

Planning for College

A Presentation for Juniors and Parents
March 3, 2022

Current Trends

- Students are applying to a greater number of schools
- Admission to public institutions has become more competitive
- The college application process is increasingly becoming more parent driven
- The rise of social media has had a huge impact

How Colleges Choose Candidates

Have you ever wondered how colleges and universities decide which candidates they will accept?

When a college receives your application, an admissions committee will assess all your qualifications and determine if you would be a good fit for their school. It's a complicated process and there are a lot of factors that come into play.

Factors That Colleges Consider

- ❑ Transcript
- ❑ Test Scores (SAT or ACT)
- ❑ Recommendations
- ❑ Extracurricular Activities
- ❑ The Essay
- ❑ The Interview
- ❑ Marked improvement from year to year
- ❑ Community Service
- ❑ That "Something Special"

What should YOU consider when thinking about college?

- ❑ The majors the college offers
- ❑ The location
- ❑ The size of the undergraduate population
- ❑ What the student body is like
- ❑ Campus activities and organizations
- ❑ Public vs Private
- ❑ How selective the college is

Some Terms You're Going to Need to Know!!

- **CEEB Code**- six digit code that identifies a school.
 - **Marlborough's Code: 221335**
- **Early Decision**- a binding agreement that says you will attend a certain college upon acceptance and remove all other applications, unless the financial aid award is inadequate
- **Early Action**- another option on your application for early notification of acceptance. You are not obligated to attend when you apply early action, you just get your acceptance earlier.

More Terms!

- ❓ **Regular Decision-** Applicants are required to submit their applications by deadlines set by each college and students will receive acceptance notifications in the Spring.
- ❓ **Rolling Admissions-** Colleges review applications and make decisions as applications are received.
- ❓ **Wait List-** Because colleges can't predict how many of the students they admit will actually end up attending, a wait list is created and students are offered admission when space becomes available

Even More Terms

FAFSA- The Free Application for Federal Student Aid seeks details on you and your parents income and assets. It will calculate your Expected Family Contribution at no charge. (FAFSA forms are available online at www.fafsa.ed.gov)

- ❓ **CSS Profile-** Developed by the College Scholarship Service (CSS) of the College Board, the PROFILE may be obtained by registering at www.collegeboard.org. Most private colleges require the PROFILE in addition to the FAFSA. The deadline for submitting the PROFILE is usually earlier than the FAFSA.

College Visits

We suggest you reach out to colleges on your list and see if they are doing scheduled in person tours.

- If they are not able to offer an in person tour, most colleges have a virtual tour on their websites.
- The following link also has virtual tours of over 1000 colleges & universities
 - <https://www.youvisit.com/collegesearch/>

Visiting Colleges as a Senior

- ☐ When visiting schools in the Fall consider:
 - ☐ Doing an overnight stay with a current student
 - ☐ Sit in on some classes the college/university offers

Various colleges and universities visit MHS for information sessions!

Sign up for these visits through Naviance

The more that you show a college you are interested, the better that will help your application.

The Do's and Don'ts for Visiting Colleges

- ❑ DO call ahead or RSVP
- ❑ DON'T be late
- ❑ DO dress the part (campus visit vs admissions interview)
- ❑ DO ask questions...DON'T be shy!
- ❑ DO talk to current students
- ❑ DO have fun!!





Some questions to ask on your visits:

Academics:






- ❓ What is the average class size?
- ❓ Do graduate students teach undergrads?
- ❓ Are there any required courses?
- ❓ Do you give credit for AP courses?

More Questions

Location/Student Life

-  How large is the campus?
-  Does the college provide transportation locally?
-  What percentage of students are housed on campus?
-  Is housing guaranteed all four years?

Financial Aid

-  Is financial aid based on need? On merit?
-  Do you offer work study?
-  What percentage of students receive financial aid?
-  What are the financial aid application procedures and deadlines?
-  When are financial aid packages awarded?

Last questions....I promise

❓ Admission

- ❓ What information do you require from applicants? (SAT, recommendations, interview, etc.)
- ❓ What are your academic requirements?
- ❓ What is the application deadline?
- ❓ When do students find out if they've been accepted?

❓ Career Resources/Alumni

- ❓ Do you offer internships?
- ❓ What career services do you offer?
- ❓ What percentage of graduates get jobs right out of college?

