



# **PLANNING FOR COLLEGE**

**Presented by  
The Guidance Department**





## **TONIGHT WE WILL LEARN ABOUT:**

- PUBLIC VS. PRIVATE COLLEGE
- Factors to consider when researching colleges
- Factors involved in the admission decisions of colleges.
- Other things to consider, ie financial aid, scholarships, NCAA.





# MASS PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM

- **4 UMASS CAMPUSES + UMASS MEDICAL CENTER**
  - AMHERST, DARTMOUTH, LOWELL & BOSTON
- **9 STATE COLLEGE/UNIVERSITIES**
  - MASS COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
  - WESTFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY
  - FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY
  - WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY
  - FRAMINGHAM STATE UNIVERSITY
  - SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY
  - BRIDGEWATER STATE UNIVERSITY
  - MASS COLLEGE OF ART & DESIGN
  - MASS MARITIME
- **15 Community Colleges**



# PUBLIC

- Receive funding from the state
- Lower tuition for state residents vs. out of state residents
- The Board of Higher Education sets Minimum Admissions Requirements
- UMASS Amherst is the “flagship” school of the system & harder to get into than the other public schools
- Approximately 25% of our graduates go onto a four year public college



# PRIVATE

- Funded by tuition, endowment, and donations
- Tuition is the same for in state and out of state students
- Admission standards vary from school to school – ranging from nearly all applicants accepted to those who are accept less than 10% of their applicants.
- Approximately 40% of our graduates go onto a private 4 year college



## COMMUNITY COLLEGE – 2 YR PUBLIC

- Approximately 25% of our graduates go onto community college.
- Many of these students plan to transfer to a 4 year college after completing 2 years at community college.
- The MASS TRANSFER Block is the set of general education requirements needed to fully transfer to any Mass public higher education institution.



## ***BASIC CHOICES TO MAKE:***

- Commute from home or live away
- Location, location, location
- 4 year vs. 2 year
- Large, medium, or small
- College type
- Majors and academic programs
- Cost



## **RESEARCHING:**

- NAVIANCE
- COLLEGE FAIRS – BIG E (March)
- READ THE MAIL
- TALK TO PEOPLE YOU TRUST
- MAKE A WISH LIST
- MEET WITH YOUR COUNSELOR



## ***VISITING COLLEGES***

- **DURING THE WEEK IS BEST**
- **SPRING OF JUNIOR YEAR**
- **TAKE A CAMPUS TOUR**
- **PARTICIPATE IN AN INFO SESSION**
- **READ THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER**
- **EAT IN THE CAFETERIA**
- **ASK QUESTIONS!**

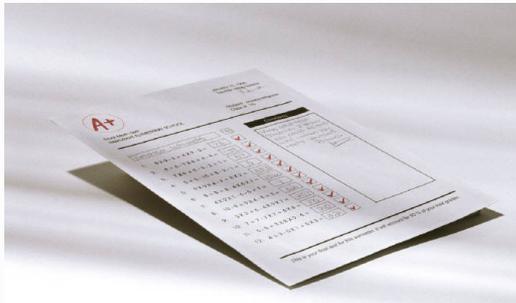


# DEVELOPING A LIST

- Be **OPEN MINDED** to schools
- Start with a larger list then narrow it when it is time to apply
- Ideally apply to 5-7 schools
  - 1-2 Reach Schools
  - 2-3 50/50 schools
  - 1-2 Safe schools
- Consider academics and finances when developing your list.



# WHAT COLLEGES ARE LOOKING FOR IN STUDENTS



REPORT CARD				
GRADING PERIOD	1	2	3	4
READING	A			
WRITTEN COMMUNICATION	A			
MATHEMATICS	C			
SCIENCE/HEALTH	B			
SOCIAL STUDIES	B			
ART	A			
MUSIC	A			
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	C			
Grade Average	B			
Attendance:	Present	48		
	Absent	0		
	Tardy	1		
A = Excellent • B = Good • C = Satisfactory • N = Needs Improvement U = Unsatisfactory • I = Insufficient / Incomplete				
Student:		Grade:		Year:



- **MOST IMPORTANT: TRANSCRIPT**
- **TEST SCORES – PART OF THE PICTURE**
- **OTHER FACTORS:**
  - **RECOMMENDATIONS**
  - **EXTRACURRICULARS**
  - **ESSAYS**
  - **INTERVIEWS/PORTFOLIOS/AUDITIONS**
- **HOW INTERESTED ARE YOU?**



## TRANSCRIPT:

- GRADES & RIGOR

High school grades are the best predictor of college success.

A fought for C+ in an AP course *might* outweigh an A in a lower level introductory course

A falloff in the senior grades might undo the good work before then



# STANDARDIZED TESTS

- Students must register to take the SAT I and/or ACT.
- We recommend taking both SAT and ACT (if precalc has been started)
- Some students may need Subject Tests as well.
- Students will be provided testing schedules & advised to plan it out



## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- ACADEMIC TEACHERS AND THE COUNSELOR
- JUNIOR YEAR TEACHERS WHO KNOW YOU BEST
- ASK AT LEAST 2 WEEKS IN ADVANCE – A MONTH IS BETTER
- REMEMBER TO ASK – NOT DEMAND
- DO YOU FEEL YOU KNOW ME WELL ENOUGH, DO YOU HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO WRITE ME LETTER
- PROVIDE THEM INFORMATION TO HELP THEM
- FOLLOW UP



## **APPLICATION ESSAYS**

- KEEP THE FOCUS NARROW & PERSONAL
- BACK UP WHAT YOU SAY
- GIVE SPECIFICS
- SHOW THEM WHO YOU ARE
- DON'T INCLUDE INFORMATION FOUND ELSEWHERE
- DON'T FORGET TO PROOFREAD



## **EXTRACURRICULARS:**

- Go for depth, not breadth
  - Real commitment to one activity over time rather than superficial involvement in multiple activities.
- Working & volunteering counts too



## THREE BIG LIES IN COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

- STANDARDIZED TEST (SAT & ACT) SCORES ARE LESS AND LESS IMPORTANT
- ASKING FOR FINANCIAL AID WON'T HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE ADMISSION DECISION; AND
- THERE IS A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD IN COLLEGE ADMISSIONS



# TYPES OF ADMISSION

- **Early Decision**-- Early deadline, early response, BINDING
- **Early Action**-- Early deadline, early response, NON-BINDING
- **Rolling Admission**-- Students are accepted/denied as applications are received.
- **Regular Admission**-- Apply by regular deadline (usu. Jan 15) and hear a response by April 1



## COMMON APPLICATION

- One application accepted by hundreds of colleges.
- Fill it out once
- Students will be advised to set up Common Application account – will then work through Naviance.



# FINANCIAL AID

- FAFSA
  - Submit ASAP after January 1<sup>st</sup> but before March 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
- CSS Profile
  - File in early fall of senior year!
- Financial Aid Workshop – Fall 2013
- Scholarships
  - Local
  - Regional / National





# **NCAA, National Collegiate Athletic Association**

- Student athletes intending to play NCAA Division I or II sports must register with the NCAA
- It is important to learn about the NCAA requirements early and understand the NCAA rules.
- Visit [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org) to learn more.



# CLOSING THOUGHTS

- Keep the process in perspective
- Work together as a family
- Students must take ownership
- Discuss finances openly
- Start early and meet all deadlines
- Communicate!!!!
  - Communicate with son/daughter, colleges (admissions office and financial aid), teachers, counselors.