

RISING SENIOR

PARENT/STUDENT
MEETING



WELCOME AND PRAYER



COLLEGE PREP



TO-DO: JUNIOR YEAR SPRING & SUMMER

1. Study for and take/retake the SAT and/or ACT (April 18 deadline for May 3 SAT)
2. Plan college visits and campus tours (2 excused absences)
 - in-person or virtual!
3. Narrow down the list of colleges you will apply to
4. Think about teachers who will write your letters of recommendation
5. Choose challenging courses for senior year
6. High School Resume (see resource and sample in folder)
7. Brainstorm and complete first draft of college essay
(Common App prompts are online and in folder)
8. Senior Questionnaire

A senior year month-by-month checklist is in your folder



FINDING THE RIGHT COLLEGE

1 RESEARCH

- Majors
- Size
- Location & surrounding area
- Student life
- Cost (not just sticker price)
- Academics
- Athletics
- Job placement
- Academic profile
- ...and more!

2 BUILD A BALANCED LIST

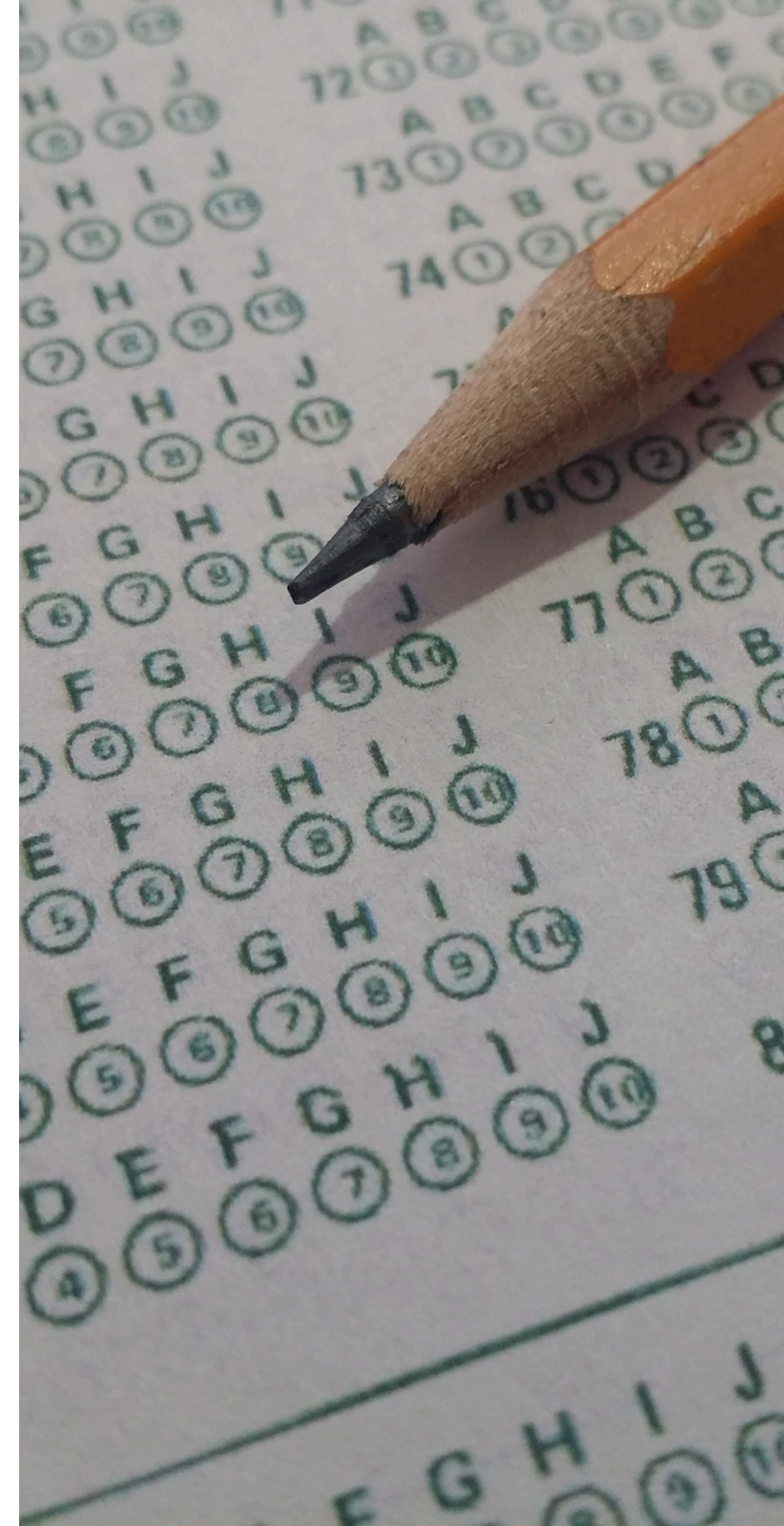
- Safety (at least 1)
- Target (2-3)
- Reach (2)

