER/FALL

☐ **Research local scholarship opportunities.** Talk to your school counselor, teachers, or other adults in your community about scholarships offered by local organizations. Go to your local library, and ask for help. Ask your parents to see if their employers grant scholarships. And don't forget to check the College Board **Scholarship Search**.

☐ **Look up deadlines.** Don't miss the priority deadlines for your colleges' financial aid applications—meeting these will help you get as much money as possible. You can compare deadlines for different colleges by using the **College Search** tool. And be sure to find out the application deadlines of any private scholarships or loans you plan to apply for.

☐ **Get an estimate of what the colleges on your final list will actually cost.** Get a better idea of what you'll pay to attend a college by looking at its estimated net price—the cost of attending a college minus grants and scholarships you receive. You can get this figure by going to the net price calculator on the college's website or, for some colleges, by using the College Board's **Net Price Calculator**.

☐ **Find out about different kinds of student loans.** Not all student loans are equal. Loans come from different sources, and some kinds are more expensive than others. Read **Types of College Loans** to learn more.

☐ **Find out if you need to file a CSS Profile.** A college may require students to complete this application—or the college's own forms—to apply for financial aid awarded by the institution.

☐ **Complete the CSS Profile, if required.** If you need to submit the CSS Profile to a college or scholarship program, be sure to find out the priority deadline and submit it by that date. Read **How to Complete the CSS Profile**.

☐ **Complete your FAFSA.** You can submit the FAFSA after October 1—sooner is better to qualify for as much financial aid as possible. Filling out the form online at **fafsa.gov** is the fastest way to do it.

Notes:

SENIOR YEAR: WINTER/SPRING

☐ **Apply for any private scholarships you've found.** Make sure you understand and follow the application requirements and apply by the deadline.

☐ **Compare your financial aid awards.** The colleges you apply to will send financial aid award letters to tell you how much and which kinds of aid they're offering you. Use the **Compare Your Aid Awards** calculator to make side-by-side comparisons of each college's aid package.

☐ **Contact a college's financial aid office, if necessary.** Financial aid officers are there to help you if you have questions. If your financial aid award is not enough, don't be afraid to ask about other options.

☐ **Select a financial aid package by the deadline.** Once you've compared the offers, you and your family should discuss which package best meets your needs. Financial aid is limited, so if you don't accept your award on time, it may go to another student. You can, however, ask for an extension if you're waiting to hear from other schools. Each college will decide if it's able to give you an extension.

☐ **Complete financial aid paperwork.** If loans are part of your financial aid package, you'll have to complete and submit paperwork to get the money.

☐ **Get ready to pay the first college tuition bill.** This usually covers the first semester and is due before you enroll.

Notes:

Visit **bigfuture.org** for more information.

00999-104



How to Apply for Federal Student Financial Aid

Financial aid is available from the federal and state governments and your college. This includes Pell Grants, Work-Study, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, and Federal Student Loans.

Before You Apply

Get Your StudentAid.gov account.

- Dependent students require at least one parent to also have a StudentAid.gov Account (FSA ID) in order to complete and electronically sign the FAFSA and other federal student aid documents.
- Get it before you sit down to do the FAFSA.
- Visit studentaid.gov and click "Create Account."

Check your eligibility

Go to studentaid.gov/aid-estimator to use the **Federal Student Aid Estimator** for an estimate of your federal aid eligibility.

Gather These Materials

- For both students and parents:
  - Drivers License.
  - Social Security Number.
  - Tax returns from two years prior to the FAFSA application year.
  - Records of other untaxed income, such as child support received, veterans' benefits, or military allowances.
  - Email address.

Complete the FAFSA

- Go to studentaid.gov and navigate to the **FAFSA® Form** to start applying for FAFSA.
- To fill out the FAFSA, you and your contributor(s) must have all of the required materials to submit your application.
- The FAFSA form applies to a single academic year. That means you need to submit a new FAFSA form each year you're applying for aid.

Apply for the New York State Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)

- If you're a NYS resident and include a NY school on your FAFSA, you should also apply for NYS aid online by using the NYS resident link on the FAFSA Submission Confirmation page.
- You must apply for TAP and complete or renew the FAFSA every year.
- You can apply directly at www.tap.hesc.ny.gov/totw

What's Next?

- You will receive an email notice when your FAFSA has been processed and your FAFSA Submission Summary is available for review. Be sure to log into your account to verify all of your information is set.
- Be sure to respond to any questions or requests for more information by the deadline indicated or you could lose your eligibility for financial aid.

Important Reminders

- Find out the financial aid deadlines at your college.
- Apply for financial aid every year.
- Don't pay for financial aid information that you can get for free. Visit hesc.ny.gov for more information.
- Attend financial aid workshops to learn more about programs and completing applications. Check with your high school counselor and visit hesc.ny.gov

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How to Apply for TAP and Other NYS Student Financial Aid

Financial aid comes primarily from the federal government, state government and/or your college.

