

College Now

Greater Cleveland

College Planning Night:
Fall 2024

Scan code to check in please!

Sharon Arcuri

College & Career Access Advisor

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You can schedule appointments via the link below. I am at North Olmsted on most Thursdays throughout the school year.

<https://cngc.org/NorthOlmsted>



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Today's Agenda



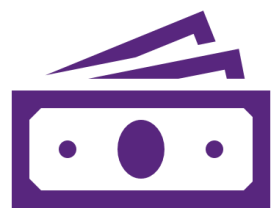
Career Exploration



College Selection
and Visits



Standardized Testing:
ACT/SAT



Financing Your Education!



Class Level Checklists



Get Started on the
Common Application



Upcoming Events



Getting Help from College Now



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Choosing a Career & Major

Career Exploration – Looking at Strengths, Interests, Values and Skills

Online Exploration: Self Assessments, Job and Career Info, etc.



CliftonStrengths



Experiential Exploration and Education:

Sports

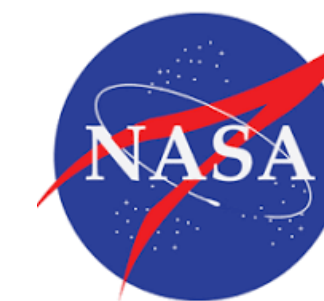
Clubs

Volunteer Work

Summer Programs

Research

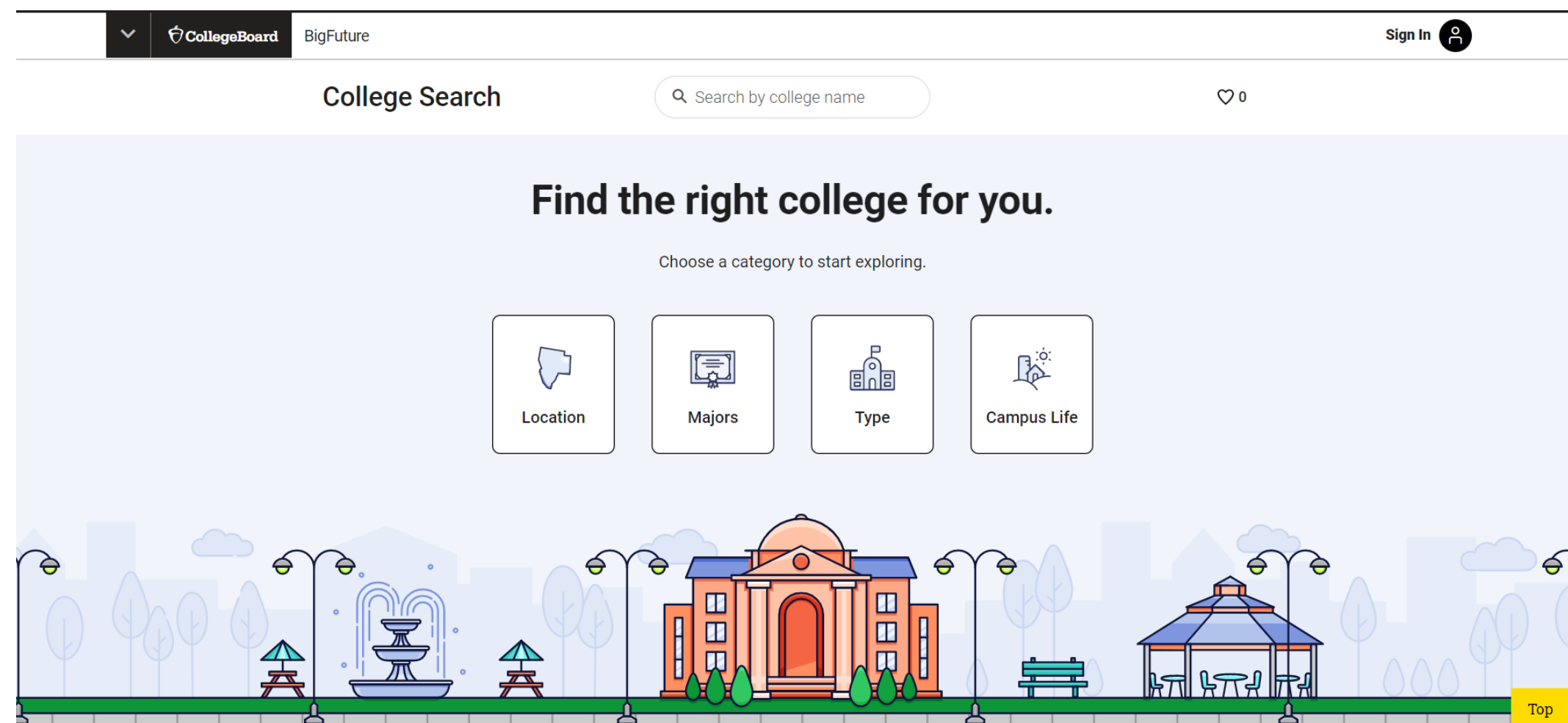
Job Shadowing



College Research

Big Future

Explore Careers, College and, learn how to pay for college!



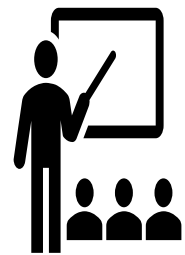
**Visit as many colleges & universities as possible
(In-person & Virtual)**

Your student can
create a
CollegeBoard
account now &
begin searching &
planning for
college!



What Are Colleges Looking For???

Academics



Schools are looking to see that your students are continually challenging themselves and moving upwards in terms of complexity. This is called a “rigorous curriculum”.

Standardized Testing



This is slowly coming back into use by schools. Even if a school says “test-optional”, sometimes individual programs require test scores. Many schools also use test scores as a determinant of scholarships, honors colleges, and class placements.

