

Welcome



Class of 2025 Parent/Guardian College Kick Off Meeting

Presented by: LHS College & Career Center
September 2024

Meet the Counselors

Heather Brunner, College & Career

Jennifer Magary, College & Career

Dianne McCarthy, College & Career

Erica Stolpinski, B House

Kurt McPhee, B House

Rhonda Devost, C House

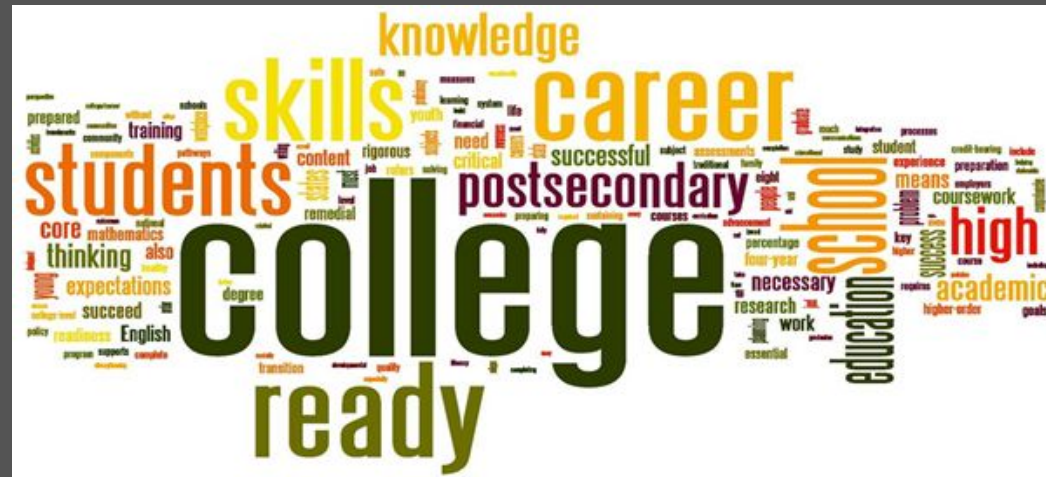
Amber King, C House

Lyndsay Roy, D House

Melanie Crocker, D House

Jessica Le, E House

Madeline Monahan, E House



Agenda

- Senior Year Timeline
- LHS Graduation Requirements
- 2 Year Colleges
- 4 Year Colleges
- Types of College Admission Deadlines
- Finalizing Your College List
- Parts of the College Application
- Naviance
- Financial Aid
- Upcoming Events

Review Senior Year Schedule for Graduation & College Admission Requirements

Continue to Visit Colleges; Fall Open Houses

Finalize College List (*Develop well-balanced list!*)

Stay engaged with your extracurricular activities and commitments outside of school

Register for SATs/ACTs if you plan to take them; many colleges are test optional: fairtest.org

Attend College & Career Center (CCC)

Events:

College & Career Fair
College Representative Visits
CCC Workshops, Events, & Flex Blocks
College Week Activities
Financial Aid Night

Meet individually with your guidance counselor

Complete Common Application, supplements, and/or college specific applications

Finalize College Essay(s)

Send test scores to colleges *only if you are* applying with test scores

Naviance Tasks

Add Colleges to "Colleges I'm Applying To"
Match Naviance & Common App accounts
Request Transcripts
Request Letters of Recommendation (both in person & on Naviance)
Update Resume

Keep track of admissions deadlines and application requirements; submit all application components prior to deadlines

Early Action / Early Decision deadlines

Apply for Financial Aid *sooner rather than later!* FAFSA opens October 1 at fafsa.gov
CSS profile (if applicable)

Apply for scholarships; check Naviance

Additional application materials as required; For example auditions, portfolio, interviews

FALL

Senior Year College Timeline

Be organized & stay on top of deadlines!

Apply for Financial Aid if you have not yet done so: FAFSA & CSS profile (if applicable)

Send in your application materials for schools' regular decision deadlines if you didn't apply early!

