

Class of 2016: Junior Booklet



Haverhill High School Guidance Department



Members of the junior class are often warned that the junior year is the most important year of high school. Why is this year such a big deal? It is because the junior year offers the most recent data that admissions counselors will have in order to determine how successful a student may be on their college campus.

There is much to do in your junior year in order to prepare for life beyond Haverhill High School. The purpose and benefit of this booklet is to help you as you begin to make those important decisions. We would like to help make this process as smooth and as user-friendly as possible for you, your parents/guardians, and your Guidance Counselor.



Junior Counselor Assignments

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Roadmap to College

Keep on track so that you can hit the ground running in your Senior year!

March & April

- Attend Haverhill High School's College Fair from 6:30-8pm. Date TBA!
- Register for the SAT or ACT
- Develop a preliminary list of colleges
- Visit college campuses
- If considering Div. I or II colleges, register with the NCAA Eligibility Center (www.eligibilitycenter.org)
- Meet with your Guidance Counselor to map out senior year classes
- Attend a local college fair- **April 9th**- 6-8:30pm Boston National College Fair

May

- Attend a local college fair
 - **May 21st**- 6:30-8:30pm- NEACAC Regional College Fair at Merrimack College
- Take SAT/ACT
- Think about which teachers you would want to write you a letter of recommendation
- Don't let your grades slip! This is the last full year of grades that colleges will see!
- Continue visiting college campuses

June

- Take SAT/ACT
- Choose teachers to ask for recommendations and approach them with your request before you leave for the summer
- Get comfortable using Naviance (the program we use to track college applications, letters of recommendations, etc.)
- Think about the criteria that are important to you as you consider colleges; size, location, types of majors, etc.
- Make an appointment with your guidance counselor to confirm that graduation requirements are all set and your classes are finalized
- Make plans to do something productive over the summer. Whether working, volunteering, or taking a class, make your summer count!

Roadmap cont'd.

July

- Analyze your SAT scores from the spring and begin to plan for any future testing in the fall
- Continue visiting colleges and take note of those schools you would like to visit again when students are back on campus
- Create your list of schools- make sure to have schools of varying competitiveness as well as financially “safer” options
- Firm up your choice of major by researching careers on Naviance

Early August

- Both you AND your parents need to apply for your Personal Identification Number (PIN) for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by going to www.pin.ed.gov
- Students should set up their Common Application account at www.commonapp.org
- Register for the ACT, SAT, or SAT Subject Tests in the fall at www.collegeboard.org or www.actstudent.org
- Begin working on an outline for your college essay. You can find the essay prompts on Common App.

September

- Check in with the teachers who said that they would write a letter of recommendation. Don't wait until the last minute!
- Parents should attend the Senior Parent Night for more information on the college process
- Firm up your college selections
- Familiarize yourself with admission deadlines
- Meet with your guidance counselor

Graduation Requirements

Currently, twenty-one (21) credits are required for graduation. The state has issued Mass Core graduation requirements, which is a rigorous program of study that aligns high school course work with college and workforce expectations. HHS strives for all students currently enrolled to meet Mass Core requirements. All graduates must also pass the English, Mathematics, and Science MCAS tests as required by state regulations.

Subject	HHS Credits	Mass. Core Credits
English	4	4
Math	4	4.0 (including Algebra II)
Science	3	3
Social Studies (includes US History)	3	3
Wellness	1	1
School-to-Career	1	1
Computer Technology	0.5	0.5
Fine Art OR World Language	1	--
Fine Arts	--	1
World Languages	--	2.0 (must be same language)
Electives	3.5	2.5

It is highly recommended that all students take a minimum of 6 credits per semester.

CHOOSING ELECTIVES: Choose electives that fulfill college admission and graduation requirements, that you are interested in, and that will help you explore possible career paths.

TO BE A SENIOR: Students must pass English III have a minimum of 13.5 credits.

