

# College Planning & Application



- College Search
- Steps to Apply
- Financial Aid..

<https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/articles/college-application-process>

# How are the School Counselors working with Seniors?

2024-2025

- Counselors hold Senior Parent College Application Session- 9/5
- Counselors present in Senior English Classes- 9/9 & 9/10
  - Topics include the full scope of post-secondary options including: entering the skilled workforce, military, trade, and college applications.
- Counselor + Senior individual senior meetings are scheduled to discuss post-secondary plans. This occurs through October, but students are able to request earlier appointments, as needed.
- Counselors host College Application and Fin Aid Workshops through January. Students can sign up, so encourage your senior to do so! Sessions are held during the morning CLUB period so students do not miss class.

College Application Completion, Scholarship Search and Completion, Esther Ludwig Information and Completion (December)

01

## Create a list of colleges

Research  
Variety  
Visit

02

## Apply

Follow the directions!  
College Application or Common  
Application

03

## Send application documents

Transcript  
Recommendation Letters  
Application fee \$\$  
Portfolio \*  
Writing sample \*  
Interview \*

04

## Financial Aid & Scholarship

FAFSA  
PHEAA  
College-specific scholarships  
Outside scholarships



01

## CREATE LIST

Research  
Variety  
Visit

01

Create List

# Use College Match Programs-

Search by:

- Location
- Major
- Size
- Selectivity
- Cost \$

College athlete?  
Must register with  
the NCAA



U.S. News & World Report

PETERSON'S

EDUCATION  
PLANNER.org



CollegeBoard

Select 4-8  
Schools

Safety  
Good Fit  
Reach





## Safety Schools

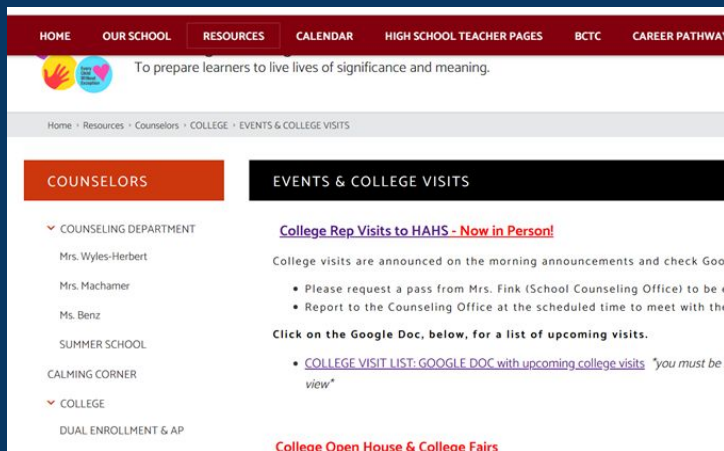
Guaranteed admission  
Financially affordable

## Good Fit Schools

Academically right  
Affordable

## Reach Schools

Higher tier  
Very competitive  
and/or financially expensive \$\$



## College Reps @ HAHS

Students, check out the HAHS Counselor Webpage to view Google doc updated with College Rep Visits.

<https://www.hasdhawks.org/Page/806>  
Also listen to morning announcements.



## Visit

Get on as many campuses as you are able. The more time you put in now, will benefit you later when making your final decision.



