

Senior Planning Guide for the

Class of 2019



Soon, the world will be yours...
What you do, the choices you make, and the fingerprint you leave on
this world will be on your shoulders.
Remember to choose wisely and always be kind.

♥ - Mrs. White

SCHOOL COUNSELING OFFICE

Benton Milster ~ School Counselor
Judy McCurdy~ School Counseling Secretary

FIRST AND FOREMOST: REMEMBER THAT

**“IT’S NOT SO MUCH WHAT YOU DO FOR A LIVING,
BUT HOW YOU FEEL WHEN YOU’RE DOING IT.”**

&

“*Nam et ipsa scientia potesta est*”
(For Knowledge Itself Is Power)
Francis Bacon – 1597

**THE SCHOOL COUNSELING STAFF IS HERE TO ASSIST YOU
IN ANY WAY THAT WE CAN. PLEASE COME IN AND SEE US ANY TIME.**



Please come in and see your counselor and check out all the resources available to you!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. OPTIONS

II. COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS

- A. Senior Planning Calendar
- B. College Search Assessment
- C. College Visitations and Interviews
- D. Admissibility
- E. Applications
- F. Admissions Testing
- G. Forms and Process
- H. Letters of Recommendation
- I. Application Timeline
- J. Financing Your Education
- K. Helpful Websites

III. MILITARY ENLISTMENT

- A. Decision Making
- B. Meeting with Recruiters
- C. Taking the ASVAB
- D. Academies and ROTC

IV. ENTERING THE JOB MARKET

- A. Assessing Your Marketability
- B. Exploring the Job Market
- C. Being Prepared

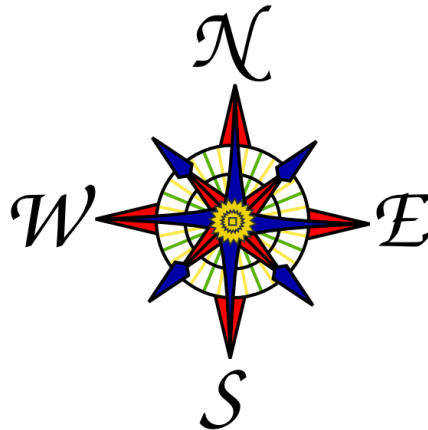
I. OPTIONS

UPON GRADUATION, YOU BASICALLY HAVE FOUR OPTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. GO TO COLLEGE
2. ENLIST IN THE MILITARY
3. GET A JOB
4. INTERIM YEAR PROGRAM PRIOR TO COLLEGE

THOUGH THERE ARE VARIOUS COMBINATIONS OF THE OPTIONS LISTED ABOVE, THE TOP THREE WILL BE ADDRESSED PRIMARILY IN THIS PLANNING GUIDE.

“NO MATTER WHERE YOU GO, THERE YOU ARE”



II. THE COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS

“FROM HAIR DESIGN TO HARVARD - IT’S ALL COLLEGE, AND ALL FOR YOU - ALL YOU NEED IS A PLAN . . .”

A. SENIOR PLANNING CALENDAR

September:

- Regularly check your email for senior updates and scholarship information.
- Make an appointment to meet with Mr. Milster, the school counselor.
- Continue your research on colleges.
- Create a family calendar to keep track of all college relevant dates and activities.
- Request applications and financial aid information.
- Do an Internet scholarship search.
- Registration deadline for October 6 **SAT** is **9/7**
- Registration deadline for October 27 **ACT** is **9/28**
- Schedule college visits if you have some priority schools selected.

