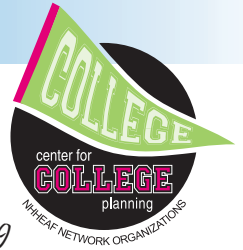


V The ARSITY LETTER

Created Especially for High School Juniors



August 2009

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 extra responsibility.

Before you know it, it will be mid-year and 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 filling out applications during the holiday break anyway? Wondering if you'll be ready for it all? Here is a list of five ways you can start preparing for college admissions, beyond college applications, NOW:

5. Begin to narrow your school choices down to a manageable size. Do campus tours of schools that you're interested in and see for yourself if the campus is a good fit for you. If you can't get to the campus, try campustours.com for virtual tours of colleges and universities.
4. Register online now for the fall **SAT** or **ACT**. You've covered more curriculum now and it's time to take the SAT or ACT a second time and see if you can improve upon your first scores.
3. Talk to your parents about finances. It can be difficult to talk about money with your parents, but communication is key to understanding the expectations both of you have when it comes to paying for college.
2. Think about which teachers you may want to ask for a recommendation. When school starts, approach the teacher early. Teachers need time to write recommendations and appreciate advance notice.
1. Get ready for senior classes! Your applications to colleges will include your high school transcript including your first semester senior grades. Start your academic year strong, and don't fall victim to seniorities - 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 and individual counseling appointments 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.

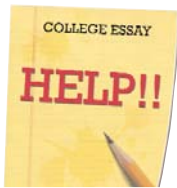


The NHHEAF Network Organizations
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This product has been granted the Seal of Approval from the National Association for College Admission Counseling.

Attend a College Planning Library Workshop or Webinar



Do you want 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 is here to help!

Check out the September and October **free library workshops** offered in our Concord offices, as well as our scheduled webinar presentations. These 60 to 90 minute sessions, led by our College Counselors, are great ways to learn about preparing for college. We hope to see you!

Create Your College Portfolio Online!

While your school and our College Planning Library may offer various college planning software, we invite you to utilize the online versions from home.

- Bridges® offers the best in college search software. Bridges lets you compare, connect and choose from over 6,000 colleges nationwide. www.bridges.com
- Browse a virtual library of more than 37,000 college catalogs at www.collegesource.org.
- The most comprehensive career resource available is Kuder® Career Planning, visit them at www.nhheaf.kuder.com.

Call our office today for the Site ID and password to gain access to these three sites.

Check Out Scholarship Opportunities!



Scholarships are out there, but they usually require some work in terms of both finding them and applying for them. The odds of winning a scholarship are best at the local level but regional and national scholarships are also available. We recommend starting your search at your high school guidance office and then checking the **NH93 Scholarship Superhighway**, which helps students search for local scholarships without pouring over stacks of scholarship flyers and multiple scholarship sites.

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 needed information.

Scholarship Opportunities for Low Income Students

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 25 top ranked universities, Questbridge gives outstanding low-income students a chance to attend top ranked schools with financial aid packages that cover 100% of financial need. The deadline for application is **September 30, 2009**. To apply, visit www.questbridge.com. It's free to apply and you can apply today!

News Around the Nation

Lately the talk surrounding college textbooks has been about the downloadable digital kind, like Kindle, which allows students to download digital versions of expensive texts onto a hand held reader for a fraction of the cost. As the quest to find more affordable solutions to buying college textbooks continues, Cengage, a higher education textbook publisher, recently announced plans to launch a Web site that would allow students to rent textbooks with an option to return or buy at the end of the term. Renting textbooks can save students 40-70% off retail prices. **CengageBrain.com** will launch in December 2009. Check out our [Ask Joe College blog](#) entry about other options for renting college textbooks.



Campus Spotlight

Did you Know?

Keene State College recently added an environmental studies department to their interdisciplinary offerings designed to help students succeed in emerging greener careers in consulting, policy making and field research related to sustainability. Keene has been offering a degree in Environmental Studies since 1979 but as challenges with the changing environment continue to grow, the need for a department was clear. Students can get hands on experience with small group projects and learn about the existing environmental problems we face today, like air pollution. Participating students will be part of an ongoing grant program that aims to look at the effects of diesel and biodiesel emissions on human lungs. The program is evidence of Keene State's continuing support of a greener world. For more information about Keene's environmental studies program [click here](#).



Ask Joe College

If you haven't already, you should check out [Ask Joe College](#) to read articles written by the Center for College Planning's (CCP) College Counselor Rich, on topics that you want to know about. On the Joe College blog, you can ask questions and post your own advice about college admissions worries, financial aid confusion and even campus life. Also, you can access some of the CCP webinars on topics like preparing for the SAT and the College Overview.



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.

As you make the transition to senior status at your high school, we'll transition you to the next stage in our monthly newsletter. Next month you will notice that you have made *The Dean's List*, our monthly newsletter especially for seniors. In the meantime, continue to narrow your college list, visit campuses, and get ready for a very important and successful senior year!

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.