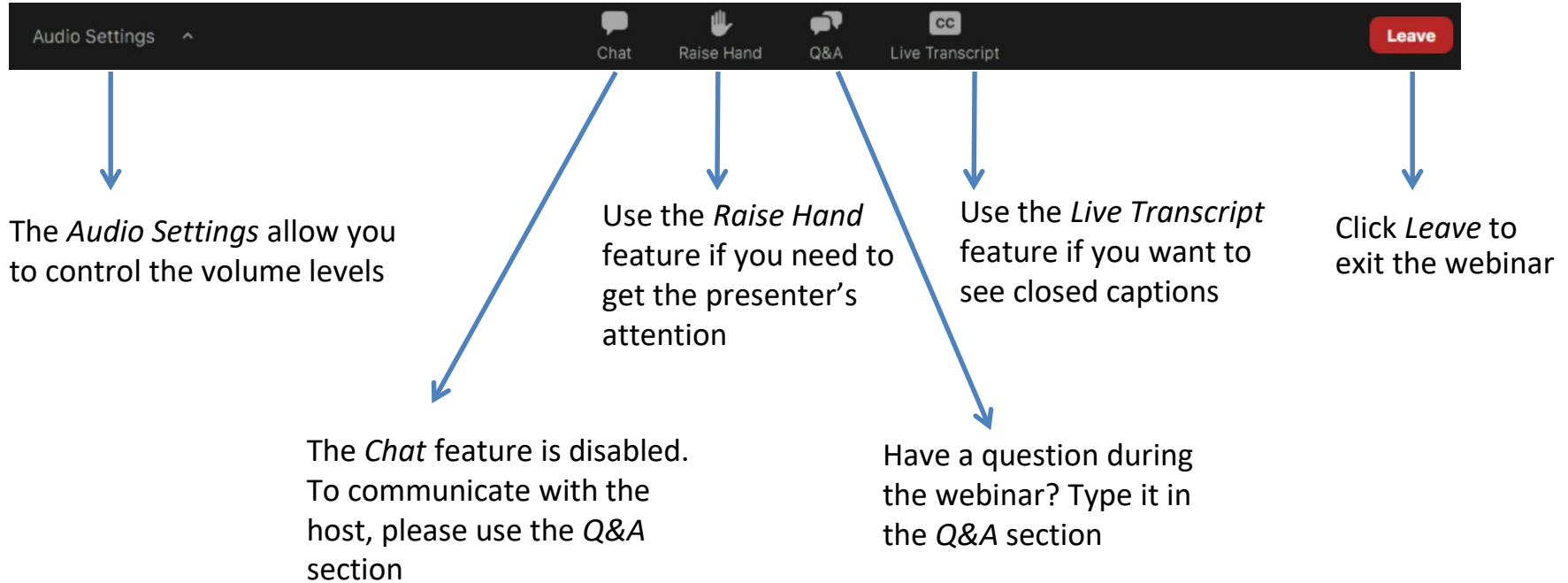




College Admissions

How to Participate in This Webinar



About MEFA



Webinar Topics

- Current trends
- Your college list
- Campus visits
- The application process
- Financial aid
- Free resources



Trends in College Admissions

- Earlier Process
- Students applying to a greater number of schools
- Demonstrated interest a factor
- Has become more a parent-driven process (though students should be driving!)
- Rise of social media
- Cost has become a bigger factor



Stay Organized!

Use a system to keep track of applications and deadlines, such as MEFA's College Application Manager:

College Application Manager					
As you explore schools and build your college list, keep track of your details here. Remember that deadlines are critical when applying to college and requesting financial aid, so set yourself reminders to ensure you submit all applications on time. If you're applying to more than ten schools, make a copy of this chart.					
School Name	Admissions Deadline*	Send SAT, ACT, or Neither	Required Financial Aid	Financial Aid Deadline*	Notes
1. Example University	November 1st	SAT	FAFSA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSS Profile <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	February 1st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High school visit: Oct 1st • Strong nursing program • 4-hour drive away
2.			FAFSA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSS Profile <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>		
3.			FAFSA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSS Profile <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>		
4.			FAFSA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSS Profile <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>		

mefa.org/college-application-manager

Researching Colleges

Research thoroughly

College Navigator: [CollegeNavigator.gov](https://collegenavigator.gov)

College search with admissions, academic, & cost info

College Scorecard: [CollegeScorecard.ed.gov](https://collegescorecard.ed.gov)

