



College Planning for Juniors & Their Families

What You Should Be Doing Over the Summer

**Presented by the
Middleborough High School
School Counseling Department**

College Planning Workshop - Part 2

Timeline

Finding the right fit

Recommendations

Application Process

College Boot Camp

College Essay

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Junior Year Timeline

January

1/21 College Planning for Juniors & Their Families - Part I - Where to Begin

February

- GPA's posted to Scoir
- Log into Scoir to complete a college search and develop a list of colleges to explore

2/1 February Virtual College Fair 1-6pm

2/27 Deadline to register for the March 14th SAT (MHS is not a test site)

March

- Continue researching colleges on your list
- Register for the May SAT through collegeboard.com

3/6 Deadline to register for the April 11th ACT (MHS is not a test site)

3/14 SAT Administered (MHS is not a test site)

3/15 March Virtual College Fair 1-6pm

April

- Set up Admissions Office tours with colleges over April break
- Send "Thank You" notes to the people who interviewed/showed you around campus

4/11 ACT Administered (MHS is not a test site)

4/15 Attend College Planning Night for Juniors & Their Families - What You Should Be Doing Over the Summer

4/17 Deadline to register for the May 2nd SAT at MHS

4/19 Virtual College Fair 1-6pm

Register at <https://www.nacacattend.org/26virtualapr19>

4/28 NACAC National College Fair Field Trip in Boston

May

- Continue researching colleges and narrowing down your list

5/2 SAT Administered (MHS is a test site)

5/4 AP Exams Begin (end 5/15)

5/8 Deadline to register for the June 3rd ACT

5/22 Deadline to register for June 6th SAT (Recommended if you did not take the March or May SAT)

June

- Register for MHS College Boot Camp
- Ask a core academic teacher for a letter of recommendation
- Ask your School Counselor any final questions before you leave for the summer

6/6 SAT Administered (MHS is not a test site)

6/9 Credit for Life Fair at MHS

6/13 ACT Administered (MHS is not a test site)

Checklist

What You Should Have Already Done

- ☐ Register for SAT's in May or June and/or an ACT exam.
- ☐ Actively engage in the course selection process, creating a rigorous senior year schedule.
- ☐ Complete a college search on Scoir or College Board's Big Future.
- ☐ Develop a list of colleges that interest you and follow them on Scoir.
- ☐ Set up Admissions Office tours with colleges over April break.
- ☐ Identify a college fair to attend (i.e. virtual or NACAC Boston College Fair through MHS on April 28th).

What You Should Do By the End of Summer

- ☐ Continue researching schools to make a finalized list to apply to in the fall.
- ☐ Identify teachers to write letters of recommendation.
- ☐ Complete the appropriate forms available on the Class of 2027 School Counseling Google Classroom.
- ☐ Take at least 1 SAT or ACT and start preparing for a fall retest.
- ☐ Review the application process for the schools you plan to apply to and take note of their application deadlines.
- ☐ Start applying for scholarships (MHS Scholarship program does not start until February 2027).

Finding the Right Fit

(and the idea of the “Dream School”)

It’s important to identify a college that offers your intended major, but it’s also crucial to find a school that is a good fit for you overall. Even if you are unsure of a major, this is the best place to start your college search.

Are you looking for a small, medium, or large school?

Do you want a big sports scene or extracurriculars?

Do you prefer a school in the city, suburbs, or in a rural setting?

The best way to find that ideal fit is to tour schools and make a list of the things you liked and disliked. Students get 2 days per year of excused absences that can be used for college visits. You need to provide documentation of the visit and submit it to the main office.

Stack visits whenever possible. For example, tour a small school in the city in the morning and then find a nearby school in the afternoon that touches on a different feature, such as a big school, a school in the suburbs, etc. Visits can be scheduled through the admissions website of a college.

Check out page 15 & 16 of the
College Planning for Juniors Workshop Part 1
for “Tips for Visiting Colleges”

<https://mhs.middleboro.k12.ma.us/about-our-schools/counseling-department/junior-information>

Word of caution on “Dream Schools”

There is no one perfect school for someone. There are several that would be an excellent fit for you. Colleges are salespeople who are trying to sell you the dream college experience. Even if you get into your “dream school,” it may not be financially feasible. Be flexible with your college search. Identify the features that you like and dislike to help shape your ideal fit.

Although Scoir is a great resource to aid in your college search, there are some additional resources. You may also review how to do a college search through Scoir.