Visit hesc.ny.gov/pay for a complete list of NYS financial aid programs.

TAP

The New York State Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) provides tuition awards to eligible students attending a college or university located in New York State.

Because TAP is a grant, it does not have to be paid back.

To be Eligible for TAP You Must

- Meet eligibility requirements as a NYS resident or qualify under the NYS DREAM Act.
- Meet family income limits of $125,000 or less.
- Pursue an undergraduate degree at an approved postsecondary institution in NYS.

Award Amount

- Up to $5,665 annually, as determined by factors including:
  - Family net taxable income.
  - Tuition charged by your college.
  - Other family members enrolled in college.

How to Apply

- From the FAFSA confirmation page, follow the Apply Now link for New York state-based financial aid.
- Visit hesc.ny.gov/tap for eligibility criteria, application deadlines, and a link to the application.

If you qualify under the NYS DREAM Act, apply at hesc.ny.gov/dream

Excelsior Scholarship

The Excelsior Scholarship, in combination with other student financial aid, allows eligible New York State students to attend a SUNY or CUNY college tuition-free.

To be Eligible for the Excelsior Scholarship You Must

- Meet eligibility requirements as a NYS resident or qualify under the NYS DREAM Act.
- Meet family income limits of $125,000 or less.
- Pursue an undergraduate degree at a SUNY or CUNY college.
- Be enrolled in at least 12 credits per term and complete 30 credits each year successively.
- Be on track to complete an associates degree in two consecutive years or bachelors degree in four consecutive years.
- Agree to live in NYS for the length of time the award was received.

Visit hesc.ny.gov/excelsior for full eligibility details.

How to Apply

- Visit hesc.ny.gov/excelsior for application deadlines and a link to the application.

If you qualify under the NYS DREAM Act, apply at hesc.ny.gov/dream

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Enhanced Tuition Awards

The Enhanced Tuition Awards program provides tuition awards to students attending a participating private college located in New York State.

To be Eligible for Enhanced Tuition Awards You Must

- Meet eligibility requirements as a NYS resident or qualify under the NYS DREAM Act.
- Meet family income limits of $125,000 or less.
- Pursue an undergraduate degree at a participating private college located in NYS.
- Be enrolled in at least 12 credits per term and complete 30 credits each year successively.
- Be on track to complete an associates degree in two consecutive years or bachelors degree in four consecutive years.
- After completing your degree, you must live in NYS for the length of time the award was received.

Visit hesc.ny.gov/eta for full eligibility details.

Award Amount

- Up to $6,000 annually through the combination of your TAP award, ETA award and a match from your private college.

How to Apply

- Visit hesc.ny.gov/eta for application deadlines and a link to the application.

If you qualify under the NYS DREAM Act, apply at hesc.ny.gov/dream

STEM Scholarship

The NYS Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Incentive Program provides full tuition awards to students attending a SUNY or CUNY college or university in New York State.

To be Eligible for the STEM Scholarship You Must

- Meet eligibility requirements as a NYS resident or qualify under the NYS DREAM Act.
- Be ranked in the top 10 percent of your high school graduating class.
- Pursue an undergraduate degree in STEM at a SUNY or CUNY college or university.
- Maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or higher.
- Agree to live and work in NYS in an approved STEM occupation for five years after college.

Visit hesc.ny.gov/stem for full eligibility details.

Award Amount

- Up to the annual SUNY resident undergraduate tuition rate.

How to Apply

- Visit hesc.ny.gov/stem for application deadlines and a link to the application.

If you qualify under the NYS DREAM Act, apply at hesc.ny.gov/dream

After Applying, What's Next?

- Check your email and HESC account frequently for updates regarding your application status.
- Respond to any questions or requests for additional information by the deadline indicated.

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Financial Aid and Scholarships

Grants

A grant is a form of financial aid that doesn't have to be repaid (unless, for example, you withdraw from school and owe a refund, or you receive a TEACH Grant and don't complete your service obligation). A variety of federal grants are available, including Pell Grants, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG), Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grants, and Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants.

- If the student will be attending a New York State college, once they complete their FAFSA and have decided on 1 college they can then complete their TAP (Tuition Assistance Program) at https://www.tap.hesc.ny.gov/totw/

Loans

When you receive a student loan, you are borrowing money to attend a college or career school. You must repay the loan as well as interest that accrues. It is important to understand your repayment options so you can successfully repay your loan.

- In order to submit your FAFSA the student and both parents must each create a FSA ID at https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/sign-in/landing prior to starting the FAFSA
- To apply for loans students must complete their FAFSA beginning on December 1st, at www.fafsa.ed.gov (student can add up to 10 colleges, should list top choices first)
- Some colleges require students to submit a CSS Profile, review the list on the following website https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/

Scholarships

Many nonprofit and private organizations offer scholarships to help students pay for college or career school. This type of free money, which is sometimes based on academic merit, talent, or a particular area of study, can make a real difference in helping you manage your education expenses.

https://app.schoolinks.com/login/k12	www.fastweb.com	www.studentscholarships.org
www.collegenet.com	www.finaid.org/scholarships/	www.scholarshipamerica.org
College scholarships are directly on the college websites *Scholly app on your phone	https://goingmerry.com/	www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search

Work-Study Jobs

The Federal Work-Study Program allows you to earn money to pay for school by working part-time.

