



Welcome Senior Families!

Senior College Night
Colchester High School
2025-2026



Who is my senior's school counselor?
Your last name begins with...



- A-Da → Bob Hall
- Db-N → Julie Pastore
- O-Z → Katie Moran



The Arc of Glory

Learning Targets

College Timeline, Common App, Colleges in Scoir I can..

Set up common app

Enter key details into C.A.

Add colleges to C.A.

Have the application Checklist

More Common App I can..

Complete and sign the FERPA release in C.A

Add colleges to my Scoir Account

Identify HOW I am applying in Scoir
i.e. C.A. or Direct to Institution

Linking Scoir & Common App. Sending Transcripts I can..

Officially request transcripts

Choose the accurate "type" of application for each school. ED, EA, or Rolling

Link C.A and Scoir

Letters of Recommendation I can..

Follow the appropriate process to request teacher letters of recommendation

Follow the appropriate process to request counselor letters of recommendation

FAFSA & paying for college I can (identify)..

Where and how to start the FAFSA

Where and how to start the VT state grant

Start finding \$ for college using scholarship tools like the fastweb, CHS website, & Scoir

VSAC and Local Scholarships I can..

Identify multiple resources I can use to apply for scholarships

Describe how to apply for VSAC scholarships

Identify at least 1 scholarship I am eligible for in the VSAC booklet

Graduation Tasks I can..

Take the graduation Survey on Scoir

Request final transcript on Scoir

Take the CHS exit survey on Scoir



- Your kids signed on to Scoir this week and now it's your turn!
- Check your email
- FERPA Release

- Web-based platform that supports college searches and selection
- Facilitates secure transfer of school documents from CHS to colleges and universities.

The logo for SCOIR, featuring the word "SCOIR" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The letter "O" is stylized as an infinity symbol. The logo is centered within a white rectangular box with a black border.

Important Heads up

*New and improved AT system for seniors!

What we've learned from senior surveys...

- Attend our AT presentations
- It's important to remember to request materials (letters of rec, transcript, SAT/ACT scores) **3-4 weeks before deadline.**



Beyond Our AT Lessons

How can your counselor help?

- Students are always welcome to make one-on-one appointments with their counselors to discuss applying
- Email us with questions
- i.e. We can ramp it up or slow it down as needed individually
- Use the college application checklist





Senior Timeline

What seniors will need to do and when

SAT and ACT

We recommend taking the ACT/SAT and.....

In addition:

- Check college websites
 - collegeboard.org
 - act.org
- Communication with admissions reps is key to understanding what is required to apply.
- Students rather than guardians should be making these calls and sending these emails. Colleges take note of who calls/emails.
- Test optional colleges
 - Some programs still require testing i.e. nursing
 - Student's responsibility to identify if testing required for application
 - Some financial aid is tied to test scores



September

- Create an account with the Common Application if any of the schools you apply to are using the Common Application.
- Link/match your Common Application account to your Scoir account.
- Fill out applications from colleges and universities that do not use the Common Application.

*Watch out for the...



More to do in September...

- Make appointments to meet with your school counselor to discuss post-secondary plans
- Request letters of recommendation (check college websites for how many they allow/require and from who)
- Continue campus visits and interviews (if college allows)
- Create a [chart of deadlines](#). Be particularly mindful of early decision or early action deadlines (email Ms. Moran if you want a template)
- Work on college essays- In Seminar class and humanities teachers



October

- Narrow your list of colleges you are applying to (roughly 6-8). This list should consist of schools that are reach, good fit, and safety schools (financial safety schools as well).

*Net price calculator

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



October



- FAFSA Opens (Oct 1)
- Take advantage of college fairs, campus tours, and virtual tours. NEACAC College Fair at St. Michael's College- October 8th- 6:00pm- 8:00pm.
- Get your college essay(s) in shape. Edit and gather feedback from teachers and/or school counselors.
- Complete your applications for early decision or early action deadlines. Don't forget any supplementals.

