

WELCOME
to the
BROCKTON HIGH SCHOOL
JUNIOR PRESENTATION
Created by the Guidance Department

AGENDA

IMPORTANT: Students should open the notes pages of each slide for important information

Part One

- ✕ Planning for the future and your options after high school

Part Two

- ✕ College Characteristics
- ✕ Finding A College That Fits

Part Three

- ✕ The College Application Process
- ✕ Introduction to College Interactive App

We would like to give you an overview of the topics that will be addressed. **Students should take out a blank piece of paper from their notebooks to use as a foldable and take notes.**

Please fold your blank paper into a tri-fold. Each section will correspond with a part of the lesson.

CLICK

PART ONE

- ❖ Planning for the future and your options after high school



Let's begin with Part one: making appropriate choices and looking at some options after you graduate.

CLICK



Everyone will have different post-secondary plans:

If your plans include attending college to pursue a major leading to a specific career, you need to determine what type of college is the best fit for you: There are two types of colleges:

At a two-year or community college you will receive an Associate's Degree and then you may go into the work force or decide to transfer your credits to a four-year college to pursue a Bachelor's Degree. Quincy College and Massasoit are examples of two-year colleges that have Associate Degree programs. Associate Degrees require that you take and pass some college level academic courses such as English and Mathematics. Sometimes, if your ELA and math skills are not at college level, this means that you will have to take and pass some remedial courses for a semester or two. These "remedial" courses will not count towards your Associate Degree. However, if your believe academic courses are not your strength or that you need to gain financial security as quickly as possible you can enroll first in a two year school that offers certificate programs and train for a career leading to an occupational certificate, such as CNA, Phlebotomist, Veterinary Assistant, Paramedic, Security, Law Enforcement, etc. For a complete list of careers leading to a certificate and to learn which ones require final examinations to obtain a state license, check the websites of each two-year college.

At a four-year college, such as any of the Umass schools, Framingham State University or Stonehill College, you will receive a Bachelor's Degree and then go into the work force or continue your education to obtain a Master's Degree.

Another option after high school is attending a Trade School or join an apprenticeship. This is a good place to receive training in a specific

skill area. Trade programs usually last between 6 months to 1 year and prepare you for a skilled job and offer a certificate upon completion. Some of the trades programs will prepare you to become a: Plumber, Electrician, Auto Technician, HVAC Technician, etc.

Apprenticeship programs are run by Workers Unions such as the New England Carpenters Union. You can find apprenticeships with: Electricians, Operating Engineers, Ironworkers, Painters, Cement Masons, Sheet Metal Workers, Telecommunications, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning, etc.

Examples of Technical Schools might be: UTI, ITT, Southeastern Technical Institute, Old Colony Trade, MTTI, etc.

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Instead of entering the work force after high school, some students decide to enlist in the military. Almost any job that exists in the private sector also exists in the military. Therefore, after you complete your term of service, you will probably be able to immediately enter the work force due to the training and experience you receive while on duty. There are several branches of the armed forces to choose from as you can see on the slide.

You will need to take the *Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)* which is required for all branches.

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If you plan to enter the work force right after completing high school:

- Prepare a resumé (there are many resources available online to help with formatting, etc.)
- Consider these training Programs: Year Up, Learn & Earn, or City Year which provide entry level jobs including in the biotech field and others that will help finance your education
- Walk in and apply at local businesses
- Attend Job Fairs
- Consult local agencies such as ASA, Career Works, and MASS Hire
- Network with others in your interested field

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PART TWO

- ❖ **College Research and Characteristics**
- ❖ **Finding A College That Fits**

Students: *this is part two of the foldable.*

If you have decided that you want to go on to college after you graduate, then you will have to consider what college will be the best for you.

CLICK



Beginning the college research process helps you to learn about the college that fits your needs. An important part of the college application process is obtaining information and applications from the colleges in which you are interested. This is a good time to attend virtual tours, virtual open houses, and virtual alumni presentations. You will find these posted on the college or university's website that you are interested in exploring/researching.

You will be able to apply online in the fall of your senior year, but you must make an appointment with your school counselor before you decide to send your applications. Your counselor can talk with you about the information that is needed to complete your application and make sure all documents are sent in the time period required for each school.

