



Explore the NHS Counseling Suite

<https://counselingsuite.weebly.com/seniors.html>

- Remind Announcements (@nhs24rams)
- Scholarship Resource Guide
- Scholarship Announcements
- Scholarship Essay Guide
- SAT/ACT Fee Waiver Request (have you applied for Free/Reduced lunch ???)
- How to Request a Transcript
- College Application Platforms (use one application for several colleges)
 - CommonApp
 - Connects to ScholarSnapp.org
 - MyCoalition (Coalition For College Access)
 - Common Black College App
- How to Find My GPA
 - Weighted (Infinite Campus)
 - Unweighted (GAFutures.org – SSN required)

Complete the Following College Readiness Tasks

Senior Remind Code (Text @nhs24rams to 81010)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• @nhs24rams
GAFutures.org (SSN Required)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Check your HOPE GPA</u>• Request Transcripts for In-State Colleges• Apply to Colleges, and more!!!
Scholarship Search Engine	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• GoingMerry.com
Common Application Websites	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CommonApp.org• MyCoalition.org• CommonBlackCollegeApp.org
FSA ID & FAFSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Both students <u>and</u> parents need an FSA ID• FAFSA opens in December 2023• https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/sign-in/landing <p>Have a conversation about your family income</p>
Local Generic Scholarship Essay	Typed, one page essay describing the affect a local scholarship would have on your future plans



College Readiness Quick Guide

<https://counselingsuite.weebly.com/seniors.html>

<p style="text-align: center;">Scholarships</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remind (@nhs24rams) • Scholarship Announcements and Resource Guide • Gates Scholarship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.thegatesscholarship.org/scholarship • Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship (Opens Aug. 24, 2023) • CollegeBoard Opportunity Scholarships • Local Scholarship Essay • Search Engines (create an account) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GoingMerry.com • Cappex.com • ScholarSnapp.org (connects to CollegeBoard) • BigFuture.CollegeBoard.org/scholarship-search
<p style="text-align: center;">College Application Platforms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply with one application • If eligible, request a fee waiver • Add “Recommenders” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CommonApp.org • CoalitionForCollegeAccess.org • CommonBlackCollegeApp.com <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not accept fee waivers • GAFutures.org (SSN Required)
<p style="text-align: center;">GPA/Transcript</p>	<p>100pt (Weighted) – Infinite Campus 4.0 (Unweighted) – GAFutures.org (i.e. HOPE GPA)</p> <p>You can find instructions on requesting your transcript and finding your transcript at https://counselingsuite.weebly.com/seniors.html</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">College/Major Exploration</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BigFuture.CollegeBoard.org • GAFutures.org • YouScience (from Infinite Campus) • CampusReel.org • GAProbe.org (college fairs) • NACACfairs.org (college fairs) • PeachStateTour.org (college fairs)

FAFSA

Free Application for Federal Student Aid

File your 2024-25 FAFSA starting in December of 2023

- To **create an FSA ID** visit <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/sign-in/landing>
- For help creating an FSA ID visit <https://youtu.be/K7ihhGk8mCY>
- FSA ID is your personal legal signature
- Do not create an FSA ID for anyone
- You (and only you) should create and use your FSA ID
- Parents/Guardians should **not** create an FSA ID for their child/dependent and vice versa
- You will need your social security number
- Enter your mobile number to make it easier to reset your account (not required)
- You will have to verify your mobile number
- You will have to verify your email address

What you will need to start your FAFSA

- FSA ID (fsaid.ed.gov) for Parent **and** Student
- 2022 Tax Returns for Parent and Student
- Social Security Numbers for Parent and Student
- Other Income Information
- State Issued Driver's License
- Visit www.studentaid.gov to get started

Visit www.gafutures.org/federal-aid-scholarships/fafsa/

- Instructions on how to create your FSA ID
- Student/Parent Resources
- FAFSA Event Resources
- After the FAFSA

**GET YOUR
FSA ID
TODAY!**

Top Reasons to File Early

- Receive Early Award Notifications
- Make Early Decisions

You must use your already filed 2022 tax information



Important Dates 2023

****Dates/Deadlines are subject to change ****

Date	Event
Fall 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create your FSA ID<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Electronic Signature• Student AND Parent must complete• Make a list of 2-4 teachers from whom you can ask for a written recommendation
August 26, 2023	SAT Test
September 9, 2023	ACT Test
October 7, 2023	SAT Test
October 28, 2023	ACT Test
November 4, 2023	SAT Test
December 2, 2023	SAT Test
December 9, 2023	ACT Test
December 2023	FAFSA Opens Fill it out as soon as possible!!! (you need your FSA ID for this)
*Early Action / Early Decision	Check the college's website for their EA/ED dates
*College Application Week	Check with the college to see when they might waive their application fees
*Registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SAT.org• ACT.org
*Free Online Test Prep	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• KhanAcademy.org/SAT• Academy.ACT.org

For SAT/ACT fee waivers visit www.CounselingSuite.Weebly.com

DEFINITIONS OF ADMISSION OPTIONS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

STUDENTS: WHICH COLLEGE ADMISSION PROCESS BEST SUITS YOU?