Let's see how easy it is to start a visit

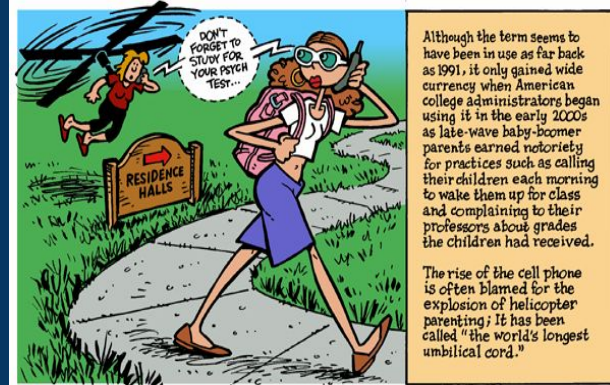
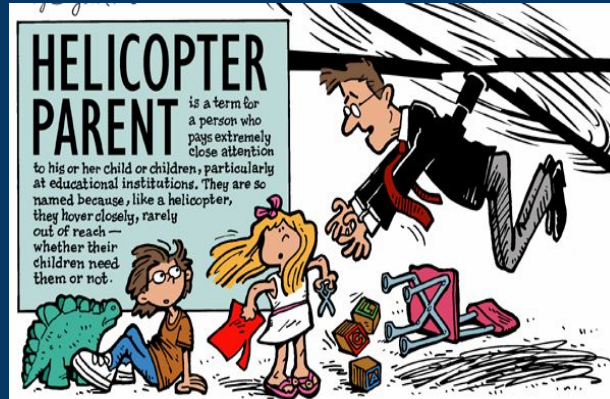
The greatest gifts  
you can give your children are  
the roots of responsibility  
and the wings of independence.  
Denis Waitley

"Little children, from  
the moment they are  
weaned, are making  
their way toward  
independence."

- Maria Montessori

It is not what you do for  
your children,  
but what you have taught  
them to do for themselves,  
that will make them  
successful human beings.

Ann Landers



Although the term seems to have been in use as far back as 1991, it only gained wide currency when American college administrators began using it in the early 2000s as late-wave baby-boomer parents earned notoriety for practices such as calling their children each morning to wake them up for class and complaining to their professors about grades the children had received.

The rise of the cell phone is often blamed for the explosion of helicopter parenting; It has been called "the world's longest umbilical cord."

