

Hillel Yeshiva High School

College Guidance

College Application Guide

Class of 2026

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Scoir Account

Scoir (pronounced score) is a college guidance management platform that helps students and families explore colleges & admissions data. All students are given access to Scoir junior year.

Student: Set Up Your Account

- Check your Hillel email for an email from *Scoir* (search, “Scoir” in your mailbox). Confirm your account & create password.
- Complete the [FERPA Release & Waiver](#) - select **GRANTED** for both.

Parents/Guardians: Accessing Scoir

- Check your primary email for an email from *Scoir* (search, “Scoir” in your mailbox). Confirm your account & create password.
- If you **DO NOT** have a Scoir email, notify your child’s college counselor.
- You should now be able to view your child’s profile & college list. This is view only & may not be edited - if there are any errors, let your child’s counselor know.

Research Colleges

- Advanced Search
 - Click the **Discover** tab from the global header.
 - Click the dropdown button in each desired filter at the top of the page to narrow your search based on filters (such as college major, degree type, college size, state, location, etc...).
 - Select the *All Filters* button to see additional filter options.
- Basic Search
 - If you already have a certain college in mind, begin typing the name in the search bar. Once the name appears below, click on it to go to the *College Profile*.

Add Colleges to Your Scoir Account

- Select **My Colleges** from the top right header - you will see 4x columns:
 - Suggested: your counselor will add colleges here for you that they believe are a great fit for you.



- Following: you should add colleges you're seriously considering here. You can do this by dragging & dropping from the *Suggested List* **OR** by adding a college by typing the name in the search bar.
- Applying: In August/September, you **MUST** add the colleges you decide to apply to here. If you decide not to apply to a school please remove it from applying to no longer interested.
- Applied: After you submit your application, you **MUST** move the college from **Applying** to **Applied**, otherwise your counselor will not know to send your materials to that college.

Requesting Teacher Letters of Recommendation

YOU SHOULD ONLY REFER TO THIS SECTION AFTER YOU HAVE ASKED YOUR TEACHERS (IN PERSON, NOT EMAIL!!!) IF HE/SHE WOULD BE WILLING TO WRITE YOU A LETTER. ONCE YOUR TEACHER AGREES AND GIVES YOU ANY MATERIALS THEY MAY NEED FROM YOU, YOU MAY SEND HIM/HER A SCOIR REQUEST. We highly recommend that you ask for your recommendation by June 1 of your junior year to ensure that your recommender has time to write it. These take thought and time, so please be courteous.

- Click the **My Colleges** tab from the global header.
- Select **Docs** from the top right.
- Scroll to **Letters of Recommendation** & select **New Request**.
- *Type your teacher's last name*; click **GENERAL REQUEST**; type a short thank you note at the bottom; select **Submit**.
- *Repeat the process for each teacher that agreed to write you a letter!*

Outside Recommendations

- Some students ask coaches, mentors, supervisors, etc to write letters of recommendation on their behalf. If you have an LOR from someone outside Hillel Yeshiva, ask him/her to email the letter to your counselor directly. They **DO NOT** have to do anything in Scoir.

It is the student's responsibility to update their college list.

If students or parents have Scoir questions or issues, please reach out to your child's counselor.



Junior Year Timeline

SEPTEMBER

- Give some serious thought to your reasons for wanting to attend college.
- Evaluate your goals, your values, your interests and your abilities. Take on some leadership roles!
- Do not be afraid to challenge yourself academically.

OCTOBER

- The PSAT Exam will be in October - please take it seriously. Even though many schools are test optional, it could boost your application to have a strong SAT/ACT score. YU Honors requires test scores.

NOVEMBER

- Keep your grades strong and stay actively involved in activities inside and outside of school.

