Pathways to College

- High School
- Work
- Two-Year College
- Four-Year College
- Four-Year University
Welcome

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- **Secretary**
  - **Sharon Schmidt**
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What to be doing now...

- Create professional emails
- Pick courses for senior year
  - Balance & Challenge
  - Align with college requirements
- Build working college list
  - Reach (2-3)
  - Target (2-3)
  - Safety (2-3)
- Resume
- Asking teachers for letters of rec
### SAT/ACT Upcoming Test Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SAT/SAT2</th>
<th>Registration Deadline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/10/18</td>
<td>2/9/18</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/5/18</td>
<td>4/6/18</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/2/18</td>
<td>5/3/18</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/25/18 (anticipated)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>4/14/18</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/9/18</td>
<td>5/4/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/14/18*</td>
<td>6/15/18</td>
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Naviance

- List of Colleges
- Resume
- Teachers for letters of recommendation
# colleges I'm thinking about

**+ add colleges to this list | compare me**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Delivery type</th>
<th>Added By</th>
<th>Expected Difficulty*</th>
<th>My Interest</th>
<th>Application Deadlines†</th>
<th>Actions</th>
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<tr>
<td>Assumption Coll</td>
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<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Nov 01 Nov 01</td>
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* Difficulty of admission specifically for you as estimated by your counselor

†College information is provided by the colleges themselves. Costs, dates, policies, and programs are subject to change, so please confirm important facts with college admission personnel.
Grade 11 – Postsecondary Planning Seminars

| Rotation 1: | Tues Feb 6 and Fri Feb 9 |
| Rotation 2: | Mon March 5 and Thurs March 8 |
| Rotation 3: | Tue April 3 and Friday April 6 |
| Rotation 4: | Tues April 24 and Mon April 30 |
| Rotation 5: | Wed May 30 and Mon June 4 |

- Syllabus
- Lesson Plans
- Handouts
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 [Blank]. I hope you all feel the same way.

20 people like this.

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 [Blank] saying I don't have to do anything anymore haha
Sunday at 9:16pm · Like · 3

Write a comment...
Over the summer…

- Visiting schools
- Senior Project
- Meaningful Time
- Common App (Aug 1st)
  - Essays & Supplements
- Info for Counselor Recommendation (Naviance)
- Update Resume
- Parent Brag Sheet
Upcoming Events

- **College Admissions Panel** - Wednesday, January 24 @ 12:30 in the auditorium
  - Assumption College – Mike Perron
  - Bentley University - Mario Silva-Rosa
  - Northeastern University - Katie Annis
  - UMass Amherst - Kathleen Callahan

- **Naviance Introduction and Overview** - Friday, February 9 @ 8:00 in the library
Please complete the evaluation for MEFA before you leave!

**Important Dates**

- **01/24** - College Admissions Panel
- **02/09** - Naviance Presentation

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COLLEGE ADMISSIONS
Winter & Spring 2018

Tonight’s Presenter: Joe Farragher, Ed.D.
About MEFA

• Not-for-profit state authority created in 1982
• Helping families plan, save, and pay for college

• Keeping you on track with college planning:
  – mefa.org: Information, blog, tools, & resources
  – Facebook, Twitter, & LinkedIn
  – Emails: Sign up on mefa.org:
    Receive tips and updates by e-mail.
  – Seminars: Details at mefa.org/events
  – Webinars: Register at mefa.org/events
FREE college and career planning tool

Resources include:

– Skills and interests assessments
– Career exploration
– College search
– Financial aid and scholarship information
– Personalized digital portfolio

mefapathway.org
Seminar Topics

• Current trends
• Your college list
• Campus visits
• The application process
• Financial aid
• Free resources
Trends in College Admissions

• Earlier Process
• Students applying to a greater number of schools
• Demonstrated interest a factor
• Admission to public institutions now more competitive
Developing The College List

• Think about “fit” and match the student’s needs
• Research thoroughly
• Balancing the college list
  – Academic
  – Financial
  – Size/Setting

Try the College Match Me tool at mefapathway.org
Assess Prospects for Admission

Develop a final list with colleges of each type:

- **Probable**: Chances for admission are strong  
  (Make sure at least one is affordable)

**Important**: Make sure the student would be excited to attend every school on the list.
Informal & Formal Campus Visits

Look beyond the brochures and websites

**Informal visits**

- Size
- Setting
- Culture
College Representative Visits & College Fairs

• Take advantage of college rep visits at high school
• College fair tips:
  – Check out the college list beforehand
  – Have a plan of attack before you arrive
  – Head to the info booth first
  – Take advantage of information sessions
  – Check NACACnet.org and NEACAC.org for fairs
College Application Options

- Early Decision
- Early Action
- Regular Decision
- Rolling Admission
- Open Admission

Deadlines are important! Make sure to stay on track.

Manage deadlines with MEFA’s College Admissions Toolkit
Application requirements may vary at each college

**College Application Types:**
- Common App
- Universal College App
- Coalition App
- College website online app
- Paper app
Academic Readiness

• Rigor
• Good grades vs. challenging classes
• Improvement over time
• Exceeding minimum requirements
• Relevance to college plans
• Sliding scale for MA public colleges & universities
Standardized Tests

- **PSAT** for practice and assessment
- **SAT** and **ACT** measure college readiness
  - Check with your school counselor for registration dates
  - Both the SAT and ACT offer free test prep online
- **SAT Subject Tests & AP Tests** show subject knowledge
- There are over 1,000 test-optional schools in the U.S. (FairTest.org)
Activity List/Resume

• Extracurricular talents and interests
• Showcase what you do and the depth of the activity
• Include family responsibilities and employment
• Highlight the impact on your community
Your application essay says a lot about you

• Share something meaningful and personal
• Start writing early
• Try different topics and approaches
• Include life-shaping/challenging experiences
• Plagiarism is taken very seriously
• Leave time for careful proof-reading
1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.

2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?

3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?

4. Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma - anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.

5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.

6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?

7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.
Letters of Recommendation

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

• What are your high school guidelines?
• Whom to ask?
• When to ask?
• How to ask?
Interviews

A face-to-face conversation lets colleges see the person behind the numbers

- 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

Prep for interviews with MEFA’s College Admissions Toolkit
Questions???
Understanding College Affordability

Research costs and financial aid now

• What is the Cost of Attendance and Net Price?
• What applications are required and when are they due?
• Need-based vs. Merit-based aid and different deadlines
• Start looking for private scholarships now
Applying for Financial Aid

• Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®):
  – Required by every college and university
  – 2019-20 FAFSA: Available Oct 1, 2018
    Will ask about 2017 income

• CSS Profile™:
  – Required by 400+ colleges and scholarship agencies
  – 2019-20 PROFILE: Available Oct 1, 2018
    Will ask about 2017 income

• College-specific financial aid applications
  – Posted on each college’s financial aid website

Financial aid deadlines are so important!
Net Price Calculators

- Online tool found on each institution’s website
- Asks questions about family finances & student academics
- Provides personal, estimated net college price
- Displays federal & institutional aid
- Merit-based aid may also be calculated
Paying for College in MA: You Have Options

• **Tuition Break**
  – Reduction on out-of-state tuition costs at New England schools
  – For programs not offered in your home state
Staying on Track Through Senior Year

Spring/Summer Junior Year
- Research colleges
- Visit campuses & college fairs
- Identify teachers for letters of recommendation
- Take the SAT/ACT
- Start writing the college essay

Fall Senior Year
- Retake the SAT/ACT
- Secure letters of recommendation
- Write the college essay(s)
- Attend MEFA’s *College Financing* seminar
- Complete all admissions applications
- Submit financial aid apps early

Winter Senior Year
- Submit admissions applications
- Submit financial aid applications
- Apply for private scholarships
- Send in mid-year grade reports

Spring Senior Year
- Receive admission and financial aid offers
- Attend MEFA’s *After the College Acceptance* seminar
- Choose your college by May 1
What You Can Do Now

• Complete the seminar evaluation

• Sign up for MEFA emails

• Research colleges and plan a campus visit

• Download the College Admissions Toolkit on mefa.org

• Set up a profile at mefapathway.org
Questions or Comments?

Presenter name: Joe Farragher, Ed.D.

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