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**SCHOOL CEEB CODE NUMBER: 300620**

## **TIMELINE FOR COLLEGE BOUND JUNIORS**

- SEPTEMBER:** Visit with college representatives as they visit High Mowing  
Attend local college fairs.  
Prepare for the PSAT in October.  
Study and do well academically. **This is an important year.**
- OCTOBER:** Take the PSAT.  
Be sure you have an e-mail address to use for college communications.  
Register for standardized tests (SAT I and II, ACT's)  
Begin to research careers, and colleges. Refer to the resources in back of the handbook.
- NOVEMBER:** Continue to attend college representative sessions.  
Be sure you are involved in one or two extracurricular activities that interest you. Work to take on leadership opportunities if appropriate.  
Check out college search websites for useful tools to aid you in your search.
- DECEMBER:** Review your PSAT scores.  
Prepare for SAT's. Take the practice tests.  
ACT offered.  
Plan to visit colleges during winter or spring break.
- JANUARY:** SAT I and II offered.- Recommended junior test date!  
Keep your grades up!  
International students register for the TOEFL in the spring.
- FEBRUARY:** Research colleges in the College Resource Area. Begin to compile a college list.  
ACT offered – Recommended junior test date.

**MARCH:** SAT I offered (test at center nearest your home) –Alternative junior test date.

**Plan to visit colleges during March break, if possible.**

**APRIL** ACT offered.

Develop a preliminary list of colleges and send for information on them.  
Meet with your college counselor to discuss senior year courses, and college possibilities.

**MAY:** SAT I and II offered (conflicts with HMS May Day so plan for another test date if at all possible).

Plan college visits for the summer.

Make plans for summer that include travel, volunteer work, a job or advanced artistic or academic work. **Do something!**

**JUNE:** SAT I and II offered- Recommended junior test date for SAT II's.

Finish the year on a strong note.

**SUMMER:** Visit colleges.

Write to request applications forms from the colleges and universities on your list if you have not already done so.

Fill out the Common Application Online –available July 1 –Don't submit until the fall!

Begin working on the application essay(s).

Take a test prep course or plan to study if you are retaking the tests in senior year.

Narrow your list to 6-8 schools.

Do something interesting!

Enjoy the summer!

## TIMELINE FOR COLLEGE BOUND SENIORS

- SEPTEMBER:** Meet with your college counselor.  
Contact the Admissions Office at each college you plan to apply to. Make sure you are on the mailing list and find out who your admissions representative is.  
Plan visits to colleges over the fall. Call college admissions office to set up interviews and tours.  
Register EARLY for SAT I or II, or the ACT.  
Fill out the Common Application Online as early as possible.  
Visit with college representatives as they visit High Mowing, or attend local college fairs.
- OCTOBER:** Sat 1 and II exam offered.  
ACT offered.  
Set up interviews and visits at prospective colleges. Attend college representative sessions at High Mowing.  
Finalize college choices and begin working on specific applications.  
Request financial aid forms from colleges. Ask about specific scholarships you may be eligible for. Watch for early deadlines.  
Arrange for teachers to write your recommendations.  
Work on application essays.  
Update your activities resume.  
Mail or submit early applications after carefully checking them (**make copies of everything and check in with your college counselor before mailing or submitting online**).  
Continue meeting regularly with your college counselor.
- NOVEMBER:** SAT 1 and II offered. (**Sat II Language with Listening** offered in November only). This is the only test date available for seniors for SAT II's in German, Hebrew, Japanese, Chinese, and Korean.  
Complete essays and applications.  
Have someone look over your applications.  
Meet with your college counselor to verify that all is in order before mailing or submitting applications. **Mail applications at least two weeks prior to due date.**  
Early decision application deadline.  
California state university deadlines.  
Review application fees with parents. Boarding students should have checks for each school you are applying by mail to and credit card information for online submissions.

Put your requests for recommendations in writing to your teachers and provide them with all necessary forms.

Release ACT and SAT scores to your colleges of choice.

**DECEMBER:** SAT I and SAT II exam offered. Last chance to take the tests in time for many application deadlines.

ACT offered.

Register for CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE if required by any of your colleges. Be in touch with the Financial Aid Offices at all your colleges. Stay on top of application deadlines. Complete applications. Submit online or mail prior to the deadline.

Attend Financial Aid Night at HMS.

Apply for a PIN Number for filling out the FAFSA. Parents and students must both apply).

Investigate scholarship possibilities if needed.

**JANUARY:** SAT I and II offered.

Complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

Submitting the FAFSA online is recommended to avoid delays due to errors. **(Do not submit before January 1).**

Continue to research scholarship opportunities.

**FEBRUARY:** Keep academically competitive. **Mid year grades and final grades** will be sent to colleges.

Notify your guidance counselor immediately of any admission decisions you receive.

