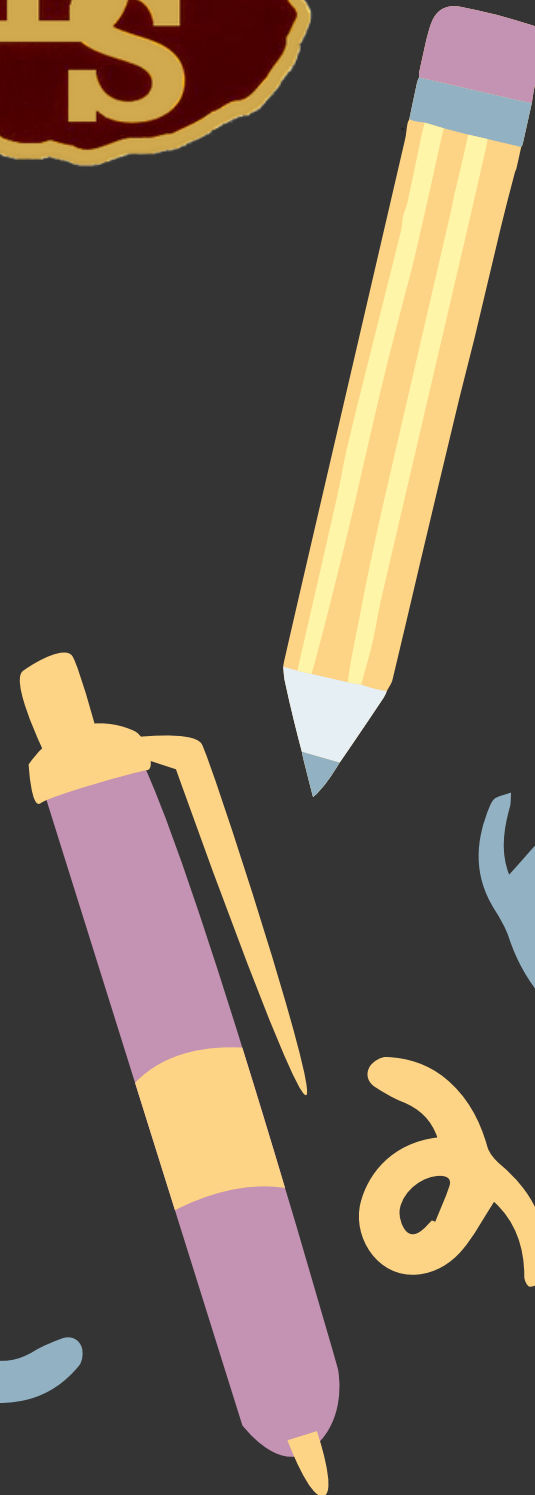


DSHS COUNSELING

CLASS OF 2024



WELCOME TO COLLEGE
APPLICATION NIGHT!



DSHS COUNSELORS

10-12 GRADE COUNSELORS:

CHRISTY NEFFENDORF, A-ER

DENISE TRIAL, ES-K

EZELINA MARROQUIN, L-PA & EB

KAREN JONES, PE-V

DARLENE "TINA" HUGHES, LEAD & W-Z

9TH GRADE COUNSELORS:

BRIANNA JONES, A-L

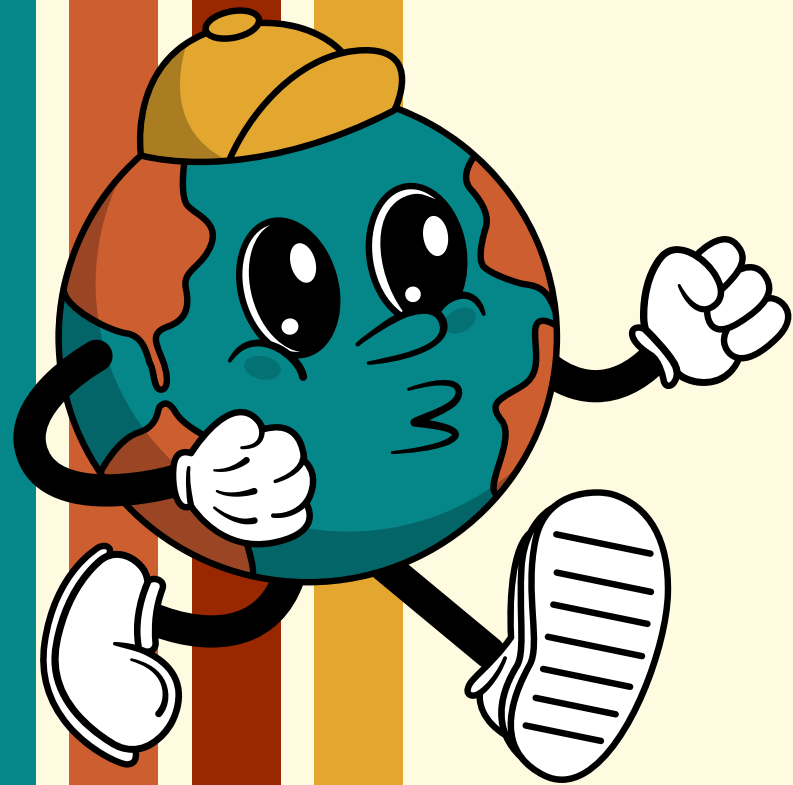
CORKY ROSEBERRY, M-Z

Questions?

Please use our Padlet to ask any questions you may have about our topic.



<https://tinyurl.com/2024DSHS>



Overview

- Introduction
- Schoollinks
- Common App/Apply Texas
- Schoollinks College App Portal
- SAT/ACT
- Transcripts
- Essays
- Financial Aid/Scholarships
- Last Bits/Questions





Don't Worry!