Check out pages 9 & 10 of the
College Planning for Juniors Workshop Part 1
For Scoir and Next Steps

<https://mhs.middleboro.k12.ma.us/about-our-schools/counseling-department/junior-information>

Additional Resources to Aid In Your College Search

Niche [Niche.com](https://www.niche.com)

Niche focuses on student reviews of the campus, highlighting how students feel about a number of categories, including professors, academic rigor, campus life, safety, value, etc. Detailed breakdowns of how they arrive at each letter grade can be found on the website's homepage [Niche.com](https://www.niche.com).

University of Massachusetts Lowell

B+ Overall Grade • 4 Year • Lowell, MA • ★★★★★ 1,532
#2 in Top Public Universities in Massachusetts

[Apply now](#)
[Add to list](#)

Overview Academics Majors Cost Admissions Campus Life Students After College Rankings Reviews

- Overview
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- From the School
- About
- Upcoming Events
- Branch Campuses
- Rankings
- Admissions & Accep...
- Will You Get In?
- Cost & Tuition
- Scholarship
- Academics
- Majors
- Academic Spotlight
- Online Academics
- Students
- Campus Life

B+ Overall Grade [view all grades](#)

85% Acceptance Rate

\$17,624 Net Price Per Year [Calculate your True Cost](#)

12,128 Total Undergrad Students

Suburb Lowell, MA

umasslowell.edu

B+ Overall Niche Grade

How are grades calculated?
Data Sources

B+ Academics	A- Value
A Diversity	C Campus
A- Athletics	B+ Party Scene
A Professors	B- Location
B Dorms	C Campus Food
B Student Life	B Safety

There is also a **Reviews** section where students share their ratings and any additional comments prospective students should consider. It's important to remember these are opinions.

3.7

★★★★☆

overall star rating

1,532 reviews



★★★★★

My overall experience at the University of Massachusetts Lowell has been positive. I've liked the supportive professors, the opportunities to grow academically and professionally, and the chance to get involved in meaningful experiences outside the classroom. UML has helped me build skills, confidence, and a clearer path toward my future career goals.

One thing I would like to see improve is communication around advising, registration, and other administrative processes. Making those systems clearer and easier for students would improve the overall experience. Overall, UML has been an important part of my growth, and I'm thankful for the opportunities it has given me.

Junior · 7 days ago · [Overall Experience](#)

0 people have found this helpful [👍](#)

[Report](#)

Use the Reviews section to gather more information on what it may be like on campus, but ultimately make your decision based on a tour and your own research.

College Scorecard <https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/>

College Scorecard breaks down anticipated earnings within 5 years of graduation within a specific major. Helps to identify how strong of a program this will be for your future career plans. For example, below is a breakdown of Worcester State's Business Administration major. If a program only has a handful of graduates each year, then exercise caution.

Business Administration, Management and Operations - Bachelor's Degree

144



☐ Include debt borrowed at any prior institutions ⓘ

Add to Compare

Number of Graduates ⓘ

144

Median Earnings (At this College) ⓘ

\$66,405



Median Earnings (National) ⓘ

\$68,257



Median Total Debt ⓘ

\$19,500



Monthly Earnings ⓘ

\$5,534

Monthly Loan Payment ⓘ

\$207

Use the **Compare** feature where you can compare not only colleges but also majors across different colleges and their potential outcomes. Like with all resources, treat it as just one tool. If a school has a lower salary outcome, it doesn't mean the school should be ruled out automatically. Do more research identifying what kind of internship opportunities are available or the common employers of recent graduates.

Mechanical Engineering. - University of Massachusetts-Lowell



Mechanical Engineering. - University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth



Mechanical Engineering. - Worcester Polytechnic Institute



Mechanical Engineering. - Northeastern University



Common Data Set

Each college has a Common Data Set (CDS) which outlines 50+ pages of institutional data points, including GPA and SAT/ACT ranges of accepted students, importance of various admissions criteria, campus safety statistics, etc. It is helpful with identifying Financial Aid info as it relates to how much a school gives out each year in Need Based Aid vs Non-Need Based Aid, otherwise known as Merit Scholarships.

Financials should be a consideration when looking at schools. If a family's income is on the lower end, target some schools that offer more Need Based Aid than Merit Scholarship. If a student has strong grades, test scores, extracurriculars, etc., consider schools that offer more Merit Scholarships than Need Based Aid. If it's somewhere in the middle, apply to both. For example, below is from UMass Amherst's CDS which highlights they are more likely to offer Need Based Aid than Merit.

Aid Awarded	Need-based (Include non-need-based aid use to meet need.)	Non-need-based (Exclude non-need-based aid use to meet need.)
Scholarships/Grants	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Federal	\$35,211,139	\$250,701
State all states, not only the state in which your institution is located	\$31,764,885	\$3,585,411
Institutional: Endowed scholarships, annual gifts and tuition funded grants, awarded by the college, excluding athletic aid and tuition waivers (which are reported below).	\$93,528,795	\$66,185,789
Scholarships/grants from external sources (e.g. Kiwanis, National Merit) not awarded by the college	\$5,438,236	\$5,960,210
Total Scholarships/Grants	\$165,943,055	\$75,982,111

There is also information on the importance of admissions factors. At UMass Amherst, GPA and class rigor are most important, followed by rank, essay, recommendations, extracurriculars.

Relative importance of each of the following academic and nonacademic factors in your first-time, first-

Academic	Very Important	Important	Considered	Not Considered
Rigor of secondary school record	X			
Class rank		X		
Academic GPA	X			
Standardized test scores			X	
Application Essay		X		
Recommendation(s)		X		
Nonacademic	Very Important	Important	Considered	Not Considered
Interview				X
Extracurricular activities		X		
Talent/ability		X		
Character/personal qualities		X		
First generation			X	
Alumni/ae relation				X
Geographical residence				X
State residency				X
Religious affiliation/commitment				X
Volunteer work			X	
Work experience		X		

Social Media and Demonstrated Interest

Viewing a school on Instagram, YouTube, or any other social media platform is a great way to get a feel for a school. When viewing these accounts, consider first if it is an official school account or just a student's anecdotal experience. Both have value. The official school account will paint the school in the best possible light as they are trying to pitch their school to you.

Following them creates "Demonstrated Interest" which is an area that can help your admission chances at colleges. If Admissions Officers are torn between admitting one of two students, they will often look at how invested the applicant is in their school. Your engagement in their social media, how often you visit their school website, or click into their emails could tip the scales in your favor!

Word to the wise on social media:

Many Admissions Officers believe that viewing an applicant's social media pages is fair game. Be mindful of what you post! Remove anything that would negatively impact your application.

IEP's and 504 Plans

All schools offer some type of support for students currently on IEP's or 504 Plans. However, it's still crucial to research *how* each school supports these cases.

Visit the Office for Students with Disabilities website or set up a call with their office to learn about these support systems. Remember, you must be a strong advocate for yourself and your plan!

First Year Experience Programs

First Year Experience (FYE) Programs are becoming increasingly popular as colleges work to build a sense of belonging for each new student. Be proactive by reviewing the school's website to see how they immerse students into the campus community.



Application Process

All college applications are not the same! Some colleges only accept their own application while others accept the “Common Application.” See which schools accept the Common Application by going to www.commonapp.org and selecting the ‘Find Colleges’ tab. If two or more colleges in your list accept the Common Application then it is worthwhile for you to complete this type application.

What to know:

1. Application, Essay, & Fee - Completed by you.
2. Secondary School Report - Completed by you and your school counselor.
3. Recommendations - 1 by your School Counselor and one by a teacher (unless stated otherwise by the college). You complete the Letter of Recommendation Info Sheet and send to teacher(s) and counselor.
4. Transcript and School Profile (includes class rank & GPA) - Sent by your School Counselor upon an electronic request through Scoir, by you.
5. Test Scores: You are responsible for requesting that College Board (SAT) and/or American College Testing (ACT) send your scores to the colleges you are applying to. The School Counseling Department does not have the ability, nor the legal right to send official scores.

College Acceptance Criteria

Each school has different priorities when deciding what is most important when issuing an acceptance letter. However, these are the most common (in no particular order):

1. Course Rigor
2. GPA
3. Extracurriculars
4. Essay
5. Recommendations
6. Test Scores
7. College Interview (Optional)

Letters of Recommendation

A key part of your application will be letters of recommendation. Colleges are looking for typically 1 academic letter from a teacher and 1 character recommendation from your school counselor. Some schools may require a 2nd academic letter, so have a backup.

Step 1: Identify and ask a Teacher for a Recommendation Letter

When identifying a teacher to ask, students should pick a teacher from their junior year, preferably in the field you are considering for a major. If a school requires a 2nd academic letter, think of one in a different subject from your primary letter to highlight your well-roundedness. For example, MIT requires 2 academic letters - 1 from a STEM teacher (i.e. Math, Science, Computer Science) and 1 from a Humanities teacher (i.e. English, Social Studies).

