


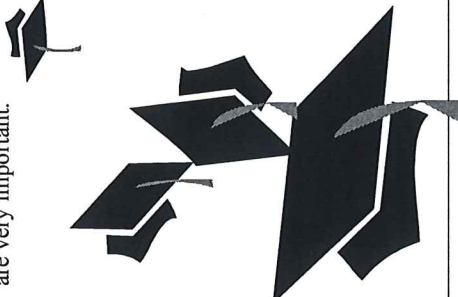


NHS
**Post-Secondary
Planning Guide
2020-2021**

SENIOR YEAR COLLEGE PLANNER

SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Get off to a good start academically -1st and 2nd quarter grades are <u>very</u> important. Register for August 29, September 26, October 3, or the November 7 SAT Reasoning / SAT Subject Test. Consider registering for the ASVAB or the ACT on September 11 or February 5th. Review listing of colleges in Naviance. Try to visit the ones you are interested in. Gather information. Do they have fall visitation days? Does the school require an interview? (Generally, small private schools encourage an interview.) August 1st: Begin filling out the Common Application. Study SAT review materials. Visit colleges. Overnight visits are most helpful. Visit your counselor frequently. Check list of college representatives who will be visiting NHS weekly in Naviance. Sign up!! Your BEST grades should be this year. If you prepared this summer, then your SAT scores should improve. Fill out the Letter of Recommendation Information Sheet (available in guidance) to give to teachers and counselor <u>well in advance</u> of needing your letter of recommendation, and begin to build your resume in Naviance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue college visits and research. Ask teachers for recommendations. Complete and submit FAFSA beginning on October 1st https://fafsa.ed.gov/ Finalize college list. (Check college handbook to see if SAT Reasoning tests are required). Generally, guidance recommends that a student's final list include schools from each of the following categories: REACH Student's top choices; including a couple of "long shots". REALISTIC Schools possessing the significant features a student desires and which the probability of admission is likely. SAFETY Schools that have most of the features a student desires and at which the probability of admission is highly likely. Review for make-up of SAT Reasoning/SAT Subject Test. Work on application essays. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take SAT – November 7. Work on applications. They must be easy to read; type essays, check SPELLING!! Watch application deadlines! EARLY-DECISION APPLICATIONS DUE THIS MONTH. Have teachers recommendation forms been returned to your counselor? College Admissions Decisions Are Based on the Following: SCHOOL RECORD including GPA and extra-curricular Activities. SAT scores (retake as necessary to attain the scores needed.) and/or ACT scores. College application essays Recommendations Interview when required Attend College Financial Aid Night: <p>Date TBA 6:00PM in the Auditorium.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take SAT I / SAT II December 5, 2020. Register for May or June SAT Reasoning / SAT Subject if needed. As you complete your applications, make sure to talk with your counselor about the following: 1) Payments for the application fee. 2) Deadlines so you can work together to send your materials on time 3) Any required forms the school is requesting 4) Letters of recommendation Watch application deadlines. Most applications should be completed this month. Keep up good grades. Talk with graduates who are home from college. Prepare to apply for federal student aid, encourage your parents to complete tax forms early and get your PIN at www.pin.ed.gov 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cape Cod Foundation Scholarship booklets are available for seniors in guidance office and online at capecodfoundation.org. Financial Aid Forms are available on the school website. Be sure to complete and submit FAFSA beginning on October 1st. Forms will be available online at https://fafsa.ed.gov/. Check to see if your school also requires the CSS Profile forms. Complete if necessary. 
FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research sources of private outside scholarships. Continue to explore colleges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look for General and Community scholarships available on NHS website. WATCH DEADLINES! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visit School, stay overnight Make final decision send deposit by May 1st. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advance Placement Exams. Senior Final Exams. Senior Exit Surveys 	<p>GRADUATION!</p> <p>GOOD LUCK AND HAVE A GREAT SUMMER.</p>

JUNIOR YEAR COLLEGE PLANNER

WEB SITES	THE RIGHT COLLEGE	FEBRUARY/MARCH/APRIL	MAY	JUNE
<p><u>Top College Searches on the Web</u></p> <p>Naviance http://connection.naviance.com/nantucket</p> <p>College Board Online http://www.collegeboard.org</p> <p>CollegeNET http://www.collegenet.com</p> <p>CollegeView http://www.collegeview.com</p> <p>Peterson's Education Center http://www.petersons.com</p> <p><u>Financial Aid Information</u></p> <p>www.fastweb.com www.finaid.org www.fafsa.ed.gov www.studentaid.ed.gov</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start thinking about the answers to the following questions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> What kind of college do I want to attend? Liberal arts school, a pre-professional school, large university, etc. What size school do I want? For example, one with 10,000 students or more or one with as few as several hundred. Where do I want to be? Close to home or far away? Some people find being far away too lonely; others enjoy the freedom. What location do I want? Urban or rural? (In the middle of a big city or in the suburbs.) What life-style do I want? What do you want available on your campus? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using PSAT results, begin to develop a range of colleges. Meet with school counselor to develop a list of colleges. Purchase SAT review materials and study. April vacation is a good week to visit colleges. Plan a trip to see colleges that are a great distance from home. Military Academy/ROTC application process begins now. Register to take a spring SAT Reasoning and/or SAT Subject Test. May 8, 2021 June 5, 2021 Visit www.collegeboard.com for registration or see your counselor for Registration Bulletin. Registration deadlines are AT LEAST a month before the test date!! (Heed early deadlines for registration.) Consider taking SAT Subject test in courses you are taking this year. Talk to your subject teacher. Consider taking the ACT Test in April or June. *watch registration deadlines! Visit ACT.org for information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take SAT Reasoning- May 8, 2021. Speak to teachers from whom you may ask for recommendations. Work hard now to maintain or improve your final averages in <u>all</u> of your courses. Remember, junior year grades are very important. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply for summer programs/activities. Do something interesting. Take SAT Reasoning or SAT Subject Test, June 5, 2021. Plan on extensive summer reading in order to improve October/ November Verbal SAT scores. Consult your school counselor for improvement strategies and look into SAT prep courses. Take an SAT Prep course, if necessary. Study SAT review materials. <p>SCHOOL COUNSELOR</p> <p>Get to know your counselor well. Talk about interests, schools, and become familiar with the college search through computer programs available in school and on the Internet.</p>
<p>COURSES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make sure you take courses necessary for college admission. Most 4 year colleges (incl. Mass. State Colleges) require the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 years of English 3 years of Lab Science 3 years of Social Studies 2 years of Foreign Language (minimum) 4 years of Math through Algebra II 	<p>FALL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sign up to take the PSAT/NMSQT in October. Continue to challenge yourself academically throughout the year. Stay involved in school- or community-based activities that interest you or enable you to explore career interests. Talk to people who went to college to learn about what to expect and tips as to what you should be doing to prepare. 	<p>Visit Colleges</p> <p>Work on your essay</p> <p>Make plans to improve your SAT scores</p> <p>Have a great summer — Your big year is coming!</p>		

