



WELCOME Back

SEPTEMBER ONE-LINER

SENIOR INFORMATION

This year each of you will be expected to make some very important decisions in your personal life as well as in your vocational/academic life. I am here to assist you as you make those decisions. In order for me to do that most effectively it is important for you to come into my office and ask questions whenever needed. It will also be very helpful for you to take advantage of the wealth of information on the internet (scholarships, financial aid, campus web pages etc...).

SENIOR INTERVIEWS

Schedule a senior interview with me as soon as possible. We will complete a senior credit check as well as go over the checklist of things you need to accomplish by May.

COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

You may begin filling out college applications immediately. Most colleges will accept applications as early as Sept. 1 and begin processing them on September 15th. If you have an ACT of a 25 or higher, it is important that you apply by September 14. Merit scholarships are decided on September 15.

UW-Madison and UW-Stevens Point now offer the opportunity to use the Common Application if you prefer. Otherwise, use traditional on-line application.

Seniors interested in attending a 2-year technical college should get there applications in as soon as possible as to avoid wait list issues.

Application Fees: UW-Institutions = \$50. UW-Madison = \$60. WI Tech College = \$30.

APPLICANT STATEMENT

The statements/essays that are most helpful are the ones that give more insight into the student, providing additional information not found on a high school transcript or a standardized test score. They would like to know what inspires you, why you are focused on a particular area of study, why you are interested in attending their campus and/or any other personal information you would like them to take into consideration when reviewing your application for admission. And, your statement should be well-written, organized, grammatically correct...and proofed!

REQUESTING A TRANSCRIPT AND ACT SCORES

Once your application has been submitted, request an official transcript from the guidance office. You must request a transcript for each school you apply.

If you did not have ACT scores electronically sent from ACT, you can have a copy sent from the guidance office or register to have them sent directly from ACT. Each school has a different requirement so check to see what your school will accept. If you have them sent from ACT, there is a fee attached.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Will you need letters of recommendation? For most schools you do not however, if you are “on the bubble”, that is, not quite meeting requirements or on the edge of admissibility, letters of recommendation may be helpful to the admission staff. The letters of recommendation will provide a better sense of your performance in the classroom and potential for future academic success, particularly if there are extenuating circumstances involved that may have impacted upon your performance (ie. death in the family, loss of job by parent, change of schools, etc.) It is also important that such letters be written by individuals who are in a solid position to know your academic history and performance potential.

There are two ways to generate a letter of recommendation. The Recommendation for Undergraduate Admission form is accepted by most campuses in the UW System. UW-Madison provides their applicants with an online Letter of Recommendation Form at www.admissions.wisc.edu/apply/recommendations/submit/index/php which should be used by all applicants to UW-Madison.

Individual letters of recommendation written by teachers, counselors, and other educators are also accepted at most UW campuses.

COLLEGE VISITS

College Visits are an essential part of your college process. I encourage you to make your visits with your parents. College visits can be scheduled by you and your parents or through my office. To schedule a visit, simply call the school's admissions office or go on-line and register there. Once a visit has been scheduled you need to bring your confirmation e-mail or letter to the guidance office to be approved. This should be done 2 days in advance. Each senior is allowed 1 free campus visit day. Any additional will come off of your 10 needed days.

SOUTHWEST TECH'S CAMPUS VISIT OPTIONS

Open House – October, 2017 (no registration required) - Explore all options and services available at SWTC at this annual event. Representatives from each program and service area are on hand to perform demonstrations, engage visitors in hands-on activities, and lead tours through classrooms and labs. Future students who apply during this event or online before midnight, will have their **\$30 application fee waived**.

Program Visit Days: Visit a specific program, attend an admissions information session, talk to current students, and tour campus. Lunch is included. For 11th & 12th graders. Pre-registration is required.

- **Tuesday, October 24** – Accounting, Accounting Assistant, Business Management, Cosmetology, Culinary Programs, Golf Course Management, Graphic & Web Design, IT-Computer Support Technician, IT-Network Specialist, University Transfer Liberal Arts
- **Thursday, November 2** – Health & Public Safety Programs: Cancer Information Management, Child Care Services, Criminal Justice Studies, Dental Assistant, Early Childhood, Health Information Technology, Human Services Associate, Laboratory Science Technician, Medical Assistant, Medical Coding Specialist, Medical Lab Technician, Midwife, Nursing, Physical Therapy Assistant, Paramedic, Security Operation
- **Thursday, November 9** – Auto Collision, Automotive Technician, Agribusiness (Agronomy, Animal Science Management), Agricultural Power & Equipment Technician, Building Trades-Carpentry, Dairy Herd Management, Electrical Power Distribution, Electro-Mechanical Technology, Farm Operations & Management, Industrial Mechanic, Instrumentation & Controls Technology, Precision Machining Technology, Welding

Welcome Wednesdays: Get an industry-specific tour of campus followed by an admissions information session and the chance to talk to current students. For 9th-12th graders and adults. Pre-registration is required.

- September 27, 2017
- December 6, 2016

College & Career Exploration: Participate in a cost of living exercise, career assessment activity & learn about SWTC programs. A student panel & campus tour round out the experience. For undecided seniors. Pre-registration is required.

