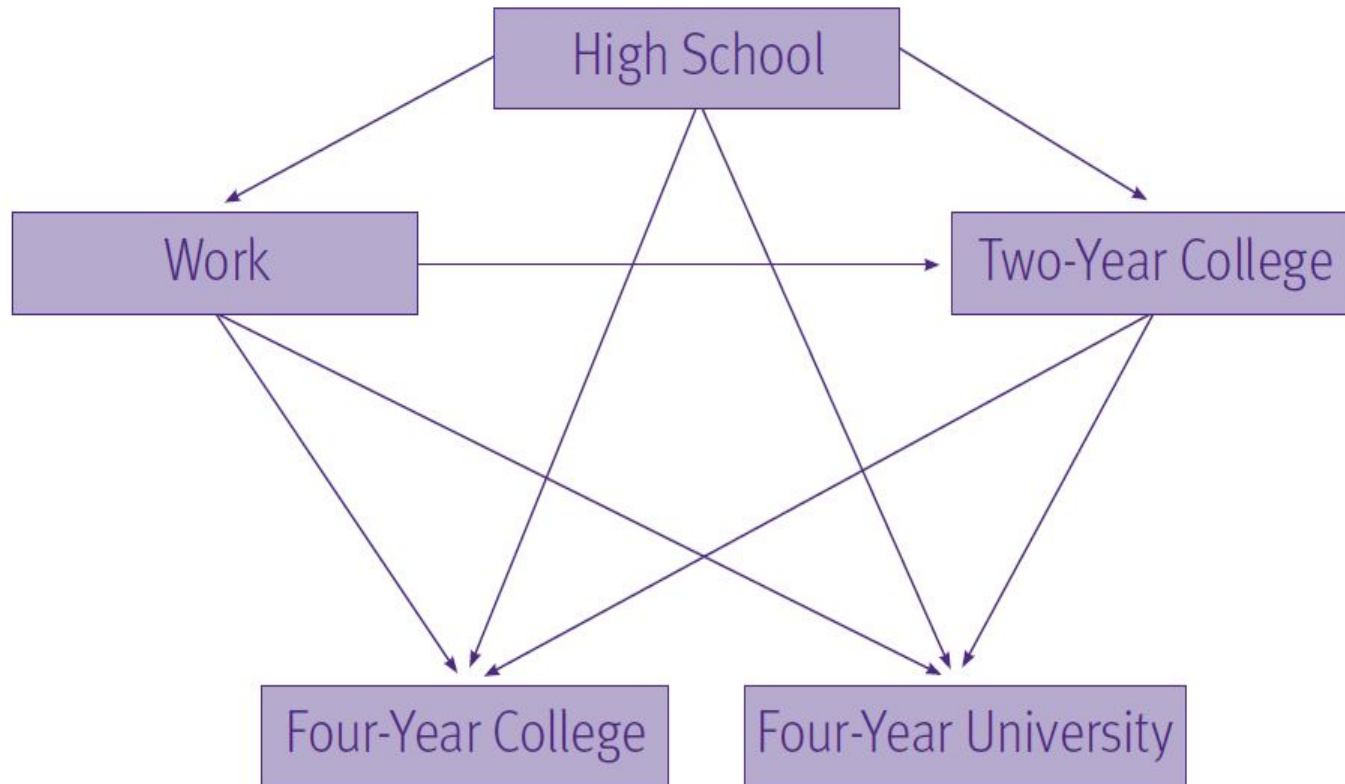


## Pathways to College



# **The College Process:**

## **What you need to know to get started**

### **Jan 28, 2021**

Welcome and Introductions  
Counseling Communications  
What To Be Doing Now  
Research Colleges and Building Working College List  
Resume  
Recommendations  
Essays  
Interviews  
Changes Due to COVID  
Campus Visits/Engaging With Colleges Virtually  
College Application Deadlines  
College Application Types & Components  
Standardized Tests  
NCAA  
Financial Aid  
Staying On Track  
Post Secondary Planning Seminars  
Social Media  
Questions and Answers

# Introductions

- **Counselors**

- **Drew Skrocki A-J**

- [dskrocki@psharvard.org](mailto:dskrocki@psharvard.org) , x1543

- **Sara Lamere K-Z**

- [slamere@psharvard.org](mailto:slamere@psharvard.org), x1541

- **Christine Reale: School Adjustment Counselor**

- [create@psharvard.org](mailto:create@psharvard.org), x1547

- **Susan Chlapowski: School Adjustment Counselor**

- [schlapowski@psharvard.org](mailto:schlapowski@psharvard.org), x1525

- **Administrative Assistant**

- **Sharon Schmidt**

- [sschmidt@psharvard.org](mailto:sschmidt@psharvard.org), x1540

# COMPONENTS OF THE APPLICATION

WHAT  
TO BE  
DOING NOW

+

CHANGES IN  
COLLEGE ADMISSIONS  
DUE TO COVID

# What to be doing now...

- Use/create professional emails (school email is fine)
- Start thinking about courses for senior year
  - Balance & Challenge
  - Align with college requirements
- Research colleges/(virtual) campus visits
- Plan for standardized tests \*