This information will be in the Class of 2024 Canvas course under
“College Application Resources”

- This Presentation
- College App Manager
- Scholarship Matching Guide
- Application Tracker
- Recommendation Forms
- Common App vs Apply TX
- Transcript Order Link
- Filling out the FAFSA 2023-2024



SCHOOLiNKs



SchoolLinks

Students log in, take fun quizzes about their skills, interests, and goals, then see the steps necessary to achieve their college and career aspirations

4 YEAR PLAN

Students will build their course plan for 9-12 grades.
Students update these plans yearly.

CAREER EXPLORATION

Explore traditional, emerging, and military career fields as well as portfolio and resume-building capabilities

COLLEGE/SCHOLARSHIPS

Common App linking, Apply Texas, request electronic transcripts, and Scholarship Matching

SURVEYS

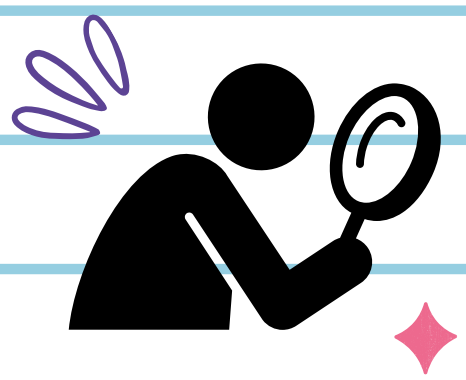
Quizzes to assess career interests, personal strengths, and mindset surveys

College Applications

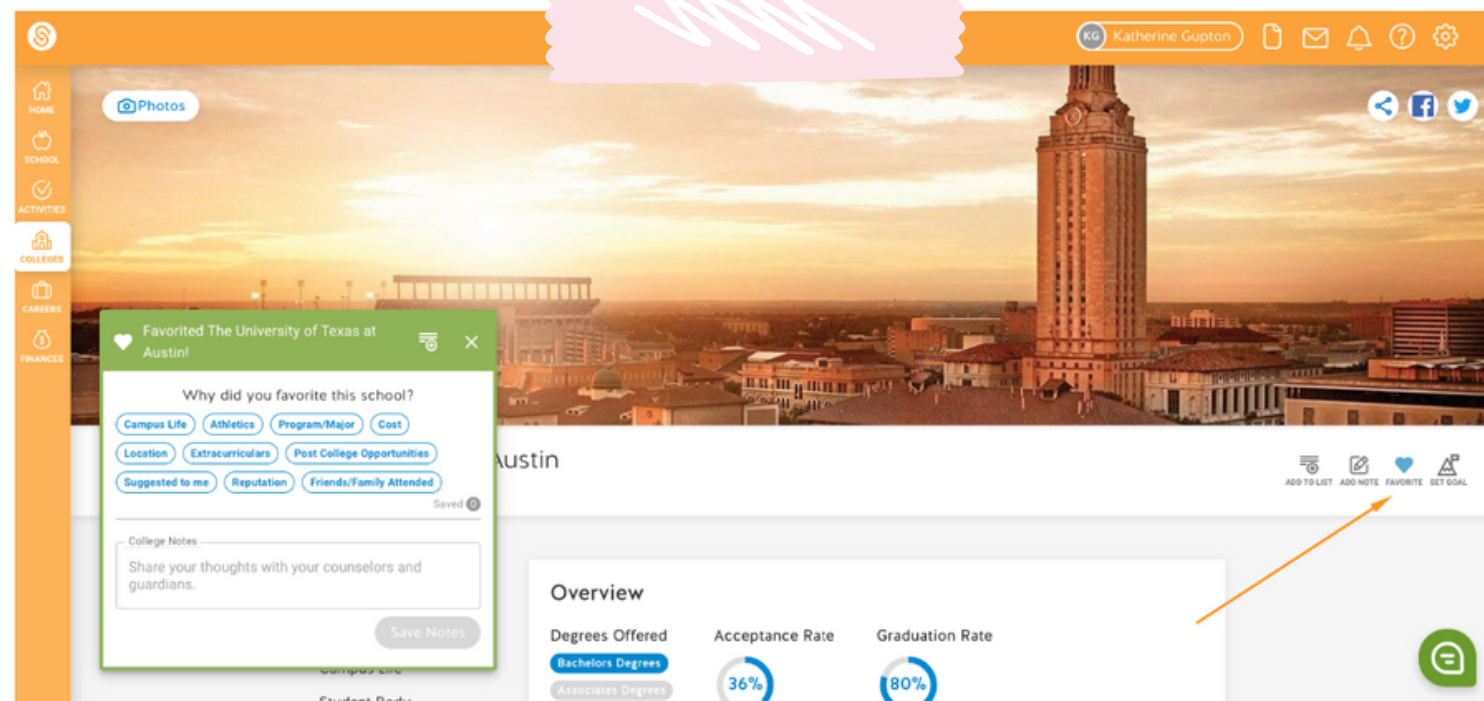
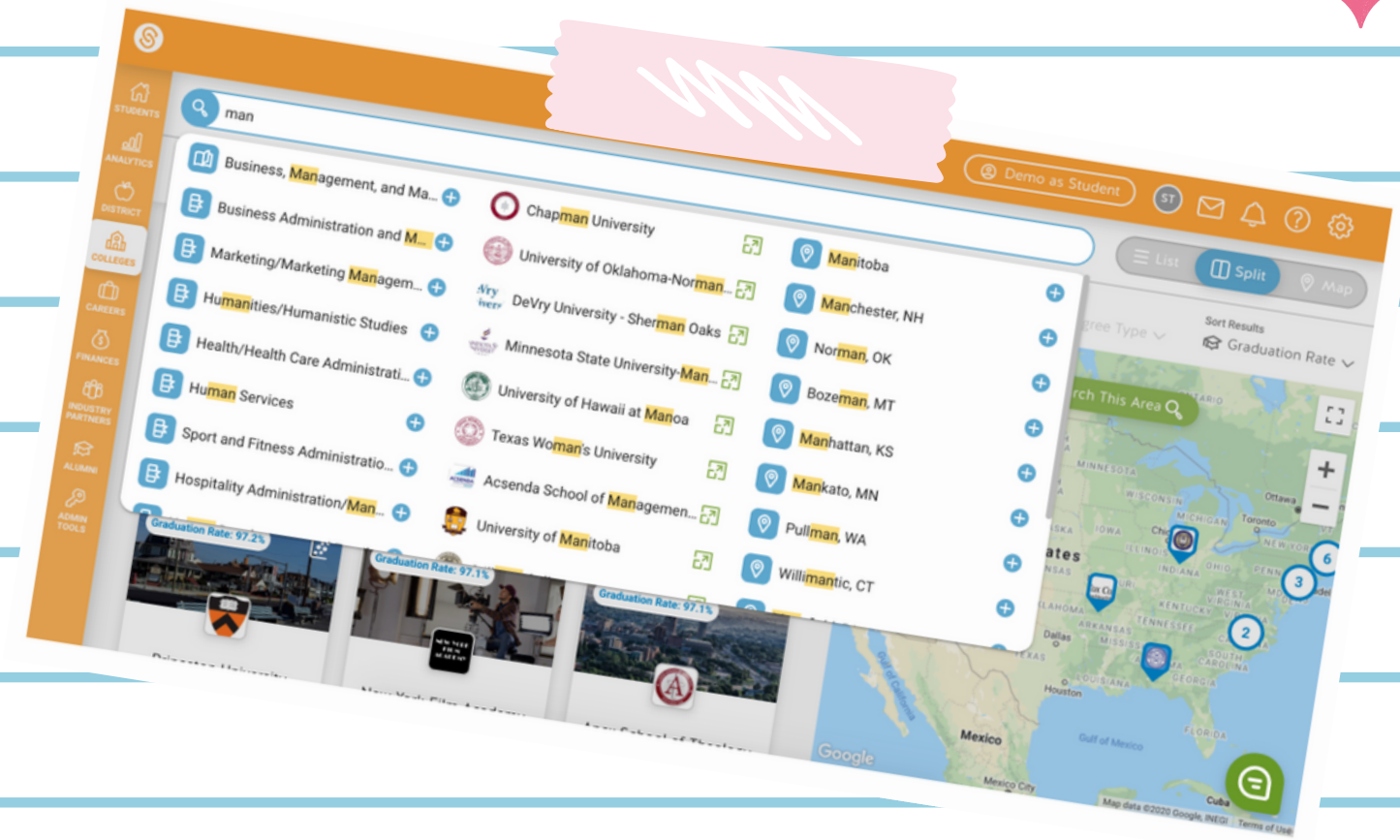
Opened August 1st



