

# WELCOME

**COLCHESTER  
HIGH SCHOOL**



*Equity & Excellence  
in a climate of  
Respect, Responsibility, & Pride*

**COLLEGE**  
JUST AHEAD

# Highlights for Spring of Junior Year

## **Sign up for SAT/ACT tests**

- Pay attention to registration deadlines
- Identify 4 schools to send scores to for free when you take the test
- Jr. year SAT/ACT will help you study for Sr. year SAT/ACT
- SAT/ACT test waivers and 4 application fee waivers available for students with free/reduced lunch. (See you counselor)

## **Careful selection of your senior year courses.**

- Think graduation requirements and colleges you are pursuing
- Strong senior year course load is key!

## **Considering D1 or D2 athletics?**

- Understand NCAA eligibility requirements
- Be careful of what English you are choosing for next year. Some are not NCAA approved.

## Research Colleges and Majors

- Naviance
- Info from colleges



## College Pathways Conference

- March 17: Saint Michael's College, Colchester, 9:00 am–1:30 pm
- March 24: NVU–Johnson, 9:00 am–12:30 pm
- April 7: Castleton University, Castleton, 9:00 am–12:30 pm

## Scholarships

- Start researching scholarships

## Stay Involved

- extra-curricular activities, community service opportunities, community activities and employment
- [www.unitedwaynwvt.org](http://www.unitedwaynwvt.org) (opportunities for students under 18).

## Highlights for Summer after Junior Year

- Narrow your list of schools to about **5** and put aside money for application fees.
- **Visit** schools
- Start identifying teachers, employers, coaches, advisors and other adults who you plan to ask to write **letters of recommendation** for you. (2-3 letters)
- Start Common App Essay
- Find out when the **SAT/ACT** tests will be administered in the fall so you **don't miss the registration deadlines**. Usually tests in September and October with deadlines during the summer, so watch websites for those dates ([www.act.org](http://www.act.org) and [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)).
- Summer ACT July 14. No testing center in Vermont. Keep checking the ACT website.

# College Process for Seniors

## Early fall 2018

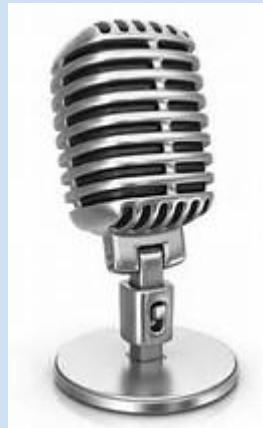
- Register for upcoming SAT/ACT
- Attend **AT** and **Senior College Night** to learn process for having transcripts sent to colleges
- Ask adults for letters of recommendation
- Write college essays
- Write important dates in your calendar= **ORGANIZATION IS KEY!!!** (college deadlines, financial aid deadlines, VSAC financial aid night, etc.)
- Check **Naviance** for dates that college representatives will be visiting

# College Process for Seniors

## Early fall 2018 (cont.)

- Request transcripts in **Naviance**
- Complete college admissions application for early deadlines
- Develop college application essays
- Attend **VSAC Financial Aid Night**
- Attend **NEASC College Fair** at either St. Mike's or UVM
- Plan to visit colleges ~ schedule interview(s) if required or recommended
- **Be sure that your official test scores are sent by the testing agency to colleges on your list**

# TESTING, TESTING, 1, 2, 3...



# College Entrance Exams

## SAT/ACT

- Almost all schools accept either the SAT or ACT.  
It is best to take both tests WITH  
WRITING/ESSAY.
- Check with schools to which you will be applying.





# Testing Recommendations

- Take several practice tests of each to decide which is best for you (VSAC Resource library, Bookstores, outside agencies).
- Unless one score is consistently much higher than the other, we suggest you take (officially) both tests at least once in the spring of your junior year.
- Repeat at least the test you did the best on in the fall of your senior year.
- Plan, plan plan.... (SAT, SAT Subject Tests, ACT, AP, Finals, NECAP, SBAC, etc.)

