Hollis Brookline High School

JUNIOR COLLEGE PLANNING-Class of 2026

January 29, 2025

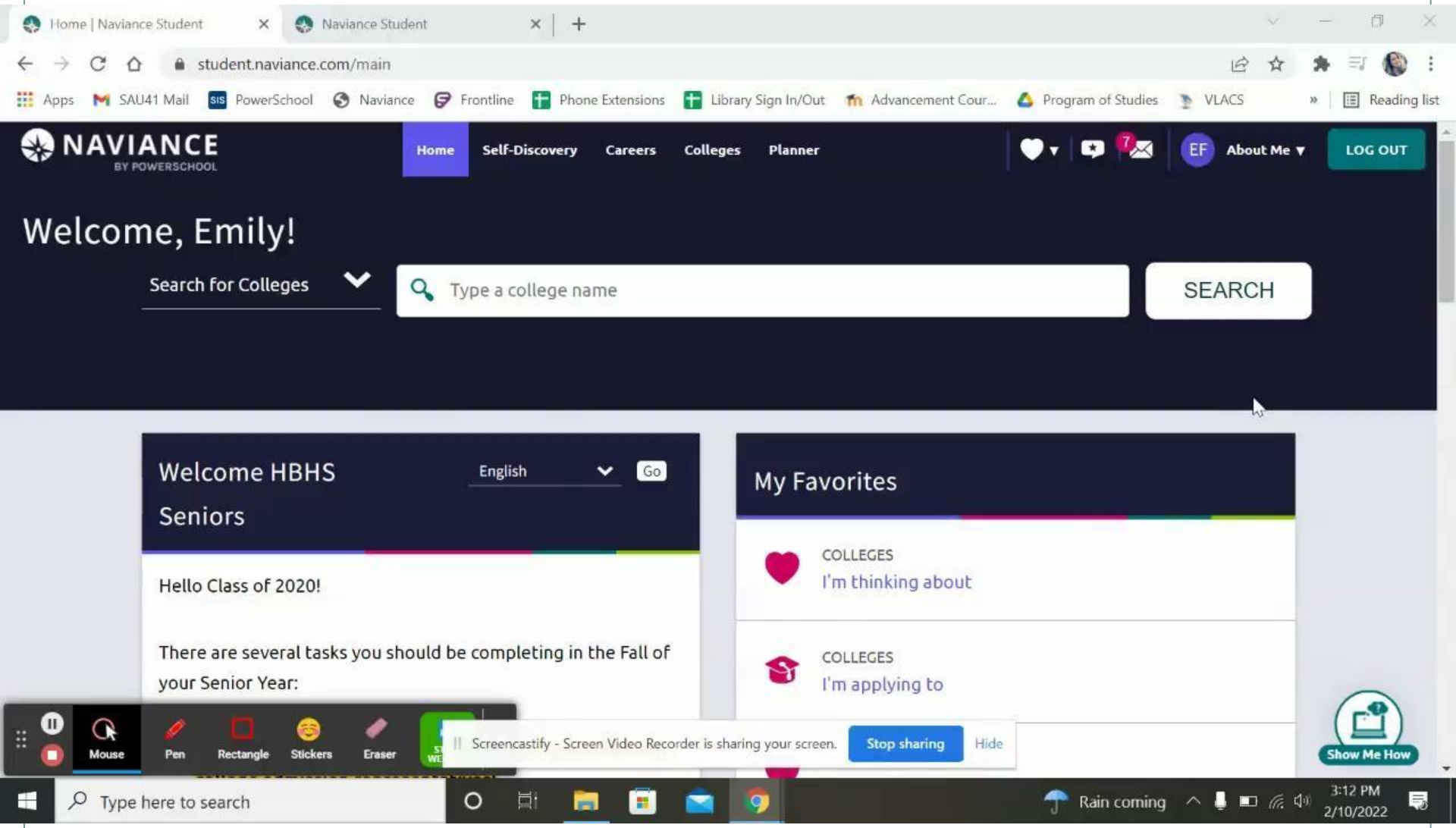
What Do Colleges Look At?