October:

- Regularly check your email for senior updates and scholarship information.
- Make an appointment to meet with Mr. Milster, school counselor if haven’t already done so.
- Begin to finalize college choices.
- Schedule college visits.
- School sponsored college visits - Details TBA.
- Start looking at online applications for colleges of interest - Can also print an application if so desired.
- If applicable, prepare early decision and early action applications.
- If needed, start requesting teacher recommendations.
- Begin drafting application essays.
- Parent college information and financial aid night – **Tuesday, October 16 @ 5:30 PM**
- **Start completing senior information packet.**
- **FAFSA** (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) begins accepting applications **Oct. 1** - www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- **CSS Profile** begins accepting registrations **Oct. 1** - www.collegeboard.com
- Check all colleges to which you plan on applying for required financial aid forms.
- Registration deadline for November 3 **SAT** is **10/5**.
- 10/6 - **SAT** test date.
- 10/27 - **ACT** test date.
- Check email regularly for scholarship and information updates from Mrs. White.
- Research scholarships at FAME, FASTWEB, CHEGG, CollegeNet, College Board, etc.
- **File FAFSA as soon as possible after 10/1/18.**

November:

- Regularly check your email for senior updates and scholarship information.
- Make an appointment to meet with Mr. Milster, school counselor if haven’t already done so.

- Continue college visits.
- If applicable, send early decision and early action applications.
- Complete at least one application by Thanksgiving.
- Continue work on college applications and essays.
- Complete senior information packet and give to Mrs. White.
- Registration deadline for the December 1 **SAT** is **11/2**.
- Registration deadline for the December 8 **ACT** is **11/2**.
- 11/3 – **SAT** test date.
- Continue to research scholarships at FAME, Fastweb, Chegg, CollegeNet, College Board, etc.
- Submit a copy of any admissions acceptance letters to Mrs. White.

December:

- **December 1 - Deadline for Early Action and merit scholarship consideration at UMaine (Orono). Also December 1 preferential deadline at UMaine for applying to majors in Bioengineering, Construction Engineering Technology, Nursing, Mechanical Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering Technology.**
- Regularly check your email for senior updates and scholarship information.
- **12/7- For all transcripts requested to be mailed prior to December break – including all January 1 application deadlines.** Bring **all** completed material (senior packets, secondary report forms, transcript requests, counselor recommendation forms, etc.) necessary to the counseling office by this date.
- If applying online (UMaine system), be sure to print out “**Request for High School Academic Records**” and give to Mrs. White.
- Check application deadlines.
- Continue college visits.
- Continue scholarship research.
- Turn in any college mid-year report forms to Mrs. White.
- **12/1 – SAT** test date.
- **12/8 – ACT** test date.
- Review SAR (Student Aid Report) from the FAFSA and make any necessary corrections.
- Submit a copy of any admissions acceptance letters to Mrs. White.

January:

- Regularly check email for senior updates and scholarship information.
- Continue college visits.
- Complete applications and submit.
- If applying online (UMaine system), be sure to print “**Request for High School Academic Records**” and give to Mrs. White.
- Early decision and early application responses arrive. Please remember to give any acceptance letters to Mrs. White.
- Continue scholarship research.
- Registration deadline for the February 9 **ACT** is **01/11**
- Review SAR (Student Aid Report) from the FAFSA and make any necessary corrections.
- Submit a copy of any admissions acceptance letters to Mrs. White.

February:

- Regularly check your email for senior updates and scholarship information.
- Make sure all necessary college applications and financial aid applications are submitted – double check those deadlines!
- If applying online (UMaine system), be sure to print **“Request for High School Academic Records”** and give to Mrs. White.
- Continue scholarship search.
- Review SAR (Student Aid Report) from the FAFSA and make any necessary corrections.
- Mid-Year grade reports sent to colleges.
- **Colleges DO look at mid-year/second semester grades...keep those grades up!**
- Submit a copy of any admissions acceptance letters to Mrs. White.

March:

- Regularly check your email for senior updates and scholarship information.
- Review SAR (Student Aid Report) from the FAFSA and make any necessary corrections.
- Start reviewing financial aid packages from colleges if available.
- Keep active in school and engaged in your academics.
- Submit a copy of any admissions acceptance letters to Mrs. White.