November

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



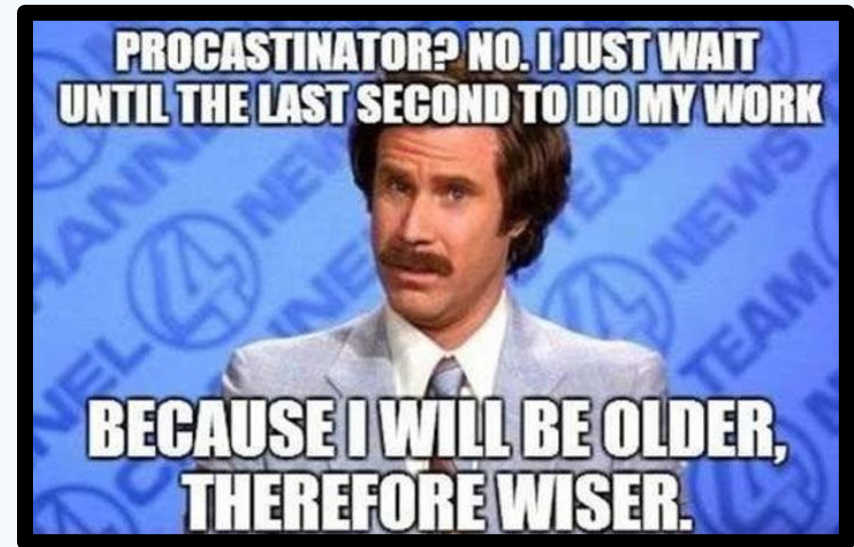
December – January



- Complete and submit your applications for regular admissions.
- 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!!!
- 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.
- MAY 1st- generally the deadline to accept admissions decision

IMPORTANT REMINDER!!!!!!

- **DON'T** let your grades slide. It's easy to get distracted from school work while working on applications so keep your eye on the prize!
 - Senior slump can significantly impact admission chances
 - Consider Latin Honors status for graduation
 - We send Q1, S1, and Year end grades
 - Make sure to attend AT as an F on your report card could affect admissions.



Ongoing Monthly Tasks

- Try to assume leadership positions in an extracurricular activity.
- 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.**
- Family sanity suggestion: have weekly meetings at an agreed upon day and time



Ongoing Monthly Tasks

- Research financial aid and scholarships
 - Scoir
 - CHS website
 - Local organizations
 - Parent/guardian employers
 - *We will be discussing this again in January
- 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](#)

And, It's Okay to Wait...

COLLEGE LIFE CAN BE CHALLENGING, ESPECIALLY IF:

Recently changed or been placed on medications within past year

Experienced a significant loss or traumatic event or attempted suicide within the last 6 months

Cannot independently advocate for themselves, especially if they experience particular challenges such as anxiety or depression

Unable or unwilling to receive accommodations for a disability

Difficulty in high school establishing consistent and/or strong social networks

Involved in repeated or serious drug/alcohol incidents in high school

Assumes college is a place to get away from past "demons" and/or believes "it will all be different in college"

Not interested in college as a place to be challenged, learn or grow - just views it as the automatic next step

Unwilling or unable to proactively engage with support services/offices on campus

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

- You can get an admissions decision earlier than the regular notification date. (UVM Early Action deadline is Nov. 1, Jan. 15 is regular)
- However, Early Action is usually not binding.
 - You may apply to other colleges.
 - You do not have to commit to a college to which you have applied Early Action.
 - You have a longer period to notify the college of your decision.



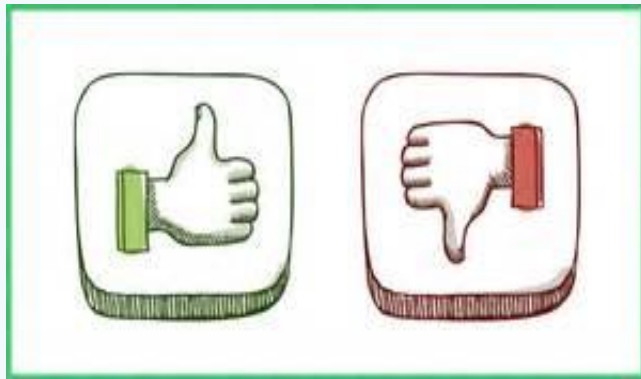
Early Decision

- Allows you to apply early, usually November, to get an admission decision well in advance of the regular admission notification date.
- *However*, Early Decision plans are **binding**.
 - You agree to attend that college if they accept you and offer you an adequate financial aid package.
 - You can apply Early Decision to only one college.
 - You must withdraw all your other applications if you are accepted Early Decision.
- D= Danger (to help remember the difference)

Pros and Cons of Applying Early Decision

Pros

- Bypass regular spring notification deadline.
- Reduce time waiting for a decision.



Cons

- Must make serious decision before exploring all options.
- Can only apply ED to one school.
- May not have time or opportunity to compare financial aid packages.

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

DO

- Withdraw all applications upon being accepted.
- Request a release from your contract only if the college is unable to work out appropriate financial aid.
- Take your ED decision seriously.
- Discuss the cost of the college before applying.
- Attend the college that accepts you.

DON'T DO

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



Regular Admission

- Deadlines vary by school.
- January 1, January 15, February 15 are *typically* regular admissions deadlines.
- UVM regular admissions deadline is January 15. St. Mike's regular admission deadline is February 1.
- Admissions decision notification is usually mid to late March.

Rolling Admission

- No set application deadline.
- However, once a program is full admission is closed.
- So, do not delay your application even with Rolling Admission.



What to do if you're waitlisted



- You are put on a waiting list if you meet the admissions requirements, but the school has already reached its acceptance target.
- You will be admitted only if space becomes available.
- Do not wait. Contact the admissions office and make your case why you are a good fit for the school. If this is your first choice, you can guarantee that you will accept admission if it is offered.

