

College Planning

Freshman & Sophomore Years

- Choose the toughest courses you can handle (AP, Honors) Build up weaker areas. Meet with your counselor to review plans.
- In general 4 year colleges would like you to take:

4 years of English
3-4 years of college prep mathematics
3-4 years of science
2-4 years of social sciences
2-4 years of foreign language

- Get ready for college work
Read, Read, Read
Write Frequently
Perform problem-solving activities
Practice appreciation of Art, Music, History & Science
- Visit college campuses near home
- Think about & explore careers & college majors
- Develop 2 lists for planning each year of high school:
 1. Courses plan to take in preparation for college
 2. Extra-curricular activities in which you want to participate (both in and outside of school)
- Set aside \$ for college regularly
- If you will be considering applying to a highly competitive college, you might want to consider taking the SAT II: Subject Tests after you finish your last course in that subject. (i.e. Biology, U.S. History) and an early PSAT in October of your sophomore year.
- Make wise use of your summer(s) - Consider a summer course or program.

Junior Year

- September** - New England ACAC College Fair at WNEC
- October** - Take PSAT/NMSQT
- November** - College Night at Cathedral High School
- December** - Review PSAT results with Counselor
- February** - Select strongest possible Senior courses
- March** - Begin researching careers & colleges in Career Center
 - Register for SAT's in May
 - National College Fair at Big E in West Springfield
- April** - Meet with your counselor to discuss career/college plans
 - Make decision on SAT-II: Subject Tests
 - College Information Night
- May** - Meet with Counselor to discuss college search process and visits
 - Take SAT-I
 - Check Senior Schedule, are courses consistent with goals?
 - National College Fair at Boston and Hartford
- June** - Evaluate SAT-I results with respect to college choices
 - Develop three-part working list - include schools which are (1) Competitive, (2) 50/50, and (3) "sure thing"
 - Consider Early Decision options
 - Take SAT-II at Longmeadow High School (if required)
 - Make appointments for college visits/interviews
- Summer** - Visit Colleges
 - Begin filing system - keep records of all tests, visits, and correspondence

SENIOR YEAR

- September** - Regular communication with your counselor
- Begin work on application essays
 - You should probably do several re-writes
 - Register for October or November SAT-I or II, if you are planning to take them (October for early decision)
 - Obtain applications for final-choice colleges include “competitive”, “50 – 50” & “sure thing” colleges
 - Select teachers from whom you will request recommendations . Discuss this with them.
 - Pick-up PROFILE application for financial aid (if required)
- October** - New England ACAC College Fair at WNEC
- Regular communication with your counselor
 - Meet with college representatives visiting E.L.H.S.
 - Register for December SAT-I or II, if you are planning to take them.
 - Take SAT-I or II
- November** - Deadline for Early Decision candidates
- College Night at Cathedral High School
 - Take SAT-I or II
 - Begin sending State College applications
 - Regular communication with your counselor
 - File PROFILE application (if required)
- December** - Early Decision candidates receive notices
- Take SAT-I or II at East Longmeadow High School
 - Register for January SAT-I or II, if you are planning to take them.
 - Obtain Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
 - Complete application process, hopefully.
- January** - Parents’ Financial Aid Workshop
- Take SAT-I or II
 - File FAFSA
- February** - Thorough search for private financial aid sources.
- Spring** - Report all communications from colleges to your counselor.
- Discuss your first choices and alternatives with your counselor.
 - Make second visits to colleges if you are having trouble choosing.
 - RELAX - It’s too late to worry now!!!!!!