

# Applying to College 101

for High School Juniors-Hillsboro-Deering High School

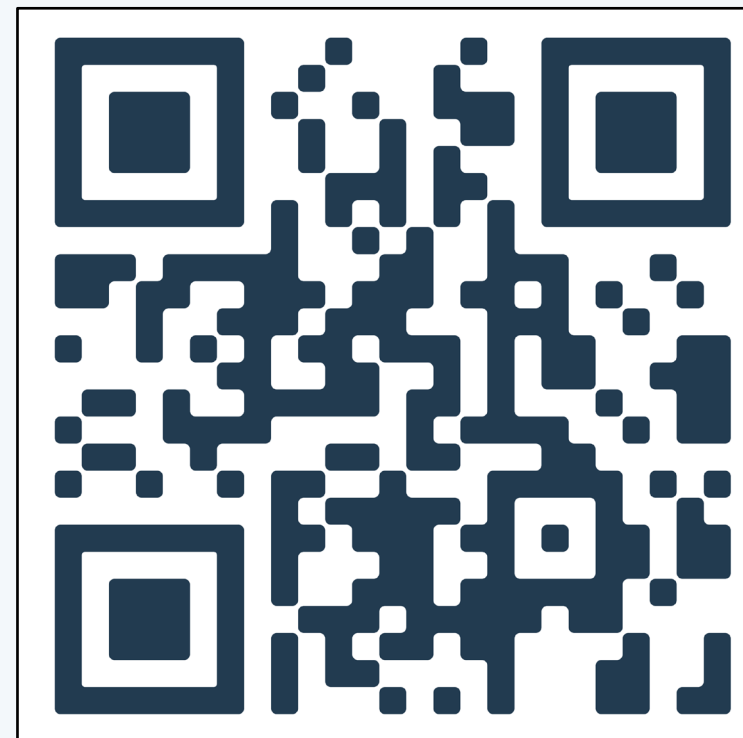
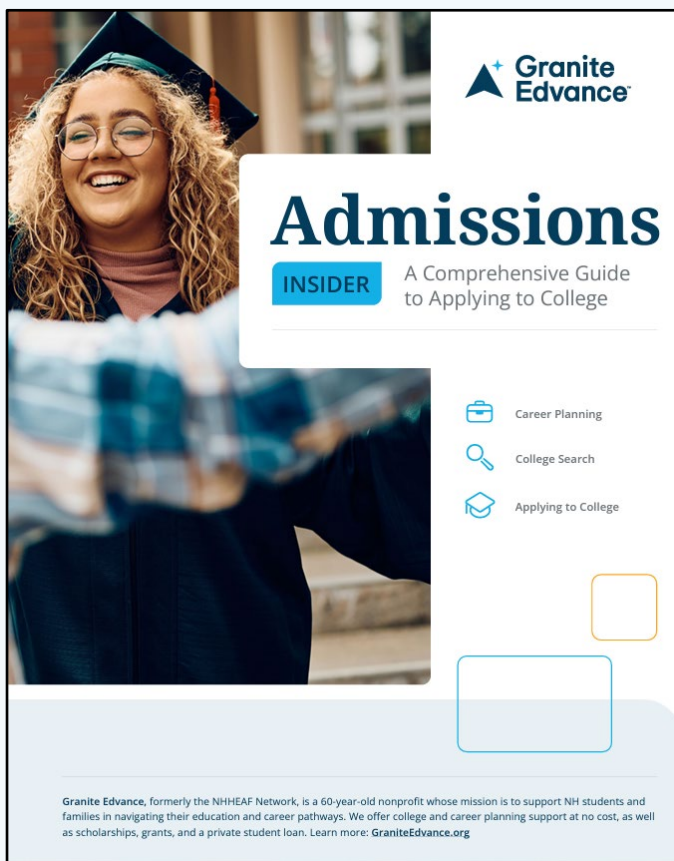
Kristin Lavigne, M.Ed/M.S.HEA

College Success Specialist



SIGN IN

# Admissions Insider- Digital Copy



SCAN ME!