It is best to work on this preparation in your junior year so that you are ready to apply to college when school starts in September. You may be surprised to know that many schools begin to accept applications as early as November. All the information you need can be found in the following ways:

- Contact Guidance Counselor through email
- Virtual College Fairs and fairs in the fall
- Virtual Tours on Campus
- College Interactive App

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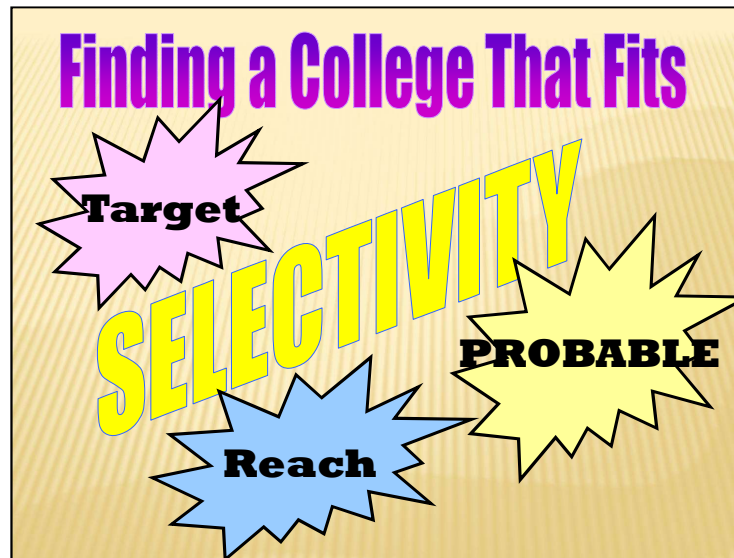


Before you choose a college, there are certain features or characteristics that you must consider. The college's academic program is an important feature that you must research. Usually, at larger schools, more is offered, especially specialized programs. A major is an area of concentration such as business, communication, and education to name a few. You should always check to see if the college offers your major on their website. You can utilize *College Interactive application* or search the college website for information about majors at the colleges you are interested in sending applications to in the fall.

Another important consideration is whether to apply to a state college or a private college. What do you think is different about a state institution and a private institution? It is important to find out about these distinctly different characteristics.

All colleges differ in relation to the following features:

- Academic program – rigorous? – honor's program – five-year combined bachelor's and master's program
- Major – business, communication, engineering etc.
- State vs. Private
- Size
- Internships
- Job Placement Statistics



When it is time to apply, plan to apply to colleges within three categories:

- First: “*Reach*” colleges. These are colleges where your chances of admission are less than 50%.
- Second: “*Target*” colleges. These are schools where the chances of admission are 50/50.
- Third: “*Probable*” colleges. These are institutions where the chances for admission are strong. A Probable school can also include a school that you can afford to go to.

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PART THREE

- ❖ **The College Application Process**
- ❖ **FAFSA: Free Application for Student Aid.**
- ❖ **Create a Federal Student ID (FSA ID)**
- ❖ **College Interactive App**

Students should continue taking notes for part three.

After you have identified all the colleges that seem to fit your criteria, you must then begin the actual application process which will be in the fall of your senior year.

In order to help finance your education, you will need to fill out the FAFSA. The FAFSA (Free Application for Student Aid) will be available for completion as of October 2020. It requires that students AND parents obtain an FSA ID. This ID number can be obtained at any time online at fsaid.ed.gov.

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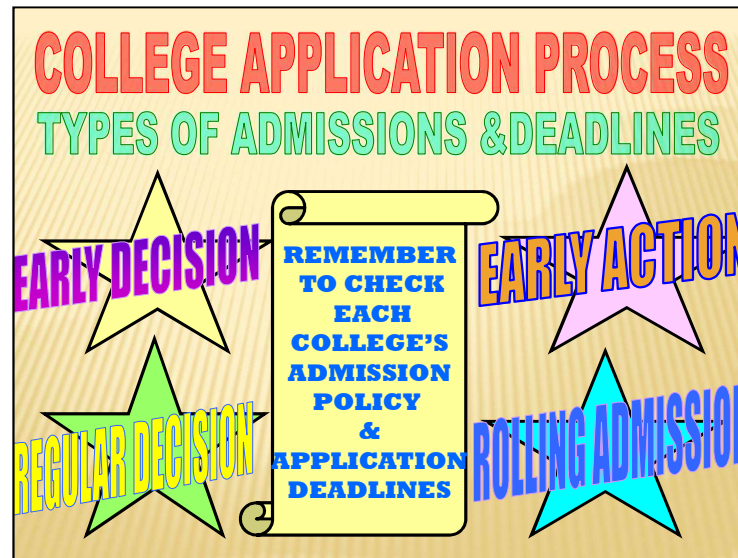


For the 2020/21 time period, most institutions are moving to *test optional* even if it is a temporary policy. Specific testing policies will be located on the college/university website. Some colleges are not expecting SAT Subject tests as that is one less hurdle for students and their families. Colleges and universities understand that students will not be submitting as many test scores given the situation of COVID-19. They will take this into account when reviewing applications.