April:

- Regularly check your email for senior updates and scholarship information.
- Review SAR (Student Aid Report) from the FAFSA and make any necessary changes.
- Complete Senior Survey for Mrs. White before April break.
- Review college acceptances and financial aid awards with your parents and school counselor, **also please make sure Mrs. White gets a copy of your financial award letter for the college you have chosen to attend.**
- Apply for local scholarships.
- Make your choice of school and mail your deposit by May 1. **You should submit a deposit to one school only.**
- Notify other colleges to which you have been accepted but will not attend.
- Continue scholarship research. Check for local scholarships weekly.
- Let Mrs. White know your final choice of college.

May:

- Regularly check your email for senior updates and scholarship information.
- Apply for local scholarships.
- Complete college housing application and mail with any required fee.

June:

- Friday, June 7th – Graduation.

Congratulations and good luck!

B. College Search Assessment

1. Have you:

- a. Met with your school counselor last spring or yet this fall? If not, you will be scheduled soon to do so - but you don't have to wait. Please schedule an appointment at any time.
- b. Researched various schools that offer programs in which you are interested?
- c. Talked with parents, friends, and teachers about possible future plans?

2. If you have answered NO to any or all of the questions above, please schedule an appointment with Mr. Milster, school counselor SOON!!

RESOURCES:

- ★ The College Handbook
- ★ The College Book of Majors
- ★ The Fiske Guide to College
- ★ Internet Access for College Search and Information
- ★ Colleges That Create Futures
- ★ The Other College Guide
- ★ US News & World Report Best Colleges
- ★ Various resources from individual colleges

3. Some factors to consider in the college search:

→ What kind of college do I want to attend?

- ◆ Liberal Arts, University, Technical or Community College, etc.

→ What size of college do I want?

- ◆ Colleges range in size from a few hundred or less to 50,000 students plus.

→ Where do I want to attend?

- ◆ Close to home? Far away? Maine? New England? Anywhere in the country?

→ Location?

- ◆ Rural? Urban? In between?

→ Program offerings?

- ◆ Does the school have the academic program that I want? And what if I don't know what I want?

→ Admissibility/Selectivity

- ◆ Will I be accepted for admission?

→ Reputation of the college or specific program within

- ◆ Utilize evaluative resources - ratings, placement rates of graduates, alumni, faculty, school counselor, etc.

→ Atmosphere

- ◆ Your own sense of "FEEL" for the school. This is where a visit to the college is critical.

→ Special programs/athletics

- ◆ Any that you may be interested in could be very important to your comfort level and academic success.

→ **Cost**

- ◆ Though not an absolute factor, it is one to be considered when choosing colleges to which you may apply. Cost (with financial aid package) will most likely be a factor when deciding which college to attend.

→ **Other factors**

- ◆ May be numerous - but paying attention to all of the above will give you a good start in your search.

C. College Visits and Interviews

1. Once you have narrowed your list to between approximately three and seven schools, you need to schedule visits and possibly interviews. Your school counselor can assist you in making these arrangements if you need assistance.
2. Visiting a school and touring the campus will allow you to evaluate the institution as well as give them an opportunity to get to know you as a candidate for admission
3. Check and make sure if an interview is required or recommended. Regardless, be sure to at least meet with an admissions counselor who can answer your questions about the school. **Be sure and have a copy of your transcript with you when you meet with Admissions.**
4. Be sure to meet and visit with admissions representatives from schools in which you have an interest when they come to MAHS. Be prepared with questions that you may have regarding the college or particular program. College admissions representative visits are posted outside the school counseling office and are announced and posted daily and weekly.

5. Visiting A College

Why? There is absolutely no substitute for the actual experience of being on a college campus. Only when you visit can you see for yourself the physical characteristics of the institution, the students, faculty, and the facilities. You can get a personal feel for the school, and an intuitive sense of how you will fit in.

When? Schools you are very seriously considering should be visited in the spring of the junior year, during the summer, or early in the fall of the senior year. Though summer visits are sometimes attractive due to family vacation time, it is preferable to visit a school when it is in session, during the spring or fall, so that you can see how things are with full student enrollment and the complete extent of student activities.

How? Visits can be arranged through the admissions office of the college. Your school counselor can also help with arranging visits if you need assistance. Please keep in mind that most colleges need a fair amount of advance notice in order to accommodate you, and if you do wait until the fall, an even greater (sometimes up to three or four weeks or longer) amount of time may be needed.

What? What type of visit you have at a particular school will depend on their visitation structure. Most schools will provide either an individual or group information/question and answer session, followed by a tour of the campus. If possible, an individual interview with an admissions counselor and a classroom visit or two in addition to the tour is preferable. Some schools will require you to have an interview, either there on campus during your visit, or with a local alumni representative. For Fine and Performing Arts students, a portfolio presentation or audition may be required. Additionally, some schools offer an overnight program where you can stay with a student in a residence hall, which is a really great opportunity to learn more about the campus environment. It is important to check with the school well in advance regarding what type of visitation opportunities are available and if an interview is required.

To Bring: Primarily – an inquisitive, alert, and positive attitude. Be an informed visitor. Do your homework and have specific questions ready for which you would like answers regarding that specific school. Remember also that your presence on campus contains a duality in that the admissions office may be evaluating you as a potential candidate, but you are also evaluating them as a consumer. You and your parents will more than likely be spending quite a bit of money over the next two to four years at any given college, and you want to be as sure as you can that you make a well informed decision. Additionally, it is a good idea to bring with you an unofficial transcript in case admissions personnel request specific academic information about your high school experience.

What to Wear? Dress nicely, but comfortably. Be sure to wear comfortable shoes that you can walk in easily.

RESOURCES:

- ★ The College Application Admission Essay
- ★ Campus Visits and College Interviews

6. **Financial Aid:** When you visit a school, it is a good idea to also schedule a stop by the financial aid office. Though you will certainly need more specific information if you eventually decide to attend a particular school, here are some basic questions that are good to ask when you are there:

- a. What is the priority filing deadline for the FAFSA?
- b. What is the comprehensive fee (also called cost of attendance) at your college/university?
- c. What percentage of your student population receives financial aid, and does your school offer merit aid?
- d. Does your institution meet the full financial need of the student/family? And if not, what is the average “unmet need” of students receiving financial aid?
- e. Are there additional financial aid application forms you require?
- f. What is your policy on handling local scholarships? If you receive local scholarship money at graduation, most schools will allow the use of that money to replace unmet need first, followed by loan money, followed by work study. However, some schools have been known to take local scholarship money to replace their own institutional grant money, which makes your local scholarship not count for anything at all. It is good to ask.
- g. What is the average indebtedness of your graduates?
- h. If a student qualifies for work study, how available are work study jobs on campus, and is there any support available for finding and accessing them?
- i. Are financial aid packages consistent from year to year?
- j. When will we receive our financial aid award letter?

RESOURCES:

- ★ How to pay for college

D. Admissibility - Types of Admissions Selectivity

1. **Three general categories:**

- a. **Highly Selective** - Institutions that seek students with excellent academic records, test scores, and recommendations.
- b. **Selective** - Wide range of variance. Institutions seek students with excellent to very solid college preparatory backgrounds. Most like to see (very generally), college prep curriculum, “B” average or better, ranked in top 1/2 of class, and solid SAT scores.

- c. **Open Admission** - Institutions will accept students who have attained either a high school diploma or GED. They may also have specific academic prerequisites for certain programs within the school.

Additionally, other sources (in this case, Baron's Profile of American Colleges) report admission difficulty for four-year colleges is described as following :

- ★ **Most Competitive** - Students ranked in the top 10% to 20% in high school. Admit fewer than 33% of Applicants.
- ★ **Highly Competitive** - Students ranked in the top 20% to 35% in high school. Admit fewer than 33% and 50% of applicants.
- ★ **Very Competitive** - Students ranked in the top 35% to 50% in high school. Admit between 50% and 75% of applicants.
- ★ **Competitive** - Students ranked between 50% and 65% in high school. Admit between 75% and 85% of applicants.
- ★ **Less Competitive** - Students ranked in the top 65% of high school. Admit more than 85% of applicants.
- ★ **Noncompetitive** - Any student who graduated high school. Admit 98% or more of applicants.

