



THE DEAN'S LIST

Center for College Planning

July 2009

Your guide to college planning

You're Almost There...

Preparing for Dorm Life

Only a few weeks ago, you had it all figured out. School. Friends. Activities. Family. Remember the scared freshman you used to feel sorry for in high school? In just a few weeks, the roles will reverse and you will now be the college freshman trying to get acclimated to your new surroundings. You are no longer just touring the college, you'll be moving in for good. Do not fear! It won't take you long. In just a short time, you'll have made plenty of friends, know every corner of campus and be in a daily routine as if you've been in college for years.

Until then, here are the **Top Ten Survival Strategies for College Freshmen** to help you make the adjustment to college life!

- 10 Respect your roommate and their things. Wash your dishes, pick up your dirty clothes and use your own stuff! Living with someone new may be an adjustment. Do everything you can to make it a smooth transition.
- 9 Gather all the syllabi during the first week of classes and write down the due date for every paper, project, and test. You'll instantly see which weeks are going to be tough!
- 8 Learn to use your time effectively. Despite an active social life; you are there to learn. You don't want to end up on academic probation after one semester because you spent too much time partying or too much time sleeping in. Stay organized and keep a consistent study schedule.
- 7 Don't skip classes! This may be the first time your mom isn't dragging you out of bed to catch the bus. It may be tempting to skip a class with no attendance policy but missing too many classes will hurt your grade. If you have to be out of class, call the professor and schedule a time to pick up any missing assignments.
- 6 Repeat an "F" as soon as possible. It is the quickest way to raise a GPA.
- 5 Find out if your bank at home has an ATM on campus. You don't want to pay a service fee every time you withdraw cash. If your bank doesn't have a cash machine on campus, consider opening an account in a local bank.
- 4 A credit card may be a great idea for an "emergency." If your parents are footing the bill for credit card payments, be sure you have a clear understanding of what constitutes an emergency. Think twice before getting your own credit card by evaluating **credit card terms and conditions**.

Center for College Planning at the NHHEAF Network Organizations

The Center for College Planning at the **NHHEAF Network Organizations** is 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. We serve all student populations: traditional, continuing education, graduate and adult learner. We offer college planning materials and coordinate speakers for schools, businesses and community organizations free of charge. We provide dynamic small group workshops in our Concord, New Hampshire office. We also provide a toll free college planning hotline and comprehensive Web site. Our goal is to promote higher education as the means to achieving personal, career and life goals.

The NHHEAF Network Organizations

The NHHEAF Network Organizations are comprised of four independent nonprofit organizations dedicated to streamlining the student loan process:

New Hampshire Higher Education Assistance Foundation (NHHEAF) guarantees, originates and disburses your loan.

New Hampshire Higher Education Loan Corporation (NHHELCO) funds your loan.

Granite State Management & Resources (GSM&R) services your loan.

NHHEAF Network Educational Foundation (NNEF) administers charitable giving.



The NHHEAF Network Organizations
Center for College Planning
1.888.7.GRADUATE x119
collegeplanning@nhheaf.org



This product has been granted the Seal of Approval from the National Association for College Admission Counseling.

- 3 An internship in your major program of study is a great way to get to know people and network. Impressing important people in your field may give you a leg up on the competition when you graduate and hit the job market.
- 2 Take advantage of everything your campus has to offer. Read the campus bulletin boards to find out about clubs, activities and opportunities to try something new. See what your college has to offer for studying abroad. A semester abroad could be an unforgettable experience.
- 1 Attend all the welcome week activities offered. Not only will you learn things like how to use the library or how your computer access works, you will start to meet others, get settled, and become immersed in your college campus!

(Adapted from Suzette Tyler's *Been There Should've Done That: More Tips for Making the Most of College*)

Major Decisions

Are you starting school with a major already in mind or are you, like two-thirds of the freshmen in your class, undeclared? Don't panic. It's okay to start school undeclared; in fact, it allows you to 'test drive' some different fields and find a good fit. Just be sure you have some ideas about what interests you and what you may want to pursue. Also, be sure that the college you are attending has those programs in their degree offerings. You don't want to have to transfer from a school because they don't offer the major that you choose. So what do people major in? This month's issue of *BusinessNH Magazine* listed the top ten bachelor's degrees awarded in New Hampshire.

The highest number of bachelor's degrees awarded by New Hampshire colleges and universities between July 2007 and June 2008 were (in order):

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| 1. Business, Administration and Management | 6. History |
| 2. Psychology | 7. Elementary Education and Teaching |
| 3. English Language and Literature | 8. Economics |
| 4. Political Science and Government | 9. Biology/Biological Sciences |
| 5. Communication Studies/Speech and Rhetoric | 10. Sociology |

Student Loan Rate Reductions Offer Relief

According to the College Board, in 2008 41% of students received financial aid in the form of Federal student loans. Paying for college can be stressful for families and with the economy still struggling choosing the best sources of college funding is a complicated decision for most. Some relief has come in the form of another reduction in federal loan interest rates for students in the 2009-2010 school year.

For the 2009-2010 school year, fixed interest rates in newly originated Subsidized Stafford Loans for undergraduate students will decrease from 6.0% to 5.6%. This interest rate reduction will result in thousands of dollars saved for students relying on financial aid to afford higher education!

News Around the Nation

Kindle Controversy

By now, everyone has heard of Kindle. Kindle is the wireless reading device put out through Amazon that allows consumers to download over 90,000 titles to be read on a six inch screen. Last fall, many colleges started selling textbooks in Kindle editions. Using digital textbooks not only saves on costly print editions but also saves your spine from lugging heavy textbooks in backpacks around campus. Recently, The National Federation of the Blind challenged the use of such technology on the grounds that blind students cannot access digital textbooks as they are currently configured. Although Kindle offers an audio feature, users must access this function through an onscreen display. The Federation filed suit in June. Traditionally, college services manually transferred textbooks to digital files that were then made into audio files that blind students could access.

Did You Know?

Campus Spotlight

Networking is always a smart idea and it's never too early to get started. Did you know The University of New Hampshire has a career mentor network made up of parents and UNH alumni? Created specifically for UNH students, the network allows for students to gain insights and get advice about careers and industries through mentors in those fields. Filling out a simple form puts students in contact with UNH alumni associated in careers related to student interests and majors. Networking early could lead to great contacts after graduation! For more information about the program, [click here](#).



Final College Prep Checklist

Important things to consider bringing with you to college:

- Medical card
- Insurance card
- Prescriptions needing to be refilled
- Address book
- School and study supplies (notebooks, pens, pencils, paper, filing folders, stapler and calculator)
- Milk crates or stackable bins
- Laundry detergent and a laundry bag/basket
- Toiletry items
- Flip flops or sandals for the shower
- Egg crate/mattress pad
- Room decorations (posters, pictures)
- Bedding (pillow, sheets, blankets)

Don't forget to friend NHHEAF on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.



Congratulations! Your journey through the college prep process is complete. The Center for College Planning has enjoyed helping you meet your goals. Since we last saw you at *Destination CollegeSM* in March 2008, you have successfully climbed to new heights. We wish you the best of luck in this next chapter. If we can help with additional funding options or career guidance, do not hesitate to contact our counselors at (800) 525-2577 x119.

The NHHEAF Network Organizations are comprised of four 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations that provide students and families with the resources and funding to pursue higher education aspirations. Funds generated by the Organizations make their charitable mission possible as student loan earnings are reinvested in programs and services that benefit citizens of New Hampshire. For more information, visit www.nhheaf.org.