

Insider Series
2022-2023 Edition



Admissions

INSIDER

A Comprehensive Guide
to Applying for College




THE
NHHEAF
NETWORK


Center *for* College Planning

About NHHEAF's Center for College Planning

The Center for College Planning (CCP) at the NHHEAF Network is dedicated to providing students and families with free, important information about education and career planning. Our expert Education and Career Counselors provide presentations, workshops, and individual appointments across the state, serving thousands of NH residents each year. Through sharing knowledge and demystifying education, college, and career planning, as well as financial aid, we hope to empower students to plan and achieve their future goals with confidence and excitement. We also serve as a connector among school counselors, higher education institutions, and local, regional, and national professional organizations to promote knowledge sharing and collaboration. All NH students of any age, background, interest, and pathway are welcome to access our free services!



Book an Appointment
calendly.com/nhheaf_ccp



- Exploring Options for After High School
- Common App
- Financial Aid Conversation
- FAFSA Filing
- Reviewing Financial Aid Offer Letters

Welcome!

Congratulations on beginning the college journey! NHHEAF's Center for College Planning (CCP) is here to walk this path with you, every step of the way. We are proud to serve all New Hampshire students and families as they identify and navigate their education and career goals.

This Admissions Insider is designed to outline and demystify the college planning experience. Think of it as your College Planning 101 textbook. Here you will find chronological guidance on the steps of the college planning process and expert advice from professionals in the field. We hope this guide makes your path of planning and applying to college achievable, organized, and, dare we say it, even fun!

Good luck and enjoy the journey,
NHHEAF's CCP Counselors

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Planning for College

Prepare Academically

CHALLENGE YOURSELF ACADEMICALLY

- Take advantage of advanced coursework – such as honors, AP, or IB level programming – in the subject areas in which you are comfortable challenging yourself. Check with your school counselor and teachers to discuss your readiness.
- Simply meeting high school graduation requirements limits your options for after high school.
- The minimum requirements for admission at most colleges includes:

4 years of English	At least 3 years of math <i>(some majors have a minimum requirement of pre-calculus or calculus)</i>	At least 3 years of lab science	At least 3 years of social studies	At least 2 years of the same world language <i>(some colleges require three consecutive years)</i>
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CONSIDER EARNING COLLEGE CREDIT WHILE IN HIGH SCHOOL

- Dual enrollment courses** offer the chance to earn both high school and college credit.
 - Running Start** (ccsnn.edu) – Community college courses taught in your high school by credentialed high school teachers
 - eStart** (ccsnh.edu) – Online community college courses taught by community college professors
 - Early College** (ccsnh.edu) – High school students can enroll in courses at NH Community Colleges at a discounted rate.
 - Governor's Dual and Concurrent Enrollment STEM/CTE Scholarship** (ccsnh.edu) – Thanks to this program through the State of NH and the Community College System of NH, high school students can take up to 2 STEM/CTE Running Start, eStart, or Early College courses each academic year for free.
 - SNHU in the High School** (snhu.edu)– Dual credit college-level courses taught at your high school at a reduced cost
 - VLACS** (vlacs.org) – Online early college courses taught by college professors

Note: Each of these courses has a discounted fee for all high school students, but financial assistance is available for students who qualify.

- Advanced Placement (AP) courses** (collegeboard.org) challenge you with college-level coursework and offer the opportunity to earn college credit through a standardized exam. Each college will have their own policy regarding AP credit.

Explore Careers

What do you want to be in the future? Whether or not you have a career in mind, high school is the perfect time to research and explore.

EXPLORE YOUR INTERESTS

- Reflect on what you enjoy: personally, academically, and professionally.
- How might those interests translate into a career?

UTILIZE AN APTITUDE ASSESSMENT

- Identify your natural strengths and what careers might bring you success.
- Book a **Career and Aptitude Exploration Appointment** with us to conduct your assessment and we'll walk you through your results, what they mean, and your next steps on your path to success.

RESEARCH

- Using your aptitude assessment results, look into jobs and industries that fit your personality, values, and motivations.
- Do research on your own to try to answer some of these questions:
 - What kind of lifestyle do people in those careers have?
 - What hours do they work?
 - What is their primary motivation: humanitarian, research, salary, notoriety?
 - What is their work environment like? Is it more independent or more team-oriented?
 - Is there travel involved?
 - Is it fast-paced or more at your own speed?
- Consider if this field is growing: will there be demand for this career when I graduate? (In your **Career Exploration Appointment**, we'll go through these factors, too). These are great questions to think about in researching the best career for you. It's not just about the work itself!

DO A JOB SHADOW, EXTENDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITY (ELO), OR INTERNSHIP

- Learn about a career to both inspire you and let you know if you are on the right path.
- Ask questions of professionals in your desired field and identify if the career may be a good fit.
- Gain transferrable skills like punctuality, problem solving, and effective communication in the workplace.

CREATE A PLAN

What will you need to do to achieve your career goals? Most industries require some type of job training or higher education.

- Identify what your chosen career requires of entry level workers and use these prerequisites to create a plan. Consider your long-term goals and what education you may need for future growth and advancement, too.
- Knowing what education you need to achieve your career goals can help ensure you choose a program that is worth your time and money.
- We're here to help you create that plan - book an appointment today!

BE FLEXIBLE

Each student has their own path and there is more than one way to achieve a goal. If you decide on a career in high school and change your mind later, that is okay! If you find yourself reevaluating your path, return to the first step of exploring your interests and strengths with questions like “What am I good at?” and “What do I enjoy?”

Understand Educational Pathways

Know which type of degree or credential is necessary for your chosen career. If you are unsure of your career choice, there are many pathways to success! Choose one that best aligns with your interests, aptitudes, and lifestyle.

1 Year

(or less)

Certificate

Non-degree programs at either the undergraduate or graduate level

Specialized education and training in fields that require specific skill sets – often in demanding fields within the workplace

Undergraduate programs are for students with a high school diploma or GED

Graduate programs are for students who have already attained a college degree and can help advance a career

2 Year

Associate Degree

Two-year associate of arts (AA), associate of science (AS), or associate of applied science (AAS)

Provides knowledge and study in the student's major area of focus and general education studies

Prepares students for the workforce or can be the foundation for transfer to a four-year bachelor's program

Offered at community colleges, career colleges, and some four-year colleges

Cost-saving – most community colleges are less expensive than 4-year colleges/universities

4 Year

Bachelor's Degree

Choose from public and private colleges/universities

Most students earn a bachelor of arts (BA) or bachelor of science degree (BS)

Extensive undergraduate major options for students to study a subject of their choice as well as required general education coursework

Pathway to graduate school or entry into career

Internships, research, study abroad options within field of study

5-7 Year

Accelerated Degree

Students can earn a bachelor's degree plus a graduate or professional degree in less time (and often for less money)

A student on this track may apply to a graduate program as an undergraduate and begin the graduate program in their fourth year of college

2-4+ Year

(after Bachelor's)

Graduate Degree

Advanced degrees pursued after earning a bachelor's degree

Master's degrees blend coursework, projects, and research and are generally completed in 1-2 years

A doctoral degree (for example, a PhD) is pursued after completing a master's, consists of up to ten years of study, and includes coursework, comprehensive exams, research, and a dissertation

Choosing a College Major

Career exploration is the first step in choosing a college major. Identifying your interests and aptitudes, exploring and researching careers, and creating a plan provides the base for reaching your future goals. If your chosen career requires a college degree, the next step is to determine which major will provide the education and training you need to be successful.