2. **Assessing your admissibility - what is considered?**

- a. Your transcript - what is and is not on it. Review with your school counselor.
- b. Your rank in class and GPA (Grade Point Average)
- c. How you present yourself via your written application, and sometimes in person (if interview is required and part of the application assessment)
- d. Evaluation by your teachers and school counselor (letters of recommendation).
- e. Your involvement as a student with your school and community.
- f. Your standardized test scores (as applicable).
- g. Demographics (location, ethnicity, diversity, etc) are also sometimes considered.

3. **Types of admission acceptance:**

- a. **Regular application deadline** - An application deadline by which all applications must be received. All students are then notified of the admission decision at a uniform response date. With highly selective schools, this response date is usually around April 1st.
- b. **Rolling Admission** - Colleges using this type of admission evaluate the application as soon as all materials required have been received and notify the candidate as soon as a decision has been reached. Colleges using rolling admission make their admissions decisions continuously over a few months.
- c. **Early Decision** - Not to be confused with **Early Action**. This is a program for students who are certain that they want to attend a particular college, and are willing to commit to that college if accepted early. In Early Decision, the application deadline is usually early or mid - November, and the candidate usually hears of the admission decision in early January. Traditional Early Decision programs are what is called "**Binding**", which means that if accepted, a candidate will withdraw all other applications from any colleges to which they have applied. Some colleges have a second round of early admission also. Applying Early Decision is a serious consideration, and should be discussed thoroughly with your parents and school counselor.
- d. **Early Action** - This is similar to Early Decision, except that there is **no required commitment** to attend on the part of the candidate. The candidate just knows early whether or not they have been accepted.

- e. **Deferred Admission** – Once accepted, most colleges will allow an accepted candidate to defer or postpone enrollment for up to one year (there is often a fee associated with this option). Students who are considering taking a year off from college after graduating high school are strongly encouraged to apply to college while still in school, and then opt for deferred enrollment.
 - f. **Waitlist** – Competitive colleges sometimes offer to place a candidate on what is called a “Waitlist”. This is done because colleges will accept more students than they can accommodate knowing that not all students accepted will enroll. If the number of accepted students who actually enroll drops below what the college has targeted for acceptance, then they will offer admission to candidates from the waitlist. If you are waitlisted at a desired college, please see your school counselor.
4. **Admission and academic performance during the senior year**
- a. Please remember that admissions decisions are contingent upon the successful completion of the candidate’s academic program during the **entire** senior year. If a student starts to perform poorly academically, he/she may receive a warning letter from the college(s) after mid-year grades are received. If the academic status does not improve, and the final transcript indicates failing or greatly diminished grades, it is not unusual to see the offer of admission rescinded.

E. Writing your application

1. College applications vary from simple and direct one page informational forms to complicated, multi-faceted requests for an in-depth look at who you are both academically and personally.
2. Two primary concerns:
 - a. **Directions** – Many students find themselves in difficulty with the college application process because they don’t carefully read, and follow, the application instructions. Another problematic issue is the failure to follow application directions and protocol of the MAHS school counseling office.
 - b. **Deadlines** – For college admissions and financial aid application, the deadlines are often very strict and unforgiving – if you miss them, you may miss out.
3. If an essay is required, your English instructor will proofread and review.
4. Refer to and follow Application Tips listed below.
5. You may want to consider using the **Common Application (must be online)**, which is utilized by many colleges and universities. You may then apply to several schools by completing only one application. **If you do use the Common Application, please see Mrs. White for the proper submission of materials to the school counseling office.** Before YOU begin to use it, please discuss your application options with your school counselor. The Common Application may simplify or complicate your process depending on your particular situation. For instance, if you are applying only to schools within the UMaine system, it would be easier to use their system application. There are additional considerations and useful strategies regarding the use of the Common Application, so please come in and consult with your school counselor.
6. *If you’re applying using a specific college online application, PLEASE REMEMBER:*
 - a. To have a credit card available for the application fee – check with your counselor to see if you qualify for a fee waiver.

