

College Kickoff Packet

Colleges seek students that...

- show a high school history of commitment to academic growth
 - For colleges that admit under 35% of applicants, this most likely means no final grade below A- for all four years of high school.
 - For colleges that are less selective, no final grades below C, or Cs and Ds from 9th and 10th grade growing to Cs, Bs and As by 11th grade (There are exceptions to this sentence. For example, UNH has an 86% acceptance rate, but they ask for no final high school grade below a B [How to Apply: First-Year | Undergraduate Admissions \(unh.edu\)](#))
 - Colleges will evaluate a student based on the choices they made within their school's program of studies. For example, a candidate is not penalized for coming from a high school with no AP classes. A candidate could be penalized if they declare an interest in a STEM major, and they did not take Math senior year even though the high school offered 12th grade Math. Colleges will know what classes a high school offers through the high school's school profile.
- show commitment to more than the classroom
 - Clubs, athletics, paid work, community service and supporting family and friends matter.
- show an ability to take initiative and reflect on/grow from mistakes/challenges
- show an interest in the college throughout the admissions process (highly selective schools)

Students seek colleges that...

- give them a strong, positive vibe through the admissions process
- have professors that are on campus to mentor undergraduates more than advance their research ([2024 Best Undergraduate Teaching Programs at National Universities | US News Rankings](#))
- have a dynamic career center
- require student independence with plenty of resources to help students be comfortable with that independence

Timeline for Students and Families

11th Grade

September through early March

- Introductory conversation with Mr. Lemme
- Make a list of non-negotiables related to academic, social and extracurricular campus life
- Optional PSAT (October)
- Optional preparation for NH SAT School Day
- Optional campus visits and attending college fairs
- Focusing on GW grades is always the most important thing, but that focus is critical here

March

- Optional preparation for NH SAT School Day
- Optional campus visits and attending college fairs
- Attend two GW parent nights
- Create a College Board account with Mr. Lemme
- NH SAT School Day on March 25

April

- Start of Q4 postgrad planning class with Mr. Lemme
- Optional attendance at Granite Edvance's Destination College of Saturday April 6
- Optional attendance of NACAC's Virtual College Fair on Sunday April 21
- In addition to visiting local colleges with Mr. Lemme in the Q4 class, April vacation week is a great time to visit colleges as a family. Every college's admission office can have a different procedure for campus visits. Please check a university's admissions webpage for details. Reach out to Mr. Lemme for support.

May

- Make sure community service hours for the year are completed
- Continued exploration of college visits
- Potential college fair at Keene State with Mr. Lemme
- Explore possibility of taking a Keene State or River Valley class during senior year
- Create a [Common App](#) account
- Ask a faculty member to serve as a recommender

June

- Understanding and planning of personal statement and/or college-specific essays
- A list of up to six schools of interest. (List can be revised over the summer.)

July-August

- Mr. Lemme will be available all summer for questions related to the application process. If a student wishes to get a head start on application essay writing, Mr. Lemme will be available to work with them.
- Continued visiting of college campuses/revising list of schools
- Jumpstart community service hours for senior year

12th Grade

Fall of Senior Year

- Colleges will have application deadlines that range from November 1 to February 1. Typically, the more selective a college is the earlier their application deadline will be.
- Finalized list of schools by the end of September at the latest
- Determine if SAT needs to be retaken
- Completion of all application writing by November 1 (done through Q1 of English 12 and one-on-one meetings with Mr. Lemme)
- Completion and submission of all application materials in accordance with due dates (through individual efforts and meetings with Mr. Lemme)
- Completion of the FAFSA (a new NH state graduation requirement) through workshop with Keene State and Keene High
- Continued focus on GW grades. (Senior year grades matter as much as junior year.)

Spring of Senior Year

- Decision letters are emailed sometime between late February and early April. Every college has a different process. These decision letters should come with financial aid packages with time for family review.
- May 1 is typically final decision day. Families are expected to pay an enrollment deposit by May 1 to ensure a student's place in the Fall class.

Please note that the schedule outlined above is an attempt to generalize the college admission process. Every student's journey will fit into this process in its own unique way.

Also, please note, a student's list of colleges is usually divided into three categories: reach, target and safety. I advise two reach, two target and two safety schools. The Princeton Review provides a concise guide as to how to label a college as reach, target or safety: [How to Choose Dream, Target, and Safety Schools | The Princeton Review](#)

Admission Types Utilized by Universities

Taken from: [SeniorCollegeNightGE.pdf \(graniteedvance.org\)](https://graniteedvance.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/SeniorCollegeNightGE.pdf)

| Admission Type | Details | Deadline | Commitment |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Rolling Admission | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• First come, first served• Applications are reviewed as they are received, so applying later may mean you miss out (even if you are a qualified candidate) | Within specified time frame until a class is filled | Non-binding |
| Regular Decision | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All applications are reviewed prior to a decision being made | November – March | Non-binding |
| Early Action (EA) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Receive a decision well in advance of the institutions regular response date | October – December | Non-binding |
| Early Decision | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cannot apply to more than one school using ED• If admitted, student agrees to enroll and withdraw all other applications• Student, parent, and school counselor sign a contract | October – December Some schools will have EDI and EDII | Binding |

Navigating a College's Website

Every university website will be designed differently. However, the information that needs to be researched is the same. This guide will use UNH's website as an example.

Admission Requirements

[How to Apply: First-Year | Undergraduate Admissions](#)

The admissions page should give information about what a school looks for in a candidate, how they handle the SAT, acceptance trends, and application timeline. For large universities, this part of the website may include contact information for the admission's counselor for NH applicants.

Costs - Scholarships and Financial Aid

[Costs | Financial Aid](#)

This section of a university's website can be difficult to uncover. For UNH, it is located under Admissions. Since financial aid packages vary from student to student, the phone number for the financial aid office is the most important item to find. Additionally, all higher education institutions are required to have a Net Price Calculator tool in this part of their website. The Net Price Calculator can help families get an estimate of their cost of attendance with financial aid: Net Price Calculator

Student Life

[Student Life](#)

In this section you will find information on student clubs, intramural sports, dining hall menus and an overview of campus dormitory life. When looking through Student Life pages, pictures are very important. Do the students appear happy? Can you imagine yourself in the photos, too?

Degree Requirements

[Mechanical Engineering Major \(B.S.\)](#)

Perhaps the most difficult to find yet most important part of a university's website is the classes needed to graduate with a degree in a specific major. In order to find this information, I usually start with a Google search "name of university name of major degree pathway/plan/requirements" (UNH Mechanical Engineering degree plan). Every university's degree pathway should be divided by year. There will be a mixture of general education/liberal arts courses that all students must take regardless of their major as well as classes that are required for their specific major.

How to Visit a College Campus

[Campus Visit](#)

How to Apply

Some colleges will offer applications through their website. Many rely on The Common App for application delivery. [Apply to college with Common App](#). Students may declare an intended major; however, selecting undeclared will often work in a student's favor.

Opportunities for Further Collaboration

- 1.) Please attend our presentation and Q&A on paying for college which will be facilitated by [Moirra Valenti of Granite Edvance](#). Wednesday March 27 at 6pm.
- 2.) If interested in a book club around the admission process, please email Joe Lemme. The book club would focus on [Jeffrey Selingo's Who Gets in and Why](#)
- 3.) Email Mr. Lemme for support to schedule a phone call or face-to-face conversation.