USE YOUR RESOURCES

- Explore the results of your **Career Exploration Appointment** to identify majors supporting your career choice.
- Speak with professors, current students, and alumni of the colleges you are interested in to determine if the majors offered will lead to the professional opportunities you desire.
- Check out college websites and course catalogs.
 - Curricula and course requirements can vary – even in the same major – at different colleges.
 - Explore and compare opportunities outside the classroom, like internships and research, as well as career outcomes and statistics.

UNDERSTAND YOUR LEARNING STYLE

- Know whether a major taught entirely in a classroom setting or a more hands-on approach is more appropriate for you and your career goals.

KNOW HOW FAR THE DEGREE WILL TAKE YOU

- For many jobs, an associate or bachelor’s degree is sufficient. But some professional roles require additional training. Research whether there is the opportunity to continue your education at the colleges you are exploring.

APPLYING TO COLLEGE WITHOUT A CHOSEN MAJOR

- You don’t have to know what you want to major in to apply to college.
- In most cases, applying “undeclared” or “undecided” will not affect your admission chances, but might limit your degree options once you are in school. Certain majors (such as nursing, physical therapy, and some engineering programs) may require you apply as a freshman and will not allow transfer into these majors.
- College gives you the opportunity to take classes you think you might enjoy or even classes you’ve never been exposed to before making your decision.
- At many 4-year colleges and universities, students must choose their major by the end of sophomore year – check individual requirements at the schools you are considering.

CAN YOU CHANGE YOUR MAJOR?

- Yes, you can change your major! You don’t have to feel stuck with your first choice if your career goals evolve.
- Some major changes will require additional college semesters – and additional tuition payments.
- Seek advice from your academic advisor to ensure your coursework aligns with your new goals.

College Planning Suggested Timeline

TIME	AT SCHOOL / ON YOUR OWN	WITH NHHEAF’S CCP
Freshman Year		
Throughout the Year	Get involved: join clubs or sports Connect with your school counselor to share postsecondary goals Consider NH Scholars program Create a college resume you can add to as you proceed through school Start exploring career interests	Attend an Early College Planning Presentation (available in-person or recorded webinar) Schedule a Career Assessment Appointment and complete your Aptitude Assessment

Sophomore Year		
Throughout the Year	Consider Running Start, eStart, SNHU in the High School, and/or AP Courses Continue to connect with school counselor to discuss interests/careers Start studying for the SAT/ACT Consider a job shadow or internship Add new activities/involvements to your resume	Attend Early College Planning Night (available in-person or recorded webinar) Schedule a Career Exploration Appointment and complete your Aptitude Assessment
Junior Year		
Fall	Take the PSAT and/or PreACT Attend a College Fair Keep studying for the SAT/ACT	 Throughout all years, take rigorous courses and keep challenging yourself to do your best work!
Winter	Schedule junior year courses, including Running Start, eStart, SNHU in the High School, and/or AP Courses	
Spring	Take the SAT/ACT Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center, if applicable Inquire about auditions or portfolio reviews at colleges of interest, if applicable Ask your teacher(s) to write a letter of recommendation	
Rising Senior Summer	Attend virtual or in-person college tours and information sessions Begin finalizing your college list Start your Common App and college essay	Attend Destination College Schedule a College Planning Appointment Attend an Applying to College 101 Presentation Schedule a Financial Aid Conversation Appointment
Senior Year		
Fall	Retake SAT/ACT Attend any final college fairs or tours Narrow down list of colleges Finish college essay Complete and submit early applications Apply for financial aid (complete FAFSA and CSS Profile if necessary)	Attend Financial Aid Night Presentation Complete college applications at I Am College Bound event, if available at your school Schedule a FAFSA Filing Appointment
Winter	Apply to regular decision schools Research and apply for local and national scholarships	Schedule a Financial Aid Conversation Appointment Schedule a FAFSA Filing Appointment
Spring	Review college acceptance letters and financial aid offers Attend admitted students' days By May 1st Decision Day, pay deposit to chosen school Celebrate I Decided Day!	Schedule a FAFSA Filing Appointment if not complete Schedule a Reviewing Financial Aid Offer Letters Appointment
Rising College Student Summer	Attend orientation Research and choose private loans or PLUS loans Complete entrance counseling and sign Master Promissory Note for federal student loans	Attend I Am College Bound: I Rise Webinar Schedule an appointment with EDvestinU to discuss NH Private Loan Program Call us if you have any questions: we’re here to help!

Starting Your Search

Finding Your Ideal Campus

There are over 4,000 colleges and universities in the US. There will be more than one “best fit” school for every student. Start with the things you know you want in a college and build your list using this criteria.

LOCATION:

Consider City/Urban, Small Town, or Rural

City Pros	City Cons
<p>More cultural/social activities – there are so many places to visit, cultural and social events to attend, and people to meet</p> <p>Cultural diversity – bigger cities tend to attract greater diversity in college students and the general population</p> <p>Public transportation - easier and cheaper to get around without your own vehicle</p> <p>Career resources - easier access to strong internship, co-op, and volunteer activities for particular majors (i.e. health sciences, film and theater, business)</p> <p>More dining options – even on a student's budget</p> <p>More places to hang out/get off campus – not reliant on campus to provide social life</p>	<p>May feel less like a community – with so much to do, and so many places to live in the city, the students tend to be less centered around campus activities</p> <p>Higher cost of living – particularly rent</p> <p>Less traditional feel – some city campuses lack that traditional campus feel (no quad, no Greek life, no football games) while others retain this feel</p> <p>More distractions – students need self-discipline to put academics first with so many things happening around them</p> <p>Traffic – you must plan for extra time when going places in the city</p>

Small Town / Rural Pros	Small Town / Rural Cons
<p>Greater sense of community – many small town campuses are self-contained with most students living on or near campus, so students' social activities often revolve around the campus</p> <p>May have more “traditional” feel – the green grass, campus quad, gated campus</p> <p>More outdoor activities – greater access to hiking, bodies of water, etc.</p> <p>Lots of space</p>	<p>Not as much to do – the campus may have plenty of activities for students, but the surrounding town may not offer as much by way of cultural activities</p> <p>Transportation can be an issue – many smaller towns may not offer access to public transportation, so getting around without a personal vehicle may be difficult</p> <p>Fewer resources – students seeking internships may have to travel greater distances to get what they need, and with fewer local internships available, they may be extremely competitive</p> <p>Students are more dependent on social life at school (so consider whether students stay on campus on the weekends)</p>

SIZE:

Small (<5,000 students), **Medium** (5,000 – 15,000 students), or **Large** (>15,000 students)

- Consider not only the overall size of the campus, but class size as well. There are advantages and disadvantages to large and small schools, but knowing what you need will help make the best decision.
- Do you learn best in a small group? Or are you comfortable in a lecture hall with 500 students and a professor who does not take questions?
- What is your learning style? Can a school this size offer you what you need?
- Do you want to be “part of the crowd” or to “stand out in the crowd”?

