Class of 2027

12th Grade Top State For Talent School Counseling Lesson

Sprayberry High School
School Counseling Department
Fall 2026

ONE TEAM
ONE GOAL
STUDENT SUCCESS

CCSD School Counseling Student Standards

- C.2 Develop the ability to make informed decisions by gathering relevant information, evaluating options, and considering consequences.

- C.6 Develop an understanding of the steps involved in applying for college or careers, including preparing application materials, meeting deadlines, and utilizing available resources.

Today's Learning Targets

I can identify and compare different post-secondary options to determine which may fit my goals.

I can use SchooLinks to support college planning, including managing my college list, linking Common App account, requesting transcripts, and tracking letters of recommendation.

I can identify and describe ways to pay for college.



Today's Agenda

SHS Counseling

- Meet Your Counselors
- Stay Connected

Post-secondary Options

- 4-year, 2-year/Technical College, Military, Workforce

SchooLinks

- Common App match, College List, Requesting transcripts, Letters of Recommendation, Sending test scores

College Basics

- Application types and process

Paying For College

- Scholarships, grants, loans, and funding sources



Sprayberry High School
School Counseling Department

School Counselors



Dr. Beshears, A – D

Lea.Beshears@cobbk12.org



Mrs. Hawk, E – L

Misty.Hawk@cobbk12.org



Ms. Jordan, M – Ri

Crystal.Jordan@cobbk12.org



Dr. White, Ro – Z

Tammy.White@cobbk12.org

Sprayberry High School
School Counseling Department

Support Staff



Ms. Morales

Counseling Clerk/Registrar

Theresa.Morales@cobbk12.org

Room 1122



Mrs. Landfair

Scheduling Clerk

Kisha.Landfair@cobbk12.org

Room 1133

Stay Connected!

Tap in so you never miss out on important information.

Website: https://www.sprayberrycounseling.com/



Instagram: @sprayberrycounseling



Post-secondary Options

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4-Year Colleges & Universities

- More competitive admissions than most other post-secondary options
- Colleges consider multiple factors, including:
  - **Rigor of classes, GPA, test scores (SAT/ACT), extracurricular activities, essays, recommendations, demonstrated interest**
- Typically takes about 4 years to complete after high school (HS)
- Build a balanced college list:
  - 1-2 **Reach** schools | 2-3 **Match** schools | 1 **Safety** school
- Always check each college's website for current admission requirements (they vary by school and year)

4-Year Colleges & Universities

- SAT/ACT test scores are usually required, with explicit score minimums.

- For admission for Fall 2026 and later, SAT or ACT scores will be required for:
  - University of Georgia
  - Georgia Tech
  - Georgia State University
  - Augusta University
  - Kennesaw State University
  - Georgia Southern University
  - Georgia College & State University

Test scores will continue to be required to apply for Zell Miller scholarships in accordance with state of Georgia requirements.

2-Year & Technical Colleges

- HS diploma or GED required
  - Final transcript must be submitted (follow your school's transcript request process)
- Flexible testing options
  - SAT/ACT accepted, but many schools use the **Accuplacer**
  - Accuplacer is less expensive and used for course placement, not admission
- Short-term, career-focused programs
  - Typically completed in 2 years or less
  - Prepares students for immediate entry into the workforce
- Train for in-demand careers such as:
  - **Aviation, Criminal Justice, Welding, Cosmetology, Carpentry, Automotive, Medical/Dental Assisting, HVAC, Electrician, Graphic Design, Cybersecurity, EMT, and more!**

Military Options

- Five military branches: Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Navy
  - Includes **Reserve** and **National Guard** options
- Each branch has different enlistment requirements, including:
  - Citizenship & residency, age limits, education, ASVAB score, and physical and medical qualifications
- Education & testing requirements:
  - HS diploma or GED required
  - 4-year degree required to join as an officer
- Basic steps to enlist:
  - Make contact with a branch recruiter
  - Take the ASVAB
  - Graduate from HS
  - Request your final HS transcript

Additional information can be found at:
Requirements to join the U.S. military | USAGov

Military Options

Military Branch	Website	Military Academy
Army	www.army.mil www.goarmy.com	U.S. Military Academy (West Point) www.westpoint.edu
Navy	www.navy.mil www.navy.com	U.S. Naval Academy www.usna.edu
Air Force	www.af.mil www.airforce.com	U.S. Air Force Academy www.usafa.af.mil
Marine Corps	www.marines.mil www.marines.com	Future Marines attend the U.S. Naval Academy
Coast Guard	www.uscg.mil www.gocoastguard.com	U.S. Coast Guard Academy www.uscga.edu



Bye bye Naviance, hello SchooLinks!

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SchooLinks

SchooLinks is a **delivery system** and a college/career readiness platform that helps students explore their interests, discover career pathways, and plan for life after high school.

We will use it to communicate with you and to coordinate various activities throughout the year.

You can access SchooLinks from the CCSD homepage or your school's website.

Multiple Uses of SchooLinks

College Planning:
College Application Manager, College Search, Letters of Recommendation

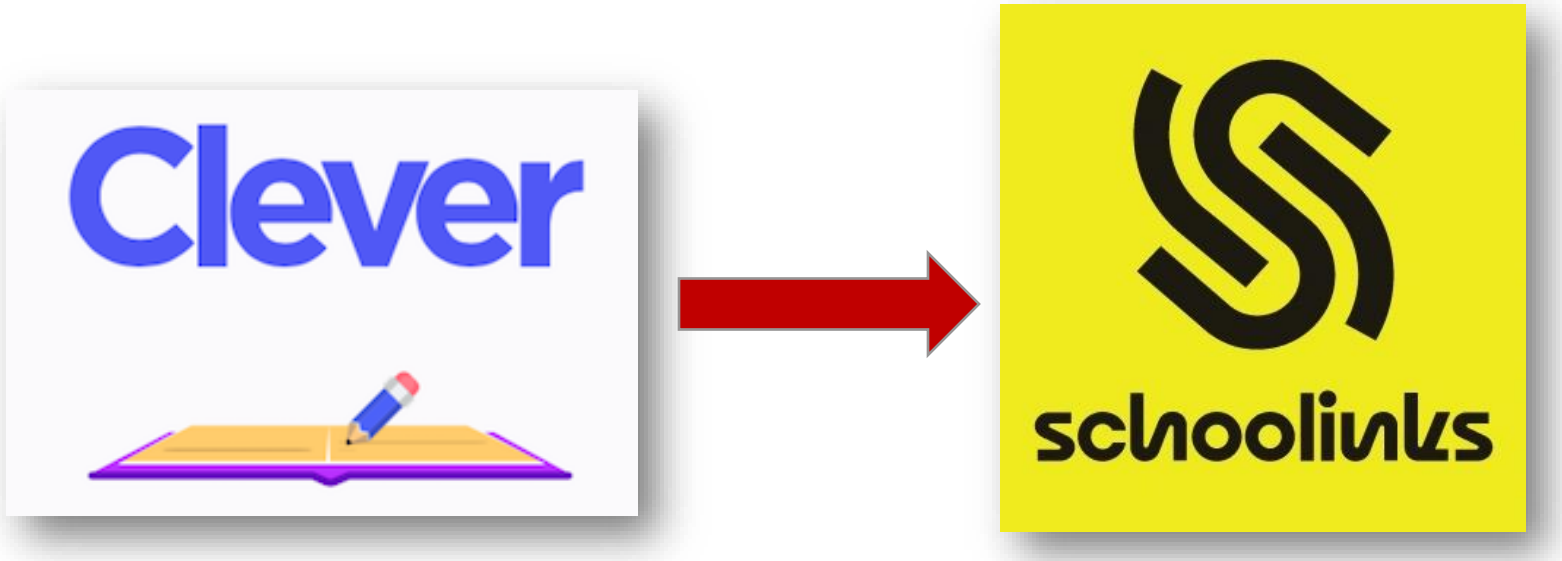
Career Planning & Resume Building:
Explore Careers, Clusters, and Pathways

Self-Discovery:
Skills, Personality, and Interest Assessments

Scholarship Search:
College-specific, National Search, CCSD-specific, School-specific

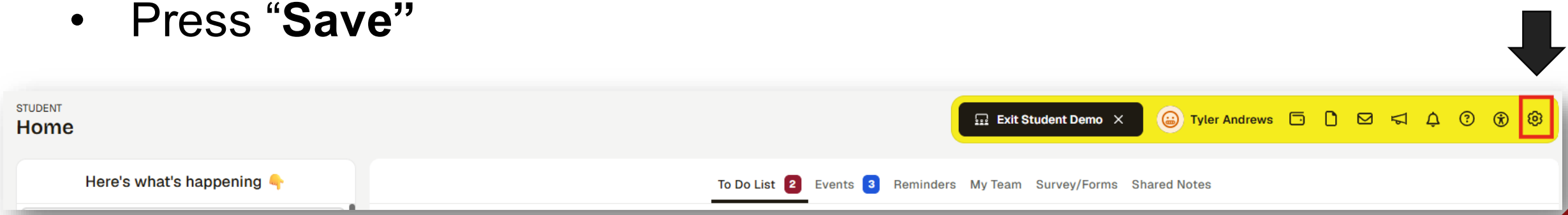
Accessing SchooLinks

- Go to Clever
- Look under “More Apps” for SchooLinks



Adding Your Email Address

- On the homepage, click on the gear icon (top-right corner)
- Select “**Account Settings**”
- Click “**Edit Notifications**” under “**Login Methods**”
- Click **“Add/Edit Email”**
- Enter your personal email address (not your students.cobbk12.org)
- Press “**Save**”