Complete Naviance

Tasks as necessary:

Add Colleges to "Colleges I'm Applying To"
Match Naviance & Common App accounts
Request transcripts
Request Letters of Recommendation (in person & on Naviance)
Update Resume

Confirm colleges/universities have all your application and financial aid materials

LHS Honor's Night Scholarship Process

Apply for scholarships; check Naviance

Early Action and Early Decision Results released

Midyear Transcript sent to colleges

WINTER

Regular Decisions released

Keep your grades up!

Review college acceptances and compare financial aid packages

Continue to apply for scholarships

May 1st: deadline to make your final college decision and send in enrollment deposit

Naviance Tasks

Update College Acceptances
Update "College You are Attending"
Complete Senior Survey

Take AP exams (if applicable)

Graduation! 

Plan for summer orientation, course registration, and housing (if applicable) at the college you have enrolled in.

SPRING

Important Websites

Naviance

student.naviance.com/lowellhs

College & Career Google Classroom

Common App

commonapp.org

College Board / SATs

collegeboard.org

College Board Big Future

bigfuture.collegeboard.org

FAFSA

fafsa.gov

CSS Profile

cssprofile.collegeboard.org

MEFA Financial Aid

mefa.org

uAspire Financial Aid

www.uaspire.org/For-Students

Virtual College Tours

youvisit.com

NCAA Student Athletes

web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3

LHS Graduation Requirements

Are you on track?

- ★ Fulfill the standard requirement of earning at least 90 credits.
- ★ Pass the MCAS exams in ELA, Mathematics, and Science or meet Competency Determination.


Content Area	Number of Credits Each semester course is 2.5 credits
English**	20 Credits
U.S History I and II** <i>(must include 1 semester of Civics)</i>	10 credits
Mathematics (1-full year of Algebra and Geometry)	10 credits
Natural or Physical Sciences	10 credits
Wellness <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical Education or Equivalent*• Health (A and B) or Equivalent*	15 credits 10 credits 5 credits
Electives	25 Credits

What are my options after high school?

- 2 & 4 Year Colleges
- Technical/Trade Programs
- Military
- Employment



Today's focus



Workshops &
events offered
on all options

The College Landscape - Three Pathways

Path 1

2 Year Colleges /
Community College
= Associate's Degree
Low Cost or Free

*Some stop their
education with the
associates degree - see
Path 3 if you want to
continue your education*

Path 2

4 Year Colleges /
Universities =
Bachelors Degree
Higher Cost,
sometimes reduced
by Financial Aid

Path 3

2 Years at
Community College
(Associates Degree)

AND

2 Years at College or
University =
Bachelor's Degree
Lower Cost as two
years are free

2 Years at a MA community college can be free for Massachusetts Residents. By combining the community college and associates degree with a four year college / university, students are able to save money.

2 Year Colleges / Community Colleges

Associate's Degree

- Any student with a high school diploma or GED can attend
- Generally, no GPA requirement or SATs (check specific program)

For example: Health programs will have additional requirements

- Quick application process
- Transcript required
- May need to take placement exam before selecting classes (*prepare!*)

MassTransfer

Once you have completed your Associate's Degree (2 year degree) at a Massachusetts Community College, you can then transfer to a 4 year college to complete your Bachelor's Degree through a program called the Mass Transfer Program.



MassEducate



Free Community College is Here.

No matter your age or income: community college is now free in Massachusetts!

The MassEducate program allows all Massachusetts residents who have not yet earned a bachelor's degree to attend a Massachusetts community college for **free**.

To be eligible for MassEducate, you must:

- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)*
- Apply to your local community college and enroll in an approved program of study.
- Have physically resided in Massachusetts for at least one year, as of the start of your first enrolled term.
- Have earned a high school diploma or the equivalent.
- Are enrolled in at least six credits (usually two classes) per semester in an approved program of study leading to an associate degree or certificate.
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress in accordance with the college's requirements.

*If you are not eligible to complete the FAFSA and are an approved "High School Completer" under the Massachusetts tuition equity law, you can complete the Massachusetts Application for State Financial Aid (MASFA) and still attend for free.