3 VISIT

- In person or virtual
- Ask questions
- Scheduled tour or Open House
- 2 Excused Absences per year

SAT AND ACT TESTING

- Students can retake the ACT and/or SAT multiple times to raise their score.
- Plan ahead- Registration is about a month ahead of test date. About \$60 per test.
 - **Test-optional:** scores are not required in order to apply
 - **Score choice:** sending only your stronger test scores from one sitting
 - **Super score:** taking your highest section scores from different sittings and making a new composite score
- Colleges differ on score reporting policies. It is the student's responsibility to know what colleges will allow and accept at the schools where they are applying.
- Test Prep Resources in the HPCA College Handbook.



Types of College Application Deadlines

Early Decision

Enrollment is binding if accepted. Contract required.

October–November

Early Action

Non-binding. Decision December–February. Academic scholarships and honors colleges.

October–November

Regular Decision

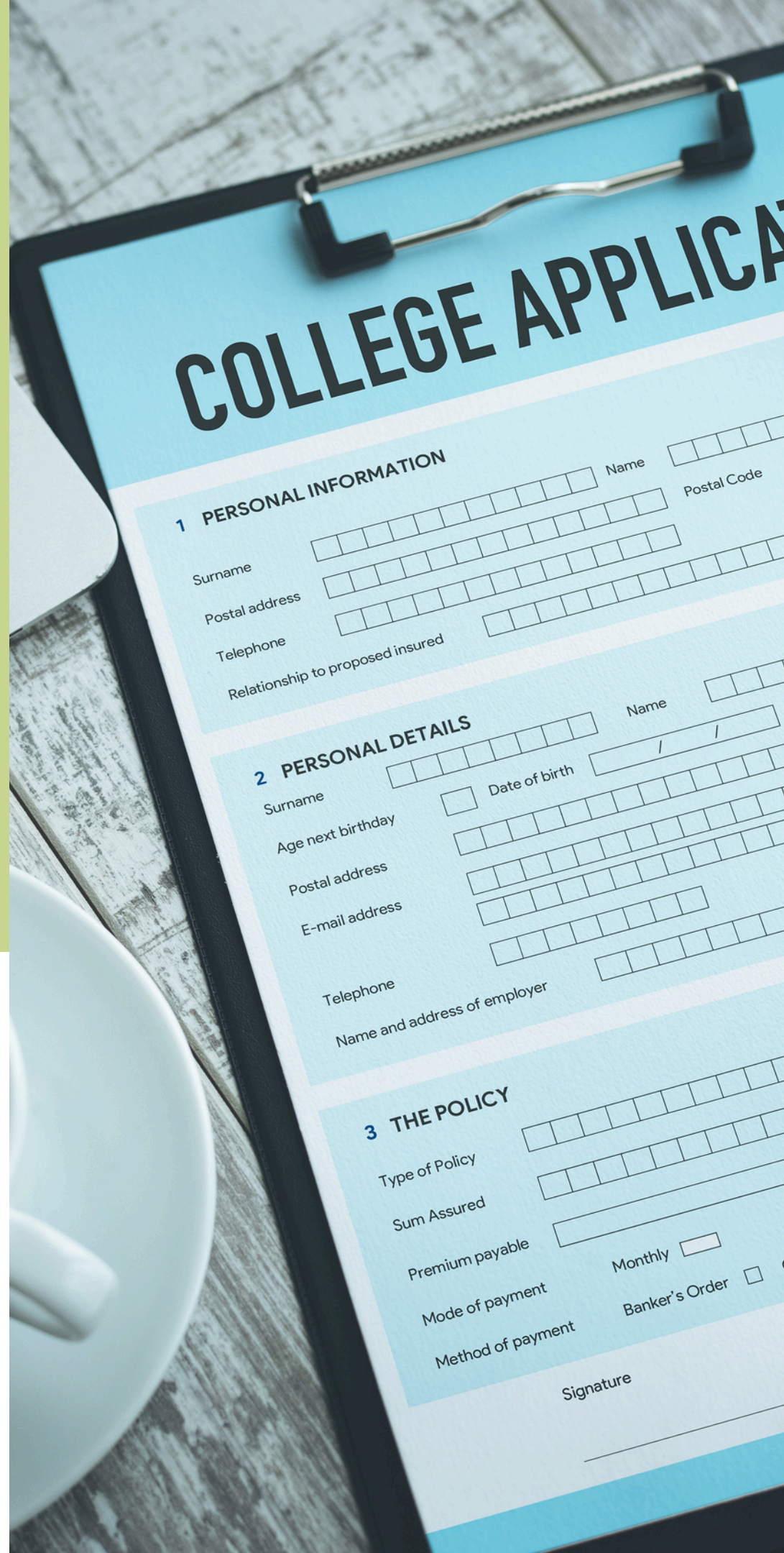
Good option for students who want to retake the SAT/ACT. Decision around March.