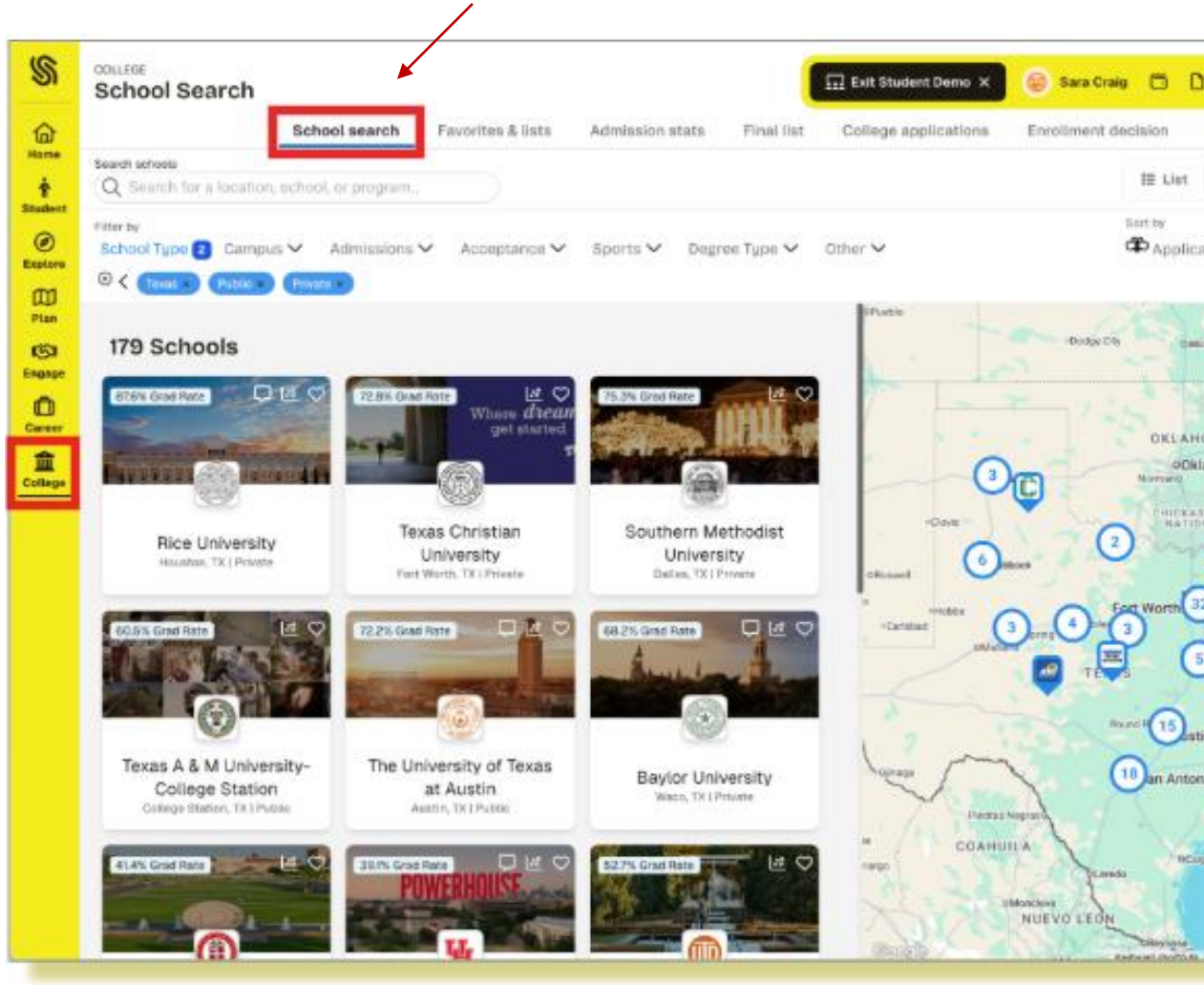
Create A Final College List: School Search

Creating a final College List

(Colleges you are applying to)

- Click on **Colleges** (on the left)

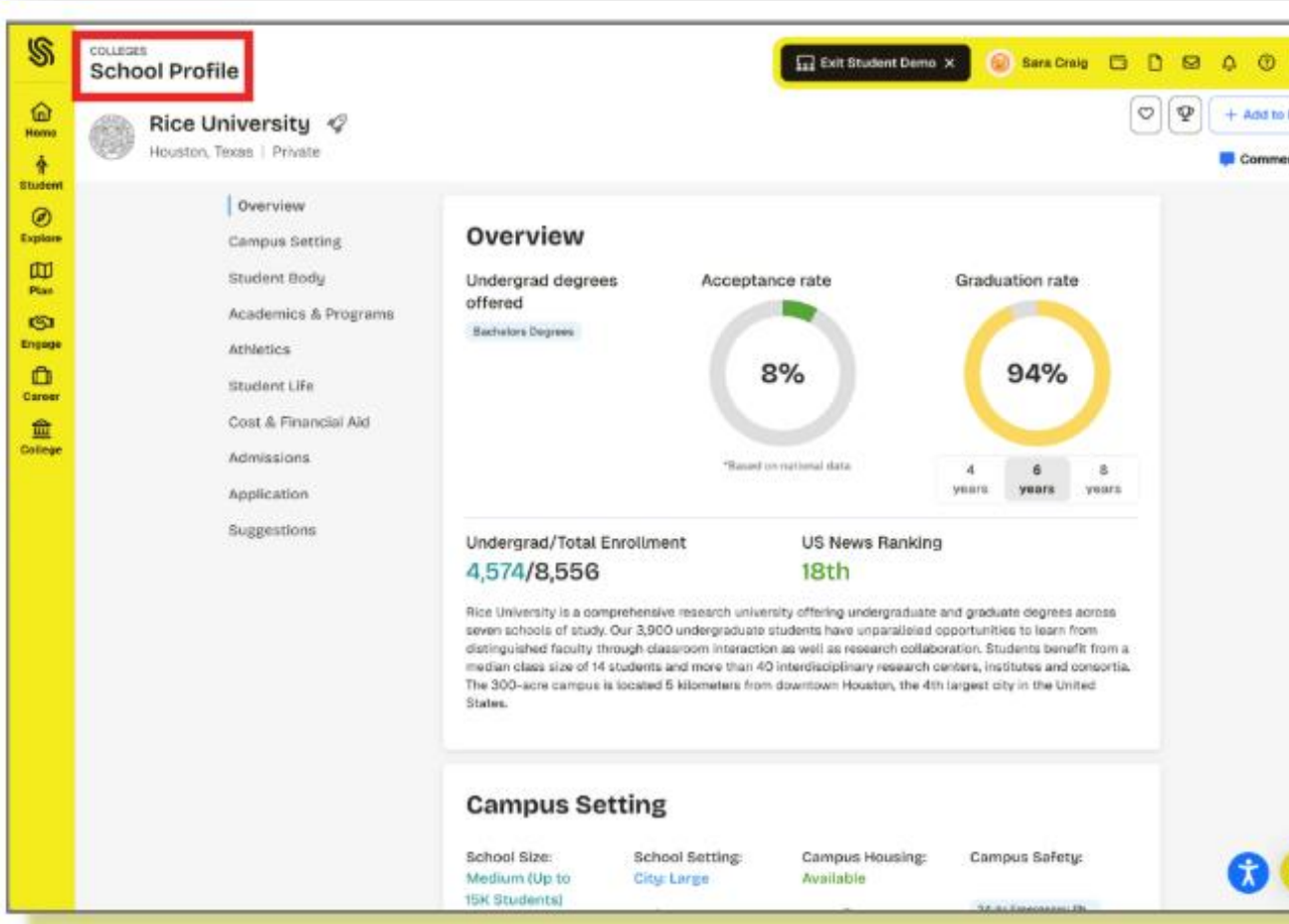
- Click **School Search**
  - Default filters include state, public, and private
  - Use additional filter options to further narrow down search results
  - Use the search bar to search for a school and program directly or to change the state filter
  - Click school card to open the School Profile



Create A Final College List: School Profile

After choosing a School Profile:

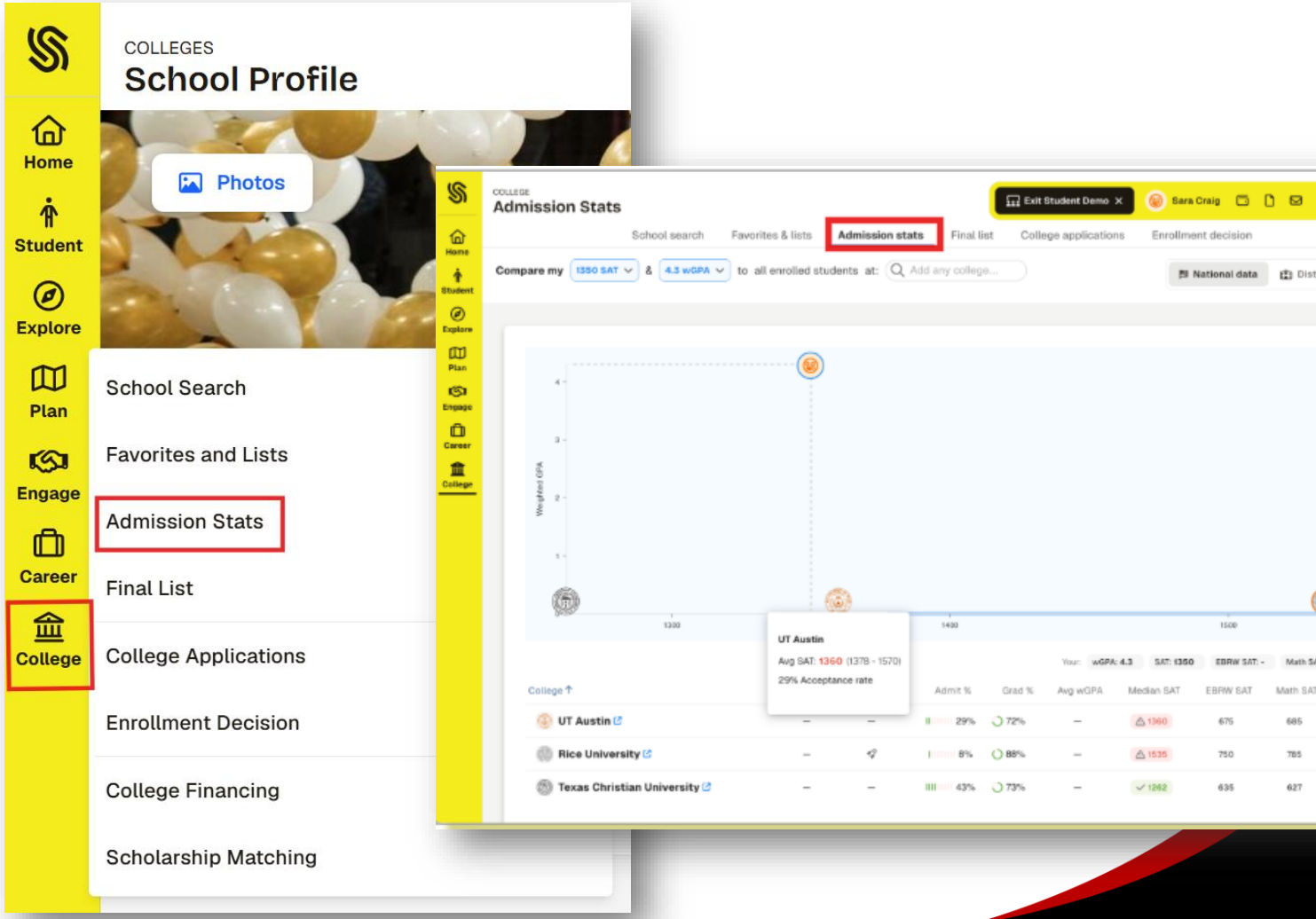
- Learn about admission stats, campus life, application requirements, and more!
- Watch current student videos
- Favorite, set as a goal, and add to a school list