- Student transcript/academic record
- Standardized Test Scores (many are optional)
- Engagement outside of classroom
- Community Service
- Institutional priorities
- Demonstrated Interest

How do I start a College Search?

College Search – Naviance (Supermatch)

- Admission statistics
- Location/size
- Majors/ Programs
- Financial Aid
- Retention & Graduation Rate
- Environment
- Cost/Benefit Analysis
- Extracurricular Activities
- Fit


Home | Naviance Student
Naviance Student
student.naviance.com/main
Apps
SAU41 Mail
PowerSchool
Naviance
Frontline
Phone Extensions
Library Sign In/Out
Advancement Cour...
Program of Studies
VLACS
Reading list
NAVIANCE
BY POWERSCHOOL
Home
Self-Discovery
Careers
Colleges
Planner
EF
About Me
LOG OUT
Welcome, Emily!
Search for Colleges
Type a college name
SEARCH
Welcome HBHS Seniors
English
Go
Hello Class of 2020!
There are several tasks you should be completing in the Fall of your Senior Year:
My Favorites
COLLEGES
I'm thinking about
COLLEGES
I'm applying to
Mouse
Pen
Rectangle
Stickers
Eraser
Screencastify - Screen Video Recorder is sharing your screen.
Stop sharing
Hide
Show Me How
Type here to search
Rain coming
3:12 PM
2/10/2022

How to Select Colleges

- Be able to make more informed choices by researching schools and visit campuses
- Look “beyond admissions” - For example: look at specific programming
- Having a broad range of colleges selected will help diminish stress
- As you narrow down your list, remember
  - Safety – exceed criteria range
  - Target – meet criteria range
  - Reach – outside of criteria range

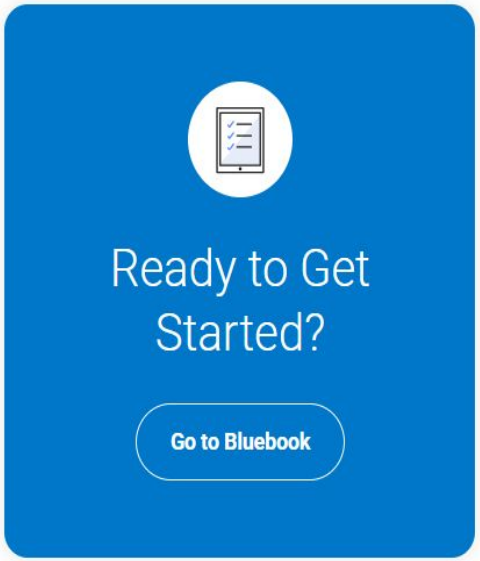
Standardized Testing

SAT

- All Junior students will be taking the SAT in April (Date TBD)
- Additional testing - sat.org (area high schools)
- ACT
  - Students must sign up on act.org to take privately if needed.
  - Includes a Science section
  - Writing (ACT) is optional

SAT Test Prep - Bluebook, Free!

Full-Length Digital Practice Tests on Bluebook



Before test day, navigate to **Practice and Prepare** on the Bluebook homepage to find practice resources for your digital test.

Test Preview

This short set of questions lets you experience digital testing and try out the tools. You won't receive scores or any feedback on your answers.

The test preview is untimed. On test day, a timer will be running.

