

Class of 2010 - College Application Process

Remember: Senior year grades are extremely important!

Mrs. Grenier and Mrs. Donovan will work with you to provide you with all necessary college information and assist you with gathering information and making choices about colleges. However, **you** must take responsibility for this process and follow through with your application process, including:

- Taking college entrance examinations (SAT Reasoning, SAT Subject, ACT)
- Checking bulletin boards and announcements for college and financial aid information
- Making and keeping appointments
- Getting necessary forms in Guidance
- Knowing deadlines that apply to you
- Filing admissions and financial aid applications and other required papers well in advance of posted deadlines

If you did not meet with Mr. Modern before the end of last year, it is imperative that you schedule a meeting with Mrs. Grenier to discuss your postsecondary plans as soon as possible. If you did meet with him, Mrs. Grenier would like to meet with you briefly to review your plans. Please see Mrs. Fleischmann, the guidance secretary, to schedule your appointment. If your parents wish to attend this meeting, you must coordinate that with them.

This can be a stressful time but remember, every year most high school seniors manage to successfully complete the process. To help make things easier, get yourself organized (see college application checklist)! Make yourself a college notebook or folder and review college materials as they come to you in the mail. By the end of first quarter you should be well into "college application mode". Please see Mrs. Grenier or Mrs. Donovan if you have any questions or concerns.

Good luck!

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College Application Checklist

September-December

- Do a college search and create a list of colleges that are of interest to you. Visit schools.
- Set up a college planning appointment with Mrs. Grenier.
- Get organized. Create a college folder.
- Sign up for the SAT Reasoning Test (online at www.collegeboard.com) or ACT as well as SAT Subject Tests if necessary.
- Attend the Senior College Planning Night on Thursday, September 17, 2009.
- Attend the college fair at UNH: Thursday, September 24, 2009, 7:00pm-9:00pm.
- Review college materials to determine deadlines for admissions and financial aid deadlines. Write them down!
- If planning on playing Division I or II sports in college, you need to register with the NCAA Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse (online at www.ncaa.org).
- If you are applying Early Decision and they require the CSS Profile, complete it online at www.collegeboard.com by their posted deadline.
- Meet with visiting college representatives in the College Center. A list of colleges with dates and times is posted in Guidance and on the College Center window. Get a pass in Guidance.
- Start the Common Application (online at www.commonapp.org) or the college's individual college application.
- Request letters of recommendation for your teachers at least 10 school days before they are needed. Be sure to give your teacher an addressed, stamped envelope for each college.
- Begin essays.
- Write or revise your college resume. The Career Center office and English teacher can help.
- Complete applications.
- Get transcript release forms in the guidance office. See Mrs. Paul, the Registrar, to review your transcript.
- Submit college applications well in advance of deadlines. In most cases, applications will need to be submitted by mid to late December.

January-April

- Attend the Financial Aid Night on Thursday, January 7, 2010.
- Verify the financial aid deadlines for the colleges to which you are applying.
- Complete your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at www.fafsa.ed.gov as soon after January 1st as possible. Please be aware that you will also need a PIN for yourself and one parent.
- Complete the CSS Profile if necessary online at www.collegeboard.com as soon after January 1st as possible.
- Check to see if your college requires its own financial aid application form; be sure to complete that as well.
- Check the Scholarship Bulletin Board in the Guidance Office. Follow the application procedures for any applicable scholarships.
- Check with your place of work, your parent's place of work, and the Internet for any other scholarships that you may be eligible.
- Pick up your copy of the Local Scholarship Booklet from Guidance the week before February vacation.
- Apply for local scholarships. Follow the directions!

College Entrance Examinations

Not all colleges require testing as part of the admissions process. If a college requires testing, they may require just the SAT Reasoning Test or they may also require one or more SAT Subject Tests. In almost all cases the ACT with writing may be substituted for the SAT Reasoning Test and in some cases for the SAT Subject Tests. For a list of colleges that are test optional, go to www.fairtest.org.

It is your job to determine which tests are required for the colleges to which you will apply. You may find this out by checking the admissions information provided by the college and/or check in the College Center. If you have questions, ask Mrs. Grenier, the college counselor, or your guidance counselor.

Study materials and practice test information are also available in the College Center as well as online at www.collegeboard.com (SAT) and www.actstudent.org (ACT).

Overview of College Entrance Examinations

SAT Reasoning Test

The SAT Reasoning Test tests critical thinking skills and consists of a critical reading, mathematics, and a writing section. Most college bound students will take the SAT Reasoning Test in May or June of their junior year and another in the fall of their senior year. The fee for the 2009-2010 year is \$45.00.

SAT Subject Tests

Students may take up to three subject tests at one test administration, but may not take a subject test the same day at the SAT Reasoning Test. A limited number of colleges, usually the most selective, require them. The fee for the 2009-2010 year is \$29.00 (\$40.00 for language tests with listening).

ACT

The ACT is a curriculum based examination and tests four areas: English, Math, Reading, and Science. The ACT may substitute for the SAT Reasoning Test if taken with writing. The fee for the 2009-2010 year is \$47.00 (\$32.00 if not taken with writing).

Registration Information

Registration information is available in Guidance. Please see Mrs. Grenier if you are worried about paying for the SAT or ACT as you may qualify for a fee waiver. You must register approximately one month before the deadlines in order to avoid late fees. Plan to spend at least one half hour on your first registration. Once you have established and "on-line account" you will be able to return to the site to check or change information or do additional registrations. **Be sure that you record and save your username and password** as it is very difficult to access this information if you forget it.

Note: The six-digit code (also known as the CEEB, SAT, ACT code) that identifies you as a Portsmouth High School student is **300520**.

Best of the Web

College Search Engines

www.collegeview.com
www.petersons.com
www.collegeboard.com
www.fairtest.org (list of test optional colleges)

College Applications

www.commonapp.org

College Fairs

www.neacac.org

NCAA Eligibility Center

www.ncaa.org

SAT/ACT Information & Assistance

www.collegeboard.com
www.actstudent.org
www.fairtest.org

Financial Aid Forms & Information

www.fafsa.ed.gov (FAFSA)
www.pin.ed.gov (FAFSA PIN)
www.collegeboard.com (CSS Profile)
www.finaid.org
www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov
www.mapping-your-future.org

Scholarships & Grants

www.nhcf.org
www.fastweb.org
www.nh.gov/postsecondary

Budgeting & Saving

www.nhjumpstart.org
www.savingforcollege.org
www.youngbiz.com