Create A Final College List: Admissions Stats

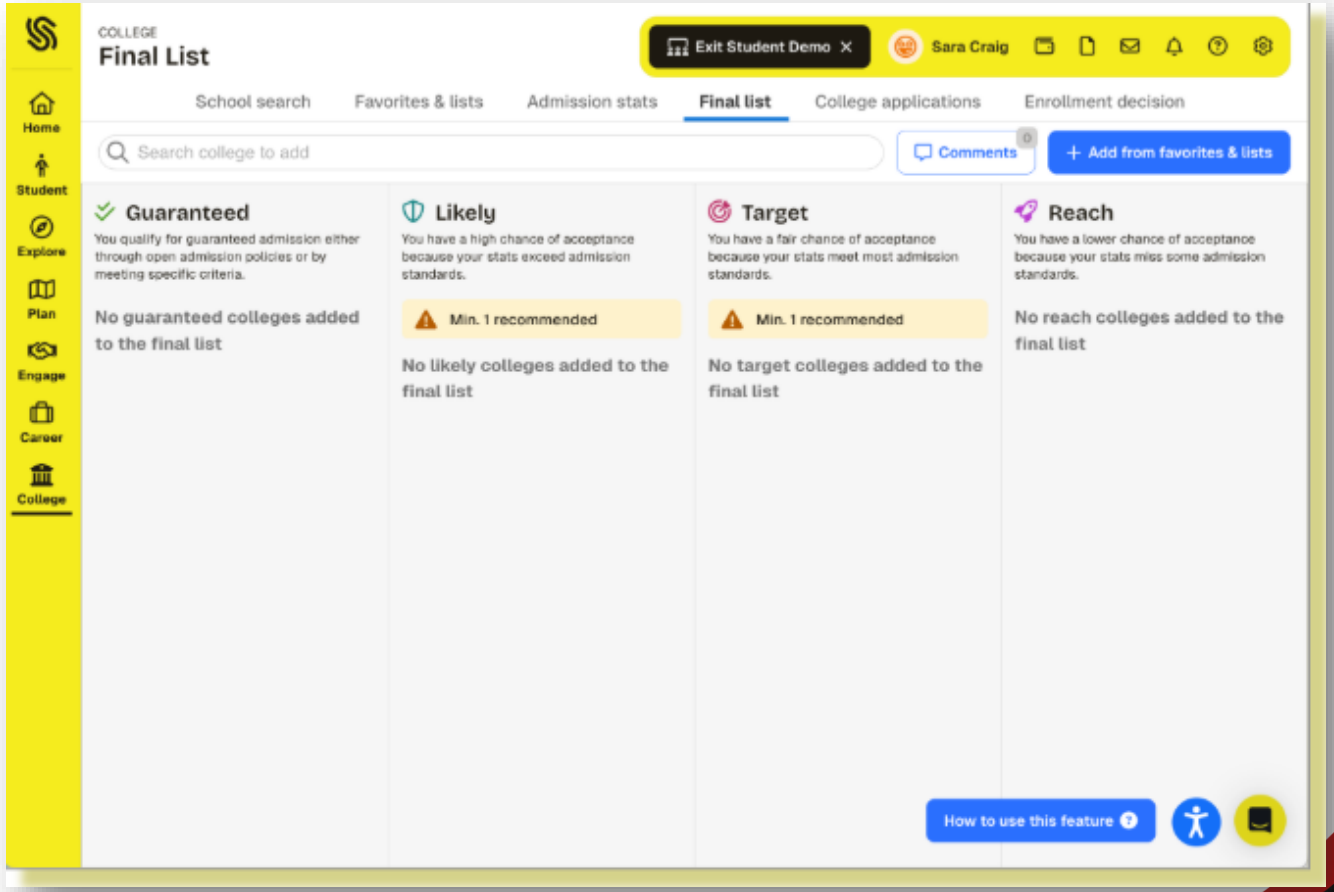
<u>To view Admission Stats:</u>

- Click on **Colleges** (on the left)
- Click **Admissions Stats**
  - Students can compare test scores & GPA to national & district college admissions data.



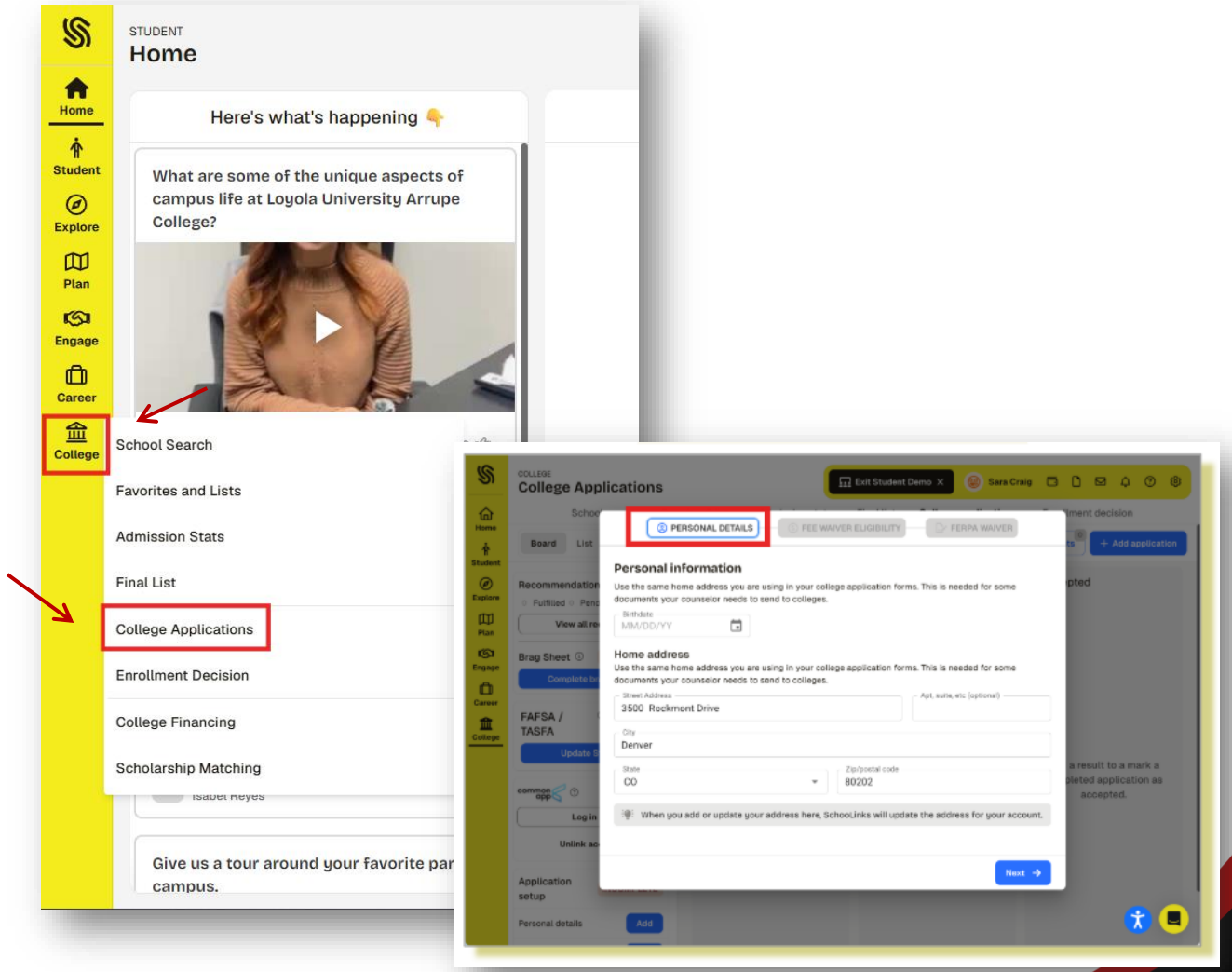
Final College List: Complete

- Make sure every college you plan to apply to is added to your Final College List
- Double-check the application types and deadlines
- Remove any colleges you are NOT applying to
- Colleges not on your Final College List may not receive your transcript
- Deadlines matter; do not wait until the last minute!



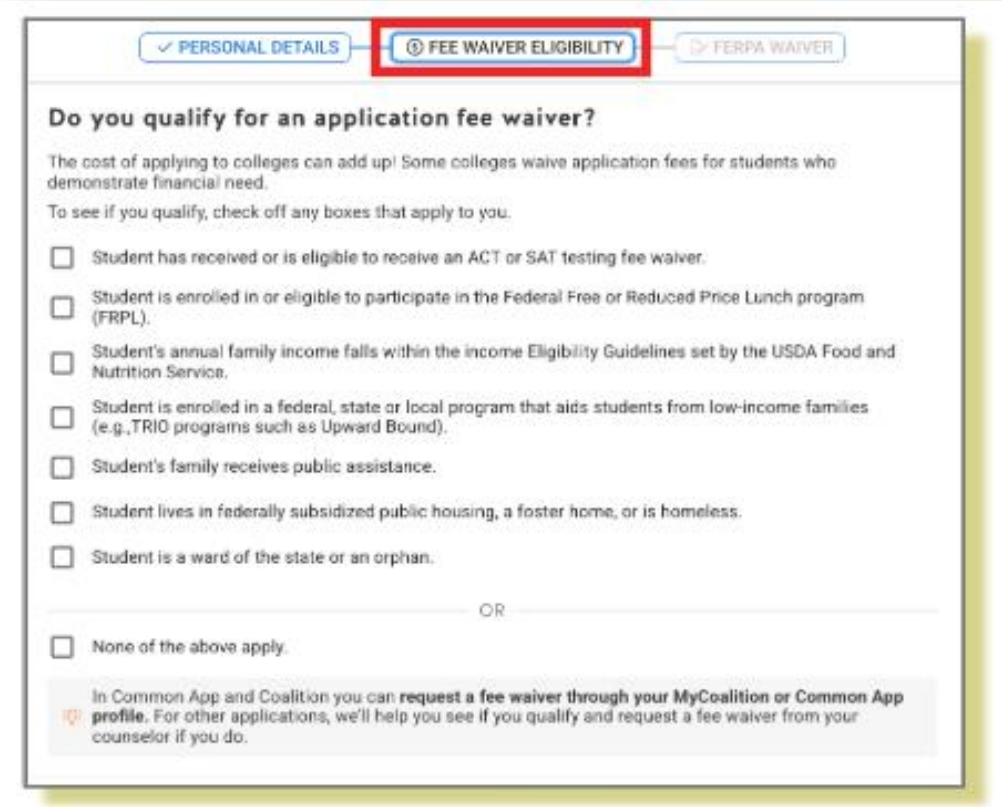
College Applications Setup

- Go to **College Application Manager (CAM)**
- You will be prompted to complete a 3-part setup process
- Complete **Part 1: Personal Details** **(can be edited after setup)**

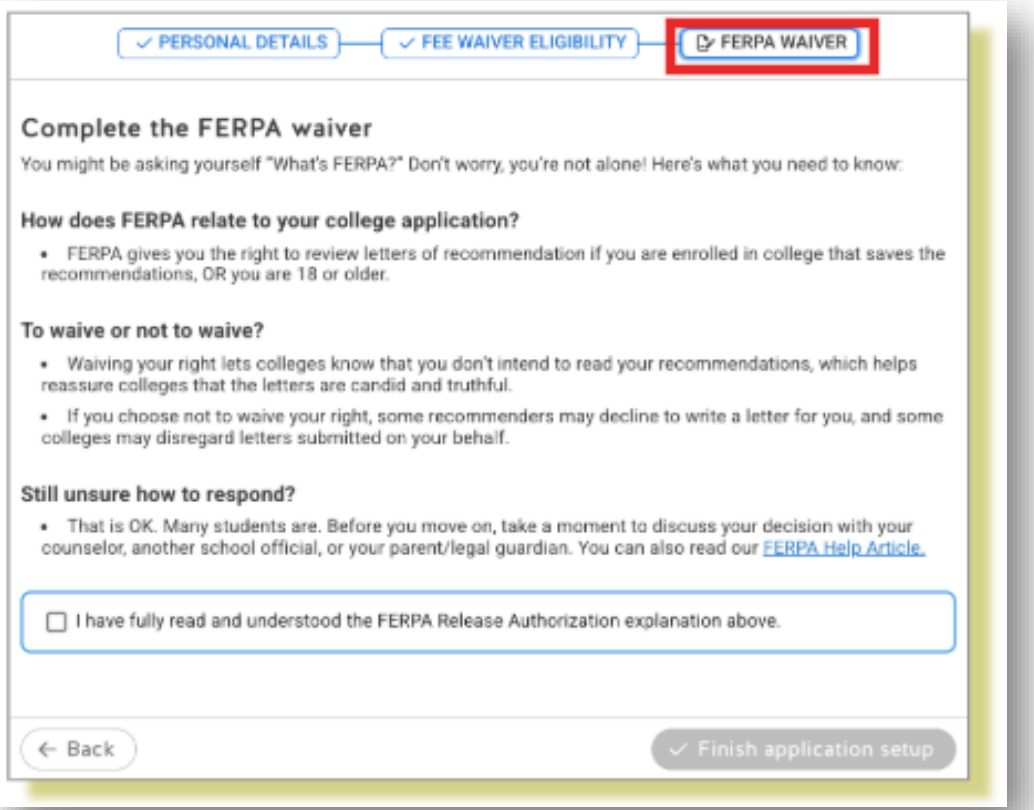


College Applications Setup

Complete **Part 2: Fee Waiver Eligibility** (can be edited after setup)



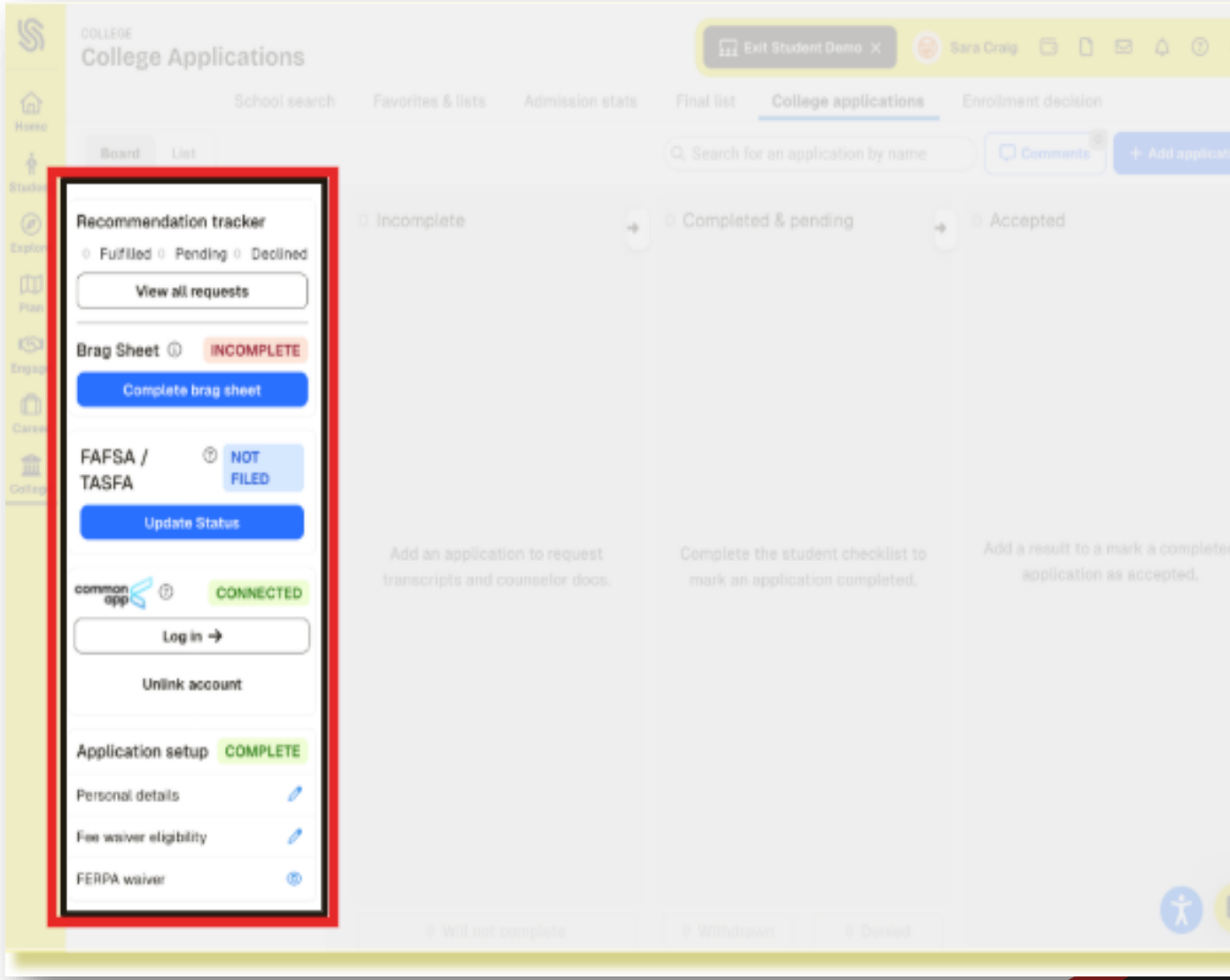
Complete **Part 3: FERPA Waiver** (<u>cannot</u> be edited after setup)



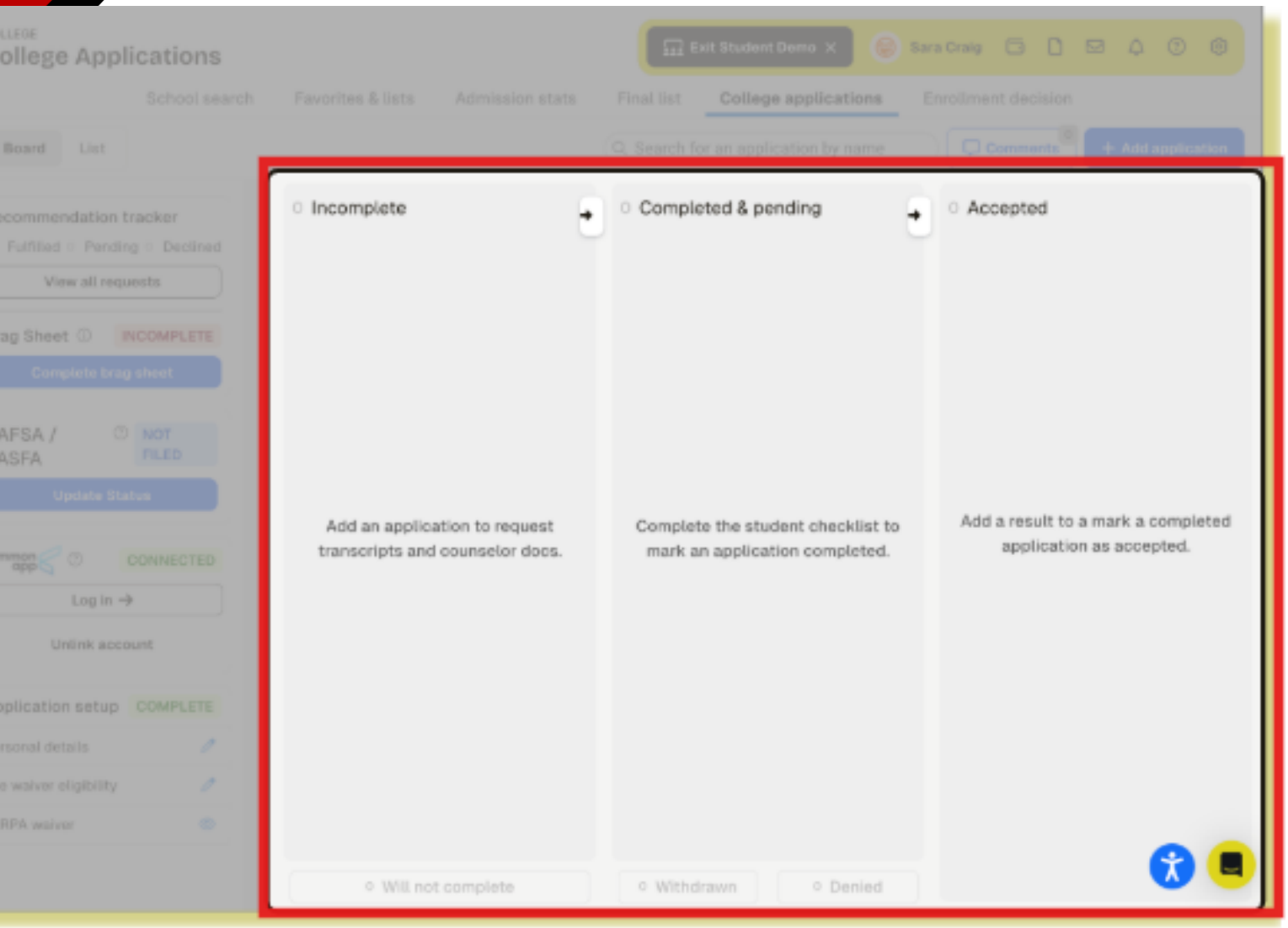
College Applications Dashboard

Side Panel

- School List
- Recommendation Tracker
- Brag Sheet
- FAFSA File Status
- Common App Connection
- Application Setup



College Applications Dashboard



Application Status Lists

- Incomplete
  - **Missing something**
- Completed & Pending
  - **Everything received**
  - **Submitted, waiting**
- Accepted
  - **Add the result - You got in!** 🎉

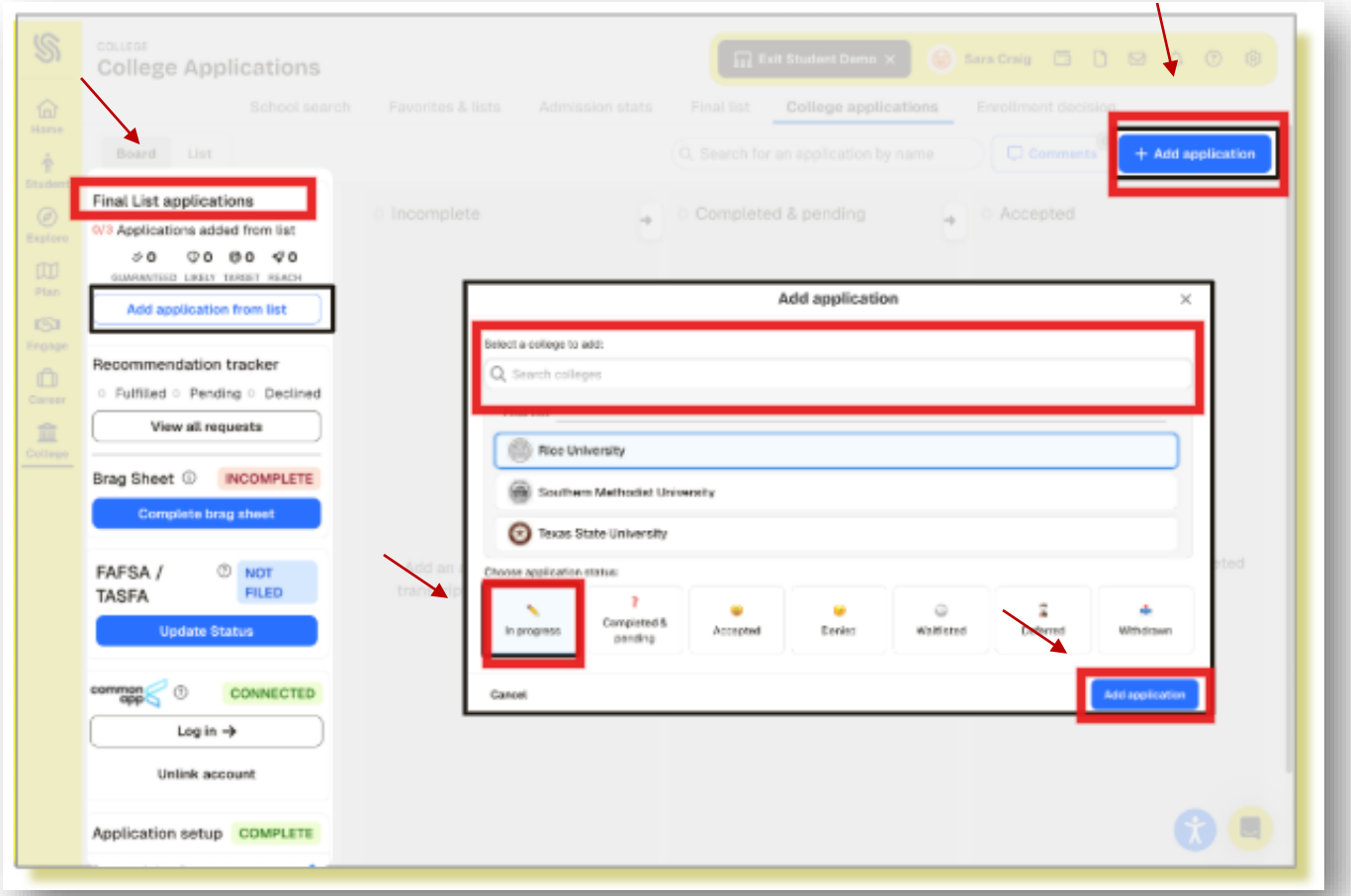
Add Applications

Adding Methods

- **Option 1:** Add an application from your “Final List”

- **Option 2:** Add an application not on your “Final List” from **+Add application** button

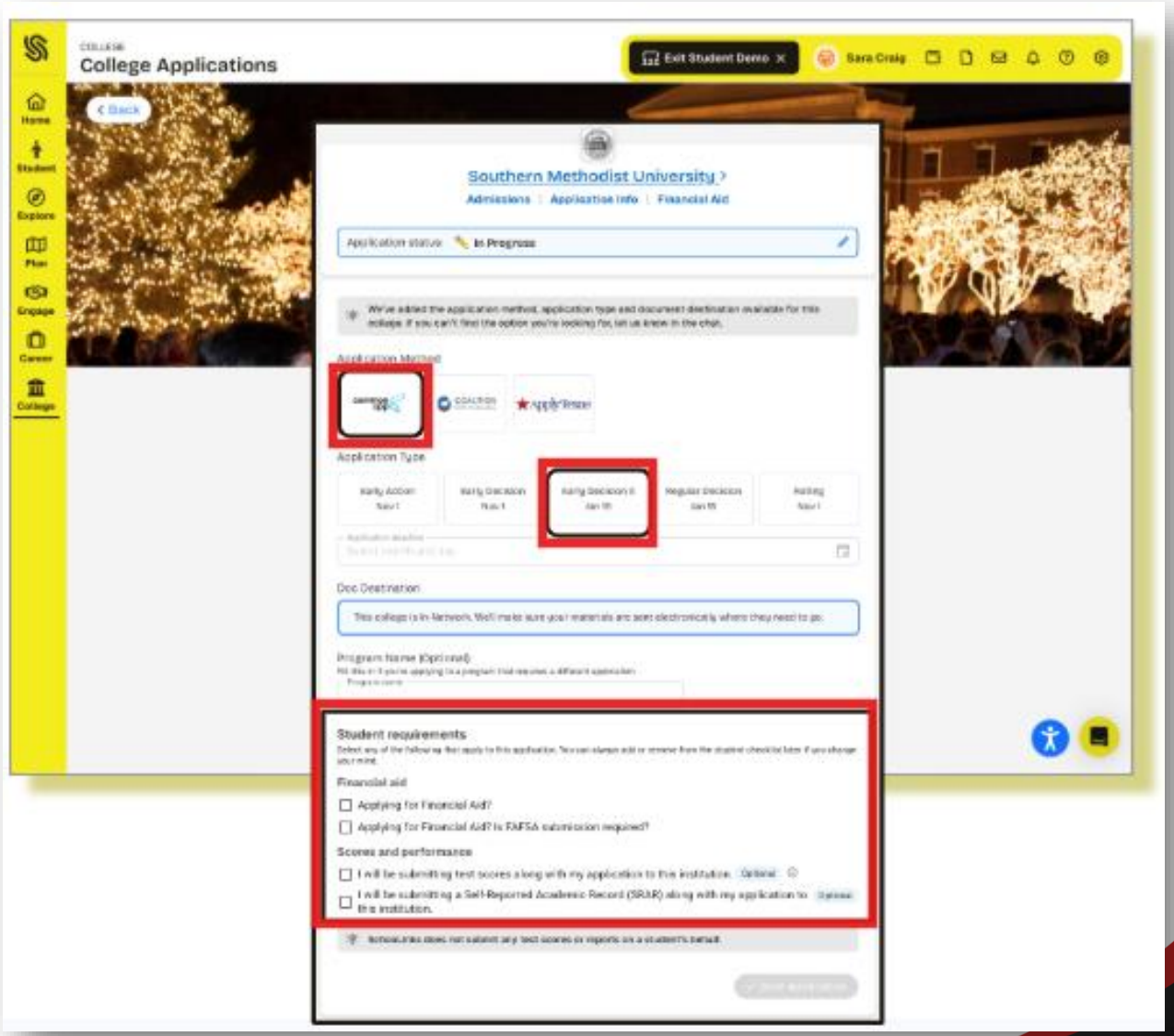
Select your Application Status



Add Application Details

After adding an application, you will be prompted to select:

- Application Method
- Application Type
- Student Requirements



Manage Application Requirements

Student Checklist

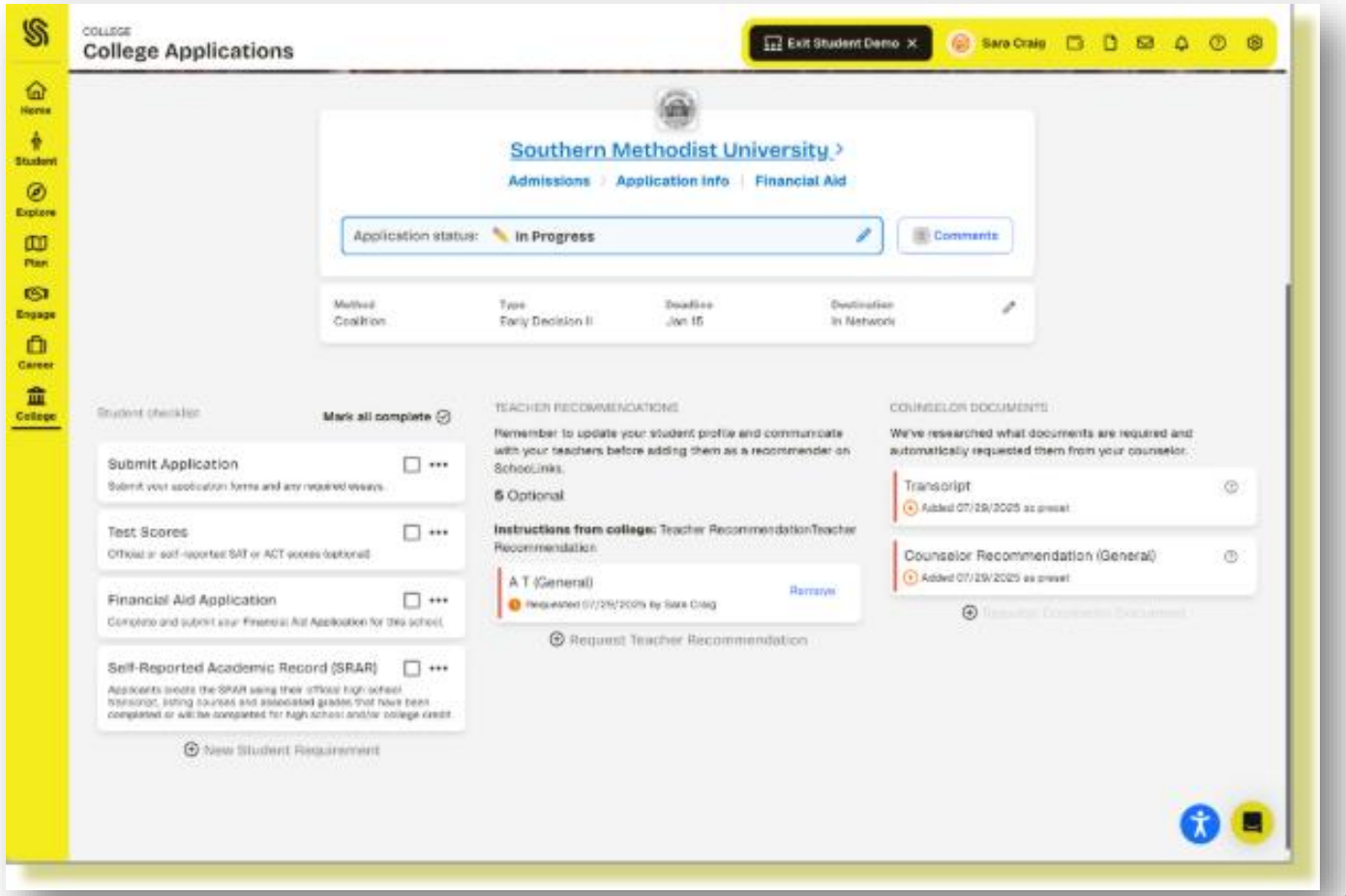
- Items to be completed by the student
- Optional items can be added or removed

Teacher Recommendations

- Shows the required number of recommendations with instructions

Counselor Documents

- Shows the requested counselor documents
- Cannot be edited by the student

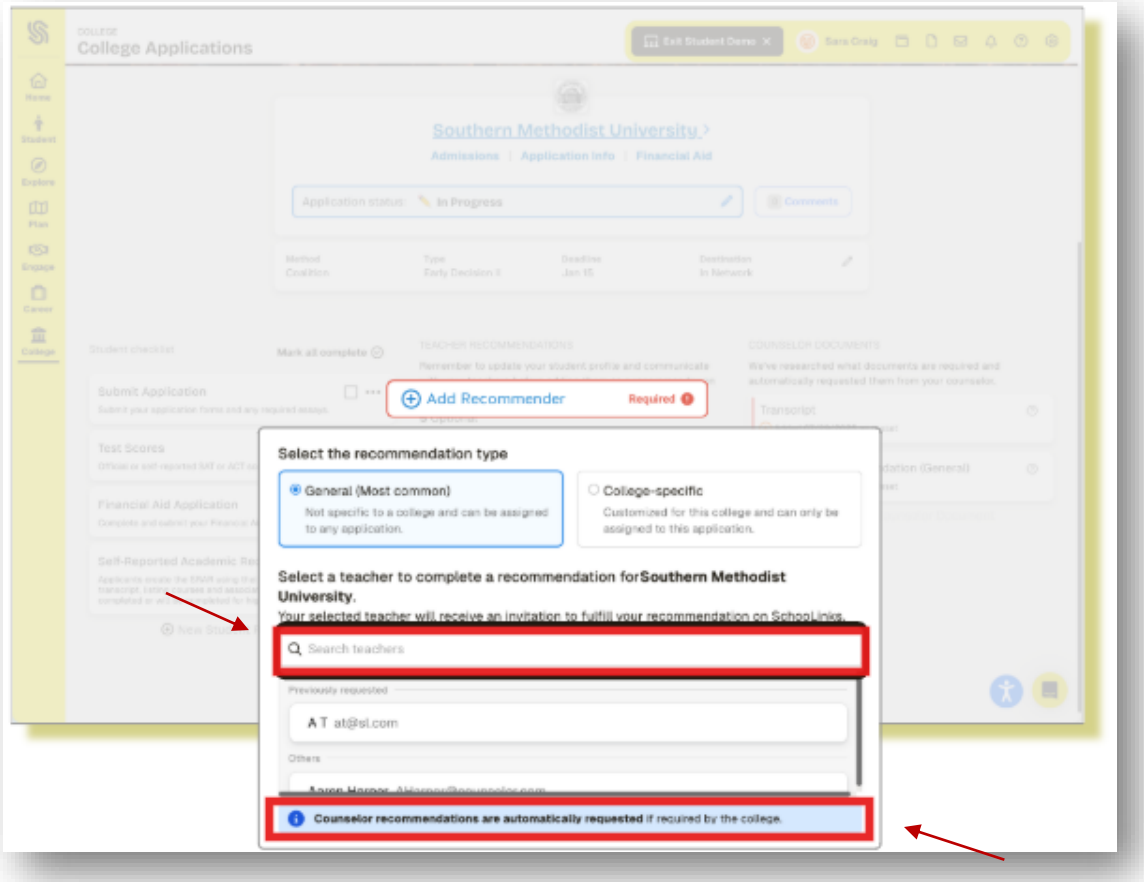


Add Recommenders

Students can search for a teacher or manually enter a teacher's name if it is not in the list.

