



JUNIOR COLLEGE AND CAREER ACTION PLAN

Four Year College



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Information Technology

Suggested Completion Deadlines

✓	Section	Suggested Completion Deadline
	I. Career Goals	Friday, December 7 th
	II. College List	Friday, February 1 st
	III. Campus Visits	Friday, February 15 th
	IV. Testing	Friday, January 4 th
	V. Letters of Recommendation	Friday, March 8 th
	VI. Applications	Friday, March 8 th
	VII. College Essay	Friday, March 22 nd
	VIII. Financial Aid	Friday, April 12 th
	IX. Action Plan	Friday, May 3 rd

I. Career Goals

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

Career 1 Name	Computer Hardware Engineers
Holland Interest Code	ICR
Related Occupations	Computer and Information Research Scientists
Related College Majors	General computer engineering, computer hardware engineering
Related Career Clusters & Pathways	Information technology, science technology engineering and mathematics
State Wage Average	117980
National Wage Average	119650
Is the career shop-related?	yes
What job/volunteer/coop experience do you have related to this field, if any?	Design and construction of computers, use and knowledge of general requirement for different operation capabilities

Career 2 Name	Network and Computer Systems Administrators
Holland Interest Code	ICR
Related Occupations	Web Developers
Related College Majors	Computer systems networking and telecommunications, system administration
Related Career Clusters & Pathways	Information technology, network systems
State Wage Average	90340
National Wage Average	86340
Is the career shop-related?	Yes
What job/volunteer/coop experience do you have related to this field, if any?	Design and building of networks and troubleshooting

II. College List

What major(s) are you considering studying in college?

Computer & Information Sciences, General	Information Science
Computer Netowrking/Telecommunications	

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
Amherst College	13%	103.16	1250	safety	\$10016	94%
Fitchburg State University	75%	93.92	1064	fit	\$14856	54%
Framingham State University	73%	95.44	1081	fit	\$17360	55%
Worcester Polytechnic Institute	48%	101.63	1276	reach	\$32307	89%

*****PLEASE SAVE YOUR LIST OF SCHOOLS ON NAVIANCE UNDER "COLLEGES I'M THINKING ABOUT"*****

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. Create a tentative tour schedule for the schools you listed.

Campus visit schedules are usually listed under the admissions section of most college websites.

College Name	Tour Date	Tour Time
Amherst College	Visited during boy scout merit badge fair	
Fitchburg State University	Visited during boy scout merit badge fair	
Framingham State University	Visited during boy scout merit badge fair	
Worcester Polytechnic Institute	Attended a summer camp there	

***NOTE THAT 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 you listed above require SAT/ACT scores?

Amherst College	
Fitchburg State University	
Framingham State University	
Worcester Polytechnic Institute	

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.

Test Name	Test Date	Registration Deadline
SAT	fall	Already registered

*** LINKS TO THE SAT WEBSITE (COLLEGEBOARD) AND THE ACT WEBSITE CAN BE FOUND ON THE BOTTOM OF YOUR NAVIANCE FAMILY CONNECTION HOMEPAGE.**

INFORMATION ABOUT THE ACTS AND SATS, SUCH AS THE SAT TEST DATE CALENDAR AND TEST PREP RESOURCES, CAN ALSO BE FOUND IN THE COLLEGE- GPA, ACTS, & SATS FOLDER IN THE DOCUMENT RESOURCES ON NAVIANCE.

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
Amherst College	1
Worcester Polytechnic Institute	1

You should ask teachers to write letters for you at the beginning of senior year. Who do you plan to ask to write a letter of recommendation for you?

Recommender's Name	Recommender's Title
Mr.Ramsey	Shop teacher
Mr. Thompson	Boy scout leader

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. Underline the deadline you plan to use 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	EA Deadline	ED Deadline	RD Deadline	Rolling Adm.
Amherst College			Jan 1	
Fitchburg State University			Apr 1	
Framingham State University			Feb 15	Feb 15
Worcester Polytechnic Institute			Feb 1	

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. Use Naviance Family Connection to determine which of your schools accept the Common App and list them below.

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?

Fitchburg State University	
Worcester Polytechnic Institute	

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 would you choose?

5

Who would you ask to edit your essay? parent

VIII. Financial Considerations

In January 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**.

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
Amherst College	\$10016	\$6,000	\$4016
Fitchburg State University	\$14856	\$6,000	\$8856
Framingham State University	\$17360	\$6,000	\$11360
Worcester Polytechnic Institute	\$32307	\$6,000	\$26307

***YOU WILL LIKELY NEED HELP FROM YOUR PARENT/GUARDIAN TO COMPLETE THIS SECTION OF YOUR CAREER PLAN.**

Your living situation and mode of transportation are important to plan for and may vary from school to school. List information about where you plan to live (eg. on campus, in an apartment, at home) and what your form of transportation you would use in the case of each school.

Do not include the cost of housing or transportation, if it was calculated in the Cost of Attendance on the previous page.

Please note that some colleges do not allow freshman to have a car, if they are living in the dormitories.

College Name	Housing	Est. Cost Per Month	Transportation	Est. Cost Per Month	Total Cost
Amherst College	home	n/a	car	200	200
Fitchburg State University	home	n/a	car	200	200
Framingham State University	home	n/a	car	200	200
Worcester Polytechnic Institute	home	n/a	car	200	200

There may be other expenses that you will need to consider when creating a budget for while you are in college that will likely be more stable expenses across schools. Please fill out the estimated expense information below.

Item	Cost Per Month	Item	Cost Per Month	Item	Cost Per Month	Total Cost
Utilities	0	Laundry	0	Health Care	150	240
Phone	10	Recreation	30	Other	50	

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Financial aid is comprised of gift aid that you *will not* need to pay back like grants and scholarships and self-help aid like loans that you *will* need to pay off. Colleges use preferential packaging to determine how much gift aid and how much self-help aid to give you.

Safety schools typically offer the most scholarship money because you would be a strong student at these colleges.

Fit schools typically will offer a combination of scholarships and loans.

Reach schools typically will not offer much scholarship money because you would not be considered a strong applicant. Instead, they offer loans that you will have to pay back.

The following is an example of preferential packaging at College X for three different students:

	Difficulty Level	Grants/Scholarships	Loans
Student A	Safety	\$35,000	\$0
Student B	Fit	\$20,000	\$7,500
Student C	Reach	\$0	\$35000

Look at your financial need for attending each school on your list and the other costs of going to each school that you listed. Based on that information and how preferential packaging works, **which schools will likely be the most affordable for you to attend?**

College Name
Amherst College
Fitchburg State University
Framingham State University

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IX. 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 college application process timeline in the Four Year College Folder in the Naviance document library may also prove useful in completing this task.

Task	Month/Date	Task	Month/Date
Recommendations	Nov 10		
Essay	Nov 20		
Apply to all	Jan 1		