

Senior College Packet

ILHS CEEB # 300395

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“Go Confidently in the Direction of your Dreams!

Live the life you have imagined.”

-Henry David Thoreau

College Application Student Checklist

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Students to do list:

- Complete the enclosed College Chart/Grid
- Applications at www.commonapp.org
- Essay – Seek teacher feedback
- Saturday SAT register at www.collegeboard.org—Dates: Oct. 2, Nov. 6 or Dec. 4th
- Fill out Brag Sheet—Give copy to Teacher and School Counselor
- Two Teacher Recommendations (make appointment, bring brag sheet & a thank you note)
- FAFSA Financial Aid Form – www.fafsa.ed.gov –Opens October 1st
*FAFSA is required by all 2 & 4 year colleges and vocational schools, etc.
- CSS Profile Financial Aid Form – www.profileonline.collegeboard.com *Profile is only required by highly selective schools
- NCAA – Division I or II athletics only – Register at www.eligibilitycenter.org
- Interview (if required/recommended)
- Art Portfolio or Music/Acting Audition (if appropriate)
- Check the ILHS Guidance webpage for scholarships
- Running Start Transcript—Request LRCC send your transcript to your colleges
- Remember to tell your counselor where you've applied, they will automatically send Transcript, School Profile, Current Student Schedule, Counselor Recommendation, Transcripts all year.

THE COMMON APPLICATION

For Undergraduate College Admission

www.commonapp.org

Get to Know the Common Application;

- An Online college application
- Create an account—go in and out of your application as needed
- Fill out your information once and send it to multiple colleges
- Pay online with a credit card or a fee waiver
- Upload the essay—see essay prompts in your Commonapp account
- Extra sections are needed for athletes & artists, etc.
- You MUST invite your teacher on the common app. site in order for teachers to send their letter of recommendation
- You MUST invite your counselor on the common app. site in order for counselors to send their letter of recommendation.
- All School items, i.e., transcript and letters of recommendation are sent electronically
- Some colleges require an additional “supplement” or questions to be answered just for their college.
- Remember spelling and grammar count on the Common Application

Tips for the College Essay

It's Your Voice and Window to Your Soul

The long-anticipated, much-procrastinated, college essay! It's time-consuming, but worth every minute you devote to it. The college essay is your personal finger print, allowing you to showcase your individuality and creativity. Use these tips to make this essay all about YOU!

Make it personal— Answer the question and then focus on how it relates to your future, your goals and who you are as a person.

Captivate your Audience—Give a quick, enticing introduction and make your reader want to keep reading by engaging them.

Be Yourself—Choose a topic that you can make meaningful to you. Reveal a side of you that is not otherwise revealed in your application. Use your own voice. Don't write what you think they want to hear.

Accentuate the positive—use details to describe personal experiences and emphasize how the experiences changed you for the better.

Reflect on life experiences, but handle sensitive experiences or subjects carefully. Be aware that the reader may not hold the same political, social or personal views as yourself.

Write in the active voice—this will make for a clearer, more concise essay.

Follow directions and write the requested number of pages or words.

Ask for input from a teacher, friend or parent. Feedback is helpful.

Revise, Revise, Revise—Devote time to writing, rewriting, proofing and revising. Read the essay aloud to find awkward sentences or awkward subject transitions. Grammar and spelling counts!

Check out sample college admissions essays and tips online!

Visit, Visit, Visit—Virtually or On-Campus

Questions to ask on a College Tour about Admissions:

- What is your application deadline? Should I submit my application earlier than the deadline?
- Are SAT, SAT II's/ACT's required or recommended? What is the average SAT score needed?
- What is the average GPA of students admitted to your college or my major?
- Do you offer or recommend early decision or early action applications?
- Do you require or recommend an interview? Will it help me with admission?
- What kind of extracurricular activities are you looking for?
- Do you have any pre-requisite high school courses for my major or for admission in general?
- Do you have any tips on writing my college essay?
- When and how will I be notified about the admission decision?

Dorms and Housing

- Are freshman guaranteed housing? Is housing guaranteed all four years?
- What are the housing options? (i.e., dorms, campus apartments, single, double, triple rooms?)
- How many students live on campus and how many commute or live elsewhere?
- Are freshman required to live on campus? What meal plans are offered?
- Is the dorm non-smoking? Does the dorm have a fire sprinkler system?
- Do you have a policy regarding friends visiting the dorms?

Athletics

- Are scholarships available? (Division I & II only)
- If I'm interested in playing a sport at your college, how do I proceed?
- Do you have contact information coaches?
- Do you also offer club level or intramural sports and opportunities?
- Are athletes paired up for dorms or housing?

Academics

- What is the average class size for freshman year? What are the smallest/largest class sizes?
- Are certain courses and/or majors difficult to get into?
- Do faculty maintain office hours?
- How are students advised as to which courses to take or help with choosing a major?
- Where do I go for help with a course? Is there a writing or math lab?
- What are your most popular or most unique majors?
- Do you have an honors program?

