

COLLEGE OVERVIEW FOR SENIORS

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Things We Will Cover

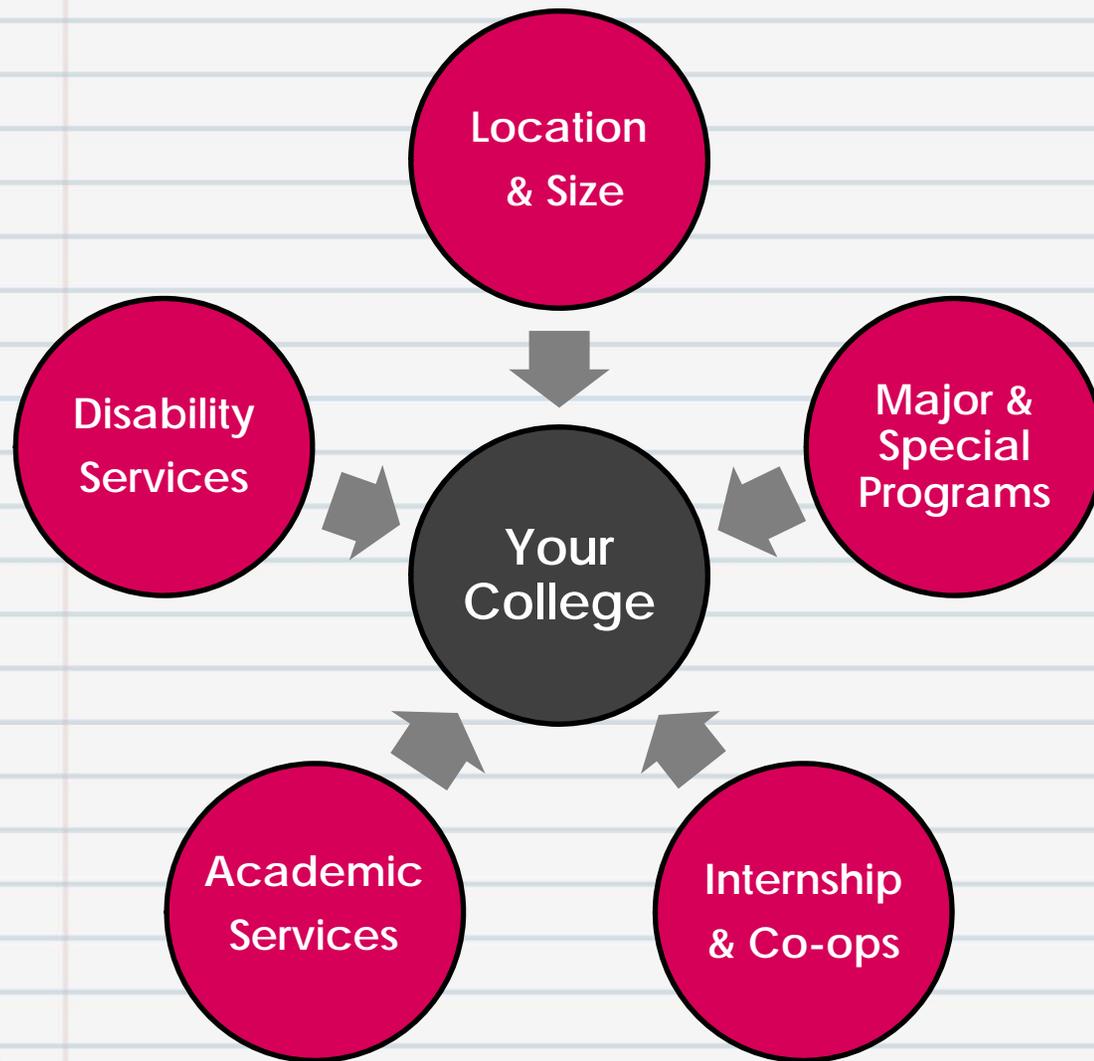
- **The College Search:**
 - A Review
 - In-Depth
- **Creating Your List**
- **The Application Process**
- **Senior Year Timeline**
- **Financial Aid Preview**
- **Scholarships**



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The College Search: *A Review*



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: *In-Depth*

- **Are you undecided in your major?**
 - Do the colleges on your list offer a few majors you are considering?
- **Already have a major of choice, but need a school to “rise to the top”? Try comparing the curriculum.**
 - Does one school offer more courses you would like to take?
 - What type of “Gen Ed” courses does the school require?
 - How quickly will you start taking courses in your major?
- **Does one school offer better opportunities?**
 - Can undergraduate students do their own research?
 - Are the facilities newer or more user-friendly?
 - Find out where students in your major have done internships.



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Creating Your List

- **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?

