



Westford Academy Counseling Department

# The College Application Process

September 12, 2023



# AGENDA

- Tonight's presentation:
  - Review College Application Process
  - Student, Parent/Caregiver, Counselor Roles
- Upcoming Events & Activities
  - Senior Seminar (in English classes) to review CommonApp
    - September 18th-20th
  - Financial Aid Presentation hosted by MEFA
    - October 11th @ 6:30

# Counselor Assignments

<b>Leah Birnkrant</b>	A - Carr
<b>Karen Halloran</b>	Cass - Ferr
<b>Susan Lynch</b>	Fitz - Huyn
<b>Brian Doherty</b>	Jarr - Maho
<b>Samantha DeMagistris</b>	Makk - Papp
<b>Tracy McLaughlin</b>	Parm - Smit
<b>Heidi Hider</b>	Sona - Voru
<b>Lauren Clark</b>	Wahl - Z

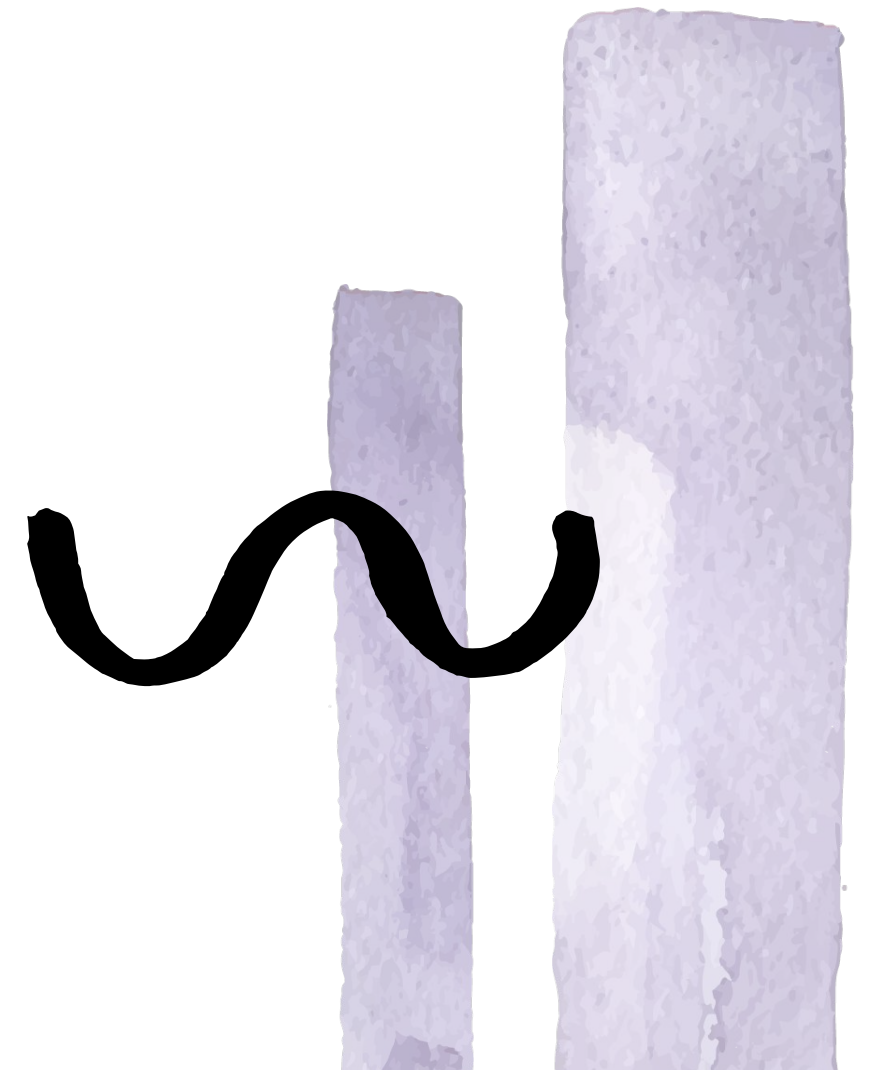




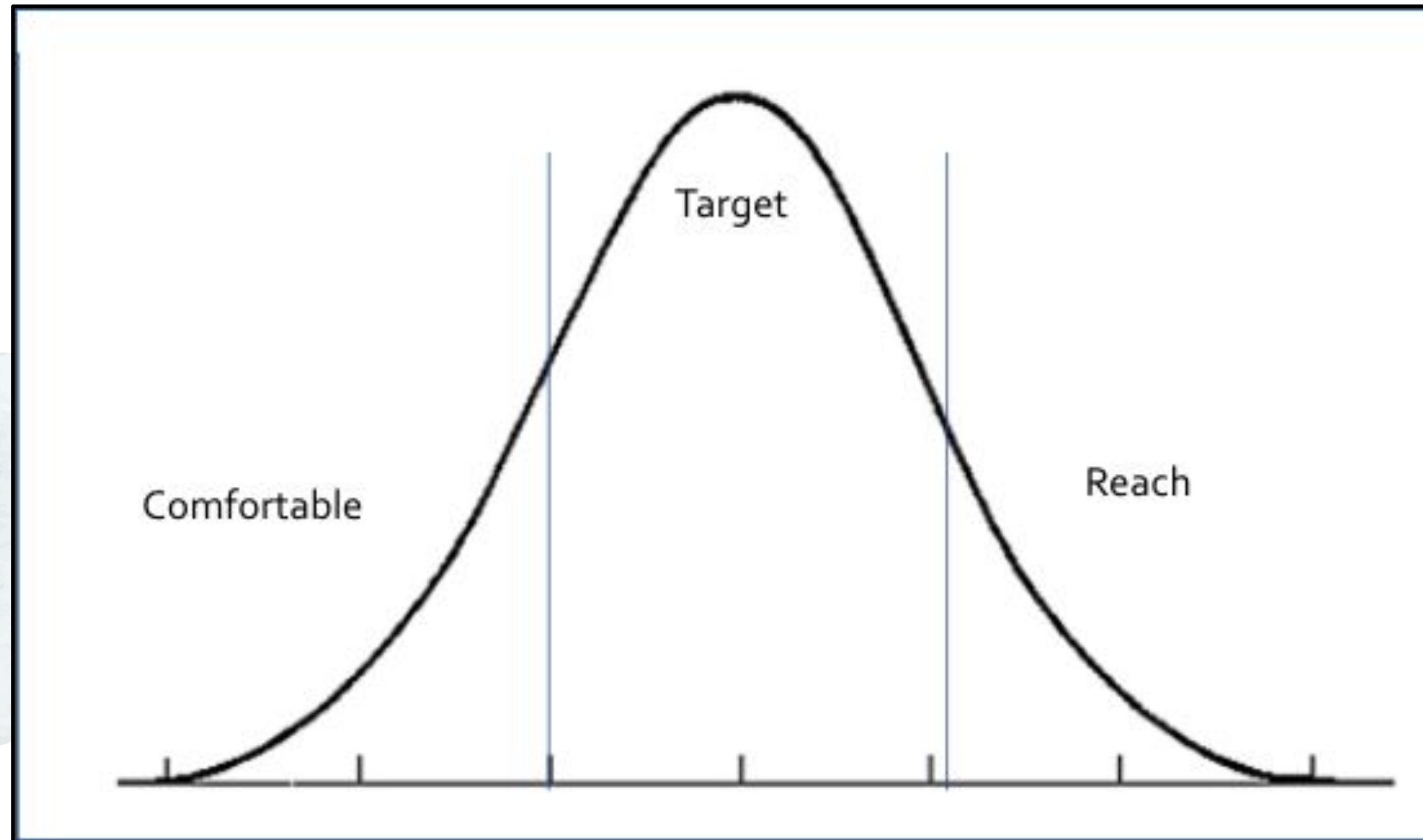
# Since we last met...

- Students and caregiver(s)/parent(s)/guardian(s) developed a “Following” list on SCOIR and consulted with their counselor
- Students completed a summer TO DO List
- Students researched/visited colleges

...and we are now building a balanced list with comfortable, target, and reach schools



# Let's Review...The College List



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# Everyone's Reach

Harvard, Dartmouth, Princeton, Yale,  
Brown, Columbia, Georgetown, MIT,  
Cornell, UPenn, Carnegie Mellon,  
Stanford, Tufts

UVA, UC Berkeley... and others





# Almost Everyone's Reach

Vanderbilt, Boston College, NYU,  
Northeastern, Middlebury, Bowdoin,  
Colby, University of Michigan, Georgia  
Tech and others

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# Application Plans & Deadlines