Text excerpted from the Wikipedia article *Helicopter parent*. 27 August 2007



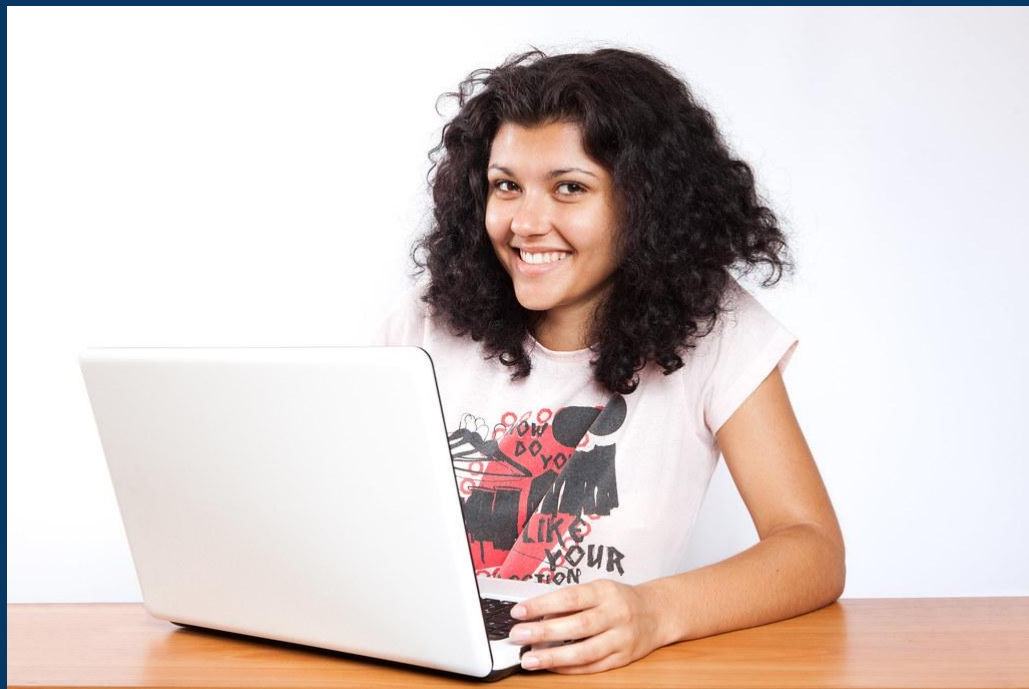


02

## APPLY

Follow Directions  
Complete Application

**Use Personal  
Email**





### Step 1 ?

Follow the directions for each college/application

### Step 2

Complete online application-***again use personal email address***

### Step 3

Send/upload/request all required documents

**Apply:** find Apply link on college website or visit admissions page online

**College Application-** Apply Online directly through College application

- 1 application for each individual college
- App fee or fee waiver?
- Send HS Transcript
- Personal Statement/essay
- Recommendation Letters (optional or required?)
- SAT/ACT test or test-optional > When to send?

**Common Application- Apply Online**

- 1 application for multiple colleges
- Thorough application that includes an essay, sometimes short answer responses.
- App fee or fee waiver?
- Student must manage all required documents.
  - Add Recommender(s) email
  - Add HS Counselor email
    - Transcript sent by Counselor through CA



SAT/ACT test required or test-optional?

Let's talk about TESTS- next slide

## Send Documents:

**More on Transcripts in Section 3**



**Transcript:**

- Hamburg uses **PARCHMENT** to electronically send transcripts to

*\*\*Exception\*\* if applying using Common App, Counselor will send transcript.*

**Know deadlines!**

- Merit scholarship deadlines are early.
- Early Decision/Early Action includes a completed FAFSA
- RACC/Dual Enrollment and/or AP Exams (student must send official transcripts FROM RACC or scores from Collegeboard to your college)

## The SAT and ACT Tests



Counselors recommend that all college-bound students take the SAT or ACT



Some specific majors may still require an SAT/ACT such as Nursing, Engineering, Premed, and the Military Academies



How do I know if a college or major is test-optional or required?



Each college uses SAT/ACT in test-optional world, differently. Scholarship consideration, admission, or no impact





03

## SEND APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

Transcript  
Recommendation Letters  
Application Fee  
Other?



As we previously discussed in  
Section 2-Apply,  
Request an official transcript  
through Parchment.



## Send Documents:

### Transcript:

- Hamburg uses **PARCHMENT** to electronically send transcripts to colleges.
- Please do NOT email your counselor to send a transcript.
- DO set an appointment with counselor if you have questions about the application process.

### **\*\*Exception\*\***

***If applying using Common App, Counselor will send transcript through the Common App account.***

- Visit Counseling Office Webpage
- Transcripts & Recommendation TAB
- Watch Tutorial Video to Request a Transcript
- Click on REQUEST MY TRANSCRIPT link
- Create a Parchment account and SEND
  - \$1.00 for each request

### **Know deadlines!**

- Merit scholarship deadlines are early.
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(student must send official transcripts FROM RACC or scores from Collegeboard to your college)

## Recommendation Letters:

- **Know the requirements:**
  - Which teachers are required
  - How many, if any
  - Who knows you the best
- **Request:**
  - Make an in-person request
  - Follow up with an email
  - Complete Rec Request Form(s)
    - Teacher Recommendation Req.
    - Counselor Recommendation Req.
- **Know how to send:**
  - Student should know how to send the Recommendation once complete.
  - Should writer upload to Common App, electronic link, email Admissions Office, etc?

## Application Fee:

### Application not complete without paying for Fee or Fee Waiver

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- Each school has their own set fee to apply (\$35, \$65...)
- Even if using Common Application, student will still have to submit payment for each college.
- **Fee Waivers:**
  1. **For financial need-** free or reduced lunches or documented hardship  
- Or -
  2. College offers fee waivers for:
    - Visiting the college/tour
    - Apply by certain date
    - Offers Fee Waiver CODE

**Ask Admission! It doesn't hurt to see if they have a waiver available.**

## Other:

### What else is required for application/specific major?

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- Physical Therapy
  - Requires observation hours for the application
- Music Major
  - Might require an audition
- Test Optional Alternative
  - Some schools have an "alternative" requirement if student chooses Test Optional.
  - This could be a written explanation of why they chose test-optional.