Regular Decision

DEFINITION:

Students submit an application by a specified date and receive a decision in a clearly stated period of time.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Rolling Admission

DEFINITION:

Institutions review applications as they are submitted and render admission decisions throughout the admission cycle.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Early Action (EA)

DEFINITION:

Students apply early and receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Early Decision (ED)

DEFINITION:

Students make a commitment to a first-choice institution where, if admitted they definitively will enroll and withdraw all other applications. The application deadline and decision deadline occur early.

COMMITMENT:

BINDING

Restrictive Early Action (REA)

DEFINITION:

Students apply to an institution of preference and receive a decision early. They may be restricted from applying ED or EA or REA to other institutions. If offered enrollment, they have until May 1 to confirm.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Students are not restricted from applying to other institutions and have until May 1 to consider their options and confirm enrollment.

Students are responsible for determining and following restrictions.

Paying for College

When considering options to pay for school, remember:
Free money first, your money second and borrowed money last



Free Money Scholarships and Grants

TYPES & TIPS

Nonconditional
Scholarship/Grant

Free money without any requirements. Typically grants are need-based while scholarships are merit-based.

Conditional
Scholarship/Grant

Scholarships or grants with conditions you must meet or you will lose the aid and possibly owe money back. Check if your assistance has any requirements and what the penalty is for not meeting those conditions.



Your Money Savings, Work Study or a Job

TYPES & TIPS

Savings

Common college saving accounts like 529s, and general savings accounts. Use the most restrictive account first.

Federal Work Study

Offered as part of your federal financial aid, work study provides part time jobs for students with financial need.

Job

Make sure you find a job that you can balance with your classes and your workload.



Their Money Federal and Private Student Loans

TYPES & TIPS

Federal Student
Loans

Types of federal loans include:

- Direct Subsidized Loans
- Direct Unsubsidized Loans
- Direct Parent Plus Loan

Private Student
Loans

Private student loans can have high variable interest rates and are not required to offer the same repayment benefits as federal student loans. Private loans generally cost more and typically require a credit check.

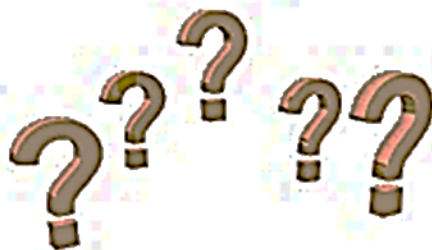
COLLEGE VISITS - THE 411

WHY SHOULD I SCHEDULE A COLLEGE TOUR?



A college tour allows students to ask questions, meet other prospective students and understand the college on a deeper level. How you feel about a school once you visit in person may affect the direction your college search and application process takes. College visits help you refine your search. A tour can also help if you need to have a college interview or write a supplemental essay about why you want to attend. Finally, having your name on the tour rosters can mark what many admissions officers call "demonstrated interest."

What Questions Should I Ask?



1. What is the average class size of introductory classes?
2. Do you have an honors college?
3. Ask your tour guide why they chose that particular school
4. What is the social scene like?
5. What majors are popular?

When Should I Visit?

Ideally you should start visiting colleges the summer between your freshman and sophomore year of high school. With the events of the past year, this may not have been possible so if you are a rising junior or senior, now is a good time to start planning a tour to colleges you are interested in applying to.

What to Check Out



- Residence Halls
- Student Union
- Sports Complexes
- Academic Center
- Career Center
- Library
- Dining Halls



You can find tour schedules and sign ups on each college's website. Check under the admissions tab under the heading of 'visit'.

Take Notes!



You may think you'll remember that College A requires a swim test for graduation (yes, some do!) and University B is known for their internships but after a few visits they can start to blend together. Keep a notebook with pros and cons about each school and after a visit/tour, write down your immediate thoughts about the campus and your general impression of the school. You'll thank yourself later!

2021-2022 Common App Essay Prompts

The common app essay is the main personal statement you'll submit to colleges that (1) use the Common Application and (2) require the essay. Your personal statement gives you the chance to delve deeper into your experiences, interests, passions and strengths

- 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.
- 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?
- Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
- 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?
- Discuss an accomplishment, event or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
- 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?
- 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.