

# JUNIOR SEMINARS:

The College Option for Life After Brookline High Graduation

PRESENTED BY:  
YOUR SCHOOL COUNSELORS

## RESOURCES:

**BHS Guidance Dept** - <https://bhs.brookline.k12.ma.us/guidance>

**Naviance** - <https://student.naviance.com/brookline>

**Common Application** - <https://www.commonapp.org>

**ACT info and test registration** - <https://www.act.org>

**SAT info and test registration** - <https://www.collegeboard.org>

**Test optional school info and lists** - <https://fairtest.org/test-optional-list/>

**TOEFL (for students with English as 2nd language)** - <https://www.ets.org/toefl>

# Internet Resources

## College Search Engines

- Naviance - <https://student.naviance.com/brookline>
- College Board - [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)
- Scholar Snapp - connects students to scholarships on the College Board  
<https://www.scholarsnapp.org/scholar-snapps-transition-to-the-college-board/>
- Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU's info)  
<https://www.niche.com/colleges/search/best-hbcu-schools/>
- Students with Disabilities Presentation  
[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/11DFtiCiemG00Ylh\\_Izw5AbjbcJzywnUA8x\\_TK12pqQM/edit?ts=5fc7de1d#slide=id.gaedcd18422\\_0\\_23](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/11DFtiCiemG00Ylh_Izw5AbjbcJzywnUA8x_TK12pqQM/edit?ts=5fc7de1d#slide=id.gaedcd18422_0_23)
- College Navigator - <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>
- Colleges That Change Lives - <https://ctcl.org/>
- 2 Year Colleges/Community Colleges -  
<https://www.campusexplorer.com/community-college/>

## Financial Aid and Scholarships

- MEFA - Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority - [www.mefa.org](http://www.mefa.org)
- FAFSA - Free Application for Federal Student Aid - [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
- CSS Profile Financial Aid - [www.cssprofile.collegeboard.org](http://www.cssprofile.collegeboard.org)
- GoingMerry - <https://www.goingmerry.com/blog/category/financial-aid/>
- FastWeb - [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
- Naviance Account - Look under scholarships and money

## Gap Year Information

- <https://www.teenlife.com/category/gap-year/>
- <https://efgapyear.com/gap-year-program/what-is-a-gap-year/>
- <https://www.newhopevolunteers.org/>
- <https://thinkingbeyondborders.org/>

# Test Optional Colleges

[www.fairtest.org](http://www.fairtest.org)

2,023 SCHOOLS ARE TEST-OPTIONAL

## The following schools are test optional in MA:

American International College	Montserrat College of Art
Amherst College	Mount Holyoke College
Anna Maria College	Nichols College
Assumption University	Northeastern University
Babson College	Northpoint Bible College
Bard College at Simon's Rock	Regis College
Bay Path University	Salem State University
Bay State College	Simmons University
Benjamin Franklin Cummings Institute of Technology	Smith College
Bentley University	Springfield College
Berklee College of Music	Stonehill College
Boston Architectural College	Suffolk University
Boston College	The New England Conservatory of Music
Boston University	Tufts University
Brandeis University	University of Massachusetts-Amherst
Bridgewater State University	University of Massachusetts-Boston
Cambridge College	University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth
Clark University	University of Massachusetts-Lowell
College of Our Lady of the Elms	Wellesley College
College of the Holy Cross	Wentworth Institute of Technology
Curry College	Western New England University
Dean College	Westfield State University
Eastern Nazarene College	Wheaton College (Massachusetts)

Emerson College

Emmanuel College

Endicott College

Fisher College

Fitchburg State University

Framingham State University

Franklin W Olin College of Engineering

Gordon College

Hampshire College

Harvard University

Lasell University

Lesley University

Longy School of Music of Bard College

Massachusetts College of Art and Design

Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts

Massachusetts Maritime Academy

MCPHS University

Merrimack College

Williams College

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Worcester State University

# Campus Visit Checklist

## Make the Most of Your Trip

Visiting a campus helps you get a sense of what that college– and life for its students– is like. This can make a difference when you’re deciding whether the college is a good fit for you.