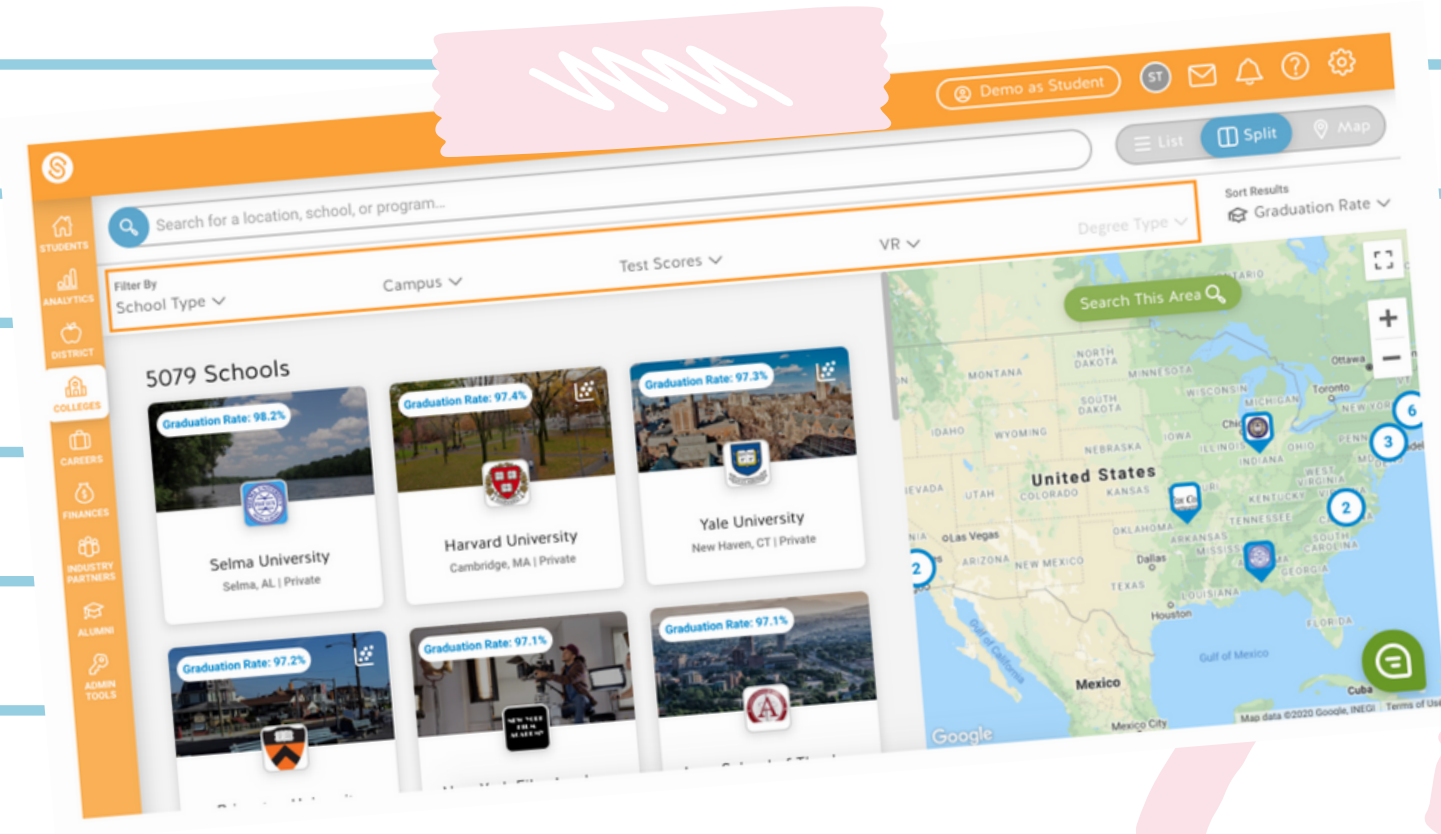
COLLEGE SEARCH IN SCHOOLINKS



Use the college search function in Schoolinks to search for colleges based on location, majors offered, campus size, graduation rate, and more!

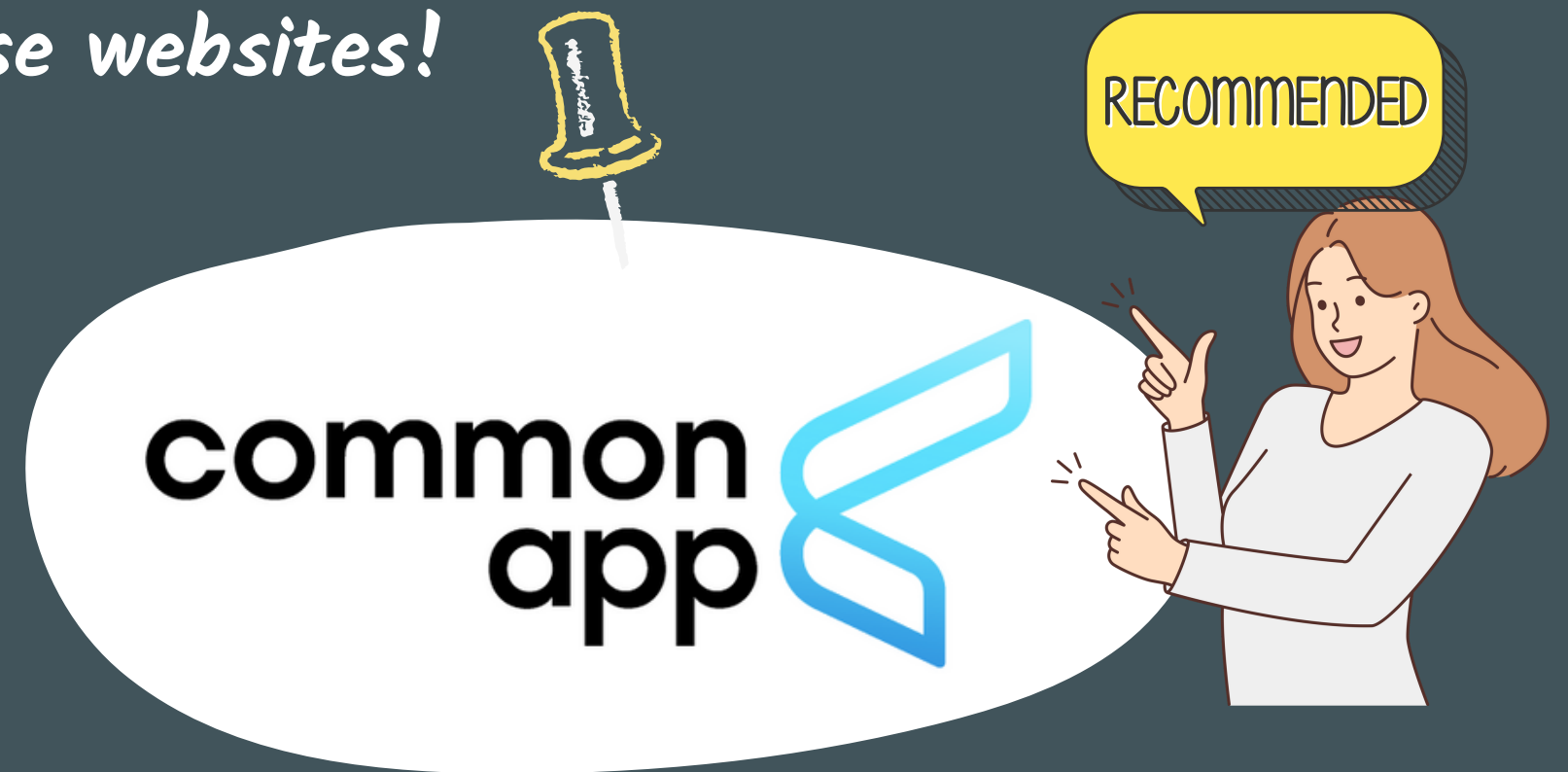


You can also favorite schools on a school profile by clicking Favorite (the heart icon).



Common App or Apply Texas

Almost every college application can be done from one of these websites!



For all Texas public colleges/universities

Apply Texas is a centralized web portal for prospective students from Texas and other states to apply for admission to Texas higher education institutions.

<https://www.applytexas.org>

Nationwide/Worldwide Application

Common App is a non-profit membership organization representing more than 1,000 institutions of higher education of public and private colleges and universities across all 50 U.S. states and 20 countries.