CollegeBoard

FOR FAMILY

College Resources for Students and Families

GENERAL WEBSITES

- **BigFuture.** A complete site, with college and scholarship searches, information about the SAT® and other material pertaining to the college search and application process. Easy-to-use college search feature. **collegeboard.org**
- **NCAA Eligibility Center.** Official NCAA website that gives details of student-eligibility requirements to play NCAA sports. Watch this site for changes in eligibility; students can print the *Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete*. **ncaapublications.com**
- **U.S. Department of Education.** The federal government's website is easy to use and an excellent source of information on financial aid, much of it in Spanish as well as English. **ed.gov**

FINANCIAL AID WEBSITES

- **College Board.** A website that includes a scholarship search, a loan calculator, and an online application form for the CSS Profile™, which is required by some colleges. **collegeboard.org**
- **FAFSA® on the Web.** The website for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. This form must be submitted in the senior year for families applying for need-based aid. Students may complete it electronically at this site. **fafsa.ed.gov**
- **Fastweb.** Extensive information on merit- and need-based scholarships and aid. **fastweb.com**
- **FinAid!** Good site for information about types of financial aid and applying for financial aid. **finaid.org**

BOOKS

Comprehensive objective directories

- *Barron's Profiles of American Colleges.* New York: Barron's Educational Series, Inc.
- *Four-Year Colleges.* Princeton, N.J.: Peterson's Guides. Published annually.
- *Two-Year Colleges.* Princeton, N.J.: Peterson's Guides. Published annually.

Subjective guides

- Fiske, Edward, and Robert Logue (contributor). *The Fiske Guide to Colleges.* Naperville, Ill.: Sourcebooks Trade. Updated annually.
- Pope, Loren. *Colleges That Change Lives.* New York: Penguin. Paperback 2014.

Source: Department of Education.

Registering for the SAT/ACT

- Make sure you register ahead of time!
  - Plan on taking either test again in the Fall of your 12th grade year!
- Register for the SAT at Collegeboard.org
- Register for the ACT at act.org
- Holland Patent CEEB Code: 332410
- Fee Waivers are available if you qualify for free/reduced lunch-see your school counselor.

What to Bring to the SAT/ACT

- Chromebook AND charger
- #2 pencils (NOT mechanical), erasers
- Calculator
- Photo ID if taking it at another school

PRACTICING FOR THE TEST

- Take practice tests
- CollegeBoard offers online practice tests
- Khan Academy offers online practice-khanacademy.org
- BlueBook-App on Chromebook

Scoring

- Make sure you know what your school is looking for-their information is on their admissions website.

What Should I Ask Colleges?

- Admissions:
  - How important is the high school senior year?
  - What high school average and rank are desirable for admission?
  - Do you require SAT/ACT scores? If so, what score is desirable for admission?
  - How important is participation in high school and community activities?
- Courses
  - What is the average class size?
  - What academic programs is your college known for?
  - Are their any mandated classes outside of your major that you have to take? Example: Freshman Seminar, religion, etc
  - Do you have a study abroad program?
  - Do you give AP credit, SUPA, dual enrollment credit at your college/university?
- Tuition/Financial Aid
  - What is the total cost of room & board and tuition?
- Life on Campus
  - What are the dorms like?
  - How is the food?
  - Are freshmen allowed to have cars on campus?
  - Are weekend activities available on campus?
  - Where do students hang out on campus?
- Other
  - Ask your own questions!

CollegeBoard

FOR STUDENTS

NCAA Eligibility Center

The NCAA Eligibility Center is responsible for certifying the academic and amateur status of all Division I and II incoming student-athletes. College-bound student-athletes can create an account with the Eligibility Center by visiting **eligibilitycenter.org**. The NCAA recommends that students register before starting their freshman year of high school to ensure they have adequate time to confirm they are on track for meeting initial eligibility requirements.

Academic requirements for each college-bound student-athlete are based on the student's core-course grade point average and their coursework.

WHAT IS A CORE COURSE?

Core courses are those that are academic in nature, taught at or above your high school's regular academic level, receive credit toward high school graduation, and are four-year college preparatory courses. To be used in an academic certification, the courses need to be listed on the student's transcript with their grades and credits. Core courses must be in one of the following academic areas:

- English
- Math (Algebra 1 or higher)
- Natural/physical science
- Social science
- Foreign language
- Comparative religion or philosophy

DIVISION I ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Graduate from high school.
- Complete 16 core courses in the following areas:
  - English—four years
  - Math (Algebra 1 or higher)—three years
  - Natural/physical science (one year of lab if offered)—two years
  - Additional English, math, or natural/physical science—one year
  - Social science—two years
  - Additional courses (in any of the above subject areas or comparative religion or philosophy)—four years
- Complete 10 of the 16 core courses prior to the start of the seventh semester, including seven in English, math, or natural/physical science.
- Complete the 16 NCAA-approved core courses in eight academic semesters or four consecutive academic years from the beginning of ninth grade. If students graduate from high school early, they must still meet core-course requirements.