When you’re planning your trips, make sure that you allow enough time to explore each college as fully as possible. Wander around the campus by yourself and imagine being a student there. Here are some things you can check out while you’re visiting.

### Admission and Academics

Find out what you need to do to apply. See if the college environment supports your educational goals and needs.

- Participate in a group information session at the admission office.
- Interview with an admissions counselor or alumni interviewer if interviews are offered.
- Pick up financial aid forms.
- Sit in on a class that interests you.
- Meet with or email a professor in the major or subject area that you may want to pursue.
- Get business cards and the names of people you meet for future contacts.

### Campus Life

Daily life has a big effect on your happiness– and your success– at a college. Get a feel for student life and decide whether the college is a setting where you can thrive.

- Take a campus tour.

**You must register for a Campus Tour. You can do so on a college's website or, for some colleges, through their Naviance Page.**

**Make sure to give your name to the admissions office of any school you visit so that they have a record of your demonstrated interest.**

- Scan bulletin boards to see what day–to–day student life is like.
- Plan a meeting with the coaches of sports in which you might participate.
- Go to the career center and learn what services it offers.
- Plan an overnight with a student.
- Ask to see the residence hall where most freshmen live.

- Visit the cafeteria, fitness center, library, bookstore, and other campus facilities.
- Walk or drive around the community surrounding the campus.

### Campus Media

Tune in to learn what's happening on campus and what's on the students' minds.

- Listen to the college radio station.

- Read the student newspaper.
- Review other student publications– department newsletters, alternative newspapers, literary reviews.
- Browse through campus blogs.

### Current Students

Being on campus gives you a wonderful chance to talk to the students who currently go to the college. You can ask questions like these to see what their experience is, and what yours might be like:

- What are the best reasons to go here?
- What do you do on the weekends?
- What do you love about this college?
- What do students complain about most?

### Researching Colleges

There are a lot of online resources available to learn as much as you can about college visits.

#### **What you can do now from home:**

- Sign up for college newsletters and updates
- Open every email from the colleges you are interested in and click on the links
- Reach out to your admissions officers to establish contact and get any questions you have answered
- Attend Upcoming College Admission Events including tours and information sessions - check college websites
- Attend NACAC Virtual College Fairs
- Attend BHS College Fair on March 13, 2024, from 6:30-8:30pm
- Class of 2025 - Get ready to check out and attend BHS College Rep Visits in Fall 2024. Read your CANVAS announcements and check your Naviance site for constant updates from BHS College Counselor Lenny Libenzon on which colleges are coming and how to register for these events, starting late September through early Nov 2024.



**BROOKLINE HIGH SCHOOL**  
*Guidance Department*  
115 Greenough Street  
Brookline, Massachusetts 02445

## **PARENT BRAG SHEET**

As we enter these next crucial months in the college application process, we want to assure you that we will be meeting regularly with your child. As part of this process, we write a counselor recommendation or official school report for your child as a required part of the college application. College admissions committees look to us to highlight strengths and weaknesses, special qualities or accomplishments, explanations of unusual circumstances in academic or personal lives. We consider such areas as family background, hobbies, personal experiences, summer experiences, interests, values, special talents, explanations of the high school records (grades, test scores, etc.).

If you have suggestions for the recommendation of your child, please send them directly to your child's guidance counselor at the high school. Don't spend time worrying about your writing style. Your comments are just for the counselor to use as a guide. This information should be received by the guidance counselor as soon as possible. Please check with your child to be sure that they have completed the Student Self-Description Form and given it to their guidance counselor.

Name of Student:

Name of Guidance Counselor:

Signature of Parent/Guardian:

### **Please respond to the following questions on another sheet of paper:**

1. What do you consider to be the outstanding accomplishments of your child during the past three or four years? Why did you select these as most important?
2. In what areas has your child shown the most development and growth during the past three or four years?
3. What do you consider to be your child's outstanding personality traits?
4. If you had to describe your child in five adjectives, what would they be?
5. Are there any unusual or personal circumstances which have affected your child's educational experience or personal experiences?