**MARCH:** SAT I offered (High Mowing break - register at test center closest to your home).

Be sure you have received FAFSA acknowledgement.

Visit one or two of your top-choice schools during March break if necessary.

**APRIL:** Review the acceptances and financial aid offers you receive.

Notify the college of your choice of your acceptance (and send in deposit by May 1).

Notify your guidance counselor of your decision so final transcript will be sent.

Student's waitlisted at colleges should submit additional material.

Notify in writing the colleges where you do not plan to attend

**MAY:** May 1 – Deadline for notifying colleges of enrollment intention.

**JUNE:** Complete all course work. Final transcripts will be sent in July.

**GRADUATION!**

## SELECTING A COLLEGE

There are a vast array of college, universities and career schools to choose from (more than 3,000!). The first step in choosing the right school is to consider what you hope to gain from the college experience. Reflect upon your talents, interests and goals.

Begin to consider the various colleges and their characteristics. Much of the information can be obtained by reading college guides, asking questions at representative visits or college fairs, researching schools online and making a campus visit. The following criteria can be used as a guide to assist you in researching various colleges.

**Academic program:** Does the college have the academic program in which you are interested? Evaluate the strength of the program by asking questions about courses, classes, faculty etc. If you are undecided about a college major, research areas you might like to explore.

Other factors which may be important for you to consider while exploring academic options, are study abroad programs, internships, independent study, and cooperative programs.

**Type of institution:** Cost, size, diversity of students and offerings, and admission criteria vary greatly between state and private colleges.

Liberal Arts Colleges offer a broad range of disciplines. They generally have student bodies under 5,000. The mission of most liberal art schools is learning for the sake of learning.

Universities are larger and are usually composed of several smaller colleges devoted to broad subject areas, and offer a wide range of educational, athletic, and social experiences.

Specialized Schools offer a program in a particular field of study, such as performing or fine arts, engineering or business.

Religious Schools have an affiliation with a particular religion. When considering an affiliated school, be aware of any special requirements (religion classes, mandatory attendance at services, etc.) and rules. Don't necessarily dismiss a school because of its religious affiliation.

Single-Gender Schools appeal to students who feel they would be more comfortable on a campus where they are not distracted by the opposite sex. The large majority of the single-gender schools are women's colleges. At these schools, leadership positions, and research assistantships are all for women. Some studies suggest that graduates of women's colleges have greater self-esteem and often-greater success as employees than their counterparts who attend co-ed colleges.

**Size of institution:** Colleges vary in number or enrolled students from 100 to 50,000. While the quality of an institution is not determined by its size, your enjoyment of it may be. How important are class size or faculty contact to you?

**Location:** Do you want an urban or rural setting and in what part of the country? You may significantly add to your education experience by attending college in another part

of the country, yet there may be reasons why it is important for you to be close to home. Financial concerns may also play a role here as traveling across the country for breaks can be expensive.

**Facilities:** The types, availability, and condition of campus facilities should be of concern. Health, residences, library, computer, and dining should be considered.

**Competition for admission:** The competitiveness of a college is important to recognize. Understanding the selection criteria will help you to make realistic college applications and provide you with a challenging yet comfortable environment. Most college guides categorize colleges as to their competitiveness.

**Cost:** This factor will be a significant consideration for your family. Cost of tuition, room and board may be as high as \$48,000. Transportation, clothing, fees and books are additional expenses to keep in mind. Since scholarship and financial aid (in the form of loans) are available to students with demonstrated need, you should not exclude any institution solely on the basis of cost.

If you want to compete for “merit based” scholarship money, you need to research any such opportunities college by college. Some schools award financial assistance in the form of scholarships based on “special talent” such as academic merit, music performance, drama performance, visual arts talent, or community contributions.

**Special interests:** In your list of college requirements include everything you would like your college to have. Social activism, athletics, drama productions, social fraternities are examples of possible interests, which could be of importance to you.

## PLANNING COLLEGE VISITS

Visiting colleges is an important part of finding the right school. Juniors should plan visits for school vacations, and seniors should plan on visiting early in the fall or Thanksgiving or winter vacation.

Try to visit when school is in session. Call the admissions office at least 30 days (sooner for very popular schools) prior to your visit and inquire about campus tours and the advisability of scheduling an interview, particularly if you plan to apply. Consider limiting each college-visiting trip to no more than four schools or you may feel overwhelmed with information.

Use your time well when you visit each campus. Sit in on classes, visit the library, and cafeteria and talk to other students! Ask yourself if you feel comfortable among them. Ask about things that are important to you. Pick up a student newspaper and look through it to get an idea of the politics of the campus, and campus issues. Speak with faculty members in your area of interest. If you are interested in athletics, check out sports facilities and talk to coaches.

Keep a diary of your visits; write down your impressions of the college immediately after your visit. This is important because if you are visiting a few schools they do begin to blur together. Write thank you notes to the tour guide and/or your interviewer.

High Mowing allows a limited number of absences for visiting college in your junior and senior years. Please request permission from the Academic Dean and teachers prior to scheduling your visit. Excused absence forms are available in the Front Office and must be signed by all your teachers. **If permission is granted, students will be responsible for all work missed during the absence.**

If you are unable to visit a college it should not prevent you from applying to a school that appeal to you. You may find it impossible to visit far-off campuses and will have to rely on what you know about colleges from catalogues, friends and alumni. It is recommended however, that you once you are accepted to a college that you have not visited, that you plan on visiting before enrolling to make sure your expectations for the college are met.

## RESOURCES

A number of resources are available to you for exploring colleges, their programs and admission requirements. The first step begins with a self-evaluation. Why do you want to attend? What are your academic and personal strengths? What are your career interests?

There will be a number of presentations offered to juniors and seniors throughout the year. Some will offer general information on organization and planning, testing information, college application procedures, and financial considerations. In addition, all students should meet individually with the college counselor in the winter or spring of the junior year and regularly in the fall of the senior year.

**College representatives:** A number of representatives from various colleges will visit High Mowing during the school year. They will present information about their institutions, and also provide you with a contact in the Admissions Office. These visits will be announced at Roll Call and posted in the Front Hallway. If the session is scheduled during class time, you must have permission from your classroom teacher to attend. Keep up with your school work so you can attend these!

**College Fairs:** A number of college fairs are scheduled throughout the year. Trips to selected fairs in our region will be planned. A college fair offers you the opportunity to gather information on many different colleges at one time.

**Online and printed materials:** The Guidance Office has many materials related to the college search and application process. Among the materials available there are:

- College catalogs, guides and some applications
- Financial information and forms
- Information on internship, service and summer opportunities
- Testing information and registration materials
- Books for browsing and loan
- The Internet offers a rich resource of information on colleges and the admissions process.

(See the list of websites at the end of the handbook).

## COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS

During junior year it is important to begin compiling your list of colleges to research and visit, if possible.

Find colleges where your profile is also a good match. Your profile includes your grades, and rigor of your course selection, test scores and extra-curricular activities. It is also a good idea at this time to expand your list to consider many possibilities. Your ideas on what is a perfect fit for you may change a little as you go through this process and it is good to keep options open. You don't actually have to make any final decisions on where you will go to school until May of your senior year. Consider having a range of colleges in terms of selectivity. **Begin with finding schools that are less selective in the admissions process. If you can identify schools early on where your chance of being admitted is quite high, it will take a lot of the stress out of the admissions process.**

Six to eight schools is a good number to apply to. Some students apply to less, and some to more than eight. Keep the number of reach schools (that is schools where your profile is lower than most admitted students or schools that are extremely selective) to just one or two. If you are applying to highly selective schools make contact with the college early on. You need to know what the admission requirements are and plan for that throughout high school.

## THE APPLICATION FORM

The application form is the initial, but not the only step, in applying to college. Requested on the application form are biographical information, questions concerning academics, extracurricular activities, work experience, and career interests. Make sure you have received applications or reviewed online applications for schools you are interested in applying to. **Keep track of deadlines and requirements.** This is very important and it is the student's responsibility to be aware of these.

Most schools recommend using their on-line applications. Some schools waive the application fee if you submit online by a specific date. The **Common Application**, sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals is accepted at over 400 colleges and universities. This is very useful for applying to several colleges at once. There is no advantage for using a college's own form, so plan to use the common application if your college accepts it. Some schools may require supplemental forms if you do use the Common Application. Fill out the Common Application at the beginning of the senior year.

When you have completed the application, show the application to a teacher, parent and your college advisor for proofreading and comments. Make a hard copy of everything before you mail or submit the application. Plan to mail the application at least two weeks prior to the deadline. For online submissions do not wait until the deadline to submit. High demand during peak times can cause problems with submitting and other factors (illness, power failures in natural disasters, etc.) can occur. Submit early whenever possible.

Most applications require an application fee. Submit your completed application to your college advisor for review prior to mailing or submitting. **It is the responsibility of the student to mail or submit applications by the college application deadline.** Teacher recommendations and the Secondary School Report which includes an official copy of your transcript will be mailed or submitted online directly from the school.

## THE ESSAY

The essay brings your application to life. It fills in the personality behind the numbers (test scores and grade point average.) The essay is your opportunity to show how you are different from other applicants.

*To quote an admission officer, the essays “are less important than the SAT or GPA’s, but they are sometimes the decisive document” in the application. They can make a student with average credentials “stand out” in the application pool.*

The college is looking for an honest, true-to-self, uncontrived statement. The essay will represent whom you are when you are engaged in an idea or an experience. Stay away from controversial subjects if possible. Writing about personal issues with substance abuse or mental health can be a flag to admissions offices.

Re-read the application and make sure the essay is as long as the college recommends. If no required length is given, then write one or two pages, double-spaced. If the essay is optional, definitely consider taking the time to do it.

In choosing your topic, write about something that is important and meaningful to you. Share your interests in a way that makes the reader feel your enthusiasm.

### Suggestions:

- ◆ Be honest.
- ◆ Tell your story in your own voice.
- ◆ Read the topic question(s) carefully and be sure to respond to the question(s) asked.
- ◆ Write about a subject or idea with which you are familiar.
- ◆ Be neat.
- ◆ Proofread! Proofread! Proofread!
- ◆ Remember, your own thoughts are important. This must be your own work.
- ◆ Avoid trying to be cute, silly or outrageous.
- ◆ Avoid the listing your accomplishments. This information is already available elsewhere in your application.
- ◆ Do not wait until the last minute to write your essay. Take the time to develop a well written essay you are proud of.

## RECOMMENDATIONS AND TRANSCRIPTS

Most colleges require at least two recommendations from your academic teachers, and one counselor (called the secondary school report). Follow the school's directions regarding the exact number and requirements for specific subject instructors. Choose your recommendation writers wisely. They should know you well. Request recommendations from your recommendation writers in the fall of the senior year at least 3 weeks before the deadline.

All recommendations are confidential and will not be given to the students. They will be mailed or submitted online directly from the school to the colleges. Students are responsible to provide teachers with all required forms and addressed stamped envelopes, if needed, to each college. The Secondary School Report will be mailed directly from the Guidance Office. The first part of this document is the school record or "transcript" which includes the following information:

- A profile of your school, graduation requirements and a description of the grading system;
- Courses you have taken (grades 9-12) at High Mowing and grades earned in each course and the credit received;

Each senior and their parent will be asked to sign a records release form giving the school permission to release the transcript at the beginning of the school year.

Keep in mind that since applications are usually submitted before the first semester of the senior year, the most recent grades a college will initially see are those from your junior year. You will want that year to be as strong as possible. Your senior year grades and course selection are extremely important also and your first trimester grades will be sent to all colleges as soon as they are available. Your high school record is one of the most important considerations in an admission decision.

Final transcripts at the end of senior year will be submitted to your selected college. Keeping up your grades and completing all courses is very important as colleges reserve the right to rescind admission offers if your grades drop. Watch out for senioritis!

## PORTFOLIOS AND AUDITIONS

The process for applying to visual and performing art programs is often quite extensive. Be in touch with the schools you are considering and make sure you request the information for their specific requirements. Ask your professional instructors for guidance in preparing. Conservatory programs often have earlier deadlines so stay on top of these. Many art schools request slides or electronic submissions of your artwork. Review the guidelines and plan ahead for how you will be submitted your portfolio.

Each fall, representatives from art schools visit High Mowing and offer portfolio reviews. They are available to review your work and make recommendations on your portfolio. This can be helpful even if you are not planning to apply to the specific school.

Performing art schools often require a resume of your professional experience over your high school years.

Even if you are not applying to a specific program of art or drama, you may want to **include artistic work as part of your application.** High Mowing students are often multi-talented and supplemental work you submit could be an important piece in filling out your application. Artwork, creative writing, tapes of music or dramatic performances, displays from naturalist experiences, or computer graphics are examples of material that have been used by former HMS students in the past. Consider those things that you do and how best to include that in your application.

Many liberal art colleges will accept supplemental materials. Check online or ask them what format to submit the supplemental material.

## COLLEGE INTERVIEW

In many cases, it is a good idea to request an interview at colleges you are seriously interested in. Admission representatives, alumna, or senior students may conduct interviews and the format varies from school to school. At some schools they may be required, recommended, or not offered. They may be informational or evaluative. Ask what to expect when scheduling the interview. For very selective colleges, request appointments for the fall in early summer.

The best way to be prepared for an interview is to read the college brochure and college guide books like Peterson's, Barron's and Fiske's to educate yourself on what the school has to offer. Often the person interviewing you will want to know why you are interested in the college, and what you think the college has to offer you.

The interview is an opportunity for a mutual exchange of information. It will provide you with a chance to ask specific questions about the school, the programs and the application process.

An interview allows you to introduce yourself in a relaxed atmosphere and let the interviewer know how you distinguish yourself from other applicants. Be prepared to talk about your strengths, both academic and extracurricular. Give some thought to talking about your areas of weakness also, you may be asked at the interview to identify these areas. This is also an opportunity to ask any questions that you may have about the application process. Listen to each question carefully, think before you respond and express your ideas clearly.

Be honest. You are encouraged to talk about your strengths, but most importantly you must talk about whom you are.

Do you need to dress up for an interview? Most college admission interviewers recommend that you wear comfortable clothes. Dress neat, but be yourself. Be your best self!

The Guidance Office has a list of potential questions that may be asked in an interview and can also offer mock interviews to interested students.

## ADMISSION TESTING

The most frequently used admission tests are the SAT and the ACT. These tests, given on national Saturday test dates, are the only common factors among the applicants to a college. The extent to which colleges weigh these results in admission decisions vary. The two tests are very different and since schools will accept either score, some students take both tests and then submit scores to colleges from the test they score higher on. A growing, but still, limited numbers of colleges do not require test scores for admission. For most colleges, the admission test is only one of the factors contributing to the admission decision. Your grades, courses, and other parts of your application often carry more weight. The subject of standardized testing is a controversial one. However, at this time, it is still an important part of your record.

Almost all test registration is done online now. Each student who plans to take the tests should create an account with the ACT or College Board for SAT's. This can be done in the Guidance Office with the college counselor's assistance if needed. All necessary information (test center, school code, etc.) will be provided. With an online account students can register for tests, review results earlier, release scores to colleges, and search for college information and access test preparation material. When you report to a test center to test, you must bring your admission ticket (printed online), acceptable ID, and a calculator. More detailed information on test day procedures is available at the websites and will be e-mailed to students upon registration.

### **The College Board Tests:**

**The Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT)**, required of most juniors in October, is a shortened version of the SAT 1. The test will be administered at High Mowing in October. The scores from the PSAT are not reported to colleges, but **they are the determinant for National Merit Scholarship recognition.**

**The Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT I)**, a four hour test of critical reading, writing and quantitative abilities is administered by the College Board. You should take it in the winter or spring of your junior year and again in the fall of your senior year (October or November).

The best preparation for the test is strong daily work in a demanding academic environment. It is also helpful to practice taking timed tests using the material provided by The College Board. Other study options are the SAT prep class offered at High Mowing, various test prep web sites, courses offered by preparation agencies, computer software and publications available at bookstores and libraries.

**The SAT II**, one hour subject matter tests, is designed to measure your knowledge in specific areas, as opposed to the SAT I which is meant to give a broader overview of your reasoning skills. These tests are also scored on a scale of 200 – 800. Some colleges require specific SAT II tests, while other colleges allow you to choose your strongest areas. All of the SAT II tests are entirely multiple-choice.

You cannot take both the SAT I and the SAT II on the same test date. You may take anywhere from one to three SAT II tests on a given test date. The best time to take an SAT II is the end of the year when completing a course.

SAT II's are offered in English Literature, French, Spanish, German, Italian, Latin, Modern Hebrew, U.S. History, World History, Mathematics (Levels I, Ic and IIc), Biology, Chemistry and Physics. In addition, in November only, SAT II offers a Listening test in French, Spanish, Japanese, Chinese, Korean and German. Some foreign language tests (German, Hebrew, Chinese, Korean, and Japanese) are only offered once or twice a year in November or June so planning for when to take those tests should be made in the junior year.

**The American College Testing Program (ACT)** is accepted by all colleges and universities . The ACT is a three-hour multiple-choice examination designed to measure achievement in four major curriculum areas: English, Mathematics, Reading and Science. There is an optional 30-minute writing section available. Some colleges that require the SAT II's will also the ACT in lieu of these tests. Check with your specific colleges for the most up to date information on testing requirements.

### **Reporting Admissions Test Results to Colleges or Universities**

Most colleges require score reports sent directly to them from the testing agency. When registering for the tests, you have the opportunity to request that the testing agency send your scores directly to the colleges where you are applying. Your basic registration fee covers the cost of sending four score reports. **To get these free score reports, you must request them when registering or within 7 days of taking the test.** At any point you can request scores online using your account and a credit card.

## APPLICATION TERMS

### EARLY DECISION

A program whereby a student can apply to his/her first choice college early in the fall of the senior year and be notified of the admission decision by mid-December. The student must enroll if he is accepted, and depending on the college, to make no other applications or withdraw other applications. You must be certain that you want to enroll at this college if accepted. Early decision terms:

- **ACCEPT**

You are offered a place in the class and must submit your tuition deposit and withdraw your applications at other institutions.

- **DEFER**

At this time you have not been admitted. However, your application will be considered among the regular pool of candidates. You also have the opportunity to submit additional pieces of information to your application, including essays, recommendations, additional awards, honors won and semester grades. You may want to contact the Office of Admission to see if they can pinpoint any particular weaknesses within your file.

- **DENY**

You have not been admitted and your application will not be reconsidered. You need to apply to other schools.

### EARLY ACTION

In some cases you may have the option to apply “early action” to a college or university. Unlike early decision, early action is not binding. If you have been admitted to a college under early action, you do not have to commit to enrolling at that college until May 1, the Candidates Reply Date. The advantage is that you can find out earlier if you are accepted.

### REGULAR DECISION

- **ACCEPT**

You are offered a place in the class and you must send a tuition deposit by May 1 National Candidates Reply Deadline to reserve your place in the class.

- **WAIT LIST**

You are not admitted at this time, but you are a person the college would like to have in the class if space becomes available. Most institutions give you the choice if you wish to remain on the waiting list. If you are placed on the waiting list at a school that is your first choice, be certain to **contact the admission office** and let them know that they are your first choice and that you will come if given the opportunity. You may also have the opportunity to submit additional information to strengthen your application. This type of contact can make a difference when an admission office goes to the waiting list. Most schools will not rank order of their waiting list and will have very little idea of whether or not they will be using their waiting list until after May 1<sup>st</sup> and sometimes even into the summer months. **Therefore, it is essential that you send a deposit to your second choice school.**

- **DENY**

Your application has not been approved. It is best to move on and choose a school from among the good offers of admission that you have received. In most cases colleges will not allow you to appeal a deny decision.

**ROLLING ADMISSION**

Some schools will admit students on a “rolling basis”, which means that decisions are made as applications are received. The school will read the applications in the order they receive them and will send you a decision letter within a set period of time. When the desired size of a class is reached, admission closes. Therefore, it is important to submit your application as early as possible when applying to rolling admission schools.

**CANDIDATES REPLY DATE**

The National Association of College Admission Counseling has set May 1 of each year as the date that students must respond to the schools to which they have been admitted. No college or university can force you to respond before this date. However, it is extremely important that you make your decision by May 1, because after this date many colleges have full admission.

## FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS

The process of applying for admission, scholarship and need-based aid, loans, etc. can be complex and confusing. Take advantage of the admission and financial aid staff at the colleges you are considering. If you don't understand, ask questions!

- ◆ Don't assume that you are not eligible. Each family's situation is unique and will be considered individually. All financial information is confidential.
- ◆ Ask individual schools about merit scholarships you may be eligible for. These are often offered for to students with special talents or for academic achievement.
- ◆ Scholarships may require essays or other supplemental material (portfolios, etc.). Work on these early in the year so deadlines are not missed.
- ◆ Be sure to comply with all deadlines. Schools with limited resources may not be able to meet the needs of students who apply late.
- ◆ Read and follow all directions carefully.
- ◆ Use accurate information. The more accurate the information, the less likely you are to be required to submit correction documents later. Your federal tax returns are your best financial references for completing need-based financial aid applications.
- ◆ Keep copies of everything you submit to any school or agency. This includes applications for admissions, scholarships, need-based financial aid, loans, etc.
- ◆ Borrowing money, in moderation, is a viable means of financing a college education. A college education is an investment; its benefits are enjoyed long after the formal education ends.
- ◆ What about scholarship search companies? Often, they refer you to sources of aid that your guidance office or college admission and financial aid office has available for free.
- ◆ If you receive need-based aid, be aware that you will need to reapply for assistance each year. Certain scholarships may also require you to reapply annually.
- ◆ At most schools, the self-help portion of a student's needs-based aid package (job and loan) will increase from one year to the next.

You must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) soon after Jan. 1 of the year you intend to enroll. It is recommended that students and parents save time by requesting identification numbers called PINs before the student applies for aid. Do this in November or December of the senior year. The PIN must be requested online at [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov). **Filling out the FAFSA online is necessary.** The Guidance Office has information on free assistance for filling out this form if needed. High Mowing School has a Financial Aid Night in early December to guide seniors and their families through the process.

Some colleges also require the **CSS/Profile**. You can begin to fill this out in the fall of the senior year. Do this online.

## EXPLORING OTHER OPTIONS

College is not the only option open to students graduating from high school. You should ask yourself if you want to go to college and why. You may feel like you are not ready to commit to the challenges of four more years of academic study immediately after graduation. College is an expensive investment of time and money. You may feel as if you would like to have the time to explore what it is you want to do with you life before committing to college. Some parents may worry that those students who take time off may never return. But most do, with a new sense of enthusiasm.

Students who do decide to take time off from formal studies have hundreds – even thousands- of opportunities open to them. Some charge tuition and others, such as Americorps, offer training, a stipend, and an educational award toward college tuition. Service opportunities can open young people to the types of work they can do, while at the same time fulfilling a real need to do something worthwhile.

The Guidance Office has a number of resources to support students in setting up alternate plans after graduation. A limited number of presentations will be offered throughout the school year.

Excerpted from the book *The Question is College* by Herbert Kohl:

“...Erica’s choice reminded me of something Ben Shahn, the painter, said in a lecture that I attended during college, on the education of an artist:

*Attend a university if you possibly can. There is no content of knowledge that is not pertinent to the work you will want to do. But before you attend a university work at something for a while. Do anything. Get a job in a potato field; or work as a grease monkey in an auto repair shop. But if you do work in a field do not fail to observe the look and feel of the earth and of the things that you handle – yes even the potatoes! Or in the auto shop the smell of oil and grease and burning rubber...Listen well to all conversations and be instructed by them, and take all seriousness seriously. Never look down upon anything or anyone as not worthy of notice. In college or out of college, read. And form opinions!...Never be afraid to become embroiled in art or life or politics.”*

## INTERNET RESOURCES

### COLLEGE SEARCH

All about College	<a href="http://www.allaboutcollege.com/">http://www.allaboutcollege.com/</a>
Black Excel	<a href="http://www.blackexcel.org/">http://www.blackexcel.org/</a>
Campus Crime and Security	<a href="http://www.securityoncampus.org/">http://www.securityoncampus.org/</a>
Campus Tours online	<a href="http://www.campustours.com/">http://www.campustours.com/</a>
Canadian Colleges	<a href="http://www.aucc.ca/">http://www.aucc.ca/</a>
College Board	<a href="http://www.collegeboard.com/">http://www.collegeboard.com/</a>
College Reviews by College Students	<a href="http://www.unigo.com/">http://www.unigo.com/</a>
College Source	<a href="http://www.collegesource.org/">http://www.collegesource.org/</a>
Colleges That Change Lives	<a href="http://www.ctcl.org/">http://www.ctcl.org/</a>
Colleges with Unique Language Offerings	<a href="http://www.carla.acad.umn.edu/lctl/db/index.html">http://www.carla.acad.umn.edu/lctl/db/index.html</a>
College View	<a href="http://www.collegeview.com/index.jsp">http://www.collegeview.com/index.jsp</a>
Environmental Studies Consortium	<a href="http://www.ecoleague.org/">http://www.ecoleague.org/</a>
International Students Guide	<a href="http://www.edupass.org/">http://www.edupass.org/</a>
Learning Disabilities	<a href="http://www.nclد.org/college-aamp-work/post-high-school-options/transitioning-to-college/planning-for-college-success-for-students-with-learning-disabilities">http://www.nclد.org/college-aamp-work/post-high-school-options/transitioning-to-college/planning-for-college-success-for-students-with-learning-disabilities</a>
Mapping Your Future	<a href="http://mappingyourfuture.org/">http://mappingyourfuture.org/</a>
Outside Magazine Top 40 Colleges	<a href="http://outside.away.com/outside/features/200309/200309_college_towns_1.html">http://outside.away.com/outside/features/200309/200309_college_towns_1.html</a>
Performing/ Visual Arts Colleges	<a href="http://www.nacacnet.org/EventsTraining/CollegeFairs/pva/Pages/default.aspx">http://www.nacacnet.org/EventsTraining/CollegeFairs/pva/Pages/default.aspx</a>
Pre-Med Programs	<a href="http://www.aamc.org/students/considering/">http://www.aamc.org/students/considering/</a>
Green Colleges	<a href="http://www.princetonreview.com/green-honor-roll.aspx">http://www.princetonreview.com/green-honor-roll.aspx</a>
Search for colleges by state	<a href="http://www.utexas.edu/world/univ/state/">http://www.utexas.edu/world/univ/state/</a>
Study Abroad	<a href="http://www.studyabroaddirectory.com/search.cfm">http://www.studyabroaddirectory.com/search.cfm</a>
Work Programs at Colleges	<a href="http://www.workcolleges.org/">http://www.workcolleges.org/</a>

### ONLINE APPLICATIONS AND RESEARCH

College Net	<a href="http://www.collegenet.com">www.collegenet.com</a>
Common Application	<a href="http://www.commonapp.org">www.commonapp.org</a>
Unified Application for Conservatory Admission	<a href="http://www.unifiedapps.org/">http://www.unifiedapps.org/</a>

### FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Broke Scholar scholarship search	<a href="http://www.brokescholar.com">www.brokescholar.com</a>
Free Application for Federal Student Aid	<a href="http://www.fafsa.ed.gov">www.fafsa.ed.gov</a>
Financial Aid Information- comprehensive site with financial aid calculator	<a href="http://www.finaid.org">www.finaid.org</a>
Fastweb	<a href="http://www.fastweb.com">www.fastweb.com</a>

International student scholarships  
<http://www.internationalscholarships.com/>  
 New Hampshire Higher Education  
 Network (NHHEAF) [www.NHHEAF.org](http://www.NHHEAF.org)  
 New England Regional Student Prog [www.nehbe.org](http://www.nehbe.org)

## YEAR OFF/ SUMMER RESOURCES

**American Field Studies** 800-237-4636 [www.afs.org/usa](http://www.afs.org/usa)  
 Intercultural programs. Semester and yearlong home stays. Serves 70 countries

**American Friends Service Committee** [www.afsc.org](http://www.afsc.org)  
 Quaker organization sponsors internships to learn about peace building and social justice programs in a number of countries.

**Americorps** 202-606-5000 [www.americorps.org](http://www.americorps.org)  
 Year long federal program working in humanitarian, educational or environmental endeavors. Part-time summer opportunities also possible. Receive training, living allowance, and earn money for college.

**Center for Interim Programs** 617-547-0980 [www.interimprograms.com](http://www.interimprograms.com)  
 Counseling program, individualized planning, large database of offerings

**City Year** [www.cityyear.org](http://www.cityyear.org)  
 Americorp-affiliated. Community service dedicated to strengthening communities. Earn money for education, training in leadership provided.

**Cross-Cultural Solutions** 800-380-4777 [www.crossculturalsolutions.org](http://www.crossculturalsolutions.org)  
 Volunteer programs in India, Ghana, Peru, China and Russia.

**Dynamy Internship Year** 508-755-2571 [www.dynamy.org](http://www.dynamy.org)  
 One-year program for high school graduates seeking direction before entering college.

**Experiment in International Living** [www.experiment.org](http://www.experiment.org)  
 International nonprofit organization promoting intercultural learning through homes stays, educational group travel, study abroad, language training and other cultural immersion programs.

**Global Quest** [www.gquest.org](http://www.gquest.org)  
 Programs in Thailand and other developing countries.

**Go Abroad** [www.goabroad.com](http://www.goabroad.com)  
 Study abroad, language schools, internships, volunteer – free newsletter

**Habitat for Humanity** [www.habitat.org](http://www.habitat.org)  
 A variety of opportunities worldwide helping to build homes for those who need them.

**National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS)** [www.nols.edu/](http://www.nols.edu/)  
 Wilderness education school offering courses in outdoor skills and leadership.

**Rotary Youth Exchange**  
[www.rotary.org/programs/youth es/index.htm](http://www.rotary.org/programs/youth/es/index.htm)  
 Year abroad program in a large number of countries. Promotes peace and global understanding. Contact local rotary clubs. Begin this process in junior year!

**School for Field Studies** [www.fieldstudies.org](http://www.fieldstudies.org)  
 Environmental programs abroad

**Student Conservation Association (SCA)** 603-543-1700 [www.thesca.org](http://www.thesca.org)

Tuition-free conservation internships – live and serve in national parks, forests and historic sites. Summer and 10 month volunteer opportunities in all 50 states and in nearly 60 different disciplines.

**Up With People**

[www.upwithpeople.org](http://www.upwithpeople.org)

11-month world tour with an original musical revue promoting international and intercultural understanding. Offers international travel, on-stage musical performance and community service.

**Volunteer Abroad**

[www.volunteerabroad.com](http://www.volunteerabroad.com)

Resources and free newsletter for service, travel, educational opportunities all over the world.

**Volunteers for Peace**

[www.vfp.org](http://www.vfp.org)

Affordable summer work camps in the United States and Europe. Small groups of young people from around the world come together to work on community service.

**Woolman Semester**

[www.woolman.org](http://www.woolman.org)

Academic exploration, hands on lab work and service expeditions of peace, justice and sustainability guided by the Quaker values of peace, equality, integrity, community, and stewardship. Location: Sierra Friends Center in northern California.

**International WWOOF Association**

[www.woof.org](http://www.woof.org)

Offers volunteer opportunities on organic farms throughout the world.

### IMPORTANT USERNAMES AND PASSWORDS

Record usernames and passwords so you can access your accounts easily. Having quick access to these numbers will make applying, registering and sending college test scores easy.

#### HMS NAVIANCE COLLEGE PLANNER

USERNAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PASSWORD: \_\_\_\_\_

#### SAT

USERNAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PASSWORD: \_\_\_\_\_

SSD #: \_\_\_\_\_

(SSD # for Approved Extended Time \_\_\_\_\_)

#### ACT

USERNAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PASSWORD: \_\_\_\_\_

#### COMMON APPLICATION

USERNAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PASSWORD: \_\_\_\_\_

#### OTHER ACCOUNTS OPENED (Colleges, Scholarship, Financial Aid, NCAA etc)

COLLEGE: \_\_\_\_\_

USERNAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PASSWORD: \_\_\_\_\_

COLLEGE: \_\_\_\_\_

USERNAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PASSWORD: \_\_\_\_\_

COLLEGE: \_\_\_\_\_

USERNAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PASSWORD: \_\_\_\_\_

COLLEGE: \_\_\_\_\_

USERNAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PASSWORD: \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

USERNAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PASSWORD: \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER : \_\_\_\_\_

USERNAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PASSWORD: \_\_\_\_\_