

THINKING ABOUT COLLEGE

An Overview

AGENDA

- Words of wisdom
- Preparing for a college search
- Parent tips
- Timeline and next steps for juniors and seniors
- Resources

WORDS OF WISDOM

- Breathe—you will survive the college process
- Maintain perspective—which college you attend does not determine your worth as a person
- Creating a list is all about fit and balance
- You will experience both acceptance and rejection
- If you don't have a major, it's okay
- Colleges can tell when a student has been “packaged”



PREPARING FOR A COLLEGE SEARCH

Know Yourself

- Values
- Ambitions
- Achievements
- Academic strengths
- Interests
- Talents

TYPES OF COLLEGES

Type	Description	Tuition	Admission Requirements
Four year	<p>Degrees offered: Bachelors and beyond</p> <p>Provides: A well-rounded college experience that includes an academic area of study.</p>	<p>State: Typically under \$15,000/year</p> <p>Private: Typically more than \$20,000/year</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SAT or ACT• GPA• Class rank• Essay• Extracurricular activities• Letters of recommendation• Transcripts

TYPES OF COLLEGES

Type	Description	Tuition	Admission Requirements
Two year	Degrees offered: Associates Provides: A way to ease into college / take general college classes for credit. Typically have agreements with four year colleges to transfer credits.	Typically around \$4,000/year	Open-door admission policy

SETTING PRIORITIES

- What are qualities that are important to you?
 - Location
 - Academics
 - Size
 - Campus setting
 - Social life
 - Cost



INFORMATION COLLEGE ADMISSION OFFICERS REVIEW

- Transcript
- Strength of high school courses
- Testing
- Essay
- Teacher and counselor recommendations
- Student's demonstrated interest
- Personal accomplishments/special talents
- Senior course selection

ADMISSIONS IS A STUDENT-CENTERED PROCESS

■ A Parent's role

- Help your student understand the process
- Be realistic and non-judgmental
- Take a seat in the back, the student is the driver of the process
- Be open to conversation and responsive to questions
- Stay aware of deadlines and fees due
- Know that admissions is a **CONSTANTLY** changing process
- Avoid comparing your student with others
- Understand disappointment
- Celebrate success
- Maintain perspective

NEXT STEPS FOR JUNIORS

In School

- ✓ Stay focused on academics
- ✓ Do not lighten your academic load for senior year
- ✓ Meet with your school counselor
- ✓ Stay involved in school activities

Standardized Testing

- ✓ Prepare for and register for ACT / SAT tests

College Exploration

- ✓ Explore colleges using Naviance
- ✓ Visit colleges if you can
- ✓ Meet with college representatives
- ✓ Attend college fairs and local information sessions

TIMELINE

■ Junior Year Spring

- Participate in Junior Counseling Seminars and individual meetings
- Consider academic and career interests and post high school goals
- Visit campuses and attend college fairs and local presentations
- Identify teachers who can write an academic recommendation
- Brainstorm college essay topics
- Register for SAT or ACT
- Plan courses for senior year

TIMELINE

- **Senior Year Summer/Fall**
 - Participate in Senior Counseling Seminars and individual meetings
 - Continue researching and visiting colleges
 - Begin the Common Application –available August 1st
 - Solidify a list of colleges
 - Manage application and financial aid deadlines

TIMELINE

■ Senior Year Winter

- Attend Financial Aid Night
- Complete the FAFSA-available January 1st, 2014
- Complete the local scholarship form
- Research and apply to outside scholarships

RESOURCES

- Your School Counselor
- [Connection.naviance.com/hingham](https://connection.naviance.com/hingham)
- Commonapp.org
- Collegeboard.org
- Act.org
- Mefa.org/admissions
- Fafsa.ed.gov
- Fastweb.com
- Finaid.org