- b. **Please check carefully to see if there are other forms (especially a Secondary School Report form, request for High School Transcript form or Teacher Recommendation form)** that you have to print and bring to the counseling office or a teacher.
- c. Check with the school to confirm that your application has been received electronically.

RESOURCES:

- The Best College Admission Essays

COLLEGE APPLICATION QUICK ~ REFERENCE TIPS

1. **FIRST AND FOREMOST - FOLLOW DIRECTIONS** - Carefully read all instructions on your application prior to writing, and follow them faithfully.
2. **BE METICULOUSLY NEAT** - Remember, the application is a reflection upon you. Regardless if you apply online or with a paper application, it is extremely important that it be neat and legible.
3. **CHECK YOU SPELLING - AGAIN AND AGAIN**
4. **USE A WORKING DRAFT** - If using a paper application, write it out first in draft form, then complete a final copy for submission. Either photocopy the application, or take an extra or two to work on prior to writing your final copy.
5. **ASK QUESTIONS** - If you are not sure about a question or section on the application, be certain to clarify before you complete it. Your school counselor will be happy to go over your application with you.
6. **CHECK YOUR ESSAY** - If an essay is a required part of your application, your English instructor will read and evaluate your work. Regardless, be sure that the essay communicates what you want it to communicate, and is a clear and concise example of your writing style.
7. **WATCH YOUR DEADLINES** - Be sure to meet all deadlines--give yourself plenty of time to write your application. Don't wait until the last minute to start. Be sure to mail or electronically submit your application on time.

F. Admissions Testing

1. Most four-year colleges and universities require that you take some type of admissions test. The most commonly required is the SAT. Many schools will substitute the ACT for the SAT and/or the SAT Subject tests. All Maine community college are now using the SAT for placement and admission purposes. **Remember to check the specific admissions test requirements for each school to which you will apply.**
2. Admissions testing information and registration materials are available in the School Counseling Office.
3. You can register for these tests online at www.collegeboard.org for SAT and www.actstudent.org for ACT.

RESOURCES:

- ★ The Official SAT Study Guide
- ★ Official Guide for all SAT Subject Tests

F. School Counseling Office Forms and Process:

1. In order for a college to review your application, you must also submit your high school transcript. In order to have a transcript sent with a letter of recommendation from your school counselor (almost all 4-yr colleges require a counselor letter), you must complete the senior packet, which includes the following forms from the school counseling office:
 - a. MAHS transcript request
 - b. MAHS extracurricular activities sheet
 - c. Student background information sheet
 - d. Two teacher input forms (2)

***All of the above listed forms are available in your senior packet.**

<input type="checkbox"/> Transcript requests need to be received in school counseling office at least two weeks prior to when your materials need to arrive at your college(s).
<input type="checkbox"/> Please let Mrs. White know when you have mailed your application(s). Your transcripts and letter of recommendation will NOT be sent until you have mailed your application(s).
<input type="checkbox"/> Once you have been accepted, please bring notification letter from the college to the school counseling office.
<input type="checkbox"/> If you are applying to a school that does NOT require a counselor letter of recommendation (ie community college, technical school, etc), you only need to complete the Transcript Request Form.

G. Letters of Recommendation

1. It is fairly standard practice for a college to request one letter of recommendation from your school counselor. Though the input that you provide through informational forms is helpful, it is also important that you let your counselor know of anything in particular that you would like to address in a letter. The more often you meet with your counselor, the better your counselor will know you.
2. Some schools may request additional letters from one or two of your teachers, and also sometimes from individuals outside of your high school and family. Be sure to follow the admissions application request for letters of recommendation carefully, and do not send more than are requested.
3. When requesting letters of recommendation from faculty members or other professional people in the community, please allow them at least two weeks to complete your letter. **Also be sure to write them a thank you note once it is completed.**

H. Application Timeline

1. Most importantly, follow the application submission deadlines listed in the application.
2. **Remember to allow the school counseling office staff at least two weeks prior to your deadline to complete and submit your material.**
3. A general target time slot to submit your applications is between December 1 and January 31. Again, check your application submission deadlines carefully.
4. **Just because a deadline is “Rolling”, doesn’t mean that you can wait until late in the year to apply.**
5. If you are considering an early decision option, please see your school counselor early in the fall to discuss your plan and other early decision considerations.

