

College Application Process

A Step-by-Step Guide

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Junior Year



College Research/Visits

- Begin thinking about what you want in a potential college
 - Two-Year vs. Four-Year
 - Academic Focus/Major
 - Location
 - Size
 - Extracurricular Activities
- Use the Discover tab on www.scoir.com to find colleges that meet these criteria
- Develop an initial list of 10-20 schools
- If possible, visit these schools over weekends and breaks

Admissions Tests

SAT

-Offered in May, June, August, October,
and November

-Tests ELA and math skills

-Scores range from 400-1600

-Registration done on
www.collegeboard.org

ACT

-Offered in April, June, July September,
and October

-Tests ELA, math, and science skills

-Scores range from 1-36

-Registration done on www.act.org

Letters of Recommendation

- Some colleges require letters of recommendation from 2-3 teachers
- Consider teachers who know you well as both a student and person
- Ask teachers in-person before the end of this school year if they would be willing to write a letter of recommendation for you
- To help them write a letter for you, send them a copy of both your Senior Fact Sheet and Resume

Senior Fact Sheet

The Senior Fact Sheet will be made available on SCOIR shortly. By filling it out, you will let your recommender know more about your...

- Future Plans
- Strengths
- Unique Traits
- Obstacles Overcome
- Extracurricular Activities

Senior Fact sheet should be filled out before reaching out to your teachers.

How to Request A Letter of Recommendation on SCOIR

[CLICK HERE FOR DIRECTIONS](#)

The screenshot displays the SCOIR dashboard interface. At the top left is the SCOIR logo and a search bar labeled "Search for pages". To the right are navigation icons for Home, Discover, My Colleges, Messages (with a 20 notification badge), and Me. A green "Apply with Scoir" button is also present. Below the navigation bar is a secondary search bar and a "Add Top Choices" button. The main content area is divided into four columns representing application stages: "Suggested (0)", "Following (0)", "Applying (0)", and "Applied (0)". Each column has an "Add a College" link and a descriptive card with an icon and text. A large red arrow points to the "Applied (0)" section. On the left side, there is a vertical sidebar with "Not Interested" and "View (16)". On the right side, there are utility icons for "Application Documents", "Sort: Deadline", a grid view icon, and a download icon.

SCOIR Search for pages Home Discover My Colleges Messages 20 Me Apply with Scoir

Add Top Choices Search Application Documents Sort: Deadline

Suggested (0)
Collapse
Plan with your supporters
Receive college suggestions from your Counselors and Parent/Guardian(s)
Invite a Parent/Guardian

Following (0)
Add a College
Build your list
Personalize your Scoir experience by Following colleges

Applying (0)
Add a College
Make progress on applications
Let's keep track of those open applications together

Applied (0)
Add a College
Celebrate your completed applications
Keep tabs on your submitted applications and outcomes

Not Interested View (16)

College Resume

-Your college resume should include the following:

- General Information
 - Name/Address/Email/Phone Number
 - High School Name
 - Counselor Name
 - Weighted/Unweighted GPA
 - Class Rank
 - Relevant Coursework
- Volunteer Work
- Extracurricular Activities
- Sports
- Paid Experience
- Hobbies

Make sure to include any leadership roles and the years dedicated to each activity

Need a template? Look [here](#)

NCAA: National Collegiate Athletic Association

-If you want to play sports at an NCAA Division I or II school, start by registering for a certification account with the NCAA Eligibility Center. If you want to play Division III sports or you aren't sure where you want to compete, start by creating a Profile Page account.

-[NCAA Eligibility Center](#)

-[NCAA Handbook](#)

-[NCAA Worksheet](#)

Summer



Visit Campuses & Finalize College List - Let's Talk Selectivity

-As you continue your college research and visit potential schools over the summer, plan to narrow down your list to 5-10 schools by September. These should include...

- 1-2 “Low Probability” Schools
- 3-5 “Match” Schools
- 1-3 “High Probability” Schools

-Scatogram feature on SCOIR

- Selectivity is measured by the percentage of students who are admitted from the application pool. The lower the percentage, the more selective the school is.
- Northeastern University in Boston, MA. received 96,327 applications for Fall 2023, up from 91,100 in 2022, 75,233 in 2021 and 64,428 in 2020.

Begin Work on Application

-Most colleges accept the Common App for admission into their school. Students hoping to start college in the Fall of 2024 can create an account on www.commonapp.org and begin working on their application on **August 1st, 2023**.

-If you are planning to **ONLY** apply to either SUNY or CUNY schools, you may want to consider the their respective applications.

-SUNY - <https://www.suny.edu/applysuny/>

-CUNY - <https://www.cuny.edu/admissions/undergraduate/apply/cuny-application/>

-Dutchess Community College: Instant Decision Day(s). Typically 3/year
<https://www.sunydutchess.edu/admissions/applynow.html>

-If your college is not listed on any of these applications, look up how to apply on their website.