MIDDLESEX
Community College

MCC College Information & Application Sessions will be held regularly in College & Career Center.

Tuesdays at 11AM (1x per month)

9/17, 10/22, 11/19, 12/17

[Register on Naviance](#)

Community Colleges Certificate Programs



Community colleges, such as Middlesex Community College and Northern Essex Community College, offer many certificate programs, such as these below. *This is a short list of hundreds of programs offered!*

- Dental Assisting
- Medical Assisting
- Hospital Management
- Culinary Arts
- Travel Management
- Medical Coding & Billing... and more!

4 Year Colleges / Universities

Bachelor's Degree

What are colleges looking at?

- Strength of classes
- GPA
- Essay
- Letters of recommendation
- SAT/ACT scores (*if* required)

Minimum Requirements:

- 4 years of English
- 4 years of Math
- 3 years of Lab Science
- 2 years of Social Science
- 2 years of the same World Language

Selective Private Colleges (examples: BU and Northeastern) have more rigorous requirements including supplemental essays, interviews and 4 years of all core academic subjects.

Types of College Admission Deadlines

- **Regular Decision:** A set deadline which all materials must be submitted by (Example: 1/1, 1/15)
- **Early Action:** Non-binding early deadline
Often November 1st, if not sooner!
- **Early Decision:** Binding contract early deadline
You *must* attend, if accepted
- **Rolling Admission:** Applications are accepted & decisions are made on a rolling basis (as they come in) - *sooner the better!*

Note: Certain programs/majors (ex. Nursing), as well as scholarships, may have early deadlines.

Finalizing Your College List

REACH

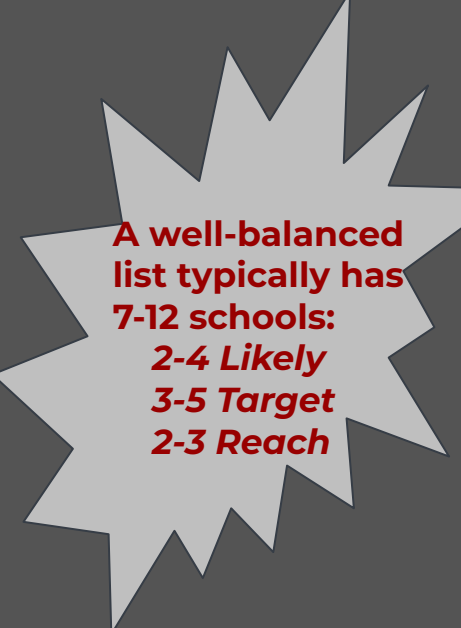
- More selective/competitive colleges, your “dream” schools
- Your GPA/SATs fall at/below the average accepted students
- Acceptance rate is less than 30%
- You have reviewed their Net Cost to attend against your Net Price Calculator / SAI and you would be able to pay for this school

TARGET

- [Your GPA/SATs fit the school's published data on accepted students](#)
- You have reviewed their Net Cost to attend against your Net Price Calculator / SAI and you would be able to pay for this school

LIKELY

- Your GPA/SATs are above the school's published data on accepted students
- Acceptance rate is high (70% or higher chance of acceptance)



**A well-balanced
list typically has
7-12 schools:
2-4 Likely
3-5 Target
2-3 Reach**

[College Navigator](#) is
a great tool!

Parts of the College Application

Parts of the College Application

- Common Application
- Essay(s)
- Transcripts
- Letters of Recommendation
- SATs/ACTs

Special Considerations:

- If participating in athletics, register for the [NCAA online](#)
- Auditions
- Portfolios
- Interviews

Common Application



- One application for over 1000 schools
- Students need to create an account
- Students add schools to their dashboard on Common App

Workshops available to help students with Common App!

Common Application Student Instructions

This detailed document guide students through each section of the Common App

Common Application

**My Colleges
Tab:
College-
specific
questions
/ essays**



**Each section of the
Common App needs
to be completely &
accurately filled out**

**Writing
Section: The
College Essay**



Welcome, Jennifer!