6. Some technical programs within the Maine community college system fill very quickly, especially in the Health Sciences. Please see your school counselor early to check on popular technical programs throughout the State.

I. Financing Your Education

1. The general philosophy held by most institutions of higher education is that the primary responsibility of financing a college education lies with the student and his or her family, as much as they are financially able. The difference between a family's ability to pay and the total cost of the institution each year is deemed "financial need," and is met through "financial aid."
2. Financial need is met through a combination of financial aid programs including grants/scholarships, loans, and other self-help programs such as work-study. Financial aid is either need based, depending upon the family's ability to pay, or merit based, which is dependent on academic or other types of talent.
3. **If financial costs for college are a consideration for you and your family, it is suggested that you apply to at least one Maine public institution.**
4. Financial aid and the process for applying will be covered in a separate presentation to parents and students.

RESOURCES:

- ★ Getting Financial Aid
- ★ Paying for College
- ★ FAFSA worksheets (available after Oct 1)
- ★ CSS Profile information – application online



HELPFUL WEBSITES

There are numerous and varied websites on the Internet pertaining to assorted post-secondary information. Listed below are some sites that we have found to be useful.

The most accurate information you can access about a particular college is the specific college website.

COLLEGE SEARCH/EXPLORATION

www.collegeboard.org

www.collegenet.com

www.petersons.com

www.princetonreview.com

www.mccs.me.edu (Maine's community college website)

TEST PREPARATION

www.collegeboard.org (SAT)

www.actstudent.org/testprep/index.html (ACT)

www.princetonreview.com (Princeton Review)

www.khanacademy.org (SAT math test)

www.number2.com (ACT prep)

FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIPS

www.finaid.org/sitemap

www.fafsa.ed.gov (Federal aid application website)

www.famemaine.com (Finance Authority of Maine-State financial aid programs)

www.nasfaa.org/students/About_Financial_Aid.aspx (National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators parent/students site)

www.mesfoundation.com

www.Zinch.com

www.salliemae.com

www.fastweb.com

www.mesfoundation.com



III. Military Enlistment

A. Decision Making

1. Entering a branch of the US Military can be a very rewarding and positive experience. The military offers a wide variety of training and skill development, as well as many opportunities for continued education. The decision to enlist is one that should be considered very carefully, however, as a career or job in the armed services is certainly not for everyone. Please discuss your thoughts about enlistment with your parents, your school counselor, and anyone else whose opinion you value.
2. There is a substantial amount of information regarding the different opportunities available in the military in the school counseling office.

B. Meeting with Recruiters

1. All Branches of the military, Air Force, Army, Marines, and Navy have offices located in the area. Additionally, all military recruiters schedule visits to MAHS during the year. If you would like to be in contact with a recruiter, please see your counselor. It is recommended that you speak with recruiters from all branches of the Armed Services when considering the military as an option.

US Army Sergeant Joel Kreuger US Army Recruiting Station 270 Kennedy Memorial Dr. Waterville, ME 04901 PH 873-2594	US Air Force Tech. Sergeant Michael Lujan Air Force Recruiting Office 56 Western Ave., Suite 2 Augusta, ME 04330 PH 812-5401	US Navy EO2 (SCW) Daric Brown Navy Recruiting Station 730 Center St., Suite 900 Auburn, ME 04210 PH 578-4236
US Marines Sergeant Kevin Haas Marine Corps Recruiting Office 56 Western Ave. Augusta Plaza 1 Augusta, ME 04330 PH 751-7041	Maine Army National Guard SFC James Robbins Recruiting and Retention NCO 9 Armory Drive Skowhegan, ME 04976 430-5316	



C. Taking the ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery)

1. The ASVAB is the entrance exam for all branches of the military. You must attain a certain score on the test in order to enlist, and your scores are also utilized to determine your qualifications for various jobs within the service. All juniors at MAHS have the opportunity to take the ASVAB each year.