# Testing Recommendations

- The SAT Subject Tests are generally only required by more competitive schools, so you should look at the requirements for each specific school you want to apply to.



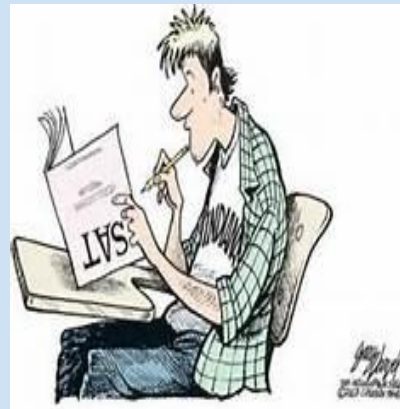
# SAT

Sign up online via [collegeboard.org](https://collegeboard.org)

## May 5 Test Centers

### Register by 4/6

- BHS
- SBHS
- EHS
- BFA St. Albans
- Rice
- MMU



## June 2 Test Centers

### Register by 5/3

- Milton
- EHS
- SBHS
- BFA St. Albans
- Montpelier
- Middlebury

# ACT

Sign up online via [actstudent.org](https://actstudent.org)

## April 4/14 Test Centers

### Register by 3/9

- CHS
- SBHS
- EHS
- Milton
- BFA St. Albans

## June 9 Test Centers

### Register by 5/4

- CHS
- BHS
- EHS
- Montpelier
- Middlebury



# Finally...

- Remember that test scores are only one factor college admissions consider in an applicant.
- They also consider rigor of courses taken, grades, essays, recommendations, & extra curricular activities.
- There are many test optional schools. These can be found at [www.fairtest.org](http://www.fairtest.org)

**PLANNING  
COURSES FOR  
SENIOR YEAR**

# What colleges look for in your Senior Year Schedule

- Remember that most often the outstanding factor colleges are looking for is **course rigor**.
- In other words are you continuing to **challenge yourself** and taking the highest possible course sequence?



## More to consider...

- Is the level of math you selected challenging?
- Have you considered taking a 4<sup>th</sup> year of a lab science – i.e. full year of Physics or Chemistry?
- Is your schedule full?
- Are you continuing in your World Language?
- What about Dual Enrollment or VHS courses?



## **Recommended Course of Study for Admission to Four Year Colleges**

4 Years of English

3 Years of Laboratory Science

4 Years of Mathematics (Including Algebra II/Trig)

3.5 Years of Social Studies

3 Years of the same World Language

## **Recommended Course of Study for Admission to *Highly Competitive* Colleges**

4 Years of English

3-4 Years of Laboratory Science

4 Years of Mathematics (Including Calculus)

4 Years of Social Studies

4 Years of the same World Language





The  
UNIVERSITY  
of VERMONT

DEPARTMENT OF ADMISSIONS & FINANCIAL AID

January 11, 2002

Denise Demers, Guidance Counselor  
Colchester High School  
PO Box 900  
Laker Ln.  
Colchester, VT 05446

Dear Denise,

I hope your new year is off to a good start. At the University of Vermont, we're extremely busy as the year begins, but I want to take a moment to provide you with some information that may help you counsel your college-bound students.

As you know, the University's leadership has focused its attention on enhancing the quality of undergraduate life at UVM and on enrolling those students most able to benefit from a rigorous academic experience. Initiatives such as the Green & Gold Scholarship and expansion of the Vermont Scholars Program have succeeded in attracting more strong Vermont students to the University. While the University of Vermont undergraduate applicant pool has been holding steady for a number of years at about 8,000 applications, this year I am witnessing a dramatic change in that trend. We received a significant increase in Early Action and Early Decision applications and that gain appears to be holding for the regular pool as well. Of course, we haven't yet reached our January 15 deadline, and it takes several weeks before we are certain of the final results. Nevertheless, I thought it was important for you to know that application volume from both Vermont and Out-of-State students seems to have increased significantly.

