Pathways to College

- High School
- Work
- Two-Year College
- Four-Year College
- Four-Year University
The College Process:
What you need to know to get started
Jan 28, 2021

Welcome and Introductions
Counseling Communications
What To Be Doing Now
Research Colleges and Building Working College List
Resume
Recommendations
Essays
Interviews
Changes Due to COVID
Campus Visits/Engaging With Colleges Virtually
College Application Deadlines
College Application Types & Components
Standardized Tests
NCAA
Financial Aid
Staying On Track
Post Secondary Planning Seminars
Social Media
Questions and Answers
Introductions

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COMPONENTS OF THE APPLICATION

WHAT TO BE DOING NOW

+ CHANGES IN COLLEGE ADMISSIONS DUE TO COVID
What to be doing now...

- Use/create professional emails (school email is fine)
- Start thinking about courses for senior year
  - Balance & Challenge
  - Align with college requirements
- Research colleges/(virtual) campus visits
- Plan for standardized tests *
Research Colleges + Build Working College List

- Use Naviance and college websites for data-driven decisions

- Working college list - Naviance “Colleges I’m Thinking About”
  - Safety (2-3) *Your* chances for admission are strong (Make sure at least one is affordable)
  - Target (2-3) *Your* chances for admission are 50/50
  - Reach (2-3) *Your* chances for admission are less than 50%
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Delivery type</th>
<th>Added By</th>
<th>Expected Difficulty</th>
<th>Application Deadlines</th>
<th>Interest</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boston University</td>
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<td>Multiple Deadlines</td>
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<td>University of Massachusetts, Amherst</td>
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<td>Student</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Multiple Deadlines</td>
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</table>
Building a Resume

- Naviance Resume Builder
- Resume uses - applications, letters of recommendation
- COVID effects on extracurriculars
- Extracurricular activities – high school specific
- Showcase what you do and the depth of the activity
- Include: family responsibilities (i.e. babysitting), employment, clubs, etc.
- Highlight leadership and the impact on your community when applicable
Letters of Recommendation

Adults who know you well can offer a helpful perspective on your abilities and strengths

- Whom to ask?
  - 2 teachers, 2 different disciplines
  - 1 counselor letter

- When to ask?

- Outside/Additional Letters of Rec *

- Say thank you!
Essays

Your application essay says a lot about you

- Share something meaningful/personal/passionate
- Start writing early
- Try different topics and approaches
- Plagiarism is taken very seriously
- Leave time for careful proofreading
- Check Commonapp.org for essay prompts
Interviews

Virtual “face-to-face” conversations let colleges see the person behind the application

- Two types: 1. Informational and 2. Evaluative
- Be prepared to answer open-ended questions
- Know your reasons for applying to the college
- Ask thoughtful questions
- Cover the basics
- Relax and be yourself

Auditions and portfolios
Changes/Updates in Colleges Admissions*

1. College Level Changes
   ○ Flexibility and understanding
   ○ College Websites - go-to source for information
   ○ Current Test-Optional Movement *
   ○ New: COVID Essay Prompt

2. How Bromfield is Acknowledging The Changes:
   ○ School Profile (sent with transcripts senior year):
     ■ It highlights COVID changes w/ Bromfield & the COVID grading policy
   ○ Counselor letters of recommendation:
     ■ Will focus on class of 2022 sophomore spring semester + their current hybrid/remote model
Engaging with Colleges Virtually During COVID

- Reinvented opportunities for connections; **students need to access them**
- Demonstrated interest
- Making the connection with the institution
  - Online tours
  - Info sessions
  - Virtual open house, art showcase, etc
  - Email
    - opening the dialogue w/ admissions rep (ex: questions about the campus life, curriculum, etc)
    - open/read the emails from colleges
  - Research college websites, including blogs by current students
  - Social media - the “campus vibe”

- If visits are possible, students:
  - must fill out the [Bromfield College Visit Form](#) at least 5 days before visits, for prior approval
  - they should make every effort to schedule a visit on an asynchronous learning day
Standardized Testing (COVID updates)

- Test Optional (SAT/ACT)
- *Majority* colleges went test-optional for Class of 2021
- Some did a one year pilot, some did a 3 year pilot
  - NACAC; fairtest.org: great starting place, but college websites have most up-to-date COVID information

- Testing is one area that students have had no control over
  - Flexibility & understanding
  - What does *test optional* really mean?
    - *Test optional truly is optional*
    - No pressure to submit
    - Admissions rep said, “Standardized tests are simply a *credential*, students can *choose* to submit it or not. *They are just one credential among many.*”

- If considering submitted scores, visit colleges websites to find average SAT/ACT scores
Standardized Tests

● 2020 vs 2021

● SAT vs ACT
  ○ Check SAT/ACT websites for registration dates
  ○ Both the SAT and ACT offer free test prep online
  ○ SAT Subject Tests & AP Exams show subject knowledge
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Test Date</th>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Registration</th>
<th>Late Registration</th>
<th>Multiple Choice Scores Available</th>
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<td>SAT</td>
<td>February 12, 2021</td>
<td>March 2, 2021</td>
<td>March 26, 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 17, 2021</td>
<td>ACT</td>
<td>March 12, 2021</td>
<td>March 26, 2021</td>
<td>April 30–June 12, 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 8, 2021</td>
<td>SAT</td>
<td>April 8, 2021</td>
<td>April 27, 2021</td>
<td>May 21, 2021</td>
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<td>June 5, 2021</td>
<td>SAT</td>
<td>May 6, 2021</td>
<td>May 26, 2021</td>
<td>June 14, 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 12, 2021</td>
<td>ACT</td>
<td>May 7, 2021</td>
<td>May 21, 2021</td>
<td>June 25–August 6, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 17, 2021</td>
<td>ACT (Not Offered in NY)</td>
<td>June 18, 2021</td>
<td>June 25, 2021</td>
<td>July 30–August 30, 2021</td>
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Miscellaneous
FYI’s
College Application Deadline Options

- **Early Deadlines** - generally November/December
  - Early Action - early deadline, non-binding
  - Early Decision - early deadline, binding

- **Regular Deadlines** - generally after January 1st
  - Regular Decision - later deadline, non-binding
  - *Early Decision 2* - later deadline, binding*(if available)

- **Other Deadlines**
  - Rolling Admission - early deadline, non-binding
  - Open Admission - Community colleges

- Deadlines are important! Make sure to stay on track.
NCAA

- NCAA Eligibility Center – eligibilitycenter.org
  - Div I or II Sports
- Add “NCAA” to Naviance list
- Add The Bromfield School to the NCAA account
- Email Mrs. Schmidt to let her know you need your transcript uploaded to the Eligibility Center
- *Standardized test scores - required? - TBD
Financial Aid

- **MEFA**

- September-October 2021:
  - Bromfield MEFA Representative Presentation?
  - MEFA College Financing Webinars

- [College Financing for Families of High School Juniors](#) - Thursday, February 25, 2021 | 6:30pm - 7:30pm
Staying on Track

Spring/Summer Junior Year

- Research colleges
- Visit campuses & college fairs*
- Ask teachers for letters of recommendation
- Take the SAT/ACT
- Meaningful Time
- Common App (Aug 1st) - Essays & Supplements
- Update Resume
- Senior Project

Fall Senior Year

- Retake the SAT/ACT
- Secure letters of recommendation
- Finalize the college essay(s)
- Complete all admissions applications
- Submit financial aid applications
- Parent Brag Sheet
- Info for Counselor Recommendation (Naviance)

Winter Senior Year

- Submit admissions applications
- Submit financial aid applications
- Apply for scholarships
- Send in mid-year grade reports

Spring Senior Year

- Receive admissions and financial aid offers
- Attend college open house programs
- Choose your college by May 1
Social Media

- Be aware of what is on the internet
- Clean up accounts
  - Photos
  - Posts
- Change settings to private
- Cautious of friend requests
Cole

Started school again today. My senioritis is at an all time high now that I got into [insert]. I hope you all feel the same way.

Willow

oh, completely
January 4 at 7:07pm - Like

Duncan

I just failed a physics test and walked out of that room with pride.
January 4 at 7:07pm via mobile - Like • 4

David

that little line saying "your admission is contingent upon grades equal to or better than current ones" is being seriously ignored...
January 4 at 7:31pm - Like • 9

Madeleine

i fell asleep in 3 out of 6 classes today and it was awesome.
January 4 at 8:25pm - Like • 2

[Blank]

I wish I could say I didn't have senioritis before I got in but I would just be lying...
January 4 at 8:42pm via mobile - Like • 2

Hannah

I have a nice yellow folder from [insert] saying I don't have to do anything anymore haha
Sunday at 9:16pm - Like • 3
# Grade 11 – Postsecondary Planning Seminars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rotation 1: Thur Feb 4 and Fri Feb 5</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rotation 2: Thur March 4 and Fri March 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rotation 3: Thur March 25 and Fri March 26</td>
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<td>Rotation 4: Thur April 8 and Fri April 9</td>
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<td>Rotation 5: Thu May 20 and Fri May 21</td>
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- [Syllabus](#)
- [Lesson Plans](#)
- [Handouts](#)
COUNSELING COMMUNICATIONS

- **PSP Seminar Materials** available on the School Counseling Department Website
  - lesson plans - *posted on our site after each rotation*
  - hand-outs
- **Facebook**
The first NACAC Virtual College Fair of the year is Sunday, January 31 from 1-7 p.m. ET!

Encourage your students to register for free at virtualcollegefairs.org.

Find the college for you at the
Jan. 31
College Fair

https://virtualcollegefairs.org/events
THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING!