

College Planning Night for Juniors



Creating a College List

Key resources:

- College Board
- Naviance
- Guidance counselor
- Books and websites
- College visits

Unique aspects:

- Size
- Location
- Major
- Cost
- Acceptance Rate



A balanced list: Reach, Fit, Safety, Financial Safety

SAT/ACT

- Can take as many times as you want, or not at all
 - Many schools are test optional
- Very important to check the schools on your list
 - Does it hurt to not submit a test score?
 - How to register
 - How to send scores



College Essay

- An important part of the application
 - You are more than just numbers
- A difficult part of the application
 - Open-ended
- How to write it
 - Personal, well written, positive
- What to write about
 - CA prompts
- When to write it
 - Begin the process early
- Supplemental questions
 - Be sure to check



Recommendations

Teachers



1. Ask two before summer break begins with a teacher rec. form
2. Remind them at the start of 12th grade
3. Add them to your Naviance account
4. Follow up with them as you near your first deadline

Guidance Counselor



1. Meet early and often
2. Complete a brag sheet and share a resume if you have one

Other Recommender



1. You can ask a coach, supervisor, clergy, etc.

Special Application Types

Students Looking at Creative Fields

- Work on a portfolio and/or schedule auditions

Student Athletes

- Register for the NCAA if playing D 1 or 2
- Fill out NCAA Request Form (found in guidance office)
- OPTIONAL: Send in official SAT/ACT scores to NCAA
- Communicate with coaches

Students on IEP/504

- Research support services at the colleges on your list
- Check your Psych-Ed Testing

Common App

- A centralized portal for applying to many colleges, though not all
- You can begin this any time, but do not answer college questions yet
- You will add the colleges you are applying to
- Recommended to use your personal email address
- Your counselor can help you with tricky questions

Naviance

- The hub for your application documents
- Students already have an account
- You will add the colleges you are applying to
- Your counselor will send your documents from Naviance through the Common App or directly to a college
- College and career exploration tools are available

The Parent/Guardian Role

- Talk about college
 - Talk about paying for college
- Support throughout the process
 - Help with college visits
- Help with “Family” section of Common App
 - Fill out the FAFSA and other financial aid
- Reach out to your Guidance Counselor for support or with questions

Spring of Junior Year

- Get good grades!
- Meet with Guidance Counselor to discuss college admissions process and talk about possible schools of interest
 - Start to create a list of schools
 - Go on college visits!
 - Complete counselor brag sheet
- Ask for letters of recommendation before summer
 - Optional: Take SAT or ACT

This Summer

- Continue to visit colleges
- Start to brainstorm the college essay
- Get started on the Common App
- Do something that you can put on a resume
 - Optional: Take SAT or ACT



Fall of Senior Year

- Continue to get good grades!
- Check on letters of recommendation
 - Finish college essays
 - Finish and submit applications
- Optional: Send official SAT/ACT scores
 - Track application materials
- Complete the FAFSA and other financial aid requirements for each college
 - Hear back from colleges
- May 1st - final deposit due at your college

College Visits & Upcoming Fairs

AHS MINI FAIRS: THIS SPRING

During WIN

College Visits

- Students can get a pass for an excused absence from school
- Easy to visit in summer; more students on campus in spring
 - Get a feel for different types: Big/Small, Rural/City

NEACAC College Fair

Merrimack College, Sunday May 4th 2025 6-8pm

Merrimack College Athletic Complex: Lawler Rink

Please see your counselor regarding registration

Financial Aid, Very Briefly...

- Financial aid night in the fall
- Always check the financial aid requirements and deadlines on their website when applying to a college
- The FAFSA
- The CSS Profile
- MEFA is an excellent and free resource for all families in Massachusetts



**Introducing Mike
Kalenoski from the
Admissions Department at
UMass Lowell!**