Developing a College List

- ❓ **“Reach” schools**- schools at which there is a likelihood of denial. It is fine in this group to include a few reasonable long shots.
- ❓ **“Target” schools**- schools that possess the significant features a student desires and the student is in the mid-range of the typical acceptance pool.
- ❓ **“Safety” schools**- schools that have most of the features a students desires and at which it is “highly likely” to “certain” that the student will be admitted.
- ❓ We recommend that students apply to at least 2 or 3 Reach schools, 2 or 3 Target schools and at least 1 or 2 safety schools, making for on average 8 applications per student.

Applying to College: The Priorities

? First Priority

- ? Make an appointment with your guidance counselor
- Plan to take either the SAT or ACT
- ? Find the colleges' applications and deadlines
- ? Be sure you have at least two teacher recommendations. You should ask your teachers before you leave for the summer and then again the fall of your senior year.
- Sign up NOW for a Common App Account: www.commonapp.org
 - Account can roll over year to year
 - Start your essay early

Second Priority

- ? Complete the application
- ? Inform the guidance department of the colleges to which you have applied and request the materials you need sent
- ? You are responsible for knowing your deadlines! You will make a much better impression if you are early.

Third Priority

Visit the colleges to which you have applied again

Apply for financial aid starting as early as October

Be sure you have all your SAT/ACT scores sent to the colleges you applied to.

Using Naviance to Help Throughout the Process

? College Supermatch-

The screenshot displays the SuperMatch College Search interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the title "SuperMatch College Search" and a link "About SuperM". Below this is a menu with categories: "Choose Fit Criteria", "Location", "Academics", "Admission", "Student Life", "Diversity", "Institution Characteristics", "Cost", "Athletics", "Resources", and "Groups". The "Location" category is currently selected and highlighted in red.

On the left side, there is a sidebar titled "Your Fit Criteria" which shows "0 selected criteria" and a "Select Criteria" button. Below this, it says "No Results Yet".

The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Location:** This section has a "Close" button and navigation arrows. It offers two search options: "Search by state or region" (selected) and "Search by distance". Below these is a search input field with the placeholder "State or province" and "Type US State or Canadian Province...". A "Quick Selection: US Regions & Others" section includes checkboxes for Central, Southeast, Mid-Atlantic, West, Midwest, US Territories, Northeast, and Canada.
- CAMPUS SURROUNDINGS:** This section includes checkboxes for Large City, Small City, Suburb near Large City, Suburb near Small City, Town not near a City, and Rural.
- Must Have:** A section with the heading "Must Have" and a definition: "A *Must Have* is anything you absolutely need to be happy and successful."
- Nice to Have:** A section with the heading "Nice to Have" and a definition: "A *Nice to Have* is anything that's important to you, but isn't an absolute must have."

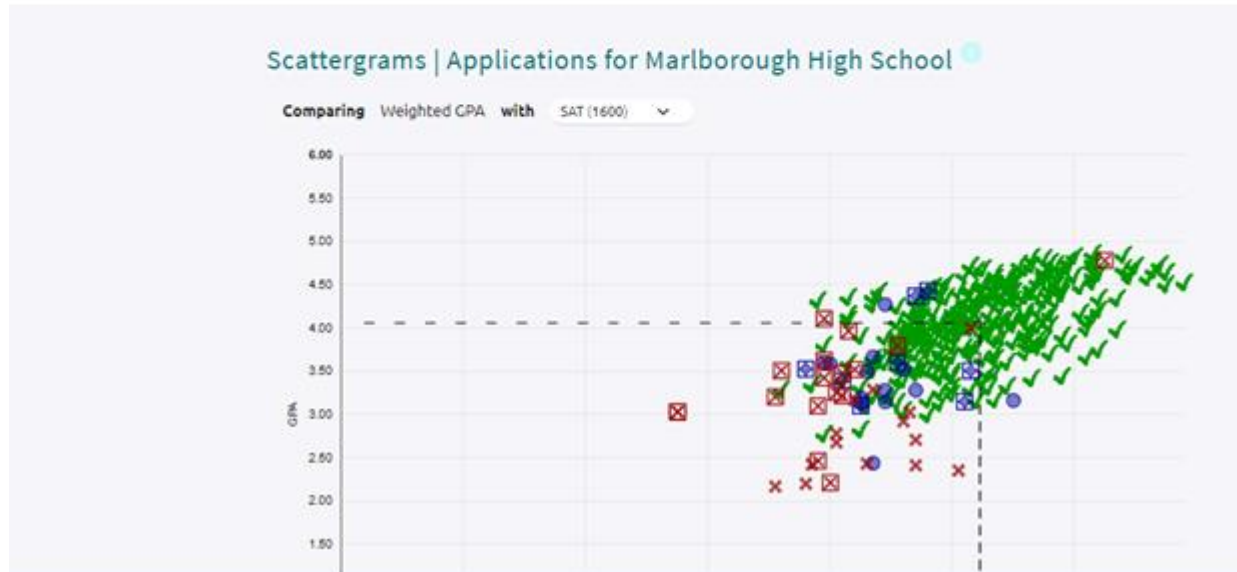
A green callout box is overlaid on the "Must Have" section, containing the text: "This tool allows you to put in certain criteria that you are looking for in a college(major, location, cost etc.) and it also allows you to put in your GPA and SAT scores. From there it will generate a list of schools. This is good for finding schools you may have never thought of before."