STUDENT BODY:

- Are you looking for diversity?
- All male/female?
- What percentage of students are from in-state/out-of-state?
- Do students stay on campus on the weekends or commute home?
- What are the interests of the students?

ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES:

- Will you be able to conduct research, participate in internships/co-ops?
- Will you take classes in your major in your first year?
- Will you be able to present your work at conferences?
- Are there hands-on opportunities for learning?

ACADEMIC SUPPORT:

- Is there an office of Accessibility or Disability Services? What services do they provide?
- If you have a 504 or IEP, will accommodations be made for you? (see more **page 11**)
- Is there an Office of Academic Services? Which services are provided (study skills workshops/assistance, writing center, tutors)?
- Is there a Career Services office that assists student with resumes, interviews, etc.?

COST:

- Have a discussion with your family about a realistic budget for college now – before you are accepted and locked in on a particular school.
- Public colleges receive some funding from the state whereas private college do not. Private colleges typically have a higher price tag, but don't let that number keep you from applying, as there may be more grants and scholarships to help meet the cost.
- Be sure to include public and private, as well as in-state options in your list.

OUTCOMES:

- What percentage of students return after the freshman year? Are there programs in place to support first year college students?
- What percentage of graduates are employed in their chosen field or attending graduate school?

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS:

- Does the school offer programs that support your career goals?
- Check the course catalog to see what kinds of courses you will be taking – does this program lean more in a direction that doesn't suit you?

ACTIVITIES:

- Does the school offer activities that you are interested in?
- Do you see clubs that you would be interested in? Being involved will help you make friends and feel comfortable in your new environment.

CULTURE:

- What are the most popular clubs, activities, and events?
- Is this a very politically active campus?
- Do students attend sporting events?
- Check out school's social media - this can give you an idea of what the campus is like.



Try a free college search engine. Big Future (bigfuture.org) allows you to search for colleges by program or degree, location, size, and more.

Getting to Know the College

When you begin research on sites like [bigfuture.org](#) and [petersons.org](#), or speak to family and friends, your list can grow quickly. It is typical to begin the process of applying to college with a very large list of schools. Visiting campus, either virtually or in-person, gives students the opportunity to narrow their list and find schools that fit them socially, professionally, and academically.

Can't visit all your campuses before you apply and are admitted? No problem! Many colleges offer Admitted Student Days in the spring so admitted students can visit before making their final decision.

NHHEAF is here to help with this part, too! Book an **Exploring Options Appointment** to get one-on-one counseling on building your college list.

Taking the Tour & Virtual Opportunities

One of the most important parts of the college search process is getting to know the schools!

COLLEGE FAIRS

- Check local high schools, the NEACAC website ([neacac.org](#)), and with your school counselor for college fairs close to you.
- Be prepared – don't just go in blind; look at the list of schools attending and make a plan to visit with those you are interested in (but leave time to explore some of those you haven't considered yet too!)
- Have a list of questions you would like to ask – make sure they are thoughtful (not just “Do you have a biology major?”)

ADMISSIONS REPRESENTATIVES AT THE HIGH SCHOOL

- This is a great time to get to know someone from the college – and quite possibly the admissions rep who will be evaluating your admissions application.
- Fill out the interest card they offer you – they will use it to keep track of the contact they make with you and to remember you when your application comes in.
- Use this time to learn more about the school – what is a fun tradition on campus? Where do students hang out? What kinds of internship opportunities are available?

VISIT CAMPUS

- Call ahead to schedule your visit.
- Be prepared to ask questions and chat with the student tour guide.
- Take notes! It's hard to remember after a few college visits which one had the really great dining hall and which offered the great minor you might be interested in.

Questions to Ask Student Tour Guides and Other Current Students:

- What do you feel makes this school the right fit for you and other students?
- What classes are you taking right now? How much time do you spend on homework?
- What do you feel are the most popular campus activities? Classes?
- How accessible are professors out of class? Are tutors available for extra help?
- What is transportation like?
- What do you do for fun on weeknights and weekends?



CO-OPS

These programs allow students to alternate between traditional classes and workplace opportunities a semester at a time. Co-ops are related to the student's major, are often paid, and might extend the length of a bachelor's program.

STUDY AWAY

Study away programs allow students to travel and take classes in a different state or country. Colleges may also offer short-term travel programs during breaks. To learn more about international programs, visit [ccisabroad.org](#).

BACHELORS TO MASTERS PROGRAMS

Upon graduation, these programs allow students to transition immediately from a bachelor's program to a graduate program. Bachelor's to Master's programs – often called 3+2 or 3+3 programs – can also decrease the total number of years a student needs to be in school, therefore saving time and money. Such programs are most common in engineering, business, social work, education, and nursing.

RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS (ROTC) PROGRAMS

ROTC prepares a college student to become an officer in the U.S. military after graduation. ROTC programs offer some scholarships but students compete nationally for this money.

Do You Have an IEP or a 504 Plan?

ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

Students with an IEP or 504 plan in high school must learn a new system of educational laws and how to advocate for themselves in college. There are no IEP or 504 Plans in college. Rather, to receive accommodations at this level, a student must initiate the accommodations request process by self-identifying with the college's Accessibility Services office and providing appropriate documentation. The specific reasonable accommodations are determined through an interactive process between the student and Accessibility Services.

Who should connect with Accessibility Services on a college campus?

Any student with learning differences, physical, medical, emotional or psychiatric disabilities who believes this disability could impact their ability to achieve their academic potential and maximize their educational experience.

Possible questions to ask Accessibility Services before choosing a college:

- What criteria or documentation is required to qualify for accommodations? If testing is needed, who will pay for it?
- What adaptive technologies are available, and who pays for it?
- What type of medical and psychiatric services are available on or near campus? Is there a limit to counseling/health visits per year?
- Does the college offer a transitional summer program to help new students acclimate to school?
- When is the best time for a student to start the accessibility services application process?

Do I have to disclose I have a disability on my application?

No, you do not have to disclose. However, if you feel it is part of your “story” and you want to share, you can disclose. Some students choose to disclose it either in their personal essay or short answer space on their admissions application.