# Research Colleges + Build Working College List

- Use Naviance and college websites for data-driven decisions
- Working college list - Naviance “Colleges I’m Thinking About”
  - Safety (2-3) *Your* chances for admission are strong  
(Make sure at least one is affordable)
  - Target (2-3) *Your* chances for admission are 50/50
  - Reach (2-3) *Your* chances for admission are less than 50%



# Colleges I'm thinking about

 Search for colleges


[+ Add Colleges to List](#)

























 Compare Me

 UPDATE INTEREST

 MOVE TO APPLICATION LIST

 REMOVE

 = extended profile available

College	Delivery type 	Added By	Expected Difficulty*	Application Deadlines	Interest	
<input type="checkbox"/>  Boston University		Student	N/A	Multiple Deadlines 	N/A  MORE 	
<input type="checkbox"/> University of Massachusetts, Amherst		Student	N/A	Multiple Deadlines 	N/A  MORE 	
<input type="checkbox"/>  St. Lawrence University		Student	N/A	Multiple Deadlines 	<div data-bbox="1522 848 1889 1162"><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li> SEND AN EMAIL</li><li> REQUEST INFORMATION</li><li> SCATTERGRAMS</li><li> VISIT WEBSITE</li><li> CONNECT</li></ul></div>	
<input type="checkbox"/>  Worcester Polytechnic Institute		Student	N/A	Multiple Deadlines 		
<input type="checkbox"/>  Worcester State University		Student	N/A	Multiple Deadlines 		
						MORE 

# Building a Resume

- Naviance Resume Builder
- Resume uses - applications, letters of recommendation
- COVID effects on extracurriculars
- Extracurricular activities – **high school** specific
- Showcase what you do and the depth of the activity
- Include: family responsibilities (i.e. babysitting), employment, clubs, etc.
- Highlight leadership and the impact on your community when applicable



# Letters of Recommendation

**Adults who know you well can offer a helpful perspective on your abilities and strengths**

- Whom to ask?
  - 2 teachers, 2 different disciplines
  - 1 counselor letter
- When to ask?
- Outside/Additional Letters of Rec \*
- Say thank you!



# Essays

**Your application essay says a lot about you**

- Share something meaningful/personal/passionate
- Start writing early
- Try different topics and approaches
- Plagiarism is taken very seriously
- Leave time for careful proofreading
- Check [Commonapp.org](http://Commonapp.org) for essay prompts



# Interviews

**Virtual “face-to-face” conversations let colleges see the person behind the application**

- Two types: 1. Informational and 2. Evaluative
- Be prepared to answer open-ended questions
- Know your reasons for applying to the college
- Ask thoughtful questions
- Cover the basics
- Relax and be yourself

**Auditions and portfolios**

# Changes/Updates in Colleges Admissions\*

## 1. College Level Changes

- Flexibility and understanding
- College Websites - go-to source for information
- Current Test-Optional Movement \*
- New: COVID Essay Prompt

## 2. How Bromfield is Acknowledging The Changes:

- School Profile (sent with transcripts senior year):
  - It highlights COVID changes w/ Bromfield & the COVID grading policy
- Counselor letters of recommendation:
  - Will focus on class of 2022 sophomore spring semester + their current hybrid/remote model

# Engaging with Colleges Virtually During COVID

- Reinvented opportunities for connections; **students need to access them**
- Demonstrated interest
- Making the connection with the institution
  - Online tours
  - Info sessions
  - Virtual open house, art showcase, etc
  - Email
    - opening the dialogue w/ admissions rep (ex: questions about the campus life, curriculum, etc)
    - open/read the emails from colleges
  - Research college websites, including blogs by current students
  - Social media - the “campus vibe”
- If visits are possible, students:
  - must fill out the [Bromfield College Visit Form](#) at least 5 days before visits, for prior approval
  - they should make every effort to schedule a visit on an asynchronous learning day

# Standardized Testing (COVID updates)

- **Test Optional (SAT/ACT)**
- *Majority* colleges went test-optional for Class of 2021
- Some did a one year pilot, some did a 3 year pilot
  - NACAC; fairtest.org: great starting place, but **college websites** have most **up-to-date COVID information**
  - Testing is one area that students have had no control over
    - Flexibility & understanding
    - What does test optional really mean?
      - *Test optional truly is optional*
      - No pressure to submit
      - Admissions rep said, “Standardized tests are simply a **credential**, students can **choose** to submit it or not. They are just one credential among many.”
- If considering submitted scores, visit colleges websites to find average SAT/ACT scores

# Standardized Tests

- **2020 vs 2021**
- **SAT vs ACT**
  - Check SAT/ACT websites for registration dates
  - Both the SAT and ACT offer free test prep online
  - ~~SAT Subject Tests~~ & AP Exams show subject knowledge