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

- Keep your grades up. You may be re-evaluated based on 3rd and 4th quarter grades.
- Request another (or a first) interview.
- Prepare to attend another school. Colleges do not pull from the waitlist until after the May 1 decision deadline. Therefore, you will need to commit to attending another school. If you are admitted from the waitlist and choose to attend, you will lose the deposit you made to your backup school and be required to send a deposit to the new school.



Open Admissions



Community College of Vermont (CCV): fully-accredited open admissions college

- Free application online- takes less than 10 minutes.
- Over 48% of CCV graduates continue their education beyond an associate degree.
- Flexible scheduling, small classes, advising, and affordability.

Vermont State Colleges Direct Admissions Program

- Earn an associate degree then transfer to a 4-year institution to complete a bachelor degree.
- Guaranteed transfer admission to Castleton University, Northern Vermont University, or VTC.
- Students follow a course map that ensures every class taken applies to *both* their bachelor's and CCV associate degree. Direct Admissions students complete two degrees while maximizing their time and savings at CCV.
- <https://www.vsc.edu/direct-admissions>.



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

How can it help to make the application process easier?

THE COMMON APPLICATION

- 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.
- Fill out **ONE** application online and send to colleges. Less time doing busy work, more time on college research, essays, visits.
- Each college has supplemental questions and possibly extra essays

Local Colleges that accept the Common Application:

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





SOOIR

The logo is centered in a white rectangular box with a thin black border. It features the word "SOOIR" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The letter "O" is stylized with a vertical line through it. Above the letters, there are several stylized flowers: a pink flower with a green stem and leaves, a purple flower with a green stem and leaves, and two red flowers with green stems and leaves. The background of the entire image is a clear blue sky with a snow-capped mountain peak in the lower center and pink cherry blossom branches framing the top and sides.

Scoir

- Scoir is a network that connects students, high schools and colleges to expand college and career access and improve student outcomes.
- **Scoir will be the interface that students will be using for the college application process for most, if not all schools.**



How do Students Use Scoir? Continued...

- College profile exploration
- Scholarship information
- Sending recommendations
- Sending transcripts (as well as school profile)



ADDITIONAL REMINDERS:

- VSAC Financial Aid Night TBD

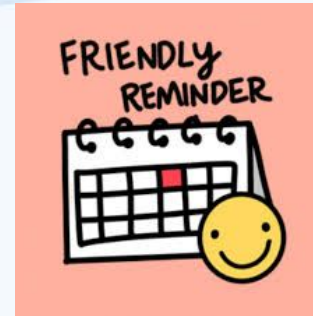


Additional Reminders

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



HELPFUL RESOURCES



- [New England Tuition Break](#)
- [Net Price Calculator](#)- on each college's website to estimate money
- Use our [Post Secondary Planning Worksheet](#)
- You can get [College Board Scholarships](#)
- Look at [Financial Aid Information sheet](#) on our website
- Look at [Great Ways to Save Money](#) on our website

Check out the CHS Website



**COLCHESTER
HIGH SCHOOL**

REGISTRATION/VERIFICATION

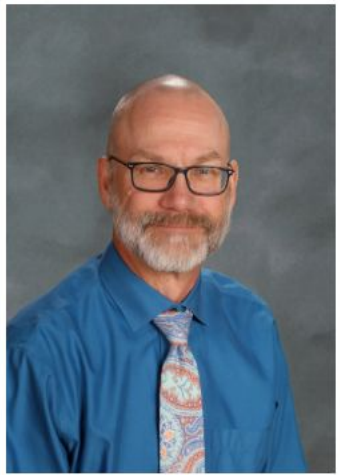
Select Language

DISTRICT HOME | POWERSCHOOL | 802.264.5700

ABOUT ▾ ACADEMICS ▾ ACTIVITIES ▾ SCHOOL COUNSELING ▾ RESOURCES ▾ DIRECTORY SCHOOLS ▾ FACILITIES BOND INFO



MEET OUR STAFF



Bob Hall

School Counselor

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

Julie.Pastore
@colchestersd.org
Phone: 802.264.5712

Grade 9: F-NOR
Grade 10: F-N
Grade 11: F-ME
Grade 12: DB-N



Katie Moran

School Counselor

Katherine.Moran
@colchestersd.org
Phone: 802.264.5709

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

SCHOOL COUNSELING OFFICE

Resources and Reminders

Make sure to check out the new and improved "Counseling Page" on the CHS website for more resources and updates.

Don't forget to regularly check the PLP Board for job, volunteer, and leadership opportunities.

****Disclaimer:** These opportunities are not necessarily endorsed by the school, but are available in the community.

ACADEMIC PLANNING

ACADEMIC SUPPORTS

COLLEGE & CAREER CENTER

CHS MATH COURSE OVERRIDE REQUEST

CHS SCIENCE COURSE OVERRIDE REQUEST

FINANCIAL AID

