COLLEGE ADMISSION FOR FIRST GENERATION FAMILIES

PRESENTERS:

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Senior Financial Aid Counselor, New England College

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Director of Admissions, NHTI
THE PROCESS

- Research
- Build your list
- Apply for admission & financial aid
- Apply for outside scholarships
- Determine which school is right for you
  - Both academically AND financially
RESEARCH

• Big Future: bigfuture.collegeboard.org/

• Work with NHHEAF and school counselors to put together a college list

• Contact admission counselors at schools of interest to answer your initial questions
CONSIDER YOUR OPTIONS

• Educational Pathways – how much time will you invest? Do your career aspirations require an advanced degree?

1 year
Certificate programs

2 years
Associate Degree

4 years
Bachelor’s Degree

5-7 years
Graduate Degree

• Will you commute or live at home?
• Is part-time or full-time study best suited to your plan?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consider Your Options</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Location</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Size</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Academic Opportunities (internships, study abroad, research, etc.)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cost</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Student Body</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Campus Culture / Activities</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Academic Services</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Academic Programs</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Athletics</strong></td>
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LEARN ABOUT COLLEGES

ATTEND COLLEGE FAIRS
- Review the list of schools
- Ask thoughtful questions
- Take notes
- Collect contact information from the college representatives

COLLEGE REPS AT YOUR HIGH SCHOOL
- Do your research – ask appropriate, authentic questions
- Leave your contact information with the representative and ask for his/hers

VISIT CAMPUS
- Information session, tours, open houses, virtual tours
- Attend an athletic event, play, or concert
- Do your research – ask thoughtful, pointed questions
- Dress appropriately
BUILD YOUR LIST
THINGS TO CONSIDER

Build your list intentionally

For each school you add, have at least 2-3 specific reasons why it made the list

Balanced approach

Probable
Target
Reach

What is a ‘safety’ school *REALLY*?

Consider the type of financial aid offered

Do they **ONLY** offer need-based aid?

Do they offer **BOTH** need-based and merit-based aid?
FINANCIAL AID IN THE COLLEGE SEARCH

Things to Consider:

- **Types of aid** offered at each school

**Chancellor Honors Scholarship (up to $25,000)**

Saint Anselm College Office of Admission offers Chancellor Scholarships to highly qualified students in each freshmen class. These awards are offered in amounts of up to $25,000 per year. As a Chancellor Scholar you are invited to join the Honors Program. You may keep your scholarship as long as you maintain a 2.5 Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) at Saint Anselm. The scholarship amount listed here is based on a student's residency status of on-campus. The amount will be reduced if a student's residency status changes to off-campus or commuter.

**Other Merit Scholarships (up to $21,000)**

Saint Anselm College Office of Admission offers various merit scholarships to talented students. All scholarships are awarded for a maximum of eight semesters. The scholarship amounts listed here are based on a student's residency status of on-campus. The amount will be reduced if a student's residency status changes to off-campus or commuter.

- Presidential Scholarship (up to $21,000) - Students must maintain a 3.2 CGPA to retain the scholarship
- Dean's Scholarship (up to $17,000) - Students must maintain a 3.2 CGPA to retain the scholarship
- Abbey Scholarship (up to $16,000) - Students must maintain a 2.0 CGPA to retain the scholarship

Things to Consider:

- Have the “money talk” early
- **Net price**, not sticker price

**Net Price Calculators**

- Calculators will differ from college to college
- Results are an estimate of potential financial aid – you still must file the FAFSA and any other required financial aid forms
- Find the NPC by using the search box on a college website or google.com
APPLY TO COLLEGE
APPLYING

• COMMON APPLICATION
  • Opens August 1\textsuperscript{st}
  • Accepted by over 900 schools
  • Fee waivers available

• COALITION APPLICATION
  • Opens August 1\textsuperscript{st}
  • Utilized by 150 colleges
  • Fee waivers available

• COLLEGE-SPECIFIC APPLICATION
  • Found on college website
  • May waive application fee
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Admission Type</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Commitment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 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 than one school ED  
- If admitted, student agrees to enroll and withdraw all other applications | October-December                                   | Binding      |
APPLYING

What is your college requiring from you?

- High School Transcript
- SAT/ACT Scores
- Letters of Rec
- College Essay
- Extra-Curricular Activities
APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID
FINANCIAL AID

• FAFSA form
  studentaid.gov

• CSS Profile
  cssprofile.collegeboard.org/

• Complete forms early!

• Each school will have different timelines
SCHOLARSHIPS

• New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
  nhcf.org
• Check with your school counselor
  ○ High School specific
• National scholarship search engines
  fastweb.com
  scholarships.com
FIRST GEN SCHOLARSHIPS

- Use search engines (and Google) to find scholarships for “first in the family” or “first generation”
  - scholarships.com
  - collegescholarships.org
  - scholarships360.org
  - goingmerry.com

- School-specific – check with each of the colleges to which you apply
DETERMINE WHICH COLLEGE IS RIGHT FOR YOU
COMPARE OFFERS OF FINANCIAL AID

- After you get accepted, you will receive a FA offer from each school
- Compare your offers – reach out for help
  - Financial Aid Representatives
  - NHHEAF Counselors
- Use the NHHEAF College Financing tool: [nhheaf.org/financing/college-financing-tool](http://nhheaf.org/financing/college-financing-tool)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College A</th>
<th>College B</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cost (per year)</strong>&lt;br&gt;$40,000</td>
<td><strong>Cost (per year)</strong>&lt;br&gt;$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>College Aid Offer</strong></td>
<td><strong>College Aid Offer</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants ........ $10,000</td>
<td>Grants ........ $25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loans .......... $30,000</td>
<td>Loans .......... $15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Aid</strong>&lt;br&gt;$40,000</td>
<td><strong>Total Aid</strong>&lt;br&gt;$45,000</td>
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The full cost of one year of tuition is covered by financial aid, but you will have to pay back $30,000 plus interest after you graduate.

You will be responsible for $5,000 for the year’s tuition, but you will need to pay back only $15,000 plus interest after graduation.
IS IT THE RIGHT “FIT”

Visit campus for Accepted Student Day

• Speak with current and accepted students to see if you feel comfortable
• Eat in the dining hall, visit the residence halls
• Ask your questions

Gather more information about your selected major

• Does the curriculum lead to your specific career goals?
• Is there an opportunity for hands-on learning, research, internships?

Determine travel finances

• How will you get home on school breaks?
• Do these costs fit into your budget?
ADDITIONAL TIPS

• Consider attending a pre-college program
  • Learn more about being a college student
  • Explore major/career options
  • Earn college credits

• Check to see if the colleges you are interested in have special supports for first-generation college students

• Spend time talking as a family about financial and academic goals and expectations

• Always ask questions!
THANK YOU!

Center for College Planning  
603.227.5444

collegeplanning@nhheaf.org

Schedule an appointment online:  
[Calendly.com/nhheaf ccp](Calendly.com/nhheaf_ccp)