Go confidently in the direction of your dreams! 
Live the life you've imagined.

Henry David Thoreau
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Guidance Google Classrooms
Google Calendar
Email updates are sent throughout the school year
BE ASSURED — UPDATES SINCE COVID

Colleges have spent a good deal of time adjusting to our current circumstances. They have worked to make adjustments for student applicants in a responsive manner based on what is happening.

We have heard a great number of ways that colleges are changing their policies or practices to be more flexible. This includes transitioning to test optional, being flexible in their dates and deadlines, and schools offering free applications, knowing the financial impact that this experience has had on families.

Make sure you check specific college websites for the most up to date information on that college.

The GOOD NEWS — The task for college-going juniors is the same as it always has been. The large part of the work that needs to be done now is identifying the colleges that are a good fit for you. Doing the research might happen a bit differently, more web based, virtual tours, and online meetings with admissions representatives, but finding a college that has what you, the applicant, are looking for is the most important thing to focus on at this time. And there is a lot of information out there!
MAKE SURE COLLEGE IS THE RIGHT NEXT STEP FOR YOU

THERE ARE MANY POST-GRADUATE OPTIONS THAT WILL ENCOURAGE GROWTH AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING SERVICE WORK, EMPLOYMENT, MILITARY, EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING/INTERNSHIPS, AND COLLEGE.

Dos

Make sure the major and career you want requires a college degree.

Think about your earning potential in a job as it relates to the debt you will take on in college.

College is one factor that can make you more competitive in the job market and financially insulate you.

College is a great step if there is projected job growth in your intended field of study.

Creates a professional networking base.

Don’ts

Just go to go. It is important to attend college because it fits into your life plan and future goals.

College will likely be the second most expensive purchase of your lifetime — make sure you shop and invest responsibly.

Many jobs are emerging that do not require a college degree — make sure you research.

Do not attend a college or institution and assume you’re getting your money’s worth — Ask lots of questions and do lots of research!
Completing college can make your future more secure but attending only some college and not graduating can leave students with significant debt that they struggle to pay back.

THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF ATTENDING ANY COLLEGE

THAT YOU **FINISH**

& GET THE DEGREE!

Find the College or University that is the best **Fit For YOU**
MAKING A SMART INVESTMENT:
COLLEGE PITFALLS TO LOOKOUT FOR

- Low 4-year graduation rates
- Students not completing
- College graduates underemployed
- Students unable to pay for all four + years of increasing tuition & fees
- Significant changes to aid packages within four years
- Colleges not offering financial aid that meets families Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

- Americans have over $1.48 trillion in college debt
- Low enrollment numbers at the college
- Colleges feeling the financial burden and unable to pay for services and supports that students need (colleges closing their doors)
- More competitive colleges are hyper aware of their ‘statistics’
- Maintaining accreditation for programs and majors

HOW DO YOU DEVELOP A GOOD COLLEGE LIST?

RESEARCH!!

- Ask yourself the tough questions about what you want
- Have the conversations with parents/guardians to determine what you need
- It is okay if a student doesn’t know what they want to study — but must plan accordingly
- College is a Family Decision
- Attend Virtual or In Person Campus events. Visit if you are able to.
- Research the college’s information and make sure it is what you are looking for and willing to invest in. (Graduation rates, Employment rates, accreditation, etc.)
- Attend Virtual College Fairs!
- Ask MANY questions. Colleges are service oriented. They want to help you!

A AND B

Wants and Needs
Developing a Good College List is the **MOST** Important Part

**This List Guides the Whole Application Process**

A Good List Includes the following:
- Academic Safety (\(= \text{less anxiety for student}\))
- Financial Safety (\(= \text{less anxiety for parent}\))
- You know what you need to do in order to apply — guides the process
- Only contains colleges you want to attend
- Includes colleges that will produce a positive return on investment
- Colleges you are likely to attend and GRADUATE from
HOW TO RESEARCH

3RD PARTY SITES
COLLEGEBOARD.ORG
NAVIANCE PORTAL
PETERSONS.COM
COLLEGE SCORECARD
MANY MORE...
SHOULD BE FREE!
Universal Technical Institute of Arizona Inc
Avondale, AZ
1,896 undergraduates

College of Coastal Georgia
Brunswick, GA
3,174 undergraduates

Rochester Institute of Technology
Rochester, NY
12,638 undergraduates

Massachusetts Maritime Academy
Buzzards Bay, MA
1,641 undergraduates

Williams College
Williamstown, MA
2,044 undergraduates

HTTPS://COLLEGESCORECARD.ED.GOV/
Scattergrams available on Naviance
-Example: UMass Amherst shows GPA (and test scores) for accepted students from Quabbin
**Alabama State University**
Montgomery, AL

A medium-sized, 4-year, public university. This coed college is located in a small city in an urban setting and is primarily a residential campus. It offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees.

[www.alasu.edu](http://www.alasu.edu)

- **Quick Facts**
  - **Medium-sized**
  - 3,794 total undergrads, 1,012 degree-seeking freshmen
  - See more about student body and campus life

**33% graduate within six years**

**$17,083 average financial aid package**

66% of financial need met (average)

Tuition and fees: $13,066 in-state, $50,496 out-of-state

See more cost and aid info or [Calculate Your Net Price](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/)

**Swarthmore College**
Swarthmore, PA

A small, 4-year, private liberal arts college. This coed college is located in a small town in a suburban setting and is primarily a residential campus. It offers bachelor's degrees.