# Who We Are



We are dedicated to providing students and families with FREE, important information about higher education and career planning



Team of expert Education and Career Specialists



Aim to empower students to plan and achieve their future goals with confidence and excitement



Facilitate connections among individuals and organizations that support students



Serve all NH students of any age, background, interest, and pathway



# Appointments

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**Virtual** appointments available  
Monday - Friday

**In-person** appointments available  
Monday – Friday in our Concord  
office

Schedule online:

<https://calendly.com/graniteedvance>

Or call: **603.227.5444**

## Career & Aptitude Exploration

- Complete assessment and meet with a counselor to discuss careers and college majors that match your results

## Exploring Education Pathways

- College, career prep, program options, application process, understanding role of financial aid

## Financial Aid Support & FAFSA Prep

- Ask your questions about the financial aid process, create FSA ID

## FAFSA Assistance

- FAFSA filing assistance

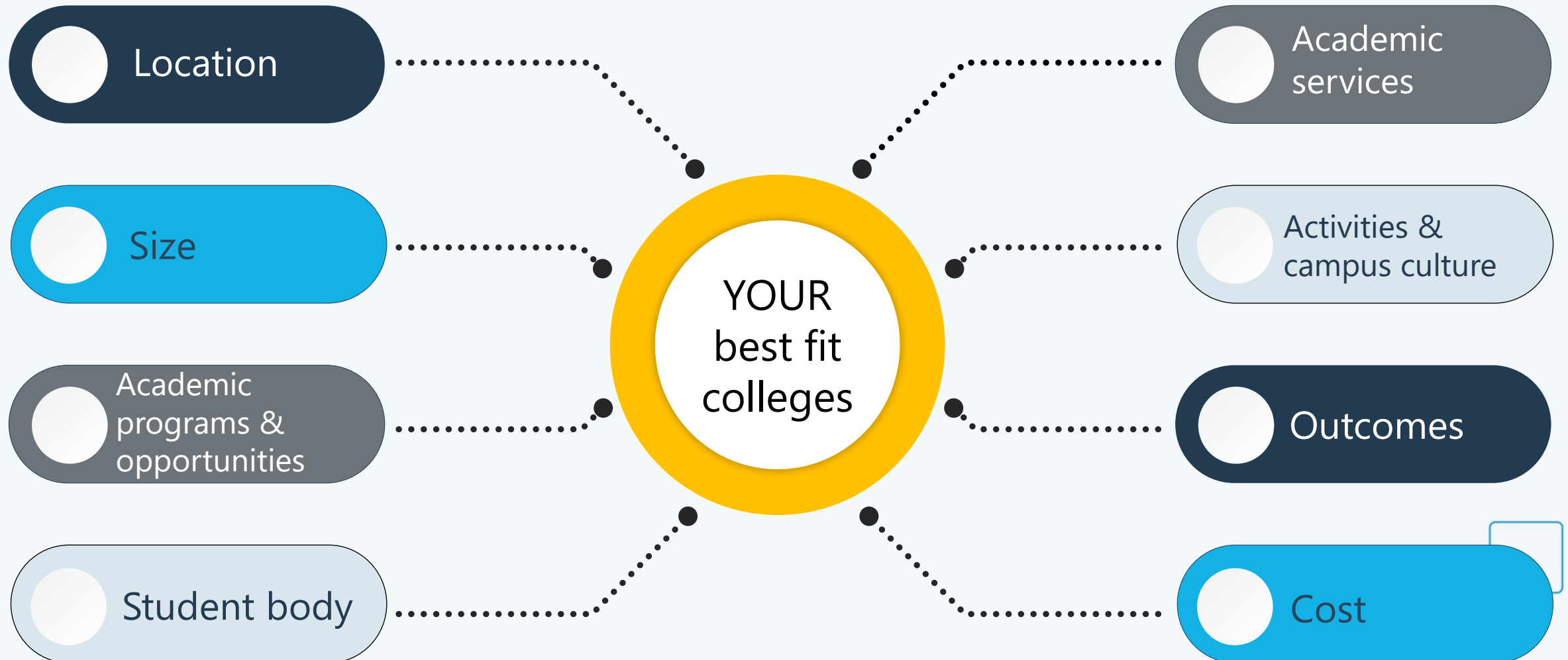
## Reviewing Financial Aid Offers

- Understanding & comparing offers, next steps

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# The College Search

# It's All About You!



# Ask Yourself . . .

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- Why do I (really) want to go to college?
- What are the three most important experiences I want to have in college?
- Who do I want to learn with and from?
- What are the things that are non-negotiable for me in this process?



