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# SENIOR COLLEGE AND CAREER ACTION PLAN

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Four Year College



AARON BOLDUC

BLACKSTONE VALLEY VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Information Technology

## **Suggested Completion Deadlines**

✓	Section	Early Action/Early Decision Applicants	Regular Decision Applicants
	I. Career Goals	Friday, September 14th	Friday, October 12th
	II. College List	Friday, September 13 <sup>th</sup>	Friday, October 11 <sup>th</sup>
	III. Campus Visits	Friday, October 11 <sup>th</sup>	Friday, November 22 <sup>nd</sup>
	IV. Testing	Thursday, August 29 <sup>th</sup>	Friday, October 11 <sup>th</sup>
	V. Letters of Recommendation	Thursday, August 29 <sup>th</sup>	Friday, September 27 <sup>th</sup>
	VI. Applications	Friday, October 11 <sup>th</sup>	Friday, November 22 <sup>nd</sup>
	VII. College Essay	Friday, September 27 <sup>th</sup>	Friday, November 22 <sup>nd</sup>
	VIII. Financial Aid	Friday, October 11 <sup>th</sup>	Friday, October 11 <sup>th</sup>
	IX. Grants and Scholarships	Friday, March 27 <sup>th</sup>	Friday, March 27 <sup>th</sup>
	X. Action Plan	Monday, November 4 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday, January 1 <sup>st</sup>
	XI. Fallback Plan	Monday, November 4 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday, January 1 <sup>st</sup>

## I. Career Goals

What career(s) are you considering pursuing? Use **Naviance Student- Careers- Explore** to help you find information about each career.

<b>Career 1 Name</b>	Computer Network Architects
<b>Holland Interest Code</b>	Investigative, Conventional, Enterprising
<b>Related Occupations</b>	Computer Programmers, Web Developers
<b>Related College Majors</b>	Computer Systems Networking and Telecommunications
<b>Related Career Clusters &amp; Pathways</b>	Information Technology, Information Support and Service
<b>State Wage Average</b>	\$116,540
<b>National Wage Average</b>	\$107,870
<b>Is the career shop-related?</b>	Yes
<b>What job/volunteer/coop experience do you have related to this field, if any?</b>	None

<b>Career 2 Name</b>	Computer Programmer
<b>Holland Interest Code</b>	Investigative, Conventional, and Realistic
<b>Related Occupations</b>	Computer Hardware Engineers, Information Security Analysts
<b>Related College Majors</b>	Computer Programming, Specific Applications and Computer Graphics
<b>Related Career Clusters &amp; Pathways</b>	Information Technology and Programming and Software Development
<b>State Wage Average</b>	\$94,340
<b>National Wage Average</b>	\$87,530
<b>Is the career shop-related?</b>	Yes
<b>What job/volunteer/coop experience do you have related to this field, if any?</b>	None

## II. College List

What major(s) do you plan to study in college?

Information Networking Systems	Software Engineering
Computer Science	

On average, it is recommended students apply to 1-2 safety schools, 2-3 fit schools, and 1-2 reach schools.

Please list the colleges you are thinking of applying to below and fill in the specified information for each one. Use the **Naviance Student-Colleges- Home** to lookup each school. You can also use the college website to find this information.

- **Test Scores & GPA Ranges** and **Graduation Rate** are listed under the **Overview Tab**. You can toggle between National Ranges and Your High School's Ranges. Use whichever seems more reliable.
- Use **Scattergrams** under the **Admissions Tab** to determine if the college would be a **safety, fit or reach school** for you. (Select SAT (1600) scale from the dropdown to get the best results.) **Acceptance Rate** is also listed under this tab.
- **Average Net Price** is listed under the **Cost Tab**. You can select your household income from the dropdown to get the most accurate figure.

**\*If you have a particular major(s) in mind, make sure the schools you list offers this major.**

College Name	Acceptance Rate	Avg. GPA	Avg. SAT 1600	Safety/Fit/Reach	Avg. Net Price	Graduation Rate
Boston University	18%	102.2	1296	Reach	\$46,978	88%
Champlain College	75%	98.5	1212	Fit	\$41,898	60%
Syracuse University	52%	101.25	1256	Fit	\$42,875	82%
University of Massachusetts Amherst	58%	99.08	1208	Safety	\$26,998	77%
Rochester Institute of Technology	56%	100.14	1245	Fit	\$31,556	70%
Southern New Hampshire University	79%	95	1083	Safety	\$29,988	49%
University of Connecticut	49%	100.23	1216	Fit	\$26,793	82%
University of New Hampshire	77%	97.85	1140	Fit	\$30,304	77%
Worcester Polytechnic Institute	48%	101.79	1278	Reach	\$42,222	89%
Wentworth Institute of Technology	71%	98.65	1202	Safety	\$43,598	67%

