



The ARSITY LETTER

Created Especially for High School Juniors



June 2009

Make the Most of Your Summer

Beginning the College Search

Hello College-Bound Juniors (Almost Seniors)!

Now is the perfect time to continue your preparation for college. This is your opportunity to plan for the future and intensify your college search. Throughout your senior year, we will send you monthly tips and guidelines related to the college planning timetable. As you finish your junior year, it is important to make the most of the time you have. Below are a few of the things you can do this summer to help make the college search process a little easier.

Plan to Take Standardized Tests

Most colleges will be looking for standardized tests from applicants. To find out if the school(s) you are interested in require standardized tests check their Web site or call the admissions office. The fall test dates for the SAT and ACT are listed below. Be aware that the ACT is offered at fewer locations so you may find it necessary to schedule strategically to secure a test location nearby. To find out which schools don't require standardized test scores for admission, visit www.fairtest.org.

Fall SAT Test Dates

-Register online at www.collegeboard.com

Test Date	Registration Deadline
October 10, 2009	September 9, 2009
November 7, 2009	October 1, 2009
December 5, 2009	October 30, 2009

Fall ACT Test Dates

-Register online at www.actstudent.org

Test Date	Registration Deadline
September 12, 2009	August 7, 2009
October 24, 2009	September 18, 2009

Destination CollegeSM Wrap-Up

Destination CollegeSM provides the opportunity for attendees to learn from a number of informative sessions that cover topics such as the college application and interview, writing a college essay, financial aid, college athletics and choosing a college major. This year's event was held at Southern NH University on March 28. Almost 1,200 NH students and their parents were in attendance. Tell your sophomore friends Destination CollegeSM 2010 has been scheduled for Saturday, March 27 at Southern NH University.

Congratulations to the following top high schools for their impressive student attendance numbers:

- Bishop Guertin High School:** 28 students
- Concord High School:** 44 students
- Gilford High School:** 23 students
- Londonderry High School:** 38 students
- Pinkerton High School:** 24 students



Destination CollegeSM scholarship winner, Patrick Martin



The NHHEAF College Bear and local students at Destination CollegeSM 2009.



The NHHEAF Network Organizations
Center for College Planning
1.800.525.2577 x119
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This product has been granted the Seal of Approval from the National Association for College Admission Counseling.

Get Prepped for the SAT

If you've taken the PSAT and are preparing to take the SAT, College Board has a unique program that customizes a SAT study strategy just for you. My College QuickStart includes these great features:

- My Online Score Report - An enhanced score report that allows you to review each SAT test question, your answer, and the correct answer with answer explanations
- My SAT Study Plan - A customized SAT study plan based on your PSAT/NMSQT test performance, highlighting skills for review and practice
- My College Matches - A starter list of colleges based on your home state and indicated choice of major
- My Major & Career Matches - Personalized lists of majors and careers plus access to a personality assessment that suggests other compatible possibilities

To sign in, you'll need the **access code** printed on your PSAT/NMSQT paper score report. If you do not already have a College Board account, you'll be prompted to create one.

Visit College Campuses

The summer is a great time to hit the road and visit college campuses. Reading through college brochures and surfing campus Web sites can tell you so much about a campus, but nothing can compare to seeing it first-hand. Visiting allows you to experience the campus' personality. While it may be difficult to visit every campus on your list, it is very important that you visit once you are accepted and before mailing your final decision. The more visits you take now, the less you have to make next fall when you are busy with the activities surrounding your senior year in high school.

- Schedule your visit - make sure someone will be available to meet with you and give you a tour of the campus
- Make the most of your visit - contact professors, advisors and coaches prior to arriving on campus and prepare intelligent questions to ask
- Try the food and see a dorm - remember, this will be your second home for the next 4 years
- Collect materials - pick up admission and financial aid brochures, student newspapers, flyers and campus calendars
- Take notes - write down the names of college staff you met with and send them thank you notes - jot down ideas on the car ride home to immediately capture your impression of the campus

Online Resources

The use of the Web has revolutionized the college application and search process. The following "Best of the Web" list is designed to help guide you in the right direction. Below you'll find many helpful sites with FREE resources.

SAT/ACT Help

- www.collegeboard.com
SAT Web Site: Sign up and prepare for the SAT. Free test prep questions and tutorials.
- www.act.org
ACT Web Site: Sign up and prepare for the ACT. Free test prep questions and tutorials.
- www.number2.com
Free SAT/ACT prep, including vocabulary word of the day.