DIVISION II ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Complete 16 core courses in the following areas:
  - English—three years
  - Math (Algebra 1 or higher)—two years
  - Natural/physical science (one year of lab if offered)—two years
  - Social science—two years
  - Additional English, math, or natural/physical science—three years
- Additional courses (in any of the above subject areas or comparative religion or philosophy)—four years
- Graduate from high school

COLLEGE-BOUND STUDENT-ATHLETES TIMELINE

GRADE 9: PLAN

- Start planning now! Take challenging courses and earn the best grades you can.
- Register for a Certification Account or Profile Page with the NCAA Eligibility Center at **eligiblitycenter.org**.
- Ask your counselor for a list of your high school's NCAA core courses to make sure you take the required classes. Or, find your high school's list of NCAA core courses at **eligibilitycenter.org/courselist**.

GRADE 10: REGISTER

- If you have not done so, register for a Certification Account or Profile Page with the NCAA Eligibility Center at eligiblitycenter.org.
- If you fall behind on courses, don't take shortcuts to catch up. Ask your counselor for help with finding approved courses or programs you can take.

GRADE 11: STUDY

- Check with your counselor to make sure you are on track to graduate on time.
- At the end of the year, ask your counselor to upload your official transcript.

GRADE 12: GRADUATE

- Request your final amateurism certification after April 1 (fall enrollees) or October 1 (winter/spring enrollees).
- After you graduate, ask your counselor to upload your final official transcript with proof of graduation.

Seniors

Your Fall Recruiting Checklist

Follow these steps to ensure you find the best athletic, academic, social and financial college fit.

Start of Senior Year – August/September

Check in with your high school guidance counselor.

Confirm your NCAA eligibility—once you start your senior year (seventh semester of high school), ten of your core courses are "locked in"—you can't retake or replace any of these courses to improve your GPA.

If necessary, retake the ACT or SAT.

While the NCAA is no longer requiring student-athletes to take these tests to be eligible to compete in the 2025-26 academic year, it's still a good idea to take these exams, whether you're trying to maximize your scholarship opportunities or improve your admissions chances at highly selective schools.

Make sure your NCSA profile is up-to-date.

As you reach the home stretch of your recruiting, your profile should be 100% complete—make sure you uploaded your most recent transcript and update your highlight footage and verified measurables/stats from summer recruiting events, camps or combines.

September

Keep Track of Important Dates

Stay up to date with the D1 and D2 Recruiting Calendars.

Go on a campus visit or take a virtual campus tour.

Unofficial or official visits provide a great opportunity to get some one-on-one time with a college coach, meet your potential team and tour the campus/athletic facilities, while virtual visits offer a safe, cost-effective option to get a good feel of the school.

October 1

Complete your FAFSA starting October 1.

The FAFSA determines your eligibility for federal grants, loans and work-study funds administered by the U.S. Department of Education. Try to complete it ASAP—aid is awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis. The FAFSA typically opens on Oct. 1 each year.

October

Refine and finalize your target schools.

Be realistic with your safety, target and dream schools—if you haven't received an offer or much attention from college coaches, expand your search to include schools at all division levels.

Insider Tip:

Don't stress! You can still find competitive programs outside of the D1 level. Maximize your options by considering D2, D3 and NAIA schools—some of these coaches recruit well into senior year.

Start applying to schools.

Keeping up with admissions standards and deadlines can be tough—make sure you know which schools have set applications deadlines, offer rolling admissions and whether they have their own application process or use the Common App.

Keep track of college application costs.

While some colleges allow students to apply for free, the average college application fee was $44 in 2020. If you're applying to multiple schools, these costs can add up. The College Board allows you to search for college application fee waivers—whether you're an in-state resident, first-year student or meet certain income criteria.

November 13

Initial Signing Date

For most sports—excluding football and basketball—this is the first (not the only!) day you can officially sign with D1 and D2 schools. Learn more about National Signing Day.

NCSA COLLEGE RECRUITING

Parents

Your Recruiting Checklist

Follow these steps to ensure you're supporting your student-athlete in their dream to play their sport in college.

Academic:

- Familiarize yourself with the NCAA Eligibility Requirements, so you and our athlete both know the rules.
- Use the Division I and II core course worksheet to set specific academic goals and plan a core course schedule for your athlete.
- Stay aware of your athlete's grades. The better their grades the more opportunities they will have.
- Begin researching SAT/ACT test preparation for your athlete and familiarize yourself with test dates and registration deadlines.
- Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center and make sure your athlete's high school counselor sends his or her transcript at the end of junior year.
- Help your athlete figure out what they may be interested in studying in college. This will help determine if a school is right for them.

