COLLEGE APPLICATION OPTIONS AND TIMELINES

PRESENTED BY:

Denise Fall
School Counselor, Goffstown High School

Ali Kriegel
Assistant Director of Admissions, Plymouth State University
APPLICATIONS
WAYS TO APPLY

• **Common Application**
  - Opens August 1\(^{st}\)
  - Accepted by over 900 schools
  - Fee waivers available

• **Coalition Application**
  - Opens August 1\(^{st}\)
  - Required by 150 colleges
  - Fee waivers available

• **College-Specific Application**
  - Found on college website
  - May waive application fee
What is needed to complete the application?

• High school transcript – official or unofficial for individual course and grade information
• Activities list – extra curricular, volunteer and work experience
• SAT and/or ACT (if available) – scores for each test, date(s) test was taken or will be taken
• Parent/step-parent/legal guardian information – including occupation, employment status, and education
1. Start early and take your time
2. Gather materials
3. Meet deadlines and be organized
4. Take control and use your voice
5. Do not abbreviate course titles when reporting senior grades; include 2nd semester courses
6. Activities section: list up to ten activities (clubs, sports, community, church, work, family)
7. Additional Information section: use to explain, not complain
8. Essay(s) and Letters of Recommendation
9. FERPA (Family Education Rights and Privacy Act)
10. How to make changes?
ADDITIONAL APPLICATION ELEMENTS
What is your college requiring from you?

- High School Transcript
- College Essay
- Extra-Curricular Activities
- Letters of Rec
- SAT/ACT Scores
GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

- **English**: 4 credits
- **Math**: 4 credits or 4 years (including Alg. I, Alg. II and Geometry)
- **Lab Science**: 3 credits (including Biology & Chemistry)
- **Social Science**: 3 ½ credits
- **Foreign Language**: 2 credits in the same language

Each college may have different requirements and require additional or fewer credits!
ADMISSION TYPES
# Applications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Admission Type</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Commitment</th>
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| Rolling Admission    | - First come, first served  
                      - Applications are reviewed as they are received, so applying later may mean you miss out (even if you are a qualified candidate) | Within specified time frame until a class is filled | Non-binding    |
| Regular Admission    | All applications are reviewed prior to a decision being made             | November-January                              | Non-binding    |
| Early Action (EA)    | Receive a decision well in advance of the institutions regular response date | October-December                              | Non-binding    |
| Early Decision       | - Cannot apply to more that one school ED  
                      - If admitted, student agrees to enroll and withdraw all other applications | October-December                              | Binding        |
EARLY ACTION VS EARLY DECISION

- **EARLY DECISION**
  - Binding: Students must withdraw other applications.
  - You may have to sort out your financial aid early.

- **EARLY ACTION**
  - Non-Binding: Students can still wait for other acceptances.
  - You find out about your financial aid when regular decision students do.

Image from College Raptor
# Early Action

## Pros
- Shows the school you’re interested
- Non-binding, you’ll have plenty of time to view other offers before making your final decision
- You can apply to more than one school Early Action

## Cons
- Must be ready to send applications in early November
- Strong senior grades/course rigor will not factor into admission decision
**Pros**

- Could increase likelihood of acceptance
- Demonstrates to the school you’re EXTREMELY interested in attending
- Final college decision will be made much earlier in the process

**Cons**

- Binding contract between you and the school
- Application is due earlier in the process
- Your senior year grades will not factor into your review
- Unable to compare offers of financial aid
# REGULAR ADMISSION

## Pros

- Typically have later deadlines allowing you more time to complete applications and showcase senior grades
- Apply to multiple colleges without restriction
- All financial aid offers are available for comparison before decision

## Cons

- Not as much time to compare options and make your decision
- Can be tough to wait for decisions when classmates are hearing from their colleges
Junior Year

- Take the PSAT (at start of year)
- Attend college fairs and/or career fairs
- Take another CCSNH course!
- Take appropriate, challenging senior year courses

Spring

- Attend NHHEAF’s Destination College (You are doing this right now!!)
- Attend an Applying 101 presentation
- Meet with School Counselor to make a plan for the fall

Summer

- Visit campuses
- Know who you will ask to write your letters of recommendation
- Start college essay and Common Application
SENIOR YEAR

Fall

- Register and take ACT or SAT (again, if needed)
- Start admission application (if applying ED or EA)
- Get organized - check all deadlines
- File FAFSA starting October 1 \(\textit{but before each school’s deadline}\)

Winter

- Complete admission application
- Search and apply for outside scholarships

Spring

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

May 1st

- Enrollment deposits will be required at your college (these can range from $250-$1000)
- You can submit earlier than May 1, but it’s not required!
- Check in with your college to see how to submit deposit
QUESTIONS?
THANK YOU!

Center for College Planning
603.227.5444

collegeplanning@nhheaf.org

Schedule an appointment online: Calendly.com/nhheaf_ccp

Book an appointment