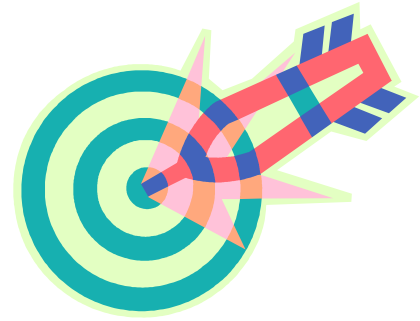




# Class of 2012

# Objectives



- **Share your post-secondary** plans with your counselor so that they know how to best serve you.
- Know **what tasks** need to be implemented for making your post-secondary plans a reality.
- Know and be able to **get started** on tasks today!



# Big Reminder!!!

- No PSAE/ACT Score = **No Graduation!**
- If you took PSAE last year as a junior, you have satisfied the state graduation requirement.
- If you didn't take the PSAE last year, you will take it April 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> or you will not be able to graduate.

# ACT Registration

- New this year, no paper registration packets!
- [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)
- Create a web account
- Pay fees, select test date/location, print admission ticket, send scores all from one location
- \$34.00 (no writing) \$49.50 (with writing)
- September 16<sup>th</sup> [deadline](#) for October 22nd test
- **ACHS school code 140-070**

# Final Emphasis



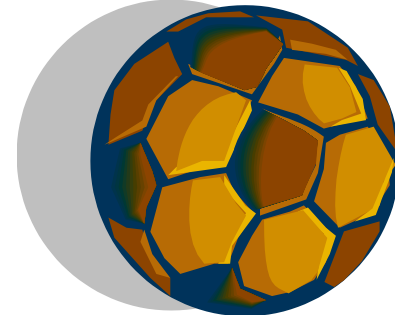
- Continue to take challenging coursework.
- Senior classes will impact admission decisions!
  - Application questions
- Exceed course work expectations.
  - Colleges will request 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> semester grades
  - Admission decisions can be rescinded
- Take pride in your standardized test scores.
  - Retake if necessary
- **Make things happen--don't wait for things to happen to you.**

# Are you College Ready?

| <b>College Course</b> | <b>Test Area</b> | <b>ACT Score</b> |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| English Comp          | English          | 18               |
| Soc Sci               | Rdg              | 21               |
| Algebra               | Math             | 22               |
| Biology               | Sci              | 24               |



# NCAA and ACT/GPA



- Sliding scale:
  - High core GPA/lower ACT
  - Lower core GPA/higher ACT



- NCAA will take highest sub scores on ACT
- Register online [now](#) to retake ACT in October
- Keep your grades up in core classes

# Seniors' reminders

- Avoid last minute rush jobs.
- Beat deadlines—be early!
- Write your essay now!
- Ask for recommendations:
  - Offer a résumé
  - Give plenty of advanced notice



# Step 1

- Submit a **release of records** to the registrar.



- Allows ACHS to release your transcript with college applications, scholarship applications, apprenticeships, NCAA, etc.

# Step 2

- Begin to obtain **letters of recommendation**
  - 2 to 3 letters (offer résumé)
    - Classroom teacher, coach, sponsor, director, or counselor
    - Outside of ACHS contact
      - Employer
      - Volunteer organization

# Asking for a letter of recommendation (LOR)

- Time is of the essence, do not wait until the last minute!
- Attach a résumé
- Be sure to give plenty of time for the individual to write the letter.
- Consider all options: teachers, coaches, employers, counselors, pastors etc.

