



MALDEN CATHOLIC

**JUNIOR COLLEGE KICK-OFF
JANUARY 2025**



MALDEN CATHOLIC

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS PANEL

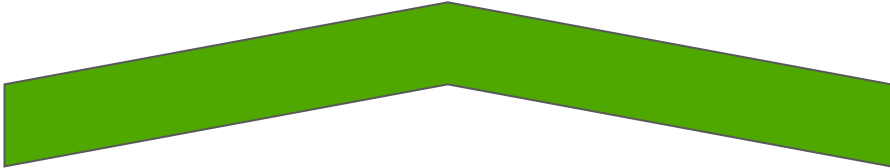
BOSTON UNIVERSITY
SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS LOWELL
BENTLEY UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF THE HOLY CROSS

WELCOME

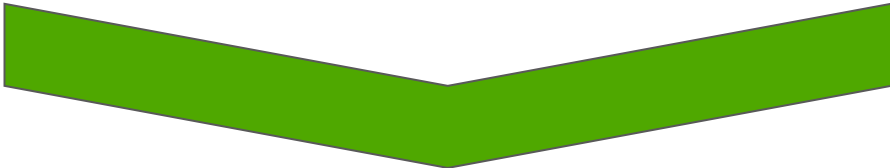
Junior year college preparation overview

We are in this together!





A nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization built to help families reduce the cost of college, minimize debt and increase higher education choices.



MEET THE STAFF

Gregg Cohen



Lynette O'Leary



Brian Gardiner



Pamela Martinetti



Alison Garcia



Michelle DeRose



Affordability Crisis: Why are students overpaying?

