College Career Center

Class of 2028: College Career Night for Junior Families Part 1



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Post Secondary Counselors

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Career Resource Specialist

November 9, 2026

Interactive Worksheet

A tool to help facilitate a family discussion and provide a focus for the post-secondary process.



College Career Center

Our Philosophy

- This is a journey. This process isn’t about building a resume and checking off boxes. It is about exploration and discovering themselves.
- We focus on what strengths/talents the students have and want to share.
- We look at this process as matching students to a pathway, where you go is not who you’ll be.
- We do not focus on rankings or a particular type of college.
- We aim to teach you how to find the resources.



Post Secondary Counselors

Mr. Dan Miller
West Side

Mrs. Dwyer
Mrs. Falk
Mrs. Grove
Mrs. Kogan
Mrs. Levenbrook
Mrs. Scanio
Mrs. Scardina
Mr. Varghese
Mr. Vazquez



Ms. Sara Hanson
East Side

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



Agenda

Goals for Tonight



- Discovering your interests
- Options after High School
- How to Choose A College
- How to Build a List
- Family Homework

Discover Your Interests

Career Clusters

On your worksheet, list 2-3 Career Clusters that interest you

- **Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources**
  - Conservation, Farm Labor, Food Science
- **Architecture & Construction**
  - Architect, Carpenter, Electrician, HVAC
- **Arts, A/V Technology & Communications**
  - Broadcaster, Photographer, Video Editor
- **Business Management & Administration**
  - Human Resources, Operations, Clerks
- **Education & Training**
  - Teacher, Administrator, Counselor
- **Finance**
  - Accountant, Advisor, Insurance Agent
- **Government & Public Administration**
  - Legislator, Military, Appraiser
- **Health Science**
  - Physician, Nurse, Pharmacist, Dentist
- **Hospitality & Tourism**
  - Chef, Travel Agent, Athlete
- **Human Services**
  - Social Worker, Psychologist, Tailor, Barber
- **Information Technology**
  - Software Dev, Web Dev, Network Specialist
- **Law, Public Safety & Security**
  - Lawyer, Police, Firefighter, Judge
- **Manufacturing**
  - Welder, Drafter, Mechanical/Nuclear Tech
- **Marketing**
  - Real Estate, Sales, Public Relations
- **Science, Tech, Engineering & Math**
  - Engineer, Biochemist, Physicist, Aerospace
- **Transportation, Distribution & Logistics**
  - Auto Body Repair, Air Traffic Controller

- **Undecided (Explore your dreams)**

Discover Your Interests



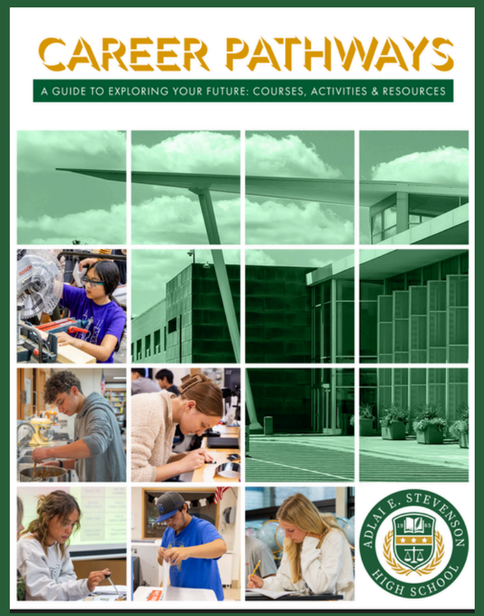
Utilize your resources:

- Career Resources Tab
  - Naviance
  - Occupational Outlook Handbook



Career Pathways:

- Interactive Pathways Booklet
- Clubs/Activities
- Summer Considerations
- Class Considerations



SCAN HERE >>>

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CAREER CLUSTERS

1	Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources
2	Architecture, Construction & Manufacturing
3-5	Arts, Audio/Video Technology & Communication
6-7	Business Management, Finance & Marketing
8	Computer Science & Information Technology
9	Education & Training
10	Health Science
11	Hospitality & Tourism
12	Human Services
13	Law, Public Safety, Security & Government
14	STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math)
15	Transportation, Distribution & Logistics

CAREER PATHWAYS

A GUIDE TO EXPLORING YOUR FUTURE: COURSES, ACTIVITIES & RESOURCES

HEALTH SCIENCE

CLUSTER	PATHWAYS
Health Science	Biotechnology Research • Diagnostic Services • Health Informatics • Support Services • Theraputic Services

9th Year

REQUIRED / RECOMMENDED:

- Advisory
- English
- Mathematics
- Physical Education / Dance
- Science
- World History

CLASS CONSIDERATIONS:

- Human Growth & Develop.
- Dance 1/2/3/4
- Food & Nutrition
- World Language

SUMMER CONSIDERATIONS:

- Careers in Health & Medicine
- Part-Time Job
- Intro to Biotechnology
- Volunteer

10th Year

REQUIRED / RECOMMENDED:

- English
- Health & Physical Education / Dance
- Mathematics
- Science

CLASS CONSIDERATIONS:

- Human Growth & Develop.
- Food & Nutrition
- Food Preparation
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Applied Health
- Life by Design
- Sociology*
- Psychology*
- World Language

SUMMER CONSIDERATIONS:

- Careers in Health & Medicince
- SPARK Internship
- Intro to Biotechnology
- Part-Time Job/Volunteer

11th Year

REQUIRED / RECOMMENDED:

- English
- Mathematics
- Physical Education / Dance
- Personal Finance OR Economics*
- US History
- Science

**Requirement may also be fulfilled during senior year.*

**Personal Finance, Econocmics, AP Macroeconomics or AP Microeconomics will satisfy this credit requirement*

CLASS CONSIDERATIONS:

- Human Growth & Develop.
- Food & Nutrition
- Food Preparation
- Science Research
- AP Statistics
- Psychology*
- Anatomy & Physiology
- Applied Health
- Life by Design
- Data Science
- Sociology*
- Chemistry
- Biology
- World Language

LAKE COUNTY TECH CAMPUS OPTIONS:

- Biomedical Science
- Certified Nurse Assiting (CNA)
- Medical Assisting
- Emergency Medical Services**

SUMMER CONSIDERATIONS:

- Careers in Health & Medicince
- SPARK Internship
- Intro to Biotechnology
- Part-Time Job/Volunteer

12th Year

REQUIRED / RECOMMENDED:

- English
- Government
- Mathematics
- Science
- Physical Education / Dance*

**Academic waiver available if taking six non-PE classes.*

*****Courses are offered Freshman year if World History was taken over the summer***

NOTE: *The SPARK program is only available, via application, during the summer after a student's Sophomore or Junior year.*

Additional Notes:
Students considering careers in Health Science are strongly encouraged to view class considerations and clubs from additional pathway pages based on content area of interest.