# Do Your Research

## College Search Engines

- Big Future  
[collegeboard.org](https://collegeboard.org)
- College Navigator  
[nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator](https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator)
- Petersons  
[petersons.com](https://petersons.com)



## Meet With Your School Counselor Who Can:

- Assist you with scheduling courses that meet graduation AND college admissions requirements
- Help set realistic goals based on your personal background and academic history
- Introduce colleges you may never have considered
- Write a letter of recommendation
- Provide advice and guidance through the college search and application processes FOR FREE



# Get to Know the Colleges

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## **Attend College Fairs**

- Review the list of schools
- Ask thoughtful questions
- Take notes
- Collect contact information from the college representatives
- [neacac.org/spring-college-fairs-2025](https://neacac.org/spring-college-fairs-2025)



## **College Admissions Reps at Your High School**

- Do your research – ask appropriate, authentic questions
- Leave your contact information with the representative and ask for his/hers



## **Visit Campus**

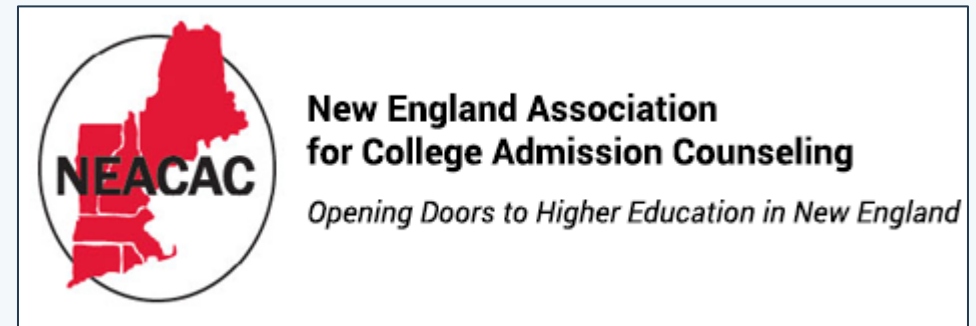
- Information session, tours, open houses, virtual tours
- Attend an athletic event, play, or concert
- Dress appropriately

# NH Regional College Fairs

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## Spring Fairs

- Bishop Guertin
  - Nashua, NH
  - Wednesday March 26<sup>th</sup>
  - 6:30-8:00 pm
- Keene State College
  - Keene, NH
  - Tuesday , May 20<sup>th</sup>
  - 9:00-11:00 am



[neacac.org/spring-college-fairs-2025](https://neacac.org/spring-college-fairs-2025)

Free admission to all students!

## Fall 2025 Fairs

- SNHU hosts a fair in early fall

# Build Your List

## Build your list intentionally

For each school you add, do you have at least 2-3 specific reasons why it made the list?

## Balanced approach

Higher probability  
and  
lower probability  
schools

In-state,  
out-of-state,  
public, private

## Consider the type of financial aid offered

Do they offer merit-based aid?

Do they offer **ONLY** need-based aid?

Do they offer **BOTH** need-based **AND** merit-based aid?

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# Applying to College

# Admission Options

Admission Type	Details	Deadline	Commitment
Early Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cannot apply to more than one school ED</li><li>• If admitted, student agrees to enroll and withdraw all other applications</li><li>• Student, parent, and school counselor sign contract</li></ul>	October – November  Some schools will offer EDI and EDII	Binding
Early Action (EA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Applications reviewed and decisions sent early</li></ul>	November – December  Some schools will offer EAI and EAI	Non-binding
Regular Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All applications reviewed after hard deadline</li></ul>	January – March	Non-binding
Rolling Admission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• First come, first served</li><li>• Applications reviewed as received</li><li>• Class may be filled early in cycle, so apply accordingly</li></ul>	Within a specific time-frame until class is filled	Non-binding
Direct Admission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Student offered acceptance before applying based on certain criteria, such as self-reported GPA or demographics</li><li>• In general, must complete application and meet all eligibility criteria</li><li>• Common App, Niche, school-specific</li></ul>	Throughout admission cycle	Non-binding