<http://www.commonapp.org>

Schoolinks College App Portal

The screenshot shows the 'College Application Manager' interface for a 'Student Demo' user. The top navigation bar is orange and includes a 'Switch user' button for 'Debbie Buckner'. A left sidebar contains icons for Home, School, Activities, Colleges (selected), Careers, Finances, and Programs. The main content area is for 'Rice University' and includes tabs for 'Admissions', 'Application Info', and 'Financial Aid'. A 'Back' button is in the top left of the main area. The 'Application status' is 'In Progress'. A message states: 'We've added the application method, application type and document destination available for this college. If you can't find the option you're looking for, let us know in the chat.' Below this, the 'Application Method' section offers four options: 'common app', 'COALITION FOR COLLEGE', 'School-specific paper app', and 'QUESTBRIDGE'. The 'Application Type' section offers 'Early Decision Nov 1' and 'Regular Decision Jan 4'. At the bottom, there is an 'Application deadline' section with a 'Select month and day' dropdown and a calendar icon. A green chat bubble icon is in the bottom right corner.

COLLEGES
College Application Manager

Student Demo Exit Demo X Switch user Debbie Buckner

< Back

Rice University >

Admissions | Application Info | Financial Aid

Application status: **In Progress**

We've added the application method, application type and document destination available for this college. If you can't find the option you're looking for, let us know in the chat.

Application Method

common app COALITION FOR COLLEGE School-specific paper app QUESTBRIDGE

Application Type

Early Decision Nov 1 Regular Decision Jan 4

Application deadline
Select month and day

Upon adding an application, students will be prompted to select:

- Application Method
- Application Type
- Student Requirements

Schoolinks College App Portal

The screenshot shows the 'College Application Manager' interface for Rice University. The top navigation bar is orange and includes a home icon, 'COLLEGES College Application Manager', 'Student Demo Mod', 'Exit Demo X', 'Switch user', and a user profile for 'Debbie Buckner'. A left sidebar contains icons for HOME, SCHOOL, ACTIVITIES, COLLEGES, CAREERS, FINANCES, and PROGRAMS. The main content area features a 'Rice University' header with tabs for 'Admissions', 'Application Info', and 'Financial Aid'. Below this, the 'Application status' is 'In Progress' with a 'Comments' button. A table lists application details: Method (Coalition), Type (Regular Decision), Deadline (Jan 04), and Destination (In Network). The bottom section is divided into three columns: 'STUDENT CHECKLIST' with items 'Submit Application', 'Test Scores', and 'FAFSA Submission'; 'TEACHER RECOMMENDATIONS' with a note to update the student profile and a '2 Required' status; and 'COUNSELOR DOCUMENTS' with 'Transcript' and 'Counselor Recommendation (General)' both added as presets. A 'Request Counselor Document' button is at the bottom right.

COLLEGES College Application Manager Student Demo Mod Exit Demo X Switch user Debbie Buckner

< Back

Rice University >

Admissions | Application Info | Financial Aid

Application status: **In Progress** Comments

Method	Type	Deadline	Destination
Coalition	Regular Decision	Jan 04	In Network

STUDENT CHECKLIST

- Submit Application ☐ ...
Submit your application forms and any required essays.
- Test Scores ☐ ...
Submit required test scores to this school through ACT or College Board.
- FAFSA Submission ☐ ...
Complete your FAFSA and set up this school to receive your application on the School Selection Page.

+ New Student Requirement

TEACHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Remember to update your student profile and communicate with your teachers before adding them as a recommender on SchoolLinks.

2 Required

Instructions from college: The two teacher recommendations serve to highlight the applicant's academic strengths and contributions in the classroom. Both of these recommendations should be from teachers of core academic subjects, and ideally one recommendation would relate to the applicant's intended area of study. Though not a requirement, we would prefer letters come from teachers who have taught the student for a full course.

+ Add Recommender Required

COUNSELOR DOCUMENTS

We've researched what documents are required and automatically requested them from your counselor.

- Transcript ☐ ...
+ Added 07/12/2023 as preset
- Counselor Recommendation (General) ☐ ...
+ Added 07/12/2023 as preset

+ Request Counselor Document

Student Checklist

- Items to be completed by the student

Teacher Recommendations

- Shows the required number of recommendations with instructions

Counselor Documents

- Shows required documents to be uploaded by the counselor



Top 10%



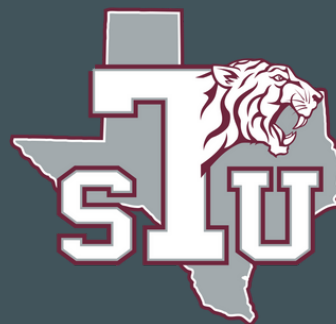
Must graduate Distinguished
Level of Achievement under
the Foundation High School
Program with an
Endorsement



Does NOT guarantee
COLLEGE MAJOR or include
TUITION!

Automatic admission to
TEXAS public colleges other
than UT!

TOP 6%
University of Texas





Holistic Review

During a Holistic Review, colleges will look at the following in an application:

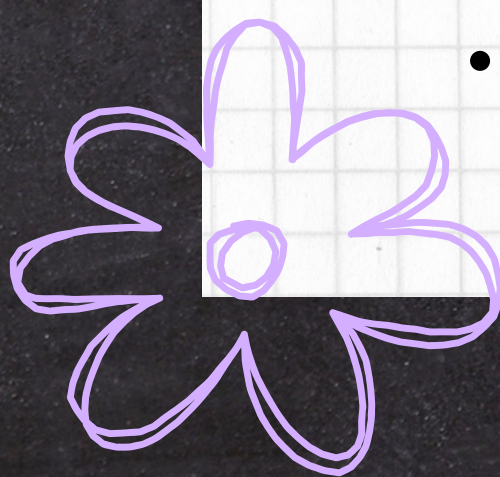
Academic Achievements

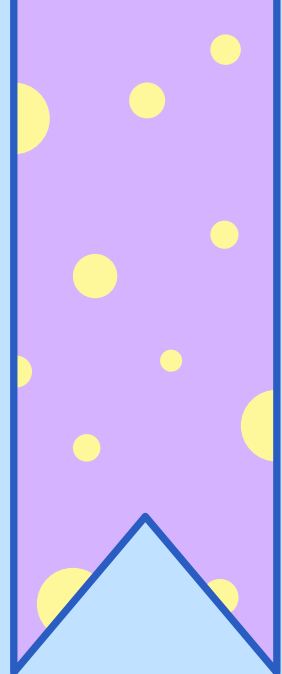
- High School academic record, SAT/ACT score, recommended coursework

Personal Achievements

- Extracurricular activities, community service, awards, and honors

Some colleges also consider

- Unique opportunities, challenges/hardships, resourcefulness
- 



SAT or ACT?