Related Clubs & Activities

- Future Doctors of America (FDA)
- Future Health Professionals (HOSA)
- Future Nurses of America (FNA)
- Biology Olympiad
- Chemistry Club
- Culturial Cuisine Club
- Science Bowl
- Science Olympiad
- Science REACH Club
- Animal Welfare Club
- World Cultures Clubs

CAREER PATHWAYS

A GUIDE TO EXPLORING YOUR FUTURE: COURSES, ACTIVITIES & RESOURCES

Discover Your Interests

Career Exploration Considerations:

- Volunteering
- Part-Time Jobs
- In-person Career Shadowing Experiences
- Virtual Career Shadowing Experiences
- Summer Enrichment
- Field Trips

Explore:
Naviance
and
Canvas
Announcements

Click to Make a Career Exploration Appointment

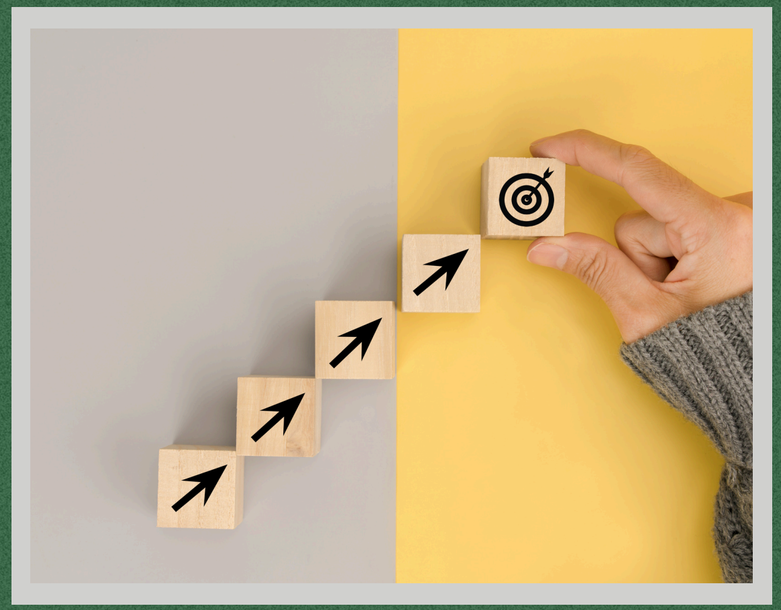
Other Considerations:

- Individual Appointments
- Resume Help
- Summer Career Classes
- Science Dept SPARK Program (Info sessions Jan/Feb)
- Summer Job Fair- Feb. 13th
- Career Ready, Trades, and Military Expo March 3rd

On your worksheet, list 2-3 career resources you would like to explore deeper

Agenda

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Military Options

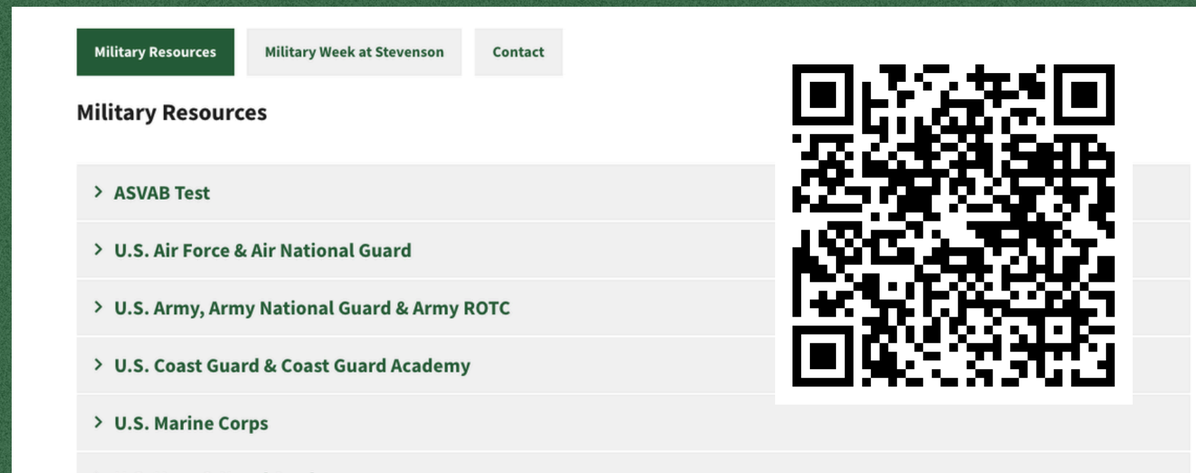
Many ways to serve

- Direct enlistment, ROTC, Reserves, Academies
- ROTC and Academies - will enter as an officer (college at same time/scholarships)
- Direct enlistment/reserves can help pay for college
- Military Week - week of March 8 (ASVAB)



Friday, Nov 13th

Military Career Service & Exploration



Career Ready, Trade, Military Expo
March 3rd

Discover Careers with Direct Training:

Limited or no college courses

Expected Participants:

- Trades (Plumbing, electrical, telecommunications, construction, welding, HVAC, etc)
- USPS
- Real Estate
- IDOT
- Aviation - FAA, AAR, Civil Air Patrol, and others
- Cosmetology
- Automotive
- Police, EMT, Firefighter, etc.
- Medical (Pharm Tech, CNA, Phlebotomy, Vet Tech)
- Manufacturing Apprenticeships (CNC, Medical Equipment, etc)



