

College Overview for Juniors

Presented by:
The NHHEAF Network Organizations' Center for College Planning



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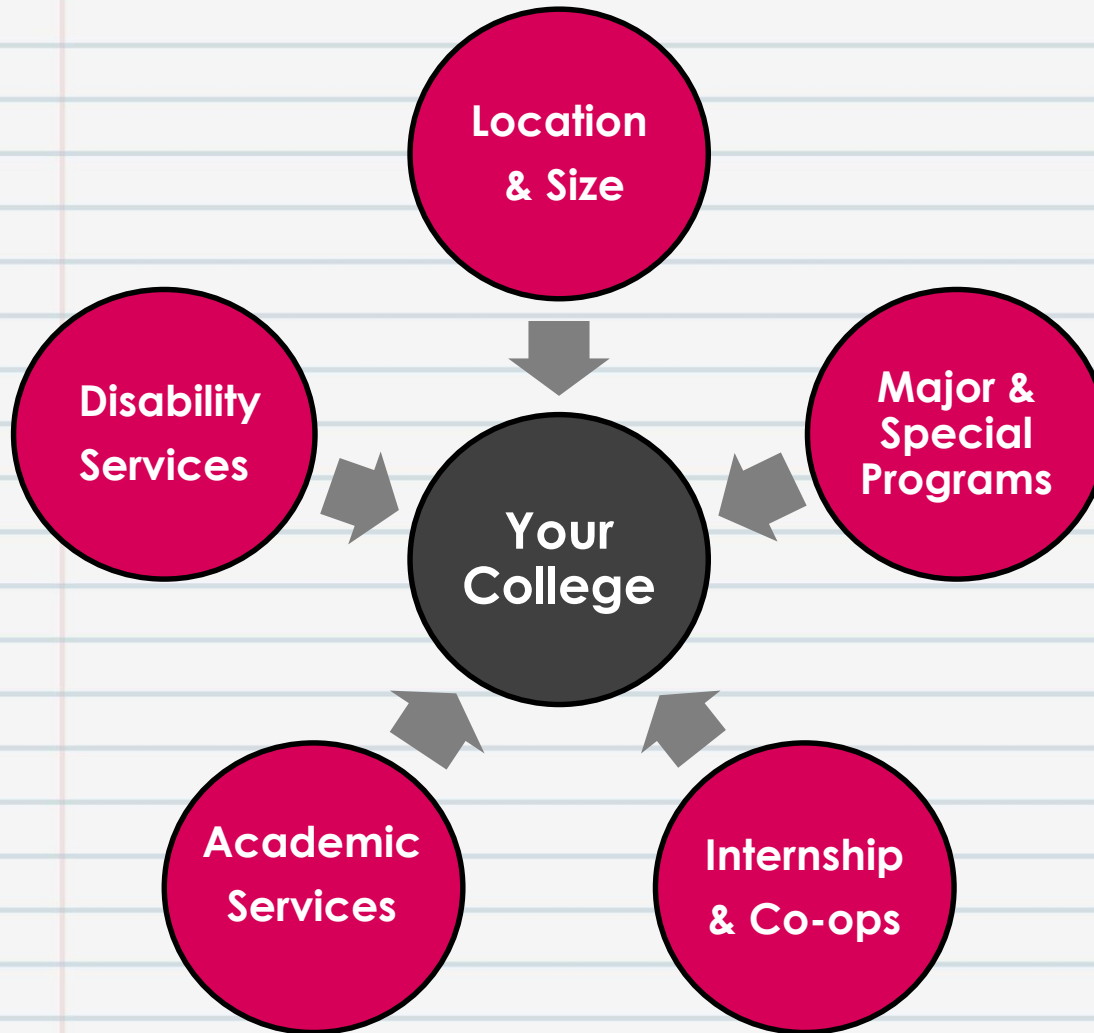


Things We Will Cover

- **The College Search**
- **Creating Your List**
- **Looking Ahead to Senior Year**
- **Financial Aid Preview**
- **Scholarships**



The College Search: *What do you want in a school?*



Try **FREE** College Search Engines to find and research colleges that meet your needs.

See page 3 of *The College Insider* for a list.



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The College Search:

Things to consider

- **Accelerated Programs**
- **Honors Programs**
- **Bachelor to Master's Combined Programs**
 - 3/2, 3/3 or 3/4
- **Articulation Agreements**
 - nhtransfer.org
- **Dual Admission**
 - dualnh.org
- **“Test Optional” Schools**
 - Over 850 4-year colleges are test optional for admission
 - fairtest.org



The College Search:

Get to know the colleges

- **Attend College Fairs**
 - Take the time to ask questions
- **Visit the Campus**
 - Information sessions & tours
 - Attend athletic events, plays or concerts
 - Open houses
- **Meet with College Admissions Reps**
 - When they visit your high school
- **Utilize College Search Engines**
 - petersons.com
 - collegeboard.com
 - bridges.com



Send a thank-you card to the representative you speak with.

Sending one shows you appreciate them and their institution.



The College Search:

“Extras” to consider

- **Audition Requirements**

- Music
- Theater
- Dance

- **Portfolio Requirements**

- Art or Photography
- Architecture
- Interior Design

- **Nursing**

- TEAS exam
atitesting.com

- **SAT Subject Tests (SAT II's)**

- Check each school
- Do they require 1, 2, or 3?
- Can be taken junior or senior yr.