[Practice Applicant](#) [Practice account FAQs](#)

CAID 31024589

jmagary@lowell.k12.ma.us

Sign Out

Dashboard

My Colleges

Common App

College Search

Financial Aid

Common App

Profile

Family

✓ Education

Testing

Activities

Writing

Courses & Grades
0 college(s) require

Profile

Preview

Personal Information

Legal first/given name*

Jennifer

Would you like to share a different first name that people call you?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Clear answer

My first name*

You can update how we use this name in your [communication preferences](#).

Middle name

Need help?



Need Help?

Please use the link below to look for an answer to your question. Answers to most questions can be found in [Read more](#)

Transcripts

- Students' academic record throughout high school, includes weighted GPA
- Student must request transcripts in Naviance at least 2 weeks prior to your deadline
 - Transcripts are sent through Naviance by School Counselor

[How to Request Transcripts \(Video\)](#)

Letters of Recommendation

- Students are told to ask their teachers in person first
- Student must also request letters of recommendation through Naviance
- Check college admission website for recommendation requirements
- Please give teachers and school counselors adequate time to complete your letters (*at least 15 school days* prior to deadlines)

[How to Request Letters of Recommendation \(Video\)](#)

SAT/ACT

- Check individual schools to see if they **require** the SAT or ACT (found on their Admissions page)
- Sign up through CollegeBoard for SAT
- Sign up for ACT at actstudent.org
- Send your scores to college directly through CollegeBoard; they do not get sent through Lowell High School
- Assistance is available to help you sign up
 - Talk to your counselor, Trio/Gear Up advisor, or visit the College and Career Center

SAT Fall 2024



- SATs are now digital!
- Students are responsible for registering on [College Board](https://collegeboard.org/sat/register)

SAT Test Date*	Registration Deadline	Deadline for Changes, Regular Cancellation, and Late Registration**
Aug 24, 2024	Aug 9, 2024	Aug 13, 2024
Oct 5, 2024	Sept 20, 2024 Register	Sept 24, 2024
Nov 2, 2024	Oct 18, 2024 Register	Oct 22, 2024
Dec 7, 2024	Nov 22, 2024 Register	Nov 26, 2024

Test (SAT/ACT) Optional

Many, **but not all**, schools are test-optional.

Resource: [Fairtest](#)

The best place you can research what schools are test-optional, what test-optional means for that school, whether or not you should submit scores, etc., is *directly on the college/university website*. For example:

[Boston University's Standardized Test Policy | Admissions](#)

[No Test Option FAQ | Undergraduate Admissions | UMass Lowell](#)

