

FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIPS

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

- FAFSA is projected to fully debut for 2025-2026 on Dec. 1, 2024.
- Must be completed by June 30th.
- FAFSA Night at MSM is Nov 6th, 6-8pm.
- Applications must be completed online: www.fafsa.gov/
- Create a FSA ID for FAFSA.
- Parents' tax return needed for filing.
- For students applying to NYS schools, the TAP (Tuition Assistance Program) form is included in FAFSA app.
- Does your school require a CSS profile?
*College Board has a list of institutions that participate.
- Many schools will not award scholarships/grants without a FAFSA/CSS profile.

Scholarships

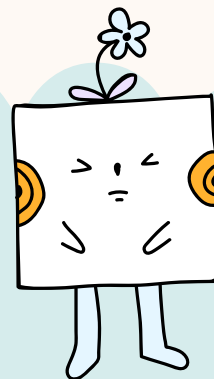
- Local/WNY Scholarships can be found on MSM's Google Sheet in the Class of 2025 Google Classroom.
- Check often for latest updates!
- Connect with college on college related scholarships.
- Use *Going Merry* to search and apply for private scholarships.
- All outside (of college) scholarships MUST be reported to your chosen school. Schools may adjust your financial aid package.



NCAA forms must be filed to determine eligibility to play a sport at a DI or DII school. You can also visit: <https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/>

THINKING NCAA?

YOU GOT THIS!



Remember to take breaks and ask for help!

We recommend starting early so you have plenty of time to do your research, proofread, and ask questions!



Be yourself!

Colleges want to know you! Share with your recommenders and in your college essay what makes you, you so we can boost you up too!

CONTACT US!

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What you need to know

Senior Year Checklist

2024-2025



COLLEGE APPLICATION



Goal: Submit college applications by Thanksgiving or two weeks before deadlines.

EARLY DECISION VS. EARLY ACTION

- Early decision (ED) commitments are **binding**. A student who accepts as an ED applicant must attend the college.
- Early action (EA) plans are nonbinding. Students receive an early response to their application, but do not have to commit to the college.
- Regular Decision deadlines are usually btwn. 1/1-1/15, these are the most common application type.
- Rolling admissions colleges receive and release decisions as they become available.



Applying to College

Common App
SUNY App



SUNY offers 5 free applications from 10/21-11/3

TRANSCRIPTS



Have you taken a dual enrollment class? Be sure to send your college transcript to your chosen school once you accept! Links are on Google Classroom for each dual-enrollment school. MSM does not have access to college transcripts.

- If you are applying through **Common App** or **SUNY App**, your counselor will be notified to send your transcript.
- Please notify your counselor if you are applying through a specific school's website.
- You must self-report all classes and grades via SRAR (Self-Reported Academic Record).

COMMON APP NOTES:

- Through Common App, you will invite and assign your recommenders who will be notified via email.
- Your counselor will provide an additional letter.

START HERE

For the College planning process!

STEP #1 - APPLICATION

- Create your Common App account and fill out the application.
- A good goal is to have a narrowed-down list of at least 5-8 schools you are applying to.

STEP #2 - LETTERS OF REC

- Most colleges require 1-2 letters of recommendation from teachers. We recommend asking junior-year teachers who have known you most recently.
- Please give teachers at least 1-2 weeks and please ask teachers in person.
 - Some colleges accept employer or coach letters of rec.

STEP #3 - SAT/ACT

- Consider taking at least one of these exams and prepare in advance.
- Check fairtest.org for schools that are test-optional.
- See Collegeboard.org for test dates, deadlines, registration for tests, or to have scores sent to colleges.

Upcoming SAT Dates
October 5th
November 2nd
December 7th



STEP #6 - VISITS/INTERVIEWS

- Schedule through Office of Admissions.
- Bring a copy of your unofficial transcript & resume.
- It may be good to also meet with Financial Aid reps or a faculty member from your intended program.
- Be early and dress comfortably but professionally.
- Interviewers are looking for your passion, energy, commitment, and values.
- Send a follow up thank you note!

STEP #5 - RESUME

- Be sure to include:
- Contact info
 - Education (MSM, expected grad date)
 - Jobs (w/ dates worked, position, location)
 - Community service work (w/ org. name)
 - Awards
 - Sports or any other activities grades 9-12

STEP #4 - COLLEGE ESSAY

- Think specific & insightful, not necessarily big & life-changing.
- Show a story arc.
- Reveal an aspect of you that may not appear anywhere else in your application.