COURSE CANCELLATION

Courses with insufficient enrollment are subject to cancellation at the discretion of the administration. The administration also reserves the right to limit course and section size, thus deferring some students' requests.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

Subject	Nantucket High School Graduation Requirements	Required by MA State Colleges and UMASS system	Recommended by most 4-year colleges	Recommended by most selective colleges*
English	4 credits	4 credits	4 credits	4 credits -honors level classes
Mathematics	4.5 credits Algebra I, Geometry & Personal Finance Required	4 credits Geometry, Algebra I and Algebra II	4 credits Geometry, Algebra I and Algebra II	4 credits including Pre-Calculus
Social Sciences	3 credits World History I, US History I & US History II Required	2 credits 1 course in US History	3 credits including US History	4 credits including US History, World History I
Science	3 credits Biology Required	3 credits 2 lab science courses	3-4 credits including Biology and Chemistry or Physics	3-4 credits including Biology, Chemistry and Physics
Foreign Language	No requirement	2 credits in the same language	2-3 credits in the same language	3-4 credits in the same language
Wellness	2.5 credits			
Fine/Performing Arts	No requirement		Fine or performing arts	Fine or performing arts
Electives	10-12 credits	2 credits from the subjects above or from the Arts, Humanities or Computer Science	Electives that enrich your academic program	Electives that enrich your academic program

Recommendations are based on the minimum requirements for college admission.

*Students seeking admissions to highly competitive institutions should consider as many Honors Level and Advanced Placement (AP) classes as possible, complete 4 years of the same foreign language, pursue calculus and advanced levels of course work in science.

ALL ABOUT YOUR OPTIONS

1. **Employment**- Some students will forgo additional schooling for now and want to go directly to work. You need to talk to your counselor about how to be ready for meaningful employment after graduation. Only planning can get you a career and not just a job. Some employment opportunities provide excellent on-the-job training, which gives you valuable new skills for future career direction.
2. **Military Service**- If you need to earn money immediately, if you would like to travel, or if you need an organization to teach you self-discipline, the military service may be for you. The military offers opportunities for education and advancement for both men and women. Recruiters from all branches of the armed forces are eager to tell you of the advantages of your getting either career training or an education through them.
3. **Technical or Career Training School**- Specific skill training in some occupations is required. Your counselor can suggest the names of reputable schools where you can study everything from cosmetology to computer programming. You should know that eligible students could use federal grants for career schools as well as college tuition.
4. **Apprentice/Internship Opportunities**- This is a formal training program established between employee and employer. The training involves work experience and classroom instruction. Most apprenticeships last two to four years. The Massachusetts Internship Office is a state agency that acts as a clearinghouse and referral agency for high school and college students.
5. **Community College/Private Two-Year College**- The Massachusetts Community College system offers a wide range of career-oriented courses to students at a reasonable cost. Most have very good job placement services for their graduates who receive an associates degree and training in some career area. These colleges are primarily for commuters. These schools also offer a student, who has not always worked up to his/her potential, the opportunity to attend a community college for two years and then transfer to a four-year college for a bachelor's degree. The private two-year college is very similar in purpose to the community college, though more expensive and offer residential living.
6. **Four-Year College**- Whether a state college, state university, private college, or private university, the four-year college experience culminates in a bachelor's degree. These institutions vary greatly. Your counselor can help you to consider the best choice for you. Reserve your judgments about college until you have thoroughly investigated them.

CHOOSING A CAREER

MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICES FOR YOU

1. Learn about yourself.

- Values – What is important to you?
- Interests – What appeals to you?
- Aptitude – What are you good at?

2. Talk to people.

Once you have narrowed your career choices, talk to people who are working in that field or, if possible, find a part-time job or internship in that field. It is helpful to ask questions such as, “What’s good and bad about this job?” and “How did you learn your trade?” There are many sources of career and job outlook information available. Go to your school library, public library, or your school Guidance Counselor.

3. Consider how much training you will need for the career you are interested in.

Some Examples:

- High school diploma: cashier, receptionist, salesperson, security guard, telephone operator, waiter/waitress.
- Special career training: auto technician, beautician, machinist, medical technician, computer operator, commercial artist.
- College degree: accountant, counselor, engineer, nurse, pilot, teacher, public relations specialist.
- Graduate degree: college professor, doctor, dentist, lawyer, veterinarian, research scientist, architect.

Some helpful Websites:

www.bls.gov/oco - information on specific careers using the *Occupational Outlook Handbook*.

www.bluecollarandproudofit.com – the objective of this website is to direct and educate people interested in pursuing blue-collar positions. We’re here to promote the blue-collar workers of America and to let everyone know it’s OKAY not to be a “high techer”. This website is filled with advice and resources for training and funding a career as a skilled tradesman or technician.

www.gotrain.com – Career Training in one year or less. Go TRAIN is an online guide to career schools and vocational training. They serve guidance professionals and individuals seeking job training by providing the most comprehensive listing available.

Visit your local Massachusetts Department of Employment & Training located at:

70 Washington Street
Salem, MA 01970
978-739-4331

or

181 Union Street
Lynn MA 01901
978-593-0585

MASSACHUSETTS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM AND UMASS MINIMUM ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

The admissions standards for the state universities and UMass emphasize a strong academic high school background so that students enter college ready to learn. These standards represent minimum requirements; meeting them does not guarantee admission, since campus officials consider a wide range of factors in admissions decisions. Students shall have fulfilled all requirements for the high school diploma or its equivalent upon enrollment. *It is important to note that admissions standards for the state's community colleges differ. Community colleges may admit any high school graduate or GED recipient.*

Freshman Applicants

The admissions standards for freshmen applicants have two main parts:

1. 16 required academic courses.
2. A minimum required grade point average (GPA) earned in college preparatory courses completed at the time of application.

Applicants must also submit an SAT or ACT score.

Academic Course Requirement

Sixteen* college preparatory courses distributed as follows are required. (A course is equivalent to one full school year of study. Courses count toward the distribution only if passed.)

* Effective with the college freshman class entering fall 2016, the number of required courses will increase to 17 with the additional year of math.

	Requirement for college freshman class entering...					
Subject	Fall 2012	Fall 2013	Fall 2014	Fall 2015	Fall 2016	Fall 2017 and beyond
English	4 courses					
Mathematics	3 courses (Algebra I & II and Geometry or Trigonometry or comparable coursework)				4 courses (Algebra I & II and Geometry or Trigonometry, or comparable coursework) including mathematics during the final year of high school	
Sciences	3 courses (drawn from Natural Science and/or Physical Science and/or Technology/ Engineering; including 2 courses with laboratory work); <i>Technology/engineering courses must be designated as science courses (taken for science credit) by the high school</i>					3 courses (drawn from Natural Science and/or Physical Science and/or Technology/ Engineering), including 3 courses with laboratory work
Social Sciences	2 courses (including 1 course in U.S. History)					
Foreign Languages	2 courses (in a single language)					
Electives	2 courses (from the above subjects or from the Arts & Humanities or Computer Sciences)					

Minimum Required Grade Point Average (GPA)

The GPA must be achieved based on all college preparatory courses completed at the time of application and should be weighted for accelerated (Honors or Advanced Placement) courses. The required minimum weighted high school GPA is 3.0 for the four-year public campuses.

State University GPA	University of Massachusetts GPA
3.00	3.00

SAT Scores

Applicants who meet the GPA requirement do not have to use the sliding scale for admission, but still must submit SAT or ACT test scores for consideration if they are applying to a state university or UMass within three years of high school graduation.

Sliding Scale (used when GPA is lower than the minimum required GPA)

If an applicant's GPA falls below the required minimum, a sliding scale will apply. *This scale should be used only when an applicant's GPA falls below the required 3.0 minimum for admission to the state universities or UMass.*

Scores on the new writing section of the SAT will not affect the sliding scale for freshman applicants to the Massachusetts state universities and to the University of Massachusetts at this time. The sliding scale, used in making admissions decisions for students with high school grade point averages falling below the required minimum, will continue to be based upon the combined critical reading (verbal) and math sections of the SAT.

Sliding Scale for Freshman Applicants to UMass

Weighted High School GPA	Combined SAT-I V&M Must Equal or Exceed (ACT Equivalent in Italics)
2.51-2.99	950 (20)
2.41-2.50	990 (21)
2.31-2.40	1030 (22)
2.21-2.30	1070 (23)
2.11-2.20	1110 (24)
2.00-2.10	1150 (25)

NO APPLICANT WITH A HIGH SCHOOL GPA BELOW 2.00 MAY BE ADMITTED TO A STATE UNIVERSITY OR UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS CAMPUS.

Sliding Scale for Freshman Applicants to a State University

Weighted High School GPA	Combined SAT-I V&M Must Equal or Exceed (ACT Equivalent in Italics)
2.51-2.99	920 (19)
2.41-2.50	960 (20)
2.31-2.40	1000 (21)
2.21-2.30	1040 (22)
2.11-2.20	1080 (23)
2.00-2.10	1120 (24)

Transfer Applicants

Transfer students must meet one of the following criteria:

1. 12 - 23 transferable college credits and a minimum 2.5 college GPA;
2. Up to 23 transferable college credits, a minimum 2.0 college GPA, and a high school transcript that meets the admission standards for freshman applicants; or
3. 24 or more transferable credits and a minimum 2.0 college GPA.

For the purposes of the transfer GPA calculation, transferable credits are to be calculated based on non-remedial credits earned from the most recently attended higher education institution. Students who have earned college credits while enrolled in high school are not transfer students and must meet the admissions standards for freshman applicants.

Determining course credit for transfer

College credits earned need only be transferable to the accepting institution in order to be counted, and not necessarily transferable to a specific degree program. Remedial coursework is not transferable. For the purposes of the transferable GPA calculation, transferable credits are to be calculated based on non-remedial credits earned at the most recently attended higher education institution.

MassTransfer Policy

MassTransfer provides any student in the Massachusetts public higher education system the intermediate goal of completing a portable general education transfer block which satisfies general education requirements across institutions.

MassTransfer also provides community college students who complete designated associate degrees with the benefits of the full transfer and applicability of credit, guaranteed admission, and a tuition discount (each benefit based on the student's final grade point average) to linked baccalaureate programs.