Holistic Admissions



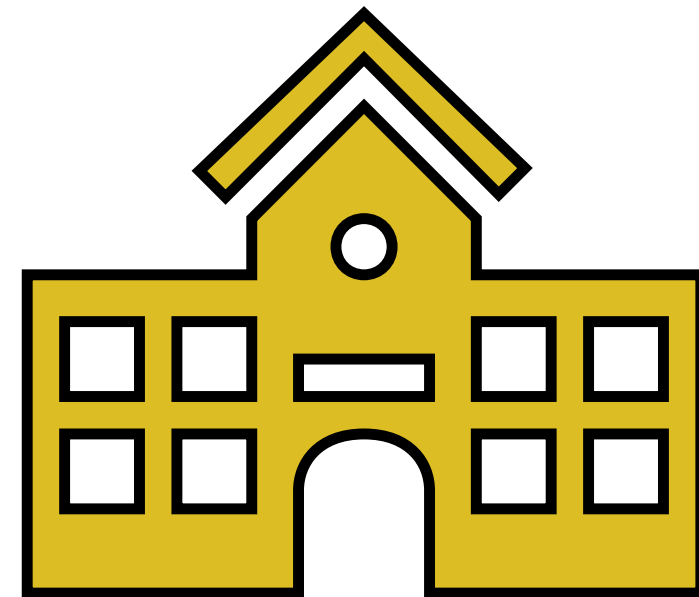
Where and how does your child spend time out of the classroom? Sports, clubs, hobbies, work, family contributions? This helps the school understand your student as more than grades and test scores. It shows what makes them tick, what their values are, what their interests and goals may be.



College Visits

Things to Consider When Looking at Colleges:

- Student Population/Size
- Distance from Home
- Community
- Housing
- ACT/SAT Scores
- Student/Faculty Ratio:
- Campus Activities
- Diversity of student population
- Affiliation
- Cost per year
- Grants, scholarships & loans
- Major/Academic Program



Questions to ask while visiting colleges

1. What is the average class size?
2. How many clubs/ organizations are offered on campus?
3. What is student life like on campus?
4. What is the surrounding community like?
5. How diverse is the campus?
6. Do you have an honors college?
7. Am I allowed to bring my car on campus my freshman year?
8. What makes your college stand out from others?
9. What do students do when they are not in class?
10. What does your college do or have on campus to ensure safety?



ACT & SAT Testing

Fall 2024 & Spring 2025 Testing Dates



www.actstudent.org

Test Dates (Registration Deadline):

December 14 (November 8*)

February 8, 2025 (January 3)

April 5, 2025 (February 28)

June 14, 2025 (May 9)

July 12, 2025 (June 6)



www.collegeboard.org

Test Dates (Registration Deadline):

December 7 (November 22)

March 8, 2025 (February 21)

May 3, 2025 (April 18)

June 7, 2025 (May 22)



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What is Test-optional?

Your student can submit their test score if they want & think it would make their application stronger (check the middle 50% of scores)

Colleges will look at test scores (if provided) to take into consideration for merit-based scholarships- but can still qualify for merit-based scholarships based on GPA!

Honors Programs- Submitting a test score will help the colleges!

FALL 2025 - New Incoming Freshman - In State

		ACT	36	35	34	33	32	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	TEST OPTION
		SAT	1600- 1570	1560- 1530	1520- 1490	1480- 1450	1440- 1420	1410- 1390	1380- 1360	1350- 1330	1320- 1300	1290- 1260	1250- 1230	1220- 1200	
HIGH SCHOOL CUMULATIVE GPA	4.0+	\$8,000										\$7,000		\$6,000	
	3.9- 3.5	\$7,000										\$4,500			
	3.49- 3.2	\$3,000													
	3.19- 3.0	\$1,000													

ACT[®]

achieve
more[®]
SAT[®]

Schools Requiring Test Scores – 2025-26

****subject to change**

Schools That Require Applicants to Submit SAT/ACT Scores

National Universities

School	"Middle 50" SAT Scores	"Middle 50" ACT Scores	U.S. News Rank
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	1510-1580	34-36	2
Harvard University (MA)	1500-1580	34-36	3
Brown University (RI)	1500-1570	34-35	13
Dartmouth College (NH)	1500-1570	33-35	15 (tie)
Georgetown University (DC)	1390-1550	32-34	24 (tie)
University of Florida	1300-1480	28-33	30 (tie)
Georgia Institute of Technology	1330-1530	28-34	33 (tie)
University of Georgia	1220-1420	27-32	46 (tie)
Purdue University—Main Campus (IN)	1190-1470	27-34	46 (tie)
Florida State University	1240-1390	27-31	54 (tie)

National Liberal Arts Colleges

School	"Middle 50" SAT Scores	"Middle 50" ACT Scores	U.S. News Rank
United States Air Force Academy (CO)	1250-1450	26-33	8 (tie)
United States Military Academy at West Point (NY)	1200-1430	28-33	8 (tie)
Thomas Aquinas College (CA)	1160-1330	25-33	63 (tie)
New College of Florida	1030-1250	20-27	122 (tie)
Patrick Henry College (VA)	1200-1420	27-32	136 (tie)
New Saint Andrews College (ID)	1170-1330	24-29	165 (tie)
Georgetown College (KY)	990-1180	18-24	178 (tie)

Source: [U.S. News 2025 Best Colleges](#)

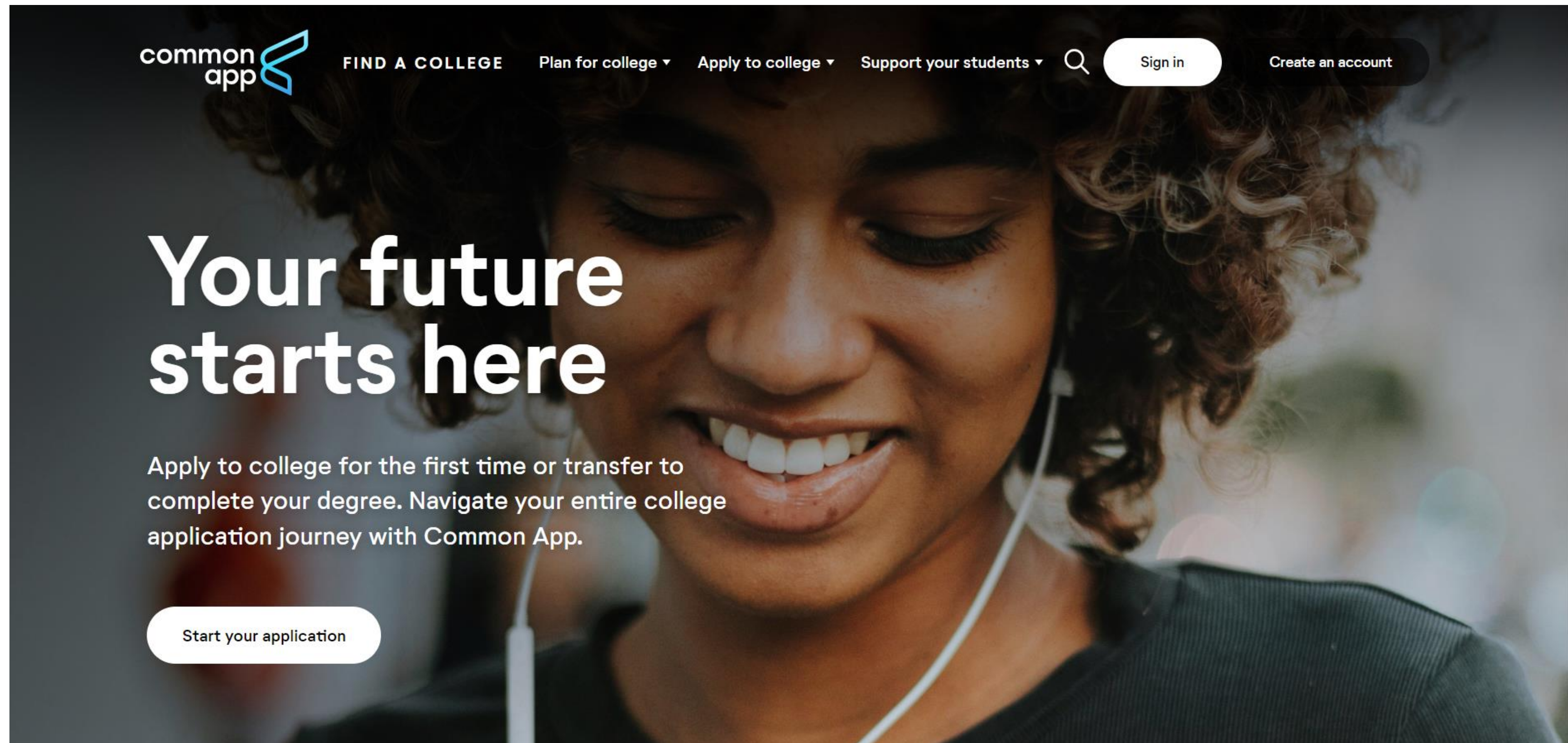


Common Application

Opens on August 1 annually

In August, a student can:

1. Create an Account
2. Start the Application
3. Write the Essay



The Student needs to wait until September to ask for transcripts, etc.

Neither High School Guidance Offices nor College Admissions Offices are ready to receive items before then!



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Common Application (Common App)

The Common Application automatically fills in sections of college applications, making it easier for students to apply to multiple schools.

Benefits of the Common App

- Apply more quickly.
- Avoid filling out the same information multiple times.
- Receive updates on mobile devices.
- Easily manage application requirements and deadlines.

Cost of Common App

- While students can use the Common Application for free, some individual schools still charge an application fee, even if you use the Common App to apply to them (average application fee in 2020 was \$44).
- However, prospective students who can demonstrate financial need may request [fee waiver forms](#) in the profile section of the application- supporting statement from a counselor or financial aid officer may be required.





Types of College Applications



Early Action:

If you're pretty sure you want to attend a particular school but not 100% positive, you can apply through Early Action. You can also apply to multiple schools through Early Action, so if you're on the fence about two in particular, this can be a strong option

Early Decision:

You should only choose Early Decision if you are *absolutely* sure you want to attend a specific college. Opting to not attend can have negative consequences as it is a binding contract. If you're not sure, opt for Regular Decision or Early Action.

Regular Decision:

This is a good choice if you're not 100% sure where you want to attend just yet. You also should choose this option if you want a bit more time to complete your application or if you'd like to retake your ACT or SAT a few more times.

Rolling Admissions:

This is a good option if you find another school you'd like to apply to after completing Early Action applications. You can also choose this route if you finish your application early and the college gives you the option of rolling admissions, so you can find out quickly if you were accepted.



How to approach the cost of college (aka Hope Is Not The Best Strategy)

- ▶ Think about “curating” your college list – filtered by *considering both academics and finances*
- ▶ **Discuss costs NOW.** Not after applying, and don’t wait to see what aid you may or may not be offered. Be proactive.
- ▶ Loans are a great resource...but they do need to be paid back. Do some research as to what type of career and first year out of college earnings might be before committing to a hefty loan debt. There are many paths to get to a career, and that path can look different from student to student.

Some resources:

Net Price Calculators at School Websites

<https://myintuition.org/>

Research salaries, etc. on future earnings:

<https://www.bankrate.com/loans/student-loans/average-college-graduate-salary/>

<https://www.bankrate.com/loans/student-loans/do-college-students-have-realistic-salary-expectations/>

<https://ohiomeansjobs.ohio.gov/home>

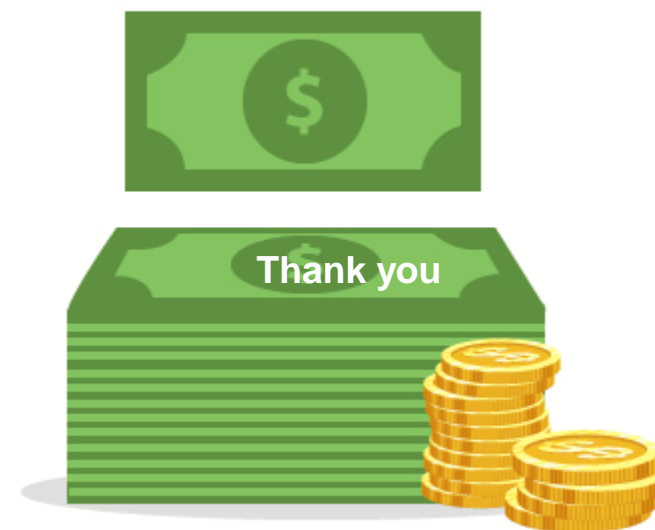
Money Does Not Grow On Trees

But we can help you find it in other places so you can reach your goals!



Gift Money

Grants and Scholarships



Earned Money

Federal Work Study



Borrowed Money

Loans

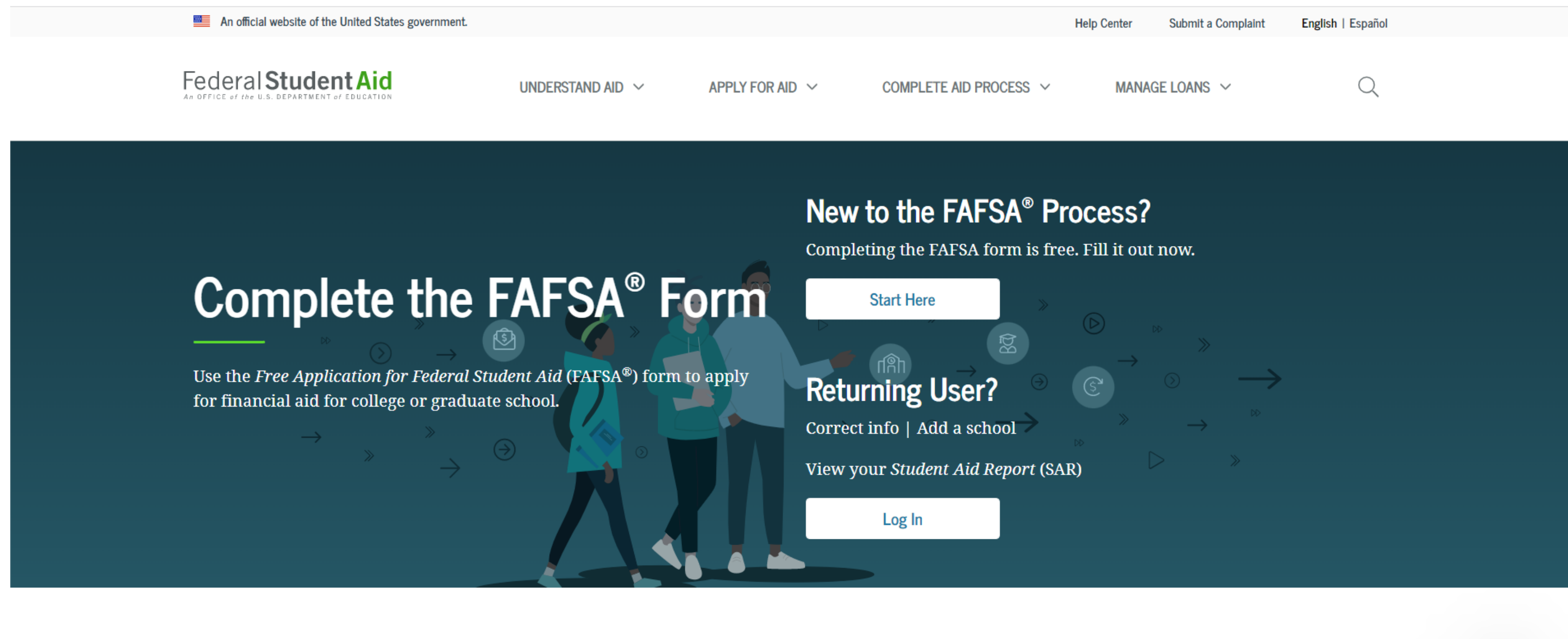


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The “Better FAFSA”

Free Application for Federal Student Aid

**Opens in
December
2024**



**Contact your
College Now
Advisor to
book an
appointment**



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FAFSA

Students will complete this application each year they are in college!

What information is included?

- Student Demographics
- List of school selection (up to 20 schools)
- Student Dependency Status (Independent vs. Dependent)
- Parent Demographics
- Parent Financials
- Student Financials

Should I Do The FAFSA On My Own?

One small mistake can lead to an inaccurate financial award letter or delay the process. So, to avoid that, take advantage of the help around you such as College Now as well as reach out to the colleges' financial aid office! You may also wish to consult a financial advisor if you have one.

Don't Think You Will Qualify For FSA?

- Your student MUST complete the FAFSA to receive grants/scholarships, qualify for federal work-study, or qualify for federal loans.
- Your student may be eligible for additional scholarships (FREE MONEY)!

When Should I Complete the FAFSA?

- The "Better FAFSA" is being released this year in December.2023.
- The sooner the better so that your student has a chance at receiving the most amount in FSA.



Tips for Scholarship Searching:

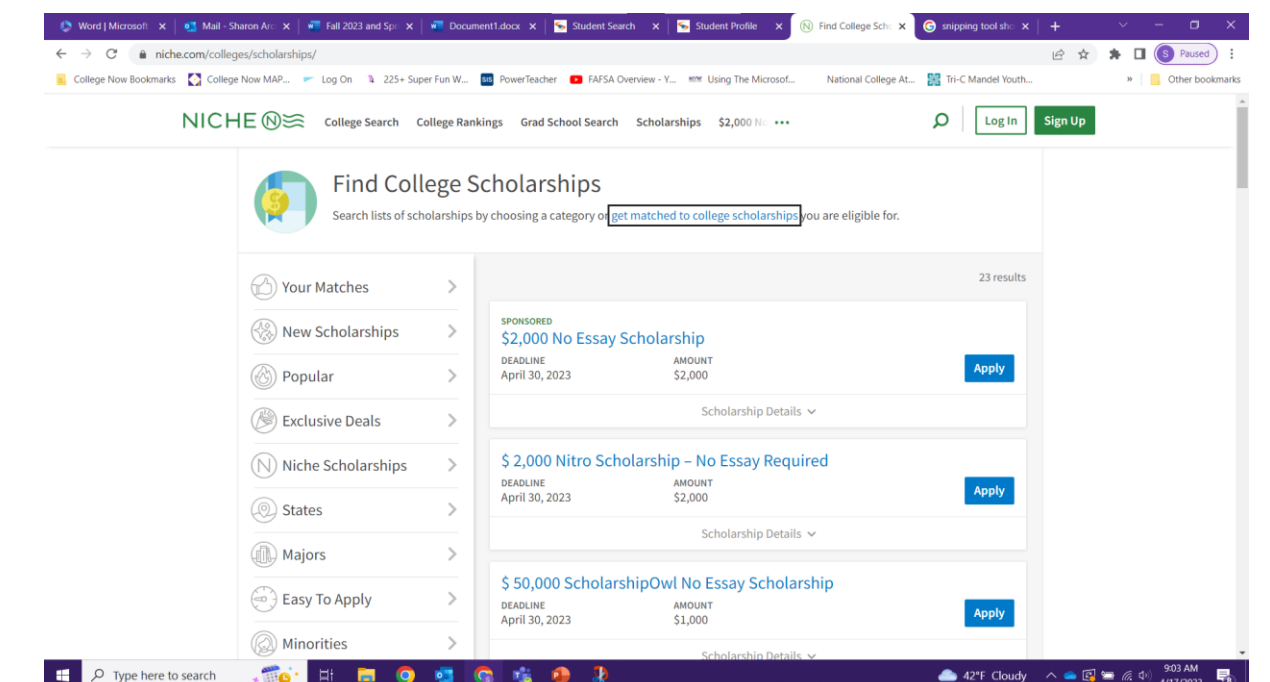
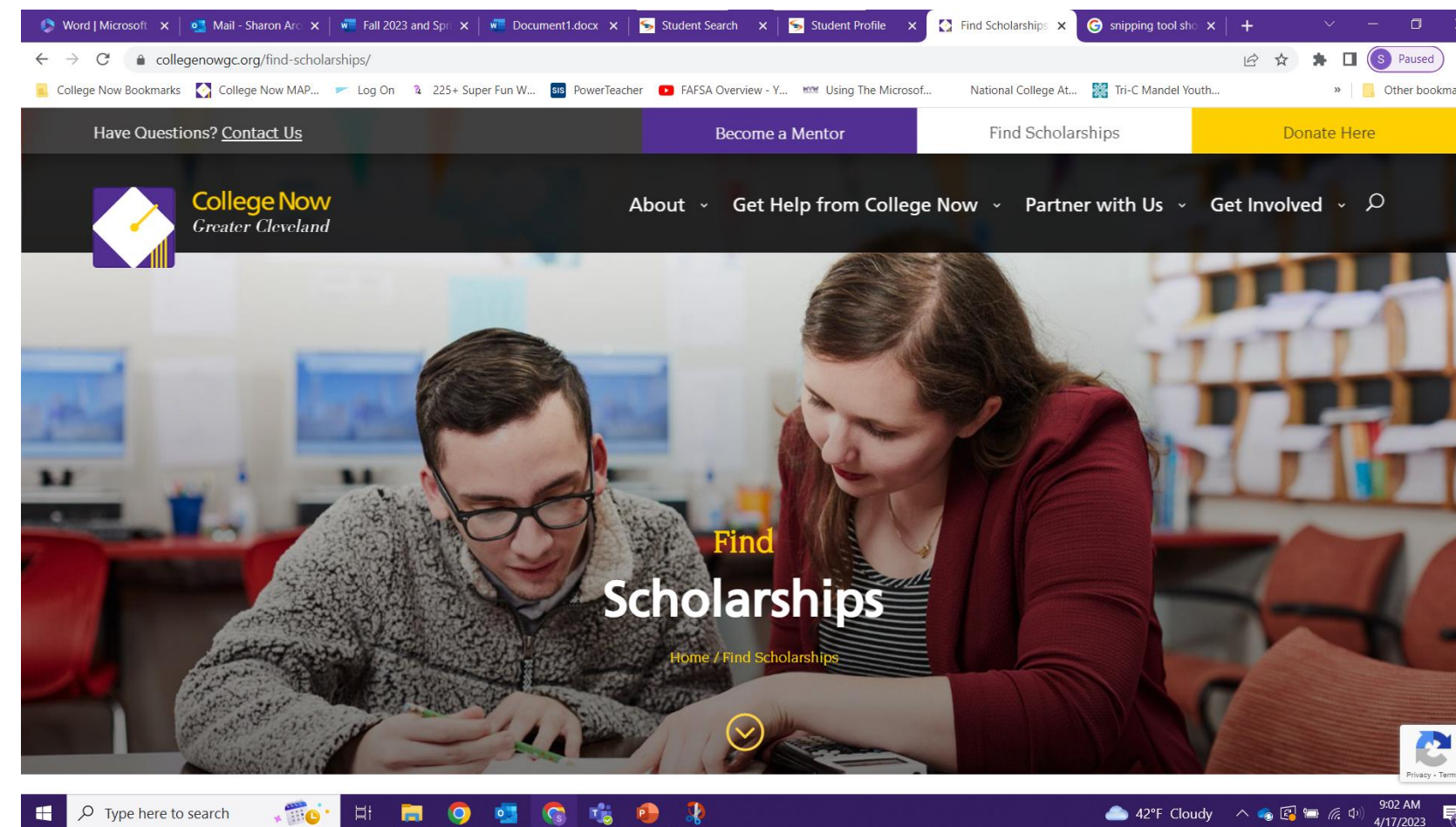
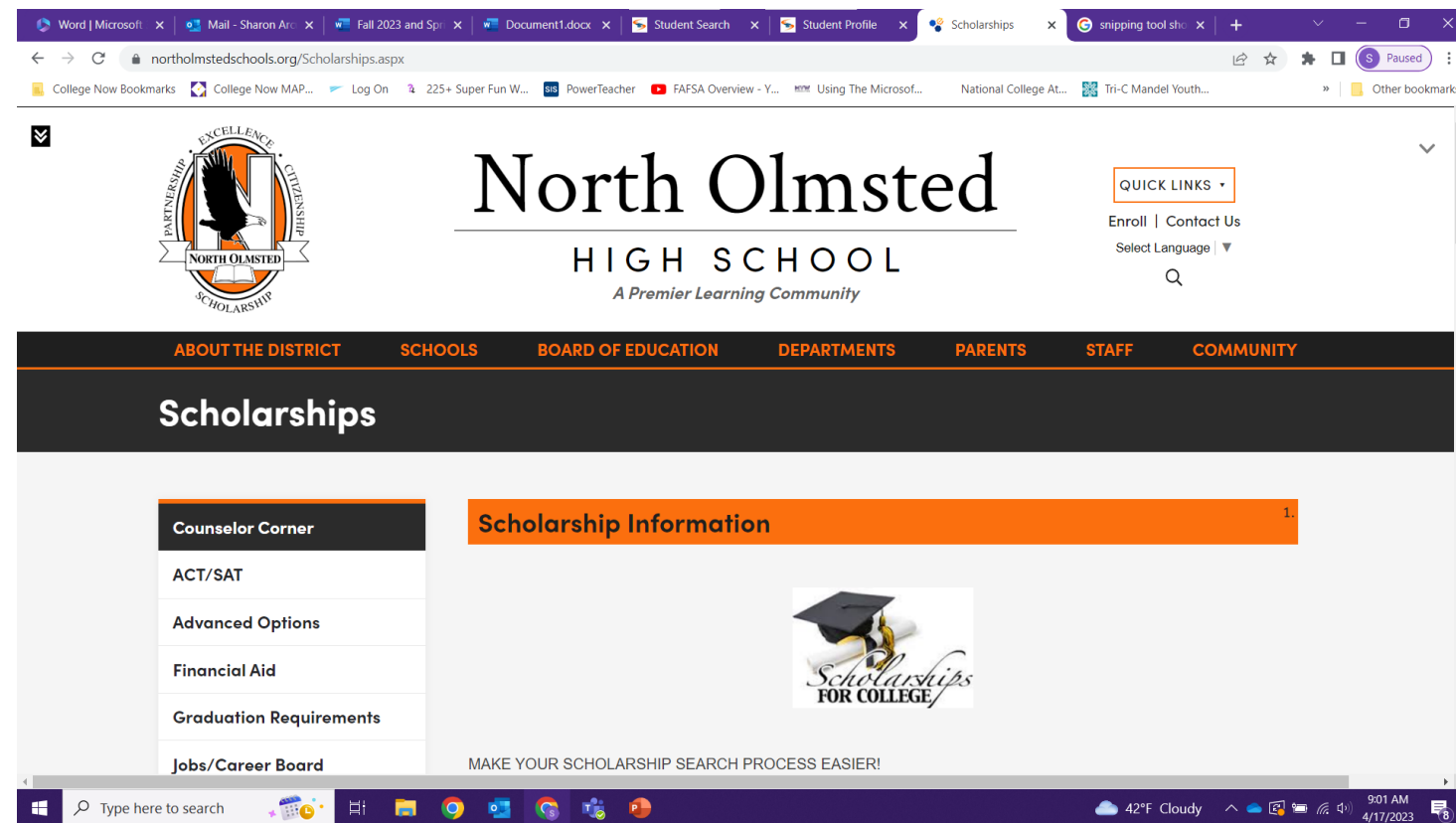


College Now also has a scholarship database on our website



<https://cngcadultprograms.force.com/searchscholarships/>

Where Can My Student Find Scholarships?



Keep in Mind

The schools you apply to should be your first source of funding. Check financial aid pages for scholarships based on honors colleges, majors/areas of study, alumni status, socioeconomic and minority status.


Local scholarships are typically only open to seniors

Local scholarships are easier to win than state & national ones

College Now will send out information for those as they begin to open in December 2024



Freshman and Sophomore Checklists

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Preparing for High School & Post-Secondary Success
9th & 10th Grade

Freshman	Sophomore
1st Semester: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Schedule a meeting with your Guidance Counselor to prepare for High School success<input type="checkbox"/> Obtain Naviance login (or other College and Career Tool)<input type="checkbox"/> Begin to prepare and practice for the PSAT using Khan Academy<input type="checkbox"/> Take the PSAT 8/9 (October)<input type="checkbox"/> Take advantage of tutoring opportunities<input type="checkbox"/> Begin to develop healthy time management and study skills<input type="checkbox"/> Learn how to calculate a Grade Point Average (GPA)<input type="checkbox"/> Review 1st quarter grades and develop a plan to improve or maintain grade before the end of the 1st semester<input type="checkbox"/> Familiarize yourself with organizations, clubs, and/or sporting groups at your school or in the community 2nd Semester: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Review 1st semester grades, and evaluate GPA<input type="checkbox"/> Complete Career Interest Profiler in Naviance or other College and Career Tool<input type="checkbox"/> Meet with your Guidance Counselor to discuss enrollment in college prep/credit programs such as Advanced Placement, and College Credit Plus<input type="checkbox"/> Participate in extracurricular activities at school or in the community<input type="checkbox"/> Explore summer enrichment programs, career shadowing opportunities, internships, or volunteer opportunities<input type="checkbox"/> Begin to think about your skills and interests and how those relate to careers, majors, and colleges<input type="checkbox"/> Start developing a list of your awards, honors, and extracurricular activities Summer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Visit a college campus and/or a college fair<input type="checkbox"/> Participate in an enrichment program, career shadowing opportunity, internship, volunteer opportunity<input type="checkbox"/> Develop a SMART goal for next school year	1st Semester: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Schedule a meeting with your Guidance Counselor to ensure that you are on track for high school graduation, and taking courses that will prepare you for post-secondary education or career tech<input type="checkbox"/> Utilize Khan Academy to prepare for the PSAT<input type="checkbox"/> Take the PSAT (October), and review results to identify areas where improvement is needed<input type="checkbox"/> Begin to research and familiarize yourself with college admissions requirements<input type="checkbox"/> Consider shadowing a professional in your career interest area<input type="checkbox"/> Get involved: continue to participate in extracurricular activities, and volunteer in your community<input type="checkbox"/> Develop a resume, using the list you have created of your accomplishments, awards, honors, and activities 2nd Semester: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Review 1st semester grades, and evaluate cumulative GPA<input type="checkbox"/> Compare cumulative GPA with admissions requirements for institutions you are interested in<input type="checkbox"/> While continuing to participate in extracurricular activities: work towards moving into a leadership position in the activities you enjoy most<input type="checkbox"/> Read news reports, articles, and books and practice your writing skills<input type="checkbox"/> Use Naviance or other College and Career tool to begin researching colleges, develop a list of at least 5 schools you are interested in<input type="checkbox"/> Revisit your SMART goal for the year, determine if you are on track to meet your goal<input type="checkbox"/> Investigate summer opportunities<input type="checkbox"/> Finish the school year strong! Summer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Begin preparing for the SAT and/or ACT<input type="checkbox"/> Visit a college campus and a college fair<input type="checkbox"/> Participate in an enrichment program, career shadowing opportunity, volunteer opportunity, or job<input type="checkbox"/> Begin saving money for college (if you have not already started)<input type="checkbox"/> Develop a SMART goal for the next school year

College Now Greater Cleveland



Junior Year Checklist



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August/September

- ☐ Meet with your guidance counselor to make sure you are on track to graduate.
- ☐ Join a club at school, if you have not already done so.
- ☐ Get a job, volunteer, or join a club in the community.
- ☐ Start developing a resume.