DECEMBER

- **We will start junior college meetings in January. You should plan on having your first meeting with you and your parent(s)/guardian(s) no later than March.**
- You will receive the results of PSAT. Read material sent with your scores and consult your college guidance counselor to determine how you might improve. Consider a test-prep course if necessary.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY

- Decide what type of college you are looking for. Determine what factors are important to you (location, Jewish opportunities, setting, size, cost etc.).
- Develop your individual SAT/ACT testing schedule with your counselor. Remember to register at the appropriate time.

MARCH/APRIL/MAY/JUNE/JULY

- If you are testing SAT/ACT, you should be prepping. [Khan Academy](#) is a terrific resource and is free. If you are looking for a private tutor, we can give you some suggestions of reputable paid tutors both in person and online.
- You should be refining your activities list and resume.
- A solid rough draft of your main essay should be completed by the end of June and shared with your college counselor via google docs to edit with you.
- Try and get some college visits in. Formal tours are the best way to get a feel for a campus. You can sign up for tours on individual college sites.
- Continue to refine your college list. Goal is to apply to no more than 12-14 colleges/universities.

AUGUST

- Ms. Ward and Mrs. McHugh will formally be working in August and will also be available via email throughout the summer. The Common App opens August 1, so it is a great month to work on applications before school starts.



College Application Requirements

Requirements vary by college - visit each college's website to find the most accurate information. **It is your responsibility to know what's required for each college and when your deadlines are!**

- **Online Application:** Colleges will accept applications one of the following ways:
 - **The Common Application** (Common App): <https://www.commonapp.org/>
Search to see if your college uses Common App & add to "My Colleges"
 - **see if your college requires any additional supplemental essays - these will be published August 1st!** - we recommend creating a Google Doc with all of your supplemental essay questions/requirements - work on here & share with your counselor.
 - College Specific Website (CUNY, YU, FIT - popular colleges **not** on Common App)
 - **CUNY Application:**
<https://www.cuny.edu/admissions/undergraduate/apply/cuny-application/>
 - **YU Application:** <https://www.yu.edu/undergraduate-admissions>
 - **FIT Application:**
<https://www.fitnyc.edu/admissions/undergraduate-applicants/apply/index.php>
- **Grades (Transcript or SRAR)**
 - Official High School Transcript - your counselor will send this on your behalf.
 - SRAR: <https://srar.selfreportedtranscript.com/Login.aspx> (Self-Reported Academic Record)
 - Some colleges require you to report all of your HS final grades yourself on the SRAR (*This needs to be completed 3 days prior to the application due date to ensure everything links in time*). Request a copy of your transcript from your counselor. Report all courses EXACTLY AS THEY APPEAR ON YOUR TRANSCRIPT. For senior year, input the classes you are taking but for grades you will mark IP (In progress).
 - Link your application & your SRAR - follow the directions on your applications, emails, & portals to complete this.
 - Participating SRAR colleges: (Rutgers, NYU, & others)
<https://srarsupport.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/4408738060315-Which-Colleges-Universities-Accept-The-SRAR>
- **Letters of Recommendation**
 - Each college will have their own requirements - we suggest you ask TWO teachers for letters (more details on the next page).
 - Your counselor will also write you a letter of recommendation
 - WE will send your letters of recommendation to your schools.
 - **Common App Recommendation Section** - After completing the required FERPA authorization release in Common App, you will see the section, 'Invite and Manage Recommenders'. Students will list Hillel teachers and counselors in this section but DO NOT enter email addresses.
- **School Profile & School Report**
 - Your counselor will send both on your behalf.



SAT's & ACT's

Many colleges are now test optional, however, we **highly recommend** all students take at least one SAT or ACT. Some programs (YU Honors Program, FL public colleges) require test scores.

When you are submitting applications, if you plan to send test scores, it is your responsibility to send official score reports to the colleges you're applying to (at least 3 weeks ahead of your deadline unless you pay to rush them in 3 business days).