Non-Traditional Applicants

Students applying for admission more than three years after high school graduation, or who have completed the GED and whose high school class graduated three or more years prior to applying to college, must show their ability to succeed in college based upon their high school and/or college transcripts.

Some campuses may consider standardized test scores and other factors as part of the admissions process for non-traditional applicants.

Students who drop out of high school, earn a GED, and apply to college within three years of when their high school class graduated are subject to the same admissions standards as students applying within three years of graduation from high school.

ALL ABOUT STANDARDIZED TESTS

<p><i>PSAT- Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test</i></p> <p><i>What is it?</i> A shorter version of the SAT Reasoning Test.</p> <p><i>Why take it?</i> It's a good practice for the SAT and may enable you to qualify for several scholarships, including the National Merit Scholarship, the National Achievement Scholarship (for African American Students), and the National Hispanic Scholar Awards.</p> <p><i>When to take it:</i> The PSAT is offered in October. You can take it in the 10th grade for practice (recommended only for students who have taken a full year of geometry) and in 11th grade to qualify for scholarships.</p>	<p><i>SAT Reasoning Test- Scholastic Aptitude Test</i></p> <p><i>What is it?</i> A 4 ½ hour test of your verbal, math, and writing skills. College admissions committees consider these scores when they evaluate your application.</p> <p><i>Why take it?</i> Many colleges require it. Your SAT score helps admissions officers compare your high school transcripts and courses to those of other students.</p> <p><i>When to take it:</i> The SAT is offered from October, to January and in May and June. You may take it in 11th and/or 12th grade.</p>
<p><i>ACT- ACT Assessment</i></p> <p><i>What is it?</i> A test to assess your general educational development and ability to complete college-level work, covering four skill areas: English, mathematics, reading, and science.</p> <p><i>Why take it?</i> In some regions of the U.S. (especially the Midwestern states), the ACT is required instead of the SAT for admission.</p> <p><i>When to take it:</i> The ACT is offered in September, and April on Nantucket. You may take it in 11th and/or 12th grade.</p>	<p><i>SAT II- Scholastic Aptitude Subject Tests</i></p> <p><i>What is it?</i> One-hour primarily multiple-choice tests that measure your knowledge of skills in a particular subject.</p> <p><i>Why take it?</i> Many more-selective colleges require or recommend subject tests for admission and/or course placement.</p> <p><i>When to take it:</i> Students can take up to three SAT II tests on a single test date. Its best to take a subject test right after you complete a course in that subject. Tests are offered the same time the SATs are offered except for March (different subjects are offered on different dates).</p>
<p><i>AP- Advanced Placement Tests</i></p> <p><i>What is it?</i> A test to measure your mastery of skills and course materials in AP courses (high school courses taught on a college level).</p> <p><i>Why take it?</i> An AP course helps prepare you for college courses. At some colleges, a good AP score can provide you with college credit or immediate placement in a higher level (rather than entry level) college course.</p> <p><i>When to take it:</i> AP exams are offered in May of the year you take the AP course.</p>	<p><i>TOEFL- Test of English as a Foreign Language</i></p> <p><i>What is it?</i> A test that evaluates your English proficiency if your native language is not English.</p> <p><i>Why take it?</i> It is required for many students whose native language is not English and who plan to study at college and universities in the U.S.</p> <p><i>When to take it:</i> The TOEFL exam is an internet-based exam and can be taken almost any time of the year. It's best to take the TOEFL exam before you apply to college along with taking the SATs.</p>

CHOOSING A COLLEGE

By now, you may be certain that you want to attend college. But how do you narrow it down to a few that meet your needs? There are many factors to consider when choosing a college. Read through the factors listed in the boxes below and take some time to think about which ones are important to you, and in what way.

If you decide a certain factor is important to you, write it down. You may even think of some factors not listed on this page. When you are finished you will have an idea of your ideal college.

<p style="text-align: center;">LOCATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In your home state, or out of state? • In the city, the country, or the suburbs? • Living at home, on campus in the dorms, or in an off-campus apartment? 	<p style="text-align: center;">TYPE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical/trade school, on-line studies, two-year, or four-year college? • Public (state) or private college? • Liberal arts or technical college? • Religious affiliations?
<p style="text-align: center;">SUPPORT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counseling and tutoring services? • Support for Physical challenges and learning disabilities? • Student groups for women, students of color, international status? • Career, internship, and employment assistance? 	<p style="text-align: center;">STUDENT BODY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Men only, women only, or coeducational? • Large (more than 10,000), medium (4,000-10,000), or small (less than 4,000) number of students? • Ethnic or religious breakdown of student body? • Relatives, friends, or people from your school or community attend the college?
<p style="text-align: center;">ENRICHMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports (collegiate and intramural), music, fine arts, performing arts? • Journalism, debate, student government? • Fraternities, sororities, social clubs? • Internships, community service, study abroad? 	<p style="text-align: center;">ACADEMICS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Majors or programs of study offered? • The college's reputation for teaching? • Teaching style (hands-on, lecture, seminar)? • Classes taught directly by professors? • Average class size? • Evening, weekend, or part-time study?
<p style="text-align: center;">QUALIFICATIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average high school GPA required? • Average SAT/ACT scores of accepted students? • Average high school class rank of accepted students? 	<p style="text-align: center;">COST</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total tuition and cost of attendance? • "Needs-blind" admission? • Percentage of students receiving financial aid? • Opportunity to renew financial aid after the first year?

ALL ABOUT THE COLLEGE APPLICATION

Applying to college has always combined elements of adventure and worry, triumph and frustration, discovery and anxiety. In today's fast-moving admissions marketplace, some parts of the process are changing. Today there are many options and many steps to complete the application process.

What is Rolling Admission? Early Action? Early Decision?

Rolling Admission means that students are able to apply to a particular college throughout the year.

Applications are reviewed on a first-come, first-serve basis and are accepted until the class has been filled.

