



# Rising Freshman Pathways to College

June 9, 2014

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## FRESHMAN ORIENTATION

# Pathways to College Presentation

June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014

5:30PM-6:30PM

***The path to college begins now!***

**Presenters:**

Becki Norris, Lower School Principal  
Chris Cook, Upper School Principal  
Nadira Hairston, College Counselor  
Vivianne Nufio, CCSC Alumna, Denison University  
Biondy Lisieux, CCSC Alumn, Umass Boston

Participants: All “rising” 9<sup>th</sup> graders and their parent(s)/guardian(s)

**Objectives:**

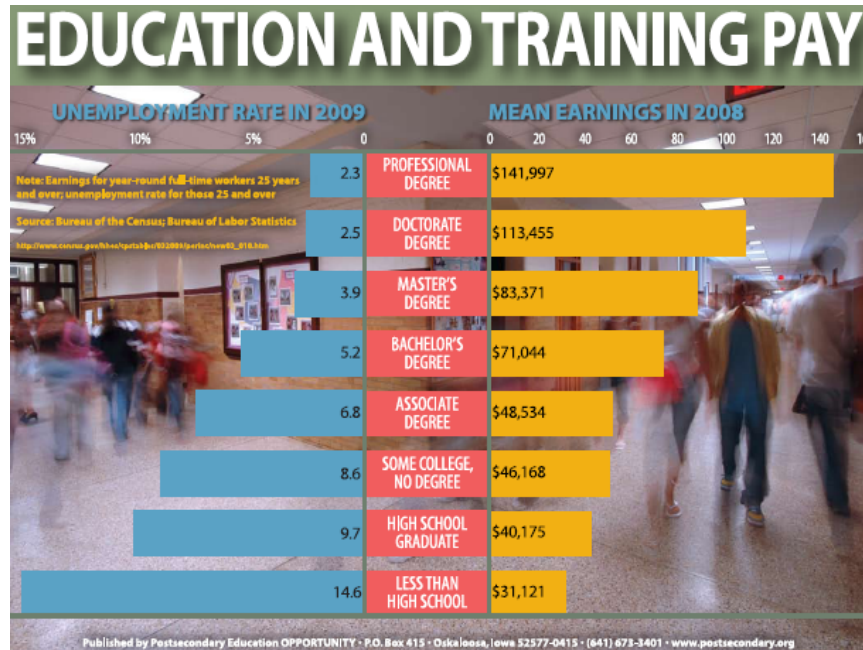
- PSWK understand the mental shift necessary for successful transition from middle school to high school
- PSWK what it will take to create a competitive high school profile.
- PSWK where our alumni are in terms of college access and success.

**Agenda:**

1. Introduction
  - a. Welcome, Purpose, & Agenda Overview (Becki Norris) – 5 minutes
  - b. The Transition to HS - 9<sup>th</sup> Grade a Pivotal Year (Chris Cook) – 5 minutes
2. Pathways to College Presentation (Nadira Hairston) - 15 minutes
3. College Profile Case Studies (Nadira Hairston) - 10 minutes
4. CCSC Alumni Presentation (10 minutes)
5. Q & A (15 minutes)

## WHY COLLEGE?

- 1) **Better paying job and job security.** Everyone knows that college graduates on average earn substantially higher wages than their peers with little or no college education. But another thing to consider is that the higher your education the lower your chances are of being unemployed. See the stats below.



- 2) **Transferable Skills.** These are skills that you will acquire from your college experience that are critical to success in the competitive job market you will enter when you graduate. These are skills that are sought after by employers in a variety of work settings. These skills give college graduates a considerable edge in the job market. More and more employers are requiring college training.