The teacher will be alerted via email of the request.

NOTE: Counselor recommendations are automatically requested *if required by the college*.

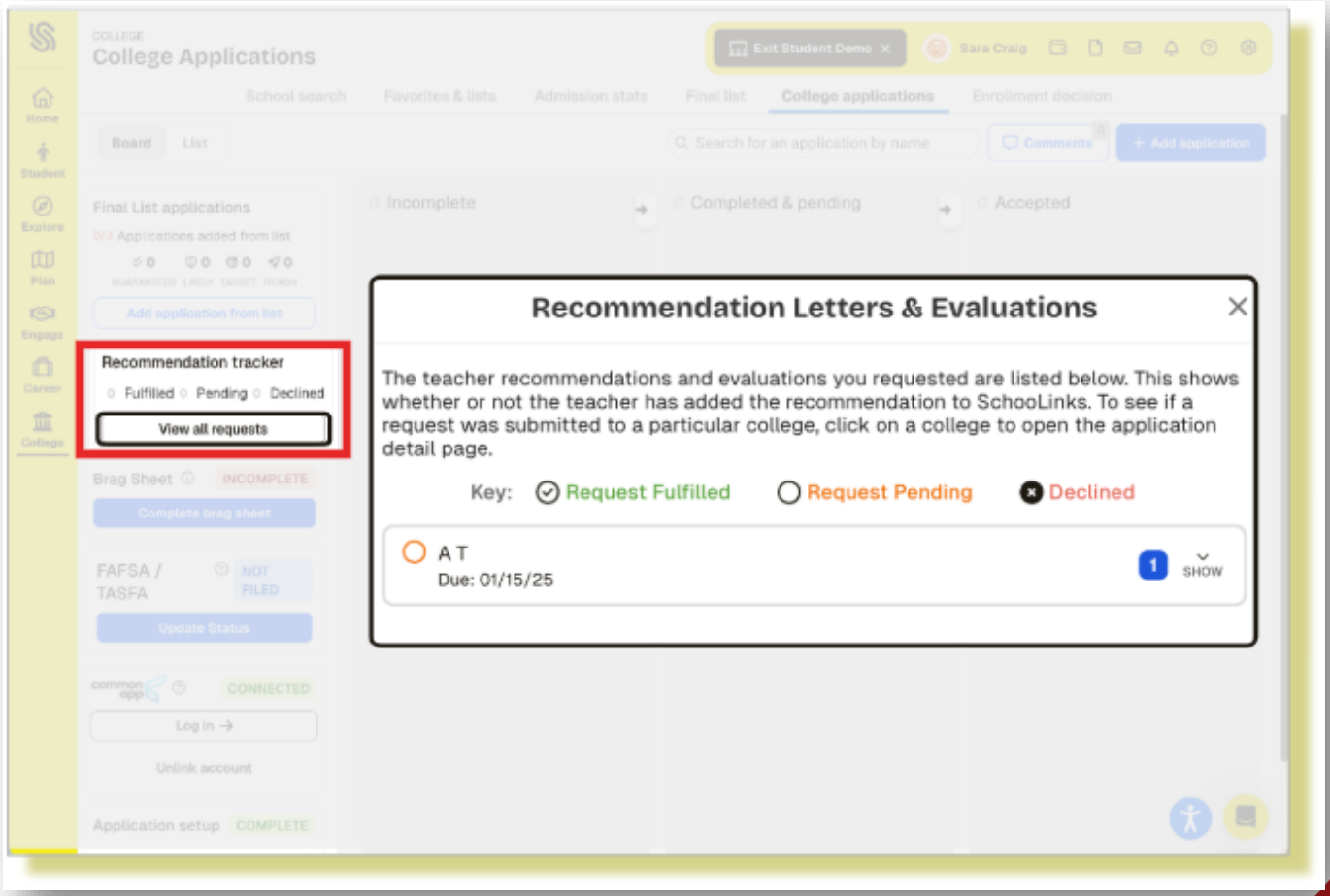


Track Recommendation Letter Status

View recommenders and colleges along with the current status:

- Fulfilled
- Pending
- Declined

NOTE: Students cannot view their letters of recommendation, even if they have not waived their right to them.



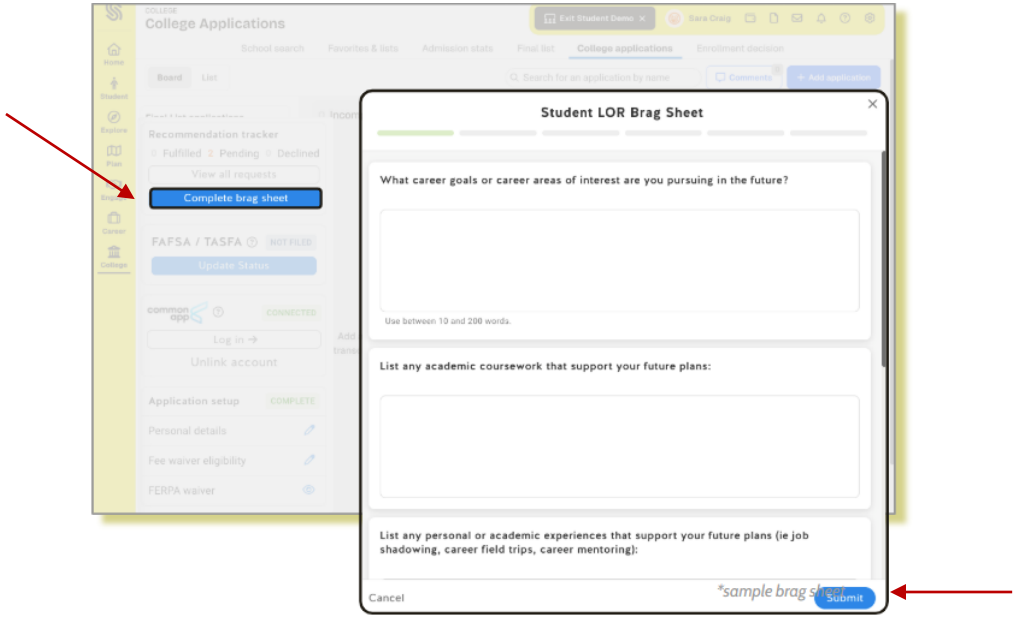
Complete Senior Brag Sheet

Students must complete the Senior Brag Sheet for counselors and teachers to write a letter of recommendation on their behalf.

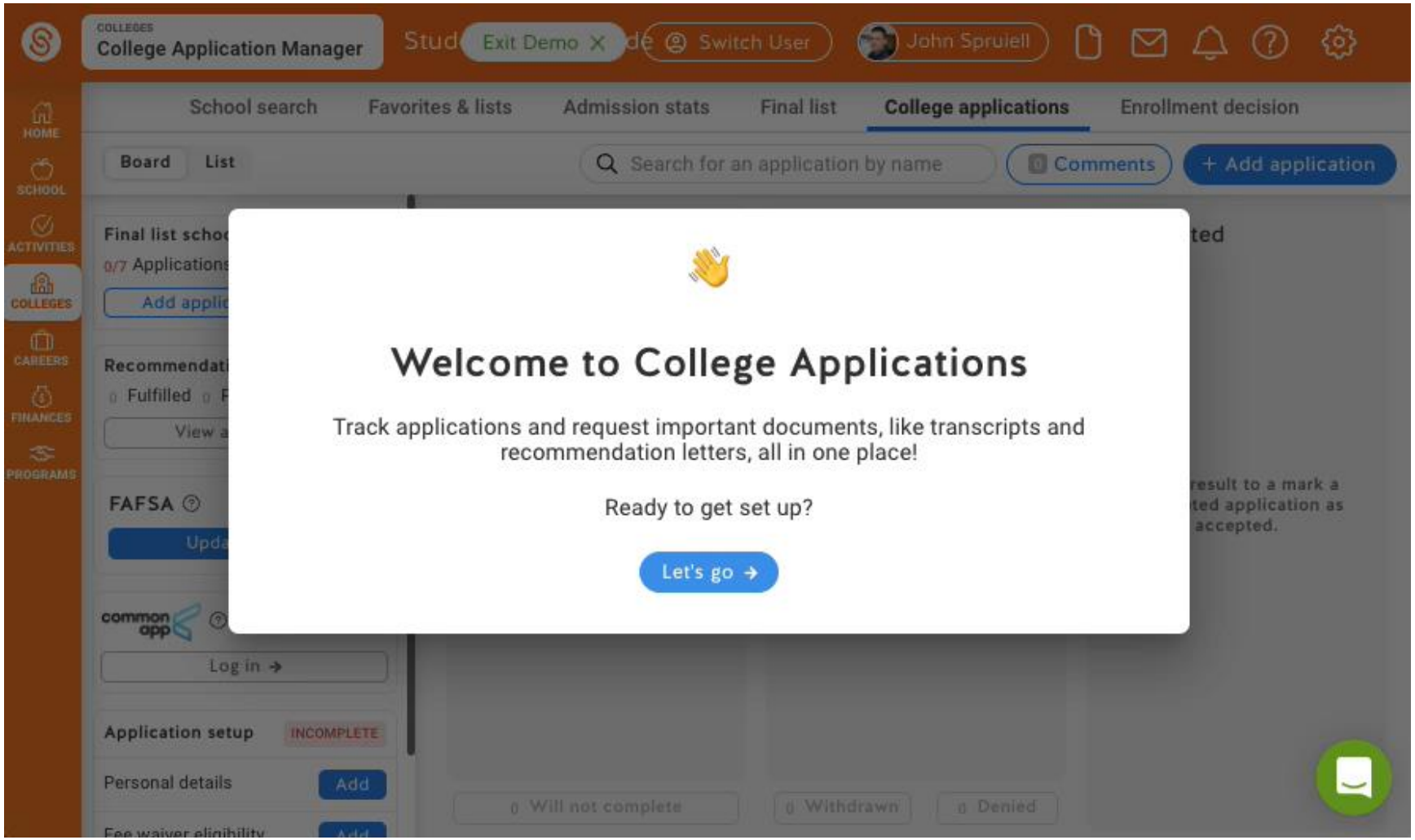
- Tell us all about YOU!

