



***Navigating College,
Scholarship, and Financial
Aid Applications***

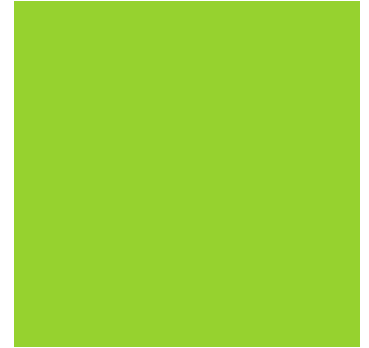
September 25th, 2013

Know Yourself

- Interests, abilities, and work values

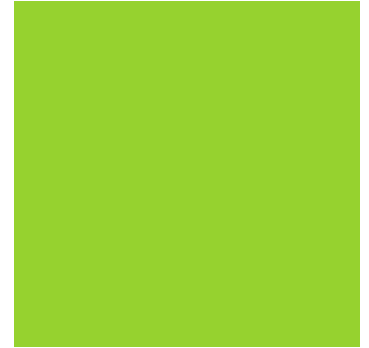
Career Interest Inventories

- Consider your goals, wishes, and dreams
- Research required course work for majors
- Match your strengths, interests, and lifestyle
- Job shadow or internship
- Interview people in the field



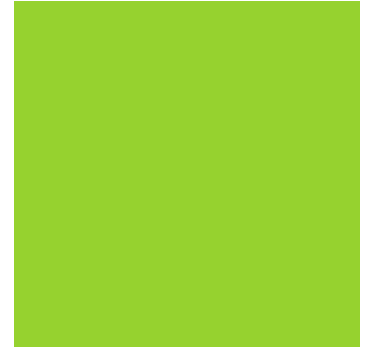
Find the Best School for YOU!!

- Visit the school!!
 - Seniors have 2 School Excused days to visit campuses
- Consider majors offered, size of the college, location, cost, campus life, geographical settings
- Use websites and college books to research
- Admission requirements?!

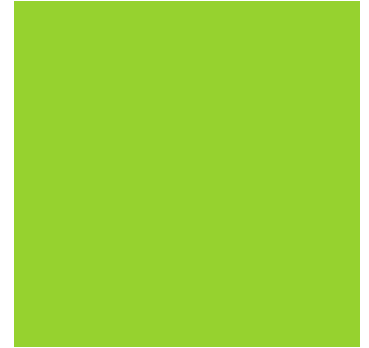


Competitive Colleges

- Class rank or class standing
- College prep course work/
Rigorous classes all four years
- Involvement and Leadership
 - ✓ school activities or sports
 - ✓ community service
 - ✓ employment

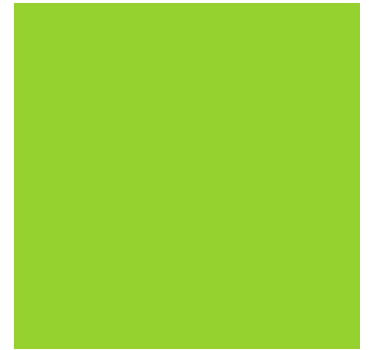


Community and Technical Colleges



- Open Enrollment – accept all students
- Affordable
- Personalized attention
- Quality education
- Credits often transfer to four-year schools

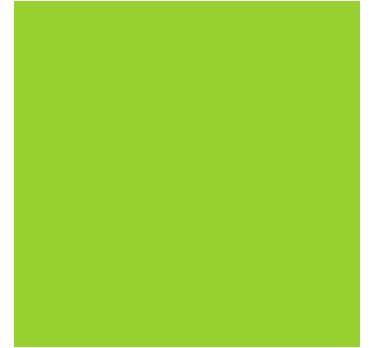
CO Higher Education Admission Requirements (HEAR)



Academic Area	Graduates
English	4 years
Mathematics (Must include Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra II or equivalents)	4 years
Natural/Physical Sciences (two units must be lab-based)	3 years
Social Sciences (at least one unit of U.S. or world history)	3 years
Foreign Language	1 year
Academic Electives	2 years

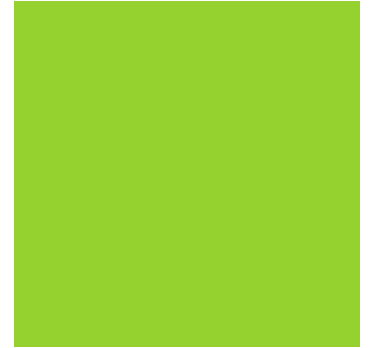
Types of Applications

- ◆ Online!!! – paperless and PREFERRED option, some college will waive application fee
 - ◆ Go to the college/university's website to find the application
- ◆ Common Application – www.commonapp.org
 - ◆ Utilized by over 350 member colleges across the country



College Application Requirements

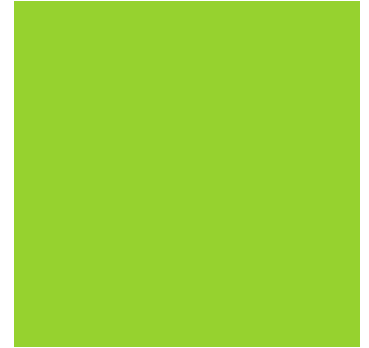
- Application form
- Application fee (\$30-90)
- High School Transcript (request in counseling office from registrar)
- Admission Test Scores (ACT or SAT)
- Letters of Recommendation (1-3)
- Essay (500 words)
- Interview / Audition / Portfolio
- ****SUBMIT A COMPLETE APPLICATION!****



When to Begin...

