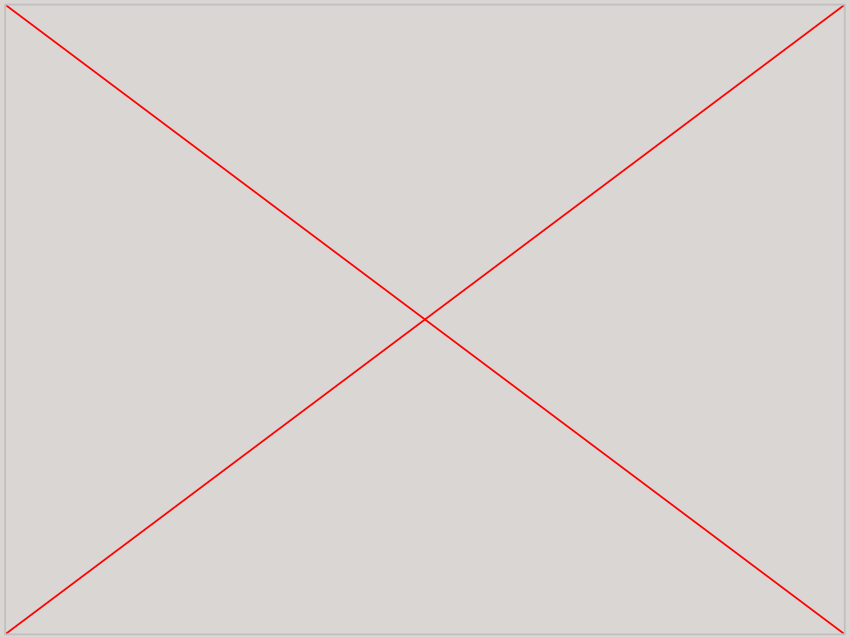
A message from the Class of 2026





SENIOR FOCUS: DAY ONE

SENIOR FOCUS

Two-part series focused on the transition to life after high school

Part 1: Auditorium

- **Welcome to Senior Year**
- **Overview of timing and the process:** *Planning, Taking Action, Making a Decision*
- **Access to helpful tools and materials**

Part 2: 1 on 1 with Counselor

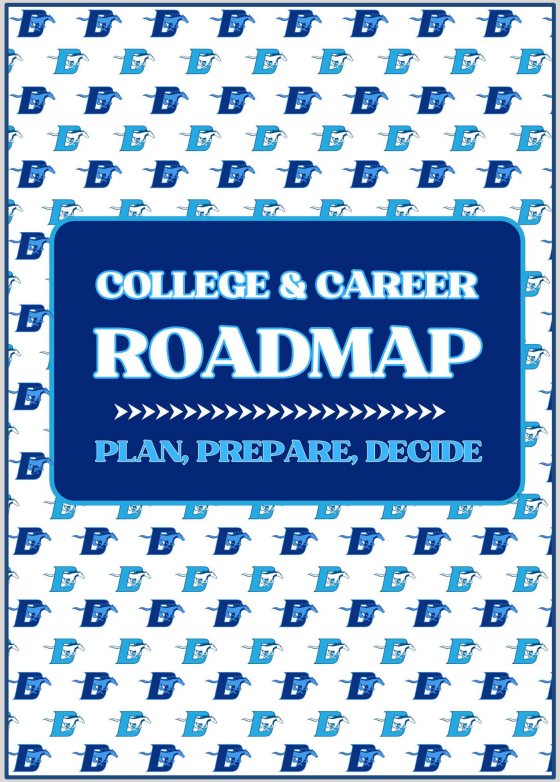
- **Credit check**
- **Reviewing post secondary plans**
- **Answering questions**
- **Setting follow up appointments, if necessary**

TIMING

Planning: research, choosing a path, knowing the next steps

Taking Action: testing, applications, financial planning

Making a Decision: committing to a path that starts in 2027



College & Career Google Classroom

PLANNING: Career Exploration

SchooLinks

- **Assessments**
  - *Career suggestions based on skills, interests, hobbies & personality*
- **Career Center**
  - *Popular & in-demand jobs, save your favorites*
- **Career Clusters**
  - *Groups jobs by type; focus your research*

More career search tools in College & Career Roadmap

PLANNING: Military

Military Day

September 25th during lunches

College & Career Center

Meet with recruiters from all branches





ASVAB Testing

To be announced

Sign-up required

Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery

Open to all students!