Can a college deny my admission because I have a disability?

No. If you meet the requirements for admission, a college may not deny your admission simply because you have a disability.

Do I have to inform a college that I have a disability once I am admitted?

No. However, if you want the school to provide an accommodation, then yes! A student must identify to the accessibility services office as having a disability.

For more information, visit [ncld.org](#).



Get to Know Your Admissions Representative

WHO ARE ADMISSION REPRESENTATIVES?

They are the face of any college. They interact with prospective students to provide information about the college and programs of study, guide students through the application process, and evaluate applications for admission.

WHY SHOULD I CONNECT WITH AN ADMISSIONS REPRESENTATIVE?

You will want to get on their radar and let them know you are interested in their school, while utilizing their expertise about their campus and its specific admission process. There are so many ways to get to know a campus, but they only have a few ways to get to know you. Take advantage of any face time (in person or virtual) you can get with a college admission representative to become the “face” of your own application.

WAYS TO MEET YOUR ADMISSION REPRESENTATIVE

Attend a college fair For a list of regional in-person or virtual college fairs, go to neacac.org	Visit the campus Meet with admissions when you are visiting the campus for a tour or event	Call or email Have a question about your major, internships, or the admissions process? Just ask!	Meet at your high school Ask your school counselor for dates and times colleges are visiting your high school
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HOW DO I FIND THE NH ADMISSION REPRESENTATIVE FOR A PARTICULAR COLLEGE?

Most colleges have a “meet the team” page on their admission webpage. Sometimes they identify what area of the country they cover. If the college website does not have this information, simply call the admissions office and ask for the contact information of the admission representative for your high school.

WHEN CAN I CONTACT AN ADMISSION REPRESENTATIVE?

Never hesitate to reach out to an admissions representative. Many students start making these connections junior year of high school while attending college fairs, during campus tours, or when the representatives visit their high school. They are there to help and support you on your college pathway!

WHAT QUESTIONS SHOULD I ASK?

Any topic is fine, whether you want more information about a particular major, internship opportunities, or their perspective on the types of courses you should take senior year to be competitive at their school. Ask the questions you truly want to know the answers to.

Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- What is the average freshman class size?
- Are there different academic requirements for admissions depending on what department or major you choose?
- What resources are available on campus if I need help with some of the classes I’m taking?
- Does the college offer resources and support for finding internships in different fields?
- Can I live on campus all two/four years?
- What kind of financial aid does your school offer (merit, need)?
- In addition to the FAFSA, do you require the CSS/Profile? If so, once or every year?
- How easy is it to change my major? Can I enter undecided and then choose a major later? What about changing to a more competitive major like nursing, engineering, physical therapy, or pharmacy?
- What’s your favorite tradition on campus?



“Demonstrated interest” is a term used to describe how interested an applicant is in enrolling in a particular college. A college can see this interest in a variety of ways: did the student take a tour, attend a virtual information session, or send an email to introduce themselves to their admission representative? It is important to note that demonstrated interest is a “soft” quality that does not replace academic qualifications. However, for very selective schools, even though it won’t carry more weight than GPA or activities, demonstrated interest can be a factor in admissions.



College Athletics

Incorporating college athletics into your college search adds an additional element when choosing the right college for you. Begin identifying college athletic programs in your sophomore or junior year of high school. Remember, you are a student-athlete, so you want to make sure that you will enjoy the school even if you weren't able to play your sport.

NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER

If you are interested in playing a Division I or Division II sport, you must register with the Eligibility Center. Visit eligibilitycenter.org for all NCAA rules and regulations. Division III eligibility is determined by the school.

PROMOTING YOU, THE STUDENT-ATHLETE

Make sure to send coaches your recruiting videos, game film, and schedule.
Some coaches will want short clips of you, while others might want full game film.

Be proactive.
Don't wait for coaches to notice you! Most colleges have student-athlete recruitment forms on their athletics website.

Always present yourself professionally on social media.
Recruiters want to know if you will represent yourself, your team, and your college well.

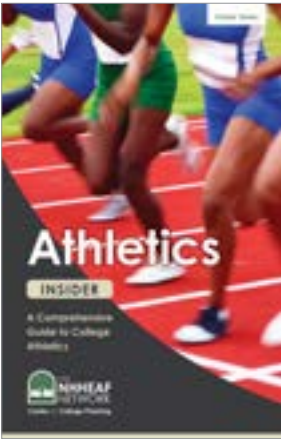
ASK QUESTIONS!

Don't be afraid to ask questions! Get to know the coach, players, and the school.

- What type of player is the school/coach looking for?
- What is the team atmosphere/culture?
- Will I be an impact player, role player, etc.?

OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Am I eligible for a scholarship?
- What are my responsibilities during the off-season?
- Am I required to maintain a certain GPA?
- Are study halls required?
- Is there mandatory off-season training?



For more information about College Athletics, please check out our Athletics Insider on the **Publications page** of our website.

The College Resume

The college resume focuses on your academic achievements, extracurricular activities, and personal interests. Creating a resume is your chance to list everything you have accomplished throughout your high school career. Keep in mind that while this resume can supplement your application, you should still fill in everything that's required on the application itself, unless directed otherwise.

Here is a sample resume of an involved student to demonstrate how to describe different activities. It's okay if you don't have this much to include! Work with your school counselor to identify your relevant experience and build a great resume. For example, do you take care of a younger sibling or grandparent? Help out with dinner sometimes? That demonstrates responsibility, time management, and specific skills. You may have more to add than you think!

<div><div>Joe College</div><div>100 High School Lane New Hampshire 03000 (603) 225-6612 joecollege@nhheaf.org</div></div>	
PROFILE	Energetic, hard-working student skilled in computer software and art. Specific interest and knowledge in graphic design.
ACADEMICS	Any High School, Town, New Hampshire High School Diploma, expected June 2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Top 20% of class• GPA: 3.2 (out of 4.0)• SAT: EBRW: 530, Math: 610• National Honor Society, 2020 - present
ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Varsity Baseball Team, 2020 – present Team Captain, 2022 2020 State Championship Team Member• Robotics Club, 2019 - present President, 2021 - 2022 Coordinated 3rd Annual "Learn About Careers in Robotics" conference• Student Council President, 2020 - 2021 Coordinated Community Service Day
CAREER DEVELOPMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Apple Store, Town, NH 2020 – present Genius at Genius Bar• Greater Chamber of Commerce, Town, NH - 2019 - present Graphic Design Intern Creator, Online Graphics Library• Animal Haven, Town, NH - 2019 – present Volunteer and annual Cleanup Day organizer Lead, Website Redesign Committee

List your extracurricular, volunteer, and community activities.

Highlight experiences that relate to your intended major or reveal consistent work experience.