For updates for when testing is available please go to the [Collegeboard.org](https://collegeboard.org) or [ACTstudent.org](https://actstudent.org) to register.

Stay in touch with your counselor if you have any questions regarding testing.

Finally, some students may be required to take the TOEFL or Test of English as a Foreign Language. This test is usually required for students whose first language is not English. Check the website of the schools you are interested in and contact their admissions staff.



Before you begin completing your college applications, it is very important that you are aware of the various types of college admissions and deadlines.

'Early Decision' deadline for most schools is **November 1st**. If you apply early decision to a school and you are accepted, then you must withdraw all your applications from other schools and commit to that school.

The **'Early Action'** deadline is usually **November 1st or the 15th**. If you are accepted under early action to a school, you do not have to withdraw your other applications nor make a commitment to that school.

'Regular Decision': The deadlines for each school vary but usually fall on the 1st or 15th of every month starting in January so it is important to be aware of each school's deadline when you apply. Regardless of the regular decision deadline, it is a good idea to send in your applications as soon as possible after first term grades are out or before the December holiday vacation.

'Rolling Admissions' colleges will consider your application as soon as all the required credentials are received. However, it is still a good idea to apply as early as possible.

REMEMBER, be sure to check each college's admissions policy and application deadlines.



If you are an athlete, you may want to continue to play your sport in college.

If you want to play at a division I or II college, then you must register with the NCAA Clearinghouse. You should begin this process during your junior year by completing the NCAA Registration for Initial Eligibility. If, at the time of registration, you have registered AND taken the SAT with a waiver, you will be able to obtain a waiver to cover the initial registration fee.

Make sure you print your registration and drop it in A119, so the school registrar can send confirmation of your waiver and a copy of your transcript for the NCAA to evaluate if you are on track to complete the Division I or II requirements. NOTE: If you are not able to do this before June of this year, do so in September of 2020, when we begin the new school year.

For a complete list of requirements and additional information about recruitment and college visitation guidelines please visit the NCAA Eligibility Center at www.ncaa.org.

COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS

ACCUPLACER



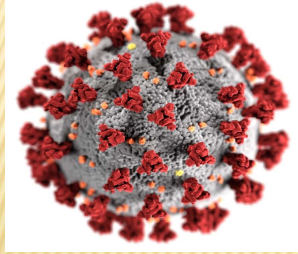
- Diagnostic and Placement exams
- Internet-based Computer-adaptive testing format
- Test covers Reading, Writing and Math Skills
- Multiple Choice Format and Essay
- Untimed but takes around 2 hours to complete
- 4 sections- Reading, Sentence completion, Arithmetic and Algebra
- Score Results are immediate and will show your course placement

The Accuplacer is a required exam used by many colleges and universities to place you in appropriate courses.

Computer adaptive means that a student's performance on one test question determines the difficulty level of the next question and that no two tests are the same.

You must take the Accuplacer test very seriously because, depending on how you do, you will either be placed in college level courses for credit or remedial classes for no credit at the same cost for tuition and fees.

COVID -19 COLLEGE ADMISSION FACTORS



- Grading Policies
- Wholistic approach to admissions decisions
- Fairness in decisions
- Letters of recommendations will be even more important

COVID-19 FACTORS:

Every school district is establishing different grading policies. Higher education institutions have assured us that they will take into account individual school district grading policies. Those grading policies will be listed on the BHS Academic Profile and will be submitted along with your application.

Colleges and universities will be taking a wholistic approach to the 2020/2021 admissions year. On the transcript they will be looking at strength of curriculum, courses taken, and grade prior to the pandemic. Although they will be looking at grades after COVID-19, grades prior to the situation will weigh heavily. They will be treating student applicants with fairness and giving all students the benefit of the doubt. They will be relying on recommendations from teachers and counselors, as well as resumés and involvement in extra-curricular activities.

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WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER
WE WILL GET THROUGH IT!!

As we traverse this unique journey of the COVID-19 pandemic, please remember that the Guidance department is ready to help you. Stay in touch with your school counselor.

School counselors look forward to work with you and help you with your post-secondary plans!

Stay safe and be well. See you soon!!





College Interactive is a free app that you can download from the App Store or Google Play.

This app can help you:

- **Search and explore colleges**
- **Connect and chat with college student ambassadors and admissions reps**
- **Obtain important information**
- **Conduct virtual college tours of college campuses**
- **Access resources and tools to help you with college essays, scholarship opportunities, summer programs, financial aid and so much more.**