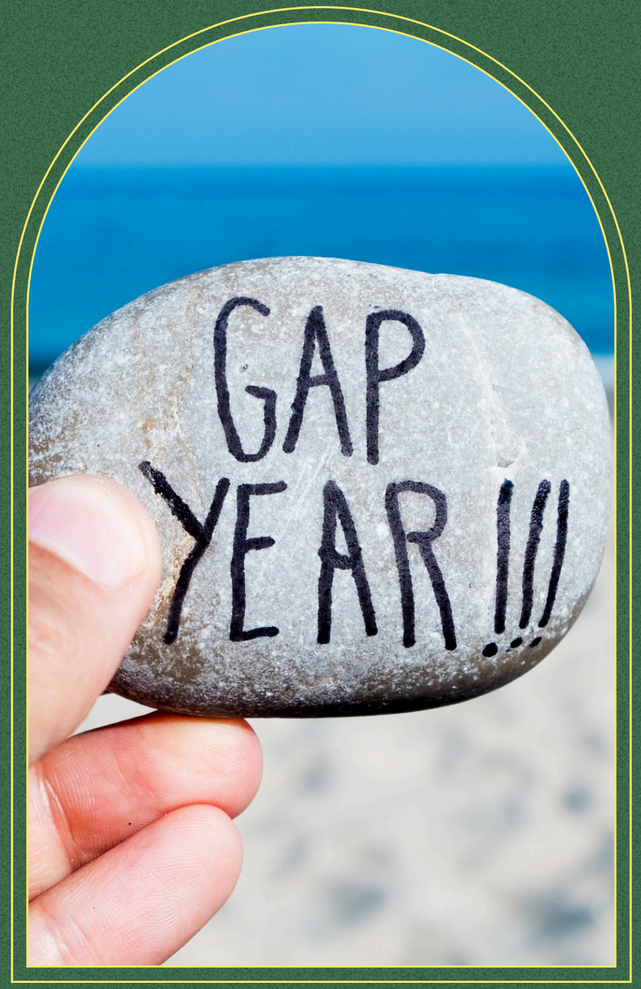








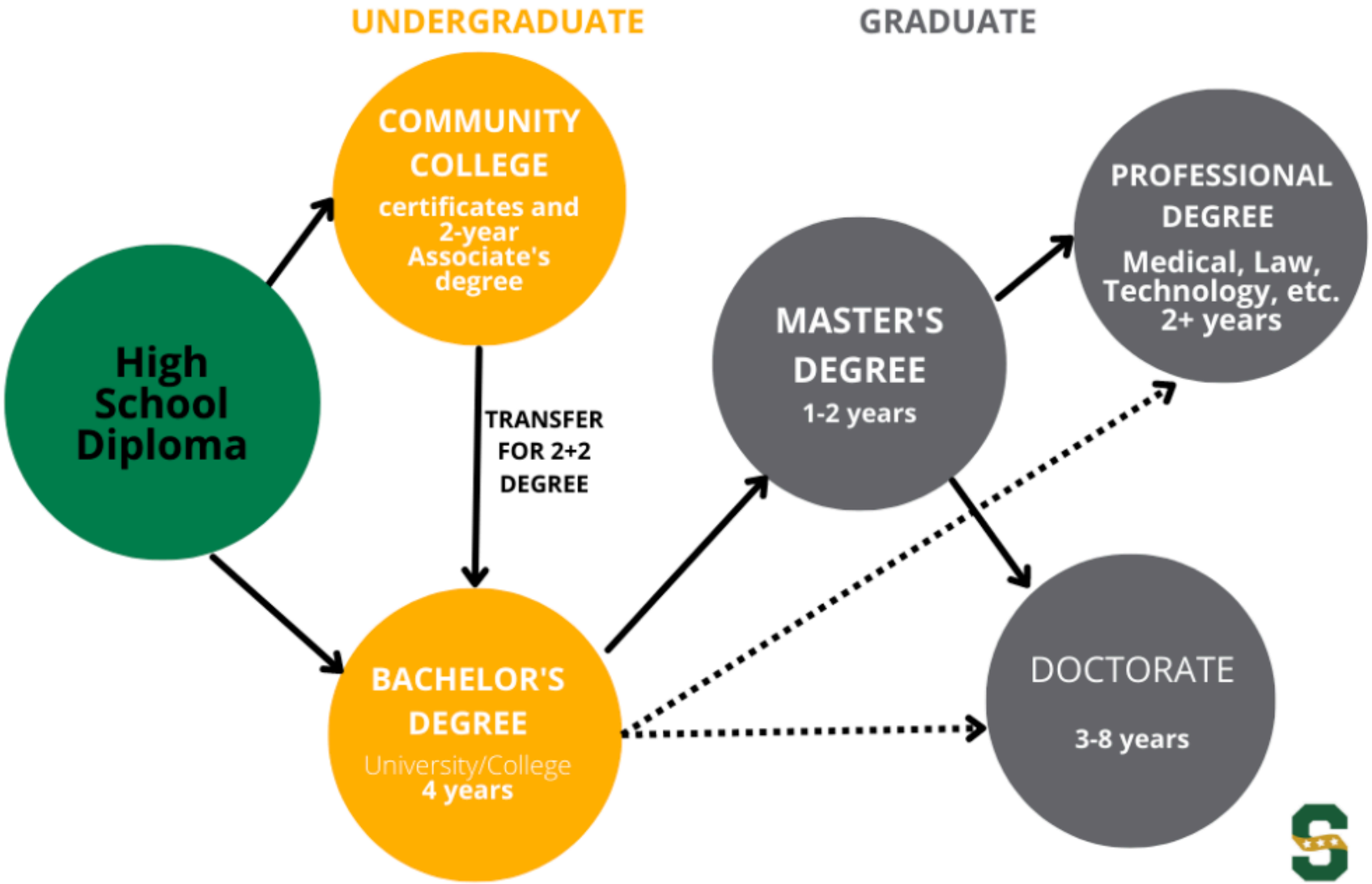




Gap Year

- A gap year is a year for students to explore other interests between high school and their next step.
- Gap Year Fair – https://www.gooverseas.com/
- New Trier - Saturday, Jan 23rd
  12 pm - 3 pm

US Post Secondary Educational System



Community College



- Certificate or Associate Degree.
- Significantly reduced tuition.
- Earn transferable college credits.
- Opportunity for a fresh start.

Community College Week: February 8-12, 2027

College of Lake County

Harper College

Oakton College

Parkland College

Kirkwood Community College

College of DuPage

Agenda

Goals for Tonight



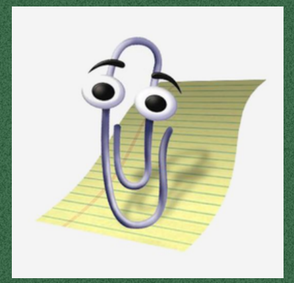
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History Of Applying & U.S. Procedures

How to Start Your Search







The Process has changed since 80s/90s:

- Online
- SAT = ACT - or not needed at all!
- Holistic review
- Admission rates has changed
- Legacy plays less of a role
- Different types of admission plans
- Students visit campuses more
- Demonstrated Interest/understanding







History Of Applying & U.S. Procedures

How to Start Your Search



How is the process different in the U.S. than other countries:

- Rankings are more subjective - not governmental.
- Undergrad is typically 4 years.
- In particular with highly selective schools, there is no GPA or test score that guarantees admission.
- Accelerated programs and/or direct admission to professional programs are rare and competitive.
- Undecided is okay (and common).