Recruiting:

- Start a correspondence log to keep track of your communications with college coaches or use the NCSA Messaging Center.
- Help your athlete build their recruiting profile, but don't do it for them – this is their journey.
- Help your athlete plan official and unofficial visits to local college campuses. They should be contacting the coaches beforehand to arrange a meeting.
- Create a highlight or skills video using sport-specific video guidelines.
- Help your athlete compile a list of target schools based on their qualifications.
- Help your athlete understand the importance of staying responsible with social media.
- Determine your Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) to familiarize yourself with the collegiate financial aid process and discuss cost with your athlete.

New to the college recruiting process? Create a free NCSA College Recruiting profile to explore the college programs your student might qualify for or review our College Recruiting 101 for Parents guide for expert advice.

NCSA COLLEGE RECRUITING

Initial-Eligibility Standards

If you want to compete in NCAA sports, you need to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center at **eligibilitycenter.org**. Plan to register before your freshman year of high school. For more information on registration, visit **on.ncaa.com/RegChecklist**.

Academic Requirements

Division I and II schools require you to meet academic standards. To be eligible to practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship in your first year of full-time enrollment, you must meet the following requirements:

Division I

1. Earn 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits in the following areas:

ENGLISH	MATH (Algebra I or higher)	SCIENCE (Including one year of lab, if offered)	EXTRA (English, math or science)	SOCIAL SCIENCE	OTHER Any area listed to the left or courses listed in additional discipline (world language, comparative religion or philosophy)
4 years	**3 years**	**2 years**	**1 year**	**2 years**	**4 years**

2. Complete your 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits in eight academic semesters or four consecutive academic years from the start of ninth grade. If you graduate from high school early, you still must meet core-course requirements.
3. Complete 10 of your 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits, including seven in English, math or science, before the start of your seventh semester. Once you begin your seventh semester, any course needed to meet the 10/7 requirement cannot be replaced or repeated.
4. Earn a minimum 2.3 **core-course GPA**.
5. Ask your high school counselor to upload your **final official transcript** with proof of graduation to your Eligibility Center account.

Division II

1. Earn 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits in the following areas:

ENGLISH	MATH (Algebra I or higher)	SCIENCE (Including one year of lab, if offered)	EXTRA (English, math or science)	SOCIAL SCIENCE	OTHER Any area listed to the left or courses listed in additional discipline (world language, comparative religion or philosophy)
3 years	**2 years**	**2 years**	**3 years**	**2 years**	**4 years**

2. Earn a minimum 2.2 **core-course GPA**.
3. Ask your high school counselor to upload your **final official transcript** with proof of graduation to your Eligibility Center account.

Division III

While **Division III schools** set their own admissions and academic requirements, **international student-athletes** (first-year enrollees and transfers) who are enrolling at a Division III school after Aug. 1, 2023, must be certified as an amateur by the Eligibility Center. Contact the Division III school you plan to attend for more information about its academic requirements.

GRADE 9 REGISTER

- If you haven't yet, **register** for a free Profile Page account at **eligibilitycenter.org** for information on NCAA initial-eligibility requirements.
- Use NCAA Research's **interactive map** to help locate NCAA schools you're interested in attending.
- Find your high school's list of NCAA-approved core courses at **eligibilitycenter.org/courselist** to ensure you're taking the right courses, and earn the best grades possible!

GRADE 10 PLAN

- If you're being actively recruited by an NCAA school and have a Profile Page account, **transition** it to the required **certification account**.
- Monitor the **task list** in your NCAA Eligibility Center account for next steps.
- At the end of the school year, ask your high school counselor from each school you attend to upload an official transcript to your Eligibility Center account.
- If you fall behind academically, ask your high school counselor for help finding **approved courses** you can take.

GRADE 11 STUDY

- Ensure your **sports participation** information is correct in your Eligibility Center account.
- Check with your high school counselor to make sure you're on track to complete the required number of NCAA-approved **core courses** and graduate on time with your class.
- Share your **NCAA ID** with NCAA schools recruiting you so each school can place you on its **institutional request list.**
- At the end of the school year, ask your high school counselor from each school you attend to upload an official transcript to your Eligibility Center account.

GRADE 12 GRADUATE

- **Request your final amateurism certification** beginning April 1 (fall enrollees) or Oct. 1 (winter/spring enrollees) in your Eligibility Center account at **eligibilitycenter.org**.
- Apply and be accepted to the NCAA school you plan to attend.
- Complete your final NCAA-approved **core courses** as you prepare for graduation.
- After you graduate, ask your high school counselor to upload your final **official transcript** with proof of graduation to your Eligibility Center account.