**Early Action - (non-binding)**

Oct 15- Dec 1

**Early Decision - (binding)**

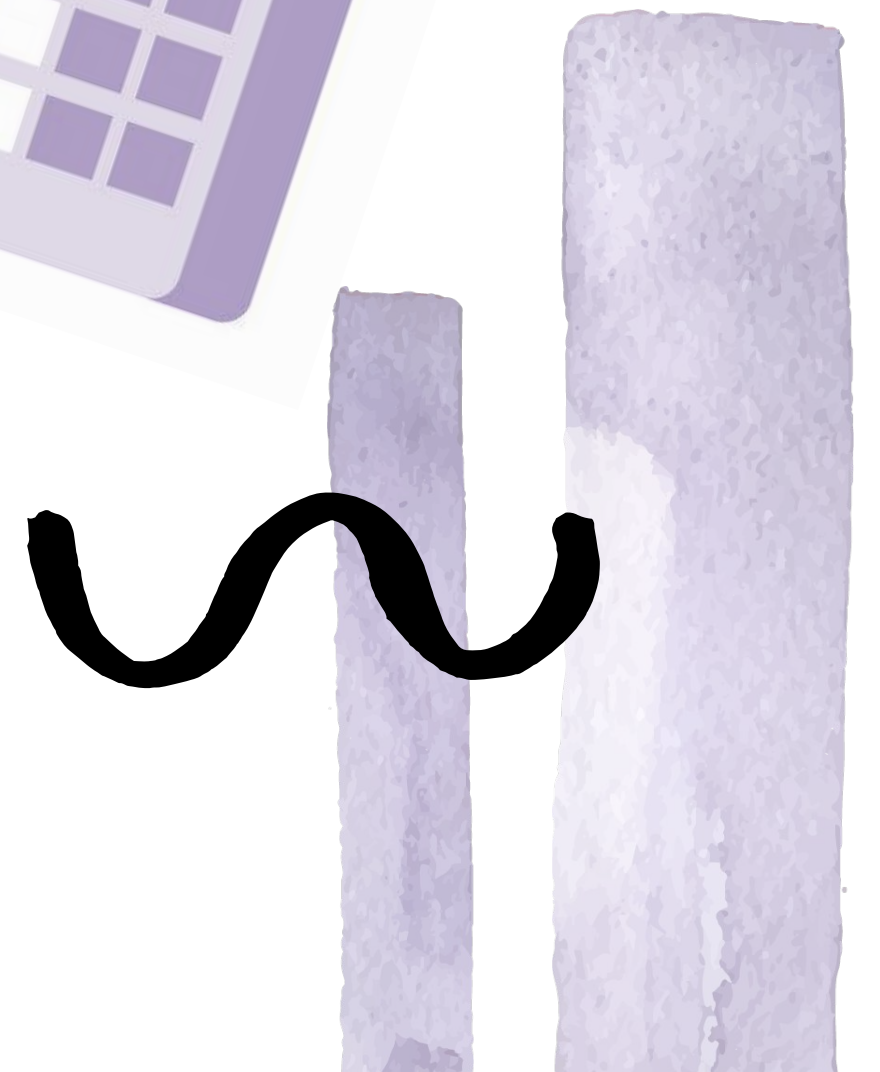
Oct 15-Nov 15

**Regular Decision**

Jan 1 or later

Q1 & Mid-year Grades

**Rolling Admissions**



# Test Optional

- Huge shift over the last three years towards test optional
  - e.g. UMass Amherst, UMass Lowell, Boston University, Boston College, UConn, UNH
- Approximately 80% of schools are now test optional
- Listing of all test optional schools: [www.fairtest.org](http://www.fairtest.org)