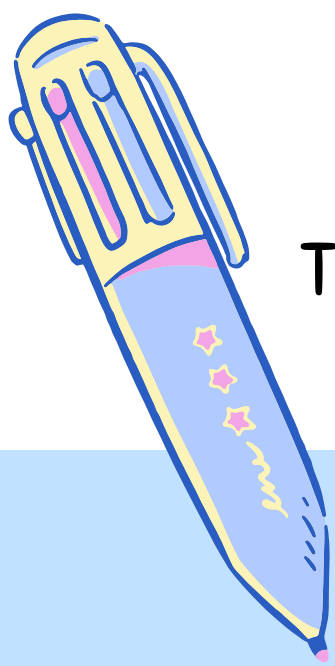
All colleges take either SAT or ACT test scores. There is no preference by admissions offices.

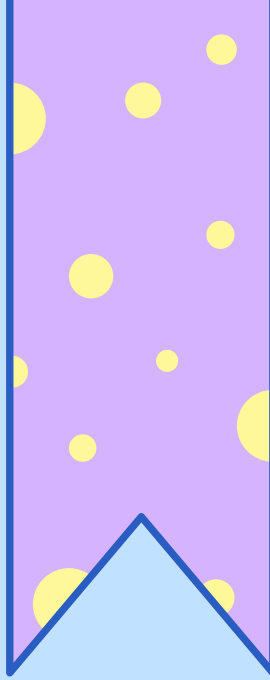
Some schools are test optional. This allows some or all applicants to forgo submitting the SAT or ACT scores, with their applications.

Both UT and A&M recommend that students take these standardized tests. Test-optional colleges do not disregard test scores entirely; instead, they do not penalize applicants who choose not to submit them.

College entrance exams are not necessary for any 2-year college or technical school.

These tests can also take the place of the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) requirement for all public colleges in Texas.





Testing Timeline



1

Take the SAT/ACT in Spring/Summer of Junior Year and Early Fall Senior Year

3

Test Optional Schools: Submit test scores IF in range or above
Test Required Schools: Submit test scores through College Board/ACT websites

2

Complete College Applications

4

Retesting? Send new scores through College Board/ACT websites before the application deadline.



FAQ-GPA, Rank and Graduation Plan



GPA

DSHS calculates GPA on a weighted 100-point scale. DSHS will only report the weighted GPA.



Rank

Class Rank is also weighted and exact. Most students will apply using the class rank from the end of their 11th grade year.



HS Grad Plan

Make sure to select Foundation Level Program with Distinguished Level of Achievement.



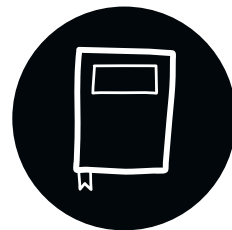


Official Transcript



Electronic Transcript

- Once students connect their Common App account with Schoollinks, counselors will be able to upload their electronic transcripts directly to their college/university.
- Apply Texas students will need to manually add the schools they are applying to in their Schoollinks account in order for counselors to send their transcripts.



Printed Transcript



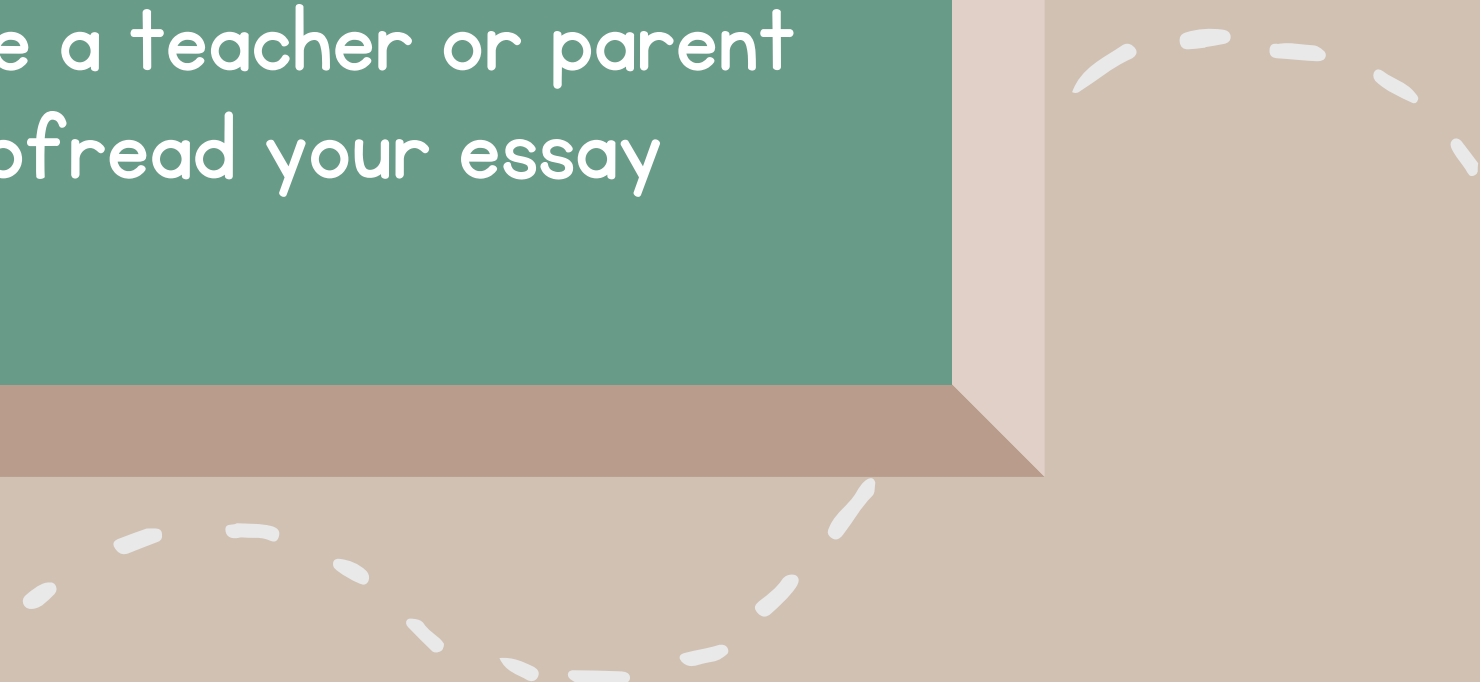
- If you need a hard copy of a transcript you will order it online through Revtrak <https://drippingspringsisd.revtrak.net/hs-transcripts>
- Allow for processing and mailing time (at least 48 hours!)
- Include all requested information: address, department, and to whom it should be addressed
- \$5 per transcript