December–February

Rolling

The earlier you apply, the earlier you hear back.

Year Round



The College Application

What is Considered?

Academic Rigor

- High School transcript; grades, rigor of curriculum (honors, AP, dual enrollment courses)
- SAT and ACT scores
- Counselor evaluation (how do you fit in among your senior class?)

Personal Information

- Extracurricular activities; commitment, leadership, initiative (school activities, service, part-time job)
- Special awards or recognition
- Essay; who are you outside of your grades and activities
- Teacher letters of recommendation
- Uniqueness– how do you stand out?

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

- Know which colleges require letters of recommendation and from whom
- Make sure they can speak to your character.
Doesn't have to be a class where you earned an A.
- Should have at least one core academic class teacher
- Give at least one month's notice and ask in person
- Be sure to provide recommenders with your high school resume (Mrs. Allabaugh will share your senior questionnaire)
- Follow up with a thank you note in the spring



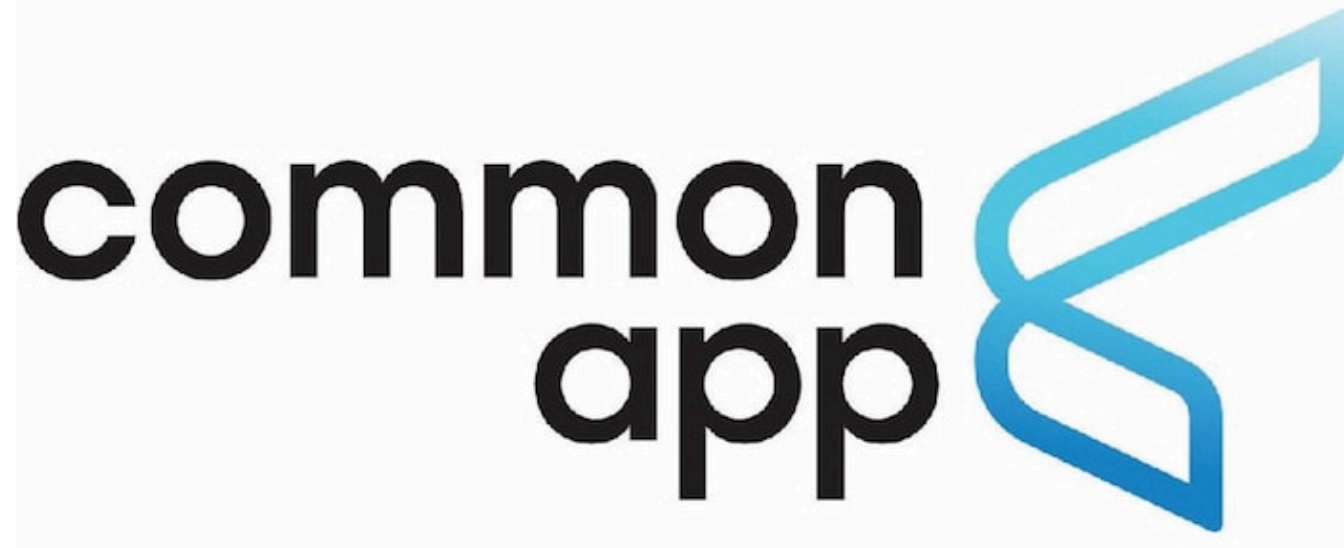


THE COLLEGE ESSAY

- Be authentic. Pick a topic that is important to you and demonstrates what you're passionate about.
- Essays take time. Start early and plan on several drafts. Brainstorm ideas with a teacher, parent, or friend.
- Use your language and voice. Don't try to "smarten up" your essay because it is usually pretty obvious to readers.
- The Common App essay needs to be between 250 and 650 words.
- Do not reiterate your resume.
- **Some schools will ask why you chose to apply to their institution in supplemental questions.**
 - Do your research and be specific. They want to know how well you know the institution.
 - Explain how you could benefit from the programs they offer and what you will bring to their campus.
 - If what you have written can be said about another school, it's too general.

Filling Out College Applications

- Opens August 1st
- Read the Admission page of the college website
- Gather materials ahead of time (transcript, resume, test scores)
- Avoid careless mistakes
- No need to rush
- Stay organized and monitor your email
- College Application Week last week of October

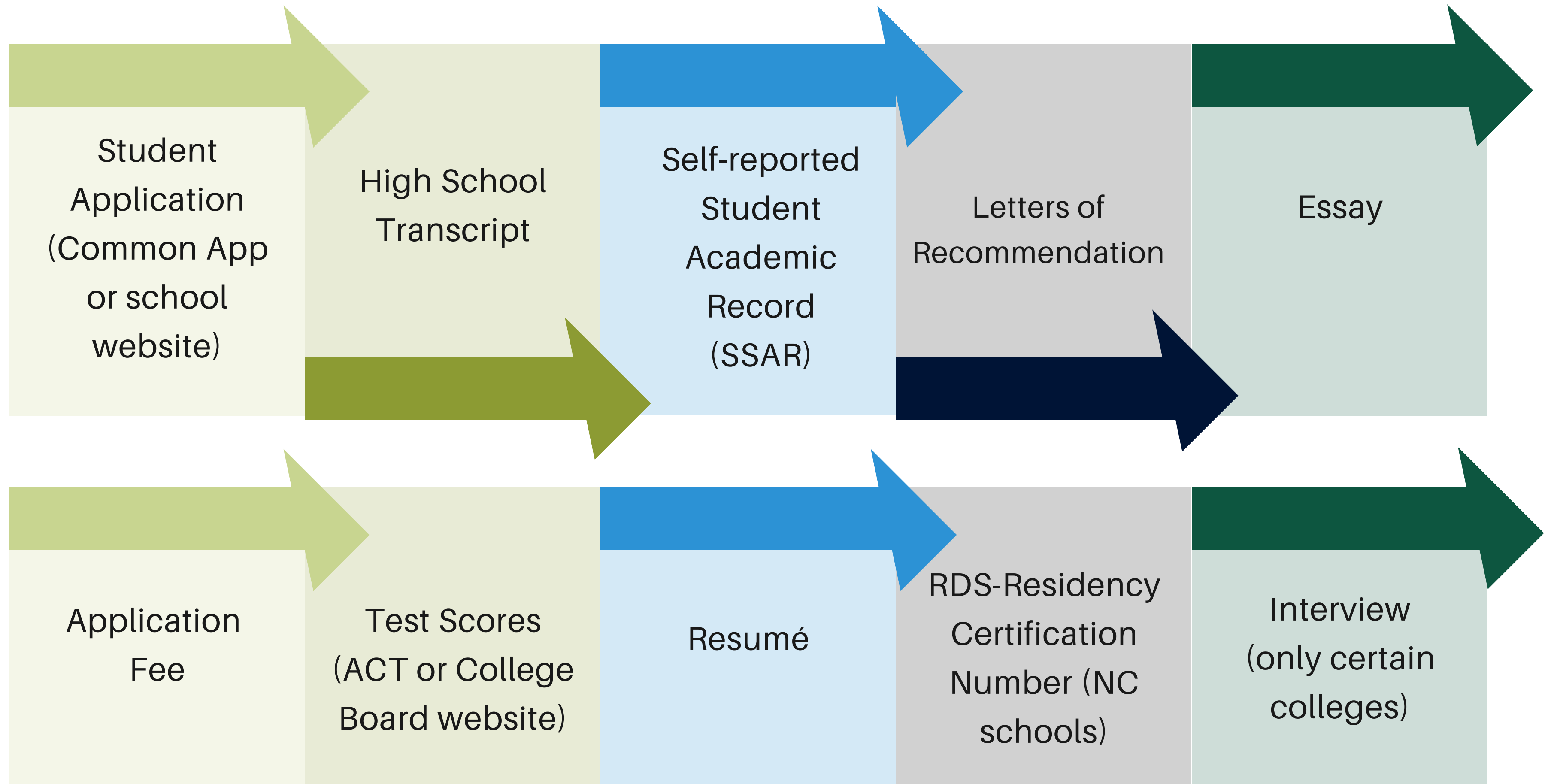


- Time efficient
- Some schools have supplemental questions



THERE ARE MANY PARTS TO THE COLLEGE APPLICATION

STAY ORGANIZED WITH SCHOOL-SPECIFIC REQUIRED MATERIALS AND DEADLINES.



Residency Determination Service (September)



- In order to receive in-state tuition at UNC system schools, you must complete the RDS.
- Students and parents will go to ncresidency.org and answer questions based on parents' residency. Parents need to provide three legal documents to prove residency for the last full year (tax information, pay stubs, vehicle registration, drivers license, voter registration).
- You will receive a 9-digit RDS number.
- Students need to add this number to college applications to ensure eligibility for in-state tuition and certain scholarship opportunities.

Financial Aid & Scholarships

- FAFSA– Free Application for Federal Student Aid– Families report income and tax information from two years prior. Students become eligible for federal student aid programs. Some colleges use the FAFSA to determine if a student is eligible for other school-sponsored scholarships (GTCC Access Amazing)
- School-Specific and Merit-Based Scholarships. Check websites for applications.
- Outside scholarships– local, regional, national. Scholarship search websites in HPCA College Handbook.
- NC Promise– \$500 per semester at Elizabeth City State University, Fayetteville State University, UNC Pembroke, and Western Carolina University.
- Reduced Tuition Programs– UNC Chapel Hill (income less than \$80,000), (income less than \$150,000)
- FELS, Teaching Fellows– forgivable loans for students who commit to working in a high-need area
- ROTC– up to 100% of tuition with an obligation to serve in the military after graduation. Each branch's program requirements vary.



