

Glossary

529 Plans

An education saving plan operated by a state or educational institution designed to help families set aside funds for future college costs. 529 Plans are usually categorized as either prepaid or savings, although some have elements of both. Every state now has at least one 529 Plan available.

ACT

American College Testing; college entrance exam that tests students' skills in English, mathematics, reading and science reasoning; also career-related tests.

www.actstudent.org

Associate Degree

A degree obtained by completing 60+ credit hours. This degree may be transfer-oriented (if your goal is to obtain your Bachelor's Degree) or career-oriented (if your goal is to enter into the job force immediately).

Bachelor's Degree

A degree obtained by completing 120+ credit hours. The first 60 hours are usually comprised of general education classes and the remaining 60+ hours consist of major specific coursework.

Bridges™

A tool that allows a student to customize their college list, compare colleges and take career and interest assessments. A student can access Bridges for free by going to the following website **www.bridges.com** and entering the below information:

Site ID: 0105773

Password: higher

(Tip: The first tab requires a "Portfolio ID", click onto the next tab to enter the "Site ID")

Center for College Planning

A free college planning resource from the NHHEAF Network Organizations' dedicated to providing students and families with valuable information about the college planning process—from savings options and college admissions requirements, to applying for financial aid and scholarships. **www.nhheaf.org**

Class Rank

A rating which compares a student's cumulative grade point average to other members of their class. Class rank is often used to determine a student's eligibility for college admission and scholarships.

College Board®

A non-profit membership organization composed of over 4,500 schools, colleges and universities that provide a number of services relating to college admissions, guidance,

assessment, financial aid and enrollment. It is best known for administering the SAT, the PSAT/NMSQT, and the Advanced Placement Program. www.collegeboard.com

College Work-Study (CWS) Program

A form of financial aid where students work part-time at their college, for example in a library or dining hall.

Community College

A college that offers programs (usually two years or less) that prepares students for immediate employment, or for transfer to a four-year college or university. (example: NHTI-New Hampshire Technical Institute)

Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

The amount that, according to a government formula, a family should be able to pay toward college costs. (Note that a student could have a zero EFC.) Financial Aid can make up the different between the cost of college and the EFC.

FAFSA

Free Application for Federal Student Aid; the federal form that students use to apply for financial assistance. www.fafsa.ed.gov

Financial Aid

Money offered to students to help them pay for educational expenses in college. Financial Aid can consist of scholarships, grants, loans and work study.

GPA

The average grade earned by a student, figured by dividing the grade points earned by the number of credits attempted.

Grant

A financial award to a student; generally does not have to be repaid.

Informational Interview

Students have the opportunity to ask questions of a person in a field of interest to them. By asking questions either in person, or on the phone, students are able to gain insight into that particular career, helping them decide if it is an area they might want to pursue.

Internship

Internships allow students to have a work experience while they are still in school. Some college students receive class credit for working at jobs related to their major.

Job Shadow

An opportunity for students to explore a career or field of interest by meeting with a professional from the field, asking questions and learning some behind the scenes information about the profession.

Kuder®

The Kuder Career Planning System provides students the most comprehensive career tool in the industry. It is also a great resource to search for colleges, compare schools and narrow your college choices. Kuder assessments can be accessed for free by going to the following site **www.nhheaf.kuder.com** and entering in the following codes:

Career Search with Person Match: i775865xqa

Kuder Skills Assessment: s775864xqa

Work Values Inventory: v775866xqa

Liberal Arts

A course of study that focuses on general knowledge and reasoning ability instead of a specific career. Many students will take Liberal Arts courses as electives to complement their major program of study.

Private College

An independent college established by individuals or organizations and receives little taxpayer support. (example: Dartmouth College)

Public College

A college supported by a state government and receives part of the funding for their operational costs from them. (example: University of New Hampshire-UNH)

Road Trip Nation

Road Trip Nation was started when some recent college graduates, who did not know what they wanted to do with their lives, decided to take a road trip to help them figure it out. They bought an old run-down RV, painted it green, and toured the country interviewing people in various industries and walks of life, asking them how they found their passion. Today, college students are invited to apply for a chance to take their own road trip to help them find their future. **www.roadtripnation.com**

State Scholars

New Hampshire Scholars Program recommends a Core Course of Study to high schoolers that give every participating student the advantage of well-rounded, more challenging coursework in English, math, science, social studies and foreign language. Students who undertake this rigorous Core Course of Study will challenge themselves to do their best work during their high school career and will enjoy a wider range of postsecondary options upon graduation. **www.nhscholars.org**