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2023

SAT

Dates



October 1

- Late Registration September 20

November 5 - Register by October 7

- Late Registration October 25

December 3 - Register by November 3

- Late Registration November 22







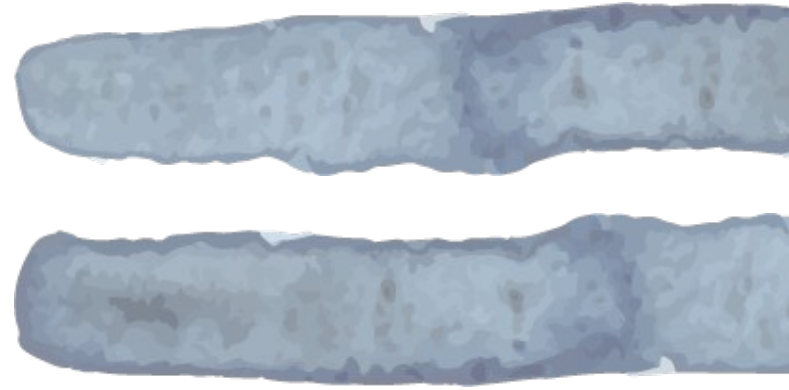

# 2023 ACT Dates

October 28th - Register by 9/22

- Late registration 10/6

December 9th - Register by 11/3

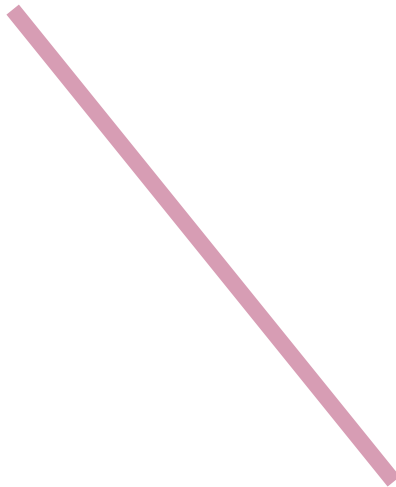
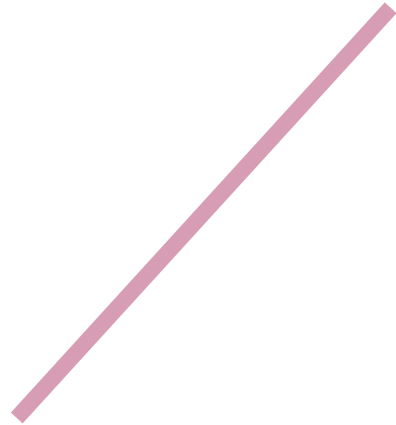
- Late registration 11/17



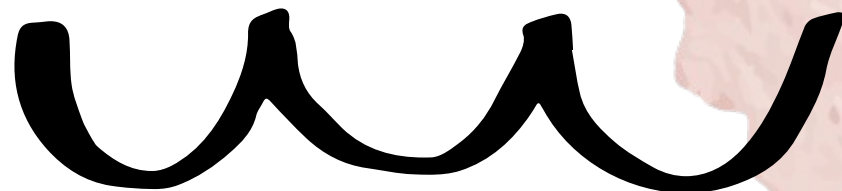
STUDENT

PARENT

COUNSELOR





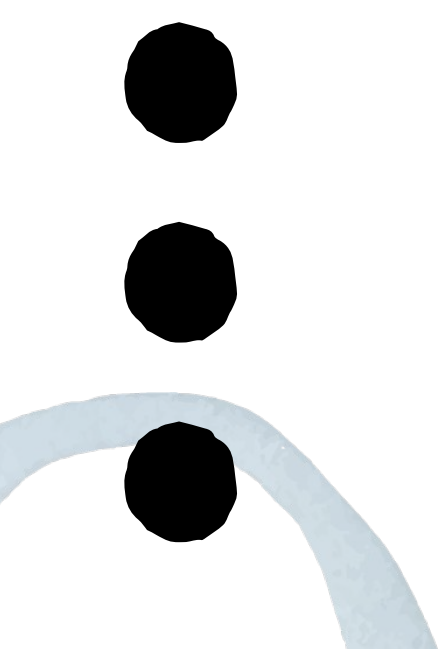
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# STUDENT'S JOB




- Finalize college application list
  - Schedule counselor meeting
  - Fill out and **submit** the applications (INCLUDING writing the essay)
  - Move colleges to “Applying” list in Scoir at least TWO weeks prior to application deadline
  - Check status of application (many colleges use online portals) regularly
  - *Request official test scores (SAT, ACT) from the testing companies*
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# COUNSELOR'S JOB



- Provide feedback on the college list (is it missing anything?)
  - Write Counselor Statement
  - Send official transcripts, recommendations (teacher and counselor), and school profile.
  - Send additional grade updates to colleges as needed (Term 1, Mid-year, etc)
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# PARENT/CAREGIVER'S JOB

- Support & encourage (leave the pressure and unsolicited advice for another day)
- Allow students to schedule their own appointments for college visits
- Prepare your child for disappointment - and reassure if it happens
- Assist with FAFSA & CSS Profile (if needed) - and have an open, honest discussion about finances for college

# College Rep Visits

- Rep visits will be offered on open dates from **September 18 - November 10** both in-person (during school hours) and virtually
- All rep visits **offered virtually** will be **OUTSIDE** of the school day at either **2:00 pm, 3:00 pm or 4:00 pm** on open dates
- Students are limited to 8 visits during the school day.
- See email and Google Classroom for more information