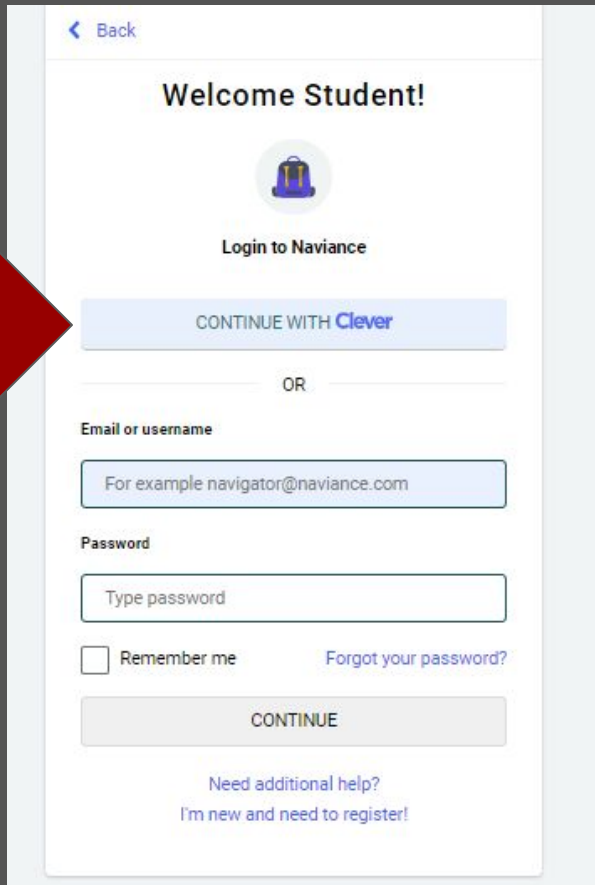
College Application Checklist

College Application Checklist: Senior Year

Naviance

Naviance Log In


**Log in through
Clever!**



The screenshot shows the Naviance login interface. At the top left is a '< Back' link. The main heading is 'Welcome Student!' followed by a school bag icon. Below the icon is the text 'Login to Naviance'. A large red arrow points from the text 'Log in through Clever!' to the 'CONTINUE WITH Clever' button. Below this button is an 'OR' separator. The 'Email or username' section has a text input field with the placeholder 'For example navigator@naviance.com'. The 'Password' section has a text input field with the placeholder 'Type password'. Below the password field is a checkbox for 'Remember me' and a link for 'Forgot your password?'. At the bottom is a 'CONTINUE' button and two links: 'Need additional help?' and 'I'm new and need to register!'.

< Back

Welcome Student!



Login to Naviance

CONTINUE WITH Clever

OR

Email or username

For example navigator@naviance.com

Password


Type password

☐ Remember me [Forgot your password?](#)

CONTINUE

[Need additional help?](#)
[I'm new and need to register!](#)

Naviance Homepage



HomeSelf-DiscoveryCoursesCareersCollegesPlanner

Demo

EN


Close Demo

Demo's Future Planning


College: Bachelor's DegreeEdit Path

Plan Your Future

Quickly access your path highlights, favorite careers, information from your school, and more from this page.




Career Goals

Athletes and Sports Competitors

College Path Highlights

Search for a College

Colleges I'm Thinking About

Name	Interest	Delivery Type
 Merrimack College	N/A	Common App

Welcome to Naviance

Lowell High School is pleased to introduce **Family Connection** – a comprehensive website that you can use to plan for college and a career. Family Connection is linked with Naviance, a service that we use in our office to track and analyze data about college and career plans, so it provides up-to-date information that is specific to our school.

Family Connection allows you to:

- **Get involved in the planning and advising process** – Build a resume, complete online surveys, and manage timelines and deadlines for making decisions about colleges and careers
- **Research colleges** – Compare GPA, standardized test scores, and other statistics to


[Read More](#)
[Additional Information from Your School](#)

Tasks from My School


Relax, you have no overdue or upcoming to-dos and tasks. However, you can get ahead by going to My Planner to see what's next or create a goal to do.

[Go to My Planner](#)


What's New




University of New Hampshire-Main Campus will be visiting your school on Thursday, September 14th, 2023 at 9:05 am [more info](#)



Brown University will be visiting your school on Thursday, September 14th, 2023 at 9:55 am [more info](#)



Merrimack College will be visiting your school on Friday, September 15th, 2023 at 9:00 am [more info](#)

[Display All](#)



College Visits to LHS!



Search for colleges!

College Search

Naviance

HomeSelf-DiscoveryCoursesCareersCollegesPlanner

DMEN

Close Demo

SuperMatch College Search

College Search

Your Fit Criteria

College Home

Find Your fit

SuperMatch College Search

College Match

College Events

Scattergrams

Advanced College Search

College Lookup

Research Colleges

Colleges I'm Thinking About

College Visits

College Compare

College Resources

Acceptance History

Enrichment Programs

College Maps

Apply to College

Colleges I'm Applying to

Manage Transcripts

Letters of Recommendation

Test Scores

Scholarships & Money

College-Specific Scholarships

National Scholarship Search

Scholarship Search

Favorite Scholarships

About SuperMatch

Save Search

Start Over

5 selected criteria

To refine your results, use the arrows to move your criteria into the "Must Have" and "Nice to Have" boxes.

Location [8]

Major [29]

Campus Surroundings [2]

Institution Type

Acceptance Rate [1]

A Nice to Have is anything that's important to you, but isn't an absolute must have.