D. Academies and ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps)

1. The academies of the armed services (US Military Academy, Naval Academy, Air Force Academy and the Coast Guard Academy), are all highly selective four-year universities. Upon graduation, candidates receive an officer's commission in their respective branch.
2. Many four-year colleges and universities offer ROTC programs. Students who enroll in ROTC may also receive an officer's commission in a branch of the military upon graduation. These programs also offer scholarship opportunities for qualified candidates. Please see your counselor and recruiter for more information.

IV. Entering the Job Market

A. Assessing your Marketability

1. If you plan on seeking employment right after graduation, take some time to assess exactly what skills you have attained over the past few years. Specific skills, such as mechanical, graphic arts production or word processing/clerical, are very important. Additionally, remember that employers are seeking individuals who have a diligent work ethic, communicate clearly (writing and speaking), and are able to get along well with others.
2. It is also important to write a clear and concise resume outlining your skills and work experience. You should also be able to write a very articulate letter of inquiry, as well as letters of application. Please see your English teacher, Career Development teacher and/or your school counselor for assistance.

B. Exploring the Job Market

1. It may be helpful to take some time early on in the year to arrange appointments with various employers in the area to speak with them about opportunities within their business, and also to see what kind of employee they would consider to be highly qualified. Explain to them that you are not necessarily looking for a job at this time, but that you are basically exploring the job market and seeking information. Please see your school counselor if you would like some assistance and direction.
2. Remember that the unskilled labor market has lessened considerably over the past few years, and that employers are demanding a higher skill level of their prospective employees. Please explore the potential for employment in your specific area of interest early on in your senior year. You may find that a technical college, business college, or similar program is attractive after all.

C. Being Prepared

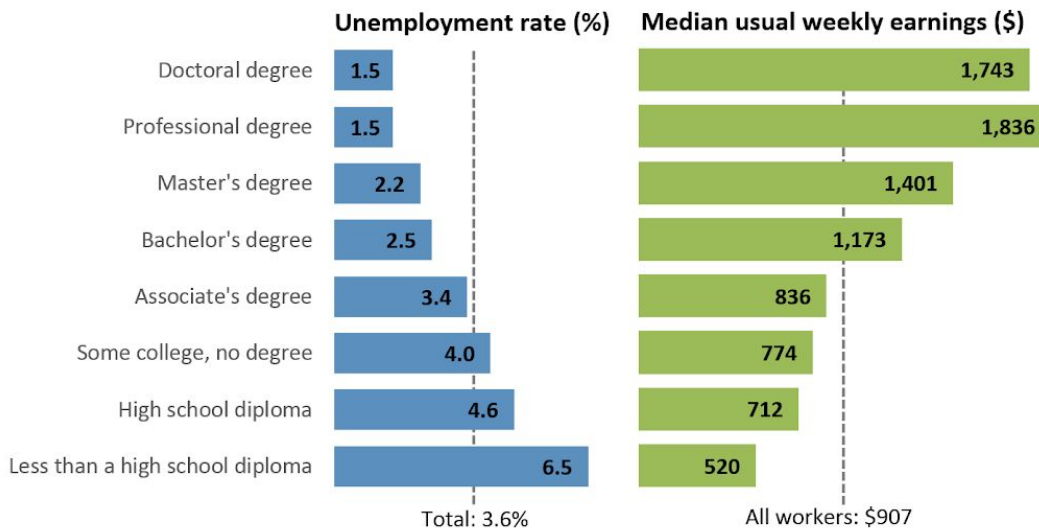
1. Prior to seeking employment, have you:
 - a. Written a resume?
 - b. Become proficient at writing letters of inquiry and application?
 - c. Assessed your skills and can communicate them clearly to a prospective employer?
 - d. Thoroughly explored the job market?
 - e. Researched and practiced interviewing skills?

D. Money and Education

1. Please refer to the following graphic illustration regarding the relationship between money earned and educational level attained.



Unemployment rates and earnings by educational attainment, 2017



Note: Data are for persons age 25 and over. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.

