

The background of the image features various art supplies on a dark surface. In the top left, there is a tin of Prismacolor pencils with various colored erasers. Next to it is a sketchbook with a drawing of a house. In the bottom right, a hand is holding a pencil. The text is overlaid on this background.

*Welcome Senior
Families!*

Senior College Night
Colchester High School
2026-2027

Who is my senior's school counselor?

Counselor assignments based on student's last name



A – E

SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Bob Hall

Assigned to all seniors with last names starting with **A through E**.

F – Me

SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Julie Pastore

Assigned to all seniors with last names starting with **F through Me**.

Mf – Z

SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Katie Moran

Assigned to all seniors with last names starting with **Mf through Z**.



Have Questions?

Visit School Counseling or connect with your designated counselor.

What We Cover in AT

Essential milestones and step-by-step tasks throughout senior year

01. Common App & Scoir

- Set up Common App
- Enter key details into C.A.
- Add colleges to C.A.
- Have application checklist

02. More Common App

- Complete FERPA release in C.A.
- Add colleges to Scoir account
- Identify application type in Scoir (C.A. or Direct)

03. Transcripts & Linking

- Officially request transcripts
- Select application type (ED, EA, Rolling)
- Link C.A. and Scoir

04. Recommendation Letters

- Follow process to request teacher rec letters
- Follow process to request counselor rec letters

05. Paying for college FAFSA & VT State Grant

- Where & how to start FAFSA
- Where & how to start VT state grant

06. VSAC & Scholarships

- Identify scholarship resources
- VSAC scholarships
- Local scholarships

07. Graduation Tasks

- Take graduation survey on Scoir
- Request final transcript on Scoir
- Take CHS exit survey



Take Aways

01

Attend Our AT Presentations

Past seniors strongly emphasize participating in Advisory Time (AT) sessions for essential step-by-step guidance throughout your senior year.

02

Request Materials Well in Advance

Plan ahead when requesting key application documents, including letters of recommendation, official transcripts, and SAT/ACT test scores.

Critical Deadline Warning

Always request materials 3–4 weeks before deadline.



Proven Strategies

Key advice directly from senior survey feedback to keep your college application process manageable and on schedule

Scoir Parent Access & Overview

Supporting your student through the college search and application process

What is Scoir?



- **Web-based platform** that actively supports college searches and selection.
- **Facilitates secure transfer** of school documents from CHS to colleges and universities.
- **Universal system** used for all application types, including Common App and direct applications.

Next Steps for Scoir

01

Student and guardian registration

Your student received access last week. Now guardian accounts are ready for setup.

02

Check Your Email

Look for your registration invitation link sent to your registered email address.

03

Complete FERPA Release

Authorize the school to release academic records and transcripts to prospective colleges.

How can your counselor help?

01

One-on-One Appointments

Students are always welcome to make [one-on-one appointments](#) with their counselors to discuss applying.

02

Personalize

Email us with questions! We can ramp it up or slow it down as needed individually to match your pace.

03

Application Tools & Checklist

Stay organized and track your progress using the [college application checklist](#).



Reach Out Anytime. Students- time to take initiative

Your counselors are here to help guide you through every step of the college application journey.



Senior Timeline

What seniors will need to do and when

September

SAT and ACT – Do you need them?

1. Check Requirements

Visit individual college websites to review their specific standardized testing requirements and guidelines.

2. Registration Recommendations

We still recommend taking the tests.

Sign up on collegeboard.org and act.org.

3. Test-Optional Policies

Research policies carefully. Specific majors (e.g., nursing) or institutional financial aid may still require test scores.

4. Have Questions?

Students should reach out and communicate directly with admissions representatives at prospective colleges.



September

College Application Steps

1. Common Application

Create an account with the Common Application if any of the schools you apply to are using the Common Application.

2. Link Scoir Account

Link/match your Common Application account to your Scoir account.

Note: Students will use Scoir for ALL application types

3. Other Applications

Fill out applications from colleges and universities that do not use the Common Application.

***Watch out for the...**

OF PROCRASTINATION



September

More To-Do Items

1. Counselor Appointments

Make appointments to meet with your school counselor to discuss post-secondary plans.

2. Letters of Recommendation

Request letters of recommendation (check college websites for required count and sources).

3. Campus Visits & Interviews

Continue campus visits and interviews (if allowed by the college).