# FAFSA

ALL students **AND** parents of college-bound students **must** complete a FAFSA federal online form



**website: *fafsa.gov***

- Parent/contributor will create an account
- Student will create an account- **LINK** together.
- Select correct application year **2025-2026**

**Target Application Opening Date:**  
**Oct 1, 2024**

## **From Federal Student Aid:**

We have heard from students, families, institutions and states, that it is important for the 2025-26 FAFSA form to launch on October 1. The Department is working toward this goal and will share updates about additional functionalities as we learn more.

**fafsa help center:**

<https://studentaid.gov/help-center/answers/landing>



# PHEAA



Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency

PA State Grant  
Program + Loans

## Financial Aid Webinars *-click*

*Virtual info sessions.*

*Click link for more details and to register!*

- **SEARCHING FOR SCHOLARSHIPS & AFFORDING THE BALANCE**
  - 9/10 @ 12pm, 9/26 @ 630pm
- **FINANCIAL AID TIMELINE**
  - 9/12 @ 630pm, 9/24 @12pm
- **BORROWING FOR EDUCATION-WHICH LOAN IS RIGHT?**
  - 10/8 @ 12pm, 10/29 @ 630pm
- **UNDERSTANDING THE OFFER LETTER**
  - 11/5 @ 12pm, 11/21 @ 630pm

PA

State Grant  
Program

PA

**FORWARD**  
Student Loans



# Scholarships: <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/scholarships>



College Scholarships

- When student applies to a college, many times they are screened for scholarships.
- Some colleges have a separate scholarships application.



Local & other Scholarships

- Check HS Counseling Office Webpage.
- **Esther Ludwig application: Strict deadline in early Jan, tbd.**
- BCCF- <https://bccf.org/scholarship-opportunities/>
- Use National Search engines for Scholarship search

# The Esther Ludwig Scholarship

- Open to all Hamburg residents who attend a 2 year or 4 year college full-time.
- 2 year college requires 80% Unweighted GPA or higher
- 4 year college requires 85% Unweighted GPA or higher
- Application opens November 2024 with a Jan 2025 strict deadline!
- Students will receive manilla envelope with instructions. Applications are managed by an outside agency.



- Dozens of scholarship opportunities for Berks County students
- Various criteria for each scholarship
  - ➔ Students should review criteria to apply to relevant scholarships
- March 1st deadline for BCCF Scholarship

## Search Also....

- Local Organizations (*Lions Club, Rotary Club, Credit Union, Employer*)
- Scholarship Search Engines for National, State, and Local Scholarships
  - ➔ [Collegeboard/BigFuture](#)
  - ➔ [Scholarships.com](#)
  - ➔ [US Department of Labor: Scholarship Search](#)
  - ➔ [Fin Aid for Military families](#)





## Next Steps for Students!

- Counselors meet with all senior English classes for a similar presentation next week.
- Individual senior meetings are scheduled to discuss plans specific to each student. Students can prioritize their meeting to sooner if requested.
- College Admission Counselors visit HAHS throughout the Fall term. Encourage your senior to meet with college(s) of interest.
  - **College Workshops Happening in the HS Library!** Topics include:
    - College application completion
    - Financial Aid & Scholarship
    - Esther Ludwig and BCCF Scholarship information & completion, and more!



# Thank you!

**Mrs. Wyles-Herbert**  
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**Mrs. Machamer**  
[alemac@hasdhawks.org](mailto:alemac@hasdhawks.org)

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[joyfin@hasdhawks.org](mailto:joyfin@hasdhawks.org)

CREDITS: This presentation template was created by **Slidesgo**, including icons by **Flaticon**, and infographics & images by **Freepik**