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

4 x 4 = 16

9th GRADE	10th GRADE	11th GRADE	12th GRADE
(1) English	(1) English	(1) English	(1) English
(1) Math	(1) Math	(1) Math	(1) Math
(1) Science	(1) Science	(1) Science	(1) Science
(1) Social Science and/or other	(1) Social Science and/or other	(1) Social Science and/or other	(1) Social Science and/or other
4 CORE COURSES	4 CORE COURSES	4 CORE COURSES	4 CORE COURSES

CONTACT THE NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER

U.S. and Canada (except Quebec):
877-262-1492 (toll free), Monday-Friday
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time

@ncaaec @ncaaec @ncaaec @playcollegesports

Registration Checklist

Plan to compete in NCAA sports? Register with the Eligibility Center at **eligibilitycenter.org** before ninth grade (year nine of secondary school).

Which Account Type Is Right for You?

1. **Academic and Athletics Certification Account:** If you plan to compete at a Division I or II school, register for an Academic and Athletics Certification account. This account type (including completed **payment** or a processed **fee waiver**) is needed to go on Division I official visits, sign an athletics aid agreement for a scholarship and compete at a Division I or II school.

2. **Athletics Certification Account:** If you're an **international student-athlete** (first-year enrollee or transfer) enrolling at a Division III school, you must register for an Athletics Certification account (or use your existing Academic and Athletics Certification account) and receive your final athletics certification before you can compete.

   This account may also be right for students transferring from a non-NCAA college or university to a Division I or II school who do not require an Eligibility Center academic certification. These students should check with the compliance office at the NCAA school they may attend to determine their required account type.

3. **Profile Page Account:** If you're not yet in high school or secondary school, are not being recruited, are unsure in which division you want to compete or are a **domestic student** who plans to compete at a **Division III school**, register for a free Profile Page account. **Transition** your account to an Academic and Athletics Certification account once you are **recruited** by a Division I or II school.

ELIGIBILITY CENTER ACCOUNT TYPES

In which division do you plan to compete?	Academic and Athletics Certification Account	Athletics Certification Account	Profile Page Account
Division I or II			
Before recruiting begins or middle school and younger students (**domestic or international**). Can be transitioned to a certification account when needed.			✓
High school student (**domestic or international**) enrolling for the first time at a Division I or II school.	✓		
Transferring from a two- or four-year college or university. (Check with the compliance office at the school you plan to attend.)	✓ OR	✓	
Division III*			
Domestic high school student enrolling for the first time at a Division III school.			✓
High school student with a permanent residence **outside of the U.S.**		✓	
High school student who attended secondary or postsecondary school **outside of the U.S.** for any time (excluding U.S.-based students who study abroad).		✓	
High school student who was based and competed **outside of the U.S.** or participated on a sports team that that based and competed **outside of the U.S.**		✓	
Transferring from a two- or four-year college or university; attended **domestic high school(s)** only.			✓
Division Undecided/Unknown			
Never enrolled full time at a two- or four-year college or university. Best before recruiting begins or for middle school and younger students. Can be transitioned to a certification account when needed.			✓

*[illegible]

Once you have determined the right account for you, visit eligibilitycenter.org to register. A list of information you will need to complete your account is outlined below. For a Profile Page account, allow 15 minutes to complete. For certification accounts, allow 30-45 minutes to complete. If you need to exit and come back at a later time, you can save and exit but must return and complete your account within 30 days.

*Unsure **which account type** is right for you?* Start with a **free Profile Page account**, then check with the compliance office at the NCAA school recruiting you. If you need assistance, contact the Eligibility Center at 877-262-1492, Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time. International students (including Quebec) should use the **International Contact Form** to submit questions.

ELIGIBILITY CENTER REGISTRATION ESSENTIALS

Below are some items you should have with you when creating an account at **eligibilitycenter.org**:

- ☐ **Student Information**
  Provide your name, gender, date of birth, primary and **secondary contact information** and address.

- ☐ **Valid Email**
  Use an email address you check regularly and will have access to ***after*** high school. The Eligibility Center uses email to update you about your account throughout the process. ***Note:*** If a sibling has registered with the Eligibility Center, use a different email address than the one they used.

- ☐ **Education History**
  List all U.S. and international secondary and high schools and additional programs you attended, even if you did not receive grades or credits. If you attended ninth grade at a junior high school in the same school system in which you later attended high school, the ninth-grade school should not be listed.

- ☐ **Sports Participation History**
  Select each sport you plan to participate in at an NCAA school. For **certification accounts**, list any teams you have practiced or played with, events in which you participated, expenses, awards and any individuals who advised you or marketed your athletic skills. This helps the Eligibility Center certify your athletics eligibility once you **request your final athletics certification**.

- ☐ **Payment (Certification Accounts Only)**
  Certification account registration is complete once your fee is paid (or **fee waiver** is requested, if eligible). Pay online via debit, credit card or eCheck. Effective September 1, the fee for an Academic and Athletics Certification account is $110 for **domestic students** and $170 for **international students**. The fee for an Athletics Certification account is $75. Profile Page accounts are free.