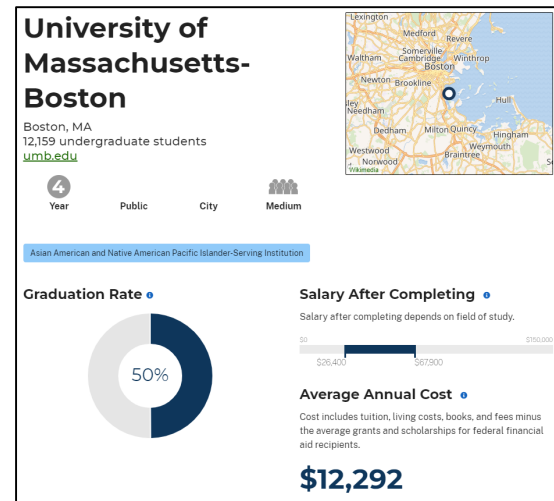
College info including average net price, student debt, grad rate, & alumni salary

Big Future: bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search

College search with info on academics, applying, & paying

MEFA Pathway: mefapathway.org

College search and matching tool based on preferences




Search for Colleges with MEFA Pathway

SEARCH FOR COLLEGES

Location:
Where do you want to be?
Consider how attending college somewhere is certain to be new to you? Or do you like being a short car or bus ride from home? Explore options and think about how location will impact your college experience.
Select the regions where you'd like to attend college; (Select as many as you wish)

NEXT



Midwest Northeast Southeast Southwest West

My College List

Your college list represents schools that you have found to be a match for you based on your interests and career goals. From here you can add more colleges using the College Search tool. And you can keep track of your favorites by adding them to your Digital Portfolio.

You have **14** Colleges on your list **ADD MORE COLLEGES**

College Name	City	State	Added By	Remove	Add to Favorites
Bridgewater State University	Bridgewater	MA	Student	x	👤
University of Vermont	Burlington	VT	Student	x	👤
Curry College	Milton	MA	Student	x	👤
Brandeis University	Waltham	MA	Student	x	👤
Wentworth Institute of Technology	Boston	MA	Student	x	👤
Northeastern University	Boston	MA	Student	x	👤
Florida Gulf Coast University	Fort Myers	FL	Student	x	👤
Framingham State University	Framingham	MA	Student	x	👤
Central Washington University	Ellensburg	WA	Student	x	👤
Bay Path University	Lynnwood	MA	Student	x	👤
Latell College	Newton	MA	Student	x	👤
Hampshire College	Amherst	MA	Student	x	👤
University of Massachusetts Lowell	Lowell	MA	Student	x	👤
Fitchburg State University	Fitchburg	MA	Student	x	👤

Show: 15 30 50

College Search

- Search for colleges based on specific criteria:
 - Name and location
 - Academics
 - Size and environment
 - Campus life
 - Cost
 - Majors
 - 2 or 4-year degree
 - Certification program
- Create a College List:
"favorite" schools that will appear on Digital Portfolio