4. Chart of Deadlines

Create a [chart of deadlines](#). Be particularly mindful of early decision/action deadlines (email Ms. Moran for a template).

5. College Essays

Work on college essays in Seminar class and with humanities teachers.



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Speaking of essays...a note about AI

What are colleges saying? [UVM statement](#)



October

COLLEGE LIST

Narrow Your List (6–8)

Narrow your list of colleges you are applying to (roughly 6–8 schools).

This list should consist of:

- **Reach schools**
- **Good fit schools**
- **Safety schools** (financial safety schools as well)

Common data sets

FINANCIAL PLANNING

Finances & Net Price

It's hard to talk about finances, but it's a MUST!

***Net price calculator:** Use this tool on each college website to calculate realistic estimated costs for your family.

Use a loan calculator to estimate monthly loan payments

October

OCTOBER 1

FAFSA Opens

FAFSA Opens (Oct 1)



OCTOBER 14th • 6:00pm - 8:00pm

College Fairs & Tours

Take advantage of college fairs, campus tours, and virtual tours. NEACAC College Fair at St. Michael's College- October 14th- 6:00pm- 8:00pm.

ESSAY PREPARATION

College Essay Review

Get your college essay(s) in shape. Edit and gather feedback from teachers and/or school counselors.

EARLY DEADLINES

Early Applications

Complete your applications for early decision or early action deadlines. Don't forget any supplementals.

November

EARLY DEADLINES

Submit Application Materials

Make sure you've submitted all of your application materials to the colleges **if** you are applying early decision, early action, or preferred.

Your materials should be submitted as soon as you are ready. No need to wait for recommendations or transcripts as those go separately.

EXPRESS GRATITUDE

Thank You Notes

Make sure to give a "thank you" card/note to any teacher, coach, employer, counselor, etc. who wrote you a letter of recommendation.



December – January

REGULAR ADMISSIONS

Submit Applications

Complete and submit your applications for regular admissions. Remember to check college websites for dates and details.

EARLY DECISION

Acceptance Next Steps

If you are accepted to a school through early decision, be sure to follow directions carefully. Submit required forms and notify the other schools to which you applied of your decision.

TEST SCORES

Official Test Scores

Make sure you had your **OFFICIAL** test scores sent to all the colleges that require them (collegeboard.org or actstudent.org). This can take **3-4 weeks** so plan ahead!



Important Reminders

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Avoid Senior Slump

DON'T let your grades slide! It's easy to get distracted while working on applications, so keep your eye on the prize.

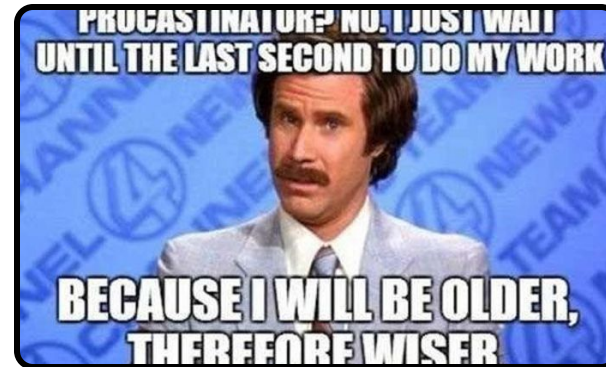
- Senior slump can significantly impact college admission chances.
- Make sure to attend AT — an F on your report card could affect admissions.



TRANSCRIPTS & HONORS

Graduation & Grade Reporting

- Consider Latin Honors status for graduation.
- We send Q1, S1, and Year-end grades to colleges.



Ongoing Monthly Tasks

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Stay Involved

Maintain active engagement in clubs, sports, leadership, and volunteer extracurricular activities.

FAMILY COMMUNICATION

Weekly Sanity Check

Family sanity suggestion: have weekly meetings at an agreed upon day and time to align on deadlines and progress.

APPLICATION TRACKING

Track All Components

Keep track of all application components: application, test scores, letters of recommendation, deadlines, and financial aid material.

An incomplete application can ruin your chances of admission.



Ongoing Monthly Tasks

FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIPS

Research Options

Key resources to explore:

- Scoir
- CHS website
- Local organizations
- Parent/guardian employers

**We will be discussing this again in January*



HOUSING DEADLINES

Check Housing Timelines

Check housing deadlines. It's rare, but sometimes housing deadlines come early—during the application process, rather than after you are accepted, which is more of the norm. (Utah example)



Be mindful of your social media accounts

What would a college admissions counselor think if they saw your social media accounts?