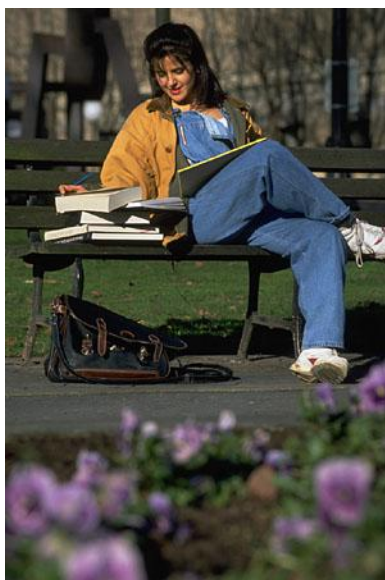
# Step 3

- Draft your **personal essay**
  - Stick to the prompt.
  - Have a number of people proof read it.
  - Be sure it stands out to the admissions officer due to good reasons.
  - Should grab reader's attention.



# IL State University

Prompt:



- **The academic personal statement should be approximately 500 words and should address the following:**
  - a. State why you feel Illinois State University is a good fit for your educational goals
  - b. Identify and explain your academic strengths and weaknesses
  - c. Explain any circumstances which affected your high school academic performance, if applicable

# University of IL



- 2 Prompts:
- How have your past circumstance and experiences (upbringing, community, and/or activities) impacted who you are, your future goals, and your choice of major? If you haven't decided on a college or major yet, briefly explain your intentions and aspirations for your first year at Illinois. Please limit your response to approx.300 words.
- In no more than 300 words, tell us something about yourself that isn't covered elsewhere in this application, some interest or experienced of your that you think the University of Illinois should know about as part of the admission review.

# Essay Considerations (U of I)

- Important factors considered by the review committee when evaluating the essays are:
  - How the applicant ties his or her academic interest to the desired major or, if applying to the Division of General Studies, how the applicant explains his or her varied interests and need for exploration.
  - How the applicant showcases his or her passion through chosen activities, work experience, research, or course selection in high school.
  - How the essay reveals maturity and growth through past experiences, evidence of character development, cultural insight, community awareness, and/or leadership. Strength of writing is carefully considered throughout all the application essays.

# Common Application

- Known as Common App
- Allows students to apply to 456 institutions in 46 states with one application
- Check website for participating institutions
  - [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)
- Saves time and money

# Common Application

- Personal Essay: In 250 words write an essay on one of options listed below
  - Evaluate a significant experience, achievement, risk you have taken, or ethical dilemma you have faced and its impact on you.
  - Discuss some issue of personal, local, national, or international concern and its importance to you.
  - Indicate a person who has had a significant influence on you, and describe that influence.
  - Describe a character in fiction, a historical figure, or creative work (as in art, music, science, etc.) that has had an influence on you and explain that influence.
  - A range of academic interests, personal perspectives, and life experiences adds much to the educational mix. Given your personal background, describe an experience that illustrates what you would bring to the diversity in a college community, or an encounter that demonstrated the importance of diversity to you.
  - Topic of your choice.

# Rule of 6

- Narrow your college selection down to 6
    - 2 Dream Schools
    - 2 Pretty sure
    - 2 For sure
- \*\*\*\*Why?\*\*\*\*
- Don't underestimate or overestimate your chances.