Reflection

Take a Moment

Rank the order of the best U.S. vacation destinations:

- California
- New York
- Disney World
- Rocky Mountains



Take 10 seconds to discuss...

College Search

How to Start Your Search

Rick Clark's (Vice Provost-Enrollment Management at Georgia Tech) Blog...

We want you to add more words to the question:
"Is this a good school" to

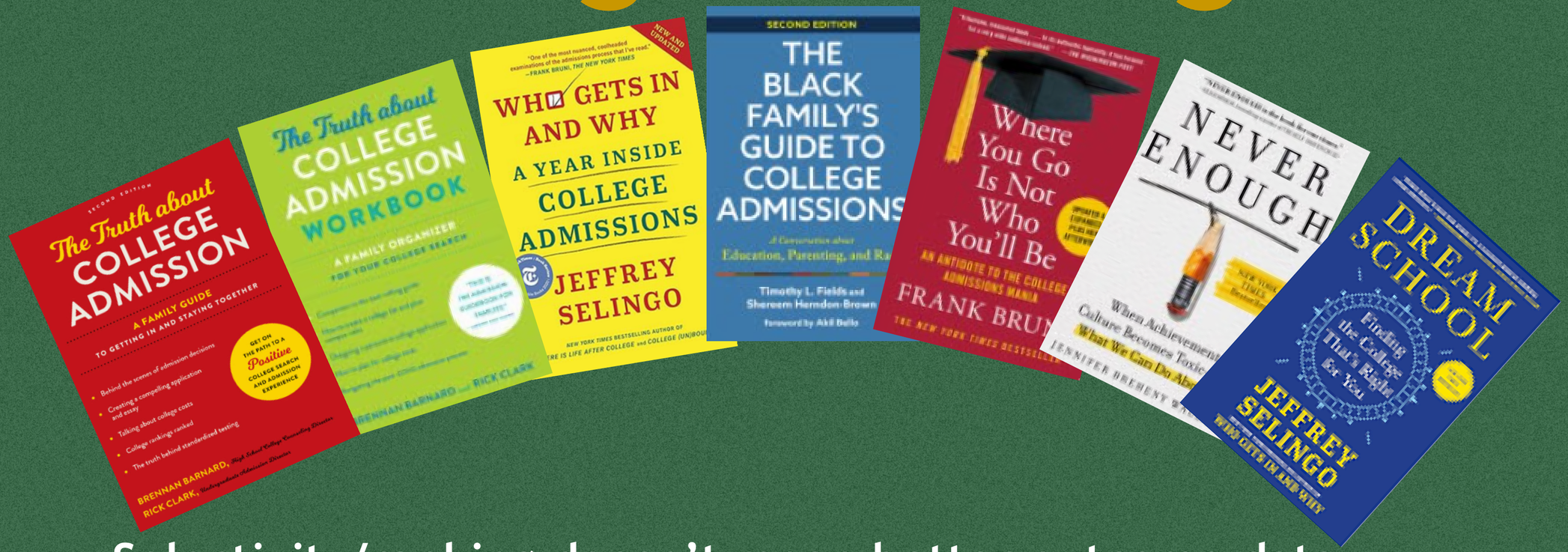
- "Is this a good school for *(insert your child's name)*?"
- "Adding these...words changes everything."
- "Why do you want to go to college?"

"Too few students take the time to actually consider and write down at least a two-sentence answer to this question, but it is imperative to do so. Don't skip this step."

Reputation



Prestige/Rankings



Selectivity/ranking doesn’t mean better outcome data.

Dream School
What Really Matters

A Supportive Start

- Set the stage for engagement & belonging
- Student supports they have in first two years

Easy Connections

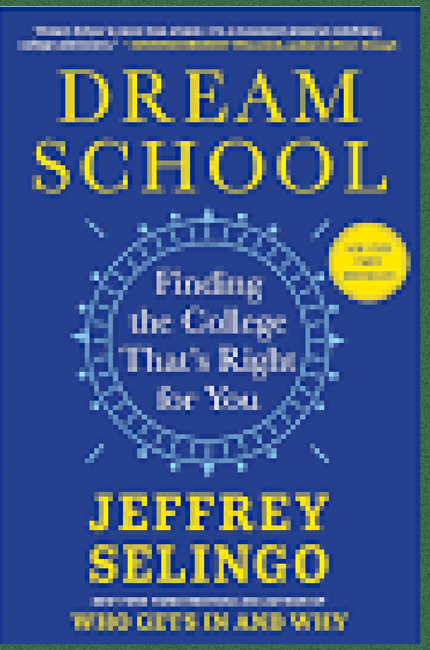
- Promote connections
- Professor engagement

Real Job Experience

- Hands-on learning opportunities
- Career-ready mindset
- Networking

Resources To Invest in Students

- Financially stable
- Enrollment steady
- Number of students in my major



4 Critical Components for Finding *your* Dream School

How to Choose a College

Reflection Questions

Questions for later consideration



Student

- Why College?
  - What motivates you to go?
  - What do you value?
  - What do you like most about high school?
  - What do you expect from college?
  - What are tangible opportunities that you want in college?

Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

- What do you hope for your child?
- What is your student's unique strengths?
- What opportunities do you want them to have?

Finding the Fit

How to Choose a College

Find the Fit



- Focus on the right school not best school.
- Fit varies from student to student.

- Academic
- Social
- Personal
- Emotional
- Financial





How to Choose a College

Academic Opportunties

Academics





- Internships, co-ops, study abroad, direct admit programs, support, etc.
- In many instances, you do not need to choose your major until the end of the 2nd year of college!
- Discover what interests you. What supports do you need academically?

College Charateristics

How to Choose a College

Location, Distance, and Size





- Distance: Consider the logistics of coming home
- Setting: Rural/College Town, Urban/City, Suburban
  - Urban can be defined or blended into the city
- Size: Small (under 5,000) vs Large (15,000+)

College Size

How to Choose a College

Let’s talk a bit more about size…

“I want something bigger than the size of SHS.”

- Value of smaller schools
  - Smaller class sizes
  - More personalized experiences
  - Closer relationships with professors
- No college is one building
- Majority of colleges are smaller than SHS





Individual Wants and Needs

How to Choose a College



Personal Factors



- How do I learn?
- How independent am I?
- What do I want to be involved in?
- Do I have special talents? Special needs?
- How are my dietary needs supported?
- What are my religion/cultural preferences?