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# Rep Visits on SCOIR

Book visits under  
'upcoming events' in  
SCOIR



## Upcoming Events

Sep 18  
Mon

College Visit  
Skidmore College

8:50 AM

Sep 18  
Mon

College Visit  
Binghamton University

10:00 AM

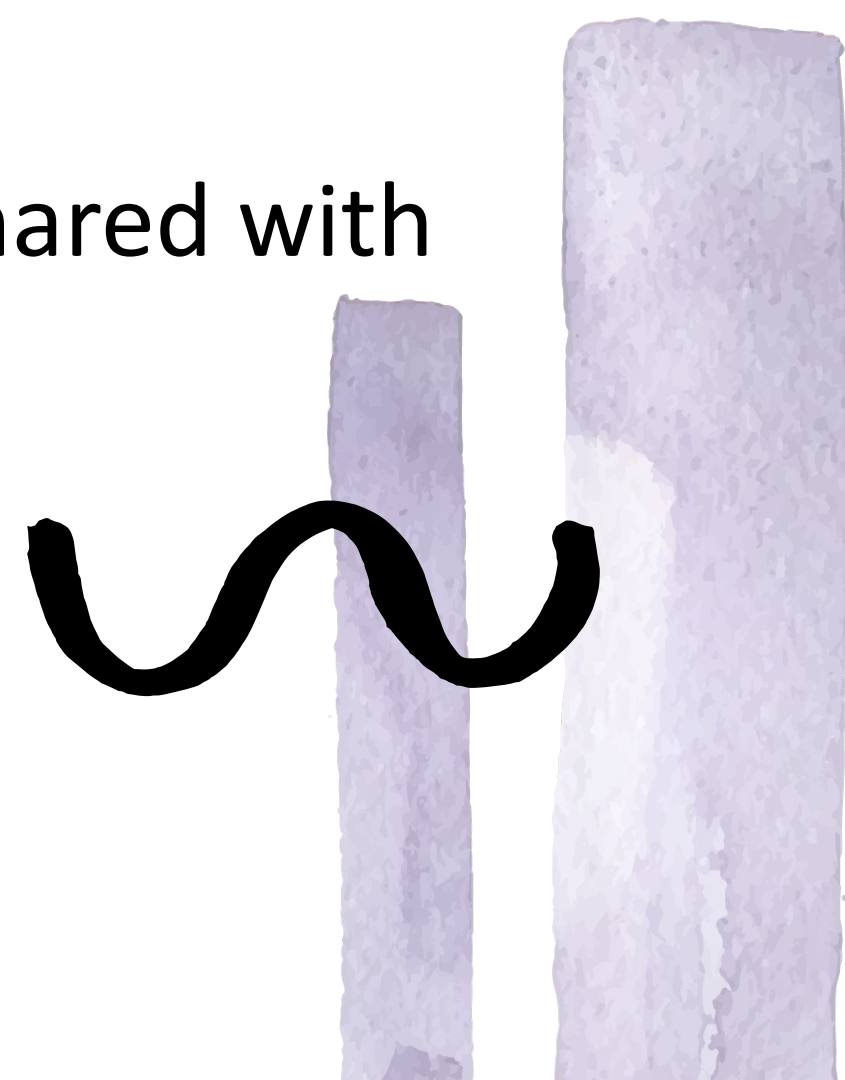
Sep 18  
Mon

College Visit  
Purdue University (Main Campus)

11:00 AM





# SENIOR CHECKLIST

- Senior Data Sheet in SCOIR
  - Move Colleges to “Applying”
    - \*\*at least two weeks before the deadline\*\*
  - Activities & Achievements Section in SCOIR or Resume shared with Counselor
  - Make CommonApp account
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# Senior Data Sheet: MORE IS MORE!

- In Scoir
  - We use this form to write your counselor statement
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# Moving Colleges in SCOIR

Move colleges to “applying tab” by dragging or click “add a college”

The screenshot shows the SCOIR 'My Colleges' page. At the top, there are navigation links: 'College Search', 'My Colleges' (active), and 'My Profile'. On the right, there are icons for a calendar, messages, notifications, search, and a user profile. Below the navigation bar, there are three main tabs: 'Following (8) Schools you like', 'Applying (1) Applications in Progress', and 'Applied (0) Submitted Applications'. Each tab has an 'Add a College' link. The 'Following' tab lists several colleges: Albright College, Drexel University, High Point University, Immaculata University, Pennsylvania State University (Brandy...), Washington College, and West Chester University of Pennsylvan... The 'Applying' tab shows Temple University with 'Early Action Nov 1' and 'Tasks complete 0/5'. The 'Applied' tab shows 'Enrolling' with 'Where are you planning to attend?' and a button labeled 'ACCEPTED'. An arrow points from the 'Add a College' link in the 'Applying' tab to the text 'Move colleges to “applying tab” by dragging or click “add a college”'. Another arrow points from the college box in the 'Following' tab to the text 'Drag college box over to new column here'.