At the bottom of the main content area, there is a teal button that says "SELECT CRITERIA TO START".

At the bottom right of the interface, there is a status bar with indicators for "0 PINNED", "0 THINKING ABOUT", "0 APPLYING TO", and a "MORE" link.

Using Naviance to Help Throughout the Process

Scattergrams/Application History-



We use naviance to keep track of our applications year to year. Because of this, students and parents can access our statistics and graphs that represent Marlborough High School applicants to certain schools. The graphs show the SAT scores and GPAs of applicants (without names) and indicate whether they were accepted, wait listed or denied

Using Naviance to Help Throughout the Process

You can also look up any college by name. Naviance will give you information about cost, acceptance rate, deadlines etc!

College Lookup-



Boston University
Boston, United States
bu.edu

- Virtual Tour
- Communicate
- Apply Online
- Learn More

- Overview
- Studies
- Student Life
- Admissions
- Costs



AVERAGE NET PRICE

\$21,015

Family Income

\$0 - \$30k

More about Cost & Aid

From 2020

GRADUATION RATE

84%

4 Year 6 Year

More about learning environment

From 2020

ACCEPTANCE RATE

18%

Check out Scattergrams to see how this relates to you

From 2020

COLLEGE OVERLAPS

10

See other colleges that applicants to this school also applied to

TRANSFER FALL DEADLINE

March

1

See all deadlines

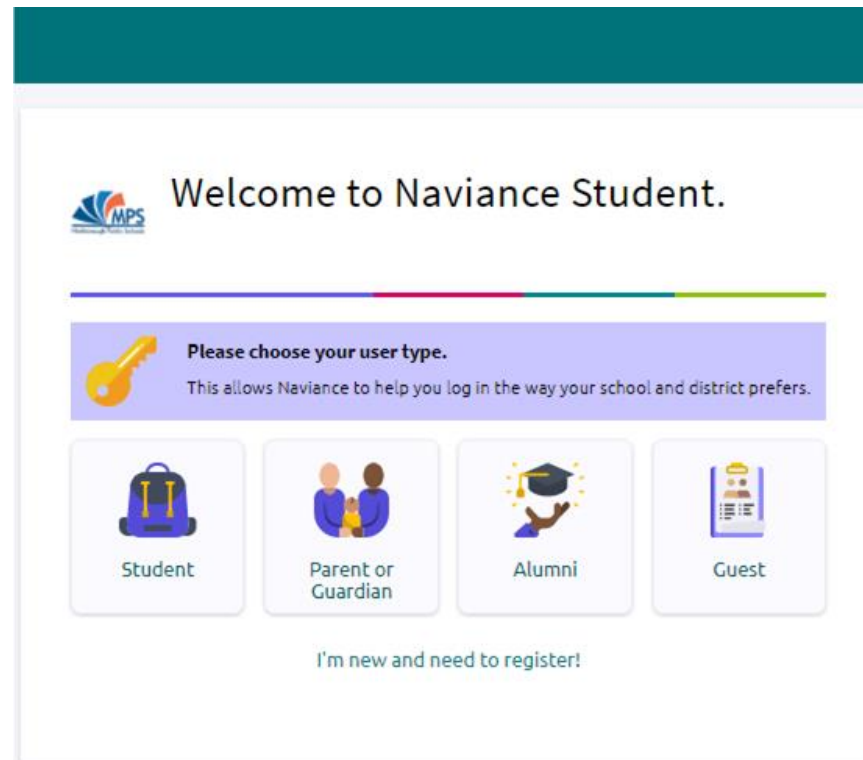
Forgot your username or password for Naviance? Don't have an account?

If students do not have access to their naviance account or have forgotten how to log in, please contact your guidance counselor and they can reset it.

