

Websites & Online Tools for College and Career Planning

College Admissions Presentation – Spring 2022 – Powerpoint presentation by the QRMHS Guidance Team

Link to the online Zoom about College Admissions – Tuesday, May 17, 2022, at 6:30pm

Join Zoom Meeting – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88274019268?pwd=IO5o15VA9Dpb1mjD3p3IVanYJBZSUX.1>

MEFA College Admissions Overview Tutorial/Presentation – About one hour in length. This presentation gives a more in depth look at the college admissions process and current trends. MEFA has been a well known name in the college admissions and financial aid process for many years. They have recorded lessons that walk you through the college admissions process as well as the financial aid application process.

Naviance/Powerschool - This is a tool available to all Quabbin students that allows students to learn more about careers, college, and about themselves. This resource helps students to identify their strengths, interests, and goals, which can help them formulate their post-graduate plan. Students can search colleges and careers, save their searches, and much more. All college going students will request letters of recommendation and transcripts be sent via Naviance.

<https://student.collegeboard.org/> - Full-service website that is user-friendly. **Register for SAT** and SAT Subject Tests, send test scores to colleges and search for colleges. Students can create their own profile based on their testing results and then match colleges. Students who have taken PSATs can log on to Collegeboard.com and use the access code provided on the PSATs, to log on to My College Quickstart and use the **Big Future** program. Students can complete job interest surveys and self-interest inventories to gain direction in choosing a major, occupation and possible colleges. Use the **Big Future** **<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>** function to easily look up general information on colleges. View the average SATs scores a college traditionally accepts to see if you're within range.

<https://www.petersons.com> – A well known name in the college application process. Petersons is a resource that provides assistance to students looking to learn more about colleges. There are helpful articles and quick-lists to help students in their exploration.

<https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/> – This site is hosted by the federal government and is a great resource for comparing colleges as well as alternative career pathways.

***Determining a Major and Researching CareersÂ (should all be FREE)**

<http://masscis.intocareers.org> -This site provides easy-to-access information on specific jobs and the various aspects of that job, including: wages, physical demands, benefits provided, employment outlook in Massachusetts, common work activities, and hiring practices. Log on for free, just enter your town.

www.mymajors.com -Guide students in the search process of finding a major or program of study

www.careeronestop.org -Explore wages and occupational trends by state. Examine which fields are predicted to grow the fastest. Look up any job position and the average wages earned, the education requirements, a list of skills needed, and what tasks will be done for

that job. This site is sponsored by the US Department of Labor, Employment and Training. Information is also accessible at www.bls.gov/ which is the US Bureau of Labor Statistics.

www.bls.gov/ooh/ – US Bureau of Labor Statistics – Occupational Outlook Handbook gives you specific information about careers, including earnings, projected job growth and education needed. There is also a mobile OOH website that can be used to access the same information.

<https://www.apprenticeship.gov/apprenticeship-job-finder> – Find jobs, training and information about different apprenticeship programs in different geographic regions.

Gap Year Options – This is a list of alternative programs or opportunities that are available for students after high school. These are just a few programs available but may offer a starting point in researching all post-graduate options available for students.

***College Research**

<http://www.mass.edu/datacenter/success/home.asp> – A resource with information on Massachusetts community colleges and universities.

www.niche.com – For a list of colleges that have free application fees

www.fairtest.org – For a list of colleges that are ‘test optional’ or ‘test flexible’. Remember to ask the colleges if you might miss out on scholarship money if you do not submit test scores.

ibo.org – for information on colleges that offer scholarship money or advanced standing for IB Diploma Graduates

***Standardized Testing**

www.collegeboard.org -A resource for parents and students. Register online for SAT & get deadlines. Scholarship and educational loan information. [QRHS CEEB # 220105]

www.act.org – Register online for the ACT assessment test. Search colleges, complete college applications, financial aid estimator and varied career information

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KNQGjsOQGpU&feature=youtu.be> – A you tube tutorial that explains the new PSAT score reports, how to read the scores, register for SAT, and how to access the FREE Khan Academy test prep.

***Athletes**

www.ncaa.org/ – Information on the NCAA Clearinghouse and becoming a student athlete at the college level, including requirements needed.

***The Common Application Online**

www.commonapp.org -Students need to follow the directions very CAREFULLY. There is no customer service phone number and once submitted the application cannot be changed and parts of it will be seen by all colleges. (Works best with chrome as your browser.)

***College Fair Schedule Websites**

www.nacacnet.org

www.neacac.org

***Financial Aid and General Scholarship Information**

(There are many scholarship websites out there. They should be FREE. If they ask for money or a credit card, be very careful and read the fine print first.)

www.fafsa.ed.gov -Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Deadlines and instructions for applying for financial aid. This is required by any college in which you wish to receive financial aid, including low interest loans. Filing your FAFSA is **Free**.

www.fafsaday.org – FafsaDay is an event where families can get free assistance in filing their FAFSA application for federal financial aid.

<http://www.nebhe.org/programs-overview/rsp-tuition-break/overview/> – The New England Tuition Break program offers students a reduced tuition at out-of-state public institutions dependent on a student's major of study in college.

<http://www.mass.edu/osfa/home/home.asp> – MA DESE sponsored site for financial aid information OFSA.

www.studentaid.ed.gov– Information from the US Department of Education regarding student loans, types of financial aid, how students qualify for loans, and how to manage educational loans.

Expected Family Contribution Calculator – Find out how much you will be expected to pay for your child's college experience. This calculator uses basic information to give you a general estimate of your EFC.

www.finaid.org -Free scholarship searches. Explains different types of loans & savings plans. Calculator for estimating college cost, loan payments, and estimated family contribution (EFC). Instructions for filling out financial aid forms. Explanation of military financial aid, including veterans, ROTC and new recruits. This is a Monster network site (Monster job search site).

<https://student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile> – Apply for financial aid with the CSS/Profile through CollegeBoard. This is not required at all institutions but is usually required by more competitive private colleges. This does cost money to file as well as to send to each college that requires it.

www.navient.com – Navient is the new Sallie Mae as they are the company that will service federal student loans.

www.mefa.org -MA Educational Financing Authority, a for-profit organization that assists in providing financing and information for college. Explanations of different types of financial aid, who qualifies for what, and how to access financial aid.

*** Scholarship Search Engines are available on the 'Scholarships' page under 'Guidance'**