It's recommended to only prepare for ***either*** the SAT or ACT, not both, as they are two different tests. To get your best possible score, it's better to pick one & focus your prep on that. You'll take the PSAT several times throughout HS, so you'll know what to expect on the SAT. If you're curious about the ACT, you can take a practice ACT here:

<https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation/free-act-test-prep.html>.

Digital SAT vs ACT

Compare the new digital SAT to the ACT to learn the differences between the two tests.
No matter which test you choose, prep for success with Test Innovators.

www.testinnovators.com/sat
www.testinnovators.com/act

FORMAT	STRUCTURE	FORMATS
COMPUTER	98 Questions 2 hr 14 min 2 hr 55 min 215 Questions 3 hr 35 min with essay	PAPER COMPUTER
SECTION ADAPTIVE MODULE 1 - EASY MODULE 2 - HARD Difficulty of Module 2 depends on performance on Module 1.	Reading & Writing Module 1 27 Questions Reading & Writing Module 2 27 Questions Math Module 1 22 Questions Math Module 2 22 Questions	INCREASING QUESTION DIFFICULTY For Math and Science sections only
QUESTION FORMAT MULTIPLE CHOICE 4 answer choices STUDENT-PRODUCED RESPONSE Math section only	English 75 Questions Math 60 Questions Reading 40 Questions Science 40 Questions	QUESTION FORMAT MULTIPLE CHOICE 4 answer choices: English, Reading, Science 5 answer choices: Math
TIME PER QUESTION READING & WRITING 71s MATH 95s	45 min 60 min 35 min 35 min	TIME PER QUESTION ENGLISH 36s READING 52s MATH 60s SCIENCE 52s
SCORING 1600 Reading and Writing 200-800 Math 200-800 Total Score 400-1600		SCORING 36 English 1-36 Reading 1-36 Math 1-36 Science 1-36 Composite Score 1-36
READING PASSAGES 54 SHORT PASSAGES 1 question per passage		OPTIONAL WRITING TEST 1 PROMPT WITH 3 PERSPECTIVES 40 minutes Scoring: 2-12



Sunday SAT Testing

Hillel Yeshiva offers two SAT's during the school year (March for juniors, October for seniors). If you wish to take additional tests, you'll need to register on your own via College Board's website: <https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat/registration>

SAT's are offered on Saturday's only - HOWEVER, students can request Sunday testing.

Sunday test dates immediately follow each Saturday date:

1. You should already have a College Board account from PSAT exams you've taken in the past - if you do not know your login, you must contact College Board: **866-756-7346**.
2. Register for the SAT: <https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat/registration>. If this is your first time taking the SAT, you will only be able to register for the Saturday exam that month. Complete registration for Saturday.
3. Get a letter from an official religious leader: reach out to Ms. Ward to request this letter: jward@hillelyeshiva.org.
4. AFTER registration, contact SAT support by submitting the **SAT Student & Parent Inquiry Form**: <https://form.collegeboard.org/f/contact-sat>.
 - a. From the Topic list, select **Registration**.
 - b. From the Detail list, select **Change Saturday/Sunday status**.

*****Customer Service will email you about any further required information*****

5. You will receive another email from College Board letting you know your request has been approved. *Your original Saturday test registration will be canceled* (and you'll be refunded). You must login to register & pay all over again. This time, you will be able to see **Sunday testing dates only**.



Senior Year Timeline

Summer

- You will work with your counselor in the spring before we leave for summer break - continue to work on what you were working on in College Guidance. Continue to work on your Activities List, Common App, College Essay(s).
- Visit colleges! Keep in mind that campuses over the summer will not be filled with students or may be under construction, but it's a great time to go see campuses (especially if you're interested in schools further away!).
- Ms. McHugh & Ms. Ward will be available via email June-July. August we will be available for appointments. Meet with your counselor before the craziness of the school year starts!!!