Early Decision is an admission policy that asks you to apply "early" (usually between November 1st and 15th) in order to be notified early of admission decisions. However, if you are accepted, you are **OBLIGATED TO ATTEND** that institution. Early Action is an admission policy that allows you to apply early, be notified of your admission status early, but does not commit you to attend the college.

How important are deadlines?

Meeting deadlines is critical. Keep an organized and accurate list of dates to remember. It may be helpful to keep a "college only" calendar. This may include all of your admission and financial aid deadlines; as well as required application components and SAT/ACT test dates.

What is the Common Application?

Aside from filling the school's application, there is the "Common Application". More than three hundred four-year colleges participate in this timesaving process. Participating schools accept the Common Application in place of their own, penalty free. Students complete online and send it to all their chosen colleges. The Common Application can be found online at www.commonapp.org. However, since some schools require a supplement to the application, it is important that you read all requirements and directions.

What is the Coalition Application?

The Coalition Application is a new application option offered by over 90 schools, all of which have committed to providing significant supports to first-generation and low-income students. Similar to the Common Application, it is one application that can be sent to multiple schools. Coalition contains a space called a "Locker," where students can upload projects and documents from their high school career. These supplemental materials can be attached to the Coalition application and sent to schools if the student feels that they would be helpful in the admissions process. The Locker is also a workspace where students can complete drafts of college application materials, including application essays. They can share these materials with mentors, who can provide feedback and support them through the admissions process.

Should I apply online?

A large majority of colleges and universities in the United States now offer online applications. The online procedure often simplifies the application process. While applying online may save time and postage, students will still want to make a conscious effort to provide accurate information and an error free essay. **Most importantly you need to notify your school counselor when you apply online. That way they can assist in forwarding your transcript and the other necessary materials that cannot be sent online through the mail.**

How is my application evaluated?

Colleges evaluate applications in very different ways depending on how selective, or competitive, the particular college is. At one extreme are "open admission" colleges. These schools require only a high school diploma and accept students until the seats are filled. At the other extreme, very selective colleges consider many or all of the following factors: class rank, GPA, extra curricular activities, standardized tests, college essay, special talents, geographical location, major, or personal interview. Most colleges fall somewhere in between these two extremes. The most important factor is to make sure that all the information you provide is true and make sure to include everything they ask for.

ALL ABOUT LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Are letters of recommendation important?

Most colleges will require one to three letters of reference as part of the application. A strong letter of recommendation is important to show how the professionals who know you best view your character and credentials. Their observations and referrals are highly respected by college admission counselors.

Who should I ask to write them?

Begin by considering teachers, coaches, guidance counselors, club advisors, or work supervisors who know you well and can speak articulately about the special qualities you possess. Narrow the list to four professionals who know you the best. The best time to ask them to write the letter of recommendation is in the spring of your junior year but asking in **early fall** of your senior year is important. Others will consider it as long as it is at least a month prior to your earliest deadline. This courtesy will allow them adequate time to prepare and write a strong letter for you.

How will they know what to write about me?

You may want to ask your reference to focus on specific qualities or skills that you consider strengths and would like the colleges to know about you. Give your resume, activity list, or a “brag sheet” to help them write a strong letter of recommendation. The guidance department has an **information sheet** to help them write your letter. This detailed background information will help them relate all of your accomplishments and interests to your academic success. Be sure to provide your references with the appropriate forms that may be required by the college to be sent along with the letter (i.e. School Report, Teacher Evaluation Form).

What if they seem too busy to write one?

Some teachers who are popular among students and all major subject teachers will be called upon more frequently to write recommendations. For this reason, it is important to ask them as early as possible. You will likely find that if given enough notice, most teachers will be delighted to write you a letter of support. Politely remind them one or two weeks prior to the recommendation’s due date.

Can I read what my references wrote?

Sometimes your references will be happy to share the letter with you while others will not allow it. The majority of the time a teacher will tell you they will not write a letter for you if they do not have many good things to say. If you are concerned that it may not be a positive evaluation, ask! Some colleges want the letter in a sealed envelope that they provide and others may request that the reference be mailed directly to the college by the evaluator. In this case, include a stamp and an addressed envelope when you ask them. On the application form you may want to waive your right to view the recommendation letters, giving your references increased credibility as it shows your faith in their assessment.

Should I send my references a thank you note?

Once your college applications are complete, show your gratitude! Always send your references thank you notes and keep them updated about which campus you have decided to attend. They will be pleased to hear they were able to help you by writing a letter on your behalf.

ALL ABOUT THE COLLEGE ESSAY

Many colleges ask you to write an essay (also known as a personal statement) for many reasons:

- To assess your writing skills, this is very important for college success.
- To learn more about aspects of your experiences and personality that your grades and recommendations might not reveal.
- To determine the applicant's level of creativity and originality- they want to accept someone who will bring fresh ideas and values to the college community.

Essay Topics

Application essay topics try to discover what makes you unique – what experiences you have had, what you have learned from your experience, what is important to you, and why. The following topics may be good subjects for your essay:

- Family history – your feelings toward your ancestors, heritage, or parents.
- Events of people that have been important to you, and why.
- A challenging or interesting experience that you have had and what you have learned from it.
- An obstacle you have faced in your life and how you dealt with or overcame it.
- Your goals, ambitions, or dreams.
- What you hope to learn or gain in college, or what other students in college can gain from you.