mefa
pathway YOUR PLAN
FOR THE FUTURE™

College Factors to Consider



Informal & Formal Campus Visits

Informal visits

- Size
- Setting
- Culture



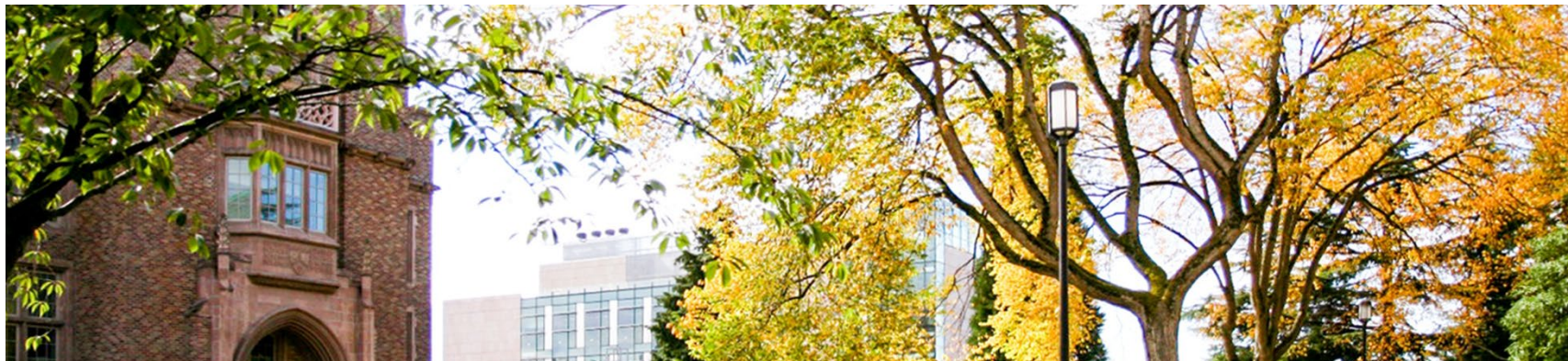
Formal visits

- Academics
- Activities
- Housing
- Q&A



College Fair Tips

*NACAC is holding virtual college fairs Sept – Nov 2021: nacacfairs.org/virtual/

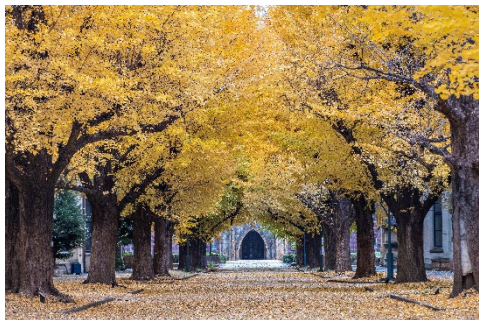


- Sign up
- Check out the college list beforehand
- Have a plan of attack before you start
- Take advantage of information sessions
- Schedule 1-on-1 meetings with colleges if available

Assess Prospects for Admission

Develop a final list with colleges of each type:

Likely



Possible



Reach



Compare Colleges with Pathway

My Preferences		University of Massachusetts Lowell	Wentworth Institute of Technology	Florida Gulf Coast University	Central Washington University	Framingham State University
▼ Key Factors						
Type of School		Public	Private	Public	Public	Public
Setting	Small Town	Urban	Urban	Suburban	Small Town	Suburban
Size	7 - 14k students	13266	4324	13717	10982	4478
Location	No Preference	Lowell, MA	Boston, MA	Fort Myers, FL	Ellensburg, WA	Framingham, MA
Admission Difficulty	Moderately difficult	Moderately difficult	Moderately difficult	Moderately difficult	Moderately difficult	Moderately difficult
▼ Undergraduate Info						
Total Undergraduates	7 - 14k students	13266	4324	13717	10982	4478
Male/Female Ratio		62%/38%	80%/20%	45%/55%	49%/51%	37%/63%
Student/Faculty Ratio		17:1	15:1	22:1	20:1	15:1
▼ Financial Info						
In-state Tuition & Fees		\$14307	\$33724	\$0	\$8688	\$9340
Out-of-state Tuition & Fees		\$30875	\$33724	\$0	\$21501	\$15420
Annual Estimated Total Cost		\$42948	\$47254	\$0	\$31676	\$26664
Estimated Total Cost		\$171792	\$189016	\$0	\$126704	\$106656
▼ Academic Info						
Overall Acceptance Rate		57%	67%		81%	71%
GPA	3.0-3.5	3.54000	3.10000	3.63000	3.14000	3.08000
▼ Test Scores						
SAT CR		573	528	535	490	491
SAT WR		551	510	525	476	481
SAT Math		600	578	535	495	493
ACT		26	26	24	21	21

College Compare

- Compare up to 5 colleges side by side
- Select criteria to compare and show comparison
 - Key Factors
 - Undergraduate Info
 - Academic Info
 - Financial Info



College Application Types



- **Regular Decision:** Usually an early Jan deadline
- **Early Action:** Deadlines in Nov & Dec, non-binding agreement
- **Early Decision:** Deadlines in Nov & Dec, binding agreement
- **Rolling Admission:** Decisions on a rolling basis, Nov-May
- **Open Admission:** Admits most students for most programs anytime

College Application Forms & Components

Application requirements may vary at each college

College Application Forms:

- Common App
CommonApp.org
- Universal College App
UniversalCollegeApp.com
- Coalition App
CoalitionForCollegeAccess.org
- College website application
- Paper app

Your application may include:

- Application form
- High school transcript
- Standardized test scores
- Letters of recommendation
- Activity list or resume
- Personal essay
- Interview
- Audition
- Portfolio