SCOIR College Search My Colleges My Profile

Application Documents sort by Deadline

Following (8) Schools you like  
Add a College

Albright College Reading, PA  
Drexel University Philadelphia, PA  
High Point University High Point, NC  
Immaculata University Immaculata, PA  
Pennsylvania State University (Brandy... Media, PA  
Washington College Chestertown, MD  
West Chester University of Pennsylvan... West Chester, PA

Applying (1) Applications in Progress  
Add a College

Temple University Philadelphia, PA  
Early Action Nov 1  
Tasks complete 0/5 Docs sent 0/1

Applied (0) Submitted Applications  
Add a College

Enrolling  
Where are you planning to attend?  
ACCEPTED

Drag college box over to new column here

# Update Application Date & Deadline

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The screenshot shows the SCORIR application portal interface. A modal window titled "How are you applying?" is open, allowing users to update their application type and deadline. The modal includes a list of colleges on the left, a central form with buttons for "Early Action" (November 1) and "Rolling" (February 1), and a section for "Method" with buttons for "Common Application", "College Website", and "Other". A text box labeled "Common ID" with a placeholder "Enter ID" is also present. A note on the right states: "Type/timeline options are unique per college. Not all schools have the same deadlines and options." The modal has "Cancel" and "Save" buttons at the bottom right.

SCORIR

How are you applying?

This information lets your counselor know to send your transcripts and other supporting documents.

Type

Early Action  
November 1

Rolling  
February 1

Method

Common Application

College Website

Other

Common ID

Enter ID

Type/timeline options are unique per college. Not all schools have the same deadlines and options.