How to Estimate Cost

Start having “the conversation” now



New Federal Loan caps for the Parent Plus Loan and Student Loans

- Set expectations and use the categories.
- Understand what is your eligibility.
- Use net price calculators.
  - www.collegecost.ed.gov/net-price
- Private schools CAN COST LESS from their own funds.
- Explore scholarship options at the college
  - How many receive it?
  - Remember highly selective schools often have little to no merit-based money.

Learn & Engage

How to Choose a College

Ways to do your Research





- College Rep Visits
- Campus Visits
- College Fairs
- Virtual Information Sessions

On your worksheet, what are the important factors, and parents how do you hope to support?

Agenda

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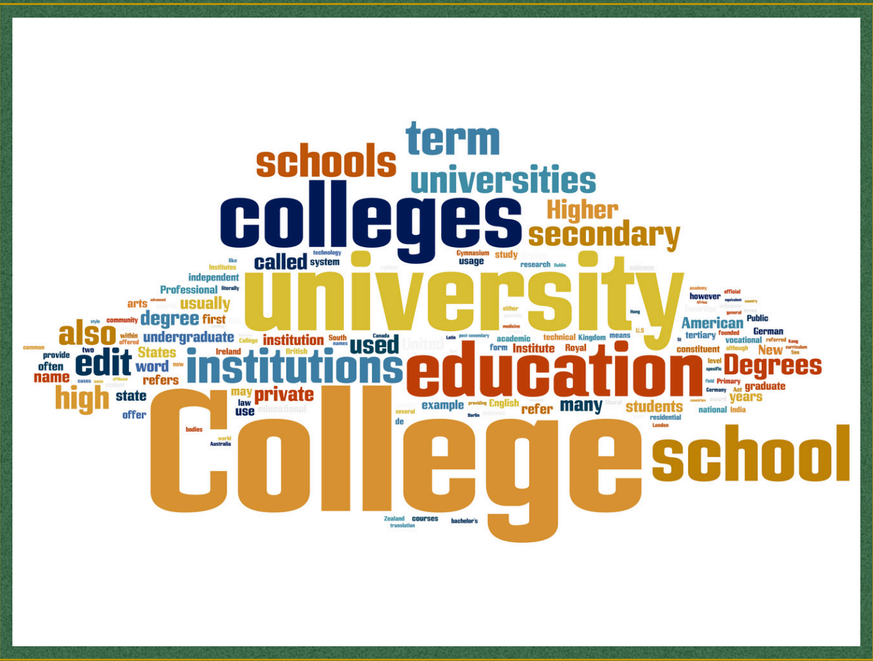


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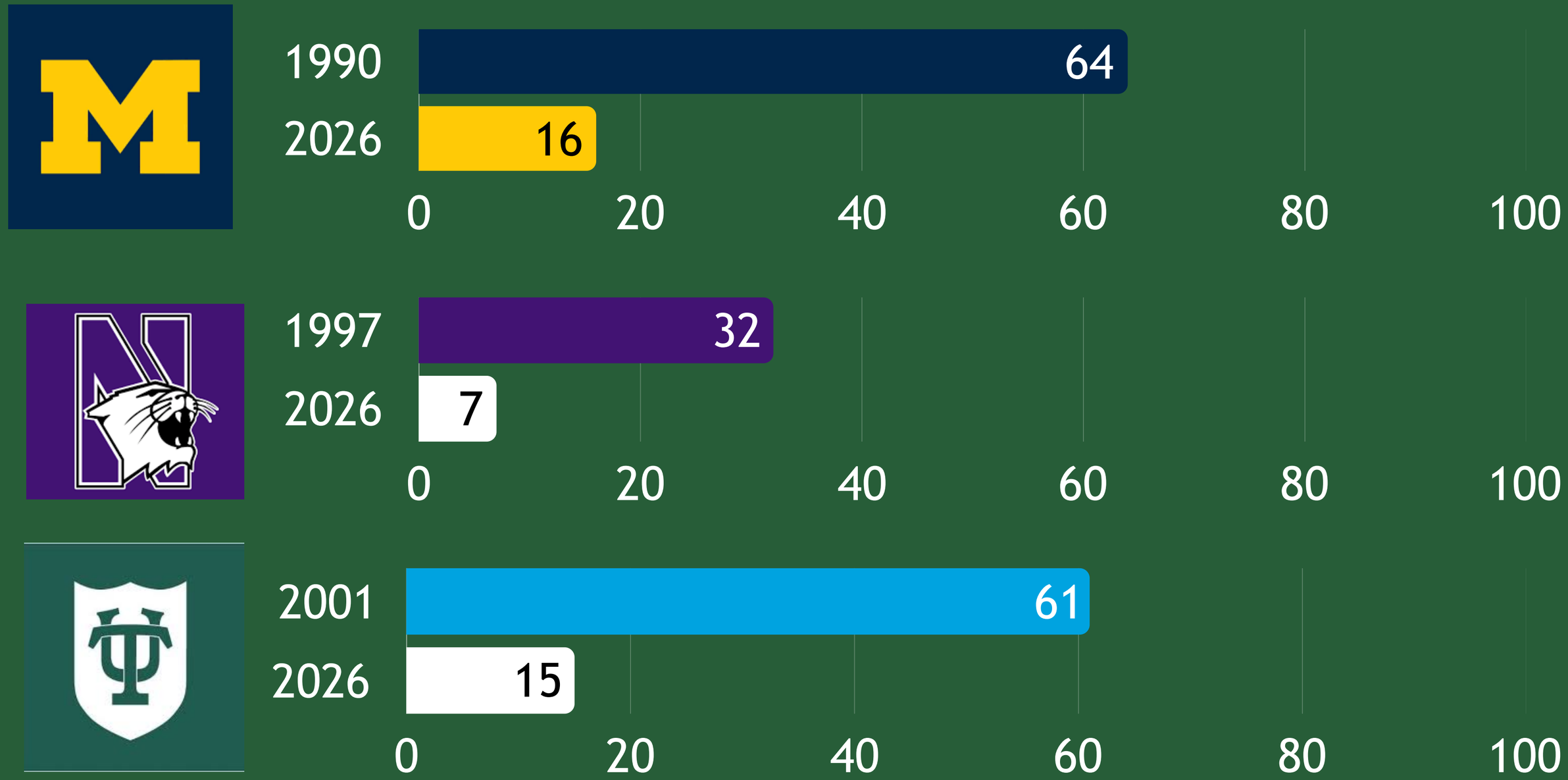
How to build a college list

The List

- Admission Likelihood
- Cost
- Goal to have a list by Aug.
  - 5-10 (keep under 15)



Admit rates have changed



How to Create a List

Categories

Safety/Likely Schools

- Slam Dunk for admission
- Financially Reasonable

Target/Match Schools

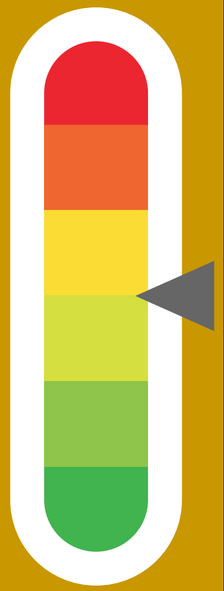
- Meet all requirements for admission
- Financially Attainable

Unpredictable/Reach Schools

- Might have deficiencies in requirements
- Financial reach
- Highly selective (any college/program that has less than a 25% admit rate)

All schools should be ones you like and can see yourself attending

How to Gauge Admission Likelihood



What to use

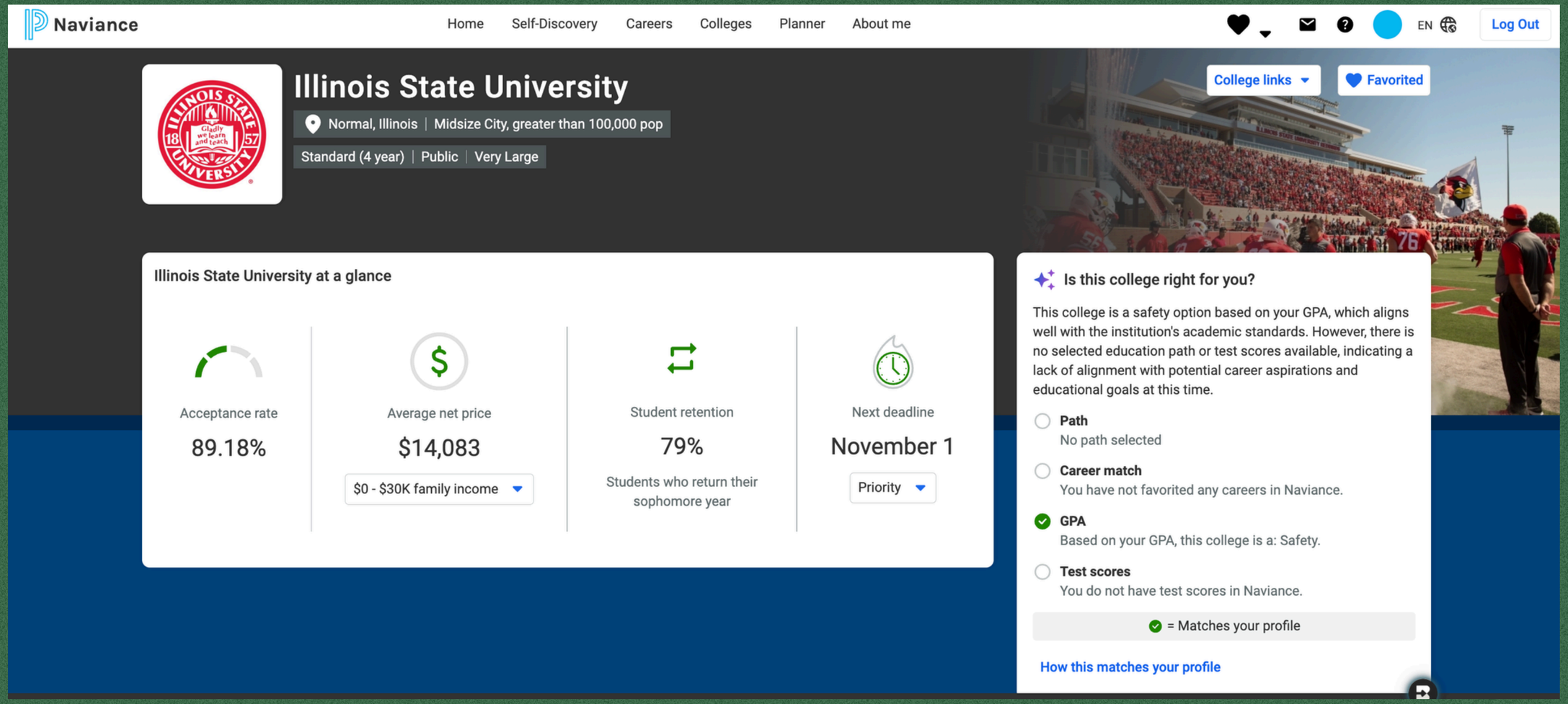
- College’s direct websites
  - Admission, undergraduate, freshmen
- Naviance scattergrams
  - Direct comparison with students from the same region and the same curriculum