HBHS Winter SAT Preparatory Course

- Classes will meet twice a week, on Mondays & Thursdays, for 2 hours each:
  - Reading/Writing classes will be instructed on Mondays by Mr. Patrick Groleau.
  - Math classes will be instructed on Thursdays by Mrs. Stacey Plummer.
  - If there are enough registrations to support offering two sections, one section will meet from 5 pm – 7 pm and the other section will meet from 7 pm – 9 pm.
- The cost of the course is $350
- Registration for this winter session begins on Tuesday, January 28th (will close when courses are full or on February 4th)
- SAT Prep class will begin on Monday, March 3rd and the course will end on Thursday, April 10th

Sending SAT and ACT Scores

- Students must contact the testing agency to request scores to be sent to each college.
  - You need to log in to your College Board account to send test scores. Counselors do not have this information. If you do not have your login information please contact College Board customer service.

- HBHS does not report SAT or ACT scores on transcripts.

SAT - www.collegeboard.org

ACT – www.ACT.org

Activities to Include on your College Application

- Student Council
- Performing Arts Activities
- Yearbook
- Sports: School and any Out-Of-School Experiences
- Community Service/Volunteer Experience
- Outside of School Learning Experiences, Extended Learning Opportunities (ELO).
- Other Activities (i.e. religious activities, hobbies, clubs, etc.)
- Summer or Special Travel Experiences
- Employment and or internships
- Honors and Awards – academic, athletic or other
- Activities List Outline

How do I get my recommendations?

- 1 to 2 Teachers Recommendations
- Ask your teachers, in person this spring (typically most four year colleges need one to two) Blue Form.
- (If two, one from humanities, one from STEM. If one, from your area of interest/major)
- In the fall, when you have solidified your requests, please follow up with the teachers and add requests into Naviance.
- Consider who to ask and why/be sure to check specific college recommendation requirements. Please only request letters from teachers that are needed for your application. For example, if a college asks for one letter, they will only review one letter.
- Please be sure to send a written thank you to your recommenders.

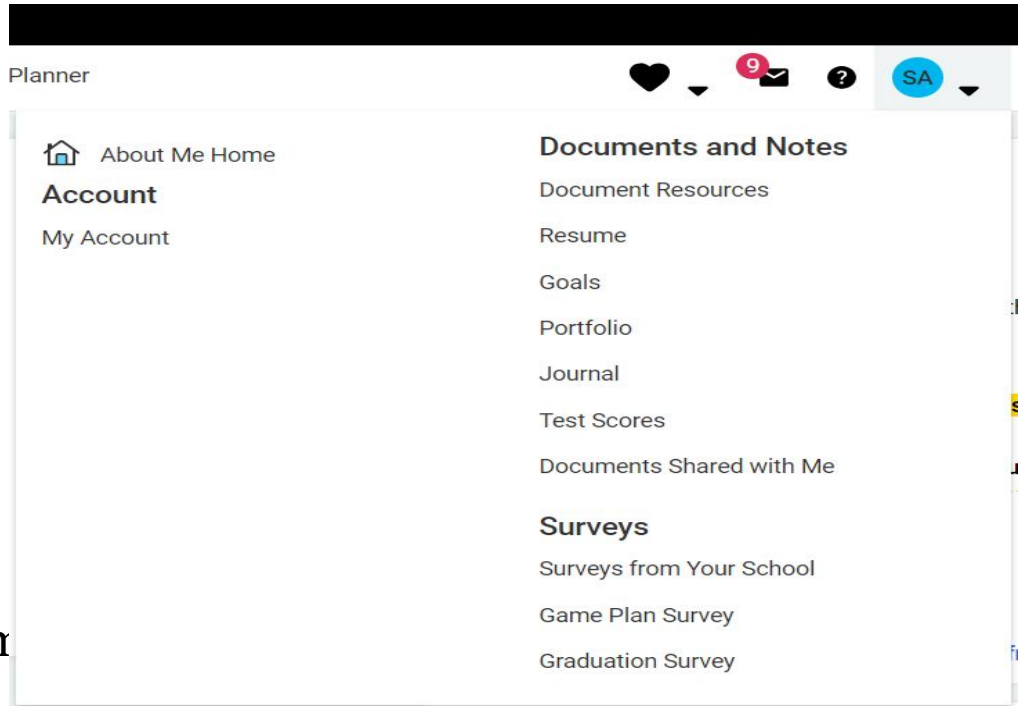
Counselor Recommendation

- **If your college requires a counselor letter of recommendation:**

  Please fill out the Parent and Student Questionnaires on Naviance

  Have these filled out at least 3 weeks prior to your earliest application due date.