Suggested Credits for Admission to Post-Secondary School

	English	Social Studies	Math	Science	World Lang.
Highly Selective Colleges	4	3-4	4-5	3-4	3-4
Four-year Colleges	4	3	3-4	3-4	2-4
Two-Year Colleges	4	3	2-3	2-3	1-2
Technical Colleges	4	3	2-3	2-3	1-2

State University Admission Requirements

The required minimum GPA is 3.0 for the four-year public campuses. If an applicant's GPA falls below the required 3.0 minimum, a sliding scale will apply. This scale is used only when an applicant's GPA falls below the required minimum for admission to the state universities or UMass system and is based upon the combined critical reading and math sections of the SAT.

No applicant with a high school GPA below 2.00 may be admitted to a Massachusetts State College or University Campus.

Sliding Scale for Freshman Applicants to UMass

GPA	Combined SAT CR & M Must Equal or Exceed <i>(ACT equivalent in Italics)</i>
2.51 - 2.99	950 <i>(20)</i>
2.41 - 2.50	990 <i>(21)</i>
2.31 - 2.40	1030 <i>(22)</i>
2.21 - 2.30	1070 <i>(23)</i>
2.11 - 2.20	1110 <i>(24)</i>
2.00 - 2.10	1150 <i>(25)</i>

Sliding Scale for Freshman Applicants to State Universities

GPA	Combined SAT CR & M Must Equal or Exceed <i>(ACT equivalent in Italics)</i>
2.51 - 2.99	920 <i>(19)</i>
2.41 - 2.50	960 <i>(20)</i>
2.31 - 2.40	1000 <i>(21)</i>
2.21 - 2.30	1040 <i>(22)</i>
2.11 - 2.20	1080 <i>(23)</i>
2.00 - 2.10	1120 <i>(24)</i>



UNDERSTANDING RANK AND GPA AT HAVERHILL HIGH

Overview



Haverhill High School's GPA and Rank are calculated as a running average at the end of each semester. Therefore, the policy is to calculate Rank and GPA twice a year coinciding with the end of semester one and semester two.

RANK



Rank at Haverhill High School is weighted and determined by Quality Points calculation. To calculate quality points one must multiply the grade point value by the weight of the group to which the pupil is assigned. The total of all such products is the total quality point score of the student.

Grade point value for quality points is not based on numeric range, but aligns with each individual grade. For example:

Numeric Grade	GPA Value
100	4.00
99	3.91
98	3.83
97	3.74
96	3.66

Etc.....

Numeric grades of 59 and below are assigned a 0.0 GPA.

Weight has been assigned to one of the four group levels as follows:

Group	Weight
Advanced Placement/ College courses	3.0
Honors Accelerated	2.7
Honors	2.5
College Preparatory	2.0

Example of Quality Point calculation for two students in College Preparatory English:

Student A:
 Numeric grade: 98 = 3.83 GPA Value
 Course weight is a 2.0
 Quality Points Calculation:
 $3.83 \times 2.0 = 7.66$ Quality Points Earned

Student B:
 Numeric grade: 88 = 2.97 GPA Value
 Course weight is a 2.0
 Quality Points Calculation:
 $2.97 \times 2.0 = 5.94$ Quality Points Earned

GPA



At Haverhill High School GPA is un-weighted. This means GPA is a straight average of courses taken over the course of a student's high school career based on the earned GPA value for each course. The following chart shows the grades and their equivalent GPA value:

Grade	Numeric range	GPA Value
A+	(97-100)	4.00
A	(93-96)	3.85
A-	(90-92)	3.70
B+	(87-89)	3.30
B	(83-86)	3.00
B-	(80-82)	2.70
C+	(77-79)	2.30
C	(73-76)	2.00
C-	(70-72)	1.70
D+	(67-69)	1.30
D	(63-66)	1.00
D-	(60-62)	0.70
F	(Below 60)	0.00

For example: A student who earns a 95 (A) in a class has a GPA value of 3.85 for that class.

