

10th – 12th grade counselors

Mr Anderson = A – Dec

Mrs. Gay = Ded - Ja

Mrs. Ede = Jb - Nad

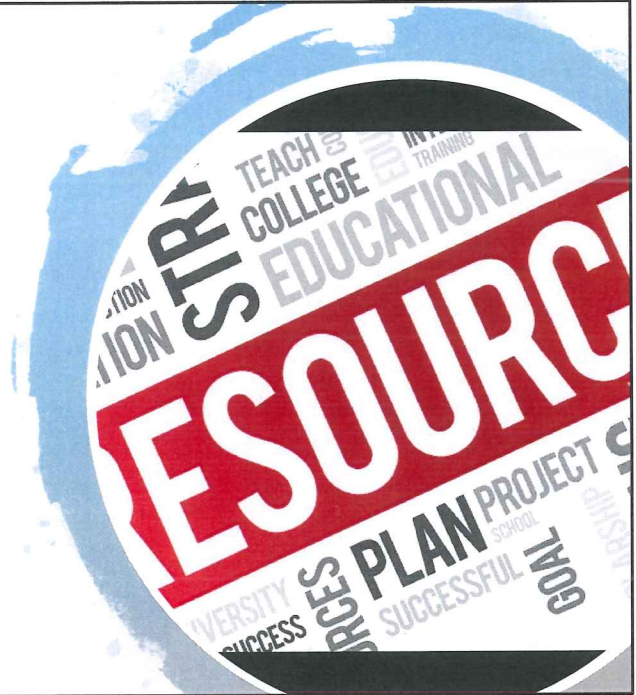
Ms. Simmons = Nae - Se

Mrs. Carr = Sf - Z

Counselors can help with career exploration, college planning, academic advising, providing referrals for outside resources, and more.

The Secretaries: Mrs. Kreft and Mrs. Dodd

Need a document or form? For work permits, transcript/parchment questions, signed letters for court or Social Security benefits, there is no need to sign up to see your counselor. Ask one of the secretaries for assistance.



This is the current counselor alphabet breakdown, but it does change a bit each year, so check back in the fall.

Getting Started

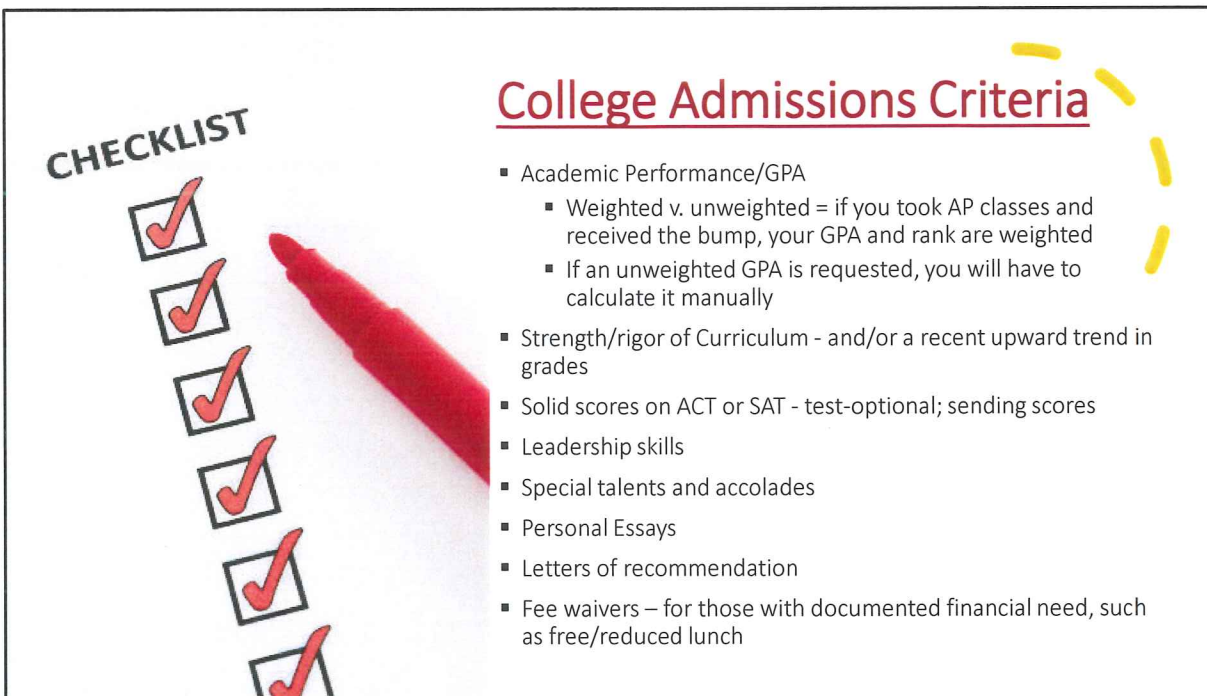
Our advice:

Do not do the application process for the students. They need to take ownership in their education and the process to get themselves there. It's common for HS graduates/college freshmen to think this is a time to party, and although they do deserve to celebrate, they also need to start thinking more like an adult. Ease them into it this year, while they still have your support at home.

Agenda items:

- Graduation Audit
- Post-secondary = College/University, Community College, Trade School, Military
- Parchment and Transcripts
- College Visits / tours
- SAT/ACT
- Letters of Recommendation, Essays
- Extracurriculars
- Fee Waivers
- Common App
- Financial Aid / scholarships / FAFSA
- NCAA/NAIA

(There will be time for questions at the end)



College Admissions Criteria

- Academic Performance/GPA
 - Weighted v. unweighted = if you took AP classes and received the bump, your GPA and rank are weighted
 - If an unweighted GPA is requested, you will have to calculate it manually
- Strength/rigor of Curriculum - and/or a recent upward trend in grades
- Solid scores on ACT or SAT - test-optional; sending scores
- Leadership skills
- Special talents and accolades
- Personal Essays
- Letters of recommendation
- Fee waivers – for those with documented financial need, such as free/reduced lunch

Weighted v. unweighted: If you took AP classes, the GPA we provide is weighted. You will need to calculate it if you need an unweighted GPA. Many universities will un-weight the GPA, recalculating it prior to making admissions decisions.

Universities want to see rigorous classes, not just good grades.

Many schools are test optional – before sending scores, look at the university's average score – if yours is at or above, send the score. If it's below and the school is test-optional, do not send it.

Most universities are going to be test-optional for 2023.

Some universities will ask about students' leadership experience. Even more important is demonstration of finding a balance of academics and extracurriculars.

Personal Essays – they want to learn more about you as a person –talk about a pivotal moment or an important lesson you've learned; start early; can use the same essay for multiple schools/scholarships.

Letters of recommendation – some will require 1, some will ask for 3, and some do not

want/need any. Do not request or submit letters if they are not required.

Fee waivers for applications, retaking SAT/ACT. Contact the counselor.



Finding the right fit

Factors to consider:
Academic, Social, Emotional, & Financial

- Academic programs offered – does the institution have a good program in their field of interest?
- Don't just focus on "name brand"
- True cost – tuition, room/board, books, other fees, financial aid, scholarships offered.
- Location – distance from home
- Setting - urban, suburban, or rural community.
- Type – 2 or 4 year; Public or Private; a religious affiliation.
- Size – of student body; of campus; student to teacher ratio; average class size.
- Facilities and Housing – condition; student resource center; residence; food plans.
- Admissions criteria – do they meet (or are at least close to) the requirements?
- Activities – sports, intramurals, clubs, sororities/fraternities, other
- Anything unique about the campus or program that stands out?

It is important to look at what programs a school offers. Many students want to go to certain universities based on name-brand, and that school may not even offer a program in their field of interest.

Name brand universities do not guarantee a good job or a high salary. You can get a great job w/ excellent pay without having to go to a highly-selective university.

The cost of college includes more than just tuition and room/board. Make a plan that includes those other fees.

To find the right university, students should consider what setting they would feel most comfortable in. Some may not feel comfortable living in the city or living in a rural area that is too remote. That can impact a student's happiness at their university.

Review admission criteria in advance so the students can make sure they will qualify or to identify what they may need to do to make themselves a better candidate.

What other characteristics about the university make it stand out above others? Use a checklist of traits you want in a university. Use a point system to rank each one you're considering. How well does each university meet each criteria?

The College Application

- Application timing
- The Common Application –
 - What is it?
 - When to use it?
 - What to supply the counselor – senior profile
 - Do not wait to submit transcripts. You can send them while waiting for counselors to submit the school report.
 - Counselors will not have the proper documentation to complete our part until sometime in October. We will get it done by the deadline. Submitting it early does not give preferential consideration. Admissions offices do not look at them until after the deadline.
- Parchment for transcript requests
- Early Action v. Early Decision –this is important to understand.
- What to do if deferred.



Common App – a website where students fill out one application for multiple schools. If you are applying to more than one school on the common app, it can save time, but if you are only applying to one and they have their own app or the common app to choose from, you may want to do their app instead of the common app because it is very lengthy.

The counselors will have to submit a portion for each student as well. The student will need to complete and submit a senior profile form, on our website under college/career planning, to assist us in completing our portion.

Counselor reports are typically due November 1st. Students may submit their application in August or September, but counselors typically do not have all of the necessary information to submit our portion until the end of September or beginning of October. Students are not penalized for this. As long as student applications and counselor reports are submitted by the deadline, everything will be fine. Students do not get early consideration for submitting months in advance.

It is important to provide at least one week notice for recommendation requests or anything that will require another person to complete something. Waiting until the

deadline/last minute may mean students do not get what they need.

Early Action just means you want notification of admission as soon as possible from the university. Early Decision means that if you get admitted to that university, you must go there and withdraw all other applications. It is a binding agreement between the applicant and the university.

If deferred, it is important to start looking at other options. Maybe it's a blessing in disguise. Also – you can contact the university you were deferred from to re-express interest in attending. Notify counselor as well, so the counselor can reach out on their behalf.

Student Athletes only

National College Athletic Association (NCAA)

- Establishes rules on eligibility for college athletes.
- Three membership divisions: Division I, Division II, Division III. Institutions are members of a specific division according to the size and athletic program.
- Visit www.eligibilitycenter.org to see what classes from your high school count and to access the Division course requirement worksheets
- \$90.00 Fee
- Register as early as sophomore year. MUST sign up before start of senior year

National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA)

- Exists to advance character-driven college sports. It provides high school and transfer student-athletes the opportunity to keep playing sports while receiving an outstanding education. Over 60,000 student-athletes compete at NAIA institutions.
- Visit www.playnaia.org to see eligibility rules and register.
- \$70.00 Fee

MUST apply before senior year starts!



Scholarships and Financial Aid

- Develop a plan – the “true cost” of college includes tuition, room/board, books, other fees, spending, miscellaneous.
- Search/research scholarships regularly
- do NOT provide social security number for searches
- use reliable sites – Fastweb.com, scholarships.com, Collegeboard.org
- FAFSA – need-based money for post-secondary education; Apply from October 1st to March 1st; must re-apply each year

To Do:

- Attend Financial Aid Night
- Regularly check Dakota Website
- Listen to announcements - parents can sign up for announcements too
- Pay attention to the counseling schoology page – opportunities shared

Fastweb.com

Scholarships.com

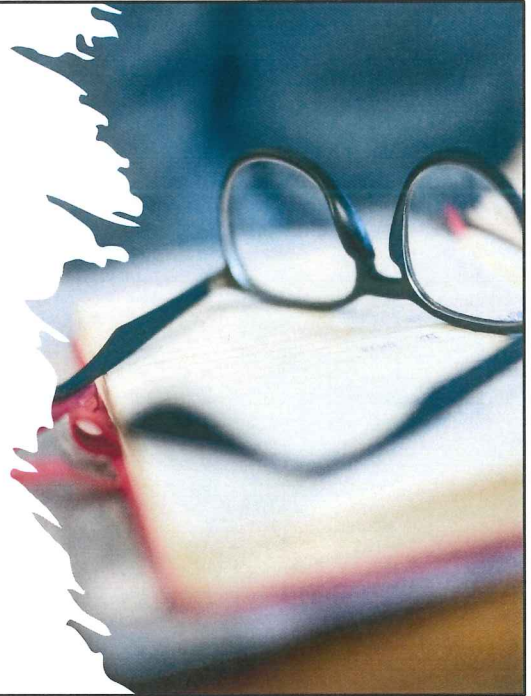
Collegeboard.org → scholarship search

Xello → scholarship search

Do not pay for it or give out your social security number to companies offering to help. On Dakota's website, under the counseling tab, under Financial Aid & Scholarships, we regularly post opportunities throughout the year as they are sent to us. Make checking this a regular practice.

Summer before 12th grade:

- Complete a graduation audit with historical grades
- Apply for NCAA
- Begin or continue discussions about post-secondary plans
- Schedule college visits
- Retake the SAT/ACT, if desired.
- Apply to colleges -
 - Select 4 or more – Reach, Target, and Safety schools.
 - Research admission criteria
- Consider doing volunteer work.
- Teacher Letters of Recommendation
- Go directly to College Board to request test scores or sign up
- Start searching scholarships



Students can use the historical grades screen and a grad audit to confirm they are on track. These can be found on Dakota's website. Dakota's website → Counseling Tab → Graduation Requirements → Grad Audit. Notify their counselor if something seems off.

For athletes, you must apply for NCAA before you begin 12th grade.

Schedule college visits if they haven't started yet. Do so by contacting admissions offices or going online to the university website.

Meet with college reps during lunches

Retake the SAT/ACT, if desired. If you want to retake it, you will need

to go directly to ACT.org or Collegeboard.org

Apply to colleges - create a planning calendar to help remember deadlines.

It is acceptable to apply as “undecided” if they’re not sure yet.

Select 4 or more – Reach, Target, and Safety schools.

Make sure the schools offer the program of interest.

They should research admission criteria to make sure they meet it.

Apply in August – less stressful school year if you get started early. Counselors will not have transcripts ready until the end of September/beginning of October. We will meet Nov. 1st deadlines.

They should get involved in extracurricular activities & volunteer work. Demonstrate leadership qualities. Colleges might ask for examples.

Teacher Letters of Recommendation:

Only ask for them if institutions require them.

Give plenty of notice (at least 2 weeks) to the person they are requesting it from.

They will have to provide institution w/ recommender’s contact info and provide recommender w/ the correct admissions email addresses where it needs to be sent.

Senior year Timeline – 1st semester

IMPORTANT:

Pay attention to deadlines! Scholarship, college, and financial aid deadlines are firm.

Have the students do these things to start taking ownership of the process to accomplish their goals.

September

- To submit test scores, they should request them directly from College board or ACT.
- Attend Financial Aid Night on September 28th at 6:30 pm.
- Start researching scholarships. It's an ongoing process throughout the year.
- Check DHS website
 - Fastweb.com, Schoolsoup.com, scholarships.com
 - Do not give out your social security number or pay for scholarship information.
- Set up college visits/tours –
 - You can do this by going to college websites and/or by contacting their admissions offices.
 - It may be helpful to keep a comparison worksheet to help narrow the choices later
- Transcript requests: create a Parchment account. Directions are on Dakota's website under the counseling tab.

October

- Work on college applications.
- Start FAFSA application – October 1st to March 1st.



Senior year Timeline – 1st semester



- November –
 - Start narrowing choices - use your comparison checklist to keep track of which colleges have what.
 - The Common Application and Early Action universities – deadlines as early as Nov 1st
 - Do not wait until the due date to do your part or we will not be able to process our part on time.
- December/January
 - Check with college before making schedule change requests. It can impact admissions decisions.
 - Finish college applications.
 - Work on FAFSA.

Senior Year Timeline – 2nd Semester

- February and March – Maintain good grades through June!
- April – Make the final decision about which college to attend – weigh the offers, don't fixate on "name brands".
- May – Deadline to say "Yes" to a college is usually May 1st; Send in deposit, if applicable. Students must also notify the colleges they won't be attending.
- June – In Parchment, they will have to request a final transcript be sent to the college of choice for the Fall – select "hold for grades".
- June/July – Just because summer started does not mean they will not have things to do – "avoid summer melt":
 - communicate with the college to make sure they have everything completed for a successful fall start-up.
 - finalize fall schedule and housing.
 - Meet roommates to start getting to know each other.
 - Complete college orientation.





People can be just as successful with a career in skilled trades. Skilled trades are essential in the workforce.

ASVAB, Military, MAP+, Apprenticeships, Skilled trades – associates, certifications, licenses.

Technical / trade schools – certificate of completion or license; hands-on job training; completion time varies but it is much shorter than degree programs.

Examples of Certifications/Licenses – Automotive, cosmetology, HVAC, Plumbing, Electrician, Woodworking/cabinetry, Welding

Take the ASVAB – armed services vocational aptitude battery – this is not just for those interested in the military. It is a comprehensive assessment to identify a career pathway.

Skills necessary to be successful in the workforce, regardless of post-high school education: communication (written and oral), problem-solving; punctuality, independence (can do your job w/o supervision), patience, tolerance, dependability,

team player; work ethic

Questions?



Contact your counselor if you have questions:

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What questions do you have that we did not address?