Step 2: Complete the Letter of Recommendation Info Sheet - Teacher and Counselor

Once you have identified and asked your academic reference(s), complete the Letter of Recommendation Info Sheet form available in the Class of 2027 School Counseling Google Classroom. Pay attention to which is the teacher form and which is the counselor form. This info sheet assists them in writing the letter.

The more thought you put into your answers, the more your teacher and counselor can talk you up in their letter of recommendation.

For example, the question “What was your most proud accomplishment in this class?”

Answer 1: Getting an A

Answer 2: My first term was rough, as I got my first C in a class ever. But I started making changes to my study habits - signing up for more Directed Study and Success Blocks. Then at home, I found a great math resource site that walked me through different units. I spent a little bit more time each and every day at home working on this, even when there wasn't homework so I could understand the material better. It was a lot of work but I'm really proud of how I turned that C into a B+ at the end of the year.

Which answer will help your teacher write a stronger letter of recommendation?

Helpful hint: State your answer and then provide 2-3 anecdotal examples to back up your point. Admissions officers will see all of the titles and activities you completed in high school, but the anecdotal pieces from your letters of recommendation will provide the most insight into who you are as a student and as a person.

Step 3: Email the completed Letter of Recommendation Info Sheet to the identified teacher or counselor by the end of the summer. Both of these Info Sheets can be found on the Class of 2027 School Counseling Google Classroom under the Classwork Stream.



LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION INFORMATION FOR SCHOOL COUNSELOR

1. Please make sure to make your own copy first in google documents
2. Please complete it fully. Some examples are going to be more detailed than one word answers!
3. Please "turn in" via google classroom **AT LEAST 15 SCHOOL DAYS PRIOR TO YOUR EARLIEST DEADLINE**

Name: SAMPLE

Family Information		
Name of Parent/Guardian 1:		
College Attended	Degree	Occupation

Name of Parent/Guardian 2:		
College Attended	Degree	Occupation

Name of Siblings	Age	School or College Attending

Career Interest	
Major if undecided please put undecided and if you have any majors you are interested please list them	Career Choice: (Why did you choose this career?)

Colleges I am Applying To:

College/University	Application Deadline Date	College/University	Application Deadline Date
1.		5.	
2.		6.	
3.		7.	
4.		8.	

Teachers Writing a Letter of Recommendation for You

Teachers Name	Course(s) you have taken with them

Work Experience:

What work experience has been most valuable to you? Has this experience influenced your career choice and, if so, how? This can be paid or unpaid!

Community Service:

What types of community service have you done during your years at MHS? What did you get out of these experiences?

Extracurricular Activities:

Activity	Position Held	Years				Description of Experience/Impact
		9	10	11	12	

Honors and/or Awards:

Academic Achievement, All-Star, Band & Music Awards. Please include years received.

Three most Admirable Qualities about You

Quality	Explanation

Special Circumstances

Are there any special circumstances (in your recent experience or background), which have interfered with your academic performance? Such as home responsibilities or difficulties, after-school job, illness or mental health challenges, or other factors.

How do you feel you have grown since Freshman Year?

Activities Sheet

The Activities Sheet is a great tool to help organize all of your extracurricular activities. When completing a college application, you are usually limited to 10 activities total. Focus more on impact than on title. Example: Volunteering every Saturday morning at a youth soccer clinic for 5 year olds is going to impress admissions officers more than a fancy title with no impact to show for it.

See pages 12-14 of the

College Planning workbook Part 1

for more information on the Activities Sheet

<https://mhs.middleboro.k12.ma.us/about-our-schools/counseling-department/junior-information>

The Essay

The Essay is one of the most important parts of the application. It is a great opportunity to show a college who you are and what's important to you.

Tips for Writing Your Essay

- Start early! This is a very time consuming process, so the sooner you start the better.
- Answer the question posed, but keep in mind that the experience or event described should be secondary to the main purpose of providing a personal introduction
- Avoid the "big sports moment" essays, Admissions Officers find them tedious to read.
- Write in your own "voice" – whether that is realistic, witty or imaginative - this speaks to who you are as much as the subject you write about.
- There is a 650 word limit. Don't ramble. A shorter, intentional essay will stand out more.
- Use proper grammar! Capitalize, use proper nouns and use appropriate punctuation.
- Teachers and counselors are an excellent resource for students.
- Ask your English teacher to proofread your essays.

2026-2027 Common App Essay Prompts

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
4. Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

College Interview

Although it is not required in most cases, an interview is a great opportunity to strengthen your application. Check the school's website for their official policy on interviews. If a college recommends it, take full advantage of it! This is a great opportunity for you to learn more about the school and also show 'Demonstrated Interest.' Remember to be yourself!

Common questions to expect:

- Tell me about yourself.
- What has been your favorite/least favorite class in high school, and why?
- What major do you want to pursue in college, and why?
- What classes are you taking this year? What's your favorite?
- What extracurricular activities are you involved in?
- What do you do with your free time?
- Tell me about your hobbies and interests.
- What are you most proud of from your high school experience?
- If you could change one thing about your high school experience, what would it be?
- Tell me about a challenge you have faced and how you've overcome it.
- Why are you interested in our school?
- What are you looking for from your future college experience?
- How did you hear about us, and what made you interested in applying/attending?

Questions to ask the Admissions Officer:

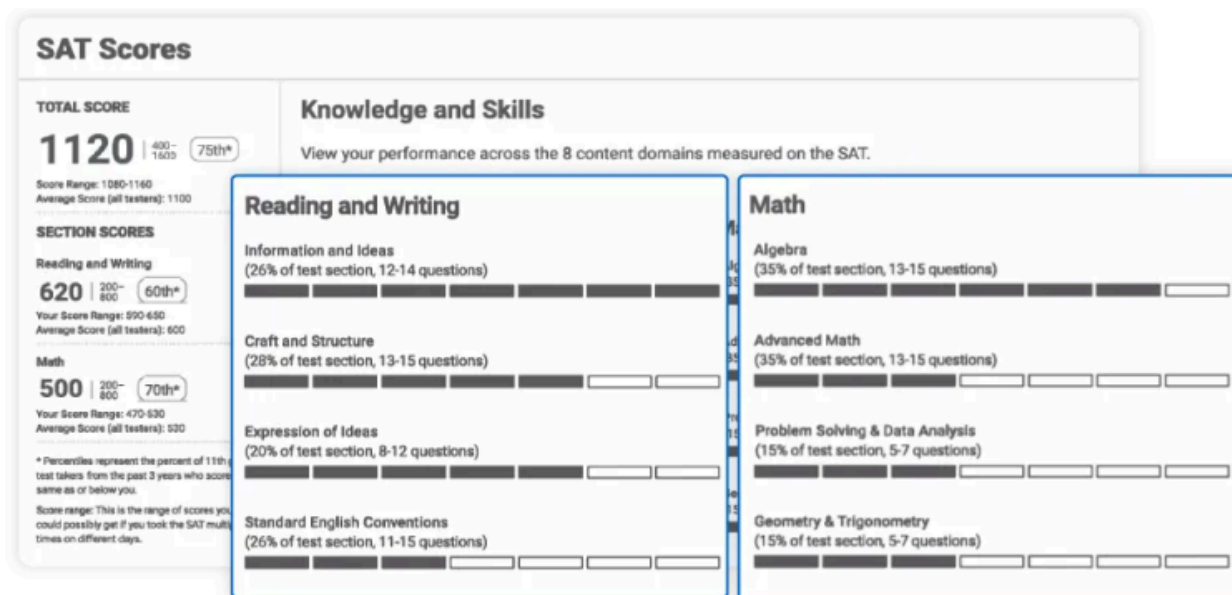
- What is the most popular major on campus? Why?
- Is the college strong in my field of interest? If yes, how so?
- What extra-curricular activities and cultural opportunities are strongly supported by the college and student body?
- Will applying for financial aid have an impact on the admissions decision?
- What type of issues will get the students' attention at this campus?
- What are the computer requirements for this campus?
- Will I have an academic advisor? How are advisors assigned?
- Am I a competitive candidate for admission?