In December, UVM responded to this trend by being more conservative than usual with early decisions, something you may have noticed with our decisions for your Early Action and Early Decision candidates. Should the application volume increase hold, it is likely that we will offer admission to students with somewhat stronger academic records than you have seen in recent years. The university continues to examine all applicant records comprehensively to ensure that the entire student background is considered when gauging a student's potential for success at UVM, but in this climate it may behoove some of your students to consider submitting an extra one or two college applications to ensure that they have plenty of options as they complete their planning for the fall.

We will keep you abreast of the UVM enrollment picture as it evolves. In the meantime, you may find this an opportune moment to remind your younger students to challenge themselves academically throughout their high school years to enhance their chances of admission to their state's University. I wish you the best of luck with this busy season.

Sincerely,

Donald M. Honeman  
Director of Admissions and Financial Aid

Donald M. Honeman  
330 Waterman Building, Burlington, VT 05405-0160, Telephone (802) 656-8793, Fax (802) 656-4076  
E-mail: Donald.Honeman@uvm.edu

Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action Employer

- Significantly increased volume
- More conservative decisions
- Admitting students with somewhat stronger academic records.

**Admissions Office**

163 South Willard Street, PO Box 670  
Burlington, Vermont 05402-0670, USA  
e-mail: [admission@champlain.edu](mailto:admission@champlain.edu)  
Phone: (802) 860-2727 / Toll-free: (800) 570-5858  
Fax: (802) 860-2767 / TDD: (802) 860-2744  
[www.champlain.edu](http://www.champlain.edu)

To: College Counselors in our sending schools  
From: Jo Churchill, Director of Admissions  
Date: March 2002  
RE: Senior year course selection

The following letter has been mailed to all of our sophomore and junior prospective students. We wanted you to be aware of this mailing, and trust that it will assist you in your continued efforts to convince students of the importance of senior year courses and achievement:

Dear [Sophomore/Junior Prospective Students]:

Your senior year courses and grades matter very much in the college admissions process. Don't become one of the students denied admissions to a college of your choice because you opted to take a minimal and lightweight course load for your last year of high school.

*You still have time to avoid this mistake.*

Colleges are looking for motivated learners, and there are several ways we evaluate motivation: course selection and levels, AP exams, attendance, and effort reflected in teacher comments and recommendations. Colleges view a willingness to take a challenging curriculum throughout high school as a good indicator of success in college. The more you challenge yourself, the better prepared you will be for college.

Note that doing well in the SATs or ACTs will not make up for a weak senior year curriculum.

Champlain College definitely looks at senior year grades and course load. A lightweight or unchallenging academic load in senior year can be the basis for a decision to deny admission to an applicant. For example, one applicant, who had already met the high school's minimum graduation requirements, was taking only Human Relationships and Film Appreciation for the entire senior year! The Admissions Committee voted to deny this applicant.

Students who are enrolled in AP courses are strongly encouraged to take the AP exam. This is one way to continue to challenge yourself; plus your grade on the exam could earn you college credit. Taking the exam cannot hurt your academic record, regardless of how you do on it; not taking the exam is a lost opportunity.

If you have questions about course choices available to you as a junior or senior, be sure to speak to your guidance counselor. We welcome your call or e-mail to one of our admission counselors if you have questions about our requirements.

Sincerely,

Josephine H. Churchill  
Director of Admissions  
[admission@champlain.edu](mailto:admission@champlain.edu)

- Senior grades and course load
- AP exams
- “A lightweight or unchallenging course load in senior year can be the basis for a decision to deny admission to an applicant.”

# A note about class rigor

- Rigorous course loads are important BUT so is knowing your own limitations.
- Run your own race, not your friend's race!



