



PHS College and Career Counseling Department Newsletter

October 2023

College and Career Counseling Department Contact Information

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THE IMPORTANCE OF LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

With the college planning process well underway, students should be personally reaching out to their teachers for letters of recommendation before inviting them through Naviance.

Letters of recommendation play a crucial role in college applications and can have a significant impact on a student's chances of admission. Teachers can provide specific examples of your achievements, work ethic, leadership, and character, which can set you apart from other applicants.

Asking teachers now for recommendations is extremely important because:

Credibility: Teachers' opinions are highly regarded by admissions committees due to their expertise. Admission reps trust the judgment of educators who have experience working with students.

Personal Insight: Letters from teachers, especially those who have taught you in core subjects or courses relevant to the student's intended major, can provide different perspectives on your academic strengths and interests. Teachers can highlight your strengths, both academically and personally. This helps colleges get a well-rounded view of your abilities.

Tailored Letters: It allows you to explain your goals, ensuring more personalized recommendations. In-person requests provide an opportunity for your teachers to ask questions about your college plans, deadlines, and specific requirements for each application.

Letters of recommendation play a vital role in the college application process, providing a comprehensive view of your qualifications and character. Requesting recommendations in person allows you to establish a personal connection with your teachers, ensuring that they can write more compelling letters on your behalf.

As always, please reach out to your school counselor if you have any questions.



COLLEGE APPLICATION DEADLINES

Understanding college application deadlines is crucial for a successful and stress-free application process. These deadlines dictate when application materials should be submitted, and the importance of each:

Early Decision (ED):

Early Decision is a college application process with a binding commitment.

Students who apply through ED typically submit their applications by a specified early deadline, often in October.

If admitted, the student must attend that college and withdraw all other college applications.

Early Action (EA):

Early Action is a non-binding early application process.

Applicants submit their applications ahead of regular deadlines, usually in October/November.

Students who are accepted through EA are not obligated to attend and can still consider other colleges. It's an option for students who want to receive admission decisions early without committing to a single school.

COLLEGE APPLICATION DEADLINES CONT.

Regular Decision (RD):

Regular Decision is the standard college application deadline.

Students apply by a specified deadline, often in January or February.

Admission decisions are typically released in the spring.

RD allows students to apply to multiple colleges and consider offers before making a final decision.

Rolling Admission:

Rolling Admission is an ongoing application process with no fixed deadlines.

Applicants can submit their materials at any time during the admissions cycle.

Colleges review applications as they are received and make decisions within a few weeks.

This process continues until all available spots in the incoming class are filled.

These different application deadlines provide flexibility for students to choose the application timeline that best suits their preferences and circumstances. It is important to work with your school counselor to carefully consider the different options and choose the one that best aligns with your college goals and readiness to commit.

PHS In School College Representative Visits

Pelham High School daytime college visits have begun. The **Class of 2024** and the **Class of 2025** are encouraged to attend these information sessions. College representatives will be here during the advisory period in the guidance office. Please make sure that you have your Naviance login information to be able to sign up to attend a visit. Please see Mrs. Frechette with any questions.

Tue	10/3	Springfield College
Thu	10/5	Rivier University
Fri	10/6	UNH- Manchester
Wed	10/11	University of Rhode Island
Thu	10/12	Western NE University
Fri	10/13	University of New England
Mon	10/16	Mass College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
Tue	10/17	Southern NH University
Wed	10/18	St. Anselm College
Thu	10/19	UMass Boston
Fri	10/20	Colby-Sawyer College
Mon	10/23	UNH-Main Campus
Wed	10/25	University of Southern Maine
Thu	10/26	Roger Williams University
Fri	10/27	Merrimack College
Mon	10/30	Keene State College
Tue	10/31	Worcester State University
Wed	11/01	University of Connecticut
Thu	11/02	Franklin Pierce University
Fri	11/03	Emmanuel College
Wed	11/08	Air National Guard
Thu	11/16	Plymouth State University
Mon	11/28	Nashua Community College

AP Independent Students

Please email Mrs. Kress Hkress@pelhamsd.org to let her know that you are taking an Independent AP Class. AP test registration will begin within the month. The deadline for us to order AP tests is Tuesday, October 10th. Please contact Mrs. Kress with any questions.

