



Your Senior Year is Finally Here!

The start of another school year is just around the corner. But this year, you are the big-time senior. While there are many advantages to being at the top of the totem pole, it also means additional responsibilities.

Before you know it, it will be mid-year and the college application deadlines will be upon you. The more preparation you can do now and early in the fall, the easier it will make your senior experience. Even if you are not applying Early Action or Early Decision, the Center for College Planning recommends completing all college applications by Thanksgiving. Who wants to be writing college essays or rushing to fill out applications during the winter break anyway? Wondering if you'll be ready for it all? Here is a list of five ways you can start preparing for the college admissions process now.

- 5. Begin to narrow your school choices down to a manageable list.** Visit the [campuses](#) of schools that you're interested in and see for yourself if the college is a good fit for you. If you can't get to the campus, try [campustours.com](#) for virtual tours of colleges and universities. Just be sure to visit before you make your final selection next May. Still working on developing your list? [Click here](#) for some great tips on factors you should consider when choosing a college.
- 4. Register online now for the fall SAT or ACT.** You may have taken the SAT or ACT in your junior year. If you are pleased with your test scores, you may not feel the need to take them again. However, with the additional coursework you are taking this fall, you may want to consider taking the tests again to see if you can improve upon your score. If you want to know more about standardized testing, check out our "[Know the Score](#)" video.
- 3. Talk with your parents about finances.** It can be difficult to talk about money with your parents, but now is a great time to begin understanding the expectations each of you have when it comes to paying for college. Start the conversation now about how your family will pay for college - and set clear guidelines around spending money, part-time jobs, and textbook money.
- 2. Think about which teachers you may want to ask for a recommendation.** When school starts, approach the teachers early. Teachers need time to write recommendations and will appreciate you asking early. Don't forget to ask coaches, clergy, or community service leaders who know you as a person and can speak to your abilities and character. Learn all about letters of recommendation [here](#).
- 1. Get ready for senior classes!** Your applications to college will require your high school transcript including your first semester senior grades. Start your academic year strong, and don't fall victim to senioritis - keep your grades up all year long!

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 website. 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 three active 501(c)(3) nonprofit agencies:

New Hampshire Higher Education Assistance Foundation (NHHEAF), Granite State Management & Resources (GSM&R) and New Hampshire Higher Education Loan Corporation (NHHELCO) - which provide outstanding college access programs for New Hampshire students, families and schools. Located in Concord, New Hampshire, the funds generated by the Organizations' loan operation make its charitable mission possible as earnings are reinvested in programs and services that benefit citizens of our State.

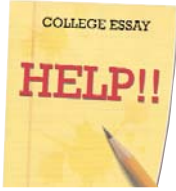


The NHHEAF Network Organizations
Center for College Planning
1.888.7.GRADUATE x119
collegeplanning@nhheaf.org

Upcoming:

September: "Narrowing the List" - We'll discuss the importance of the 2-2-2 Approach and offer strategies to develop an effective list of colleges

Attend a College Planning Library Workshop or Webinar



Do you need help as you start writing your college essay? Are you worrying about how to prepare for a college interview? Are you looking for tips when taking standardized tests like the SAT or ACT? The Center for College Planning (CCP) is here to help!

Check out our upcoming FREE College Planning **Workshops and Webinars**. These 60 to 90 minute sessions, led by our expert College Counselors, are great ways to learn about preparing for college. We hope you will join us in our College Planning Library or online for one of these FREE sessions!

You're Invited!

Free 2010 September and October College Planning Workshops

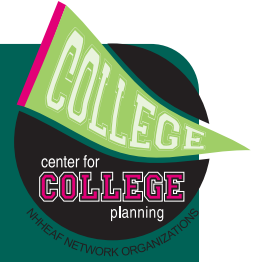
Who: College-bound Juniors and Seniors

What: College Interview workshop (CI) (5:00 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.) & The Write Stuff workshop (TWS) (5:00 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.)