Standardized Testing

It is important for all juniors who plan to apply to colleges in the fall to take either the SAT or ACT in the spring so they can research and find colleges that match their academic profile. Although there are many factors college admission counselors look at, many consider ACT/SAT results as a way to look at students on a “level playing field” when they are applying from different schools from all over the country. Now is the time to begin thinking about the standardized tests required for admission at many colleges and universities. The SAT and ACT are both accepted for college admission purposes and many students will attempt both tests to see on which they do better before they choose which test to submit to their colleges.

Do you know which test is best for you? Read through this chart to decide!

SAT

- You did great on the PSAT or you feel comfortable with the format of the PSAT. The devil you know may be better than the devil you don't.
- You have a strong vocabulary. You know words such as "didactic," "sedulous", or other esoteric words and want to use that comparative advantage.
- You are confident about the rules of grammar. In addition to the essay, the Writing section of the SAT tests the deviation between standard written English and the way we actually speak the language. You know that "everyone has their own idea" is wrong, and you are comfortable with "On the table, there ARE a pencil and some paper."
- You find it easier to write essays that use illustrative examples rather than argument. For example, if a topic such as "Should the rights of the individual be secondary to the good of the community?" seems like an easier topic to write on than "Should students be required to participate in extracurricular activities?" then the SAT essay may be more your speed. In the former example, you can use anything from the Civil Rights Movement to The Scarlet Letter as evidence, while the latter would be based more on examples from personal experience or abstract arguments.
- You are high-energy or impulsive to the point of being impatient. Comprised of nine sections and an essay, the SAT is 20 minutes longer than the ACT. But there are more starts and stops on the SAT which makes it feel as though it's moving along faster than the ACT.
- All of your friends are doing it. For many folks, the SAT is a rite of passage and is the common yardstick people use, for better or worse, in comparing their scores to the scores of their friends, parents and siblings.

ACT

- You had a PSAT or SAT score inconsistent with your academic performance in school.
- Your vocabulary is not as strong as your reading. You read well and relatively quickly. Arguably, the ACT is a test that is three parts verbal — English, Reading and Science (the latter section requires no knowledge outside of what the test presents).
- You are great at writing papers but haven't had formal grammar instruction. The English portion of the ACT is more a test of punctuation and sentence and paragraph structure.
- You prefer to write essays that are argumentative, persuading with ideas even if you lack perfect recall of facts and figures.
- You are more academic than "test savvy." The ACT seems to most people to be more curriculum-based and thus more straightforward. There is more advanced math content (logarithms, conic sections, trigonometry, etc.), but it seems more like a regular test you might encounter in school.
- You don't like to be rushed. The ACT has five sections that are longer in length than their SAT counterparts. Section lengths range from 30 minutes to an hour. If you didn't like the many stops and starts to the SAT and would rather take your time with a particular section, the ACT may be for you.
- All of your friends aren't doing it. You dread telling people what your scores are, imagining that they are immediately making judgments about how you "stack up." Tell your friends you have a 580-620-590 on the SAT, and the ranking begins. Tell them you got a 27 on the ACT, and they'll ask "is that good?"

About the Tests

The Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT Reasoning)

The SAT Reasoning Test measures the critical thinking skills you'll need for academic success in college. The SAT assesses how well you analyze and solve problems- skills you learned in school that you'll need in college. This is a 3 hour, 45 minute exam comprised of 10 sections covering the areas of Critical Reading, Mathematics, and Writing. Each section is scored from 200-800, giving a total score range of 600-2400 points. The essay is scored from 0-12, which makes up 25% of the total Writing score. The cost for each SAT registration is \$52.50. If you choose to take the test more than once, each college has its own policy for which scores they will receive.

SAT Subject Tests

SAT Subject Tests include 20 different tests focusing on 5 specific subject areas: English, history, mathematics, science, and foreign languages. Each subject test lasts one hour and consists entirely of multiple choice questions. Subject Tests are scored on a scale of 200-800. Students may take up to three subject tests on a given test administration. Subject Tests and the SAT test CANNOT be taken on the same day. Not every college requires Subject Tests and/or considers these scores when reviewing a student for Admission. Be sure to check the requirements of the colleges you are considering. The cost for Subject Tests is \$26 for the basic registration fee plus \$16 per test.

