

PRE-ASSESSMENT

1. College Admissions counselors do not consider the senior year schedule when making admissions decisions
True False
2. The #1 thing college admissions counselors consider in their admissions decision is:
 - a) Total # of credits taken in high school
 - b) SAT/ACT scores
 - c) Rigor of courses taken in high school
 - d) Extracurricular Activities



Highlights for Spring of Junior Year

• Sign up for SAT/ACT tests – pay attention to registration deadlines! If you have an idea of some of the schools you would like to have your scores sent to, remember to identify them on your registration forms. You can identify up to four schools to receive your scores free of charge. Taking the SAT/ACT at this time will give you an idea of your strengths and weaknesses and give you time to prepare to take the test again in the fall of your senior year if necessary.

• May 2 SAT- register by March 31, June 6 SAT- register by May 5

• April 4 ACT- stand by registration only---, June 13 ACT- register by May 8

• Carefully select your senior year courses to make sure you meet the requirements for graduation, and NCAA eligibility requirements, if applicable. Remember to take a strong academic course load your senior year.



- Continue to look for scholarship programs that might be appropriate for you.
- Read through information sent to you by various schools to get a better idea of what degree programs you are interested in pursuing and which schools offer the academic environment you are looking for.
- Watch for free VSAC workshops
- Attend College Pathways conference March 28 (Castleton) or April 4 (Lyndon State).
- Continue to be involved in extra-curricular activities, community service opportunities, community activities and employment



Highlights for Summer after Junior Year

- Narrow your list of schools that you are interested in to about five. Put aside money for application fees.
- Visit schools that you are interested in. Contact the admissions offices to schedule times to visit, tour the campus, meet admissions representatives, and gather additional information.
- Start identifying teachers, employers, coaches, advisors and other adults who you plan to ask to write a letter of recommendation for you. You should plan to obtain three letters of recommendation for the college application process.
- Gather application materials for the schools you are interested in, if you haven't already done so. You can request materials, free of charge, by calling the school's admissions office, or by visiting the school's website and filling out the online request form.
- Find out when the SAT/ACT tests will be administered in the fall so you don't miss the registration deadlines. There are usually tests in September and October whose deadlines are during the summer, so keeping watching the websites for those dates (www.act.org and www.collegeboard.com).



College Process for Seniors

September 2009

- Check that you are enrolled in the classes you need for graduation
 - Register for October SAT/ACT (may be during the summer)
 - ACT September 12
 - Obtain CHS transcript package from guidance office
 - Start asking adults for letters of recommendation
 - Begin rough drafts of college applications
 - Begin college essays
- Write important dates in your calendar (college deadlines, VSAC financial aid night,
 - Check in guidance for dates college representatives will be visiting
 - Attend college fair at St. Mike's, Date TBA: _____



College Process for Seniors

October 2009

- Start college application process with guidance office (make transcript and recommendation requests)
 - *Solicit* teacher recommendations
 - Complete college admissions application essays for early action/early decision
 - Develop college application essays
 - Continue to look for/attend VSAC Financial Aid Night
 - *Plan* to visit colleges you wish to see/apply to ~ schedule interview(s) if required or recommended
 - Take SAT/ACT
 - October 18 SAT
 - October 28 ACT
 - Check college catalogs for admission and financial aid deadlines
- Be sure that your official test scores are sent by the testing agency to colleges on your list



College Entrance Exams

SAT/ACT

- **Almost all schools accept either the SAT or ACT.**
- **Check with schools to which you will be applying.**



ACT vs SAT

- No order of difficulty
- Grammar & Reading heavy
- Need Algebra, Geometry & Trig
- Math 25% of score
- Based on school curriculum
- Not as tricky
- No penalty for guessing
- Science reasoning section
- Scoring: 0-36/section
- Proceeds in order of difficulty
- Vocabulary heavy
- Need Algebra & Geometry
- Math 50% of score
- Not based on school curriculum
- Focuses more on tricks & puzzles
- Penalty for guessing
- No Science
- Scoring: 200-800/section



- **Best advice is to 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.**



- **With the ACT, it is recommended to take ACT with Writing**
- **The SAT Subject Tests are generally only required by more competitive schools, so you should look at the requirements for each specific school to which you are applying**