  *All fees are nonrefundable after 30 days. If you completed a duplicate registration and paid your registration fee twice, complete the **refund form**.*

Do You Need Assistance Registering?

Contact the Eligibility Center at 877-262-1492, Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time. International students (including Quebec) should use the **International Contact Form** to submit questions.

REMEMBER

Walk-on and "preferred" walk-on recruits must register with the Eligibility Center and meet initial-eligibility standards.

10 Things You Should Never Post on Social Media

The Internet is public. Remember that. So even when you think you are posting something privately, once it is released into the Internet, it is out of your control and potentially can be used against you in the future. This is especially important in a job search. Even though a future employer (assuming they are not the government) may not be able to access your private posts, it is common to begin including future coworkers as friends. They will have access to your stuff. Keep it clean.

With that in mind, here is a list of things you should never post on social media:

1. Profanity
The language you use on social media is usually the same type of language you'll use when casually interacting with coworkers. A minor four-letter-word once in a while isn't a crime, but do you want that to be part of who you are, even among friends? Keep it clean. Better yet, eliminate profanity from your online *and* offline vocabulary.

2. Abusive Content
Social media can be a great place to share opinions, but if your feed is full of arguments and rants, you may come across as an overly negative person, not the kind of employee companies want in their office.

3. "Adult" Content
A snapshot on the beach is probably fine but it's alarming how many people think nothing of posting photos of themselves in their underwear (or less!). The Internet is a public place, even when you think you are sharing privately. So, before posting a selfie, consider if you are OK with being seen like that in the office.

4. Illegal Content
Not only could this get you disqualified for a job, it may land you on America's Stupidest Criminals. Worse yet, you could be arrested if authorities see credible evidence of certain kinds of illegal activity. Try explaining THAT to a potential employer during background checks.

5. Offensive Content
Racism, sexism, and other forms of discrimination should have no place in your life. Even if you're joking, think twice before sharing something that could be seen as bigotry. And then don't share it.

6. Negative opinions about your job / employer / boss / professor
A comment about how you hate your job could cause future employers to wonder if you really like the work you are doing or not. A comment about your "stupid boss" could cause your application to simply disappear.

7. Drug related content
Some employers may require you to pass a drug test as a hiring condition. You won't even get that far if you share this kind of post publicly.

8. Poor grammar
Forget about dangling participles and comma splices. If you don't know the difference between "your" and "you're", it's time to learn. Communication, and written communication in particular, is an important part of professional life. If you can't communicate effectively, employers won't want you to communicate for them.

9. Poor spelling
Like #8, poor spelling makes you look unintelligent. Spell check helps but how many typos do you let slip through when you post on social media?

10. Threats
No, it's not OK to threaten others, no matter their position. Wishing someone ill, whether it is a friend, family member, colleague, politician, celebrity, whatever. If you don't like someone else, social media is not the place to be hurling threats of any kind.

*Do any of these categories remind you of posts you have made in the past? Seek them out and delete them. If you're not completely sure, take the time to review your profiles and posting history. Remember that social media is public, even if you restrict the privacy settings. If you are ever in doubt of this, think back to all of the private social media posts that were made public when someone commits a crime. The government (and other agencies) may have access to this in advance of employment, so keep it clean. And, even after you start, you will likely friend your coworkers, who will have access to your past posts, including that wild party where you were tagged. Keep it social, yet keep it clean.

Local Volunteering Opportunities

AYSO- American Youth Soccer Association for Holland Patent- maparzych@gmail.com

Northern Community Pop Warner Football

northerncommunitypw@gmail.com

Teachers at the High School- just ask

Foothills Rural Community Ministry- Food Pantry, Thrift Shop, Christmas Baskets, Snow Shoveling

Contact: Mrs. Sonya Ellinger

Phone: 315-865-5854

Address: Located at the corner of Church Street and 365 in Holland Patent

The American Legion Post 161- dinners at the legion, flags in the local cemeteries

Contact: Mrs. Deborah Roberts

Phone: 315-865-9921

9550 Depot Street P.O. Box 161. Holland Patent, NY 13354

Libraries

Holland Patent Free Library

Phone: (315) 865-5034

Address: 9580 Main St, Trenton, NY 13354

Barneveld Library

Phone: (315) 896-2096

Address: 118 Boon St, Barneveld, NY 13304

Fire Departments

Floyd Volunteer Fire Department- fish fry dinners, etc.