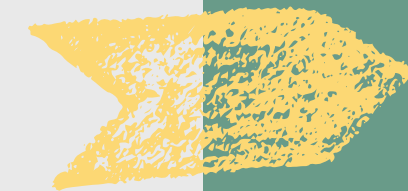
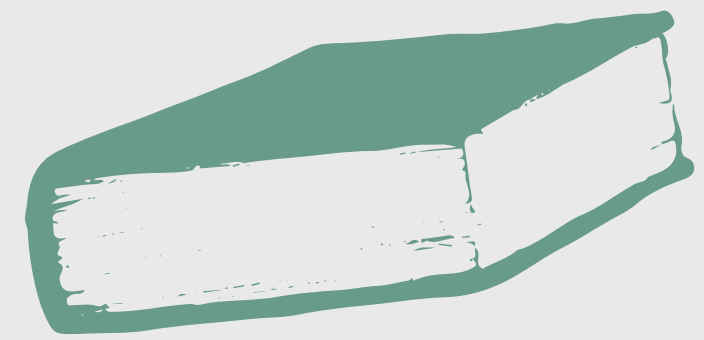
WRITING YOUR ESSAYS

This is an opportunity for the review committee to go beyond the grades and test scores to get to know you!

- 
- 
- 
- 01 Be yourself
 - 02 Answer the question fully
 - 03 Be detailed and authentic
 - 04 Proofread your essay
 - 05 Have a teacher or parent proofread your essay

Request Recommendation Letters from Teachers/Counselors

- Choose someone with whom you have a good relationship
- Give at least 2-4 weeks notice
- Request using Schoolinks College App Portal
- Provide a list of extra-curricular activities, honors, awards, volunteer work, and any other activities you have done outside of the classroom
- Templates for Teacher and Counselor
Recommendations will be uploaded to the 2024 Canvas page



LETTERS
OF REC



Financial Aid Requirement

In accordance with Texas Education Code (TEC), §28.0256, beginning with students enrolled in 12th grade during the 2021-2022 school year, each student must do one of the following in order to graduate:

- Complete and submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA);
- Complete and submit a Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA); or
- Submit a signed opt-out form

Priority deadline for FAFSA is March 15

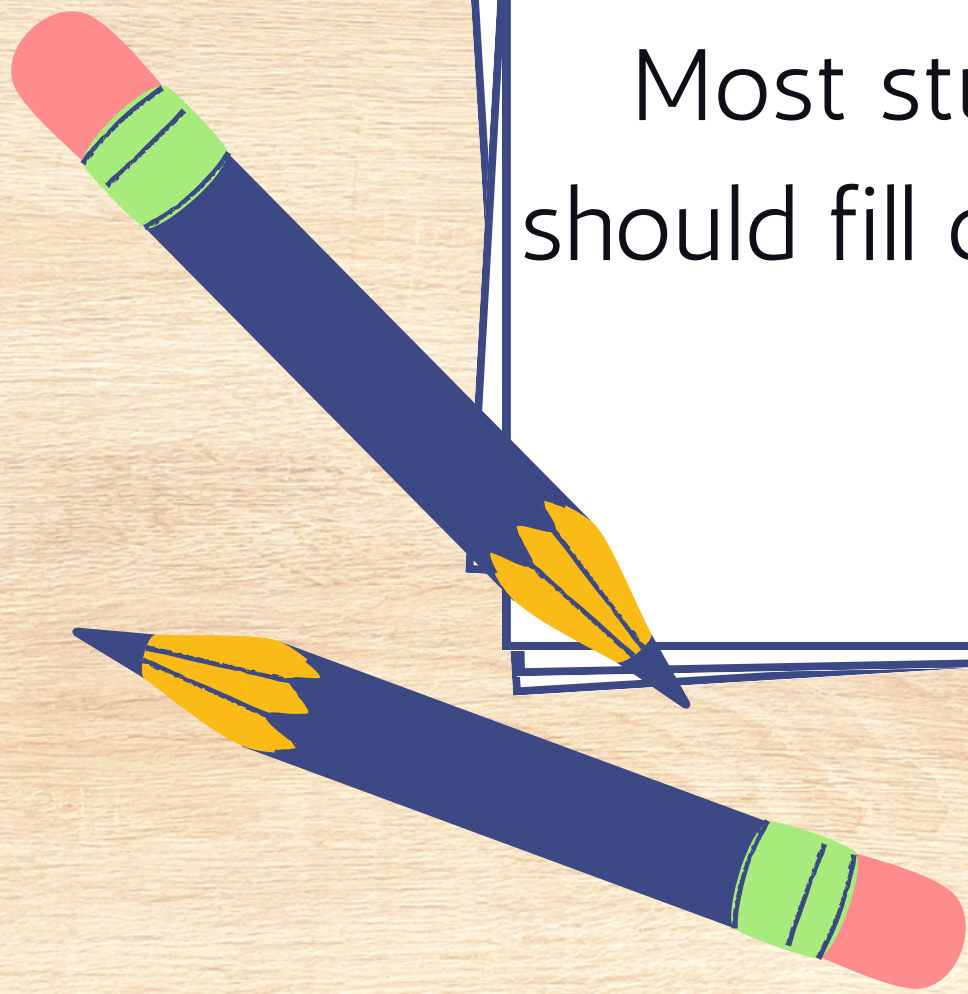
A Virtual FAFSA Workshop hosted by Austin Community College will be announced soon.