What not to use

- Other outside websites
- Other people’s opinions/experiences
- Google/AI

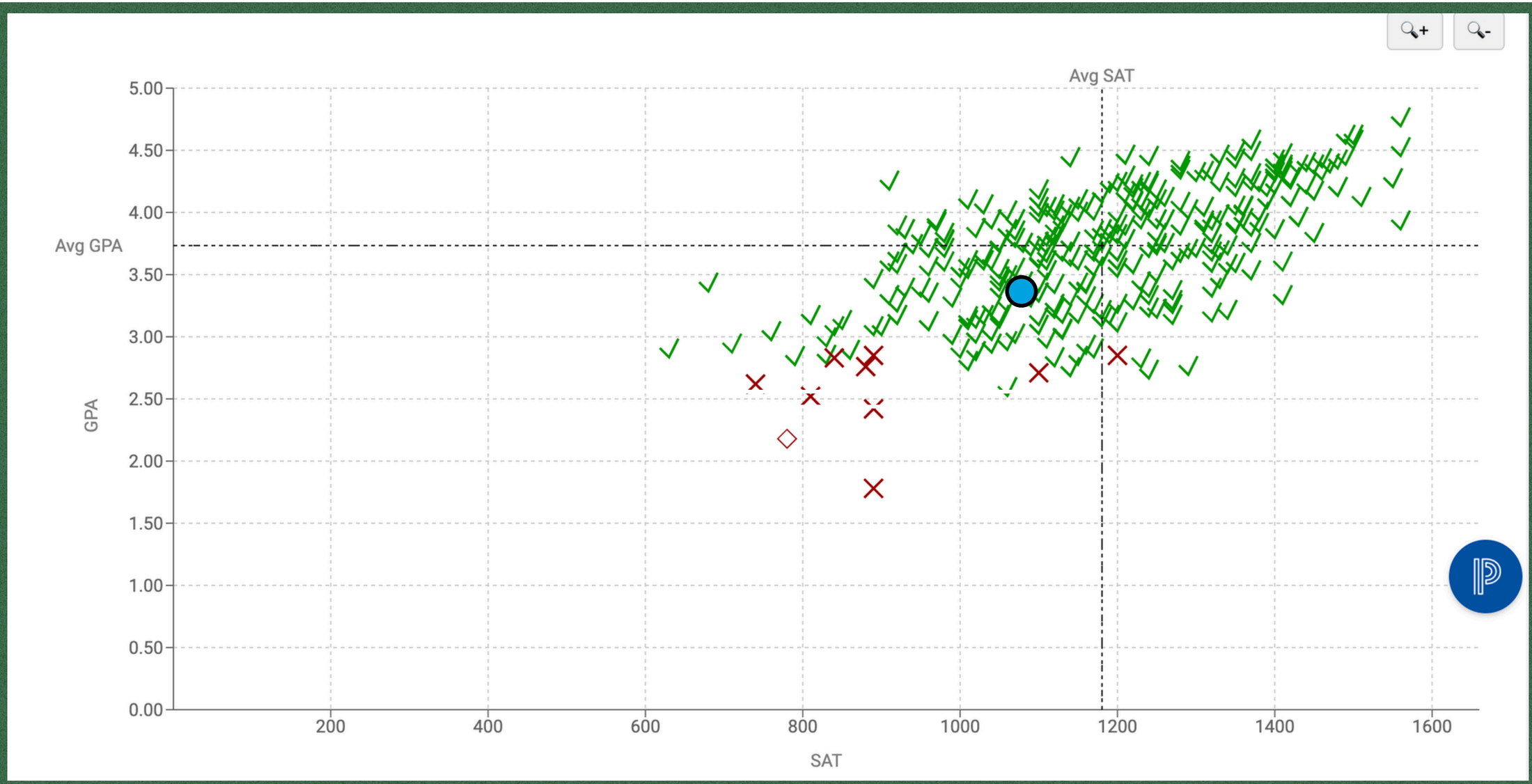
Naviance Scattergrams

How to Gauge Admission Likelihood



Naviance Scattergrams

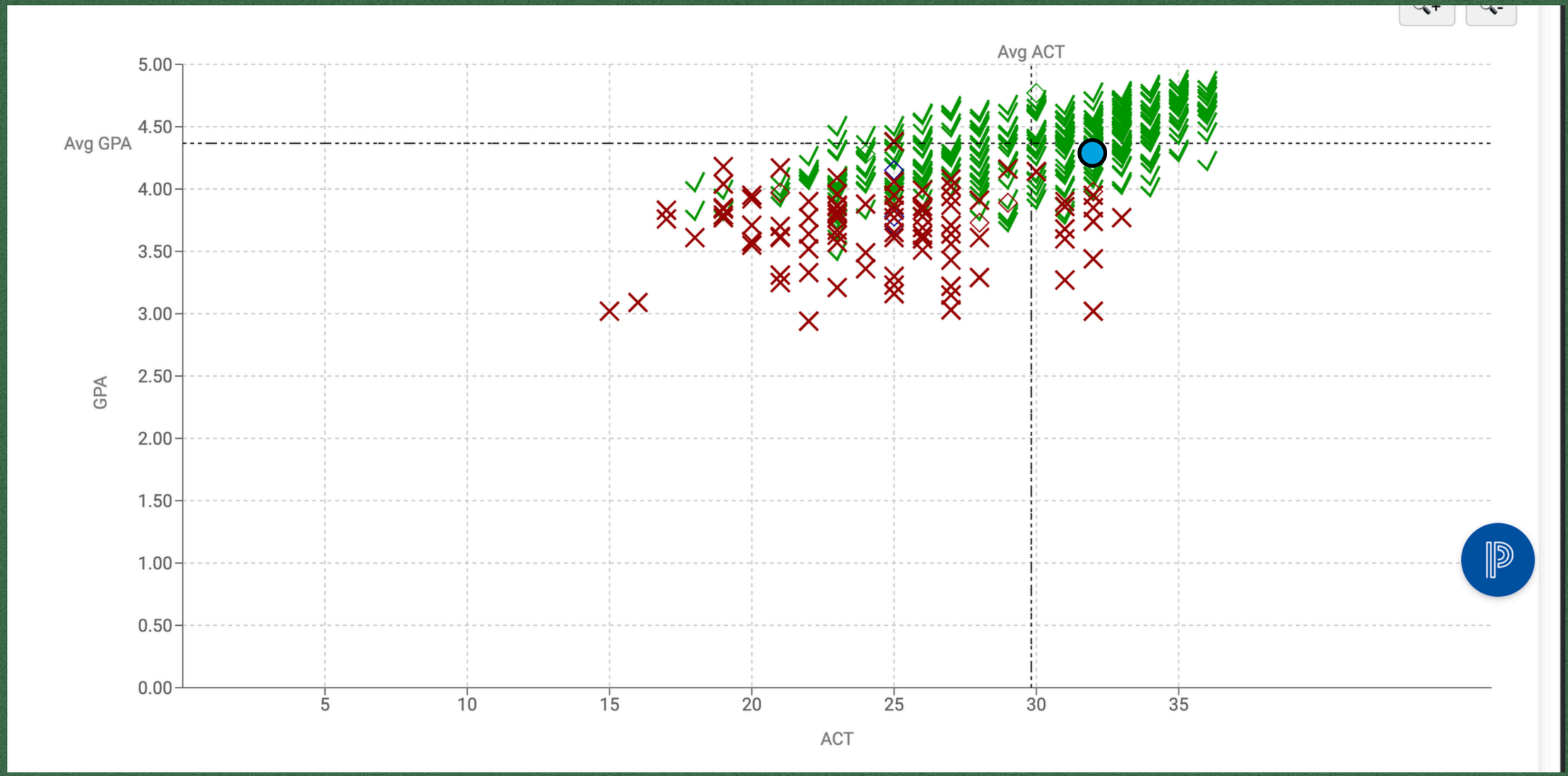
Safety/Likely School



Illinois State University

Naviance Scattergrams

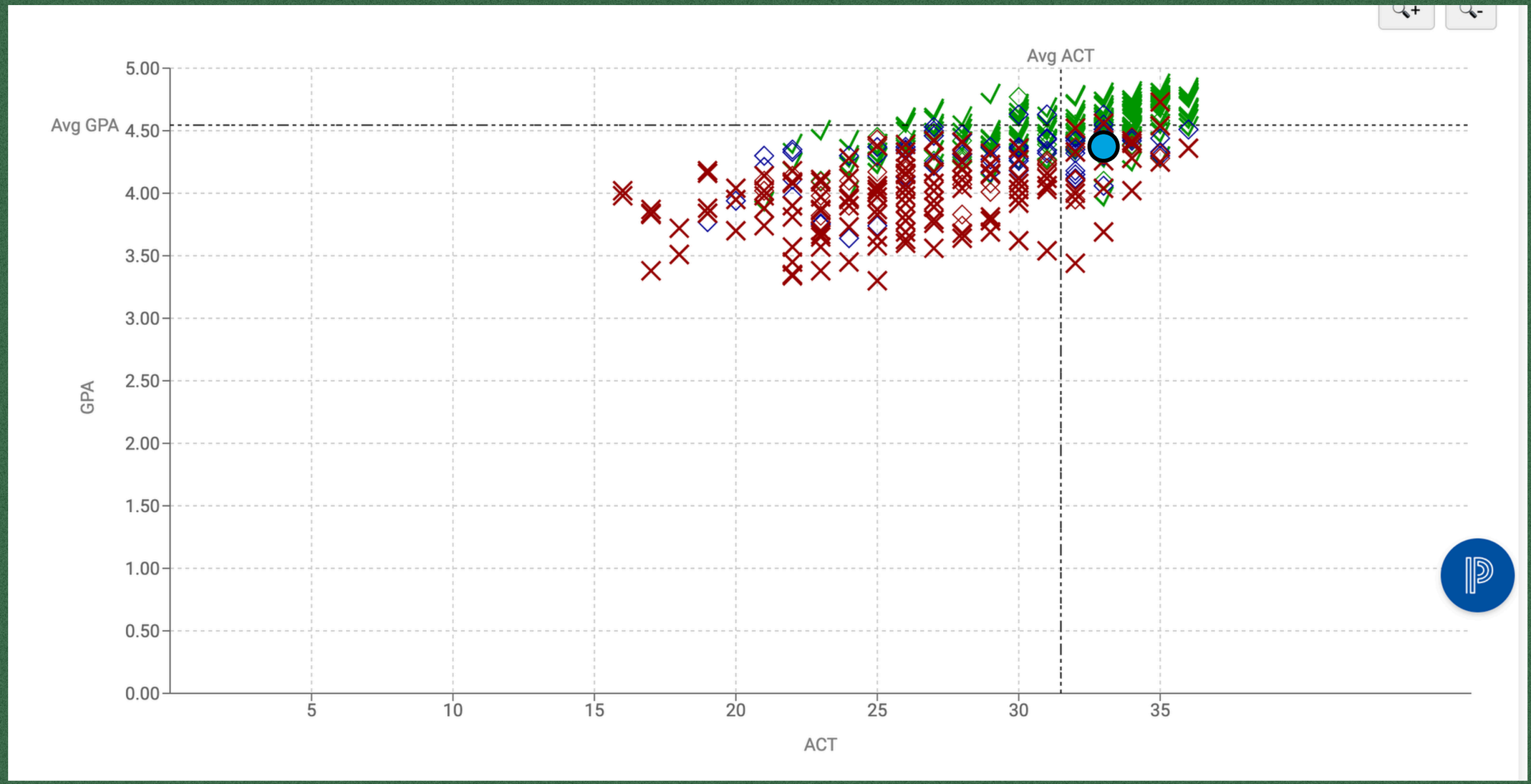
Target/Match School



Ohio State University

Naviance Scattergrams

Unpredictable/Reach School



University of Wisconsin - Madison

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Course Selection

Senior classes



Focus is on the core courses:

English: 4 years

Math: 3-4 years

Science: 3-4 years

Social Studies: 3-4 years

World Language: (same) 2+ years/levels (IEP/ML)*

Fine Arts: 1 year**

*Exceptions might be made

**California Public Universities

- Grades in college prep classes most important
- Grade trends
- Senior classes - keep with same levels when possible
- Remember the time applications will take, consider a free period

Your Family Homework

Think about Standardized Testing (but not too much)

ACT

Test Date	Registration Deadline (Late fee applies after this
★ September 19, 2026	August 14
★ October 17, 2026	September 11
★ December 12, 2026	November 6
★ February 27, 2027	January 22
April 10, 2027	March 5
June 12, 2027	May 7
July 10, 2027	June 4

SAT



- ACT/SAT are treated the same
- ACT - April 7th School Day - Required
- Test dates fill up ahead of deadlines
- Limit test prep - transcript is more important
- TestNav / Schoolhouse

The ACT®

SAT®

★ SHS is a Host Site

Your Family Homework

Assignments between now and our part 2!



On your worksheet,
list your action steps.

- Learn & explore interests
- Discuss courses for next year
- Visit a college
- Discuss search parameters/costs
- Think about preferences