Financial Aid

- What are the financial aid application procedures and deadlines?
- What financial aid forms do you require?
- What are the financial aid procedures for early decision or early action applicants?
- Does the financial aid package change from year to year?
- Who do I contact if I need help with financial aid?

General Questions

- How many students attend your college? What is the faculty to student ratio?
- What is the average cost for one year at your college, including all expenses and fees?
- What types of internships are available?
- Is there an office on campus to help with finding part-time jobs, internships, etc.?
- What are the opportunities to study abroad?
- Is there public transportation? Or, are freshman allowed to have cars on campus?
- Is your college on a two, three or four semester plan?
- What do students do on the weekends? What unique social events take place on your campus?
- What differentiates your school from others?

SAT's & ACT's

SAT Registration: www.collegeboard.com

- Test Dates Recommended for seniors: Oct. 2, Nov. 6 or Dec. 4th
- Optional—Students choose if they want to take it for a second time on a Saturday morning at another public or private school.
- Deadline to Register: Generally ONE month prior to test date
- On-line Score Results arrive in student Collegeboard account in approximately 3 weeks
- Select 4 colleges for free to receive scores
- Check with individual colleges to see if they require tests with or without writing

SAT Subject Tests: www.collegeboard.com

- SAT Subject Tests = Specific test in one subject such as; Chemistry, Physics, Spanish, History, etc.
- Register and take up to 3 subject tests at one time - Offer 20 different subject tests
- May not take the SAT and a SAT Subject test on the same date
- SAT Subject Tests required by competitive colleges (Check with individual colleges for requirements)

ACT Registration: www.actstudent.org

- Test Dates Recommended for Seniors: Tests offered nearly every Saturday in Sept. and Oct.
- Multiple-choice scores available on-line within 3-4 weeks
- Deadline to Register: Approximately 5 weeks prior to test date
- Check with individual colleges to see if they require tests with or without writing

Preparing for the SAT & ACT

Free on-line practice

www.khanacademy.org—Link with your SAT account for personalized test preparation
www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/prep_one/test.html
www.actstudent.org and www.actstudent.org/sampletest/index.html
www.number2.com
www.freerice.com

On-line Prep Courses (charge a fee)

www.princetonreview.com
www.petersons.com/testprep/sat
www.kaptest.com (1-888-KAPLAN8)
www.satpreparation.net

Order: Study Guides, Practice Tests, Books, VHS, DVD's, CD-Rom's available on-line at www.amazon.com or Flashcard System at www.flashcardsecrets.com

Financial Aid & Scholarships

Financial Aid Night Coming this Fall!

More information on the Guidance Homepage

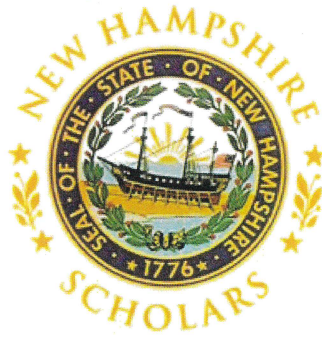
Presented by The Center for College Planning at www.nhheaf.org

Financial Aid:

- Every student is required to fill out the online Federal FAFSA Form www.fafsa.ed.gov - Website opens October 1st
- FAFSA requires information on income & assets for both the student & parents (tax returns, bank accounts, 529 savings plans, etc.)
- Families can make free, private appointments at NHHEAF in Concord, to fill out this form. Evening & Saturday appointments fill quickly. Call 225-6612x119 to make an appointment.
- Check each of your individual college financial aid web pages for specific financial aid requirements from each college.
- CSS Profile Financial Aid Form - www.profileonline.collegeboard.com
*Profile is only required by highly selective schools

Scholarships:

- Scholarships are divided into 1) Local 2) NH Statewide and 3) National
- All scholarships are posted on the Guidance tab of the ILHS website
- Check out Scholarships on the Guidance tab of the website
- Local Scholarship information is mailed home in February



New Hampshire Scholars

www.nhscholars.org

What is NH Scholars?

Rigorous academic course of study that prepares students for successful transition to college/university coursework or vocational/technical training necessary to enter today's competitive job market.

What are the benefits for students to participate?

Statewide recognition, rigorous courses to prepare for college, medallion to wear at graduation and a fun end of the year senior event:

N.H. Scholar Requirements at ILHS

- 4 Years of English
- 4 Years of Math
- 3.5 Years of Social Studies
- 4 Years of Science (Chemistry required)
- 2 Years of World Language (including 1A, 1B and level 2)

College, University, or School Name	1	2	3	4
Application Deadline	Early Action:	Early Action:	Early Action:	Early Action:
	Regular:	Regular:	Regular:	Regular:
Application Fee				
FAFSA Deadline				
CSS Profile Y/N				
Number of Recommendations				
Number of Essays				
SAT/ACT Scores SAT Optional?				
SAT Subject Tests Required/Optional?				
Audition Portfolio ATI TEAS (Nursing)				
Interview Y/N				
Contact Person				