Essay Tips

- **BE CREATIVE!** Make sure to keep the reader's attention from the first paragraph.
- For many students, the essay is the most challenging part of the application.
START EARLY!
- If you are applying to several colleges, compare the essay requirements. If they ask the same question or they allow you to select your own topic, you may be able to use the same essay for several colleges.
- Write a rough draft first and **REVISE, REVISE, REVISE!** Do not copy it onto the application form until you are satisfied that it is the best it can be.
- Use proper essay structure.
- Personalize your essay. Show how whatever you are writing about relates to you.
- Put your thoughts into your own words and use language you are comfortable with. Do not use slang, but also do not use words that you would not normally use.
- Ask someone else to read and give you an opinion about your essay. Is it clear? Does it tell the reader something special about you? Does it answer the question?
- Check your spelling, grammar, and punctuation. Have a parent, teacher, or counselor double – check for you.
- Be sure the essay-whether typed or printed in black ink-is neat and legible.
- If you're given guidelines for how long or short the essay should be (or how many words), make sure your essay is the required length.

TOP 10 TIPS WRITING THE COLLEGE ESSAY

- Do not over-estimate, or under-estimate the importance of the essay. It is the opportunity to present **your view of yourself**.
- The reader wants to learn about you. This means they are looking for:
 1. Who you are? What do you think about? What matters to you?
 2. How you think; how well you think.
 3. How well you write based on the topic you choose? How clearly you develop your ideas? And how you employ language?
- Be interesting! Remember, the everyday to you might be interesting to someone who does not know you.
- Try to stick to one page. Mark Twain wrote "I would have written you a shorter letter, but I didn't have the time". The reader has many applications to get through; keep their attention and get to the point.
- Start early and be thoughtful! This is a process and it will take time. Be sure to have a teacher and parent/guardian proof-read your essay. A second set of eyes may catch something that you have overlooked.
- Think big but focus small. For example, if you want to write about being a risk taker, try to focus on one experience or one conversation that highlights this characteristic.
- Be mindful of your reader. Avoid politics, privilege, sex, religion, and profanity.
- How you tell the tale is just as important as what tale you tell. Creativity and originality make any community service trip appear as though it was an original experience.
- You can decide what to write about by either the questions or the topic. Think: what do I want them to know about me that won't be captured elsewhere in the application?
- Reading about how others write about their world might help you do the same. Read the *Boston Globe*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, etc.

Description

1. Writing your essay doesn't have to be stressful. Every fall, thousands of aspiring students just like you spend hours staring into a computer screen, searching for a clever opening line or a life-changing experience. It doesn't have to be that hard!

2. Counselors want to learn about you-and that's all! A good essay does not need to be a literary masterpiece, or a scholarly treatise worthy of Albert Einstein. The best essays come from high school students being themselves, with all the depth, wit, charm and quirkiness you bring to your daily life.

3. So let your best come through! College-admission experts Edward B. Fiske and Bruce Hammond give you all the advice you need for an application essay that will open the door of the college of your choice. ***Fiske Real College Essays That Work*** includes samples from both great and not-so-great writers, and describes how to take your essay from initial draft to final submission. Real essays on these topics and more:

- Athletics Arts Race and cultural experiences Personal growth
- Family Travel Humor

Excerpts

From the book... 1. What Makes a Great Essay?

Mention that you're writing a college essay and you'll probably get an earful of advice:

- "Write about your trip to Mexico," offers your mom. "You can show that you've broadened your horizons."
- "Community service always looks good," says Dad. "Talk about your work with Habitat for Humanity."
- "Write something funny," advises your best friend. "They love essays that make them laugh."
- "Make yourself stand out," says your guidance counselor. "In a pile of one thousand essays, yours should be the one they remember."

If you're lucky, you won't hear all of the above—at least not all at once. But the odds are good that you'll get some of it, particularly the one about making yourself stand out. How, exactly, do you accomplish that one? Have you scaled Mount Everest? Overcome a terminal disease? Saved a toddler from a burning building? Of course not. Neither have 99.9 percent of the rest of us. The best essays are seldom about a dramatic event or "significant experience" that changes the author's life. Real people don't get hit by lightning and suddenly realize that they should live their lives differently. Human development is a step-by-step, day-by-day process that happens almost imperceptibly.

VISITING A COLLEGE CAMPUS

A personal visit to a post-secondary institution is often the most useful step in helping students and their parents decide whether or not to apply to a particular school. Students are encouraged to make use of group tours, open house events and group information sessions as a way of obtaining first-hand impressions of schools. Visits during the regular academic year provide a more accurate view of the academic and social life of a campus, but families often make use of summer vacation to visit several schools that are at a distance. Where possible, it is a good idea to avoid the distractions on the days of registration, final exams and special campus events such as homecomings or festivals. Several high school holidays such as Columbus Day weekend or Veterans Day allow students who visit colleges to minimize the disruption to their own academic program. Typically students visit colleges either in the spring of the junior year, during the summer before senior year or in the fall of the senior year.

What are some questions to ask during a college visit?

1. What constitutes a typical freshman program?
2. Who teaches freshman courses? Graduate assistants or permanent staff?
3. What is the average class size for first-year students and introductory courses?
4. Which departments are strongest? Will they be truthful?
5. To what extent is there interaction between faculty and students?
6. How good are the library facilities? How many volumes are available and what technology and support are available?
7. What cultural opportunities are available in the community?
8. For what reasons did the students choose that particular college?
9. What is the make-up of the student body? Are there a number of foreign students and students from all over the U.S.?
10. What types of financial aid are available?
11. If the college is co-educational, what is the ratio of men to women?
12. How complete are infirmary and health facilities?
13. Is there a professional counseling service available for career planning and personal concerns? Faculty advisor?
14. How active and effective is student government?
15. How strong is school spirit? What activities are offered to encourage school spirit?
16. What are the opportunities for participating in intercollegiate or intramural sports?
17. What type of housing is available to first-year students?
18. How are roommates chosen?
19. Is campus security an area of concern to students or faculty?
20. What is the return rate for second-year students? How many of the original freshman graduate?
21. Is there an active Alumni Association?

MAKING THE MOST OF A COLLEGE FAIR

A college fair can be overwhelming for students to attend. There can be hundreds of college representatives that all want to talk to you but what are the good questions to ask? Should you give them your email address? How should you dress? Here are some suggestions to make the most of a college fair.