Tips for the interview:

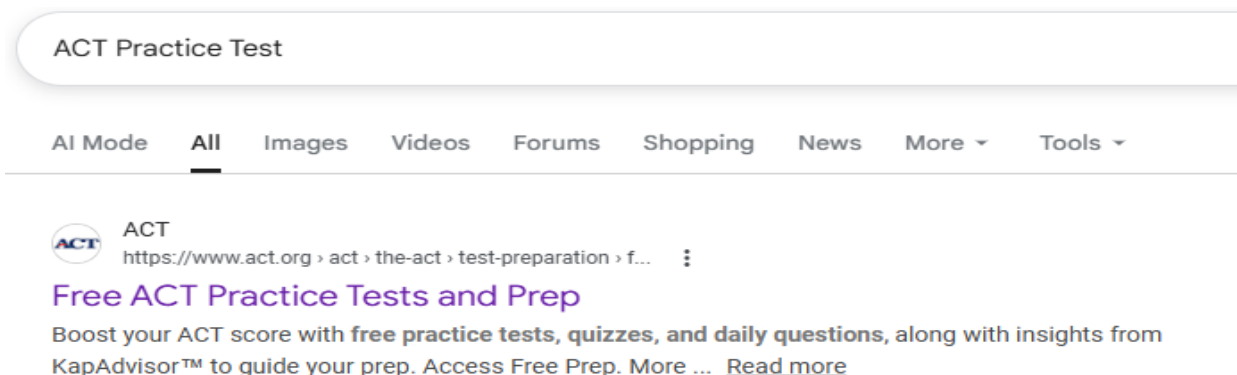
- Schedule one ahead of time! Slots fill up fast.
- Dress professionally. No sweatpants, baggy hoodies, flip flops, etc. Dress as you would for a job interview.
- Interview at your top choice last. This will familiarize yourself with the process and build your confidence going into that last, most important interview.
- Write a thank you note to your interviewer.
- Bring your parents along. The Admissions Officer may want to include them in the interview process but it also provides an opportunity for them to speak with the financial aid officers.

Test Scores

You should be registered by now for a Spring SAT or ACT administration. Review practice materials. After downloading the Bluebook platform for SAT's, complete a full length practice test. Your results will sync up with a training module on your biggest improvement areas. After you receive your official SAT score, you will receive score breakdowns to help you target specific areas for a fall retest. Below is a sample score report:



For ACT, you can find full length PDF practice tests on the ACT website or through a quick Google search of ACT Practice Test



At the end of the practice tests, you will find an answer key as well as which subcategory of that content area the question falls within. This will allow you to be more intentional with additional study materials.

If you are concerned that your GPA and/or course rigor isn't strong enough for acceptance into certain colleges, standardized tests are a great way to demonstrate your academic ability to admissions officers!

How Many Colleges Should I Apply To?

With the cost of applications running \$50-100, we recommend applying to 4-8 colleges. Of these colleges, it's important to consider which of the following categories they fall within:

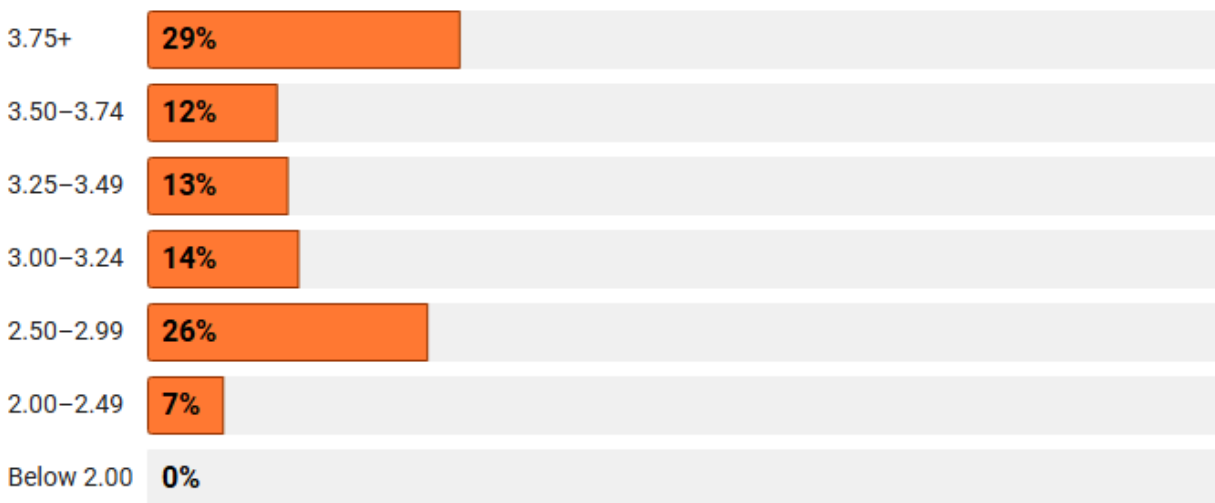
Realistic: More than 50% chance of acceptance

Reach/Stretch: Less than a 50% chance of acceptance

Safety/Back-Up: Without a doubt, no questions asked, you have beyond what the college is looking for

To determine where a school falls, take a look at websites like Scoir, College Board's Big Future, or the Common Data Set to see a GPA breakdown of their admitted students from last year. Below is a sample of UMass Lowell on College Board's Big Future.

