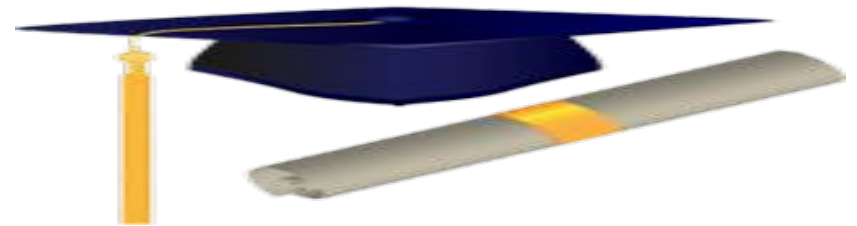


Graduation Requirements

- 4 years of English, Social Studies and PE
- 3 years of Math, Science
- 1 year of Art/Music, Health, Foreign Language
- Electives
- Minimum 22 credits
- Regents (5 exams) vs. Advanced Regents diploma (8 exams plus 3 years foreign language & checkpoint B exam or 2 years CTEC)



Senior Meeting Notes

Review transcript. Grade point average **(GPA) is finalized at the end of junior year** (students apply to college with this GPA/rank) and **GPA is recalculated at the end of 2nd quarter of senior year**. GPA is an average of all final course grades on transcript.

Use **personal email** – not school email – for College Board (SAT/AP), Common App, ACT, Colleges (use school email just for Naviance)

College Essay – personalize, write about something you're passionate about, proofread (do not mention a specific college, your essay will be submitted to all colleges you apply to)

Senior packet (including **detailed activity sheet** about sports, clubs, community service, etc.) assists School Counselor/Teachers in personalizing recommendation letter (**senior packet was due first week of school**). Parent brag sheet optional but appreciated.

IEP/504: does not follow to college – must request testing accommodations; support services (**ACCES-VR**)

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

9/28/26	6 p.m. Senior Parent Night
10/1/26	FAFSA form opens (financial aid form)
10/8/26	Senior college visit to Ramapo College of NJ (full)
10/14/26	11:30 a.m. ASVAB exam - Library
10/15/26	7 p.m. Financial Aid Night
11/16/26	11:30 a.m. SUNY Orange Instant Decision Day
12/1/26	11:30 a.m. SUNY Rockland Instant Decision Day

College Open House and Admission Event information posted
in the Guidance Hallway

Post Secondary Planning

College, Trade Schools, Employment or Military (**ASVAB exam - offered at Chester Academy/recruiters**):

www.asvabprogram.com or www.march2success.com

Common App - how students **apply** to 4 yr colleges; **Naviance** - where students request teacher letters, do college research and how I **send transcripts/letters**.

Request teacher letters only through Naviance (not in Common App). Ask teachers in person first. Submit **transcript request form** 2 weeks before the college application deadline.

Explore college websites (can use Naviance Supermatch college search engine) for admissions requirements (GPA, SAT/ACT scores, etc.); application deadlines; majors/programs; prerequisites; tuition/fees (net price calculator on many college websites).

Visit College campus in person or virtually (register for **virtual tours and info sessions** on college websites); notice size (small, medium, large) and location of campus (rural, urban, suburban); dorms; class size; internships; study abroad

NCAA Clearinghouse (Division I/II/III **college sports**); register at <https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3>; or apply to club/intramural sports through college

Community colleges (Use placement Tests - SAT/ACT exams, essay or recommendation letters not typically necessary). We offer Instant Decision days at our school for SUNY Orange and SUNY Rockland

Four Year College Application Process

Common App

- **Create an account** at www.commonapp.org (use your personal email)
- Answer profile questions, request updated transcript from Mrs. Sternemann for info on GPA/rank/classes
- Add colleges you plan to apply to (indicate early/regular admission). Remember **college deadlines are firm**.
- **Complete FERPA waiver** (recommend “yes” - waive right to see recommendation letters) - only an option once you add at least 1 college in Common App - colleges prefer confidential recommendation letters
- Follow Naviance instructions below
- **Apply to colleges on Common App** - click on the college to apply, upload essay and pay application fee
- Submit **transcript request form** to Guidance minimum of 2 weeks before college deadline, can write multiple colleges on one form (form is required in order to send transcripts)
- **College courses in the high school are known as dual enrollment courses (receive high school and college credit)**