1. **DO YOUR HOMEWORK**

Research this list of colleges that will be at the fair and **HIGHLIGHT** the schools of which you are interested. We recommend keeping your list at **6-8** schools. Once you have seen these schools you are encouraged to look at other schools that you may not have researched but grab your attention.

2. **BRING SUPPLIES**

Bring a bag to carry all the information that you will get from the colleges, there will be a lot! You should also bring a notebook and a pen to write down any information you think is useful. Another good idea is to make sticky labels with your name, address, birthday, anticipated major and email address. You can use this instead of having to write out the same information for all colleges.

3. **ASK QUESTIONS**

Develop a few questions to ask the school's representative. You may have some questions that you want to ask all colleges or specific questions for your top colleges. The questions could be concerning financial aid, athletic programs, dorms, majors and/or admission requirements. If you have a lot of questions ask the representative about the possibility of setting up a formal interview.

4. **MAKE A GOOD IMPRESSION**

The college representatives are going to be seeing a LOT of students and parents at the college fair, so try to make a good impression on them. Although you do not have to dress formally, **dress appropriately**. If the representative for a school you are really interested in has a business card, ask for one. You can send them a nice note thanking them for their time.

5. **HAVE FUN!**

This is an exciting time of your life! Take it seriously but make sure to have fun! Consider talking to schools you may have not heard of, or a school you may find yourself interested in that you never considered.

****See List on the back of this sheet!****

ALL ABOUT THE COLLEGE INTERVIEW PROCESS

Some colleges require or recommend that you have an interview as part of your application process. Some colleges offer personal interviews, which are great opportunities for you to make a positive impression. The interviewer could be an admissions counselor, a professor, or an alumnus/a (a graduate from the college). The interview usually takes place on the college campus. Or, if you live far away from the college, an alumnus or alumna who lives in your area may meet with you in a public location or at your home or school. After the interview, the interviewer will write a description of his or her impression of you, and include it in your application.

Some colleges offer group interviews with other students applying to the college, giving you an opportunity to learn about the college and ask questions. Check with your college to see what they require regarding the interview.

Preparation:

- Make the appointment well in advance.
- Learn as much as you can about the college in advance, look through the college view book or visit the college website.
- Practice for the interview. Ask a friend or family member to help you practice.
- Come prepared to ask questions.

Questions you <i>might</i> be asked in the college interview:	Questions you can ask in the college interview:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why are you interested in this college?• How would you describe yourself as a student? As a person?• What is your strongest subject in school? Weakest? Favorite?• What extracurricular activities are you involved in, and what have you gained from your involvement?• Which high school accomplishments are you most proud, and why?• If there are weaknesses in your transcript, such as poor grades, or low SAT scores, the interview is the time to explain them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is the average class size?• What types of internships are available for someone with my major?• By what year must a student decide on a major?• How difficult is it to change majors?• What courses are required for freshmen?• Are there exchange programs with other colleges, or study abroad programs?• How available are the professors for outside help or discussion?

ALL ABOUT THE COLLEGE RESUME

The college resume can be very important to your application for several reasons. It not only provides the admission counselor with your one-page personal profile, but also acts as another sample of your ability to write, organize and present yourself. The college resume focuses on your academic achievements, extra-curricular activities, and personal interests. This is your chance to neatly 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 is required on the application itself, unless directed otherwise.

Joe College
11 Whalers Lane
Nantucket, MA 02554
(508) 228-1234
jcollege@gmail.com

Profile: Energetic, hard working student skilled in biology and anatomy/physiology. Specific interest and knowledge in sports medicine.

Academics: Nantucket High School, Nantucket, MA
High School Diploma, expected June 2017

- Top 20% of class
- GPA: 3.3
- SAT: Verbal: 550, Math: 625, Writing: 575
- National Honor Society, 2016-2017

Activities Accomplishments: Varsity Baseball Team, 2015-present

- Team Captain 2016
- Team Captain 2017
- Led Team to most wins in school history

Boys & Girls Club Volunteer, 2014-present

- Responsible for monthly youth activities
- Organized Annual Fitness Week

President, Biology Club, 2017
Completed Basic Life Saving Course, 2016

Career Development: Whaler Pride Baseball Concessions, 2015-present

- Developed customer service skills

Internship with School Athletic Trainer, 2016

- Assisted with game coverage for winter sports
- Led daily stretching routine
- Skilled in muscle memory and conditioning.

Explanation:

Academics: Briefly describe yourself and any scholastic distinctions or honors that you may have received.

Activities & Accomplishments: List your extracurricular, volunteer, and community and family activities. Include Specific events and accomplishments such as, leadership positions held, varsity letters, ect.

Career Development: Highlight experience that relate to your intended major or reveal consistent work experience.

INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with identified physical or learning-disabilities may want to investigate the programs and services which are specifically designed to meet their post-secondary educational needs. Within a four-year college there are often special programs for learning disabled students which provide academic advising, tutorial support, and help in coordinating special services necessary for the student to function in regular classes. There is often a separate admissions process to enter an L.D. program. Even in colleges which provide no special programs for learning-disabled students, individuals with identified learning disabilities may take advantage of tutorial or other support services which are available to all students, and students may request appropriate modifications such as extended time testing, taped lectures, etc.

As L.D. students are exploring post-secondary options they should raise questions at each school about the availability of support services, the presence of trained L.D. professionals, and classroom modifications. In most instances, students should indicate in the application process the nature of the learning disability services they have received in high school along with all documentation and professional assessments used in determining the accommodations.

Guidelines for Special Administration of PSAT, SAT, and ACT for Students with Disabilities

****Students may be eligible for extended-time for the PSAT, SAT and ACT based on documented special learning needs. Typically these needs would be described in an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). These documents must adhere to the guidelines established by The College Board Testing Program or ACT Testing Program as described in their brochures. **Students must receive the same accommodations in school as they are requesting for the tests.****

****If you have a documented disability and feel that you qualify for these or other accommodations, please see your Guidance Counselor for the appropriate forms to apply.**

INFORMATION FOR STUDENT ATHLETES

Athletics is an area of special talent that can make a difference in the college admissions and financial aid process. At most colleges, athletics are regulated by the rules established by the NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) which divides all college sports programs into three divisions known as Division I, Division II, and Division III. The recruitment and enrollment of college athletes are governed firmly by the NCAA's rules for each division.

To be eligible to participate at the Division I or Division II levels, where full athletic scholarships are awarded, students must be certified as eligible by the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse's website explains the academic standards and processes needed to be certified.* Interested students need to complete and return a copy of Clearinghouse's three part Student Release Form to the Clearinghouse. Additional copies of the form should be brought to your Guidance Counselor so they can send it in with a copy of your transcript.

SUGGESTIONS TO A STUDENT ATHLETE

- Inform your high school coach that you are interested in playing that sport in college.
- Prepare and mail a short letter of introduction and an athletic resume to college coaches. You may also want to send them a video highlight tape of your playing skills.
- Register online with the NCAA Clearinghouse to make sure to meet the eligibility requirements.

*< <http://eligibilitycenter.org> >

NANTUCKET HIGH SCHOOL

COLLEGE APPLICATION ADVISE

At a typical university, a handful of admission officers may be responsible for reading thousands of applications. That means you may only have 15 minutes to make a good impression. HOW CAN YOU DO IT? It helps to know the application and what colleges look for in each part.

STEP ONE: FILL IN YOUR PERSONAL DATA.

The first few items on the application — name, address, citizenship, and so on— seem like no-brainers. But you'd be surprised how many people make mistakes. Read all the questions carefully before you start filling anything out. And don't forget your social security number, which schools often use to identify applications.

STEP TWO: SUBMIT YOUR GRADES AND TEST SCORES.

This portion asks for details about your high school. You'll need to give the school's CEEB number (a code used by computers when scoring SAT and ACT tests), which is #221465 for NHS. You will need to go to collegeboard.com to request that your test scores be sent to colleges. This will require a password and user name which you will set up (and keep handy for future use...you will need this information a lot in the next year or so). There is a fee for this service but it is the only way to provide **official** test score to your college choices. It takes a while for College Board to get this information to the schools so **ASK EARLY!** Request transcripts be sent out through the guidance office.

STEP THREE: WRITE YOUR RESUME.

Most applications require a rundown of the extracurricular activities and organizations you've participated in over the past four years. This does NOT mean you should list every club meeting you've ever attended. It's better to have several that you've contributed to than 16 that you haven't done much in. Pare down your list of activities in which you've played an **active role**. Include the amount of time you've spent on each activity, the leadership positions you've held, and the honors and accomplishments you've collected. Be specific. Thousands of people are president of their class. You need to show what you've done to make your presidency special.

STEP FOUR: WRITE YOUR ESSAY.

Because the admission process is so competitive, the essay can sometimes make or break you. All things being equal, a really well written essay could pull you into the class. But don't let that intimidate you, admission officers want to gauge your writing ability, but they're also trying to get to know you, your interests, and goals. Do not write an essay that says what you think a college wants to hear. When you write something you think will impress the admission committee, the phoniness is obvious.

When choosing a teacher to write your recommendation, select someone who knows you well. The person should be able to write more than just what a wonderful student you are. He should be able to describe contributions you make outside the classroom. Give the person a copy of your INFORMATION SHEET to familiarize him or her with what you've accomplished and allow the teacher at

STEP FIVE: GET YOUR LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION. least three weeks to write. As a final touch, send a thank-you note once the letter has been completed. **The 2017-2018 Common Application will be available as of August 1, 2017.**

BIGGEST COMMON APPLICATION ERRORS!

1. Students do not read the instructions.
Recommendation: Print the directions and read them carefully before typing answers. Make notes if necessary.
2. Students wait until the last minute—literally!
Recommendation: Give yourself plenty of time. Begin four weeks before the deadline when possible.
3. Students do not enter a valid email address.
Recommendation: Many schools use email to confirm receipt of your application. Triple check your email address.
4. Students do not check each individual college's requirements and deadlines.
Recommendation: Check deadlines and required supplementary information for EACH school. Make notes and double check before submitting.
5. Students do not accurately select and save the colleges to which they want to apply.
Recommendation: Double check! Save work often. Logout after each session.
6. Students do not thoroughly review their application for errors.
Recommendation: Type your essay separately before cutting and pasting or uploading it onto your on-line form. Use "Print Preview" to view your forms before submitting. You will need to install Adobe Acrobat Reader. It's free!
7. Students do not verify they have completed the submission process before logging out.
Recommendation: There is a series of screens to go through to ensure the data is saved in the system on the server. Don't log off before you double check this.
8. Students don't follow-up with fees and supplemental documents.
Recommendation: Take your time and review all requirements. Make a check list for each school.
9. Students forget to tell their school counselors where they applied on-line.
Recommendation: Tell your counselor immediately and make the proper requests for transcripts and letters of recommendation to be sent.
10. Students forget they need support in all ways!
Recommendation: Use your resources, both on-line and within your school.

Go to the Support Center on the Common Application website to view 'How-To' instructional videos for key areas of the application. www.commonapp.org

Online College Scholarship Search Websites:

www.educationplanner.org

www.fastweb.com

www.brokescholar.com

www.scholarships.com

www.supercollege.com

www.collegescholarships.org/financial-aid

www.collegeboard.org

www.gocollege.com

www.theoldschool.org

www.scholarship-page.com

www.college-scholarships.com