Families and Students Need to Assess Student Readiness

READINESS

Clear sense of self (decision-making, maturity, takes initiative)

Eagerness/interest in getting involved

Healthy social life

Steady academic performance in high school

RE-ASSESS READINESS

Mostly withdrawn and isolated

Relies heavily on family for structure, support, and advocacy

Difficulty with conflict and ability to cope with failure, disappointment, life challenges

May not take initiative or seek support resources

Watch later: [WebMD - 5 Signs your teen is ready for college](#) (WebMD & Jed Foundation)

[WebMD Video](#)

What Colleges Cannot Do

Cannot replace parents

- Daily supervision, follow-up and support
- Student support and engagement is voluntary and self-directed

Cannot be psychic

- Students need to explicitly ask for accommodations, appointments, social connections

Cannot offer long-term mental health therapy

- Counseling scope is limited to short-term, goal-orientated therapy

Cannot be a residential treatment facility (e.g. long-term intensive care)

Cannot widely share students' achievements and challenges

- Responsibility of the student to share that information



College Admissions Options

Early Action

Timeline & Decision

Get an admissions decision **earlier** than the standard notification schedule.

Key Example (UVM):

- **Early Action Deadline:** Nov. 1
- **Regular Decision:** Jan. 15



Non-Binding Advantage

Freedom to Choose

- **Multiple Applications:** You may apply to other colleges simultaneously.
- **No Forced Commitment:** You do not have to commit if accepted.
- **More Decision Time:** Enjoy a longer timeframe to finalize your choice.

Early Decision

1. Overview & Timeline

Early Application Process

- **Early Submission:** Allows you to apply early, usually in November.
- **Early Response:** Get an admission decision well in advance of the regular admission notification date.



2. Binding Commitment

However, Early Decision plans are binding.

- **Agreement to Attend:** You agree to attend that college if they accept you and offer you an adequate financial aid package.
- **Single School Limit:** You can apply Early Decision to only one college.
- **Withdrawal Requirement:** You must withdraw all your other applications if you are accepted Early Decision.

 **Memory Tip:** D = Danger (to help remember the difference)

ETHICS: Do's and Don'ts of Applying Early Decision

DO

Recommended Best Practices

- **Withdraw Applications:** Withdraw all applications upon being accepted.
- **Take Decision Seriously:** Take your ED decision seriously.
- **Discuss Financials:** Discuss the cost of the college before applying.
- **Commitment:** Attend the college that accepts you.



DON'T DO

Avoid

- **Multiple ED Applications:** Apply to ED programs at more than one college.
- **Transcript Requests:** Have your counselor send transcripts to more than one ED school or to any other schools once you are admitted.
- **Backing Out:** Try to get out of an ED acceptance because you've changed your mind.
- **Misrepresenting Major:** State an intended major you don't plan on pursuing because you think it might help you get admitted.

Regular Admission

1. General Timeline

Regular Decision

- **School Variation:** Deadlines vary by school.
- **Typical Dates:** January 1, January 15, and February 15 are *typically* regular admissions deadlines.

2. Examples & Decision Date

Specific School Examples

- **UVM Deadline:** January 15.
- **St. Mike's Deadline:** February 1.
- **Decision Notification:** Admissions decision notification is usually mid to late March.

*May 1st is a common deadline to commit

Rolling Admission



1. Application Deadline

Continuous Review

- **No Set Deadline:** There is no single fixed application deadline.
- **Ongoing Evaluation:** Applications are reviewed continuously as they are submitted.

2. Program Capacity

Limited Availability

- **First-Come Basis:** Spaces fill up progressively as acceptances are issued.
- **Hard Cutoff:** However, once a program is full, admission is closed immediately.

3. Strategy

Act Promptly

- **Do Not Delay:** Do not delay your application even with Rolling Admission.
- **Maximize Chance:** Applying early gives you the best opportunity before spots fill up.

What to do if you're waitlisted

1. Waitlist Status

Target Reached

- **Requirements Met:** You meet all admissions requirements for the institution.
- **Capacity Reached:** The school has already hit its total acceptance target.