Click “Submit” when completed

You can start/stop/edit your Senior Brag Sheet as many times as you would like. Please remember to click “Submit” when complete.



Video: CAM Walkthrough



https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vlkvtQCAuK_3hNn2K10Qjpkociezv5kM/view?usp=sharing

Linking Your Common App Account

- The Common App is an undergraduate college admission application that students may use to apply to any of the 1,000+ member colleges and universities.
- For Common App schools, students are required to link their Common App and SchooLinks accounts.
- To link your Common App account, students must,
  - Create a Common App account
  - Complete the **Education** section of the Common App
  - Sign the **FERPA Release Authorization** in the Common App

Let's watch a quick video that shows how to link your Common App and SchooLinks accounts.

Video: Linking Common App Account



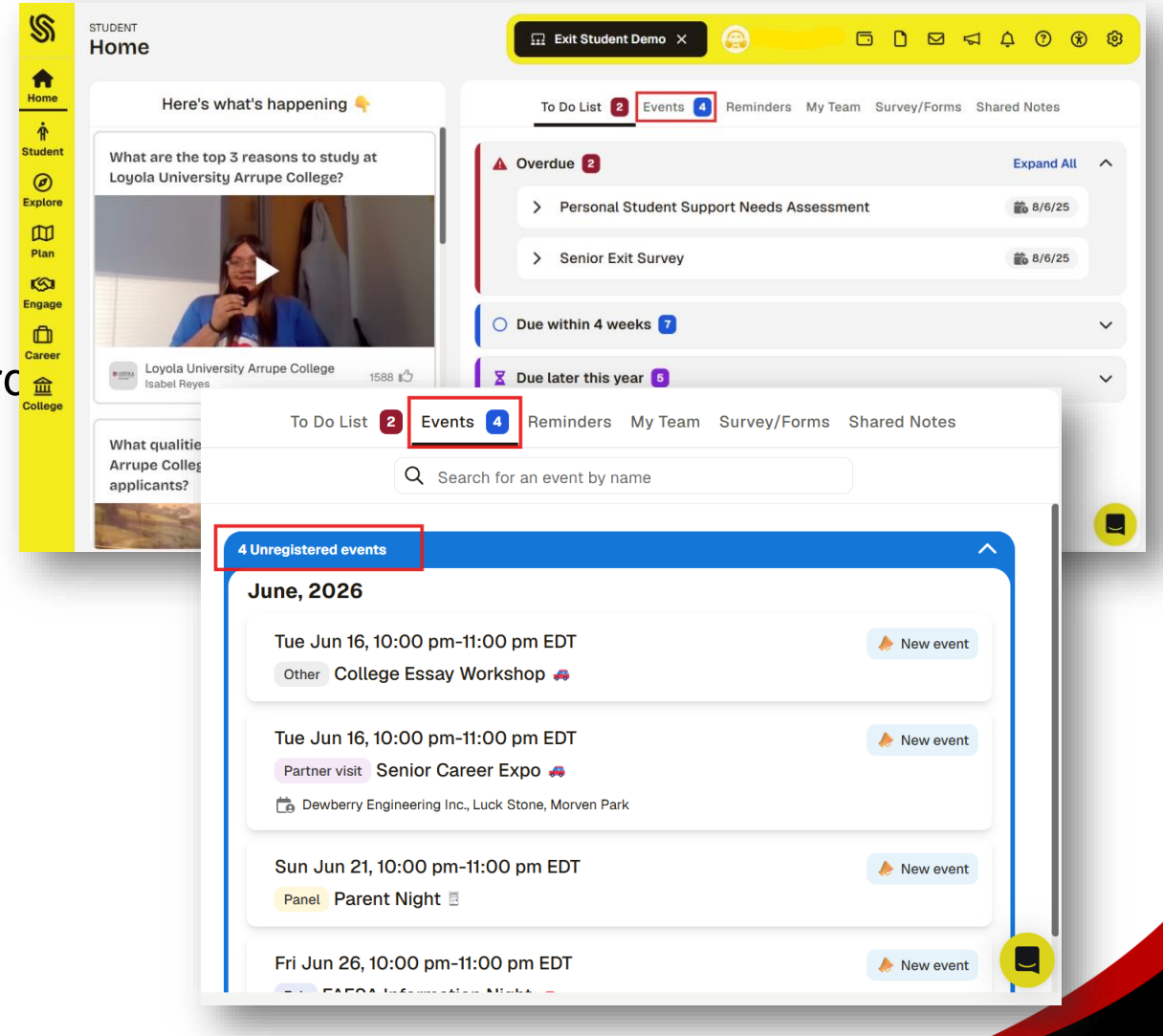
https://www.loom.com/share/a33fb74a96334eeaab31e92abf29d845

Sending Official Test Scores

- SAT/ACT scores can only be sent directly from the test agencies.
  - SAT: Home – SAT Suite of Assessments | College Board
  - ACT: The ACT Test for Students | ACT
- Our school's CEEB code: **112005**

College Visits

- Opportunity to hear from college admissions reps about their schools and admissions process.
- To register to attend:
  - Click on the **“Events”** tab from your dashboard
    - Events are categorized into 3 groups: Registered, Unregistered, and Past registered
  - Click on **“Unregistered Events”** to view upcoming college visits
  - Click on the event name to register
  - Registration confirmation is immediate
  - Once you register, you will receive automated reminders for the event.
  - Location: Room 1122



Senior Graduation Survey

December Graduates

This survey will be made available to you in November.

May Graduates

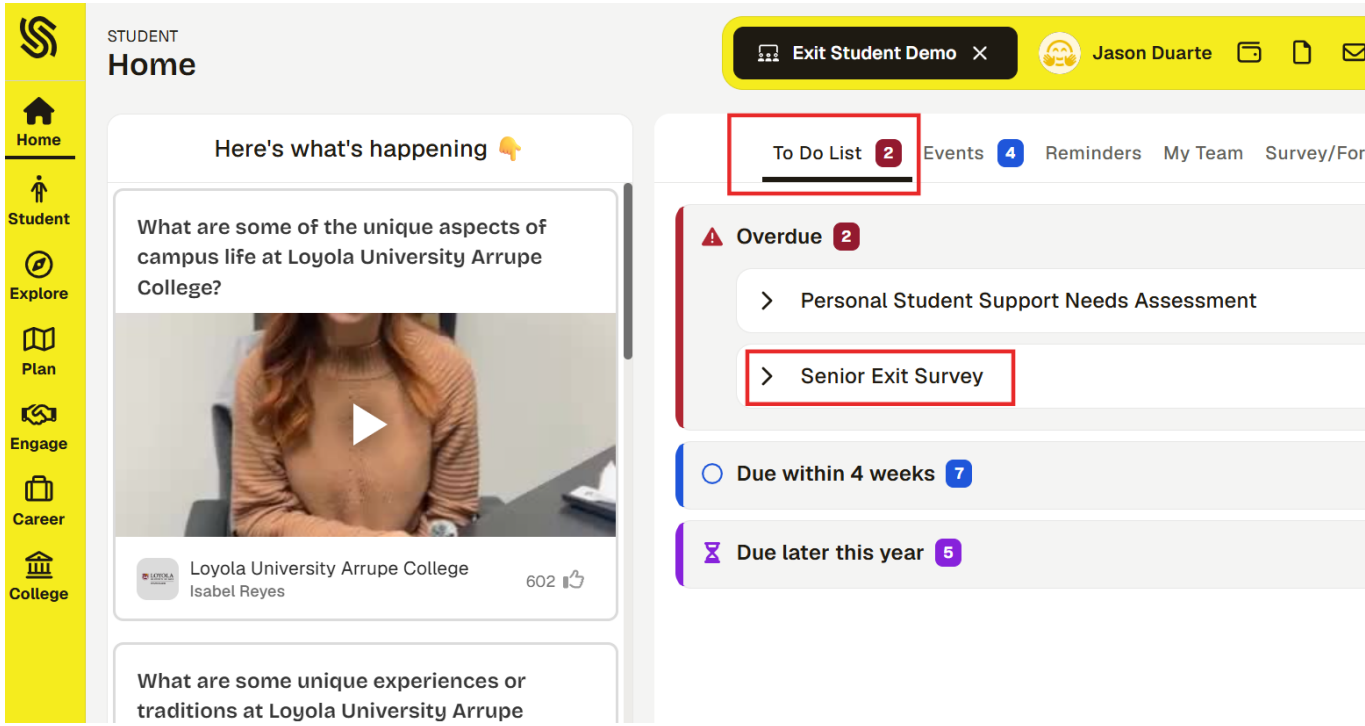
This survey will be made available to you in March.

NOTE:

All seniors are required to complete this survey before graduation; be sure to complete it when it becomes available.

Senior Graduation Survey Instructions

- Log into SchooLinks
- On your dashboard, click on your **To-Do List**, then **Senior Exit Survey**
- **Answer all of the questions**
- Add all scholarship names & dollar amounts that you've been awarded.
- Click **"Submit"**



College Basics

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Understanding Application Types

- **Early Decision I & II (Binding)** – Cannot apply to other colleges for early decision, but can apply for regular decision. If accepted for early decision, must attend.
- **Early Action (non-Binding)** – Can apply early to other colleges and can apply for regular decision. Will receive an admissions decision before regular decision deadlines.
- **Regular Decision** – Standard deadline date established by the institution, with no priority
- **Rolling Admission** – Open admission; decisions given throughout the year as applications are received and until the limit set by the institution is met
- **Priority Deadline** – Similar to rolling admissions, but priority consideration around financial aid, housing, etc. is typically offered to these applicants