# College Visits



# Getting The Most Out Of Your Visit

- Try to visit when **classes are in session**.
  - Ask to sit in on a class.
- If you are traveling, ask if the school will let you stay overnight in a dorm room. They may do this for you, but not your parents.
  - At least ask to see the housing options.
  - How many students per room, etc?
- Ask for a meal voucher. **Test the food!**

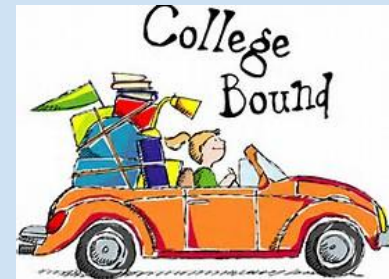
# Maximizing Your Visit (cont.)

- **Take the campus tour.** More than likely they will have a student give you a guided tour.
- Whether or not you get a tour guide, **talk to students** you meet.
  - Are they happy there?
  - Did they start there or transfer in? Why did they decide to go there?
  - Do they like the classes, professors, etc.?

# Maximizing Your Visit (cont.)

Visit all of the **campus resources** and find out hours of availability at the following:

- Library/Computer support/wifi
- Tutor/Support Center
- Gym
- Student Center
  - What activities are there?





# Maximizing Your Visit (cont.)

## Visit the campus Placement Office/Student Services

- How many graduates are placed each year?
- How many are placed in their major?
- Which companies are recruiting students from your campus?



# Important Questions to Ask

- What percentage of students **live on campus**?
- Do freshman need to live on campus?
- Can freshmen have a **car**?
- What about **parking**?
- Do they have a **study abroad program**?
- Is there an *honors program*?
- Ask for **campus security** statistics.

# Important Questions to Ask

- How many **students** are in **your major**?
- What is the **retention rate**?
  - That is, how many first year students come back?
- What is the **student/teacher ratio**?
- What percentage of classes are **taught by professors**? (The rest are most likely taught by graduate assistants.)
- What **percentage** of students in your major are **placed in their field**?

# Important Questions to Ask

- What are the opportunities for **undergraduate research**?
- Are **internships** available?
- Is there a **student organization** for your major? (Join it!)
- What **extra-curricular activities** are available on campus?



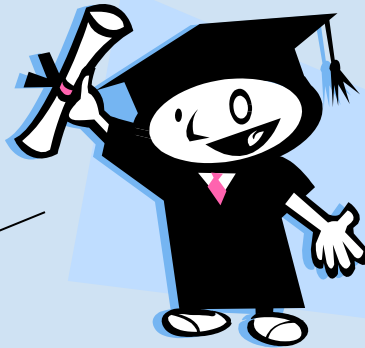
Name:

	School 1	School 2	School 3	School 4	School 5	School 6
Size of Community						
Distance from Home						
Dorms/Parking						
Tuition Cost						
Financial Aid/Deadline						
Students in Major						
Retention Rate						
# Grads in this Major Placed in their Major						
Student Support Svcs						
Application Deadline						
Scholarship Deadline						

	School 1	School 2	School 3	School 4	School 5	School 6
<b>Extra-Curricular</b>						
<b>Computer/Technology Integration</b>						
<b>Undergrad Research</b>						
<b>Co-Op/Internships</b>						
<b>Study Abroad Programs (%students)</b>						
<b>Student/Professor Ratio(%classes taught by TA's)</b>						
<b>Honors Program</b>						
<b>Additional Comments</b>						

**Notes/Questions**

# CHS GUIDANCE RECOMMENDED APPLICATION PLAN



1-2  
REACH  
SCHOOLS

i.e.: Your  
credentials are  
lower than the  
average incoming  
student (or volume  
of applicants is  
HUGE)

2 SAFETY SCHOOLS

i.e.: Your credentials are  
higher than the  
average student admitted  
(try to find at least 1  
financial safety school as  
well)

2-3  
GOOD-FIT SCHOOLS

i.e.: Your credentials  
match the average  
student admitted

# College Admission Options

- Early Decision-- BINDING
- **EARLY ACTION---** NON-BINDING *(the new regular decision deadline)*
- Regular Admission – Regular ☺
- Rolling Admission – First come first served



**What is the Common  
Application?  
More details to come...**

Friendly Reminder  
Final Jr. College Night - Thursday, Feb. 22  
6:30-8pm