October/November

- ☐ Take the PSAT in school.
- ☐ Attend a college fair.
- ☐ Register to take the ACT or SAT (or both!).

December

- ☐ Look into scholarships that you may be eligible for (now or next year).
- ☐ Identify what is important to you when looking for colleges.
- ☐ Take the ACT or SAT.

January/February

- ☐ Begin studying for the in-school ACT or SAT.
- ☐ Go on a college visit.
- ☐ Ask your counselor about summer opportunities on college campuses.
- ☐ Participate in impact!. (College Now after school program)

March/April

- ☐ Meet with your College Now advisor to begin searching for colleges and careers you may be interested in.
- ☐ Take the in-school ACT or SAT.
- ☐ Make a list of teachers and/or community leaders you may want to ask for a letter of recommendation.
- ☐ Go on a college visit.

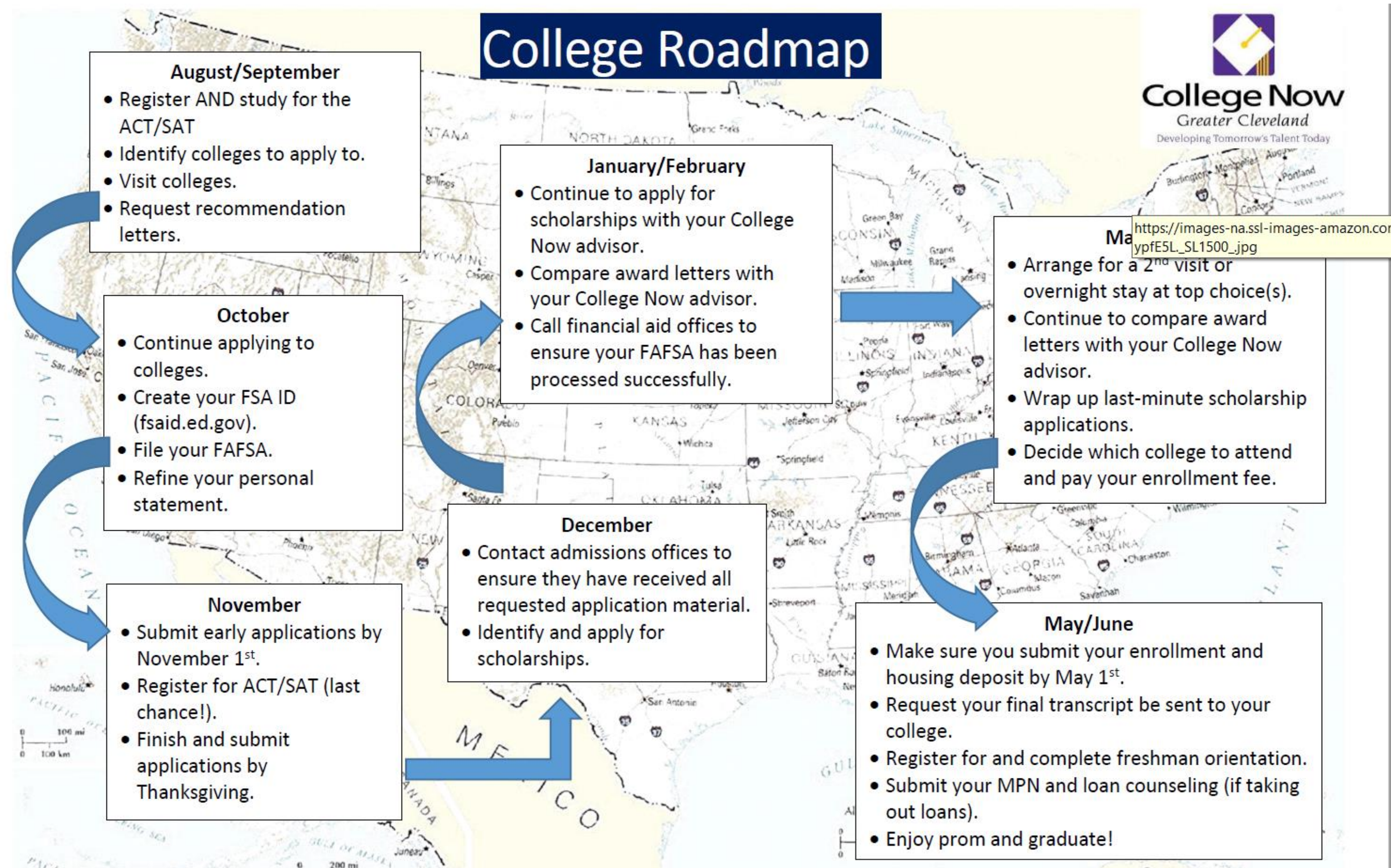
May-July

- ☐ Develop a list of up to ten colleges you may be interested in applying to next year.
- ☐ Identify and apply for summer internships or jobs.
- ☐ Register to take the ACT or SAT.
- ☐ Develop a draft personal statement, that can be used on college and/or scholarship applications.
- ☐ Attend an Entrance Exam Prep Boot Camp (offered by College Now)



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Senior Road Map



Senior Month by Month Checklist

September

- Register for the October ACT/ SAT. (act.org/sat.collegeboard.org)
- Review previous ACT/SAT scores with College Now for resources and services to increase scores.
- STUDY! STUDY! STUDY! For the ACT/ SAT.
- Create a list of 10 Universities/Colleges to visit, consider and evaluate. Ensure your list includes the essential 3 categories. “Safety, Match, & Reach”
- College Now can help you determine which schools may be the best fit for you. (Tool: nces.ed.gov)
- Visit with your high school counselor to make sure that you have the credits you need to graduate and have completed all required testing.
- Create a resume. College Now can share outlines and worksheets, to draft a professional resume. linkedin.com
- Recommendation letters: Ask early & Ask strategically. Who can best describe your community service, academic success, and passion for your major/career.? Your College Now advisor can share outlines, worksheets, examples and resources for stellar recommendation letters.
- “Senioritis” is contagious! Don’t let your grades or attendance slip. Higher grades & attendance help show Universities/ Colleges you are serious about attending.