Academic Readiness

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- Rigor
- Good grades vs. challenging classes
- Improvement over time
- Exceeding minimum requirements
- Relevance to college plans
- Sliding scale for MA public colleges & universities

Standardized Tests

*Some colleges may not require standardized tests for those applying for Fall 2022 admission

PSAT	Offers practice and assessment
SAT	Measures college readiness Offers free test prep online
ACT	Measures college readiness Offers free test prep online
AP Exam	Shows subject knowledge

- Register at:
- act.org (for the ACT)
 - collegereadiness.collegeboard.org (for the PSAT & SAT)
 - apstudents.collegeboard.org (for AP exams)

[Fairtest.org](https://fairtest.org) provides a list of over 1,600 test-optional schools

Activity List & Resume

- Extracurricular activities
- Showcase what you do and the depth of the activity
- Include family responsibilities and employment
- Highlight the impact on your community



Essays

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- Your application essay says a lot about you
- Share something meaningful and personal
- Start writing early
- Try different topics and approaches
- Plagiarism is taken very seriously
- Leave time for careful proof-reading

Common App Essay Prompts for Fall 2022 Admission

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
4. Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

Letters of Recommendation



Adults who know you well can offer a helpful perspective on your strengths

- What are your high school guidelines?
- Whom to ask?
- When to ask?
- Say thank you!

Interviews

A face-to-face conversation lets colleges see the person behind the numbers

- Only offered at a small number of schools
- Two types: Informational and Evaluative
- Be prepared to answer open-ended questions
- Know your reasons for applying to the college
- Ask thoughtful questions
- Cover the basics
- Relax and be yourself



The Admissions Decision

Admitted	Student is accepted Student may also be accepted to begin at a later semester
Deferred	Student is not accepted Early Action/Decision but will be considered in the regular applicant pool
Denied	Student is not accepted
Waitlisted	Student is not yet accepted and may not get accepted off the waitlist

- Most colleges send decisions over email or post to their online portal
- Deposit by deadline (usually May 1st) to secure your spot at a school

Understanding College Affordability



- What is the Cost of Attendance and Net Price?
- What financial aid applications are required and when?
- Need-based aid vs. merit-based aid: potentially different deadlines
- Start looking for private scholarships now

Net Price Calculators

- Online tool found on each college's website
- Asks questions about family finances & student academics
- Provides personal, estimated net college price
- Displays federal & institutional financial aid
- Merit-based aid may also be calculated



Applying for Financial Aid

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®):

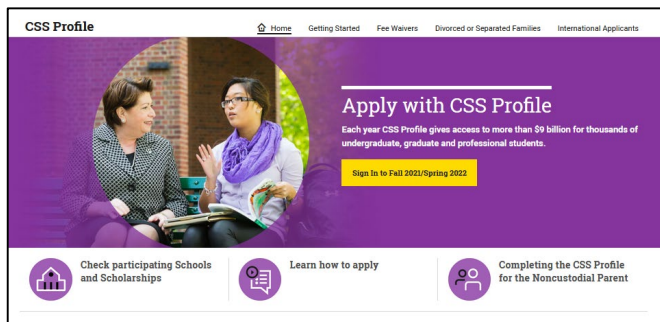
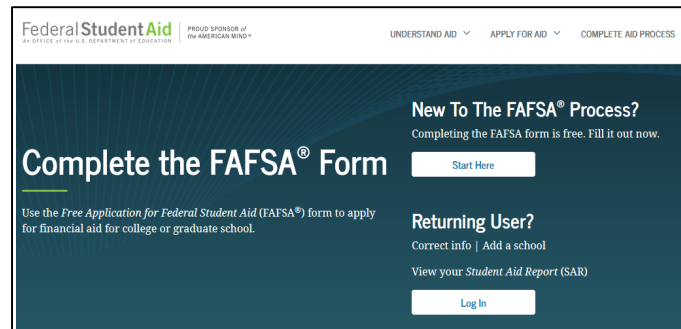
- Required by every college and university
- 2023-24 FAFSA available Oct 1, 2022
- Will ask about 2021 income

CSS Profile™:

- Required by 250+ colleges and scholarship agencies
- 2023-24 Profile available Oct 1, 2022
- Will ask about 2021 income