PLANNING:

College of DuPage



Associates or

Certification

Campus Tours:

September 8th, September 15th

Fall Open House:

October 8th

Check the COD calendar for more dates

COD @ DGS:

Info session &

Application day: October 26th

Testing: March 9th

Enrollment: April 12th

“ Senior year flies by.”



Certification Programs at COD

- **Apprenticeship (Project Hire-ed)**
- Auto Service Tech
- CT/MRI/Sonogram Tech
- Construction Management
- **Computer Info Tech**
- **Cosmetology**
- Criminal Justice
- Eye Care Assistant
- Fire Science
- **HVAC**
- Horticulture
- Interior Design
- Library & Info Tech
- Manufacturing Tech
- **Medical Assistant**
- **Nursing**
- Paralegal Studies
- Physician Coding
- Respiratory Care
- Surgical First Assistant
- Web Design
- **AND MORE!!!**

Sign up now for an information session

PLANNING: Trades

Check out the College & Career Roadmap!

UNION TRADES

Click on the links below to research descriptions, apprenticeships and Unions in these fields.

AUTO MECHANICS
Job Description
Union Website

BRICKLAYERS
Job Description
Union Website

BOILERMAKERS
Job Description
Union Website

CARPENTERS
Job Description
Union Website

CEMENT MASONS
Job Description
Union Website

ELECTRICIANS
Job Description
Union Website

ELEVATOR REPAIR
Job Description
Union Website

HEAT & FROST INS.
Job Description
Union Website

IRON WORKERS-*Structural*
Job Description
Union Website

IRON WORKERS-*Architectural*
Job Description
Union Website

LABORERS
Job Description
Union Website

OPERATIONAL ENGINEER
Job Description
Union Website

PAINTERS
Job Description
Union Website

PIPEFITTERS
Job Description
Union Website

PLUMBERS
Job Description
Union Website

RIGGERS
Job Description
Union Website

ROOFERS
Job Description
Union Website

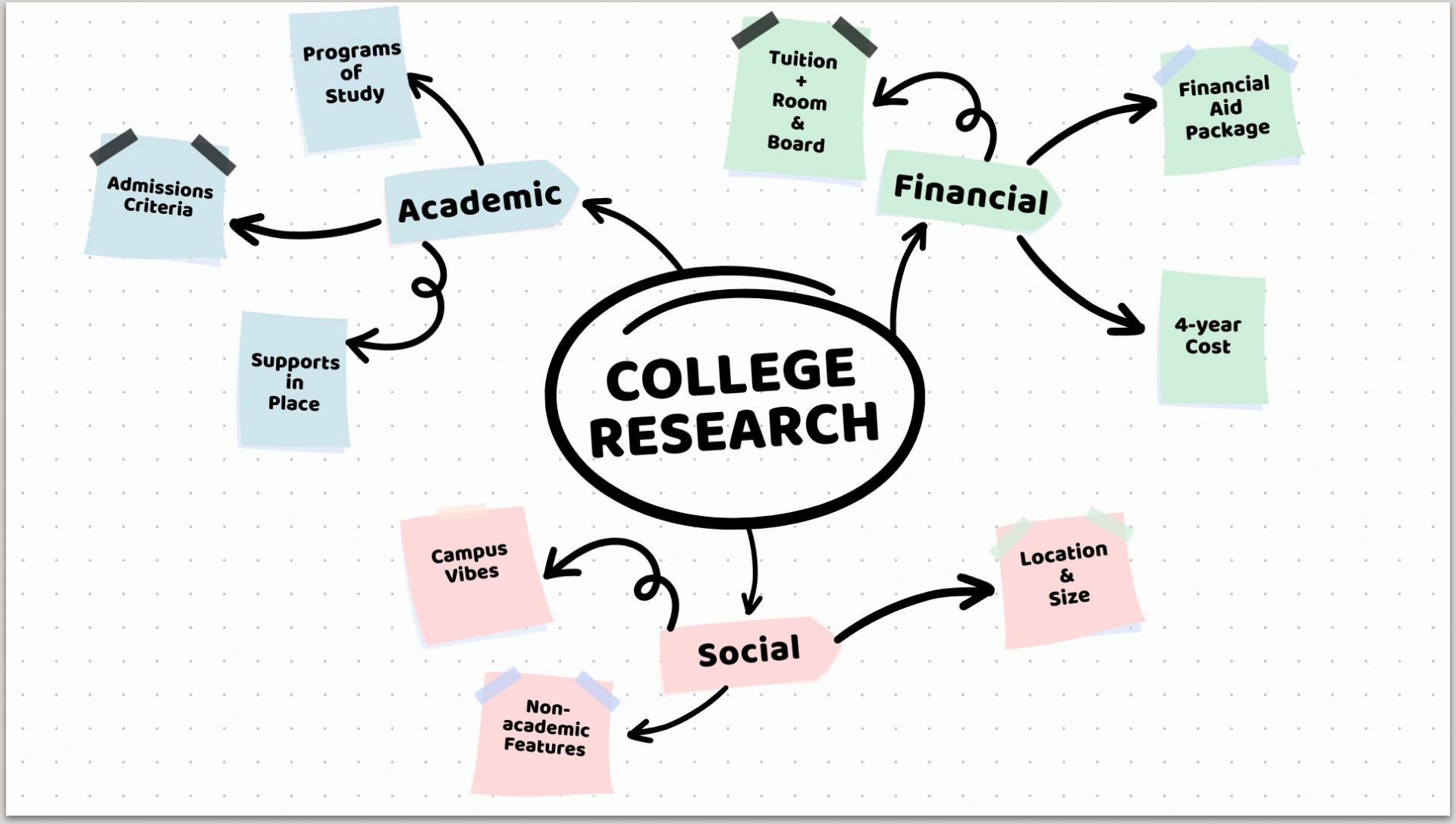
SHEET METAL
Job Description
Union Website

SPRINKLER FITTERS
Job Description
Union Website

TEAMSTERS-*Drivers*
Job Description
Union Website

Power Forward DuPage Apprenticeship Expo

- Hands on demonstrations
- Learn about apprenticeship programs
- October 14th, 3:30-6:30pm
- Register now!


COLLEGE RESEARCH
Academic
Programs of Study
Admissions Criteria
Supports in Place
Financial
Tuition + Room & Board
Financial Aid Package
4-year Cost
Social
Campus Vibes
Location & Size
Non-academic Features

PLANNING: College Research Tools

SchooLinks

- College Search
- Target, Reach, Likely, Reach
- Scattergrams

College websites

- Detailed information

College tours

- In-person or virtual

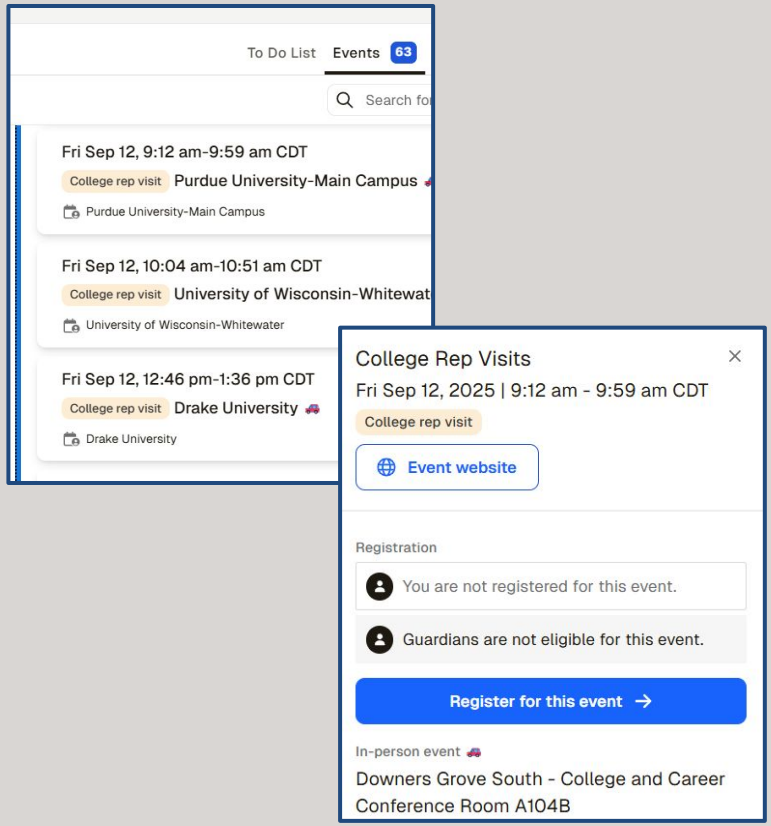
Conversations

- Family, teachers, etc.

More college research tools in College & Career Roadmap

College & Career Events

- College Rep Visits
  - *Sign up in SchooLinks*
- Application Open House
  - *Fridays during lunch periods*
- FAFSA Account (FSA ID) Creation
  - *September 24th during lunch*
- Make a one-on-one appointment



Taking Action: College Applications

Keys to Success

- **Organization**
  - ***Research***

(Spreadsheet, notebook, etc.)

  - ***E-Mails***

(Create folders for each school)

  - ***Logins/Passwords***

(Write them down & take a picture)

- **Be ahead of the deadlines!**

- **Have options**
  - *2+ Target*
  - *2+ Likely*
  - *1+ Reach*
- **Use your resources**
  - *College & Career Roadmap*
  - *College & Career Center*
- **Communication**
  - *Family ($$$)*
  - *Counselor (Plans, ?'s)*
  - *Teachers (Letters of Rec)*

Taking Action: College Applications

common app

OR

School-Specific Application

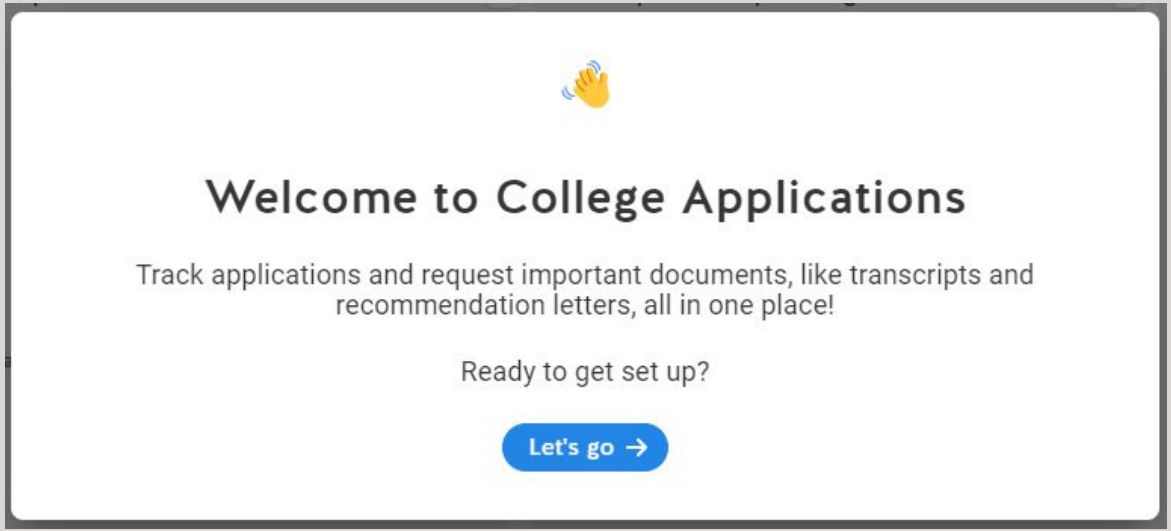
+

schoolinks

- Common App Instruction & Tips on **Quick Links** page
- **You** complete the application, **We** send transcripts & letters through **SchooLinks**
- **If you don't know where to start, come to the C&C Center.**