Denzel Washington Failure, Fall forward, Make a difference

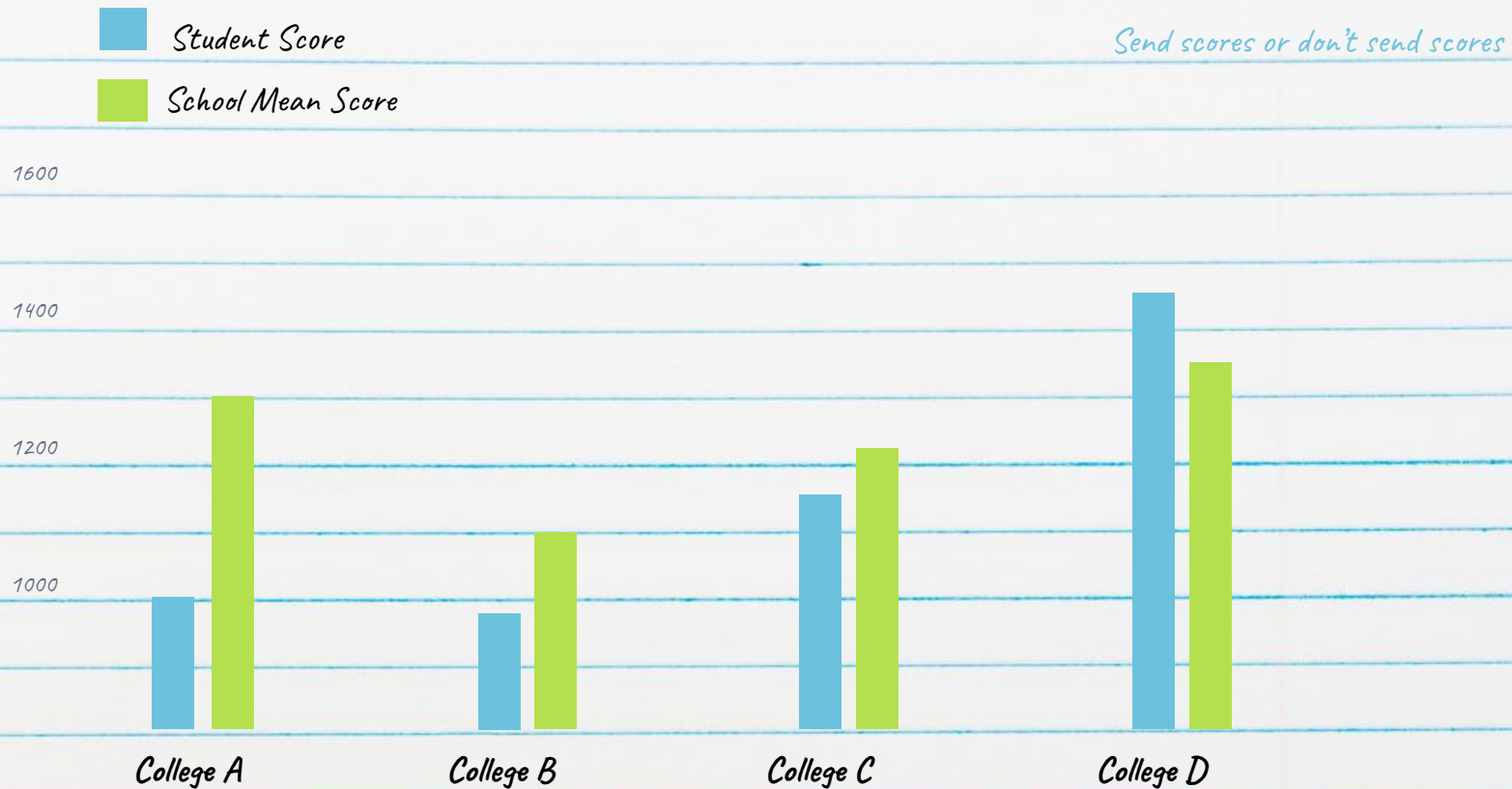
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0FB9i7P9Zs4>

Priyanka Chopra Life Advice Glass Ceiling, for girls..mostly

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zYXboF73MGA>

Dr. Wayne Dyer

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dOkNkcZ\\_THA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dOkNkcZ_THA)



*SAT score ranges*

*SAT National Average 2021 Graduates = 1028*