Fall/Winter

- Remind the teachers you asked for letters of recommendation of your deadlines. You must send them a request in Scoir so they can upload your letter.
- Narrow down your application list to the schools you are applying to. Rule of thumb 1-2 big reaches, 2-4 possible and the rest should be likely schools.
- Continue to visit colleges (you get 2 excused absences to use before February for college visits). If you visit a school in person, always stop by the Admissions Office; introduce yourself and share a copy of your transcript. Always follow up with a thank you letter/email to thank the Admissions Rep for their time.
- If you have a specific major in mind, attend any webinars/zoom meetings specific to that subject area/school of study and see if you can set up an interview with the head of/someone in that department.
- Review the Activities List we started in the spring & add anything new you participated in over the summer. Add as much detail as possible - be specific! Your counselor will review it with you once it's complete.
- The Common App opens up August 1st - start filling it out ASAP. Most colleges are on Common App, but several schools will have their own application - check each college's website to find out how applications are accepted.
- Start writing your college essay (*500 to 650 words - send any drafts that you are ready to share). Remember you want to excite the person who is reading your essay! Write about something you are passionate about or will capture the reader's attention about **YOU**. This is great for some examples:
<https://www.collegeessayguy.com/blog/college-essay-examples>

- Look up any supplemental essays you may have to write for individual colleges and put them in a Google Doc to keep organized (these come out on August 1st). Start working on them.
- Some colleges will require you to submit/record your high school grades in addition to getting a copy of your high school transcript. Be sure to check your email/college portal - this can be a separate submission that is typically completed after you submit your application.
<https://ssar.selfreportedtranscript.com/Login.aspx>
<https://srar.selfreportedtranscript.com/Login.aspx>
- Discuss your plan for submitting SAT/ACT scores with your counselor. Some schools are test optional, but several Honors Programs/majors may require test scores, so be sure to do your research on what each school needs.
- Submit completed applications to each school - *Alert us that you have applied and should send your records.*
- Attend Hillel's virtual Financial Aid Night and complete the FAFSA.. Private colleges will require the CSS Profile in addition to the FAFSA. Individual colleges may have deadlines they will need you to complete these by.

Spring

- Keep your grades strong! Colleges may request midyear grades - notify your counselor if colleges request this. Even if you're accepted, colleges can rescind admission offers if your grades drop significantly.
- ***YOU NEED TO CONTINUE TO CHECK YOUR EMAIL AND COLLEGE PORTALS. Most colleges will require you to submit a deposit to hold your spot by either May 1 or June 1. College Guidance can help with this but we cannot do this for you.***
- **IF YOU ARE DEFERRING FOR 1 YEAR TO GO TO ISRAEL:** you are responsible for following your school's instructions on how to request this - not College Guidance. We can help you with this, but we do not submit anything to request a deferment, the student does.
- Notify your counselor where you will be attending by May 1st - your college will need us to send your final transcript (**this will not be ready until after graduation**).



Important Application Information

You will need to report the following information on your applications:

- Class Rank: none (we do not rank)
- GPA: 100 point scale / weighted
- HYHS CEEB Code: 310267
- Graduation Date: June 2026
- Students in Graduating Class: 53
- Course Scheduling System used by HYHS: yearly

Hillel Yeshiva High School

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Teacher Letters of Recommendation