Taking Action: College Applications

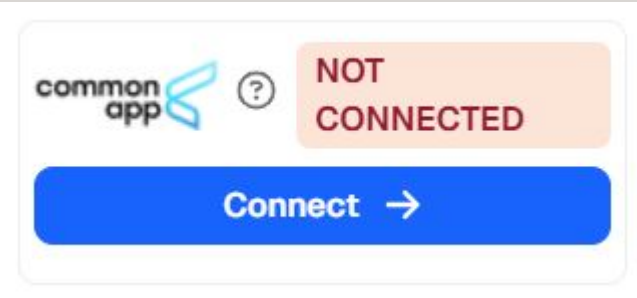
SchooLinks > College > College Applications

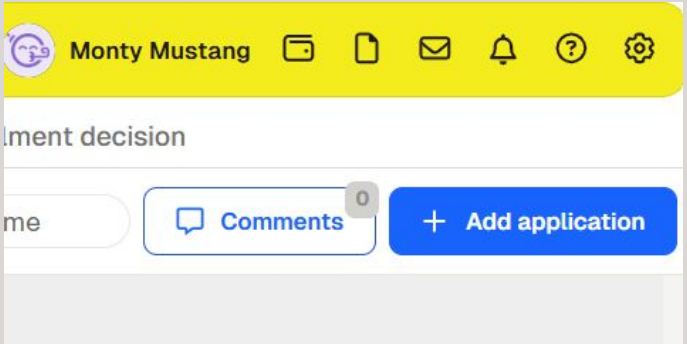


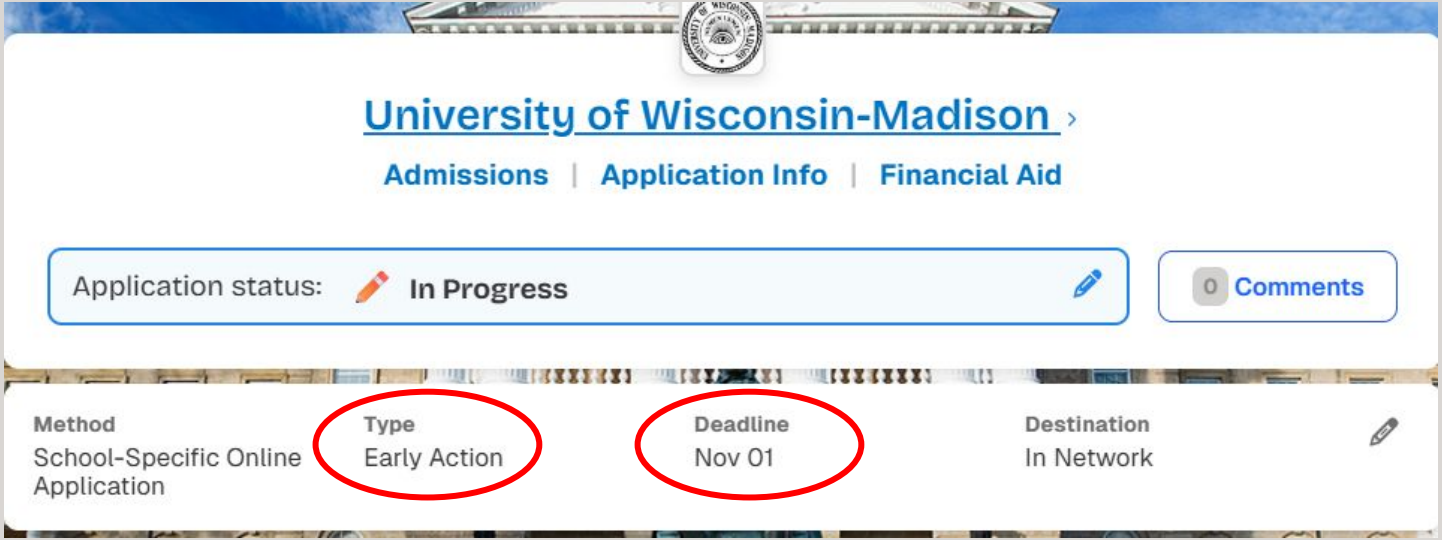
Complete Profile, Fee Waiver & FERPA Waiver