GPA Range



This indicates that if you have a 3.25 GPA or higher, you have a good shot at being accepted. Please note though: this is an average for all majors. Some majors may be more selective (i.e. engineering, business, nursing, etc.), whereas less competitive majors may be more likely to admit you with a lower GPA (i.e. history, psychology, etc.).

Application Deadlines

Be well-versed in the deadlines for your college list. If you miss a deadline, there is no appeal process. You must wait until the next deadline which may not be until Fall 2027!

Types of application deadlines:

Early Decision: Legally binding

You can only apply to 1 college for Early Decision. If accepted, you must enroll regardless of the Financial Aid package and you must withdraw all other Early Action/Rolling/Regular Decision applications. Typically Nov. 1st - Dec. 15th.

Early Action: Non-binding

You can apply to as many colleges as you would like. If accepted, you may wait until you receive decision letters from all other colleges. Typically Nov. 1st - Dec 1st.

Priority: Non-binding

Similar to Early Action but usually specific to the individual college. The timeline varies.

Regular Decision: Non-binding

Typically Jan. 1st - April 15th.

Rolling Admissions: Non-binding

First come first serve.

Information Needed to Complete Your College Applications:

- Middleborough's CEEB Code: 221405
- Middleborough High Address 71 East Grove St. Middleborough, MA 02346
- School Phone: 508-946-2010
- Fax: 508-946-8852
- Principal: Mr. Paul F. Branagan, Jr.
- Class Size: To Be Announced Early September
- Years Attended Middleborough: 09/2023 - 06/2027
- Anticipated Date of Graduation: 06/05/2027

College Application Boot Camp

Middleborough High School's School Counseling and English Departments partner to offer a College Application Boot Camp program which assists students in writing their college essay and complete the Common Application.

This program is designed to prepare students who will be applying to 4-year colleges during the fall of their senior year.

Writing and revising their college essay

Setting up and completing the Common Application

Formally requesting their teachers' letters of recommendation

Syncing each student's Common App and Scoir accounts

The Common Application essay will be the main focus, and students should be prepared to write multiple drafts. Students will receive feedback from an English teacher and will meet with the teacher in both small groups and one-on-one to discuss their essay. Additionally, students will have access to college essay and application resources through Google Classroom.

At the completion of the College Application Boot Camp, students will be about 95% finished with the college application process and will be able to focus on their senior year classes and activities.

How to Prepare for Boot Camp

Bring the following:

- Narrowed down list of colleges that you are applying to
- Scoir username and password
- Completed Activities Sheet
- Social Security Number (needed to apply for Financial Aid)
- Names and addresses of any other high schools you have attended
- List of any Dual Enrollment classes you have completed and the dates of attendance
- List of honors you have received related to your academic achievements beginning with 9th grade

Bring the following parent/caregiver info:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| • Full Legal Names | • All Sibling(s) |
| • Phone Numbers | • Full Legal Names |
| • Email Addresses | • Age(s) |
| • Occupations | • Education Level(s) |
| • Job Position/Titles | • College(s) Attended |
| • Education Levels | • Degree(s) Expected/Received |
| • All College(s) Attended | • College Start Date |
| • Number of Degrees and the year(s) they received them | • College End Date |

On the Monday of the Boot Camp week, students will meet with their school counselor, set up and complete a Common Application account, and link it to their Scoir account in preparation to request, transcripts, letters of recommendation and other supporting documents that will need to be prepared by the school counselors and submitted to the colleges. **Please do not register for a Common Application account prior to College Application Boot Camp.**

The cost of the program is \$75.00 per student. Payment should be submitted to Mrs. Holmgren in the MHS Main Office via cash or money order payable to the "Town of Middleborough."

The deadline for both registration and payment is August 1, 2026. If you have not submitted payment before Boot Camp, you will not be admitted to the sessions.