[www.swarthmore.edu](http://www.swarthmore.edu)

- **Quick Facts**
  - **Small**
  - 1,179 total undergrads, 186 degree-seeking freshmen

**94% graduate within six years**

**$56,923 average financial aid package**

86% of financial need met (average)

Tuition and fees: $54,658 in-state, $54,658 out-of-state

See more about student body and campus life

Screenshots pulled from College Board Big Future [https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/)
## VISITING CAMPUS

### Formal Visits:
- You contact undergraduate admissions and set up a time to take a guided tour.
- Students can have up to two excused absences for these visits (with form completed and returned to Quabbin).
- You can see housing, academic buildings, classrooms, lab space, the student center, dining common, library, and more.
- You get to see a more polished view of the school.

### Informal Visits:
- You are in the area so you stop in or drive through the campus.
- You can stop by admissions and let them know you are interested in the school. You COULD get the application fee waived for being on campus.
- You walk around the campus and public areas. Have lunch in the dining commons.
- Ask some of the current students how they like things — financial aid, safety and how issues were resolved are great to ask about.

### Virtual Visits:
- You do an online tour, including checking out the services that are available on campus.
- You do a virtual/online meeting with admissions and let them know you are interested in the school.
- Look on boards/chats/social media and other sites/programs hosted by the college that allows you to speak to current students.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Private Colleges/Universities</th>
<th>MA State Public Universities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-Private Colleges do what they want — each is unique</td>
<td>Governed by the MA Dept of Higher Education (BHE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Make sure the school &amp; program are <strong>accredited</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All over the spectrum — Academic/Financial Safety — Target — Reach</td>
<td>More likely to be a Target or Reach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Private schools often tout their alumni network and their academically-minded campus atmosphere</td>
<td>-UMass universities are more competitive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Focus on customer service and your college experience</td>
<td>-(The average accepted student GPA at UMass Amherst hovers around a 3.9 - <em>recalculated</em>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Higher price tag BUT more financial aid to give</td>
<td>-Offer programs, travel abroad, research opportunities, and other experiences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-Student initiative is important</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holistic or qualitative review (ex: emphasis on essay, what you bring to campus, letters of rec, demonstrated interest)</td>
<td>Subsidized by tax dollars so the initial price tag is less BUT there is usually not as much aid to hand out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Quantitative or mechanical review (ex: Test Scores, GPA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-With the exception of ‘test optional’ colleges (Salem State University, UMass Lowell, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject</td>
<td>Requirement for college freshmen entering a Massachusetts University or UMass 4-Year College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>4 Courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>4 Courses (Algebra I &amp; II and Geometry or Trigonometry, or comparable coursework) including mathematics during the final year of high school.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sciences *</td>
<td>3 Courses (drawn from Natural Science and/or Physical Science and/or Technology/ Engineering), including 3 courses with laboratory work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Science</td>
<td>2 Courses (including 1 course in U.S. History)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| World/Foreign Language | 2 Courses (in a single language)  
**Note:** American Sign Language (ASL) is a foreign language |
| Electives         | 2 Courses (from the above subjects or from the Arts & Humanities or Computer Sciences)       |

A minimum GPA of 3.0 (recalculated) is needed for admission to any state university.

Almost all Quabbin Graduates will have all the basic required subjects for application to a MA Public 4-Year College.

*Students want to make sure they take Core Science courses that will count for the requirement*

MA Board of Higher Education beginning with the class entering college in the fall of 2016 the following minimum course requirements must be met for entrance to a Massachusetts State University.

MA community colleges may admit any high school graduate or HiSet/GED recipient. Please refer to the MA DHE website for current information on Massachusetts public institutions.

[https://www.mass.edu/masstransfer/](https://www.mass.edu/masstransfer/)
FACTORS THE COLLEGES WILL CONSIDER IN ADMISSIONS

- Rigor of Study/Difficulty of Classes
- Grades
- Standardized Test Scores
- Service/Involvement in the Community
- Letters of Recommendations
- First Generation College Student
- Cultural/Ethnic/Religious Affiliation and Identification
- Urban/Suburban
- Talent / Ability – Musical/Artistic/Athletic
- Demonstrated Interest
- Work Experience
- Alumni Relation / Legacy
- Essay
- Geographical Area
- Demonstrated Leadership
- Interview
- Celebrity / Prominence
- Ability to Pay / ‘Need-Blind’
THE Best Trajectory for College Admissions

Creating a Foundation
Grade 9

Skills, academic, & extra-curricular interests are developed
Gr 9-11

Taking more rigorous courses (AP & IB) & grades are improving
Gr 11-12
Massachusetts residents have a variety of options that can help them save on a college degree.
Be Careful what you post online! You don’t want to have a college recruiter, admissions officer, future employer, or someone doing a background check seeing something online that could jeopardize your chances.

https://www.npr.org/sections/ed/2017/06/06/531591202/harvard-rescinds-admission-of-10-students-over-obscene-facebook-messages
REMEMBER TO BREATHE & HAVE FUN!

This can be an anxiety provoking process for student and parent/guardian. Plan ahead, stay organized, maintain communication, and utilize the resources that are out there.

You will feel in control of the process, you will have a better time, and the more success your will have.

Thank you!