Preparing to Apply

Types of Admission

Colleges typically provide prospective students with a few admissions options, each with its own deadline and requirements. Investigate each option offered by the colleges of your choice and choose which works best for you.

ADMISSION TYPE	DETAILS	DEADLINE	COMMITMENT
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 class is filled	Non-binding
Regular Admission	All applications are reviewed prior to decisions being sent	November - January	Non-binding
Early Action (EA)	Receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date	October - December	Non-binding
Restrictive Early Action (REA)	Restricted from applying ED or EA or REA to other institutions Demonstrates strong interest in college	October - December	Non-binding
Early Decision (ED)	Cannot apply to more than one school ED If admitted, student agrees to enroll and withdraw all other applications	October - December	Binding

IS APPLYING EARLY RIGHT FOR YOU?

The decision to apply early is one to take very seriously. There are many moving parts – binding or non-binding agreements, presenting your strongest academic profile, first-choice schools, and financial aid – to consider. There are three options for early acceptance (see your individual colleges' websites to see which, if any, are offered).

- **Early Action** is a non-binding early round application. This means you aren't obligated to attend a school if accepted Early Action. Most colleges will allow you to apply Early Action to multiple schools.
- **Restrictive Early Action** is also non-binding. However, the "restrictive" part means that you can only apply to one school in the early rounds. It clearly indicates to a school that they are your first choice.
- **Early Decision** is binding. If you apply to a school Early Decision and you are accepted, you must attend. You will need to withdraw any applications to other schools.

Because Early Decision is a binding agreement, you should consider this type of admission seriously before applying. Early Decision might be the right choice for you if you have done your research, visited campus, you know without a doubt that this college is your number one choice, and financial aid is not a strong factor in your college choice. Consider the following pros and cons of Early Decision before making your choice.

Early Decision Pros	Early Decision Cons
ED applicants can demonstrate interest and enthusiasm to their top choice college. Statistics show that at some colleges, ED applicants are accepted at a higher rate than regular decision applicants.	You will not have a chance to receive or compare financial aid offers from any other colleges. The ED applicant pool tends to include highly qualified applicants with strong transcripts and SAT or ACT scores available early in fall of senior year. Some students present as stronger applicants after retaking the SAT or ACT in the fall and sending in their first semester fall grades.

Auditions and Portfolios

The process of applying to a performing arts or an art-specific program is often more extensive than for other academic programs. **Remember that demonstrating your potential is often more important than your current technical expertise.** Pay careful attention to the detailed instructions regarding submissions for each college and provide **exactly** what is asked. Keep an open mind about any criticism received; constructive feedback provides an opportunity for improvement. Be certain to ask your high school teachers or professional instructors for additional guidance.

AUDITION TIPS

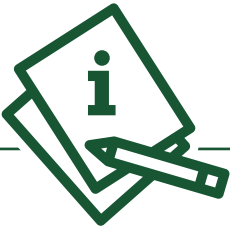
The requirements vary by school and program.

- Find out which schools require pre-screens, as well as live auditions versus recordings. Are in-person vs. virtual auditions weighed the same way?
- Are there regional auditions available at the schools you are interested in?

PORTFOLIO PRESENTATION TIPS

The requirements vary by school and program.

- Digital submission of your portfolio is required by most college programs – even if you visit campus for an in-person review.
- Many schools use SlideRoom or similar apps for you to upload your work (be aware that there may be a cost for submission to each school).
- If you don't have as much experience in your area of interest, explore programs that place more emphasis on your grades than your portfolio.



National Portfolio Days:

Experienced art college representatives will review your portfolio and offer presentation critique. Your portfolio can include finished pieces or works in progress.

Visit nationalportfolioday.org for a list of campuses hosting these free events.



Creating a Balanced List of Colleges

BUILDING YOUR COLLEGE LIST

When you are choosing your list of colleges, we recommend that you select a diverse group of schools in an effort to have a balanced approach to your process. It's important when building your list that you only include schools that you'd strongly consider attending if you were accepted. Applying to colleges just to fill your list not only is a waste of your time, but you could also take away a spot from a student who really wants to go there!

Build Your List Intentionally	Balanced Approach	Consider the Type of Financial Aid Offered
For each school you add, have at least 2-3 specific reasons why it made the list	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safety• Target• Reach What is a "safety school" <i>really</i> ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do they only offer need-based financial aid?• Do they offer <i>both</i> need-based and merit-based financial aid?

TERMS

Safety: Your cumulative GPA and SAT scores (if applicable) are higher than the average admitted student.

Target: Your cumulative GPA and SAT scores (if applicable) are on par with the average admitted student.

Reach: Your cumulative GPA or SAT scores (if applicable) are slightly below the average admitted student, but not so much lower that you do not think you could be accepted.

Financial Safety: The criteria for what constitutes a financial safety school varies based on your unique academic profile as well as your family financial situation. However, two principles of a solid financial safety school are universal:

1. Your chances of acceptance at this college are pretty much guaranteed. Your standardized test scores, GPA, and class rank are significantly above the averages for an accepted student and are even stronger than those in the 75th percentile at that particular institution.
2. You and your parents are comfortable covering tuition, room and board, and other fees. This doesn't necessarily mean that you have the cash on hand to cover the entire expense, but it does mean that you have a plan to cover the cost.



Apply to at least one college that is financially affordable for your family in case the financial aid awards from other colleges do not provide enough aid to make it possible for you to attend. This college, known as a "financial safety" school, should be one that you like and would want to attend.

TERMS, Continued

Merit-Based Aid: Financial support offered based on your academic and/or extracurricular achievements

Need-Based Aid: Financial aid provided based on your level of financial need (established by filing the FAFSA and any other financial forms required)

DO YOUR RESEARCH

College students may receive both merit-based and need-based aid to help fund tuition and cover other education-related costs, including school supplies and housing. Not all colleges and universities offer both types of financial aid. Merit-based opportunities are often available at smaller private schools, while students at larger public institutions tend to receive most of their financial support from need-based sources. Understand which type(s) your colleges are offering, because even the strongest academic candidate will receive no academic merit scholarship at a school that does not offer this type of financial aid. When you are creating your college list, this is important to keep in mind. Consider that you will likely not be a candidate for a large academic merit scholarship at your reach school, so even if you get in, it might be unattainable financially. A balanced list of colleges is essential if financial aid is a consideration for you and your family. Check individual college websites, or contact the admissions office for more information.



Public colleges receive some funding from the state whereas private colleges do not. Private colleges typically have a higher price tag, but don't let that number dissuade you from applying as there may be grants and scholarships to help decrease the overall cost.

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF WHEN PUTTING TOGETHER YOUR LIST

- Why are you applying to this school? Did you just "throw" schools on your list because they sent you a free application? Do you have more than one reason why you would attend that school?
- Is it a safety school, if you don't see yourself attending that school?
- Is this school a good financial fit? Can your merit-based aid be renewed? Can your scholarship be renewed?