## DEFINITIONS OF ADMISSION OPTIONS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

### STUDENTS: WHICH COLLEGE ADMISSION PROCESS BEST SUITS YOU?

Regular Decision	Rolling Admission	Early Action (EA)	Early Decision (ED)	Restrictive Early Action (REA)
<p><b>DEFINITION:</b></p> <p>Students submit an application by a specified date and receive a decision in a clearly stated period of time.</p> <p><b>COMMITMENT:</b></p> <p>NON-BINDING</p>	<p><b>DEFINITION:</b></p> <p>Institutions review applications as they are submitted and render admission decisions throughout the admission cycle.</p> <p><b>COMMITMENT:</b></p> <p>NON-BINDING</p>	<p><b>DEFINITION:</b></p> <p>Students apply early and receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date.</p> <p><b>COMMITMENT:</b></p> <p>NON-BINDING</p>	<p><b>DEFINITION:</b></p> <p>Students make a commitment to a first-choice institution where, if admitted they definitely will enroll and withdraw all other applications. The application deadline and decision deadline occur early.</p> <p><b>COMMITMENT:</b></p> <p>BINDING</p>	<p><b>DEFINITION:</b></p> <p>Students apply to an institution of preference and receive a decision early. They may be restricted from applying ED or EA or REA to other institutions. If offered enrollment, they have until May 1 to confirm.</p> <p><b>COMMITMENT:</b></p> <p>NON-BINDING</p>
<p>Students are not restricted from applying to other institutions and have until May 1 to consider their options and confirm enrollment.</p>			<p>Students are responsible for determining and following restrictions.</p>	



## SELF-DESCRIPTION FORM

Many BHS counselors prefer to get the Self-Description from digitally through Naviance. Please log into Naviance, click on your initials in the upper right corner, click on Surveys, Surveys from your School, Self-Description Form.

- \*1. Full Legal Name
2. Preferred Name/ Nickname
3. Personal Pronouns
4. How many members are there in your family group including yourself?
5. Please list your siblings' name, age, relationship, school
6. Please tell us the highest level of education achieved by your parents/ guardians.
7. Were you born in this country? YesNo
8. If not, where were you born and when did you arrive?
9. Is English spoken in your home? YesNo
10. If not, what language do you speak?
11. How many Languages do you speak and what are they? What are the languages you are trying to learn?
12. Please list the jobs that you have currently or in the past, along with dates of employment and your hours of work each week.
13. Please list your extra-curricular activities during 9th grade and the summer between 9th and 10th grades, along with the amount of time each week and any leadership distinctions earned.
14. Please list your extra-curricular activities during 10th grade and the summer between 10th and 11th grades, along with the amount of time each week and any leadership distinctions earned.

15. Please list your extra-curricular activities during 11th grade and the summer between 11th and 12th grades, along with the amount of time each week and any leadership distinctions earned.
16. Please list your extra-curricular activities during 12th grade, along with the amount of time each week and any leadership distinctions earned.
17. Of all of these activities, which is most meaningful to you and why?
18. Describe an accomplishment, special talent, creativity in academic/ non-academic areas.
19. What are/ were your favorite classes at BHS and why?
20. What are some possible college majors that you are considering?
21. What careers interest you?
22. Is your academic record an accurate measure of your ability? Why or why not? Do you have a disappointing grade? How would you explain it?
23. Write five words that describe you
24. How would a parent and/ or good friend describe you?
25. Do you have a favorite quotation or line from a book, movie, or song that tells something about you? If so, please indicate it below.
26. Please describe anything that has happened in your life (health, home or family) that has affected you as a student.
27. Is there anything in your personal background that might factor into your college choice? (Examples: citizenship, ethnicity, financial aid, health, learning differences, LGBTQA+, religion, etc.). If so, please explain.