Be sure to take advantage of the support available to you. Your guidance office and the library at the Center for College Planning are terrific places to begin. Do not hesitate to call our Concord office with questions. Or, visit www.askjoecollege.com for a creative look into the world of college planning.

College Search Engines	Financial Aid Information	To better customize your college search, visit www.bridges.com and call or e-mail us. We will provide you access through our unique username and password. (800) 525-2577 x119 or collegeplanning@nhheaf.org
www.collegeview.com	www.fafsa.ed.gov	
www.campustours.com	www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov	
www.petersons.com	www.studentaid.ed.gov	
www.usnews.com/college	www.finaid.com	
www.collegenet.com	www.nhheaf.org	

News Around the Nation

New Study Challenges Facebook Claim

Last month, a doctoral student's unpublished study linking extensive Facebook use to lower grades received major attention. A **new study**, published in the journal *First Monday*, refutes the claim. The current study finds no connection between grade point average and use of the social networking tool. The study was conducted by Eszter Hargittai, associate professor of communication studies at Northwestern University; Josh Pasek, a doctoral student at Stanford University; and Eian More of the University of Pennsylvania's Adolescent Risk Communication Institute. According to Hargittai, "We found no evidence of Facebook use correlating with lower academic achievement." (Inside Higher ED)

Campus Spotlight

Did You Know?

After exhaustive college searches, many students discover that the college of their dreams is located right **here** in New Hampshire!

The summer is a great time to get out there and visit some schools. What better place to start than in your own back yard! The Two and Four Year Colleges and Universities in NH are:

Four Year Colleges & Universities	
Chester College of New England	www.chestercollege.edu
Colby-Sawyer College	www.colby-sawyer.edu
Granite State College	www.granite.edu
Daniel Webster College	www.dwc.edu
Dartmouth College	www.dartmouth.edu
Franklin Pierce University	www.franklinpierce.edu
Hesser College	www.hesser.edu
Keene State College	www.keene.edu
Lebanon College	www.lebanoncollege.edu
Magdalen College	www.magdalen.edu
Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Science	www.mcphs.edu
New England College	www.nec.edu
New Hampshire Institute of Art	www.nhia.edu
Plymouth State University	www.plymouth.edu
Rivier College	www.rivier.edu
Saint Anselm College	www.anselm.edu
Southern NH University	www.snhu.edu
Springfield College	www.springfieldcollege.edu
Thomas More College of Liberal Arts	www.thomasmorecollege.edu
University of New Hampshire	www.unh.edu
University of New Hampshire-Manchester	www.unhm.unh.edu

Two Year Colleges	
White Mountains Community College	www.berlin.nhctc.edu
River Valley Community College	www.claremont.nhctc.edu
Lakes Region Community College	www.lrcc.edu
Manchester Community College	www.manchestercommunitycollege.edu
Nashua Community College	www.nashuacc.edu
NHTI-Concord's Community College	www.nhti.edu
Great Bay Community College	www.greatbay.edu

Free Workshops and Webinars All Summer!

Attend a free 90-minute workshop in our Center for College Planning Library or one of our great webinars. We will cover such topics as *The Write Stuff* (all about the college essay), *Paths to Choosing a Major and a College*, and *Know The Score* (information about standardized testing). More sessions are added throughout the summer, so, visit www.nhheaf.org/events.asp to see our current workshops and webinars!

Free College Summer Series Summer 2009



You can meet admissions representatives from many of these NH college and universities this summer during our College Summer Series! During June, July and August college admission professionals from schools in New England and beyond will be visiting Concord (at the NHHEAF Network offices) to spend time with YOU! Following a brief presentation about the school, families and school counselors will have an opportunity to ask the admissions representative questions. Learn about:

- **Campus Life**
- **Admission Requirements**
- **Housing**
- **Financial Aid**
- **...And much more!**

For more information or to register, visit: www.nhheaf.org/CollegeSummerSeries.asp or call us at 1-800-525-2577 X119.

Ask Joe College

If you haven't yet, check out what Center for College Planning staffer Rich is blogging about at joecollegeblog.com. You can read Rich's ideas on everything from textbooks to getting a great letter of recommendation from your teachers. And, don't forget to check out high school intern **Lauryn's blog** chronicling her journey through the college admissions process.

Coming Soon: Friend NHHEAF on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, and check out our podcasts on Ask Joe College at askjoecollegeblog.com!