**\*SAVE YOUR LIST OF SCHOOLS ON NAVIANCE UNDER “COLLEGES I’M THINKING ABOUT”. WHEN YOU ARE READY TO APPLY TO A SCHOOL, LIST IT ON NAVIANCE UNDER “COLLEGES I’M APPLYING TO”, MAKING SURE TO SELECT THE “ADD AND REQUEST TRANSCRIPT” BUTTON.**

### III. Campus Visits

Many students visit the campuses of the schools they are thinking of applying to starting in the spring of their junior year. Fill in the information below about any campuses you have visited so far.

College Name	Majors You Considered	Rating of a scale of 1-10
Wentworth Institution of Technology	Computer Science/Programming	3
Framingham State University	Computer Science/Programming	2
Worcester Polytechnic Institute	Computer Science/Cybersecurity	7
Boston University	Computer Science	8

Create a tentative tour schedule for other schools you intend to visit. Campus visit schedules are listed under the admissions section of most college websites.

College Name	Tour Date	Tour Time
Champlain College		
University of Massachusetts Amherst		
Syracuse University		
University of Connecticut		

**\*YOU MUST TURN IN A CAMPUS VISIT FORM TO THE BRC AT LEAST 2 DAYS PRIOR TO ANY CAMPUS VISIT THAT OCCURS DURING SCHOOL HOURS. YOU WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING UP ANY MISSED WORK. THE FORMS ARE LOCATED IN THE COLLEGE- FORMS & CHEAT SHEETS FOLDER IN THE DOCUMENT RESOURCES ON NAVIANCE.**



#### IV. Testing

Many colleges require students to take the SAT/ACT. Which of the schools that you planning to apply to require SAT/ACT scores? Fairtest.org will show you, if a college is test optional.

Boston University	Syracuse University
University of Massachusetts Amherst	
University of Connecticut	
Rochester Institute of Technology	

Students typically take the SAT and/or the ACT in the spring of their junior year and the fall of their senior year. Please complete the information below about your plans to take these tests. Links to the SAT website (collegeboard) and the ACT website can be found on your Naviance Family Connection homepage.

#### **Completed Tests**

Test Name	Test Date	Reading	Math	Writing	Science
SAT (1360)	June 1, 2019	680	680	x	x

#### Future Tests

Test Name	Test Date	Registration Deadline

What deadline should you give yourself for sending your test scores to your schools?

December 10, 2019

**\*SAT/ACT SCORES TAKE SEVERAL WEEKS TO ARRIVE AT COLLEGES. TEST SCORES MUST BE SENT THROUGH THE OFFICIAL TESTING AGENCIES ([WWW.COLLEGEBOARD.ORG](http://WWW.COLLEGEBOARD.ORG) OR [WWW.ACTSTUDENT.ORG](http://WWW.ACTSTUDENT.ORG)).**



## V. Letters of Recommendation

Many colleges require students to provide letters of recommendation from teachers and/or their school counselor. How many letters of recommendation do the schools you listed above require?

College Name	Minimum Number of Letters
Boston University	2
Champlain College	2
Syracuse University	2
University of Massachusetts Amherst	1
Rochester Institute of Technology	1
Southern New Hampshire University	1
University of Connecticut	2
University of New Hampshire	1
Worcester Polytechnic Institute	2
Wentworth Institute of Technology	1

You should ask teachers to write letters for you at the beginning of senior year. Please complete the information below about your letters of recommendation.

Recommender's Name	Confirmed? (Yes/No)	Request Form & Resume Provided?	Naviance Request Completed?	Letter Sent?
Ms. Cunningham	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mr. Lehtinen	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Employer? (If IT job attained)	x	x	x	x

**\*THE LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION REQUEST PROCESS IS OUTLINED ON THE COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCEDURES DOCUMENT LOCATED IN THE COLLEGE- FORMS & CHEET SHEETS FOLDER IN THE DOCUMENT RESOURCES ON NAVIANCE.**

## VI. Applications

It is important to get your college applications in on time. Colleges may offer early action, early decision, and regular decision deadlines or they may have rolling admissions. Use Naviance Family Connection to list the application deadlines for your schools and select how you plan to apply to each.