**Inaccurate
Upfront Family
Budgeting**

**Confusing
Financial Aid
Forms**

**Misleading
Award Letters
and Failure to
Appeal**

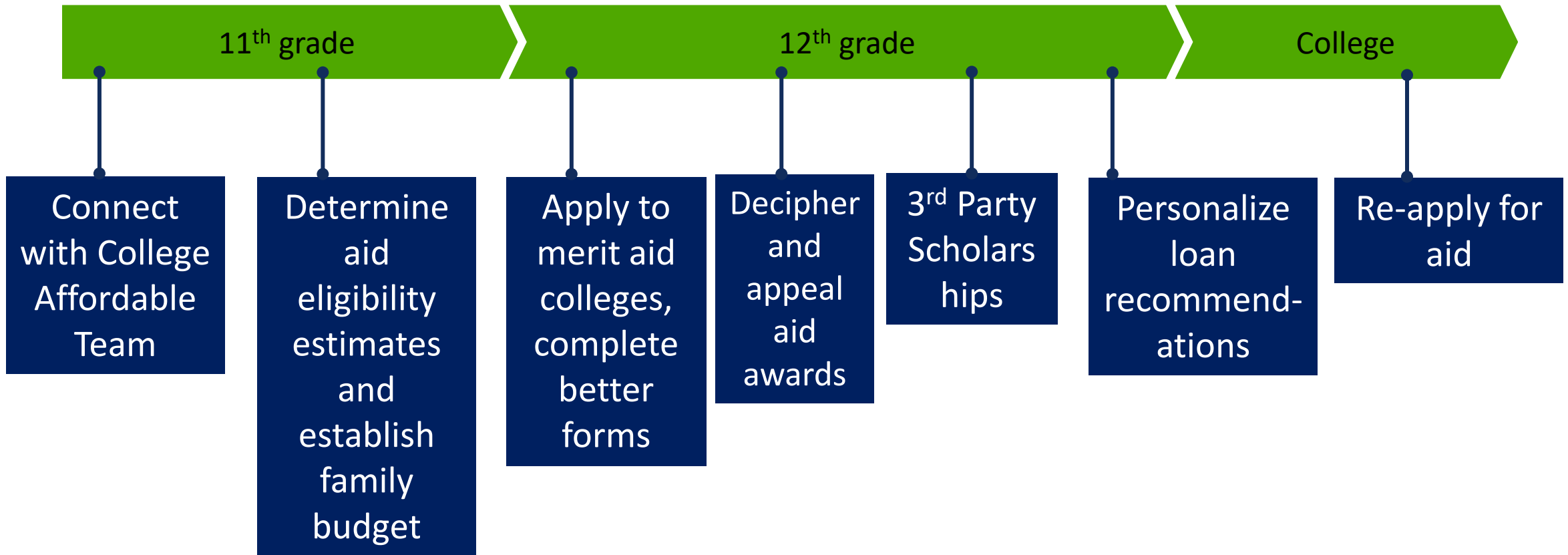
**Missed
Opportunities
for Merit Aid**

**Predatory
Lenders in
Student Loan
Market**



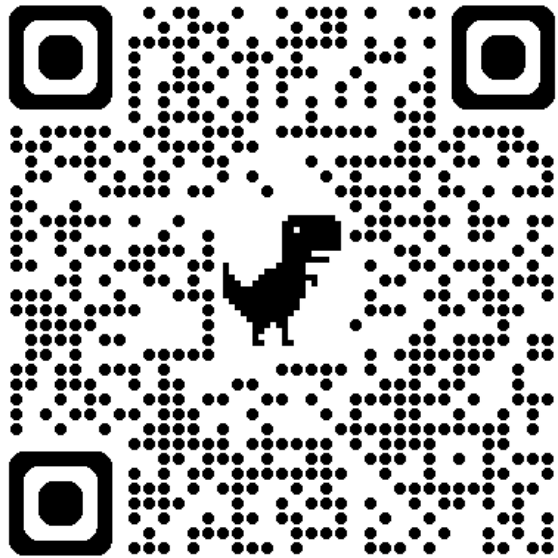
How College Affordable Helps

Example student's journey with key College Affordable specific support:



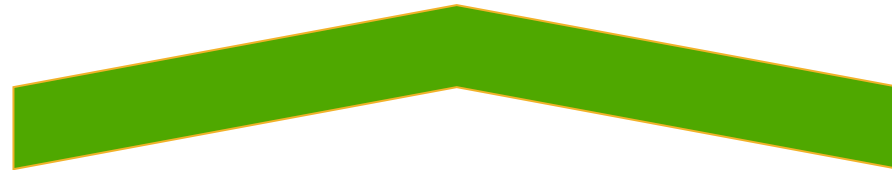
Building cost into your college search:

- ❑ Register with College Affordable
- ❑ Attend webinar February 13th at 6:30, ***Grants, Scholarships, Loans, Work-study...What Does it all Mean?***
- ❑ Utilize the SAI Calculator on landing page
- ❑ Complete a Budget Assessment on landing page
- ❑ Complete a Financial Aid Assessment on landing page
- ❑ Attend webinar March 13th at 6:30 ***Creating your College Financial Game Plan Webinar***
- ❑ Search for schools that are financial targets and financial safeties
- ❑ Email college affordable any questions that come up
- ❑ Research, build and edit the college list.



financialaid@collegeaffordable.org

CALL or TEXT: 781-343-1941



PREPARATION: ACADEMICS

Academics

- **College Admissions is primarily an academic decision**
 - **Transcript is most important factor**
 - **Courses**
 - **Level**
 - **Final Grades 9-11, Senior year (Q1 & Q2)**
 - **Unweighted GPA on a 100-point scale is reported**
 - **If a student does not feel like their transcript will reflect their abilities, they have an entire senior year semester to change that.**

PREPARATION: LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

- **1 letter from your counselor**
 - Your counselor will provide you a letter of recommendation as part of your application
 - **Content:** overall academic record, contributions to school and wider community, personal impressions, and anything unique/interesting/needs explaining
 - Required counselor form must be completed before end of school year
- **2 letters from high school faculty (requested in March-April)**
 - Discuss you as a student in their classroom
 - Academic strengths, areas you shine
 - Not always best from the class you get an “A” in; sometimes the struggle and perseverance produce the best letter
 - Required teacher forms must be completed before end of school year

Note: Outside letters- only if they offer new information (coach, internship, etc.)