The Common Application

WHAT IS THE COMMON APP?

The Common Application is an online admission application that is accepted by over 900 colleges and universities. You will complete just one online application form and send it to each of your chosen participating colleges. The Common App saves you time and simplifies the application process. To access the form and a list of participating schools, visit commonapp.org.

Notify your school counselor when applying online; they will assist you in forwarding your transcript and the necessary materials to the college. Most colleges will not consider your application complete until all pieces have been received.

To make the application process easier, have the following information in front of you when starting your 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

TEN STEPS TO COMPLETE THE COMMON APPLICATION

1. Start early and take your time

Common Application opens on August 1st each year.

2. Gather materials that are needed

Parent information, activities list, dates, courses

3. Meet deadlines and be organized

Each college will be different, and have different requirements. Find ways that work for you to keep track of your deadlines.

4. Take control and use your voice

Your application is your voice. Use the form to stand out, but also to share who you are and what you will bring to campus.

5. Reporting senior grades

Do not abbreviate course titles. Include all fall and spring courses.

6. Activities

Ten activities can be listed on your application (in order of importance to you). If you have additional activities to report, include a college resume (see **page 15**).

Colleges consider working and family responsibilities such as taking care of a sibling or grandparent after school to be an “activity” demonstrating leadership, responsibility, and commitment.

7. Additional Information

Add information that does not appear elsewhere in your application, or information that can provide context to your application.

8. Essay(s) and Letters of Recommendation

Colleges will specify the number of recommendations required (and whether they will accept additional letters). Most colleges require a letter from your school counselors and at least one from a teacher. Ask two academic teachers, so you are prepared for each college's requirements. Make sure to give them plenty of time to complete your letter.

Most recommendations come from junior teachers because they have just had you in class for the last semester or even the last year. Senior teachers often don't have time to get to know you before college application deadlines.

The essay is a large part of your application. Take your time with this! (see essay tips on **page 24**)

9. FERPA (Family Education Rights and Privacy Act)

Protects the privacy of student educational records and gives you the right to review confidential letters of recommendation as part of those records after you enroll. Most colleges prefer a student waive their rights to read their letters of recommendation so they can be assured the recommender is able to be honest and genuine.

10. Changes?

Changes cannot be made directly on the application after submission. You will need to contact each college to submit any changes or add anything you might have forgotten, so take your time, proofread and then proofread again!

For assistance with your Common Application, schedule an appointment with a CCP Counselor by scanning the QR code on **page 2** or visiting calendly.com/nhheaf_ccp.



SAT and ACT

Q: HOW COLLEGES USE STANDARDIZED ADMISSION TESTS

A: In recruitment: Some colleges publish an average score range or scores of previously admitted students as a guide for prospective applicants.

In admission decisions: While colleges report using a combination of factors in determining admission including grades, course rigor, essay, and recommendations, many colleges use SAT or ACT scores to help in the application review process.

In awarding scholarships: Some colleges use SAT or ACT test scores in combination with GPA and other factors to award their institutional merit aid.

Q: WHAT DOES “SUPERSCORING” MEAN?

A: Colleges that “**superscore**” use your best section-level scores, even if they are from different test dates, as your combined standardized test score.

Q: DO COLLEGES HAVE A PREFERENCE FOR SAT VS. ACT? HOW DO THEY COMPARE SCORES FROM THE TWO TESTS?

A: Colleges have no preference: Every college that accepts the SAT accepts the ACT and both tests are viewed equally. To compare the scores from the two tests so students can be evaluated fairly, colleges use a concordance table. Doing so allows a college to see what a particular score on the SAT is equal to on the ACT.

In their words: “Either is fine with us, and we don’t have a feeling that either favors students with any particular profile.”
- **Marlyn McGrath-Lewis, Director of Admissions at Harvard College, New York Times.**

Q: WHAT DOES IT MEAN IF A COLLEGE STATES THEY ARE TEST OPTIONAL, TEST-FLEXIBLE, OR TEST-BLIND?

A: Test-Optional means just that – you decide whether you wish to submit your scores. **Test-Flexible** admission policies

allow you to submit various standardized test scores to support your application. Check with the individual school to see which tests they support (IB, AP, SAT, ACT, etc.). If a college has a **Test-Blind** policy, they will not take your scores into consideration - even if you submit them. There are more than 1400 test-optional and 84 test-blind colleges in the U.S., and this trend is growing. For a full list, visit [fairtest.org](https://www.fairtest.org).

Q: IF SUBMISSION IS “OPTIONAL,” SHOULD I SEND MY SCORES OR NOT?

A: In their words: “It’s simple. If you think your scores are an accurate representation of your ability, feel free to submit them. If you feel they are not, don’t. You won’t be penalized.” - **Wake Forest University**

Preparing for Standardized Tests

While the test-optional trend is growing in college admissions, we still recommend taking, and preparing for, standardized tests. A good score can enhance your application, and you won’t know how you’ll do until you take the test! If you have the time and energy, seriously studying is a good idea, too.



SAT STUDY GUIDE
[khanacademy.org](https://www.khanacademy.org)

- Sample questions - Free
- Phone App: “Daily Practice for the New SAT” - Free



ACT STUDY GUIDE
[act.org](https://www.act.org)

- Sample questions - Free
- Downloadable study guide - Free



Studying for tests makes a difference. A 2017 study of 250,000 students completed by The College Board found that studying for the SAT for 20 hours through Khan Academy is associated with an average score gain of 115 points – nearly double the gain for students who do not use Khan Academy.



The College Essay

The college essay is your opportunity to bring your college application to life. Admission counselors will review your transcripts and standardized test scores, but these don't tell them about **who** you are. Take your time to express yourself in your essay and to share your unique self with your colleges.

Do I choose the topic? While most colleges present students with a choice of topics, some will allow you to choose your own topic. What you choose to write about will reveal your creativity, personality, and value system to the admissions committee. And while there are almost no forbidden topics, use caution with sensitive or overused subjects. Your essay should be unique to you – not something that could have been written by any number of high school students.

What are colleges looking for in an admissions essay? Colleges are typically looking for four main elements:

- A sample of the applicant's writing ability
- To get a sense of who the student is as a person
- To see if the student would be a “good fit” for their college
- To assess the applicant's ability to think critically

Why is demonstrating critical thinking important? Demonstrating critical thinking can show a college that an applicant is ready to engage in a higher learning environment. No matter a student's intended major, every college student is expected to learn to think critically about the subjects they are studying, research they are conducting, and projects they are preparing.

How can I demonstrate critical thinking? No matter the topic you choose to write about, take time in your essay to show some analysis or understanding of the topic in a bigger sense. Have you learned a lesson, do you plan to act differently or make changes because of something you observed or experienced? Is what you have experienced similar to a bigger issue within society? Don't just **tell** a story about an experience, but rather **show** how you have learned from or thought critically about your experience.