PSATS

On Wednesday, October 25th, Pelham High School will be administering the digital PSAT/NMSQT to all 9th - 11th grade students.

The PSAT is an assessment used to help prepare students for college and career pathways while providing benchmarks to better understand a students' progress as they continue through high school and ultimately take the SAT during their junior year. Historically, students who take the PSAT score higher on the SAT. We are very pleased to provide this important assessment at no cost to our students during school hours.

The PSAT is a digital test. It is very important to have your Chromebook charged and brought with you on test day.

Check in for testing on October 25th will begin at 7:45am. Testing will end at approximately 10:30am. October 25th is an Early Release Day. Students will be released at 11:32.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Barriere at abarriere@pelhamsd.org or your school counselor.



On the evening of September 28th, the College and Career Counseling Department hosted the NHHEAF organization who presented two webinars on the College Planning Process and Financial Aid 101. Below are the links to watch the webinars.

Senior College Night Recorded Webinar:

<https://gsmr-org.zoom.us/rec/share/YTDavLPp5SYn5SalthWx0Q0Qy2yvQvo171AF4T5dVKNzzHRzB4vLmxtgqfV1kWe.vQNYw4Beg53giL4q?startTime=1695935010000>

Passcode: NHHEAF23!

Financial Aid 101 Recorded Webinar:

<https://gsmr-org.zoom.us/rec/share/YTDavLPp5SYn5SalthWx0Q0Qy2yvQvo171AF4T5dVKNzzHRzB4vLmxtgqfV1kWe.vQNYw4Beg53giL4q?startTime=1695938540000>

Passcode: NHHEAF23!

Please reach out to your school counselor if you have any questions.



Pelham High School Pathways Program

The Career Pathways initiative is a series of courses designed to help students increase their knowledge about occupations and careers that may be of interest to them. By participating in a pathway, students will be better prepared academically for college and will acquire the skills needed to compete in the labor market.

Many of the pathways provide an opportunity for students to earn college credit(s) through the Community College System of New Hampshire or with Southern New Hampshire University.

It is never too early to think about your future. A pathway will allow you to take a series of courses to help you decide about your career choice prior to the expense of college. The benefits to students include:

- Increased academic motivation by taking courses relevant to future plans
- Allows students to have the opportunity to explore career interests while in high school
- Prepares students for the transition to college and/or a career
- Provide students with the opportunity to take college courses while in high school

Students are required to complete a commitment form in order to enroll in a pathway and entry requirements will vary.

We invite you to explore the many Pathways we offer. Please visit the School Counseling Office to check out the Pathway flyers.

Community Service

Community Service is a Pelham High School graduation requirement. The **Class of 2024 must have** their hours completed and submitted by **March 15th, 2024**. Please check your email often for community service opportunities sent out by Mrs. Frechette.

SUMMER Community Service Hours: Community service hours completed over the summer are due by **Wednesday, October 4th**.

The community service tab located underneath the College and Career Counseling Department tab is updated each Monday with current [OPPORTUNITIES](#).

Please be sure to turn in your completed community service hours **within 8 weeks** of completing your service activity. Fill out and submit the [completion form](#) to the College and Career Counseling Department. Forms submitted later than eight (8) weeks will receive only ½ credit, provided the forms are presented within the academic year in which they were performed. Community service opportunities and completion sheets are available on the Pelham High School website under the College and Career Counseling Department tab.

Working Permits

The NH Youth Employment Certificate (working papers) is required for any youth 12-15 years old and must be on file at the employer's place of business within three business days of the first day of employment. Working papers for students can be obtained from the NH Department of Labor website. The [website](#) lists detailed instructions and the [forms](#) can be printed at home and signed by parents, saving a trip to the school. If you are unable to print from home, there will be copies at the main office. NOTE: NH students who will be working in a different state must obtain paperwork from that state.

WE'RE HIRING!

JOIN OUR TEAM
Tuscan Village Shack

Average Rate: \$17.00 / hour!*

**Average rate includes hourly wage + average hourly tip earnings*



APPLY NOW!

SHACKCAREERS.COM