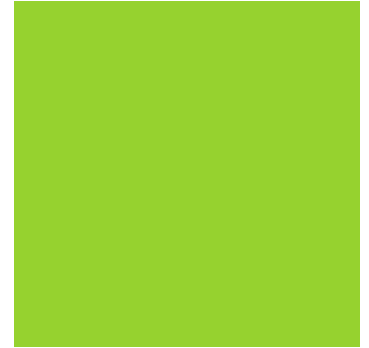
■ JUNIOR YEAR:

- Identify what you need most in a school
- Research majors and colleges
- Determine entrance requirements – do you meet/exceed them?
- Gather information from your top colleges (1-3)
- Register to take/retake the ACT and or SAT
 - (October/December ACT dates offered at DHS)
- Discuss colleges and finances with parents
- Register for NCAA Clearinghouse for collegiate athletics

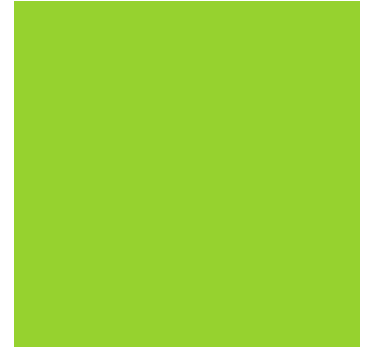


Senior Year

- August-December:
 - Make campus visits
 - Attend College Fairs: Sept. 14 @ CHS 9:30-10:30 and October 7th at Aspen
 - Compare pros and cons; narrow the field
 - Ask for letters of recommendation
 - Thank you notes
 - Personal essay if necessary
 - Apply to your “choice” colleges
 - 1 “reach” school; 2-3 schools that are a good match academically/financially;
 - 1 “for sure” school

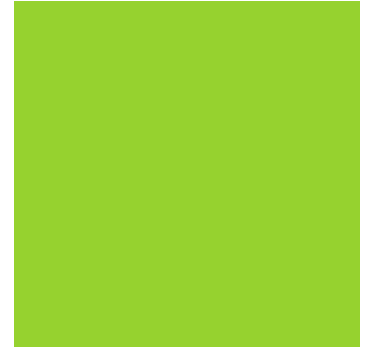


- January-February
 - Apply for financial aid; submit FAFSA: www.fafsa.ed.gov
 - Attend DHS Financial Aid Night
 - Continue scholarship searching
- March-May
 - Apply for local scholarships (available in counseling office)
 - Make final decisions and notify schools



Finance Your Education!!

- Free scholarship databases
- Western Undergraduate Exchange – WUE
www.wiche.edu/sep/wue
- Work, community, clubs, service scholarships
- College financial aid websites or staff
- FAFSA
- “First Generation” awards
- College Opportunity Fund:
www.collegeincolorado.org
- Rural/Diversity scholarships



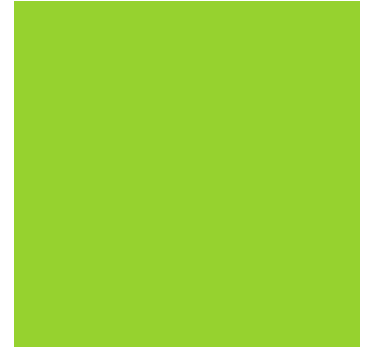
ASCENT Program



- What is it?
 - A “Fifth Year” of high school; spent taking college courses at CMU; DCSD covers tuition and fees for the year, approximately 28 credit hours
- Who qualifies?
 - Seniors set to complete 12 college credit hours of postsecondary course work completed at DHS
- How much will I owe?
 - DCSD covers tuitions and fees ONLY for the year of course work at CMU; if enrolled student quits before the school year ends, student owes money back to DCSD

- Can I apply for and accept financial aid?
 - All students who qualify for/interested in ASCENT are encouraged to apply for scholarships/financial aid. Once you receive your financial aid package, CMU and DHS will sit down and review with you if ASCENT is the correct path for you to take. **Students participating in ASCENT CANNOT accept any financial aid for that year only**

- Will I get to participate in graduation with my classmates?
 - Yes!! Participation in all senior activities, including graduation is permitted. However, students will not receive their diploma until May, 2014 since they will still be considered a DHS student.



Helpful Websites:

- www.collegeincolorado.org
- www.finaid.org
- www.Bigfuture.collegeboard.org
- www.Mappingyourfuture.org
- www.zinch.com
- www.fafsa.ed.gov
- www.fastweb.com
- www.collegeboard.org
- www.eligibilitycenter.org
- <http://dhs.deltaschools.com>

