

College Information Session



Preparing for College

September 27, 2018, 6:30-7:30

Guidance and Counseling Department

Agenda:

- Preparing for College Admissions Tests
- Resources for College Search Process
- College Applications and Deadlines
- Dual Enrollment/Early College
- Community Service, Internships, and Job Shadows
- Questions



Keep
Your
Cool!

Applying to college was nerve-racking,
but it's a process and it just takes time
and perseverance....

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/video-gallery>



PSAT, ACT, SAT and SAT Subject Tests

- All 11th graders will be taking PSATs on October 10.
- Students Can Take ACT and/or SAT
- Tests are given on Saturday mornings
 - (8:00 - 12:30) about 6 times per year- see dates on handout
 - Sign up for the test on-line at the ACT or SAT websites
 - Sign up early to insure a spot
- Tests cost approximately \$50.00
- Fee waivers are available for students receiving free lunch



ACT and SAT (continued)

- Local high schools host the tests
- In 2018-19, **SAT** is offered on October 6, Nov. 3, Dec.1, March 9 (BHS), May 4 (BHS) and June 1. The **ACT** is offered on Oct. 27, Dec. 8, Feb., 9, April 13, June 8 (BHS) and June 13.
- **Free test prep** through Kahn Academy, linked to PSAT
- Not all colleges require these tests
- **SAT Subject tests** are required at some more selective colleges
- 1 hour subject specific tests, take up to 3 on one test day



Search Resources

- Naviance - Student and Parent accounts
- Bigfuture.org (College Board search program)
- Vermont Student Assistance Corporation - VSAC
- Collegenet.com
- Collegeproowler.com
- Collegeconfidential.com
- Many more...students and parents have favorites!



College Search Characteristics

- Geographic location, setting (urban, suburban, small town, rural)
- Size of campus and student enrollment
- Admission requirements- average GPA, test scores, selectivity
- Majors and programs
- Costs, tuition, room & board, fees, expenses, financial aid
- Type of school (2 or 4 year), religious affiliation, male/female/co-ed
- Housing opportunities
- Athletics (intramural, club, NCAA Division), clubs and activities



Talk it Over:

- Individual conversations with school counselors
- Ask family and friends how they chose their colleges
- Talk to teachers, coaches, neighbors or mentors about their college decisions
- Interview a person in a field or career in which you have an interest how did they get there?
- Local College Fairs



College Visits

- Start off with some local schools-UVM, St. Michael's, Champlain,...
- Official tours, book in advance
- Admission info sessions, open houses
- Interview with admission counselor
- If traveling, check out a school in the area
- October, December, February, April, summer breaks
- Seeing campus with students



College Applications: Quick Overview and Vocabulary Lesson

- Deadlines: Early Action, Early Decision, Regular Decision, Rolling
- What is the Common Application?
- Are There Other Kinds of Applications?
- Components of the Application:
 - Personal information
 - Activities, work, service, internships, job shadows, honors, awards
 - Essay(s)
 - Teacher and other recommendations
 - Naviance: Official Transcripts and Teacher Recommendations are requested and sent electronically through this program
 - Test Scores
(sent directly from the ACT or SAT companies)
 - Application fee or waiver



Dual Enrollment & Early College

- Take TWO free college classes while still in high school. See what college is like, learn what professors expect of students and get a head start on your college degree!
 - Participating colleges; UVM, CCV, VTC, NECI, Champlain College, & Saint Michael's College
- *Early College*- allows high school seniors to take a full year of college-level classes while completing their high school diploma
- Contact Dhyana Bradley- dbradley@bsdvt.org, (802) 238-9453. Available every Monday



Community Service, Internship & Job Shadow

Community Service:

40 Hour - Graduation Requirement
(10 hrs per year)

Students encouraged to seek out opportunities and non-profits that could help them pursue or explore new interests

Internships & Job Shadows:

Opportunity to learn about yourself, explore possible career interests, majors,

Great opportunities over breaks, summer, etc



Additional Resources and Events

October 2, 2018 -

The Big Virtual: National Online College
Admissions Fair

October 9, 2018

Pathways to College and Career Conference
Champlain College

12:30-5:00

March 2019 -

College Pathways Workshops @ VSAC, TBD -
dates

March 2019 -

VSAC Paying for College Night, TBD, @ BHS
6:30-8:30pm



Final Thoughts:

- The grades you earn in high school and the rigor of your courses are the most important factors considered in the application. Do your best during your junior and senior years!
- Have fun with the search process. It is the start of an exciting transition. Try to not compare yourself with others and don't catch their anxiety. It is your personal journey!



Questions?

**Thank You
for Attending
this
Presentation!**