- Schedule a P-SCoPE
- Stay strong academically

Spring Preview

CCC Junior Night 2 Preview: March 16, 2027



- Application Process
  - Transcript
  - Testing
  - Essays/Personal Statements
  - Demonstrating Interest
  - Letters of Recommendation
- How does a college choose you
- Admission Plans
- One Click College Admit

One Click College Admit

- **State's free and quick, direct admissions program into state public universities and community colleges. Each university/college will set its own GPA requirement.**

- **Students can apply traditionally if they do not meet the GPA requirement. UIUC and UIC will have more info to share (they will not have a cut GPA).**

- Students must opt in for the program by May 28, 2027, and can do so at any time. www.oneclickadmit.org

- The student will create a Common App over the summer.

- SHS is emailing out info out soon and in Spring, as more details are forthcoming.

Timeline

Big Picture



- **Now - June:** **P-SCoPE Meetings (worksheet/form due March 6)**
- **Now - August** Learn about schools
- **Late Summer:** Develop a list (5-10)
- **Summer/Early Fall:** Essays/apps open
- **Oct 1st:** FAFSA opens
- **Mid-Oct/Late Nov.:** Applications due
- **May 1st:** Commit to college

Timeline

Our Programming

- **Now - June:** P-SCoPE Meetings (worksheet due March 6)
- **March 16:** Junior Night 2 (How colleges choose you)
- **Late Aug:** Senior Night (How to apply)
- **Early Sept:** NCAA Night (local high school)
- **Late Sept:** Financial Aid Night
- **Early Oct:** CHOICES College Fair (rotates high schools)
- **Mid Oct:** FAFSA/Alt IL Aid Workshop
- **Mid Dec:** Preparing for Admission Decisions and the Next Steps

First Gen Series: Oct, Feb, April

(other special nights throughout the year: NCAA, Choices, etc.)



Please take a moment to provide us your thoughts