Ask yourself “why” so your reader doesn't have to ask “so what?” Why did you choose your topic? Why does this topic reveal a certain value, trait, or characteristic of yourself? Why do you want to share this aspect of yourself in your college application? Why is this important to your career and life goals? Many applicants will write about the same topics, but not everyone will be able to wrestle with what it means for them and their reader the way you will if you just keep asking “Why?”

How can you set yourself apart in your essay? Find what makes you different because that's what sets you apart from everyone else. **Pick a topic that's personal** and tell **your** story in a way that tells the admissions office something new about you that cannot be found anywhere else in your application. Your essay should not be generic – one that could have been written by any applicant in the pool. **Use a hook** to engage your reader and make them think, “Tell me more.” **Create an image** in the reader's mind with descriptive words and action verbs. **Try to connect with the reader** by being open, likeable and not boastful, and by being yourself. Admission counselors ask themselves, “Would this student make a good roommate?” – think about this as you write. **Leave your reader with a takeaway** and give the admissions office a reason to remember you.

Essay Tips

DO:

Engage the reader. Capture interest with a strong intro or unique perspective on an everyday topic or event.

Own it. Be authentic. Colleges are truly interested in knowing **you**.

Tell a story. Rather than list all your accomplishments, tell a story that illustrates one or two positive character traits or values. Don't tell the admissions office your friends say you are silly or outgoing; show this through the story you share.

Proofread. Give yourself time to step away and come back and read it with fresh eyes.

Read your essay aloud. Read it to yourself or share it with others to determine whether it flows as you want it to and expresses the points you wish to make.

DON'T:

Rely on a thesaurus. Write like you speak and don't be tempted to seek words to impress if everyday language would sound more authentic.

Write what you think colleges want to hear. Focus instead on something that is important to you. If you are bored writing your essay, your audience will be bored reading it.

Ask too many people to edit. Too many opinions may cause you to lose your voice - and that's who admissions wants to hear.

Offend the reader. It is okay to share your opinions, just be sure not to judge or disparage those who don't share them.

Be afraid to start over. If your choice of topic is not working, or you are not happy with the direction your essay is taking, start over! Your essay should be a reflection of **you** and if you are stuck or not excited about what you have written, it is not doing its job.


COVID-19 and the College Application

The Common App gives you a dedicated space to discuss how you were affected by the pandemic. You do not need to answer this optional question and you will not be penalized for leaving this section blank. Remember that **all** students had to adapt to new ways of learning, attend school wearing a mask, and had disruptions to their usual or intended activities. However, if there were unique circumstances that provide context to your application, this is the space to do so.

The Common App question:

“Community disruptions such as COVID-19 and natural disasters can have deep and long-lasting impacts. If you need it, this space is yours to describe those impacts. Colleges care about the effects on your health and well-being, safety, family circumstances, future plans, and education, including access to reliable technology and quiet study spaces. (250 word limit)”

- Use this question (found in the “Additional Information” section of the Common App) to discuss COVID impact and save your college essay and the rest of your application to share your interests and perspectives beyond COVID-19.
- Your school counselor will have the opportunity to provide school-specific COVID impacts (such as pass/fail grading, not offering particular courses during remote learning, hybrid learning situations, etc.). Verify with your counselor that your school is providing this type of information to the colleges.



How will colleges see the changes my school made due to COVID-19?

School counselors will have space on the Common App counselor forms to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on your school community. Such things they can note include:

- Grading scales and policies
- Schedules and course offerings
- Graduation requirements
- Testing requirements
- Instructional methods
- Your academic calendar

How Colleges Evaluate Applications

In the review of applicants, the focus is on your academic record (high school transcript) as demonstrated by performance, achievement, and rigor. While each college may have its own set of admissions criteria, many will also consider your college essay, extracurricular activities, standardized tests, and letters of recommendation.

HOW DO COLLEGES KNOW HOW TO UNDERSTAND MY HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT?

Every high school transcript is accompanied by a School Profile. This profile acts as a key to your transcript; it allows colleges to understand a specific high school's grade point system, weighting system (if applicable), rigor of courses offered, competency systems, etc. Colleges have been reading transcripts from public schools, private schools, home school and even international schools for decades. They are very comfortable using the school profile to understand the information found on your transcript.

Exploring Ways to Pay

Know the Cost of Applying to College

Applying to college can be costly, but having a good understanding of what money you will need and when you will need it can give you time to budget and save. Below is a list of different expenses associated with the college application process and when you may experience them.

STANDARDIZED TESTING EXPENSES *(Fall and/or Spring Junior Year and Fall Senior Year of High School)*

Both the SAT and the ACT have fees attached to registering and taking the test as well as sending scores to individual colleges.

COLLEGE VISITS & TOURS *(Spring Junior and Fall Senior Year of High School)*

Although touring a campus is “free,” if you will be traveling a distance to visit the school, you may need to budget money to make the trip. Expenses can include gas, airfare, hotel stays, and eating multiple meals on the road.

COLLEGE APPLICATION FEES *(Fall or Winter Senior Year of High School)*

Application fees are the cost to apply to a given school. These fees can range from \$25 to \$100 per school.* Some colleges offer fee waivers to students who use their institutional application or toured campus.

**Some fee waivers are available for those who qualify for Free & Reduced Priced Lunch. Ask your counselor for details.*

FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION FEES *(Fall or Winter Senior Year of High School)*

First, remember that the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is always just that: **free**. However, over 200 U.S. colleges require an **extra** financial aid form called the CSS Profile®. The CSS Profile® form is not free. To see a full list of schools requiring this form go to cssprofile.org.

ADMISSION DEPOSIT *(Spring Senior Year of High School)*

Once you have decided which college you will attend, you must pay an enrollment deposit* to confirm your attendance and save your space at the school. The enrollment deposit can range from **\$100 to \$1,000**. This fee is due by **May 1st**.

**If providing your enrollment deposit will be difficult, contact the college's admissions office immediately to see what they advise.*

HOUSING DEPOSIT *(Spring Senior Year of High School)*

If you are going to be living on campus at your college of choice, you will need to pay a deposit to save your space with the housing department. **This fee is in addition to the enrollment deposit**. It is set by the school itself and can range from **\$100 to \$400**.



For a complete guide to college financial aid, please check out our Financial Aid Insider on the **Publications** page of our website.



Applying for Scholarships

It is estimated that \$7.4 billion in scholarships are available each year. Remember, every dollar you earn through scholarships is a dollar you do not have to borrow and pay back!

LOCAL AND REGIONAL SOURCES

These scholarships often have local and regional residency requirements, making a student's pool of competition smaller and chances of winning higher.