**Please be cautioned that you can only apply to 1 school early decision and you are contractually obligated to go there, if you choose to use this method to apply.**

College Name	Deadline	Transcript Requested?	Applying Via Common App, College Website, or Mail?	Are Supplemental Documents Required?
Boston University	1/6/20	Yes	Common App	Yes
Champlain College	1/15/20	Yes	Common App	No
Syracuse University	1/1/20	Yes	Common App	Yes
University of Massachusetts Amherst	1/15/20	Yes	Common App	No
Rochester Institute of Technology	1/15/20	Yes	Common App	No
Southern New Hampshire University	2/1/20	Yes	Common App	No
University of Connecticut	1/15/20	Yes	Common App	No
University of New Hampshire	2/1/20	Yes	Common App	No
Worcester Polytechnic Institute	2/1/20	Yes	Common App	Yes
Wentworth Institute of Technology	4/15/20	Yes	Common App	No

You can send the same application to multiple schools, if they are members of Common App. Common App schools prefer receiving applications through the Common App system.

If you are using the Common App, have you linked your Naviance and your Common App accounts?

Yes

**\*IN ORDER FOR YOUR LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION AND TRANSCRIPTS TO BE SENT, YOUR SCHOOLS MUST BE LISTED ON NAVIANCE UNDER "COLLEGES I'M APPLYING TO." IF YOU ARE APPLYING TO COMMON APP SCHOOLS, YOU MUST ALSO LINK YOUR NAVIANCE ACCOUNT TO YOUR COMMON APP. IF YOU NEED HELP TO DO THIS, THERE IS A LINK FOR A VIDEO TUTORIAL CALLED COMMONAPP MATCH AT THE BOTTOM OF YOUR NAVIANCE HOMEPAGE.**

## VII. College Essay

Many colleges require students to write a college essay of approximately 650 words or less. Which of the colleges you are thinking about applying to require you to write a college essay?

Boston University	Southern New Hampshire University
Champlain College	University of Connecticut
Syracuse University	University of New Hampshire
University of Massachusetts Amherst	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Rochester Institute of Technology	Wentworth Institute of Technology

Most colleges that require an essay have similar options for topics, so students can send the same essay to all of their schools. The essay prompt options for all Common App Schools are as follows:

1. Some students have a background or story that is so central to their identity that they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
4. Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma - anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.
5. Discuss an accomplishment or event, formal or informal, that marked your transition from childhood to adulthood within your culture, community, or family.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

Which essay prompt did you choose?

Number 6

Is your essay complete?

Yes

Who will/did you ask to edit your essay?

My mom, dad, and brother

## VIII. Financial Aid

In October of your senior year, you will complete the FAFSA and send it to the colleges that you applied to.

**The FAFSA is used to determine your Estimated Family Contribution (EFC)** or how much a family is expected to pay out of pocket toward one year of educational expenses. The financial aid office at each of your schools will subtract their cost of attendance (tuition, fees, room & board, books & supplies, other education expenses) from the EFC calculated through your FAFSA in order to determine what your financial need is to go to their school. Then, they will put together a financial aid package consisting of scholarships, grants, and federal loans to make up the difference between their cost of attendance and the amount of money your family is expected to pay without assistance (EFC).

To find the **cost of attendance** you can use the college's website or you can look up the school on Naviance and research under **the Financial Aid Tab**.

**You can use an EFC calculator, like the one at <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/tools-calculators>** to get an estimate of what your **EFC** will be.

Calculate an estimate of what each college will determine your **financial need** to be for attending their school. Please note that the formula is **Cost of Attendance – EFC = Financial Need**. (If you do not want to use your own EFC, use the example EFC number to do your calculations.)

College Name	Cost of Attendance	EFC	Financial Need
Boston University	\$65,372	\$16,136	\$49,236
Champlain College	\$58,638	\$16,136	\$42,502
Syracuse University	\$70,636	\$16,136	\$54,500
University of Massachusetts Amherst	\$30,790	\$16,136	\$14,654
Rochester Institute of Technology	\$65,216	\$16,136	\$49,080
Southern New Hampshire University	\$51,102	\$16,136	\$34,966
University of Connecticut	\$53,760	\$16,136	\$37,624
University of New Hampshire	\$52,920	\$16,136	\$36,784
Worcester Polytechnic Institute	\$72,384	\$16,136	\$56,248
Wentworth Institute of Technology	\$53,390	\$16,136	\$37,254

**\*YOU WILL LIKELY NEED HELP FROM YOUR PARENT/GUARDIAN TO COMPLETE THIS SECTION OF YOUR CAREER PLAN. IN OCTOBER, YOU WILL NEED TO COMPLETE YOUR FAFSA AT [WWW.FAFSA.ORG](http://WWW.FAFSA.ORG) AND SEND IT TO YOUR SCHOOLS.**

**Loans will need to be paid back after you graduate, including interest.** Many people need to borrow money in the form of loans to pay a significant part of the net cost of attending college (how much you actually pay). It is important to consider whether or not you will likely be able to pay back the money you borrow to attend the college you choose.