October

- Create your FSA ID. (record and store somewhere, i.e. your phone) (fsaid.ed.gov)
- College Now can help you and your parent(s)/guardian(s) navigate the often complex and confusing Free Application For Student Aid (FAFSA). Accurate & Early can mean thousands more! [FAFSA OPENS OCTOBER 1st!](#)
- Start early drafts of college applications. Be mindful: Universities/Colleges early November deadlines or Early Action.
- Research additional/private scholarships for incoming freshman at the Universities/Colleges you are applying.
- Begin early drafts of personal statements for scholarships.

November

- Nov. 1st Early Applications deadlines begin
- Register for the December ACT/SAT. (act.org/sat.collegeboard.org)
- Continue to refine applications for winter deadlines. Ensure accuracy, instructions and details are followed. Write and re-write your essays. Once you feel you have completed your best work, have a qualified English and grammar professional review.
- College Now may be able to help with application fee waivers
- Verify your FAFSA and Student Aid Report (SAR) College Now can verify FAFSA is processed successfully. Errors and inaccurate data can potentially reduce awards and slow down processing.

December

- Contact the admissions’ offices to ensure that they have received the application, essays, references, transcript, test scores and any other requested documents.
- Continue to submit additional admissions applications.
- Continue to apply for scholarships: “early, often, and many”

January/ February

- That's all folks! End of college application season!
- Early Offers begin to arrive. Your College Now Advisor can help you compare offers using The College Now Award Letter Tool.

March/ April

- Arrange for a second visit or an overnight stay at the top 3 accepted Universities/Colleges.
- Compare final Financial Aid Award Letters. Awards can be NEGOTIATED and College Now has 50 years of experience championing for high school seniors.
- Many Scholarships begin to close, but a few great opportunities are still available to meet your gap in funding

May/ June

- [MAY 1st:](#) Housing and matriculation deposits due. Refundable in limited instances (typically \$400 cash or credit) Avoid late, incomplete housing applications or partial payments.
- Verify your high school counselor sent final transcripts.
- Register and attend a Freshman Orientation.
- Submit final scholarship applications.
- Find a shadow or volunteer experience for the summer
- Notify institution of outside scholarship awards
- Submit MPN & Loan Counseling if you need student loans
- Login to student portal often to check for messages, alerts verifications and or holds on your student account





Career and Trade School Options





Scan code to check in please!

Sharon Arcuri

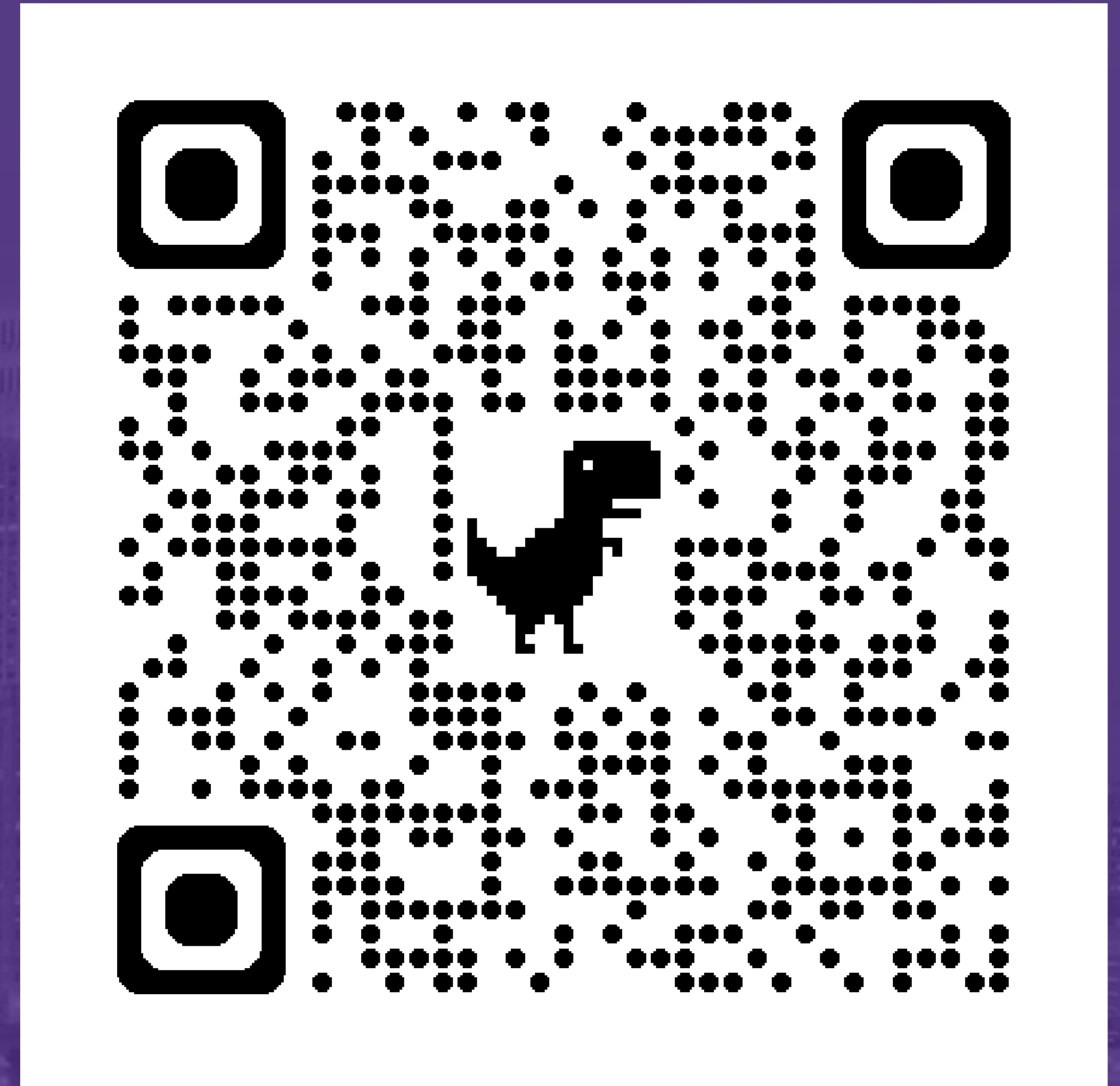
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