# Application Options

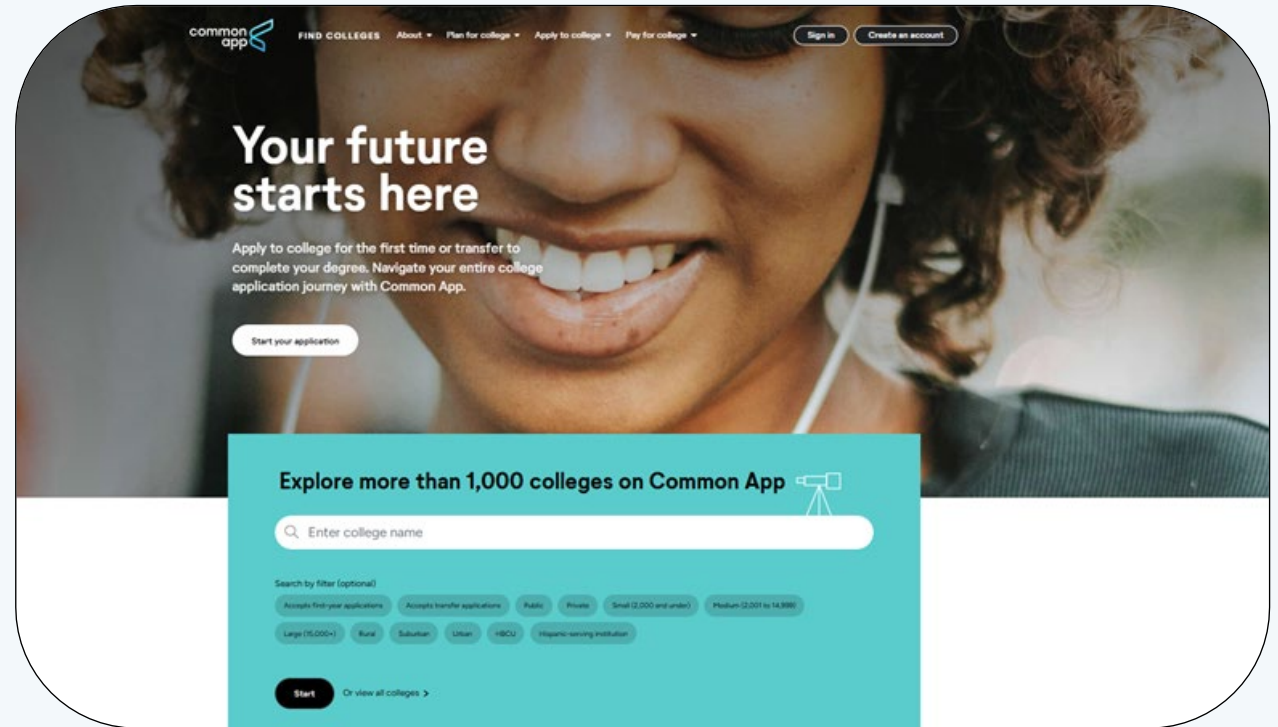
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## Common Application

- Opens August 1st
- Accepted by over 1,000 schools
- Fee waivers available

## College-Specific Application

- Found on college website
- May waive application fee



[commonapp.org](https://commonapp.org)

# Essential Elements of the Application

What are your colleges requiring from you?

High  
School  
Transcript

College  
Essay

Extra-  
Curricular  
Activities

Letters of  
Rec

SAT/ACT  
Scores

# Standardized Testing

## Test-Optional Admissions

- You decide whether you want to submit test scores
- Scores may be required for merit scholarship consideration

## Test-Blind Admissions

- Test scores are never considered

## Free Test-Prep Resources:

- [khanacademy.org](https://www.khanacademy.org)
- [act.org](https://www.act.org)

## List of Test-Optional & Test-Blind Schools:

- [fairtest.org](https://www.fairtest.org)





# Additional Elements to Consider

## Auditions

- Which majors require these?
- When should you plan to audition?

## Portfolios

- Is this part of the application process?
- How are portfolios submitted?
- Check individual schools for portfolio workshop options

## NCAA Eligibility

- Are you planning on playing a Division I or Division II sport?
- Register with the Eligibility Center - [ncaa.org](https://www.ncaa.org)



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# Tips and Resources

# *Students* Take the Lead



Opportunities to show admissions you are ready to take charge of your education!

- Email or speak to college admissions representatives
  - Fill out your college applications and paperwork
  - Develop strategies for staying organized
  - Check email regularly
  - Stay in communication with parents, school counseling office, college admissions, and financial aid offices
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# Summer Programming

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## College Essay Workshop

- For rising high school seniors
- Essay writing tips and brainstorming activities
- In-person and virtual options available

## College Planning Webinars

- For students and parent/guardians

Program dates and  
registration  
information coming  
soon!

[graniteedvance.org](https://graniteedvance.org)

# Unsure About Your College Major?

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- Explore and identify a student's natural aptitudes, strengths, and skills
- Match a student's aptitudes and interests to best fit careers
- Affirm interests or open new avenues of possibility

Book an Appointment



# Questions?

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Phone:

603.227.5444

Email:

[findyourdirection@graniteedvance.org](mailto:findyourdirection@graniteedvance.org)

Book an appointment:

<https://calendly.com/graniteedvance>



**Thank you for attending!**

Your feedback matters. Please  
complete our presentation  
evaluation.