Your Results

Your results include 16 institutions that are both an academic match and also match all the criteria selected above.

Fit Score	Academic Match	Highlights	Cost	Pick what to show
<div><div>Boston College</div><div>Chestnut Hill, MA, Large City</div><div>4 year, Private nonprofit, Roman Catholic</div><div>PIN TO COMPARE</div><div>FAVORITE</div></div>	<div><div>100%</div><div>Why?</div></div>	<div><div>Average You</div><div>GPA N/A N/A0</div><div>SAT 1400 N/A</div><div>ACT 33 N/A</div><div>To determine if you're an academic match for this institution, enter your GPA and/or standardized test scores.</div></div>	<div><div>No Highlights Available</div></div>	<div><div>Customize what you see here—Choose a category above</div></div>
<div><div>Brown University</div></div>	<div><div>Average You</div></div>	<div><div>Photos/Videos on Profile</div></div>	<div><div>Tuition & Fees</div><div>\$69,254</div></div>	<div><div>Customize what you see here—Choose a category above</div></div>

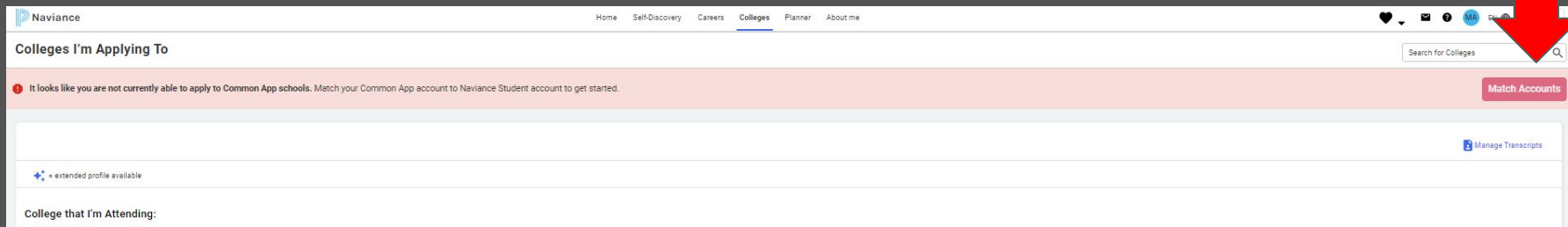
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Matching Naviance to Common Application

[Matching Common App to Naviance \(video\)](#)

[Common App Instructions: FERPA](#)

[Matching Naviance to Common App Instructions](#)



The screenshot shows the Naviance website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: Home, Self-Discovery, Careers, Colleges (highlighted), Planner, and About me. On the right side of the navigation bar, there are icons for a heart, a mail envelope, a person, and a gear. Below the navigation bar, the page title is "Colleges I'm Applying To". To the right of the title is a search bar labeled "Search for Colleges" with a magnifying glass icon. Below the search bar is a red banner with a white exclamation mark icon and the text: "It looks like you are not currently able to apply to Common App schools. Match your Common App account to Naviance Student account to get started." In the top right corner of this banner is a red button labeled "Match Accounts". Below the banner is a large white box with a blue plus icon and the text "extended profile available". To the right of this box is a link labeled "Manage Transcripts". At the bottom of the page, there is a section labeled "College that I'm Attending:".

Financial Aid

Financial Aid

FAFSA

- FREE to complete on studentaid.gov
- Opens in December this year - submit as soon as possible after it is open
- All colleges require FAFSA for students to be eligible for grants, loans, (some) scholarships, and work-study

CSS Profile

- SOME private colleges/universities will require (in addition to FAFSA)
- Available on collegeboard.org; fees apply

Always check the colleges' financial aid websites for the forms they require and their financial aid deadlines.