Cancel Save

Not Interested View

Albright College  
Reading, PA

Drexel University  
Philadelphia, PA

High Point University  
High Point, NC

Immaculata University  
Immaculata, PA

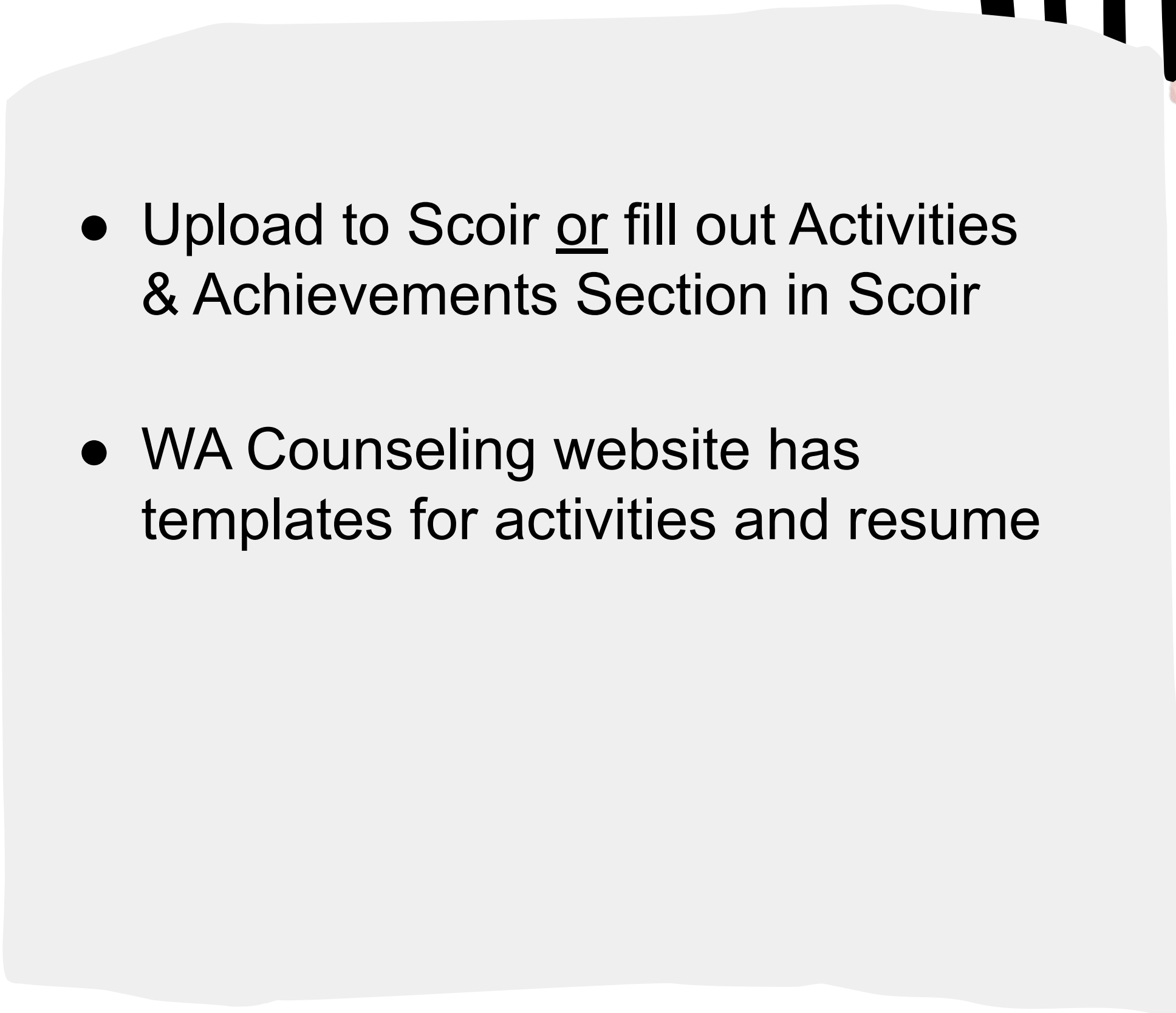

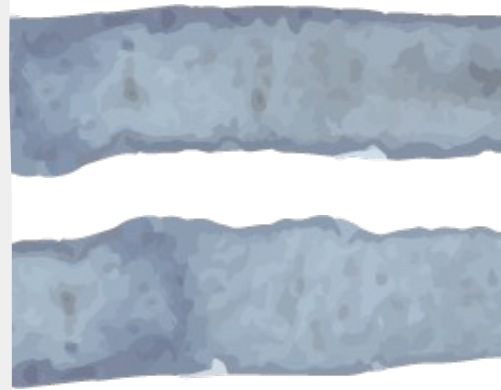

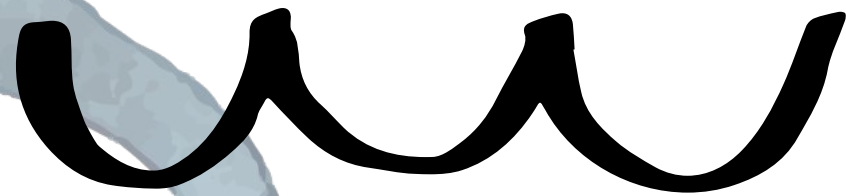
Pennsylvania State University  
Media, PA

Temple University  
Philadelphia, PA

Washington College  
Chestertown, MD



# Resume

- Upload to Scoir or fill out Activities & Achievements Section in Scoir
  - WA Counseling website has templates for activities and resume
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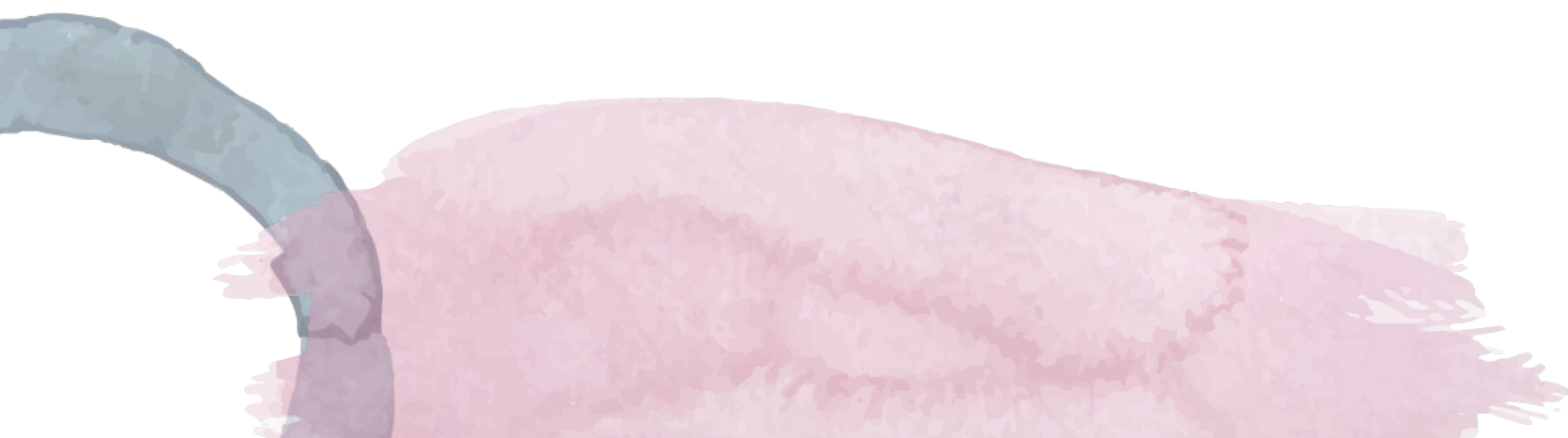


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# SENIOR MEETING



(Student & Counselor)