- **Ask in person!!**
 - Asking in person allows your teacher to ask questions & prepare a detailed letter that highlights your strengths. You can ask during a free period, after school, or when your teacher has free time. **Please do not rush at them at the beginning of class! Once he/she says yes, you must request on Scoir.**
- **If a teacher says no, do not panic!**
 - There are many reasons a teacher may not feel comfortable writing a letter of recommendation for you. And it may not have anything to do with you or your qualifications. This person might not feel like they know you well enough or cannot speak to the skills and qualifications. Come see Ms. Ward or Mrs. McHugh if this happens and we will help you.
- **Ask junior year before we leave for summer break!!**
 - Teachers often get many requests so asking before the deadline gives them extra time to focus on your letter. **Anyone not requesting a letter by August 1** cannot expect the teacher to have it in by Early Action deadlines of 11/1. **There are no exceptions. If you ask late, expect a 30 day turn around after 11/1.**
- **Be polite & appreciative**
 - Explain why you chose them to write the letter. **Each letter takes hours of a teacher's time to write so they deserve a big thank you- it's common courtesy to send a thank you note (handwritten note or email) to each individual who wrote a letter on your behalf.** Be sure to update your recommenders with the good news when you're accepted to a college or university.
- **Provide information:**
 - Each teacher may have their own information they need from you so please follow their directions and timeline. If you do not return what they need by their requested date, your letter may not be ready in time.
 - When a teacher asks for information, put time and thought into what is being requested. You need to be introspective and to provide concrete details that illustrate your attributes.
 - Having a resume or your activities list handy can be very helpful. You should also share where you are planning on applying and if you have a certain major in mind.

Follow up as we approach your application deadlines. Thank your teachers, again, for them agreeing to help & politely remind them of your earliest deadline. You can also follow up with Ms. McHugh & Ms. Ward on the status of your letters.



Applications Submitted - What's Next?

- Notify your counselor of your application submissions & mark the colleges you applied to as **APPLIED** on **SCOIR**. **THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT SO WE CAN SEND YOUR MATERIALS!**
- Check your emails & set up portals for the colleges you applied to so far: **BE SURE TO CHECK YOUR EMAIL & PORTALS REGULARLY.**
 - All instructions to create your portals should be emailed to you by each college - follow those directions.
 - Your college portal is where all important information is relayed: admissions decisions, missing documents, etc.
 - If your portal says that you are missing transcripts or letters of recommendation, let your counselor know. It sometimes takes up to a week to post, don't panic!
- If you are submitting SAT/ACT scores that is your responsibility to submit. Log into your College Board account & send your scores:
<https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat/scores/send-scores-to-colleges/sending-scores>
- Link your application(s) to your completed SRAR **BEFORE** the deadline.
- Private colleges may require you to submit the *CSS Profile*:
<https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/>. Fill this out with your parents/guardians -
CHECK IF THERE IS A DEADLINE TO COMPLETE THIS BY!
- To show demonstrated interest, you can email the reps of your top choices after you apply (your rep should be noted in your portal OR a Google search will help you find him/her). This is a good article for examples:
<https://www.collegematchpoint.com/college-matchpoint-blog/2017/3/demonstrate-d-interest-email-with-admissions-representative>



Finalizing Your College Decision

Accepting your admission offer is just one step in completing your enrollment. Each college has its own set of enrollment requirements & deadlines. Below is a general overview of what you'll have to do next (your acceptance letter & college portal will have exact, detailed instructions).

- **Accept your admission offer**
 - Your acceptance letter should include instructions on how to inform the college of your decision to attend. This deadline typically falls between May 1 and June 1.
- **Submit your enrollment deposit**
 - Typically, your enrollment deposit will be due by the same deadline to accept your admission offer. The deposit usually costs a few hundred dollars.
- **Check your student portals & emails REGULARLY**
 - Your student portal is essential for all college-related tasks throughout your college career. You should have set this up immediately after submitting your application; if you haven't set up your portal yet, be sure to do so ASAP.
 - You should be able to view requirements/dates/deadlines for items such as placement tests, freshman orientation sign-up, housing applications, final transcript submission, class selection, financial aid information, and more.
- **Defer admission (*only* if you're going to Israel)**
 - If you're going to Israel after graduation, you'll have to follow your college's deferral process. Typically, this means explaining what you'll be doing with your time & why it's important to you. Each deferral process will vary by college and there is normally a deadline, so it's best to contact the Office of Admissions for detailed instructions.

******We cannot stress enough how important it is to make sure your submissions are accurate & ON TIME. Not doing so could result in giving up your spot to a waitlisted student. Call the Office of Admissions at your college for assistance throughout this process. ******