For your reference, many experts recommend to budget based on the following 50-30-20 formula:

50% Needs	Fixed expenses- housing, transportation, utilities, food, etc.
30% Wants	Discretionary expenses- entertainment, gym fees, hobbies, pets, etc.
20% Financial Commitments	Loans, savings, retirement, etc.

**The suggested best practice for student loan borrowing is 10% of after monthly pay because you will likely have other financial commitments.**

**Examples of Reasonable Borrowing:**

Anticipated Annual Salary	Monthly After Tax Pay (Estimate)	10% of Monthly Pay (Student Loan Payment Amount)	Reasonable Total Student Loan Amount* (Over all 4 years)
\$30,000	\$1875	\$188	\$17,500
\$45,000	\$2800	\$280	\$26,500
\$60,000	\$3750	\$375	\$35,500

\*Based on 5% interest

The financial strategy is to **borrow based on anticipated starting salary after college**. Based on your career goals, what is your anticipated starting salary for each major?

Use this website to calculate your net pay: <https://www.calculator.net/take-home-pay-calculator.html>

Major	Anticipated Starting Salary After College	Estimate of Monthly Pay After Taxes	Estimate of 10% of Monthly Pay After Taxes
<i>Network Engineer</i>	\$57,000	\$3,614	\$361

Based on your anticipated salary and the examples listed above, estimate what a reasonable amount of money to borrow in order to pay for college would be for each major.

**Use this website to calculate your reasonable total loan amount:** <https://www.creditfinanceplus.com/calculators/loan-amount-monthly-payments.php#calculator-jump> assuming the interest rate is 4.53% and the term loan is 10 years.

Major	Reasonable Monthly Student Loan Payment	Reasonable Total Loan Amount	Loan Amount Per Year
<i>Network Engineer</i>	\$361	\$34784.09	$34784.09 \div 4 = \$6744.84$

## IX. Grants and Scholarships

**Grants and scholarships are gift aid that you never have to repay.** Therefore, they are a great way to keep reduce the money you need to pay either out of pocket or through loans. Some scholarships and grants are awarded by the college after they have reviewed your FAFSA. You will most likely get the more scholarship money from safety schools than reach schools because of preferential packaging. You may also be eligible for scholarships through other sources.

List any scholarships that you know you will be applying for below.

Scholarship Name	Award Amount	Status

**BVT UPDATES LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS REGULARLY ON NAVIANCE THROUGH THE SCHOLARSHIP LIST UNDER THE SCHOLARSHIPS AND MONEY LINK UNDER THE COLLEGES TAB.**

**NAVIANCE ALSO HAS A NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH TOOL, SCHOLARSHIP MATCH TOOL, AND A SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION TOOL UNDER THE SCHOLARSHIPS AND MONEY SECTION THAT YOU CAN USE TO SEARCH FOR SCHOLARSHIPS AND KEEP TRACK OF YOUR APPLICATIONS.**



### X. Action Plan

Using the information you have compiled, create a calendar for yourself for completing all of the components of the college application process. Your tasks should be listed in **chronological order**.

The suggested timeline you have been provided may also prove useful in completing this task.

Task	Month/Date	Task	Month/Date
Request letters of recommendation	September		
Finalize list of colleges	October		
Create FAFSA and complete	11/30/19		
Finish all applications	December		
Send SAT scores	December		
Submit applications to colleges	December/January		
Tour campuses	February-April		
Online research about campuses	February-April		
Apply for scholarships	February-June		
College attendance decision	05/01/20		
Submit college deposit	05/01/20		

## XI. Fallback Plan

Sometimes in life our circumstances change and we have to change our plans accordingly. For example, you might have to leave school due to changes in your financial situation, health, or family obligations. If for some reason, attending a four year college were no longer an option for you, what would you do instead? Who might help support you in making this transition?

In case attending a four-year college is no longer an option for me, I believe that I will have a fallback job set for me. My current CO-OP employer has expressed interest in me coming back after college is over to work for them so I'm sure that could apply if college does not work out for me. I also still currently hold a job at a grocery store so if all else fails I could continue to work their until I am able to get myself together and find another profession to get in to. My parents have always supported me through everything and I'm sure they would help me through a transition like this. There are always other ways to educate myself if college is no longer an option for me. I have access to the Internet where I can find millions of free or very cheap courses that could help me build my skillset for the time being and help me prepare myself to transition into a new life.