- **NCAA Eligibility Center**

- Division I
- Division II
- Not needed for Division III



GURU
TIPS

These are great topics to ask about at college fairs or when visiting the campus!



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Creating Your List:

Determine your possibilities

- **Balanced Approach**

- Public, Private
- In-state, Out-of-state



You should always
apply to one
financial “safety” school

- **Consider the Major**

- Some majors may be more competitive
and have different admission requirements
(e.g. nursing, engineering, PT, PA)

- **Consider the Type of Financial Aid Offered**

- Do they ONLY offer need-based aid?
- Do they offer BOTH need-based AND merit-based aid?



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Creating Your List:

Prepare for academic success

2-2-2 Approach

2- Probable:

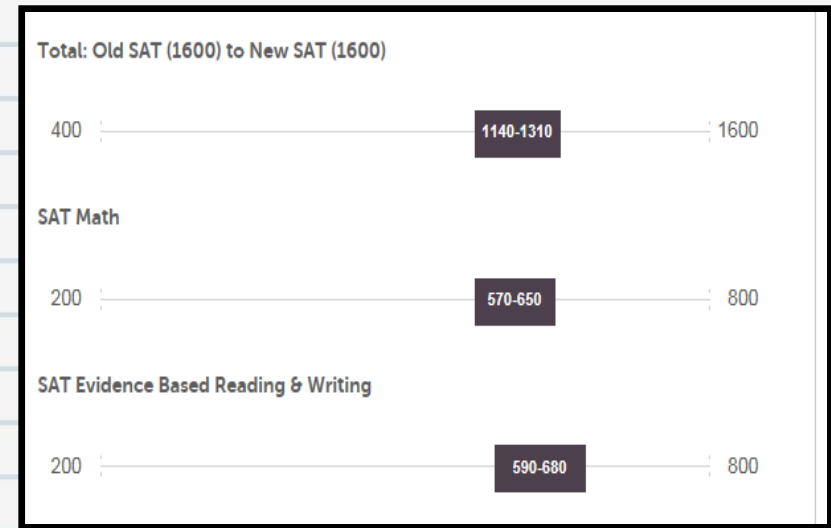
Where your academic profile is slightly above the 50% average at that school

2- Target:

Where your academic profile is right in line with the 50% average at that school

2- Reach:

Where your academic profile is slightly below the 50% average at that school



*This graph is from www.bigfuture.org.
The school is a small private liberal arts college in New England.*

A student's "academic profile" consists of:
GPA, Rigor & SAT and/or ACT scores

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Looking Ahead: *Preparing for college applications*

Essential Elements of the Application

- High School Transcript
- College Essay
- Extra-Curricular Activities
- Letters of Recommendation
- SAT or ACT scores



Looking Ahead: *Senior year timeline*

No Two Senior Year Timelines Are the Same

- **WHERE** are you applying?
- **WHAT** do they want?
- **HOW** do they want it?
- **WHEN** do they want it?



Consider keeping a college calendar or spreadsheet.

See ours on page 14 of The College Insider!



Looking Ahead: *When to apply*

- **Early Decision (*binding*)**
 - Typically due October or November
 - Financial aid forms may also be due early
- **Early Action (*non-binding*)**
 - Typically due November or December
 - Financial aid forms may also be due early
- **Regular Admission**
 - Typically due December – February
- **Rolling Admission**
 - Typically no “hard” deadline



Pay attention to *both* application *and* financial aid deadlines for each of school.

NOTE:

Some programs may require earlier application submission (i.e. nursing).

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Looking Ahead: *Students take the wheel*

Students are expected to:

- **complete their own paperwork**
 - college applications
 - SAT or ACT score report requests
 - transcript requests forms
 - scholarship applications
- **own their college process**
 - book college tours online or by calling admissions
 - develop strategies for staying organized
 - check email regularly
- **begin advocating for themselves**
 - stay connected with their school counselors



Ben Franklin said it best...
“Tell me and I forget.
Teach me and I remember.
Involve me and I learn.”

This is great prep for college where they will be communicating with professors, financial aid & bursar offices, residence life staff, etc.

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Financial Aid: A preview

FAFSA - fafsa.gov

(Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

A federal form that all students must complete in order to be eligible for state/federal grants or loans

In **addition** to submitting the FAFSA, you **may** be required to submit:

CSS Profile – cssprofile.org

A form required by nearly 400 colleges



Interested in estimating your EFC, use any of these free EFC calculators.

[FAFSA.gov](https://fafsa.gov)
finaid.org
nhheaf.org



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Financial Aid: *Net price calculators*

- **Purpose**
 - Research what aid may be available at a school
 - Results are an **estimate**, NOT a guarantee
- **How to find them**
 - Admission Office's home page, college's search engine box or Google
- **Not all calculators are created equal**
 - Some only list federal aid while others include merit aid

NOTE:

Net Price Calculators are not applications for aid. You must still file the FAFSA and all other required financial aid forms in order to be eligible for financial aid.



Financial Aid: Scholarships



Local Resources

- School Counseling Office/Naviance
- Employer
- Library
- Civic Organizations
- New Hampshire Charitable Foundation - **nhcf.org**
 - Statewide Student Aid Program
 - Career Aid for Technical Students



National Resources

- **fastweb.com**
- **collegeboard.org**
- **bridges.com**



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QUESTIONS?

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collegeplanning@nhheaf.org



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