College-specific financial aid applications

- Posted on each college's financial aid website



Paying for College in MA: You Have Options

MassTransfer

- Makes transfer from community college to a 4-year public MA college more affordable
- Benefits include guaranteed credit transfer, tuition credit, & freeze on tuition
- mass.edu/masstransfer
- Use the MA State Benefits calculator in mefapathway.org to calculate estimated savings

Tuition Break

- Reduction on out-of-state tuition costs at New England schools for certain programs
- Nebhe.org/programs-overview/rsp-tuitionbreak/overview

The screenshot displays the MA State Benefits calculator interface. At the top, it shows the transfer path from 'Massachusetts Bay Community College' to 'Salem State University'. Below this, two program options are presented: the 'GEN ED FOUNDATION PROGRAM' and the 'A2B PROGRAM with 2 Years at Community College'. Each program section includes a 'WHAT YOU DO' column detailing the transfer path, an 'ESTIMATED SAVINGS' column showing the total savings and estimated cost, and a 'SAVE THIS PLAN' button with a 'LEARN MORE' link.

Program	What You Do	Estimated Savings
GEN ED FOUNDATION PROGRAM	1 year at Massachusetts Bay Community College + 3 years at Salem State University meeting all Gen Ed Foundation Program requirements	Savings of \$4,521.99 for the duration of this program. That is a 50% savings compared to a traditional bachelor's degree program at Salem State University. Total estimated cost for 4 years: \$42,098.57.
A2B PROGRAM with 2 Years at Community College	2 years at Massachusetts Bay Community College + 2 years at Salem State University meeting all A2B Program requirements	Savings of \$11,080.59 for the duration of this program. That is a 24% savings compared to a traditional bachelor's degree program at Salem State University. Total estimated cost for 4 years: \$35,539.97.

Search for Scholarships with Pathway

14 scholarships found SAVE SEARCH

Scholarship X Current Deadline - Yes X Nursing X Four-year College X Current HS Student X Full-time X Clear all X

Show: 15 30 50

[Back to School Nursing Scholarship Program](#) SAVE

AMOUNT	AVAILABLE	RENEWABLE	DEADLINE
\$2,500	1	No	Continuous

[Canadian Nurses Foundation Scholarships](#) SAVE

AMOUNT	AVAILABLE	RENEWABLE	DEADLINE
\$1,500	50	No	February 22

[Cynthia E. Morgan Memorial Scholarship Fund, Inc.](#) SAVE

AMOUNT	AVAILABLE	RENEWABLE	DEADLINE
\$1,000	1	No	February 25

You have 9 Scholarships on your list ADD MORE SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship	Deadline	Status	Award	Remove
\$1,000 Creative Video Challenge College Scholarship	2019-03-31	Interested	1000	x
AvaCare Medical Scholarship	2019-12-15	Interested	1000	x
\$2,000 No Essay Scholarship	2019-12-31	None	2000	x
\$3,000 USA University Student Scholarship	Continuous	None	3000	x
\$500 Because College is Expensive Scholarship	Continuous	None	500	x

Search for Scholarships

- Search for scholarships based on specific criteria:
 - Type of award
 - Area of study
 - State of residence
 - State where studying
 - Ethnicity
 - Type of school
 - Religion
- Build a scholarship list & use this list to manage options & stay informed of status, award amount, & deadlines

Staying on Track Through Senior Year

Spring/Summer Junior Year

- Research colleges
- Visit campuses & college fairs
- Ask teachers for letters of recommendation
- Take the SAT/ACT
- Start writing the college essay

Fall Senior Year

- Retake the SAT/ACT
- Secure letters of recommendation
- Finalize the college essay(s)
- Attend MEFA's *College Financing* webinar
- Complete all admissions applications
- Submit financial aid applications

Winter Senior Year

- Submit admissions applications
- Submit financial aid applications
- Apply for private scholarships
- Send in mid-year grade reports

Spring Senior Year

- Receive admissions and financial aid offers
- Attend MEFA's *After the College Acceptance* webinar
- Attend college open house programs
- Choose your college by May 1st

View an extended timeline at: mefa.org/college-admissions-and-financial-aid-timeline

MEFA Pathway *Your Plan for the Future*

FREE college and career planning tool

Resources include:

- Skills and interests assessments
- Career exploration
- College search
- Financial aid and scholarship information
- Personalized digital portfolio
- Visit mefapathway.org to get started



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What You Can Do Now

- Sign up for MEFA webinars at mefa.org/events
- Research colleges
- Start creating your college list



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Thank You

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Questions?

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