PREPARATION: TESTING


- **The Current Landscape on Testing**
 - PSAT was taken in October
 - SAT on April 16
 - In School, students do not need to sign up
 - Many colleges will continue a test optional policy for the Class of 2026
 - **Test Optional**
 - Students can submit scores if they have them and believe it will strengthen their application- typically this means that students are within the range of the scores that the college publicizes
 - Test Optional policies have been in place for a long time; families should feel confident that test optional is truly optional
 - **Test Blind**
 - The college does not accept testing in their process anymore
 - **Test Flexible**
 - The college will accept different tests if needed, but in general, they still want scores from the SAT or ACT

EXPLORATION: RESEARCH


Exploring college

- **There are thousands of colleges for students to consider**
 - Look for fit: location, size, programs, campus environment, athletics/specialized programs
 - The more broadly you open your search, the more options you will find
 - Look for college fairs – in person and virtual
 - We have a fair planned at MC on April 3rd
- **Only you can decide which colleges to apply to**
 - Research is the most important activity that you will do this year as part of your college process.
 - We will explore together how to research colleges online using Naviance
 - Talk to your families
 - College Fairs can be an important part of this process so you can connect with the admissions counselors that could be reading your application
 - MC Fair- April 3
 - National Boston Fair (NACAC)- March 27 and 28
 - Virtual college fairs

EXPLORATION: IN PERSON TOURS

- **College Tours--While many other research opportunities are available, touring a campus helps us understand environment. Virtual tours are also available if you cannot attend in person**
 - **You must pre-register for college tours through the admissions office- you must get a college visit form from the front desk if during a school day**
 - **February and April break are good times to go**
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TIMELINE: NOW

- **Preliminary College meetings start now**
 - **Students will be emailed a link to their counselor's appointment calendar to set up their first meeting. Meetings should be scheduled during student's free periods.**
 - **Email your counselor if you can't find a time that will work for you**
 - **Expect to develop a preliminary list and have any initial questions answered such as: types of admission (Early decision, Early action, Regular decision, Rolling), Major and Career exploration, The Common Application, College Essay**
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TIMELINE: A WIDE VIEW

- **College Admissions Panel and Kick-off (January)**
- **College Affordable Financial Aid webinars and presentations (on-going)**
- **Preliminary Student/Counselor Meetings (January-March)**
- **Current MC senior panel on perspectives of the process (March)**
- **NACAC Boston College Fair (March 27 and 28)**
- **Senior year courses; Teacher Recommendation Process (March/April)**
- **MC College Fair (April 3rd) and MC SAT (April 16)**
- **The Common Application, Your College Essay (April/May)**
- **Follow up meetings as we head into the summer (May-June)**

TIMELINE: A WIDE VIEW

- **Summer:**
 - Visits and research continue, the college list is shortened
 - College essay is more formally drafted and then completed
 - Supplemental essays are drafted and then completed
 - Common application is opened and being completed
- **September-October:**
 - **Individual meetings with seniors:**
 - College essay reviews + supplementary essay reviews
 - College application reviews
 - Students finalize their lists
 - Decisions around submitting test scores
 - Connecting Common application and Naviance accounts
 - College admissions visits at MC
 - Senior College Night (nuts and bolts overview) (September)
 - College Financial Aid and FAFSA Night (October)
- **October 15 – December 1: Early Action and Early Decision Deadlines**
- **November 30 – February: Regular Decision Deadlines**
- **By End of Q2, most students will have completed the process and applications regardless of deadlines**

submitted all

SCHOOL AND COLLEGE COUNSELING

Please reach out to school counseling with any questions

Mrs. Peggy Davis, pdavis@maldencatholic.org

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