CAMPCollege

Twelve hours of guidance and work time to get a jump start on college applications; college and career discussion and exploration, high school resume writing, senior questionnaire, essay brainstorming and writing, Common App, and more!

June 9 - 12 (Monday- Thursday)

OR

June 23 - 26 (Monday- Thursday)

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

\$200- Register on HPCA website





Senior Year Scheduling

- Seniors need to be enrolled in a *minimum* of six credited classes
- Three of them must be English IV, UTT, and their 4th math credit
- At least five of them must be HPCA courses, others can be dual enrollment
- Study Hall is not a credited class
- Seniors need to be on campus for a minimum of six class periods
- **Late arrival/early dismissal**
 - 1st and/or 4th period Study Hall is based on scheduling availability
 - Permission form must be filled out and turned in to the front desk
 - Still required to be here at 8:00 on Wednesdays for Chapel
 - It is a privilege that can be revoked
- Dual enrollment for online GTCC classes- registration begins Monday, April 14

GRADUATION REGALIA



- CORDS
- ORDERING
 - CAP AND GOWNS
 - PHOTOS
- YEARBOOK DEADLINES



Leadership Opportunities



KIP Senior
Project

Cougar
Pals

SENIOR RETREAT AND TRIP



SENIOR RETREAT

U.S. NATIONAL
WHITEWATER CENTER
CHARLOTTE, NC

MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 2025



SENIOR TRIP

UNIVERSAL

STUDIOS

ORLANDO, FL

MAY 17 - 20, 2026



HPCA CLASS OF 2026

"DO NOT BE CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD, BUT BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWAL OF YOUR MIND, THAT BY TESTING YOU MAY DISCERN WHAT IS THE WILL OF GOD, WHAT IS GOOD AND ACCEPTABLE AND PERFECT."

- ROMANS 12:2