College Essays

-The Common App includes one essay of up to 650 words. Students can choose from one of seven given prompt options or create their own. The current prompt options can be found here:

<https://www.commonapp.org/blog/2023-2024-common-app-essay-prompts>

-Some colleges, but not all, require their own supplemental essays. These are written in addition to the general essay and the prompts are also found on the Common App. Word counts vary depending on the school.

Senior Year - Fall



Register for College Visits at RCK

- In September, colleges will begin coming to our building to meet with students. This is a great opportunity to show *demonstrated interest*. In other words, show the admissions counselor just how interested you are in become a student on their campus.

-You **MUST** register ahead of time in SCOIR to attend these meetings.

- Log into SCOIR.
- In the top right corner, pull down the menu and hit “EVENTS & DEADLINES.”
- On the next page, there will be a tab that says “COLLEGE VISITS.” All upcoming visits will be listed.
- Click on the “CHECK MARK” that says “I’M IN” and you will be all set to meet with admissions counselors at their designated day and time of visit.
- All students must get their teachers approval before attending the visit and are responsible for making up missed work.

Follow-Up on Letters of Recommendation

-When the new school year begins, follow-up with the teachers you asked to write letters of recommendation for you. If they have not been written yet, POLITELY remind them when your deadlines are.

Special Services

Honors Program: Some schools offer an honors program at the college level. Although every honors program is unique to the college, the honors program is typically a school within a school. Students must maintain a specific grade point average in order to maintain participation in the program. Full or partial scholarships are often offered to students in this program

Learning and other Disabilities: Services are provided at many colleges (some colleges offer more extensive programs than others). Typically the student must first be admitted to the college, and then they may receive additional services depended upon the student's IEP or 504 plan. These services include but are not limited to: alternative testing arrangements, remediation, diagnostic testing, and counseling services.

Programs to consider

- Keep in mind that you may qualify for some programs designed to economically disadvantaged students and underrepresented groups in higher education.
- These programs vary from state to state.
- Researching your state's scholarship and grant programs can help you afford the college that is right for you.

Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP):

Provides supportive services and financial aid to New York State residents attending independent colleges and universities in New York State who, because of academic and economic circumstances, would otherwise be unable to attend a college/university. Or more information visit

<http://www.nysed.gov/postsecondary-services/higher-education-opportunity-program-heop>

Educational Opportunity Program (EOP)

The State University of New York's Educational Opportunity Program provides access, academic support, and financial aid to students who show promise for succeeding in college but who may not have otherwise been offered admission. EOP is designed for students who need special academic assistance as well as financial aid. For more information and to find out if you are eligible to apply, visit <https://www.suny.edu/attend/academics/eop/>

Review Deadlines and Submit Applications

COLLEGE APPLICATION DEADLINES

EARLY ACTION

- apply early, find out early
- can apply elsewhere
- not binding: can still choose another school
- indicates strong interest

EARLY DECISION

- apply early, find out early
- apply ED to only one school
- binding: obligated to go if admitted & withdraw other applications
- indicates strong interest
- no chance to compare financial aid offers

REGULAR DECISION

- apply by deadline & find out in spring
- deadlines vary
- commit by May 1

ROLLING ADMISSION

- application open until college meets capacity
- apply when you wish, though there may be priority deadlines
- find out in a few weeks

Plan to complete your applications at least two weeks before the deadline date

Submit SAT/ACT Scores

- SAT and ACT scores are sent only to YOU! Therefore, if you want colleges to see your scores, you are in charge of sending them to the schools you are applying to.
- If possible, plan to send scores in about a month before the application deadline.
- Directions for submitting SAT scores can be found here:
[-https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat/scores/send-scores-to-colleges/sending-scores](https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat/scores/send-scores-to-colleges/sending-scores)
- Directions for submitting ACT scores can be found here:
[-https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/scores/sending-your-scores.html](https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/scores/sending-your-scores.html)
- Fees are charged per school.

FAFSA - October 1st

-ALL families with students applying to college should plan on filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Students planning to begin college in the Fall of 2024 can begin filling out the FAFSA on **October 1st, 2023**. The FAFSA is used by colleges to determine eligibility for...

- Scholarships

- Grants

- Subsidized Loans

- Unsubsidized Loans

Senior Year - Spring



Scholarships

-The largest scholarships are usually offered by colleges directly, but once applications are completed, students can search and apply for outside scholarships to try to further bring down costs down. More information on how to find and apply for these scholarships can be found using the link below:

<https://www.wappingersschools.org/Page/8613>

Make Final Decision

- Review application decisions and their corresponding financial aid packages as they come out throughout the spring
- Discuss your options with your family and school counselor
- Make final decision and submit deposit by National Decision Day on **May 1st, 2024**
- Congratulations! You're done! Get ready for freshman year!