Taking Action: College Applications

Connect to Common App or Add Applications







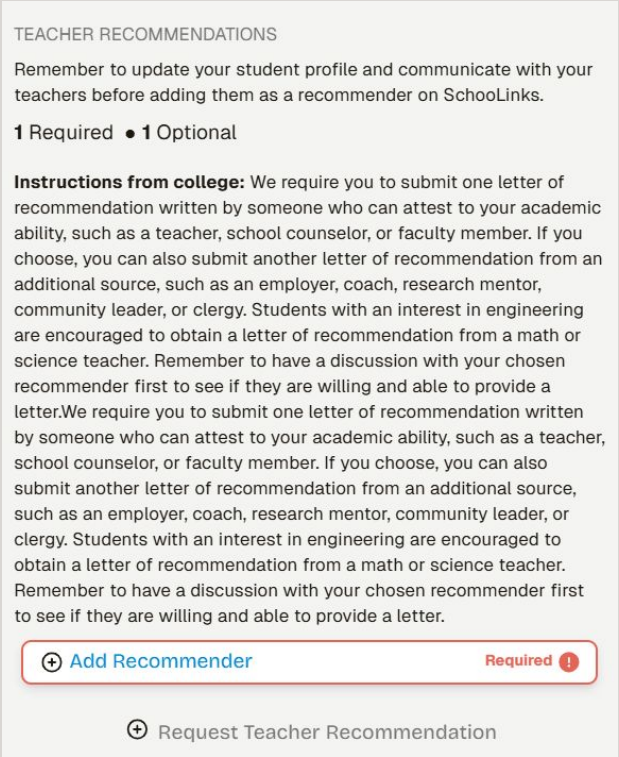
Application Type

- ***Early Action-*** *Fall, typically Nov. 1st*
- ***Regular Decision****- Winter, typically January*
- ***Rolling Admission-*** *Applications reviewed as they are submitted*
- ***Early Decision-*** *Fall, BINDING DECISION!*

Taking Action: College Applications

Letters of Recommendation (Teacher & Counselor)

- How many are required?
- Ask teacher(s) face to face
- Request letter is SchooLinks
- Complete Brag Sheet
- Counselor Rec Letters require separate form



DGS QUICK LINKS & COLLEGE APP CHECKLIST in C&C Roadmap

Application Quick Links

School specific info for applications	
• DGS CEEB Code: 141631 • Class of 2026 Class Size: 639 • GPA Scale for DGS: 4.0 scale • DGS uses a **weighted** GPA scale. • DGS does not rank students. Use "N/A" or "none" if asked for class rank.	
common app	• Link to Common App • Common App Instructions • Tips from The College Essay Guy
schoolinks	• Link to SchooLinks • How to add College Applications • SchooLinks steps
Letters of Recommendation	• How to request in SchooLinks • Counselor Brag Sheet
Sending Test Scores	• What is Test Optional? • College Board (SAT & AP Tests) • ACT
Financial Aid and Scholarships	• Link to FAFSA • Illinois Student Assistance Commission • Local scholarships
Deadlines and Events	• College application checklist • DGS College & Career Events

Remember to talk to your counselor, Mr. Mustari or Ms. Reyes if you have any questions during the college application process!

COLLEGE APPLICATION CHECKLIST

See the DGS College & Career Roadmap for details. Set deadlines that reflect your goals.

Research
- ☐ Research colleges that fit your needs
- ☐ In-person or virtual campus tours
- ☐ Meet with college reps
- ☐ Use Net Price Calculators
- ☐ Chart yourself on Scattergrams
- ☐ Create a list & organize by Target, Safety, Reach
- ☐ Take or retake ACT or SAT

Aug-Sept
- ☐ Create Common App account
- ☐ Complete Common App profile
- ☐ Add schools from final list to Common App
- ☐ Choose application type (EA, Regular)
- ☐ Review requirements and deadlines
- ☐ Link Common App to SchooLinks
- ☐ Request letters of recommendation

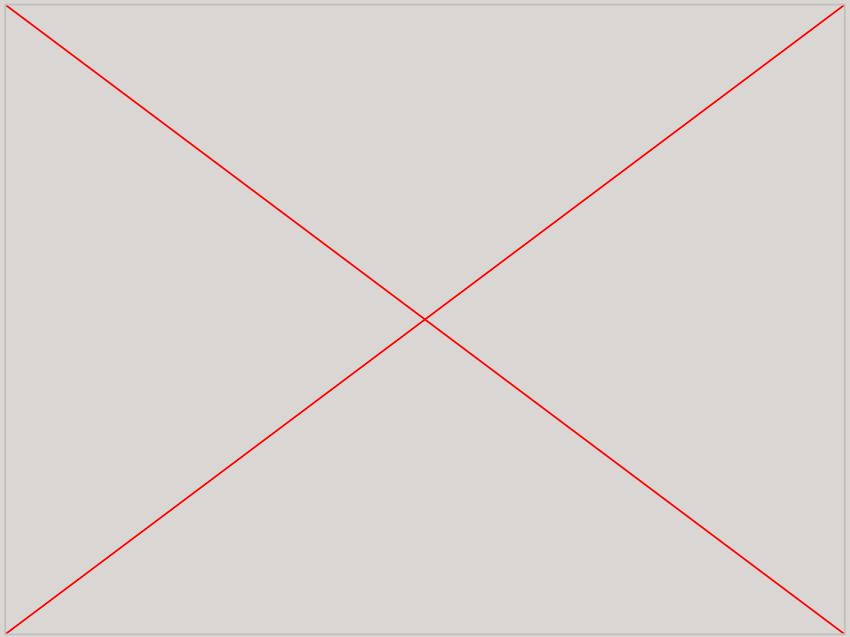
Sept-Oct
- ☐ Essays: First Draft Second Draft Final Draft
- ☐ Meet with Counselor
- ☐ Double check requirements
- ☐ Follow up: Letters of Rec
- ☐ Account for Application Fees
- ☐ Submit test scores
- ☐ Submit Early Action one week before deadline

Oct-Dec
- ☐ Attend FAFSA workshop
- ☐ Begin FAFSA (Opens Oct. 1st)
- ☐ Complete parent portion of FAFSA and submit
- ☐ Complete Alternative App (if necessary)
- ☐ Submit additional financial info, if requested
- ☐ Thank teachers who wrote letters

Oct-Dec
- ☐ Apply for school-specific scholarships
- ☐ Apply for community scholarships
- ☐ Apply for private scholarships
- ☐ Submit Regular Decision one week before deadline
- ☐ Last minute tours
- ☐ Review auto-admit options

Jan-May
- ☐ Review and organize award letters
- ☐ Keep track of user names and passwords for 'portals'
- ☐ Continue applying for scholarships
- ☐ Submit additional materials, if waitlisted
- ☐ Send deposit to school you're committing to!

“ I’m glad I used the resources at DGS.”



“ I’m glad I used the resources at DGS.”

- College & Career Center
- Counselors
- Roadmap
- Miss Anita
- Events
- Rep Visits
- Google Classroom

Reminders for Days 2

- Bring your charged laptop to your appointment
- Be ready to **Take Action**
- If you can't make your appointment with your counselor, let them know & reschedule