# SAT/ACT Upcoming Test Dates

Test Date	Test	Registration	Late Registration	Multiple Choice Scores Available
March 13, 2021	SAT	February 12, 2021	March 2, 2021	March 26, 2021
April 17, 2021	ACT	March 12, 2021	March 26, 2021	April 30–June 12, 2021
May 8, 2021	SAT	April 8, 2021	April 27, 2021	May 21, 2021
June 5, 2021	SAT	May 6, 2021	May 26, 2021	June 14, 2021
June 12, 2021	ACT	May 7, 2021	May 21, 2021	June 25–August 6, 2021
July 17, 2021	ACT (Not Offered in NY)	June 18, 2021	June 25, 2021	July 30–August 30, 2021



Miscellaneous

FYI's

# College Application Deadline Options

- Early Deadlines - generally November/December
  - **Early Action** - early deadline, non-binding
  - **Early Decision** - early deadline, binding
- Regular Deadlines - generally after January 1st
  - **Regular Decision** - later deadline, non-binding
  - **\*Early Decision 2-** later deadline, binding\*(if available)
- Other Deadlines
  - **Rolling Admission** - early deadline, non-binding
  - **Open Admission** - Community colleges
- Deadlines are important! Make sure to stay on track.

# NCAA

- NCAA Eligibility Center– [eligibilitycenter.org](http://eligibilitycenter.org)
  - Div I or II Sports
- Add “NCAA” to Naviance list
- Add **The Bromfield School** to the NCAA account
- Email [Mrs. Schmidt](mailto:Mrs.Schmidt) to let her know you need your transcript uploaded to the Eligibility Center
- \*Standardized test scores - required? - TBD



# Financial Aid

- MEFA
- September-October 2021:
  - Bromfield MEFA Representative Presentation?
  - MEFA College Financing Webinars
- College Financing for Families of High School Juniors - Thursday, February 25, 2021 | 6:30pm - 7:30pm



# Staying on Track

## Spring/Summer Junior Year

- Research colleges
- Visit campuses & college fairs\*
- Ask teachers for letters of recommendation
- Take the SAT/ACT
- Meaningful Time
- Common App (Aug 1<sup>st</sup>) - Essays & Supplements
- Update Resume
- Senior Project

## Fall Senior Year

- Retake the SAT/ACT
- Secure letters of recommendation
- Finalize the college essay(s)
- Complete all admissions applications
- Submit financial aid applications
- Parent Brag Sheet
- Info for Counselor Recommendation(Naviance)

## Winter Senior Year

- Submit admissions applications
- Submit financial aid applications
- Apply for scholarships
- Send in mid-year grade reports

## Spring Senior Year

- Receive admissions and financial aid offers
- Attend college open house programs
- Choose your college by May 1

# Social Media

- Be aware of what is on the internet
- Clean up accounts
  - Photos
  - Posts
- Change settings to private
- Cautious of friend requests



facebook

The Facebook logo, featuring the word "facebook" in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font on a dark blue rectangular background.

Google

The Google logo, featuring the word "Google" in its characteristic multi-colored font (blue, red, yellow, green, blue, red) on a white background.

Cole [redacted]

Started school again today.. My senioritis is at an all time high now that I got into [redacted]. I hope you all feel the same way

 Like ·  Comment ·  Follow Post · January 4 at 7:05pm via mobile

 20 people like this.



**Willow** [redacted] oh, completely

January 4 at 7:07pm · Like



**Duncan** [redacted] I just failed a physics test and walked out of that room with pride.

January 4 at 7:07pm via mobile · Like ·  4



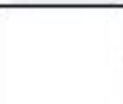
**David** [redacted] that little line saying "your admission is contingent upon grades equal to or better than current ones" is being seriously ignored...

January 4 at 7:31pm · Like ·  9



**Madeleine** [redacted] i fell asleep in 3 out of 6 classes today and it was awesome.

January 4 at 8:25pm · Like ·  2




[redacted] I wish I could say I didn't have senioritis before I got in but I would just be lying...

January 4 at 8:42pm via mobile · Like ·  2



**Hannah** [redacted] I have a nice yellow folder from [redacted] saying i dont have to do anything anymore haha

Sunday at 9:16pm · Like ·  3

Write a comment...

# Grade 11 – Postsecondary Planning Seminars

Semester 2 starts 2/1/21

Rotation 1: Thur Feb 4 and Fri Feb 5

Rotation 2: Thur March 4 and Fri March 5

Rotation 3: Thur March 25 and Fri March 26

Rotation 4: Thur April 8 and Fri April 9

Rotation 5: Thu May 20 and Fri May 21

- Syllabus
- Lesson Plans
- Handouts



# COUNSELING COMMUNICATIONS

- **PSP Seminar Materials available on the School Counseling Department Website**
  - lesson plans - *posted on our site after each rotation*
  - hand-outs
- **Facebook**

Find the college  
for you at the

**Jan. 31**

College Fair



NACAC   
*Virtual*  
COLLEGE FAIRS

Sign up now for FREE!  
[virtualcollegefairs.org](https://virtualcollegefairs.org)

All high school  
students, transfer  
students, and families  
are welcome.

<https://virtualcollegefairs.org/events>

**THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING!**