2. Admission Condition

Space Contingent

- **Limited Spots:** You will be admitted only if space becomes available.
- **Variable Outcome:** Openings depend on admitted students declining their offers.

3. Proactive Steps

Act Immediately

- **Contact Admissions:** Do not wait. Reach out and make your case why you are a great fit.
- **First Choice:** Guarantee you will accept admission if offered.



What to do if you're waitlisted continued...

1. Academic Focus

Keep Grades Up

- **Re-Evaluation:** You may be re-evaluated based on 3rd and 4th quarter grades.
- **Finish Strong:** Consistent effort shows commitment and academic growth.

2. Engagement

Request Interview

- **Connect:** Request another (or a first) interview if available.
- **Demonstrate Interest:** Reiterate why the institution remains your top choice.

3. Backup Plan

May 1 Deadline

- **Commit Elsewhere:** Colleges don't pull waitlists until after May 1; submit a deposit to a backup school.
- **Deposit Policy:** If admitted from waitlist, original deposit is lost and new deposit required.

Open Admissions



1. Community College of Vermont

Fully-Accredited Open Admissions

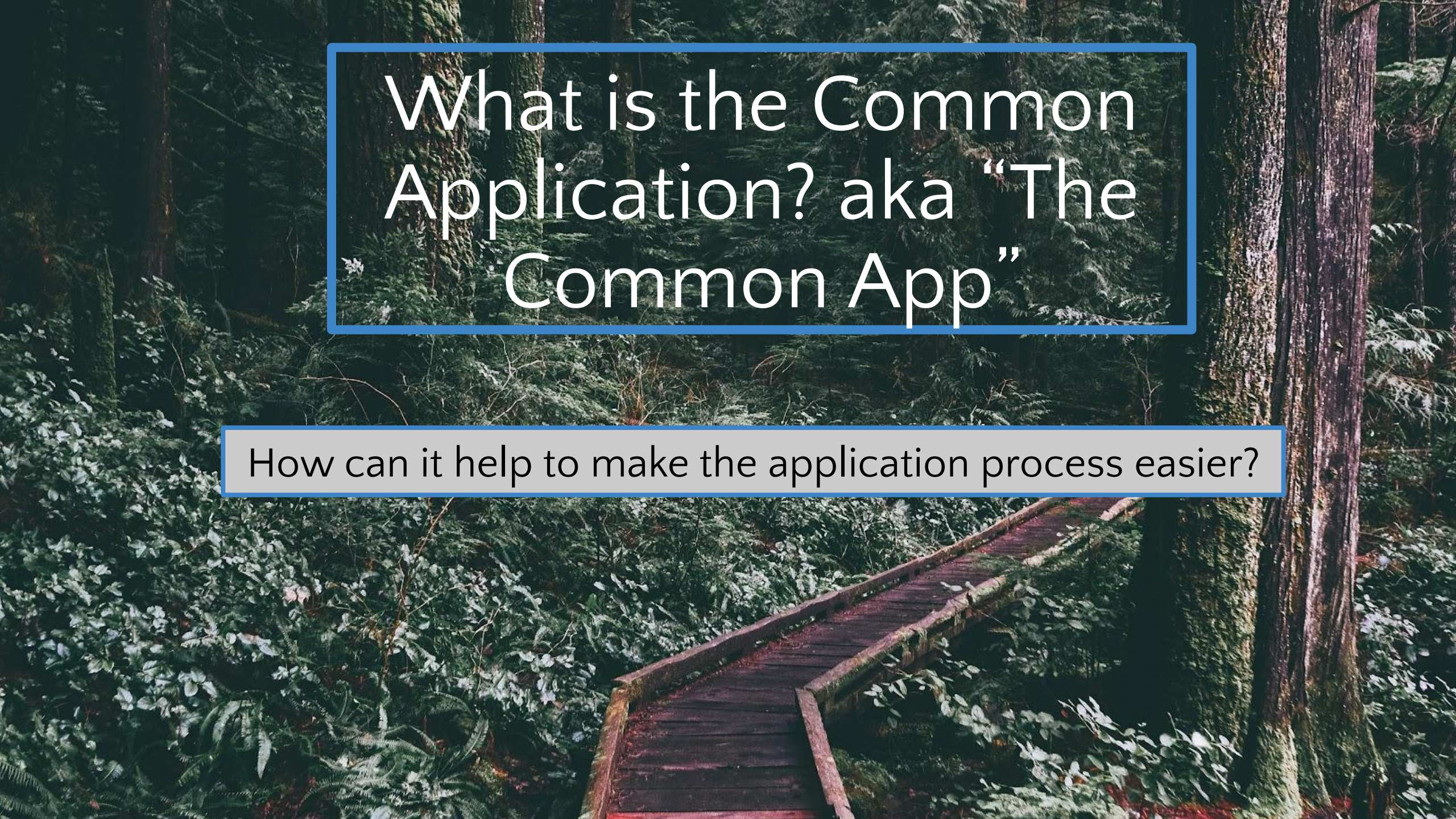
- **Fast & Free Application:** Free online application that takes less than 10 minutes.
- **Degree Advancement:** Over 48% of CCV graduates continue their education beyond an associate degree.
- **Flexible & Affordable:** Flexible scheduling, small classes, dedicated advising, and high affordability.