Phone: (315) 865-4819

Address: 8367 Old Floyd Rd, Rome, NY 13440

Holland Patent Fire Department

(315) 865-8200

9531 Center St. Holland Patent, NY 13354

Barneveld Volunteer Fire Department

Phone: (315) 896-2410

Address: 8530 Old Poland Rd, Barneveld, NY 13304

Stittville Fire Department

Phone: (315) 865-4531

Address: 9069 Main St, Stittville, NY 13469

Churches

First Presbyterian Church of Holland Patent

Phone: (315) 865-5754

Address: 7835 Church St, Holland Patent, NY 13354

St Leo's & St Ann's

Phone: (315) 865-5371

Address: 7939 Elm St, Holland Patent, NY 13354

Mohawk Valley CC Transcript Request

https://www.mvcc.edu/records-registration/transcripts.php

In nearly all cases transcripts are transmitted as PDF documents, the first transcript request is free, $10 for additional transcripts

- Go to www.mvcc.edu
- Current Students
- Transcript Request
- Start a Transcript Order
- Ordering your own credentials or academic records
- Put in your personal email address
- Put in your information
- Select 12th grade if currently in high school
- Password needs to be 10 characters, 1 special character, 1 capital letter, 1 number
- Validate email address with confirmation code
- Select "not currently enrolled", first year of attendance, year left "2024", last four of social security number, don't have, continue without order checked
- Save enrollment data
- "Orders" create new order
- "Start by add your school organization- mvcc"
- "Add" "Order"
- "Put in college- admissions, undergraduate"
- "Hold for grades"
- "MVCC student ID M# or Full Social Security #"
- "Sign", put in first and last name, submit and complete order

Herkimer College Transcript Request

https://www.herkimer.edu/campus-life/services-and-support/registrars-office/transcripts/

Official transcripts are $14.00 each

Select "Request official transcript"

- Ordering your own credentials or academic records
- Put in your personal email address
- Put in your information
- Select 12th grade if currently in high school
- Password needs to be 10 characters, 1 special character, 1 capital letter, 1 number
- Validate email address with confirmation code
- Select "not currently enrolled", first year of attendance, year left "2024", last four of social security number, don't have, continue without order checked
- Save enrollment data
- "Orders" create new order
- "Start by add your school organization- Herkimer college"
- "Add" "Order"
- "Put in college- admissions, undergraduate"
- "Hold for grades"

- "HC student ID M# or Full Social Security #"
- "Sign", put in first and last name, submit and complete order

SUPA Transcript Request

Current Students (Students who have taken an SU course through Project Advance in the Past 12 months) Official transcripts are $12.00 each

https://supa.syr.edu/transcripts/

Project Advance Students- As non-matriculated students, Project Advance students must order a transcript directly through Parchment. If you are currently taking a Project Advance class, make sure to check with your teacher that your final grade has been posted to Syracuse University prior to ordering a transcript.

- Select "Parchment" under Project Advance Students
- Ordering your own credentials or academic records
- Put in your personal email address
- Put in your information
- Select 12th grade if currently in high school
- Password needs to be 10 characters, 1 special character, 1 capital letter, 1 number
- Validate email address with confirmation code
- Select "not currently enrolled", first year of attendance, year left "2024", last four of social security number, don't have, continue without order checked
- Save enrollment data
- "Orders" create new order
- "Start by add your school organization- Syracuse University"
- "Add" "Order"
- "Put in college- admissions, undergraduate"
- "Hold for grades"
- "SU student ID M# or Full Social Security #"
- "Sign", put in first and last name, submit and complete order

SUNY COBLESKILL Transcript Request

https://www.cobleskill.edu/academics/registrar/request-transcript.aspx

Students at SUNY Cobleskill pay a per term transcript fee which allows them to secure transcripts while enrolled, or within their lifetime, following completion of coursework at SUNY Cobleskill. The fee is currently $10 per enrolled term. Transcripts may be requested to be delivered to a mailing address at no cost by visiting or submitting a request directly to the Office of the Registrar.

https://www.parchment.com/u/registration/34360/institution

You will order your transcript through parchment, enter your personal email address and follow the prompts.

FAFSA or DREAM ACT APPLICATION WAIVER FORM

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Jose Peralta New York State DREAM Act (DREAM Act) determines a student's eligibility for financial aid to assist with a student's attendance at a college or career school. New York State Education Law §305(61) now requires that school districts verify that high school seniors either complete the FAFSA or, if applicable, the DREAM Act application, or sign a **waiver** indicating that the student understands what the FAFSA or, if applicable, the DREAM Act application are and has chosen not to file one of these financial aid applications.

For students/families who have decided **NOT** to complete one of the above noted financial aid forms, please **sign below indicating that the student understands what the FAFSA or, if applicable, the DREAM Act application are and has chosen not to file either one of these financial aid applications.**

Please complete and return this form to your local high school counselor by the date established at your local school district.

Name of Student: ______________________
Student ID #:________________

If the student is under 18 years old, the parent/guardian must sign here:

X ________________________________
Signature of Parent/Guardian

If the student 18 years old or older, the parent/guardian does not need to sign above and the student must sign here:

X ________________________________
Signature of Student if 18 Years or Older

Note: The student/parent/guardian shall not be penalized or punished if the student's parent or guardian or the student does not complete this waiver. For example, not completing this waiver will not affect a student's ability to graduate. Please also note that this form is protected by all applicable student data privacy laws and regulations and does not affect the ability of students to apply for financial aid now or in the future.