Parents, if you would like a parent account, please reach out to your child's guidance counselor

Please use this link to access Naviance:

<https://student.naviance.com/marlborough>




Letters of Recommendation

It is important that you start to think about who you would like to write you a letter of recommendation. For teachers you will need to fill out the teacher letter of recommendation worksheet, give it to your teacher and request the letter in Naviance (directions below)

[Teacher Letter of Rec worksheet](#)

Apply to Colleges

 COLLEGES
I'm applying to


[Letters of Recommendation](#)

Letters of recommendation

Your Requests

You can request new letters of recommendation and track the most recent status of your requests here.

[Add Request](#)

| Recommendation For ^ | Deadline ^ | Recommender(s) | Status ⓘ | Cancel Request |
|--|------------|----------------|----------|----------------|
|  Your recommendation requests will show up here. | | | | |

For your guidance counselor, you should fill out the counselor letter of recommendation worksheet and give it to your counselor during your college planning meeting

[Counselor Letter of Rec worksheet](#)

Staying on Track through Senior Year

Spring/Summer Junior Year

- Make list of potential colleges
- Visit campuses & college fairs
- Identify teachers for letters of recommendation
- Take the SAT/ACT

Fall Senior Year

- Finalize the college list
- Re-take the SAT/ACT
- Secure letters of recommendation

Winter Senior Year

- Submit financial aid applications
- Send/request mid-year grade reports

Spring Senior Year

- Receive admission and financial aid offers
- Choose your college/submit deposit by May 1st

Websites you will need along the way:

Click on image for link:



Spring SAT and ACT Test Dates



| Test Date | Normal Deadline | Late Registration* | Online Score Release |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| May 7, 2022 | April 8, 2022 | April 26, 2021 | May 20, 2022 |
| June 4, 2021 | May 5, 2022 | May 25, 2022 | July 13, 2022 |

We will be offering the SAT to all seniors during school this October.



| Test Date | Deadline | Late Deadline | Score Release* |
|---------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| April 2, 2022 | February 25, 2022 | March 11, 2022 | Apr 12; May 27, 2022 |
| June 11, 2022 | May 6, 2022 | May 20, 2022 | June 21; August 5, 2022 |
| July 16, 2022 | June 17, 2022 | June 24, 2022 | July 26; September 9, 2022 |

The College Board

- Every student should go to www.collegeboard.org and create an account.
 - You will use this account for all of the following:
 - SAT practice via Khan Academy
 - Registering for the SATs and SAT Subject Tests
 - Viewing SAT Scores
 - Sending SAT scores to colleges
 - Viewing AP scores
 - Sending AP scores to colleges
 - Filling out the CSS Profile for financial aid if your college requires it
- Whether or not you choose to take the SAT or ACT, it is a good idea to create an account anyway, just so that you have it

ACT

- If you are planning to take the ACT at all, you should create an account at www.act.org
- This will allow you to register for the ACT, view your ACT scores and send your ACT scores to colleges

SAT vs. ACT

| | SAT | ACT |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| Why Take It | Colleges use SAT scores for admissions and merit-based scholarships. | Colleges use ACT scores for admissions and merit-based scholarships. |
| Test Structure | Reading Writing & Language Math | English Math Reading Science Reasoning Essay (Optional) |
| Length | 3 hours | 2 hours, 55 minutes (without essay) 3 hours, 40 minutes (with essay) |
| Reading | 5 reading passages | 4 reading passages |
| Science | None | 1 science section testing your critical thinking skills (not your specific science knowledge) |
| Math | Covers: Arithmetic Algebra I & II Geometry, Trigonometry and Data Analysis | Covers: Arithmetic Algebra I & II Geometry, Trigonometry, and Probability & Statistics |
| Calculator Policy | Some math questions don't allow you to use a calculator. | You can use a calculator on all math questions. |
| Essays | None | Optional. The essay will test how well you evaluate and analyze complex issues. |
| How It's Scored | Scored on a scale of 400-1600 | Scored on a scale of 1-36 |

Guidance Counselor Contact Information

Mrs DeHoratius (ECHS/Testing Coordinator)- edehoratius@mps-edu.org 508-460-3500 x7110

Mrs Johnson- ejohnson@mps-edu.org 508-460-3500 x7385

Mr. Rogers- crogers@mps-edu.org 508-460-3500 x7384

Ms. Wayman- awayman@mps-edu.org 508-460-3500 x7510

Mrs. Riley- samantha.riley@mps-edu.org 508-460-3500 x7386