2. VTSC Direct Admissions

Guaranteed Transfer Pathway

- **2+2 Degree Pathway:** Earn an associate degree then transfer seamlessly to a 4-year institution for a bachelor's degree.
- **Guaranteed Admission:** Guaranteed transfer to Castleton University, Northern Vermont University, or VTC.
- **Maximize Time & Savings:** Follow a course map that applies every class to *both* degrees.
- **CCV:** www.vsc.edu/direct-admissions



What is the Common Application? aka “The Common App”

How can it help to make the application process easier?

What is The Common Application?

A streamlined path to college admissions



1,100+ Schools

who

The Common Application is a not-for-profit organization that serves students and member institutions by providing an admission application – **online** – that students may submit to over **1,100** member schools.

One Application

Streamlined Process

Fill out **ONE** application online and send to colleges.

Less time doing busy work, more time on college research, essays, and visits.

Custom Requirements

School Supplements

Each college has supplemental questions and possibly extra essays.

Be sure to check specific requirements for each target school!

Local-ish Colleges that accept the Common Application:

- ▶ UVM and all VT state schools
- ▶ Champlain College
- ▶ Saint Michael's College
- ▶ Middlebury
- ▶ UNH
- ▶ All SUNY Schools



HELPFUL RESOURCES

New England Tuition Break

Discounted tuition rates for regional state programs not offered locally.

College Board Scholarships

Earn chances at scholarships by completing key college planning steps.

Net Price Calculator

Find this on each college's website to estimate your out-of-pocket costs.

Financial Aid Information Sheet

Comprehensive guide on financial aid processes available on our website.

Post Secondary Planning Worksheet

Use our step-by-step worksheet to plan your post-secondary journey.

Great Ways to Save Money

Practical tips and guidance on reducing overall college costs on our site.

Additional Reminders

- College representatives are regularly “visiting” CHS. Sometimes they even offer fee waivers. Visit with these representatives!
- VSAC financial aid night



Check out the CHS Website



**COLCHESTER
HIGH SCHOOL**

REGISTRATION/VERIFICATION

Select Language ▼

POWERSCHOOL |

MAIN 802.264.5700 - ATTENDANCE 802.264.5711

ABOUT ▼

ACADEMICS ▼

ACTIVITIES ▼

SCHOOL COUNSELING ▼

RESOURCES ▼

DIRECTORY

SCHOOLS ▼

FACILITIES BOND INFO



MEET OUR STAFF



Bob Hall

School Counselor
Team Leader

Robert.Hall

@colchestersd.org

Phone: 802.264.5710

Grade 9: A-E
Grade 10: A-E
Grade 11: A-E
Grade 12: A-DA



Julie Pastore

School Counselor

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Grade 10: F-N
Grade 11: F-ME
Grade 12: DB-N



Katie Moran

School Counselor

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Phone: 802.264.5709

Grade 9: NOY-Z
Grade 10: O-Z
Grade 11: MF-Z
Grade 12: O-Z

SCHOOL COUNSELING OFFICE

Various Support Available

Counselors are available daily for academic, career, personal, and/or social counseling. Stop by the CHS Guidance Office or email your counselor directly to make an appointment.

ACADEMIC PLANNING

ACADEMIC SUPPORTS

COLLEGE & CAREER CENTER

CHS MATH COURSE OVERRIDE REQUEST

CHS SCIENCE COURSE OVERRIDE REQUEST

FINANCIAL AID

MEET OUR STAFF

SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES

