



# BERKSHIRE SCHOOL COLLEGE COUNSELING

## Summer and Fall College Checklist for Class of 2020

### ❑ **Campus Visits**

If possible, we encourage you to schedule visits to colleges during the summer months. In addition to being a helpful tool in the decision process, visits are also an important way of expressing interest in a college. Students should be sure to visit schools across the full range of their list, not just their “reach” schools. It’s a great idea to make copies of your (or your student’s) transcript to take to interviews. When visiting campuses, be sure to call ahead of time to schedule a tour, information session, and interview (if they are offered). Take photos and jot notes down on the way home from the visit. Impressions can begin to blur together after visiting a few schools!

If you drop by a campus without an appointment, be sure to complete an inquiry card in the admission office so they know you were there. These visits can also help narrow your initial college list. It is meant to be a working list and, in most cases, will change over the summer.

If these college visits cannot be made during summer, please make arrangements to visit schools during the scheduled Berkshire breaks in October, November, and December.

### ❑ **Berkshire Campus College Admission Visitors & College Fairs**

More than 100 college representatives visit Berkshire each fall. Their visits provide another opportunity for our students to learn more about certain colleges and to make a connection with admission officers. In October, The Hotchkiss School hosts three College Fairs that our students will have the opportunity to attend where they can connect with additional admission officers.

### ❑ **First Sixth Form/Post Graduate Meeting with Berkshire College Counselor**

Sixth Form and Post Graduates should make appointments with their college counselors soon after the opening of school to review their college list and to discuss plans for the fall term. Students should not file any application without consulting their counselor, as we need to assure that a school report is sent for each application filed. Students should also not drop or adjust their fall courses without first discussing the impact on the college process with their Counselor.

### ❑ **Sixth Form/Post Graduate Testing Plan**

Standardized tests taken during the Sixth Form year will vary by individual. Please be aware that the August SAT, September ACT, and October SAT test dates below have very early registration deadlines. You should consider signing up online before arriving on campus at [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) (for SATs) or [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) (for ACTs). A credit card is required. College Board registration opens the second week of June; ACT opens the first week of July. Students who have been approved by the College Board or ACT for accommodations can also register online. If you have questions about which test(s) to take, please be in touch with us over the summer.

- We recommend that Berkshire Sixth Formers take the ACT on Sept. 14 and/or the SAT on Aug. 24 (at an off-campus testing center) or Oct. 5, especially if your student might file an early application (early action, early notification, or early decision). Sixth Formers also may take the ACT on Oct. 26 or Dec. 7 and/or the SAT on Nov. 2 at Berkshire.

## ❑ **Financial Aid**

If your family plans to apply for financial aid in college, it is essential that all financial aid forms be carefully completed. You should visit each college's website to see the specific financial aid formulas they use and to get a cost estimate. Please note that different institutions require different forms for financial aid evaluation. Below are the forms most often required.

- [FAFSA](#): The Free Application for Federal Student Aid is required by all colleges and universities. Online filing is available, but not required.
- [CSS Profile](#): This is required by many private institutions and some state schools.
- Institutional Forms: These are individual institutional forms sent to you by a college or university or found on an institution's website. You will also need to submit copies of your family's and your student's tax forms.

## ❑ **International Students**

- International students will, in many cases, need to submit original bank statements and an original Certification of Finances form with each college application even if they are not applying for Financial Aid. If possible, students should bring these forms with them to school in September.
- Students whose first language is not English *must* take the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) exam. Students should take the TOEFL *over the summer if at all possible*. In the fall, Berkshire will offer transportation to take the test off campus at an official testing center.

The CSS Profile should be done during the fall term, ideally by Oct. 1. The FAFSA is available on Oct. 1 and should be submitted before November 15 for early applications. These forms take some time to complete. We highly recommend doing them as early as possible. *It is essential that you meet each school's filing deadline to receive full consideration for aid.*

The [FinAid](#) website has helpful financial aid information. [Fastweb](#) is a valuable resource for locating scholarship opportunities.