



What's Next?

What's Next?



**COMMUNITY
COLLEGE**



What's Next?



**TRADES /
APPRENTICESHIP**



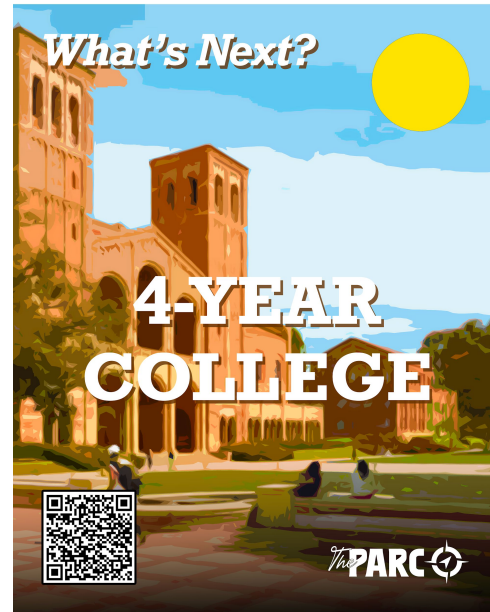
What's Next?





MILITARY



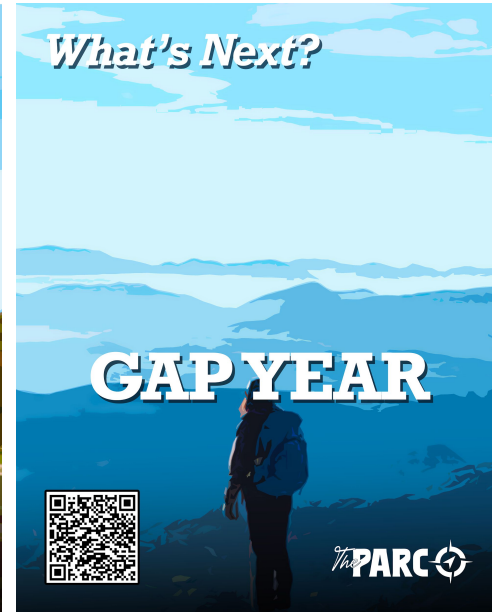
What's Next?





**4-YEAR
COLLEGE**



What's Next?



GAP YEAR





Important Factors to Consider

- Environment
- Major
- Fit





Environment

- Location/Size
- Type of School
- Rigor/Stress of Academics
- Sports/Activities



Major

- Does it have your major?
- Options if changing of major, and does it put me behind?
- Area of Specialty
- Undecided Students?



Fit

- Rankings and reputation
- What does a "good college" mean?
- Comparison to others
- After college?



College Search

➤ Reach / Target / Safety Schools

So...how many should I apply to?

- Varies by student!
- Average 5-8 applications (app fee + test scores)
- Far Reach & Dream Schools?
 - Have back-up Plans B, C, and D





Generate a Plan

- Explore Colleges & Develop Your List
 - Use **Schoolinks**
 - Keep Lines of Communication Open

✓ Guaranteed

You qualify for guaranteed admission either through open admission policies or by meeting specific criteria.

🛡️ Likely

You have a high chance of acceptance because your stats exceed admission standards.

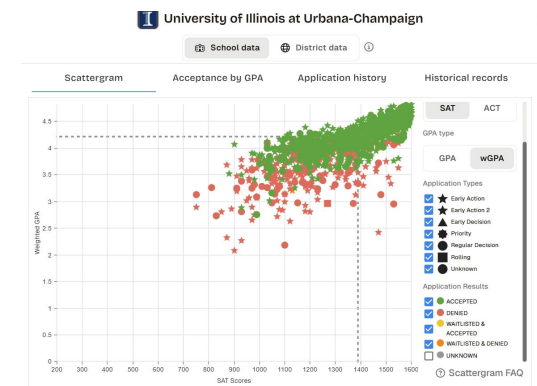
🎯 Target

You have a fair chance of acceptance because your stats meet most admission standards.

🚀 Reach

You have a lower chance of acceptance because your stats miss some admission standards.

- Know How You Compare
 - Use **Scattergrams** in SchoolLinks
 - Be realistic
 - Affordability/cost





Visiting Colleges

- There is no substitute for seeing a college yourself!
- Check out our [On-Campus College Visit Tips](#) !
- Also check out [local College Fairs](#) to meet with a number of reps from various institutions.





College of DuPage

- 2 year Associate's Degrees
- Vocational Certifications
- Project Hire-Ed Apprenticeship Program
- 3+1 Bachelor's Degree Programs
- Engineering Pathways





Apprenticeships/Trades

- On the job training, lasts from 1-6 years depending on the trade
- No debt from college and can work your way up in a company or start your own
- [Project Hire-Ed](#)
- [Technology Center of DuPage](#)





Military

- Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (A.S.V.A.B.)
 - Career Exploration Program includes multiple aptitude tests and interest inventories
 - Tests administered in October/November
- AirForce
- Army
- Army National Guard
- Coast Guard
- Marines
- Navy





Gap Year Programs

- Students can take time off between high school and college to gain real-life experiences through travel, language immersion, internships, and more.
- [Gap Year Program Information](#)





Postsecondary Planning Guide

<https://www.naperville203.org/NCompass>

Information covered includes:

- Grade-level Timelines
- College Application Process
- Financial Aid Information & Terms
- Unique College Considerations
- And more!

NCompass



Takeaways

- Treat the post secondary search like a part-time job
 - RESEARCH your schools & have an open mind
 - EXPLORE and don't be afraid - you'll have more than one fit!
 - Keep PERSPECTIVE
 - Plan and VISIT

- Maintain core academic rigor throughout high school
 - You want your grades to be competitive
 - Senior year classes & grades **DO** count!



Additional Resources

NCcompass

- [NCcompass](#)
Dist. 203 Postsecondary Planning Guide
- [In-School College Visits](#)
Instructions on how students can attend in-school college visits
 - [Upcoming College Visits](#) (Calendar for the next week)
 - [Upcoming College Visits](#) (Alpha list of ALL upcoming visits)
- [On-Campus College Visit Tips](#)
Tips for students planning to visit college campuses
- [Guide for College-Bound Athletes \(NCAA / NAIA\)](#)

Sign-up for the new NNHS Student Services Remind Group!

Text @nnhsdoss to 81010

REMIND





Upcoming Opportunities

- **Sept. 11: Financial Aid Night @ NNHS (NPAC)**
A dedicated night for Dist. 203 Seniors & their families to receive updates regarding financial aid, including the 2026-27 FAFSA
- **Sept. 13: NACAC National College Fair @ Navy Pier (Chicago)**
A national college fair, featuring more than 200 colleges & universities from across the country.
- **Oct. 14: Illinois Regional College Fair @ College of DuPage (Glen Ellyn)**
Another college fair opportunity, bringing in additional colleges & universities from across the country.
- **Nov 6: 2nd Annual Career Takeover (NNHS)**
An even more robust program to help students in exploring postsecondary career opportunities!



Next Sessions



Evening Schedule

Room	Session 1 (6:00 - 6:35pm)	Session 2 (6:40 - 7:15pm)	Session 3 (7:20 - 7:55pm)
Large Cafe	Senior Year Overview	What's Next?	What's Next?
Small Cafe	Junior Timeline	Postsecondary Resources	Postsecondary Resources
Learning Commons	Sophomore Timeline	Counselor Connection (A - Lez)	Counselor Connection (Lf - Z)