- **Consider if they are "test optional"**

- Over 850 4-year colleges and universities no longer require SAT or ACT scores as part of their admission requirements



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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

A student's "academic profile" consists of:

Grade Point Average (GPA)
Rigor & meeting course requirements
SAT and/or ACT scores

Tell me more about freshman SAT and ACT scores

SAT - MATH

200-299	[0%]
300-399	[0%]
400-499	[12%]
500-599	[52%]
600-699	[33%]
700-800	[3%]

SAT - CRITICAL READING

200-299	[0%]
300-399	[0%]
400-499	[13%]
500-599	[55%]
600-699	[27%]
700-800	[5%]

ACT

0-5	[0%]
6-11	[0%]
12-17	[4%]
18-23	[31%]
24-29	[56%]
30-36	[9%]

This graph is from Bridges , a free college search engine. The school is a small private liberal arts college in New England.

NOTE: Most search engines still use OLD SAT Scores. Remember to convert your scores if necessary.



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When To Apply

- **Early Decision (*binding*)**
 - Typically due October or November
 - CSS Profile may also be due early
- **Early Action (*non-binding*)**
 - Typically due November or December
 - CSS Profile 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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The Transcript

- **GPA**
 - May be recalculated based on core classes
- **Strength of Courses**
 - Based on available school curriculum
- **Trends**
 - 4th quarter senior year grades count
- **School Profile**
 - Each high school creates their unique school description and curriculum overview



In a survey of admission counselors, “Grades in College Prep Courses” and “Strength of Curriculum” were chosen as the top 2 factors in the college admission decision.

Not sure what is on your transcript?
Ask your school counselor to see a copy.



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The Application

- Check which application your colleges accept
 - Nearly 700 schools use CommonApp.org
 - Others may use an institutional app, Universal App, or Coalition App
- Application fees
 - Fee waivers
- Are supplemental forms required?
 - Extra essays or short answers
 - Residency verification
- Extracurricular activities – *many apps limit you to 10!*
 - Quality over quantity
 - Include a variety – show your well roundedness
 - After-school employment or family responsibility counts



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The Essay

The college essay
is the FACE of your application!

Tips

- Write to a person
- Be unique
- Tell a story
- Focus on one moment in time
- Keep on topic
- Be clear and concise
- Give it your own flavor
- Have a strong topic sentence
- Be sure you have answered the question



Set a clear goal for
your essay...
what do you want
the reader to learn
about your
character from
reading your
essay?



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Other Components

- **Letters of Recommendation (LOR)**
 - Ask early – *before* you list them as recommenders on the CommonApp
- **Standardized Test Scores (SAT & ACT)**
 - YOU need to send scores directly from CollegeBoard or ACT
- **Auditions or Portfolios**
 - Check with each school to find out their requirements
 - Auditions – *theater, dance, music*
 - Portfolios – *art, architecture, interior design, fashion*
- **Athletic Registration**
 - If you are considering playing Div. I or II sports, talk with your Athletic Director, school counselor, or visit www.eligibilitycenter.org for NCAA requirements



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Senior Year Timeline

- **Fall**

- Register and take ACT or SAT (again)
- Complete application *(if applying ED or EA)*
- Get organized - check ALL deadlines
- File FAFSA starting October 1
(but before each school's deadline)



Consider keeping a college calendar or spreadsheet.

- **Winter**

- Complete application
(if applying regular or rolling admission)
- Search and apply for outside scholarships

See ours on page 14 of The College Insider!

- **Spring**

- Receive and compare financial aid packages
- Consider funding options
- Decide and deposit to your school by May 1



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Financial Aid: *A Preview*

FAFSA

(Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

www.fafsa.gov

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 – profileonline.collegeboard.org**
 - A form required by nearly 400 colleges
- **Institutional Form**
 - A college-specific form



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Recognize Potential Cost

College is a 4-year Investment

Over 4 years, the average college student will borrow **\$27,000** in federal student loans, resulting in a monthly loan payment of **\$270** per month.

**Based on a 10 year repayment and an average fixed interest rate of 3.76%.*

In addition, many students will need to finance the balance.

Additional Amount Financed Per Year	Monthly Payment	Total Monthly Payment (including the federal student loan payment)
\$20,000 <i>(\$80,000 over 4 years)</i>	\$901	\$1,171
\$35,000 <i>(\$140,000 over 4 years)</i>	\$1,576	\$1,846

** Based on a 10 year repayment and an average fixed interest rate of 6.31%*



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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.



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Scholarships



Local Resources

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



National Resources

- www.fastweb.com
- www.collegeboard.org
- www.bridges.com



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Destination College



Calling All HS Seniors:

Keynote Speech Contest

By submitting a 6-minute speech,
you could win a \$1,000 scholarship!

NHHEAF's Destination College Planning Conference
will be held:

*Saturday, March 18th, 2017
at Plymouth State University.*

Submit a speech that describes the college application
experience and your advice for the class of 2018.

Details coming soon!

www.destinationcollege.org



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QUESTIONS?

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