Paying for College

Financial Aid

There are two types of financial aid applications students can complete each year. Each of these will determine how much need-based financial aid a family qualifies for based on family income. We recommend gathering these documents ahead of time to make the application process smoother when each of these portals go live on October 1st.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

Most schools accept the FAFSA. You can find if a school accepts the FAFSA through their lookup tool at <https://studentaid.gov/fafsa-apply/colleges>

Required documents include:

- ☐ 2025 tax returns and W2's
- ☐ Social security number
- ☐ Current bank statements
- ☐ Current real estate value and debt
- ☐ Current business and investment statements (excluding retirement accounts)

College Scholarships Service (CSS) Profile

Over 200 private colleges require that you complete the CSS Profile. Full list of CSS Profile schools can be found at

<https://profile.collegeboard.org/PPI/participatingInstitutions.aspx>

Required documents include:

- ☐ 2025 tax returns and W2's
- ☐ Any untaxed income
- ☐ Any current education loan payments
- ☐ Significant paid medical expenses
- ☐ Value of your retirement accounts
- ☐ Information on all of your real estate investments including primary home

External Scholarships

Oftentimes the Financial Aid package offered by a college doesn't cover the full cost of attendance. Because of this, we highly recommend applying for external scholarships as early as possible.

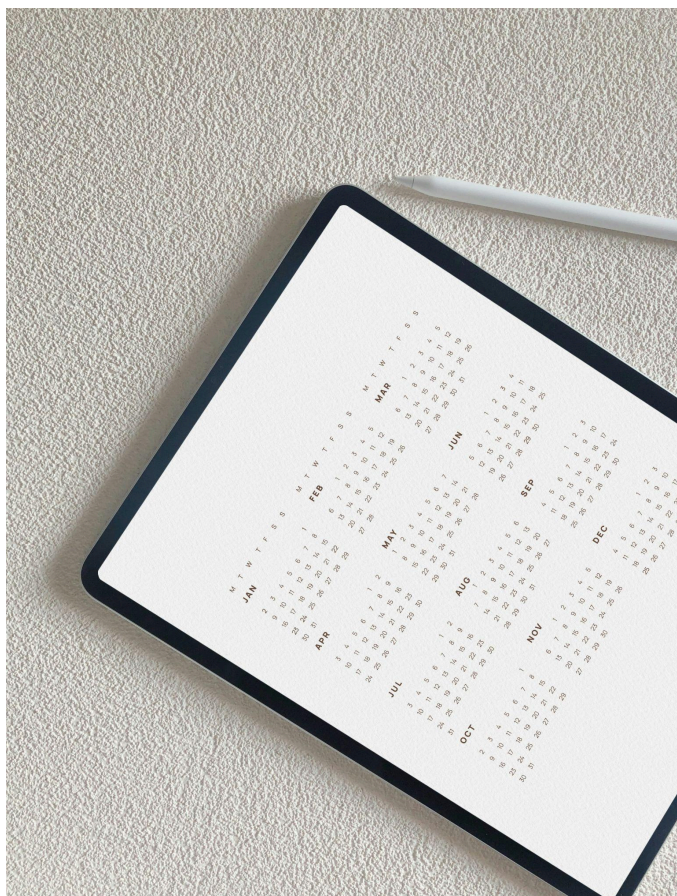
A simple way to start is through trustworthy websites like

- [Fastweb.com](https://www.fastweb.com)
- [Scholarships.com](https://www.scholarships.com)
- College Board Big Future Scholarships
- Scholarship Postings in Google Classroom (Note: The MHS Formal Scholarship Book won't be published until February 2027)

Treat scholarship applications like a part-time job, spending a few hours each week researching and completing applications. Some scholarships require simply entering your name to be considered while others require an essay or additional supporting documents

Warning: Be wary of scholarship scam websites. (i.e. If a website asks you to pay anything to sign up). Reach out to your counselor if you have questions about this.

Mark Your Calendars



April

School Vacation Week (4/18-4/26):
Schedule college visits

NACAC Boston National College Fair
Field Trip (Tues, 4/28) Permission
slips available in the School
Counseling

August

College Boot Camp (Mon, 8/10 - Fri
8/14 or Mon, 8/17-Fri 8/21)

Fall 2026

College Planning for Seniors & Their
Families - The Nuts & Bolts of
Applying to College

Financial Aid Workshop

Winter 2027

Scholarship Information Night (February 2027)

Spring 2027

National College Signing Day (5/1/2027)

Senior Week (5/31/2027-6/4/2027)

Class of 2027 Graduation 6/5/2027 Middleborough High School Stadium