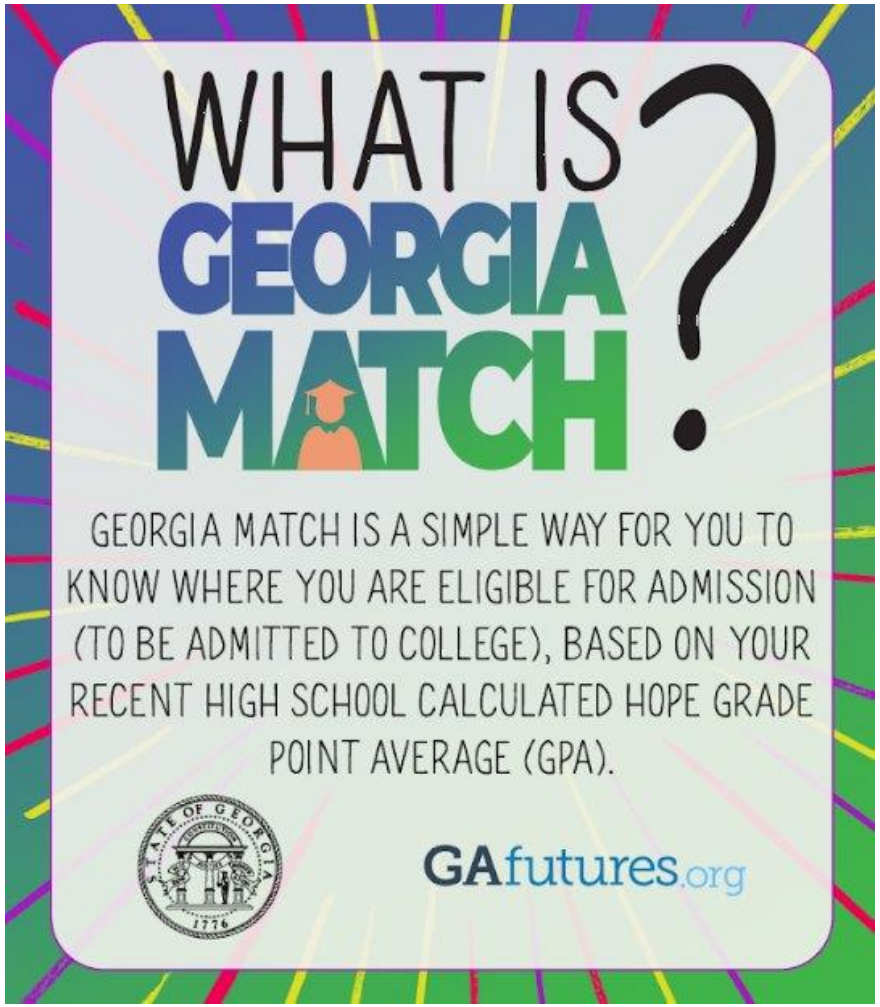
6 Steps of the Application Process

1. Determine what college(s) you're applying to and know their deadline(s)
2. Determine the application type(s) – e.g., Common App, Coalition, Direct to Institution
3. Complete your online profile/submit your application(s)
4. Pay application fee(s)
5. Send your test scores directly from the testing agency – e.g. College Board or ACT
6. Use SchooLinks – our "delivery system" to: 1) send your official transcript and/or 2) obtain teacher letters of recommendation

Remember, as the student/applicant, be sure to track your admissions status directly from the institutions' websites.

It is highly recommended that you take college campus tours!
Most (if not all) are free and can easily be scheduled online directly from the institution's website.

Georgia MATCH



- Georgia MATCH is a simple way for you to know where you are eligible for admission, based on your high school calculated HOPE GPA through 11th grade.
- Georgia MATCH works with public and private accredited high schools in Georgia.
- To view your Georgia MATCH colleges, visit your GAfutures Student Dashboard at [GAfutures.org | Georgia Student Finance Commission]

Georgia MATCH

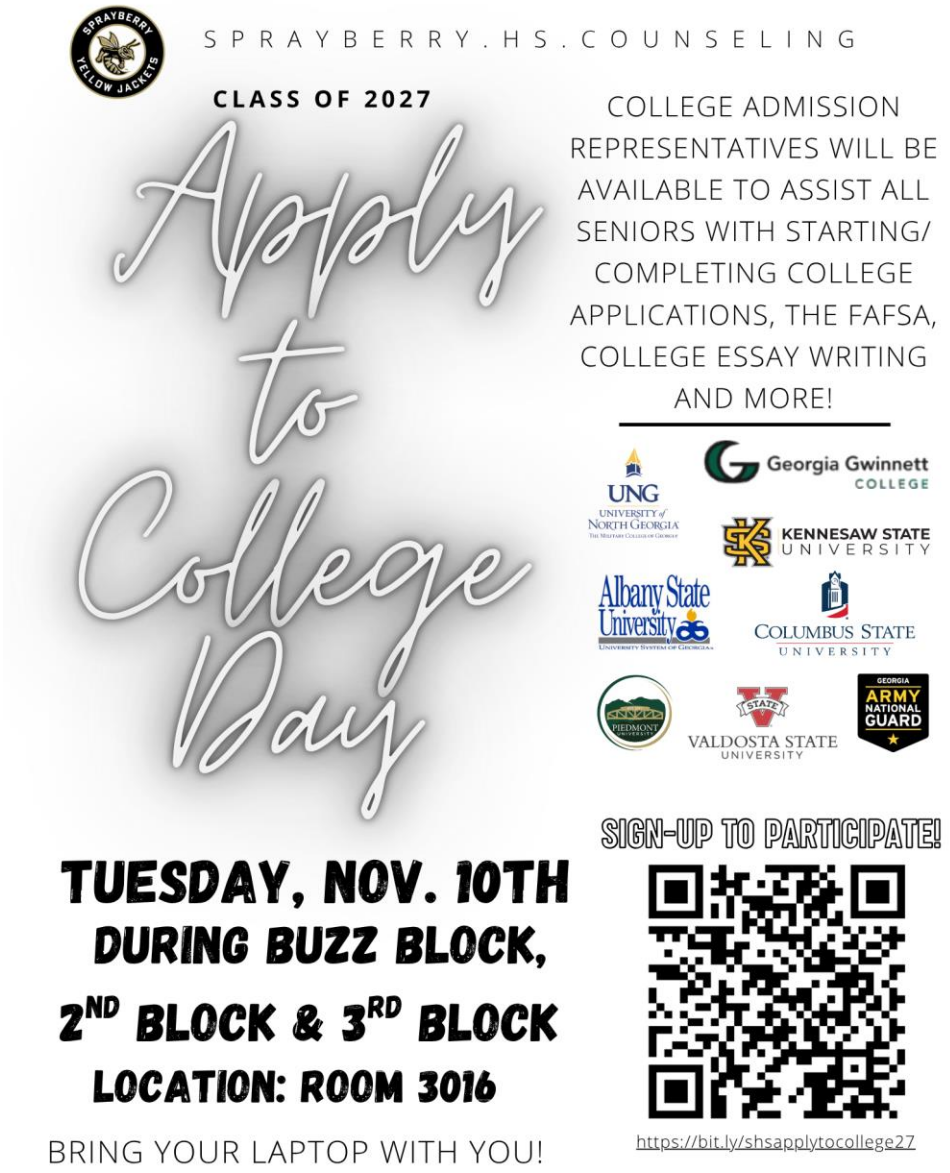


https://youtu.be/dITFM8F_aVk?si=-8c_Y6twVhNPQQic

Helpful Websites

- ACT – https://www.act.org/
- BigFuture - https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/
- Cobb County School District - https://www.cobbk12.org/
- Common App - https://www.commonapp.org/
- Common Black College App - https://commonblackcollegeapp.com/
- Coalition For College App - https://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/
- FAFSA - https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa
- GAfutures - https://www.gafutures.org/
- SAT (CollegeBoard) - https://www.collegeboard.org/

Apply To College Day



Date:

- **Tuesday, November 10th**

Time (Choose 1 Block to attend):

- **Buzz Block**
- **2nd Block**
- **3rd Block**

Location:

- **Room 3016**

Go to: https://bit.ly/shsapplytocollege27

to sign-up to participate!

Paying For College

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Paying For College: Financial Aid

- Financial aid is an overarching umbrella for paying for college.
- There are several ways to pay for college, including options from the state and federal government.
  - Scholarships
  - Loans: Federal & Private
  - Federal Student Grants
    - Pell Grants are awarded to undergraduate students who have exceptional financial need
  - Federal Work-Study
    - Provides part-time jobs for undergraduate and graduate students with financial need, allowing them to earn money to help pay some of their educational expenses.
- Scholarships and grants **do not** have to be repaid.
- Loans **do** have to be repaid and typically include the amount borrowed **plus** interest.

Paying For College: Scholarships

- Types of scholarships:
  - **Merit-based** – Awards for grades, test scores, leadership, or achievements
  - **Need-based** – Based on financial need
  - **Athletic** – For students who play sports
  - **Talent-based** – For skills in music, art, theater, or dance
  - **Career/Major-specific** – For specific fields (e.g., nursing, education)
  - **Local** – Offered by community groups or businesses
  - **College** – Given directly by colleges
  - **Private** – Funded by companies or organizations

- Where to find scholarships for college:
  - SchooLinks
  - GAfutures (Federal Aid & Scholarship > Scholarship Search)
  - College/University Financial Aid office websites
  - Online search engines (e.g., Going Merry, Fastweb, BigFuture/CollegeBoard)

Deadlines vary for each scholarship; make sure you pay attention and submit your application on time.

Paying For College: FAFSA

- FAFSA – **F**ree **A**pplication for **F**ederal **S**tudent **A**id
- It is an online application that is completed by students who want the opportunity to receive federal funding to pay for college.
  - Pell Grant (need-based)
  - Student Loans
- Must be completed on an annual basis and determines how much money one's family would be able to contribute to the student's cost of attending college
- Requires federal tax information from the student's family for application completion and submission

This application can also be used to satisfy the request to receive state funding for the HOPE program as well – HOPE/Zell Miller scholarship, HOPE/Zell Miller Grant, and HOPE Career Grant.

Paying For College:
HOPE/Zell Miller Scholarship

HOPE Scholarship

- Be a U.S. citizen or meet eligible non-citizen requirements
- Be a Georgia resident for at least one year.Must graduate from a Georgia high school
- Be in compliance with Selective Service registration requirements
- Must pass 4 rigor classes from GSFC's Academic Rigor Course List
- Must have a minimum of a 3.0 HOPE GPA upon graduation

Zell Miller Scholarship

- Be a U.S. citizen or meet eligible non-citizen requirements
- Be a Georgia resident for at least one year
- Must graduate from a Georgia high school
- Be in compliance with Selective Service registration requirements
- Must pass 4 rigor classes from GSFC's Academic Rigor Course List
- Must have a minimum of a 3.7 HOPE GPA upon graduation
- 1200 SAT (Math and Reading) or 25 ACT (Composite)

To check your HOPE GPA, visit GAfutures.org
You must have a GAfutures account to review your HOPE GPA.

Paying For College: HOPE/Zell Miller Grants

HOPE Grant

- Be a U.S. citizen or meet non-citizen requirements
- Be a Georgia resident for at least one year
- No GPA requirement
- No test score requirement
- Eligible for students working towards a certificate or diploma at any Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG)

HOPE Career Grant

- Be a Georgia resident
- Helps students start a well-paying career with little to no debt while also building a skilled workforce for Georgia employers
- Must be a recipient of the HOPE or Zell Miller Grant
- Eligible for students working towards a certificate or diploma at a technical college in programs that are considered high-demand career fields

Zell Miller Grant

- Be a U.S. citizen or meet non-citizen requirements
- Be a Georgia resident
- No high school GPA requirement
- A minimum 3.5 postsecondary calculated HOPE GPA at the end of each term is required in order to maintain eligibility
- Available to Georgia residents who are working towards a certificate or diploma at a Technical College System of Georgia (TSCG) or University System of Georgia (USG) institution

Paying For College: HOPE Program FAQs

How do I apply for the HOPE/Zell Miller Scholarship or Grant?

Answer: Complete the FAFSA each year OR complete the GSFAPP

What is the deadline to submit the HOPE Program application?

Answer: The last day of the school term or the student's withdrawal date, whichever occurs first.

What is my HOPE GPA?

Answer: It is viewable from the Your HOPE GPA tab after logging in to your GAfutures profile. It is **not** the same as your CCSD weighted or unweighted GPA.

Your Social Security Number (SSN) must be on file in the Cobb County student record system to receive any HOPE/Zell Miller funds!

Funding Your Future: Financial Aid Night



Tuesday, October 27th
6:00PM
Microsoft Teams

Go to:
https://bit.ly/shsfundyourfuture26
to tune in!

Step into your senior year with confidence and excitement!