SAT Spring Test Dates:

- **May 2nd** (registration deadline April 6th)
- **June 6th** (registration deadline is May 8th)

To register for the SAT and/or SAT Subject Tests visit www.collegeboard.org.

The American College Test (ACT)

The ACT is an achievement test that measures what a student has learned in school and their ability to complete college-level work. The multiple-choice tests cover four skill areas: English, mathematics, reading, and science. The Writing Test, which is optional, measures skills in planning and writing a short essay. The exam takes approximately 3 hours plus an extra half hour if you choose to take the optional writing portion. The test is scored on a scale of 1-36 and the essay is scored between 0-12. The tests costs \$54.50 with the writing portion (recommended) and \$38 without the writing. If taking the ACT more than once, students are able to choose which test score will be sent to their prospective schools.

ACT Spring Test Dates

- **April 18th** (registration deadline is March 13th)
- **June 13th** (registration deadline is May 8th)

To register for the ACT visit www.actstudent.org.

NCAA Eligibility

Any student who plans to enroll in a Division I or II college and participate in athletics must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center. Go to www.eligibilitycenter.org to begin the process. Remember to check eligibility requirements in The Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete. You will need a valid email address to create your account. You will be required to pay a fee as part of registration. In addition you must submit official SAT/ACT scores using the eligibility center's code of "9999". Finally, you should request an official transcript be sent from the Guidance Office.

The suggested time to initially complete this on-line registration form is during the student's junior year of high school. It is the responsibility of the student to know which high school courses have been approved by the NCAA Clearinghouse. Approved Haverhill courses are listed on the Clearinghouse website. You will find these courses by clicking on the List of NCAA Courses under the Resources tab. Use the code 220985. If a student does not enroll in the appropriate core courses, he/she may become ineligible to participate in athletics at the college/university level. For more information see your Guidance Counselor.

Naviance

Family Connection from Naviance is a web-based service designed especially for students and parents. It is a comprehensive website that assists in navigating the college and career process. Family Connection will allow you to:

- **Get involved in the planning and advising process-** Build a resume, complete online surveys, and manage timelines & deadlines for making decisions about colleges and careers.
- **Research colleges-** Compare GPA, standardized test scores, and other statistics to actual historical data from our school for students who have applied and been admitted in the past several years.
- **Find scholarship opportunities-** Research scholarship applications to help fund your post-secondary education.
- **Get organized-** Create goals, track deadlines, and develop your "To Do" list using the My Planner feature.

How do you register?

- Each student receives an activation code
- On your first visit click on "I Need to Register", enter your code, then follow on-screen instructions
- On subsequent visits, sign in using your Username and Password

www.connection.naviance.com/haverhill

Helpful Websites

COMPREHENSIVE COLLEGE PROCESS INFORMATION

www.collegeboard.org

SAT prep, online registration, financial aid, college planning, CSS/PROFILE registration, and more

connection.naviance.com/haverhill

The site used to research colleges, careers, scholarships, and to track college application information. See your counselor to get your access code.

www.petersons.com

College search, career guidance/assessment, financial aid, test prep, summer opportunities, and study abroad.

www.actstudent.org

ACT prep, online registration

www.fairtest.org

To find a comprehensive list of colleges who do not require standardized testing for admission

JOB INFORMATION

www.stats.bls.gov/ocohome.htm

The Occupation Outlook Handbook. Provides job description, working conditions, training/education needed, earnings, and expected job prospects.

www.careernet.org

Career exploration, education and training, and employment

www.masscis.intocareers.org

Occupational and education information to help make better informed choices about careers

MILITARY INFORMATION

www.asafa.af.mil

US Air Force

www.goarmy.com

US Army

www.usmc.mil

US Marines

www.navy.mil

US Navy

www.1800goguard.com

US National Guard

FINANCIAL AID

www.fafsa.ed.gov

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid

www.mefa.org

Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority. College planning/funding

www.fastweb.com

College scholarships and financial aid information

www.finaid.org

Large variety of financial aid information