Scholarships for NH Residents
1-800-464-6641 | nhcf.org

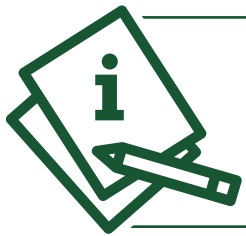
New Hampshire Charitable Foundation (nhcf.org) is the largest source of private scholarship aid in New Hampshire. They award over \$6 million in scholarships to New Hampshire students annually. You do not need to attend a college in New Hampshire to receive a scholarship, but you do have to be a New Hampshire resident to apply. Each year approximately 1 in 5 applicants receive an award. Below are their programs:

Statewide Student Aid Program

For students enrolling in 4-year degree programs

Career Aid to Technical Students Program

For students enrolling in 2-year degree programs



Start your scholarship search in the school counseling office at your high school.

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP SOURCES

These scholarships are available to students from all over the country, making your pool of competition very large and chances of winning lower.

fastweb.com – Free scholarship matching service offering a database of over 3 billion in national scholarships

collegeboard.org – This national scholarship search engine can help you find scholarships and other financial aid from more than 2,200 programs, totaling nearly \$6 billion.

scholarships.com – This database features over 3.5 million national scholarships, providing nearly \$19 billion to help students pay for college. Download their app to track scholarships!

scholarshipowl.com – Complete one streamlined application through this website and the scholarship matching begins.

scholarships360.org – Rather than a database of billions of scholarships, this site selects quality opportunities and profiles a select number of reputable scholarships.

maldef.org – Scholarships for Latinx students and students of varying documentation status

iefa.org – Scholarship opportunities for international students

For scholarship alerts and other college planning tips, follow **The NHHEAF Network on Facebook and Twitter.**

Ways to Reduce College Costs

Start at a community college. Consider starting at a community college and transfer earned credits to a participating 4-year college.

Take advantage of discounted out-of-state tuition if your intended major is not offered at one of our state's colleges or universities.

Tuition Break For New Hampshire Residents: The New England Board of Higher Education's (NEBHE) Tuition Break program, the New England Regional Student Program (RSP), provides a discount on out-of-state tuition to New Hampshire residents when they enroll in approved degree programs at specific state colleges and universities in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Vermont. New Hampshire residents are eligible for these degree programs because they are not offered by any of the New Hampshire state colleges or universities. Visit nebhe.org/tuitionbreak for more information.

Ask about health insurance. Some colleges require students to have major medical insurance while attending their college. If the college has this requirement, they may also build in the cost for purchasing major medical insurance through their institution into the tuition bill. Check your bill closely, and if you do not need health insurance, ask the college to waive this cost with proof of outside insurance.

Consider return on investment. Research the average salary for your desired profession and then look at the amount of debt you will be incurring at the schools you have chosen. Is there one school that will allow you a more comfortable loan repayment considering your future earning potential? See **page 4** for more information on leading your college search career-first to help ensure your return on investment.

Work while going to college. Do you want to work and go to school part-time? Some employers offer tuition reimbursement benefits for employees.

Rent or borrow textbooks. From buying to renting, new or used, hard bound or e-books, explore all your textbook options and choose the best economical fit for you. There is no obligation to get your books from your campus store, which tends to be the most expensive option. Instead, check out these sites: chegg.com, amazon.com, and textbooks.com.

Use the college library resources. Often class textbooks are in the library's collection. Speak with a librarian to see if your required books are available.

Apply to become a resident advisor/assistant (RA). This is a student who is responsible for supervising and assisting other, typically younger, students who live in a residence hall. Many RAs are compensated with discounted or even free room and board.

Choose the right meal plan. There are several meal plans to choose from. Remember that if you do not eat the food, you do not get reimbursed. Choose the meal plan that is realistic for you.

Leave your car at home. Parking permits, gas, and car maintenance quickly add up. Need to get somewhere? Explore campus and public transportation options.

Continue applying for scholarships once you are in college. Check with the financial aid office or the office of your major and inquire about available scholarships.

College Application Checklist

ADMISSIONS					FINANCIAL AID FORMS			
	Name of School	Do they use Common App, or their own app?	Do they require SAT or ACT scores?	Admission Application Deadline	Application Fee	FAFSA Deadline	CSS Profile® Needed? Deadline?	Misc.
College 1								
College 2								
College 3								
College 4								
College 5								
College 6								



Online Resources

College Savings, Financial Aid, and Scholarships

FINANCIAL AID FORMS
[studentaid.gov](#) – File the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
[cssprofile.org](#) – File the CSS Profile® financial aid form required by certain private colleges

ONE-STOP FINANCIAL AID SITE
[studentaid.gov](#) – Learn about:

- Federal Direct & PLUS Loan programs
- Loan repayment and forgiveness options
- Your existing federal loan balance

PRIVATE LOAN PROGRAMS
[nhheaf.org/pdfs/handouts/Private_student_loans.pdf](#) – While it is recommended that you maximize federal loans first, private loans can help you fill a remaining funding gap. NHHEAF's EDvestinU private loan has discounted rates and exceptional service for NH students and families.

COLLEGE AND YOUR TAXES
[irs.gov/credits-deductions/individuals](#) – Federal tax benefits for higher education

BUDGETING & SAVING FOR COLLEGE
[savingforcollege.com](#) – Provides objective information about Section 529 plans and Coverdell education savings plans

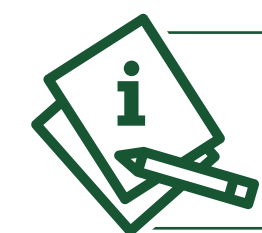
Admissions and Career Planning

SAT & ACT INFO
[khanacademy.org](#) – Official free SAT test prep website
[collegeboard.org](#) – Official website of the SAT Test
[act.org](#) – Official website of the ACT Test
[fairtest.org](#) – Lists all test-optional postsecondary schools

COLLEGE APPLICATIONS ONLINE
[commonapp.org](#) – Official website for the Common Application used for over 900 institutions

CAREER SURVEYS & INFORMATION
[careeronestop.org](#) – Sponsored by the US Dept. of Labor; research salary information by occupation and location
[nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator](#) – Sponsored by the US Dept. of Education to research colleges
[mynextmove.org](#) – Sponsored by the US Dept. of Labor for career exploration tools, job analysis and questionnaires

COLLEGE FAIRS & EVENTS
[neacac.org](#) – Regional college fair dates, times, and locations
[nacacnet.org](#) – National college fair dates, times and locations
[destinationcollege.org](#) – NHHEAF's annual college planning event for NH high school juniors & parents/guardians



There are two major deadlines for each college. The admission deadline is for submitting your application to the college. The financial aid deadline is for submitting required financial aid forms. These two deadlines can be the same or different depending on the college. So always check both!



How We Can Help

The NHHEAF Network is here for you through the entire college and career planning process. Visit our website to find free college and career resources, publications, upcoming events, and more.



nhheaf.org



nhheaf.org
(888) 747-2382 x119
4 Barrell Court,
Concord NH, 03301

