

## SENIOR Planning Information 2025-2026

### 4-Year College/University Application Resources:

Information and helpful resources can be found on the *Ballard High School Applying to College* website:  
<https://ballardhs.seattleschools.org/resources/counseling-center/applying-to-college/>

**Common Application:** <https://www.commonapp.org/> 1000+ colleges/universities

One application is sent to all participating institutions. The student requests recommendations from teachers and their school counselor through the application. Counselor completes the *School report* which includes GPA, class rank, and a *Counselor recommendation* (which includes a letter of rec), if needed. BHS reports weighted rank (decile/percent), unweighted GPA (4.0 highest). Transcript is attached electronically by counselor.

Get help with your Common Application: Wednesday, October 15th 2:30-3:30PM in the counseling center

**Coalition Application:** <https://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/> 170 colleges/universities

Similar platform to the Common app, but used by fewer schools

### College/University specific application:

See the college/university's website for more information. Many schools offer options for using the Common app or their college specific application. Often the college specific application is easier/faster to complete, get a faster admissions decision (i.e. Central, WSU, Western), and is a simpler choice if you are not applying to other schools on the Common App.

### Letters of Recommendation:

To request a letter of recommendation from your school counselor, complete the ***Letter of Recommendation Student Information Sheet (Microsoft Form)*** online at least **2 weeks before your earliest application deadline**. It can be found on the BHS website -> Resources -> Counseling Center Dashboard -> Applying to College -> Letters of Recommendation

If requesting a letter of recommendation from a teacher, you need to ask them if they would be willing to write you one (don't assume – they sometimes reach their limit and aren't able to write more).

### Class Rank:

On a weighted scale, will be given as a decile (i.e. top 10%, top 20%, etc.), available October 1. Contact BHS Counseling Secretary via email or drop-in to the Counseling Office.

**ACT or SAT Test Scores:** [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

Most colleges and universities, including ALL Washington State public and private colleges, are **test optional** and **do not require test scores** as part of the application process. All Seniors are pre-registered for the school day SAT on October 8 and 9; Students with College Board approved accommodations will test the following week. If you choose to send your scores, you must order and send them directly to the institutions from your ACT or SAT account.

### Financial Aid Events

- BHS Financial Aid Night, Thursday, October 23 at 7:00PM in the PAC; doors open at 6:45PM. Learn about financial aid as well as the Seattle Promise scholarship.
- 12<sup>th</sup> Year Campaign Financial Aid Completion Events <https://wsac.wa.gov/apply>

**FAFSA/WASFA: Available starting October 1**

To be eligible for financial aid, all Seniors should complete one (not both) of the following:

- FAFSA (*Free Application for Federal Student Aid*) <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa> or
- WASFA (*Washington Application for State Financial Aid*) [www.wsac.wa.gov/wasfa](http://www.wsac.wa.gov/wasfa)
- Complete the WASFA if you are undocumented, don't qualify for federal financial aid due to immigration status or don't want to be considered for federal aid. All other students should complete the FAFSA.
- Families will use tax documents from their 2024 taxes (*fill out the application for 2026-2027*)

### College Visits at Ballard

- College admissions reps from all over the country visit Ballard High School throughout the fall.
- Check Naviance to see which schools are visiting and to sign up
- Email our Counseling Secretary in person or via email if you have questions

### College Exploration

- NACAC Seattle College Fair: October 17 and 18 <https://www.nacacnet.org/nacac-college-fairs/>
- Seattle Black College Expo: November 15 <https://www.NCRFOUNDATION.ORG/EVENTS>
- National Portfolio Day: November 2 at Seattle U <https://nationalportfolioday.org/>
- Unified Theater Auditions: NYC, Chicago, LA [www.unifiedauditions.com](http://www.unifiedauditions.com)
- College search websites: <https://collegesearch.collegeboard.org/home> <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>
- Naviance: online college & career planning tool; access by logging in to the SPS student portal through Clever
- Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE): tuition break for some out of state colleges in the Western US. See if colleges/universities you're interested in are participating [www.wiche.edu/wue](http://www.wiche.edu/wue)

### Seattle Promise

- Two free years (or up to 90 credits) of college at North Seattle, Seattle Central or South Seattle
- Every graduate of a SPS high school is eligible regardless of GPA, income, ability, or country of birth
- More information and eligibility steps <https://seattlepromise.seattlecolleges.edu/>

### Technical/Trade School:

- Community and Technical Colleges of WA state: <https://www.sbctc.edu/>
- CareerBridge: Explore careers, job trends and education in Washington state [www.careerbridge.wa.gov](http://www.careerbridge.wa.gov)

### Other information you might want to know:

- Military: Information about all branches <https://www.todaysmilitary.com/contact-the-services>
- USA Gap Year Fairs: <https://www.gooverseas.com/gap-year/usa-fairs>
- NCAA Eligibility Center: If you are considering participation in athletics at the university level (NCAA), it's your responsibility to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center and be sure you have completed the necessary academic requirements. <https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/>

**BHS Counseling Department:** <https://ballardhs.seattleschools.org/resources/counseling-center/>

Counselors:

(by students' last name)

Ms. Petersen (A-Ek)

Ms. McKenzie (El-Ki)

Mr. Kramer (Kj-Ph)

Ms. Olson Laing (Pi-Wb)

Ms. Huguenin (Wc-Z)

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