Where: NHHEAF CCP Library • 4 Barrell Court • Concord, NH

When: (CI) Thursday, September 16 or Wednesday, October 13 - (TWS) Tuesday, September 28 or Thursday, October 21

Pre-registration is required, [click here to register](#) & learn more!



See the Center for College Planning at your school! During the months of September and October, many NH high schools offer our evening "College Overview for Seniors" presentation so both you and your parents can learn about the exciting year ahead! Check our [calendar](#) to see when we will be at your school. If you don't see your school listed, feel free to ask your Guidance Office if they are scheduling a presentation or attend a presentation at a nearby school. We look forward to seeing you!

Check Out Scholarship Opportunities!



Searching for scholarships doesn't need to be a full-time job! There are many resources right in your own school or community. Your high school guidance office has information about local scholarship opportunities unique to your graduating class. Check the guidance bulletin board, listen carefully to those morning announcements and talk with your school counselor to learn more about the opportunities available. Be sure to meet the deadlines! Check with your local library, community organizations and employers to learn if other scholarship opportunities are available to you. Also, be sure to check the **NH93 Scholarship Superhighway** which helps students search for local scholarships without pouring over stacks of scholarship flyers and multiple scholarship websites. Students create personalized profiles that can be matched against a database of local opportunities for New Hampshire students. While your scholarship applications won't be due for a few months, now is a good time to get an idea of which scholarships you might want to apply for and to start gathering any necessary information.

Scholarship Opportunities for Low-Income Seniors

The Questbridge National College Match helps high achieving low-income high school seniors earn four-year scholarships to some of the nation's leading colleges. Partnered with 29 top ranked universities, Questbridge gives outstanding low-income students a chance to attend top ranked schools with financial aid packages that cover 100% of demonstrated financial need. The deadline for application is September 30, 2010. Apply today at www.questbridge.org.

News Around the Nation

Technology a Consideration in College Selection

When you think of the ideal college campus, what does that picture look like to you? Is it in a small town? Is the campus in the middle of a city? Does it have a strong biology program or a championship soccer team? How about technology? Does that play a role in your college selection process? A recent study found that for 63 percent of the current college students surveyed, technology was an important factor when choosing their college. For current high school students, the percentage jumps to a remarkable 93 percent! So, check out the location of the campus, the food in the cafeteria, the set-up of the dorms and courses of study. But don't forget to inquire about the available technology when you are visiting college campuses this fall!

Campus Spotlight

Did you Know?

Beginning in the fall of 2011, New England College in Henniker, NH will join the North Atlantic Conference for their NCAA Division III sports. There are currently eight colleges in the North Atlantic Conference including Castleton State College (Castleton, VT), Green Mountain College (Poultney, VT), Husson University (Bangor, ME), Johnson State College (Johnson, VT), Lyndon State College (Lyndon, VT), University of Maine at Farmington (Farmington, ME), Maine Maritime Academy (Castine, ME), and Thomas College (Waterville, ME).

"The move to the North Atlantic Conference will benefit the New England College student-athletes by providing great competition as well as an emphasis on sportsmanship and citizenship," said NEC Athletic Director Lori Runksmeier. "We are excited to have been invited into the league and look forward to a long and mutually beneficial partnership."

*Note: If you are considering participating in a college sport at the Division I or Division II level, you may need to register with the NCAA. If you have not already done so, check with your high school's **NCAA** liaison to learn more.*



Ask Joe College

What can I do to prepare for the college interview? How will I spend next summer? Can I expect an athletic scholarship from the colleges on my list? Check out the latest articles on these topics on our Ask Joe College blog. You can surf the latest topics, ask questions and post your own advice about the college selection process, financial aid confusion and even searching for scholarships. Also, you can access some of the CCP webinars on topics like preparing for the SAT and the College Overview. **Subscribe today!**



Your next newsletter will be sent in September. As you make the transition to senior status at your high school, we'll transition you to the next stage in our monthly newsletter for high school seniors, The Dean's List. In the meantime, continue to narrow your college list, visit campuses, and get ready for a very exciting and successful senior year!

The NHHEAF Network Organizations are comprised of three active 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.