Financial Aid Resources

LHS Financial Aid Night 10/29

MEFA

[Financial Aid 101 2024-25 - MEFA Webinar \(English\)](#)

[Ayuda Económica para la Universidad 101 2024 - MEFA \(Spanish\)](#)

Trio/Gear Up

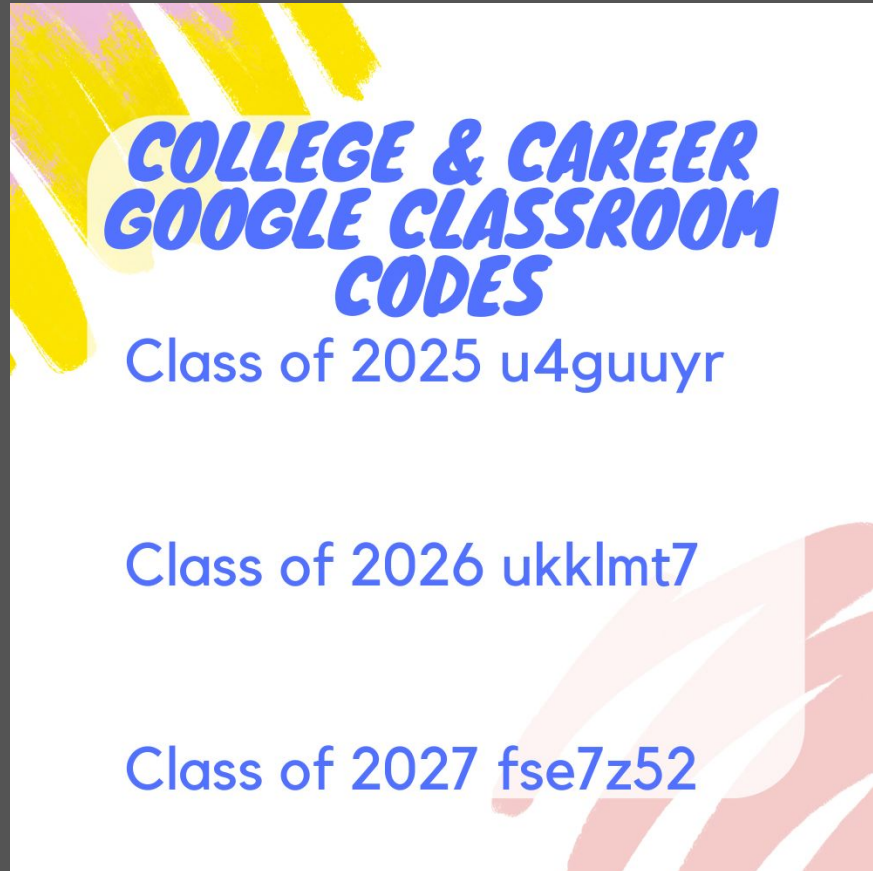
Going to MCC? Make an in-person appointment at:

[Financial Aid Office](#)

Monthly FAFSA Completion Events at LHS, starting in December!

College & Career Center Upcoming Events

Students: join and follow the Google Classroom!



Join the College & Career Google Classrooms for important updates!

- Scholarship Announcements
- College & Career Information Sessions
- [Life After High School Planning Guide](#) (resource for all planning!!)
- Workshops & Events
...and much, much more!

Presentation

Presentation is posted:

Lowell High School Student Support website;
under Parent Presentations

[Student Support Services / Parent Presentations](#)

It will also be recorded in Khmer, Portuguese,
and Spanish and posted on the website.

Financial Aid Night

FAFSA & Financial Aid Overview

Tuesday, October 29, 2024

6PM-7:30PM

LHS Main Entrance

Presentation will be in English and Spanish

Presented by LHS College & Career Center and MEFA
Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority®



Sign up on [Naviance](#)

Over 50 colleges are coming to

UHS College and Career Center

during the school day to meet with

juniors and seniors this fall!

*See the full list of colleges and register on
Naviance or scan here:*



BROWN





46th Annual Merrimack Valley College & Career Fair



100+
College & Career
Representatives

Thursday, October 3rd, 2024

6-8 p.m.

Location:

Lowell High School Main Entrance

Presented by: Lowell High School's College & Career Center

Contact: Darmery Montoya at dmontoya@lowell.k12.ma.us