  Click on the blue circle with initials (in the upper right hand corner) > Surveys > Surveys from my school.



FERPA

- Family Educational Rights Privacy Act
- HBHS practice adheres to non-disclosure of college recommendation letters to maintain confidentiality
- HBHS Staff provide letters of recommendation with the purpose of enhancing the application packet of the student
- Recommenders have the right to refuse to write letters of recommendation if the student selects not to waive their right
- Waiving your right improves the fidelity of your application from the viewpoint of college admissions

When to Apply - Deadlines

- Early Action
- Restrictive Early Action
- Early Decision I & II
- Priority
- Regular Decision
- Rolling Admission

Military Academies

- These programs require early planning due to nomination process/early application
- If you are pursuing a military academy, please see your School Counselor in Spring of your Junior Year
- Check military or specific academies for further information

NCAA

- Students planning on participating in Division 1 or Division 2 college athletics MUST register online and notify their counselor
- Students and families should be familiar with all NCAA requirements
- www.NCAA.org - General information, allow access to eligibility center for registration as student athlete

Two vs. Four Year College: What's the difference?

- Similar process
- Online or paper application
- SATs not required for admission but can be looked at for placement
- NH Transfer Connections Program/Dual Enrollment
- Advantages:
  - Financial
  - Readiness for College
  - Exploration
  - Early College - Two free classes per year with the NH Community College System

Financial Aid

- Grants, Loans and Scholarships
- **FAFSA –Free Application for Federal Student Aid**
  - Federal form which must be completed to receive any aid for any college in the U.S., including student loans.
- CSS Profile
  - Form used by some private colleges in conjunction with the FAFSA form.
- Student Aid Index (SAI) SAI estimator
- Attend our Financial Aid Night Presentation – Fall 2025
- Resources: Granite EdVance, lendEDU, StudentAid.gov, college specific websites

Important Things To Do-Action items

- Complete Class of 2026 Counselor Recommendation Request Form by June 1st-In Naviance under “About Me” and “Surveys From Your School” If your schools require a counselor letter.
- Complete Teacher Recommendation Request Forms by June 1st.
- Encourage Parent/Guardian to complete the Class of 2026 Parent Brag Sheet by June 1st.
- Have a list of at least 5-8 colleges you expect to apply to in the fall (safety, target, reach).

College Essay

- What does the Essay provide?
  - Personal information not found elsewhere in the application
  - Provides opportunity hear from you in your own words
  - Gain insight into your thinking process
  - Assess your writing ability
- This can be the most lengthy and stressful part of the application
- Topics/subjects provided through Common App or by College

***Some colleges also accept video portfolios

Social Media/Online Etiquette

- Students and their social media use is currently a hot and important topic in the college world.
- College admissions reps and scholarship judges freely admit they check up on students via social media.
- Students can use social media to their advantage by sharing their hard work, community service, and desire to get into college.
- Create a college email address/do not use school address. Make sure address sounds professional.

What Resources Are Available?

- Naviance
- CollegeBoard.org
- College Representative visits and College Fair at HBHS (Fall)
- College Websites
- Campus Visits
- College Admissions Representatives
- Meet with your School Counselor!!

Senior Student Panel

- What important thing about college admissions do you wish you knew as a Junior?
- One piece of advice you would give regarding applying to college?
- In your personal application journey what would you have done differently?

Contact Information

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Final Remarks

- The admission process can be taxing on the parent/child relationship
- Juniors take ownership of the admission process
- Parent's role/student role/counselor role
- Plan ahead & stay organized