Naviance

- Click on **Naviance Student** on Chester Academy website under Quick Links
- Log into Naviance using school email and password, if you need a temporary password, please email Mrs. Sternemann
- Click “read more” to view the 2 videos on matching the Common App and Naviance accounts and requesting teacher recommendation letters
- **Click on Colleges I’m applying to at the top**, then you’ll see **“Match Accounts”** and use the same personal email and date of birth you used to create your Common App account
- Once you match the accounts, the colleges you added on Common App will appear under “colleges I’m applying to” in Naviance
- **If you applied through the college website (or any way other than through Common App), you need to click on “Colleges I’m Applying to” and add the colleges.** Choose “direct to institution” as how you applied
- **Only request teacher letters through Naviance** - not through Common App - always give teachers a minimum of 2 weeks notice prior to your college deadlines
- Click on “Colleges” at the top of the page, then **click “letters of recommendation,” select teacher name from dropdown and click “add request” (ask teachers in person or through email too)**
- **Career assessment in Naviance** - click on Self Discovery at the top, then **Career Interest Profiler**

Common App Essay Prompts 2026-27

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
4. Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.



State University of New York Information

SUNY Viewbook/Publications:

<https://www.suny.edu/attend/learn-more/forms-and-publications/>

SUNY 4 year/Community college information

<https://www.suny.edu/media/suny/content-assets/documents/summary-sheets/Admission-Information-Summary-Sheets.pdf>

SUNY Campus Athletic Search Tool:

<https://www.suny.edu/attend/athletics/search.cfm>

Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) - based on financial need

<https://www.suny.edu/attend/academics/eop/>

College Fairs

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Location:</u>	<u>Time:</u>
10/6	Cornwall High School	6:30 p.m.
10/8	Pine Bush High School	6:30 p.m.
10/14	Marlboro High School	6:30 p.m.
10/15	Monroe Woodbury HS	6:30 p.m.
10/20	Goshen High School	6:30 p.m.
10/28	Warwick High School	6:00 p.m.

SUNY FREE APPLICATIONS

10/19-11/2/26

Apply to up to 5 four year SUNY colleges with no application fees - just during these dates! Please apply through Common App.

When you reach the payment section for the SUNY campus you are applying to in Common App, you will see an option to have the fee waived.

CUNY FREE APPLICATIONS

10/15 - 11/16/26

Apply to up to 6 CUNY colleges
with no application fees - just
during these dates!

Must apply through

www.cuny.edu/apply. Then add
colleges to Naviance as “direct to
institution”

Link to SUNY/CUNY/Private colleges waiving application fees

<https://hesc.ny.gov/plan-college/college-application-initiative/site-coordinators/2026-nys-colleges-waiving>

Click on the SUNY, CUNY or Independent Colleges and Universities section to see specific dates the application fees are waived for specific colleges (SUNY/Private colleges fee waivers - can apply through Common App)

Consider taking **SAT or ACT exams** once if even just remotely thinking you might apply to 4 year colleges (**SUNY/CUNY/some private colleges are test optional this year**- check college websites)

SAT: www.collegeboard.org; ACT: www.act.org (some colleges superscore if taken twice)

SAT Prep (PSAT/collegeboard.org/Khan Academy.org/SAT Prep Class/app: prep4sat)

ACT Prep (www.academy.act.org; app: prep4act)

Send SAT/ACT score reports to first 4 colleges; fee to send to additional colleges

FAFSA form opens 10/1/26 www.fafsa.gov; Some 4 year colleges also require **CSS profile**;

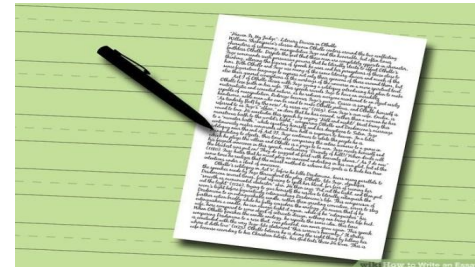
Scholarships: See attached scholarship info; **Local Scholarships** (guidance website) - ex.

PTSA scholarship requires \$10 student membership; parent/student employers; accepted

college financial aid websites; **NYS Excelsior scholarship**:

<https://www.hesc.ny.gov/pay-for-college/financial-aid/types-of-financial-aid/nys-grants-scholarships-awards/the-excelsior-scholarship.html>

(scholarship application will open in the Spring)



***ACT exam is given at the following area high schools:**
www.act.org

James I. O'Neill High School
Middletown High School
Minisink Valley High School
Monroe Woodbury High School
Newburgh Free Academy
Pine Bush High School
Port Jervis High School
Warwick Valley High School



***SAT exam is given at the following area high schools:**
www.collegeboard.org

James I. O'Neill High School
Middletown High School
Minisink Valley High School
Monroe Woodbury High School
Newburgh Free Academy
Pine Bush High School
Port Jervis High School
S.S. Seward Institute
Warwick Valley High School



***Exams are not given at every school on every exam date.**

Types of College Admissions

Early Decision: Legally binding document (can apply to only one college through early decision)

Early Action: Can apply to multiple colleges, not legally binding if accepted

Regular Admission: typically January - March deadlines (check college websites)

Rolling Admission: continuously accept applications until programs fill up - no deadline
(Deadlines are firm - keep track!)

5/1/27 - College Decision Day for 4 year colleges.

Financial Aid

FAFSA on the Web: <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>

(opens 10/1/26)

Request FSA ID (electronic signature for student/parent)

FAFSA form opens 10/1/26; Some colleges also require **CSS profile** (additional financial information)

New York State TAP: www.hesc.ny.gov

Net Price Calculator: A tool used to estimate net cost of a specific institution (see college websites)

Once accepted, colleges will send financial aid packages indicating loans, grants, scholarships.

Completing the FAFSA - Request FSA ID/Password:

How do you create an FSA ID?

To create an FSA ID, each person contributing information to the FAFSA needs to go to studentaid.gov and click “create account” in the upper right-hand corner. The application is available in English and Spanish.

Each person will need the following:

- Full name and social security number as they appear on social security card (if applicable)
- Date of birth
- Valid email address and phone number
- Immediate access to your email account
- Your residential address

Please note: Parents or guardians of students who have a sibling who has already attended college may already have an FSA ID.

Who needs to create an FSA ID?

Every person contributing information to the 2027-28 FAFSA will need an FSA ID - including parents who do not have a social security number

Decoding your financial aid offers

6 tips

you should know before
making the big decision

sallie™

1. The acronyms you need to know

Cost of attendance (COA): An estimate of what one full year of school will cost. It includes tuition, along with room, board, fees, books, and more. Check your school's website for a detailed COA.

Student Aid Index (SAI): An index number the U.S. Department of Education and schools use to determine what types, and how much, financial aid you could get. The amount you actually pay may be different.

2. You might get a few types of financial aid

Scholarships and grants: Free money that you won't have to pay back—seriously!

Work-study: Money you earn by working a part-time job through your school.

Loans: Money you can borrow that you will have to pay back with interest.

3. Remember this equation

COA - financial aid = what's left to pay

Do this equation for every school on your list. If you still owe money, you may need to use savings, private student loans, or other sources to cover the difference.

4. Hold on: don't just pick the biggest offer

A small financial aid offer with more free money may be better than a larger offer with more loans. Why? Because you'll have to pay back those loans with interest.

5. Read the fine print

Before you pick your offer, pay attention to the conditions. Some types of financial aid may be renewable, and some may be for one year only. Also, some scholarships might require you to maintain a certain GPA.

6. Choose what works for you

You don't have to accept all the aid listed in your financial aid offer. Pick the types and amounts of aid you need, and make sure to respond before the deadline.

Learn more at sallie.com/financialaidoffers

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If you're not sure how you'll pay for college or what you can afford, taking it one step at a time can help.

1

Start with money you won't have to pay back—apply for scholarships

Get the most free money possible. Scholarships aren't just for straight-A students and athletes. Find ones that fit you (for free) with Scholly® Scholarships.

2

Apply for federal and state aid—complete the FAFSA®

Make sure to fill out and submit the FAFSA® to apply for federal and state financial aid.

- You may qualify for several types of federal and state aid, including work-study and grants—which you won't have to pay back.
- There are several types of federal student loans, including Direct Subsidized Loans, which are based on financial need, and Direct Unsubsidized Loans, which are available regardless of income.

3

If you still need money for school, consider a responsible private student loan

If you still have a gap, a private student loan can help. Private student loans are different from federal student loans.

- They generally come from banks, credit unions, and fintech organizations.
- They're credit-based; the lender may review your credit score, history, and other information to determine if you qualify.
- Your rate may be based on several factors, including your creditworthiness.
- Like federal student loans, private student loans need to be paid back with interest.

Need help finding scholarships?

Check out Scholly® Scholarships. Easily find and sort through thousands of scholarships. It's free and requires **no registration!**

Simply use the filters to narrow down your results based on your background, area of study, state you live in, and more. Get started at sallie.com/scholly.



National Scholarship websites:

www.fastweb.com

www.fatomei.com

www.scholarships.com

www.chegg.com/scholarships

www.goingmerry.com

www.myscholly.com

<https://www.salliemae.com/college-planning/tools/scholarship-search/>

https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/scholarship-directory?SFMC_cid=EM886697-&rid=47738588

Check Guidance website for Local Scholarships starting in January 2027

NYS Excelsior scholarship (scholarship application opens in the Spring):

<https://www.hesc.ny.gov/pay-for-college/financial-aid/types-of-financial-aid/nys-grants-scholarships-awards/the-excelsior-scholarship.html>

25 QUESTIONS

TO ASK A COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVE

PRESENTED BY BERKELEY COLLEGE

HOW DO YOU KNOW IF A COLLEGE IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

The first step is to visit and ask plenty of questions. The answers will tell you if the college you are considering meets your needs!



ACADEMICS:

1. What majors do you offer?
2. Do you offer Certificates, Associate's degrees, Bachelor's degrees, and Master's degrees?
3. Is an internship, job-related assignment, or clinical rotation required at your school?
4. Do your professors have work-related experience?
5. Do you offer accelerated degree programs?
6. Does your college have a Center for Academic Success?
7. What is your average class size?
8. Do you offer an honors program?



ADMISSIONS:

9. When is the application deadline?
10. What are the requirements for acceptance?
11. Do you require SAT or ACT scores?
12. When can I visit your campus?
13. When will I find out if I am accepted?



CAREER SERVICES:

14. Will your college assist me in creating an online professional profile?
15. Does your college host career and job fairs?
16. Will I have help finding a job when I graduate?



FINANCIAL AID:

17. What is the cost of tuition?
18. What type of scholarships and grants are available?
19. How much institutional aid is available?
20. How do I apply?
21. Do you have Financial Aid representatives who can walk me through the process?



STUDENT LIFE:

22. What activities do you offer?
23. Do you offer any athletic programs?
24. Are there clubs or organizations to join?
25. Do you offer residence options?

INVESTIGATE MORE...

- The College website
- The College's social media sites
- Student blogs
- Videos and podcasts
- Student and graduate testimonials

Call 800-446-5400 ext. FLH or
visit BerkeleyCollege.edu

Find us @BerkeleyCollege
and #BerkeleyCollege



Programs offered in New York, New Jersey, and Online

 **Berkeley College®**

College isn't the only option

- Construction/Health careers: Lincoln Technical Institute, Universal Technical Institute, Eastwick College, OU BOCES Adult Education programs
- Union Apprenticeship programs - paid to train
- Military - ASVAB (Armed services aptitude test) – Sign up in Guidance for ASVAB exam on 10/14/26 at 11:30 a.m. in the Library (or contact recruiter)
- Hudson Valley Construction Fair - Spring 2027 (networking, union reps attend)
- Workforce - Job applications/create resumes

Internship Program

(see Ms. Burretto or email her at:
jennifer.burretto@chesterufsd.org)

Internships Senior year

- Placed in County businesses/gov't agencies
 - Shadowing/Internships
 - Student provides own transportation
- (approximately 40-45 internships available)



Benefits of Internships

- Provides opportunities to apply classroom learning to workplace experiences
- Develop interpersonal skills
- Establishes clear connections between education and the business world
- Creates opportunities for career exploration
- Promotes practice of positive work habits
- Establishes professional networking contacts



Email Mrs. Sternemann at:
yvonne.sternemann@chesterufsd.org