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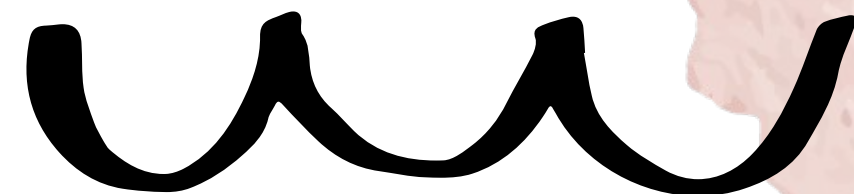


# What will we discuss...

- Application timeline
  - Review college list
  - Recommendations
  - Review transcript
  - Go over CommonApp
  - Any other questions you may have
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# Recommendations

- **Students should re-connect** with the teacher(s) whom they asked for **letter(s) of recommendation** in the spring to be sure everything is in place that is necessary to secure their letter and let them know their earliest deadline.
- All school records are sent through Scoir - **do not include** counselor or teacher emails in CommonApp
  - See Guide posted in Google Classroom





# WA SCHOOL RECORDS





# Transcript Processing Fee & FERPA

- One-time processing fee of \$8 submitted for all applications and alumni transcripts
- Pay through MySchoolBucks or CASH to Mrs. Vernalia.  
[https://www.myschoolbucks.com/ver2/prdembd?ref=ZZHCKVF90G01ERQ\\_ZZI0CSV1DBWOFLU](https://www.myschoolbucks.com/ver2/prdembd?ref=ZZHCKVF90G01ERQ_ZZI0CSV1DBWOFLU)

**\*\*We are unable to send transcripts to colleges until this fee is paid.**


- FERPA Release Authorization & Waiver Release signed in Scoir






What  
does  
WA  
● send??

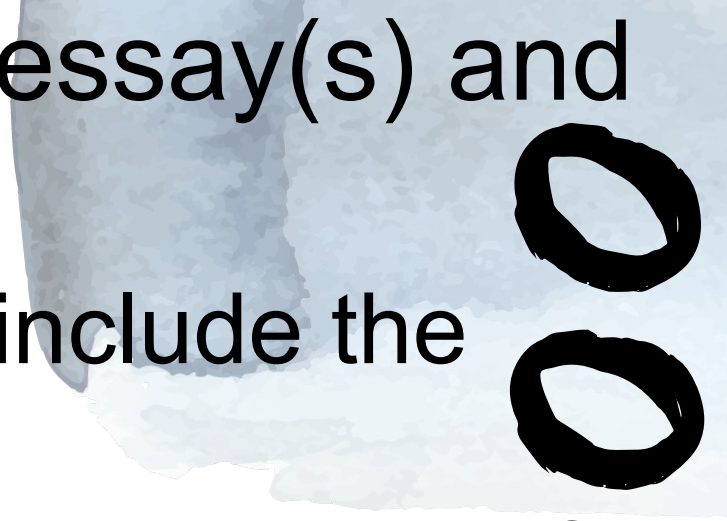




- Official Transcript with Senior Courses
- School Profile
- Teacher letter(s) of recommendation
- Counselor statement



# What the student sends...



- Completed Application, including essay(s) and fees
    - If using Common App, this will also include the school specific questions
  - Official test scores to be sent to each college, if required, directly from the testing company (SAT or ACT)
  - Complete Financial Aid forms (FAFSA and/or CSS Profile)
    - with parental help!
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# After students apply

- Students should set up applicant portal for application status
- EA/ED results begin to arrive in December (rolling may be earlier)
  - Admit, Defer, Waitlist or Deny
    - *What if I get deferred?*
      - *Send additional supporting materials (grades, updates, etc) IF NEEDED*
- RD results are reported no later than April 1, 2023
  - Admit, Deny, or Waitlist
    - *What if I get waitlisted?*
      - There is no way to determine odds of getting off the waitlist - deposit elsewhere!
- Students/Families compare the options and commit/deposit to one college by May 1

# Financial Aid



- Tools and Info on WA website
- Net Price Calculator
- FAFSA [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov)  
(Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
  - **Available December 2023**
  - Can register now for FAFSA ID (pin)
- CSS Profile [www.collegeboard.org](https://www.collegeboard.org)
  - available Oct 1<sup>st</sup>
- Check each college's financial aid application deadline
- College Financing Seminar @ WA on October 11, 2023 at 6:30pm in PAC
  - [www.mefa.org](https://www.mefa.org)



# Resources



- **Monthly newsletters**
  - **Instagram: @wa\_counseling**
  - **WA Website**
    - College Planning
    - Financial Aid Information
  - **SCOIR**
  - **College Essay Guy**
    - Posts on Google Classroom
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We will ALL survive this process!

It will be June before you know it!