- October 3, 2017

UW CAMPUS PREVIEW DAYS

Eau Claire	- Mon-Fri, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.
Green Bay	- Oct. 6, 20, 27; Nov. 10; March 30; April 13
LaCrosse	- Oct. 20, 27; Nov. 10; Feb. 16; April 27
Madison	- visitbucky.wisc.edu
Milwaukee	- visit.uwm.edu
Oshkosh-	- Oct. 6, 20; Nov. 13, 17; April 6; July 16, 17
Parkside-	- Oct. 9; April 6
Platteville	- uwplatt.edu/admission/visit
River Falls	- Oct. 13, 19, 20, 21; Nov. 10, 11; Dec. 1; Feb. 19; March 23, 24; April 6, 27, 28
Stevens Point	- Oct. 20, 21; Nov. 3, 4; April 21
Stout	- Oct. 19, 20, 27; Nov. 3, 10; Feb. 19; March 23; April 6, 13
Superior	- Oct. 20, 21; Jan. 20; April 7
Whitewater	- Sept. 29; Oct. 6, 9, 20, 27; Nov. 10

*Register Online

HELP Online

Electronic doorways to the UW System, WI Technical Colleges, WI Private Colleges. These online sites allow you to take a virtual campus tour, talk to an advisor, calculate college costs, answer questions about admission policies, living on campus, choosing a major and much more!!

UW-HELP - uwhelp.wisconsin.edu or call 1-800-442-6459

WI Private Colleges – PrivateCollegeZone.org

WI Technical Colleges - witechcolleges.org/

Milwaukee National College Fair

The National Association for College Admission Counseling invites you to the National College Fair coming to Milwaukee on Oct. 2, 2016. Admission representatives from hundreds of colleges & universities from all over the United States will come to one fair to provide information. Examples are Ball State, Arizona State University, Colorado State, Penn State and many more. The list of schools attending is available online at <http://bit.ly/NCFExhibitorSearch>.

To register go to www.gotomyncf.com

ACT's News You Can Use...

Happy with ACT scores? Are you considering retaking the ACT?

55% increase their composite score

22% have no change

23% go down

Register to retake ACT in October so that you do not delay acceptance status.

ACT DATES

TEST DATE	REGISTRATION	LATE REG
October 28, 2017	September 22, 2017	Sept. 23-Oct. 6, 2017
December 9, 2017	November 3, 2017	Nov. 4-17, 2017
February 10, 2018	January 12, 2018	January 13-19, 2018
April 14, 2018	March 9, 2018	March 10-23, 2018
June 9, 2019	May 4, 2018	May 5-18, 2018
July 14, 2018	June 15, 2018	June 16-22, 2018

Students who are able to demonstrate a financial hardship may request that the ACT registration fee be waived. The general criterion for a fee waiver is that the student participates in the Free or Reduced Lunch program at the school. Students who qualify should request the form from the guidance office.

Free ACT Test Prep:

1. "Preparing for the ACT" Booklet – This booklet summarizes general test-taking strategies, describes content of each of the tests and informs you of what to expect on test day. It includes an ACT practice test, a sample answer document and scoring instructions.
2. Online: www.act.org/standard/index.html
Or
www.knowhow2gowisconsin.org

MILITARY INTERESTS

There are many opportunities for training and education through military service. If you are interested in this direction, contact a recruiter in our area and schedule to take the ASVAB (entrance exam for the military).

COLLEGE/MILITARY REPS VISIT RIVER RIDGE HS

Throughout the fall and early winter many 4-year colleges, technical colleges, and military representatives will visit our school to talk with students. I will keep you informed about these visits through daily announcements. These visits occur at various times in the day and students sometimes will have to miss a class in order to speak with a representative. This must be pre-approved with your teacher. Take advantage of these representatives coming to you.

FREE MONEY FOR COLLEGE – A GUIDE TO SCHOLARSHIPS

There are scholarship dollars waiting for you. The time to start looking is now. Finding and applying for scholarships takes a great deal of time and effort!

Have What It Takes...

Every scholarship is unique and can be awarded based on one or more of the following criteria, or any number of others not listed here.

- Academic achievements
- Intended major
- Volunteer activities
- Athletic, musical or artistic talent
- Income level
- You or your parent's employer
- Hobbies & interests

Know Where to Look...

- Check One-Liner that is provided to you by guidance office each month.
- Most large scholarships are awarded by the college themselves. Contact financial aid office of the college you're considering.
- Private colleges are usually more generous when awarding scholarships. Don't rule out a private college until you've seen their financial aid package.
- Do an online search: **Fastweb.com – HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!**

SCHOLARSHIPS

There are many state and national scholarship opportunities that come across my desk every day. Certain conditions may have to be present (ie certain majors, affiliations with a group, leadership positions filled, etc...) as well as the expected high academic qualifications. Some of these scholarships are sponsored by corporations, by businesses with certain affiliations, and by colleges. Check in the guidance office starting this week to learn more about the scholarship application process.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Dave Schwantes is looking for farmhand. This could be an opportunity to do through the School to Work Program.