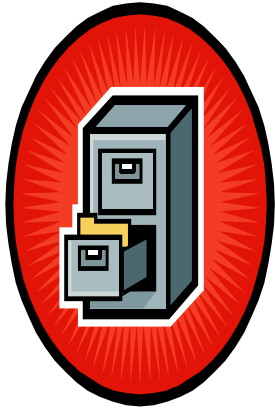
# Comparison Worksheet

|   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| <b>College Name:</b>  |  |  |  |
| <b>Location:</b>  |  |  |  |
| <b>Size:</b>  |  |  |  |
| <b>Environment:</b><br>Type of school (2 yr, 4 yr)<br>School setting (urban, rural)<br>Co-ed, male, female<br>Religious affiliation     |  |  |  |
| <b>Admission:</b><br>Deadline<br>Tests required<br>Ave. test scores, GPA, rank<br>Selectivity   |  |  |  |
| <b>Academics:</b><br>Major offered<br>Student-faculty ratio<br>Typical class size<br>Internships<br>Advanced Placement accepted         |  |  |  |
| <b>College Expenses:</b><br>Tuition<br>Room and board<br>Application fee<br>Books, supplies<br>Transportation<br>Estimated total budget |  |  |  |
| <b>Financial Aid:</b><br>Deadline<br>Required forms<br>Scholarships   |  |  |  |
| <b>Housing:</b><br>Residence hall required<br>Availability<br>Types and sizes<br>Food plan  |  |  |  |
| <b>Facilities:</b><br>Academic (tutoring/advisement)<br>Recreational<br>Computer accessibility<br>Counseling/career planning            |  |  |  |
| <b>Activities:</b><br>Clubs, organizations<br>Greek life<br>Athletics, intramurals<br>Foreign studies                                   |  |  |  |

# ACT scores and Selectivity

- Extremely Selective
- Harvard, Yale, Stanford, Duke, Northwestern
- Typical ACT scores: 30-36
- Ranks: 90-100% top quarter of graduating class
- Selective
- University of Illinois, University of Wisconsin @ Madison, Indiana University, Michigan State
- Typical ACT scores : 23-31
- Ranks: U of I 89% top quarter
- U of W 3.5 GPA 77%, 93% top quarter
- Indiana: 68% top quarter
- Michigan: 3.5 GPA 65%, 69 % top quarter

# Step 4



- Obtain applications:
  - Black file cabinets in Guidance (check dates)
  - IL schools all in one drawer
  - CLC forms and catalogs all in one drawer and Blue Rack
  - Online applications are usually encouraged
- Complete the application neatly!
- Attach any fees, if necessary.
- Send “official” ACT scores if required

# Step 5

- **File** the application:
  - **Paper** application (with any fees attached)
    - Bring to your counselor:
      - They will complete their part and mail with your *official* transcript/ACHS Profile Sheet
      - Student will send “Official” ACT scores if required
  - **Electronic** application:
    - Bring the Counselor’s page to your counselor and/or inform your counselor that you have filed online
    - Student will send “Official” ACT scores if required

# Deadlines



If you can't be on  
time, be early!



# Scholarships

- **Local** Scholarships
  - Awards given by local organizations
  - Applications available online in February
  - Due in March (no exceptions!)
  - Competitive with Class of '12 and some LCHS
  - Check Guidance web page for last year's application
- **School** Scholarships
  - Awards given by the college or university
  - Generally based on academics

# Scholarship Search

- Websites to note:
  - [Fastweb.com](http://Fastweb.com)
  - [Collegeboard.com](http://Collegeboard.com)
  - [Meritaid.com](http://Meritaid.com)
  - [Fafsa.ed.gov](http://Fafsa.ed.gov)
  - [Finaid.org](http://Finaid.org)
  - [Cappex.com](http://Cappex.com)

# Important Dates

- College Planning Night
  - Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at ACHS
- CLC College Fair
  - Oct.20<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 8 pm
- Application due dates
  - November 1<sup>st</sup>
- Career Shadowing
  - November 15<sup>th</sup>
- Financial Aid Night
  - December 12<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm at ACHS



# College Visits

- Why should you visit?
- Questions to ask
- Allowed three absences designated as college visits
- College reps available here at ACHS
  - Announcements/ student email
- College of Lake County college fair
- College planning night at ACHS

# Upcoming College Visits

- 9/6 UW-Whitewater
- 9/9 Carroll
- 9/13 Northern Michigan
- 9/14 US Army
- 9/15 University of Northern Iowa
- 9/22 Monmouth
- 9/26 Wabash
- 9/27 Marquette University
- 9/29 Loyola
- Listen to the announcements or check student news for updates!

# Follow Up

It is recommended that you **make an appointment with your counselor** to review and file your college applications and/or confirm your post-secondary plans.



# Review Objectives

- Now you will **share your post-secondary** plans with your counselor so that they know how to best serve you.
- You should have a few **tasks** that need to be implemented for making your post-secondary plans a reality.
- What are you going to do today to **get started?**