WHY SHOULD YOU APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID?

It's the gateway to more than \$150 billion in college grants, work-study funds, and federal student loans, as well as certain state-based aid.

Most students receive some type of financial aid, so you should fill out a FAFSA application even if you don't think you qualify.





FSA ID

Students and parents will need to create their Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID). This can and should be done prior to the Dec 1 opening of the new application. If parents have another child who has applied for FAFSA in the past, they can use the same ID.

<https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account>

SCHOLARSHIPS

SCHOLARSHIP COORDINATOR
MRS. KIM VAN EVERY

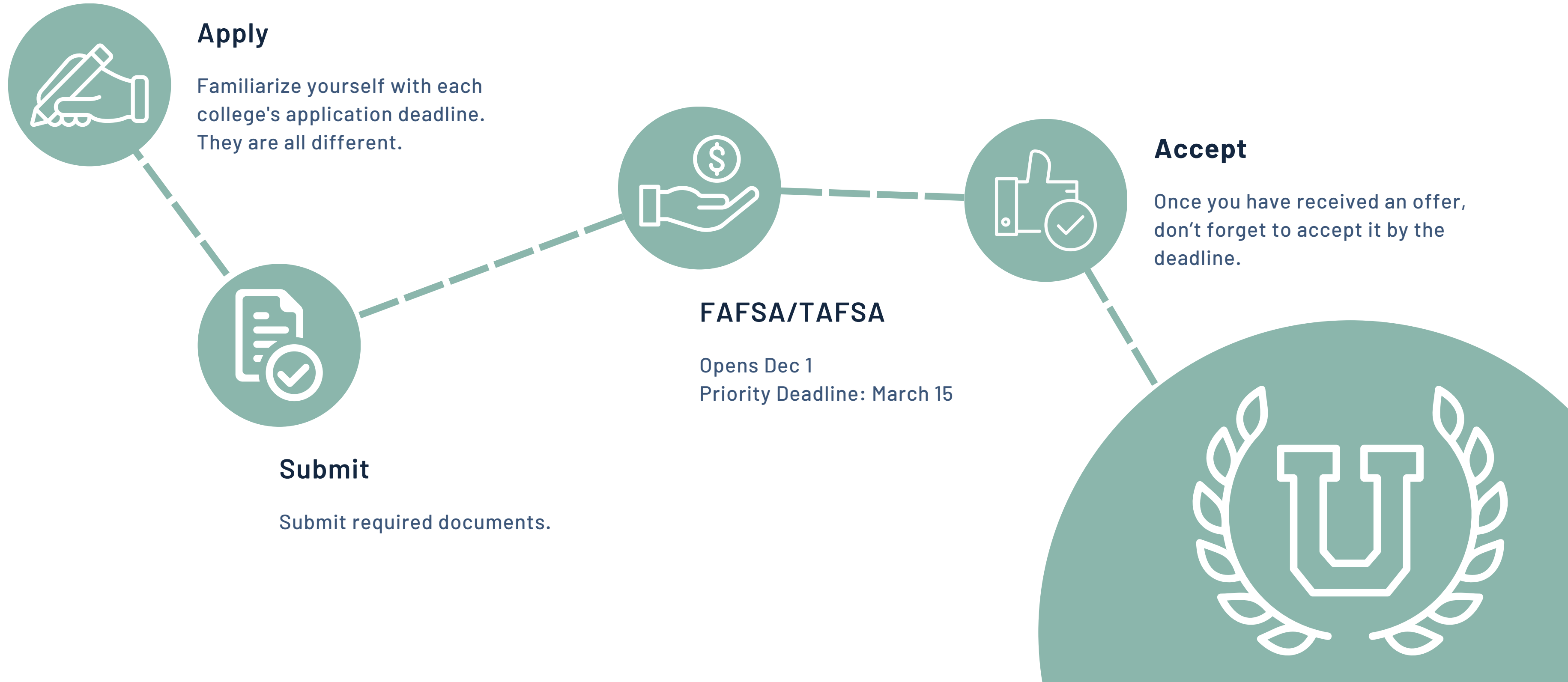


Local Scholarships can be found on the DSHS website under the Counselors tab.

This list is updated daily starting in January. Paper versions of these applications can be picked up in the counseling center.

National Scholarships can be found in the “Finance” tab in Schoolinks. Schoolinks uses Scholarship Matching to determine the best opportunities for students. More information is located on the 2024 Canvas page.

Admissions Timeline



Questions?

Please use our Padlet to ask any questions you may have about our topic.



<https://tinyurl.com/2024DSHS>