TEST DATES

- **SAT**

- **test 5/2: sign up deadline 3/31**

- **test 6/6: sign up deadline 5/5**

www.collegeboard.com

- **ACT**

- **test 6/13: sign up deadline 5/8**

www.actstudent.org



SAT

- May 2nd Test Centers

- BHS
- Rice
- MMU
- BFA St. Albans

- June 6th Test Centers

- Rice
- Milton
- South Burlington
- BFA St. Albans



ACT Test Dates and Test Centers

June 13th (register by May 8th)

- CMS (ACT will still say CHS)
- CVU
- Poultney, Montpelier, Vergennes, Bennington



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 several SAT optional schools. These can be found at www.fairtest.org



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?
- Are you continuing in the highest possible course sequence?



More to consider...

- Is the level of math you selected challenging?
- Have you considered taking a 4th year of a lab science – i.e. physics or chemistry?
- Is your schedule full?
- Are you continuing in your world language?

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.



BURLINGTON, VERMONT

Admissions Office

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

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

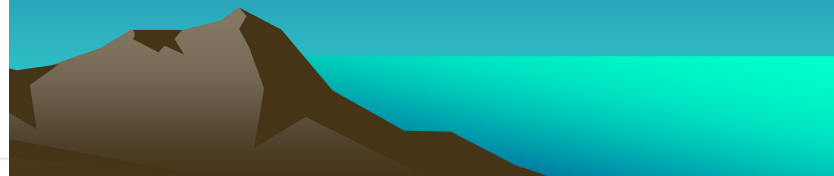
Founded in 1878

- 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.”

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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 far, 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. You should 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.
 - Library.
 - Computer labs.
 - Tutor/Support Center.
 - Gym.
 - Student Center.
 - What activities are there?
 - Check the hours and availability on all.



Maximizing Your Visit (cont.)

- Visit the campus Placement Office
 - How many graduates are placed each year?
 - How many are placed in their major?



Important Questions to Ask

- What percentage of students live on campus?
- Do freshman need to live on campus?
- Can freshman 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 freshman 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
Extra-Curricular						
Computer/Technology Integration						
Undergrad Research						
Co-Op/Internships						
Study Abroad Programs (%students)						
Student/Professor Ratio(%classes taught by TA's)						
Honors Program						
Additional Comments						

Notes/Questions



College Admissions Options



Early Decision

- Allows you to apply early, usually November, to get an admission decision well in advance of the regular admission notification date.
- *However*, Early Decision plans are **binding**.
 - That is, you agree to attend that college if they accept you and offer you an adequate financial aid package.
 - You can apply Early Decision to only one college.
 - You must withdraw all your other applications

Early Action

- Similar to Early Decision in that you can get an admissions decision earlier than the regular notification date. (UVM Early Action deadline is November 1)
- However, Early Action is usually not binding.
 - You may apply to other colleges.
 - You do not have to commit to a college to which you have applied Early Action.
 - You have a longer period to notify the college of your decision.



Pros and Cons of Applying Early Decision

- Pros

- **Reduce time waiting for a decision.**
- Bypass regular spring notification deadline.
- Avoid cost of submitting multiple applications.
- Have to deal with less stress if accepted.
- May increase chances of getting into top schools; greatly increase chances of getting into less selective schools.
- May get financial aid bonus for applying early.

- Cons

- **Must make serious decision before exploring all options, most importantly, financial aid= BINDING.**
- Can only apply to one school.
- Can't turn back.
- May not have time or opportunity to compare financial aid packages.
- May have no or fewer aid options.
- Have few scholarship options.
- Sometimes compete with a smaller but much stronger pool of candidates than during regular application period.
- If rejected, may feel great disappointment and discouragement.



Regular Admission

- Deadlines vary by school.
- January 1, January 15, February 15 are typically regular admissions deadlines.
- UVM regular admissions deadline is January 15. St. Mike's regular admission deadline is February 1.
- Admissions decision notification is usually mid to late March.



Rolling Admission

- No set application deadline.
- However, once a program is full admission is closed.
- So, do not delay your application even with Rolling Admission.



POST ASSESSMENT

1. College Admissions counselors do not consider the senior year schedule when making admissions decisions
True False
2. The #1 thing college admissions counselors consider in their admissions decision is:
 - a) Total # of credits taken in high school
 - b) SAT/ACT scores
 - c) Rigor of courses taken in high school
 - d) Extracurricular Activities



The End