Some examples include:

- verbal and written communication
- problem solving and analytical skills
- ability to work independently and as a member of a team
- self-discipline, self-starter
- leadership
- versatility
- willingness to learn
- attention to detail
- planning and organizing multiple short and long term tasks

- 3) **Social Capital/ Networking.** Have you ever heard the phrase “it’s not what you know...it’s who you know”? Access to professors who are masters in the fields that they teach, access to internships, job opportunities, travel abroad, career services, alumni, etc.
- 4) **Knowledge is Power.** Education is a form of self-empowerment and self-determination. When you are uneducated, you become target for deceit and deception which puts you in a position of victimhood, powerlessness and dependence. A good education is something that will last a lifetime. Once you have it no one can take it away.
- 5) **The Experience.** Your worldview will be expanded through being forced to interact with and debate worldly issues with so many people from diverse backgrounds, racial, ethnic, economic, geographic, conservative, and liberal, you name it. You will have an opportunity study abroad and experience life in a new city if you choose to go out of state. You will have the opportunity to build lasting memories and friendships. Take on leadership roles. Take courses in a variety of fields to get a clearer idea of what career path you will choose to pursue.
- 6) **Self-Realization.** All of the above put you in a better position to achieve your personal and career goals.



## WHAT COLLEGES WANT FROM YOU ...

1. **ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS - *THIS IS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF YOUR APPLICATION***
  - a. **High School Transcript**
    - i. Grades
    - ii. Quality of Courses
    - iii. Have you taken the most rigorous course load that you could manage?
    - iv. Strong junior year
    - v. Has there been improvement over the four years of high school?
    - vi. High school performance in relation to your class
    - vii. Academic Honors and awards
  - b. **Testing**
    - i. SAT 1 scores (do they match your high school performance)
    - ii. SAT 2 scores (the most selective colleges require these)
    - iii. ACT scores in lieu of SAT 1 scores
    - iv. TOEFL if English is not your first language. (However, they still will look at your SAT 1 verbal score)
    - v. NOTE: There are schools that do not require testing
2. **ADMISSIONS ESSAY**
  - a. Strong, well-written, interesting essay
3. **EXTRA-CURRICULARS**
  - a. Strong commitment to 1-4 activities for several years of high school e.g. yearbook, prom committee, NHS, Mayor's Youth Program, Student Council, etc.
  - b. Community Service (this is INCREASINGLY important)
  - c. Strong summer programs – academic, service oriented, internships and jobs
4. **RECOMMENDATIONS**
  - a. Strong teacher recommendations
  - b. Strong School Statement
  - c. Optional recommendations ONLY if they shed light on you in a way that no-one else can
5. **VISITS/ INTERVIEWS/DEMONSTRATED INTEREST**
  - a. A strong interview can help your application
  - b. Some schools are now considering whether or not you have visited, contacted them or interviewed as a significant factor in your application

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# Freshman College Planning Checklist

## Why start now?

College seems far away but you need to start thinking seriously about it now. Your 9<sup>th</sup> grade academic record and extracurricular involvement will become a part of your college application. You don't want to get off to a poor start and jeopardize your chances of getting into to your top choice colleges later.

## What are the most important things?

- € Take challenging courses.
- € Keep your grades up.
- € Get help when needed.
- € Review your grades and classes with your college counselor to make sure you are on track for college admissions.
- € Check-in regularly with advisors to track your academic progress and overall grade point average.
- € Read a lot.
- € Get involved in meaningful extra-curricular activities.
- € Don't blow off your summer.
- € Begin creating a college resume in Naviance including:
  - Any awards and honors you receive
  - A list of community agencies and clubs you join and positions held
  - A list of paid and volunteer jobs
- € Visit colleges.
- € Consider taking SAT II

## College Profile Case Studies

- Case Study #1 – African American, Female, Low SES, Very Competitive College, Solid Financial Aid Package

Cum GPA: 3.19  
Test Scores: CR 450, M 550 Combined: 1000  
Involvement: Church- Usher, Youth Board; CCSC – Mock Trial, Volunteer – Lunch Distribution

- Case Study #2 – Multi-Racial, Female, Low SES, Competitive State College, Solid Financial Aid Package

Cum GPA: 2.45  
Test Scores: CR 470, M 530 Combined: 1000  
Involvement: Soft Ball, Captain, grades 9-12

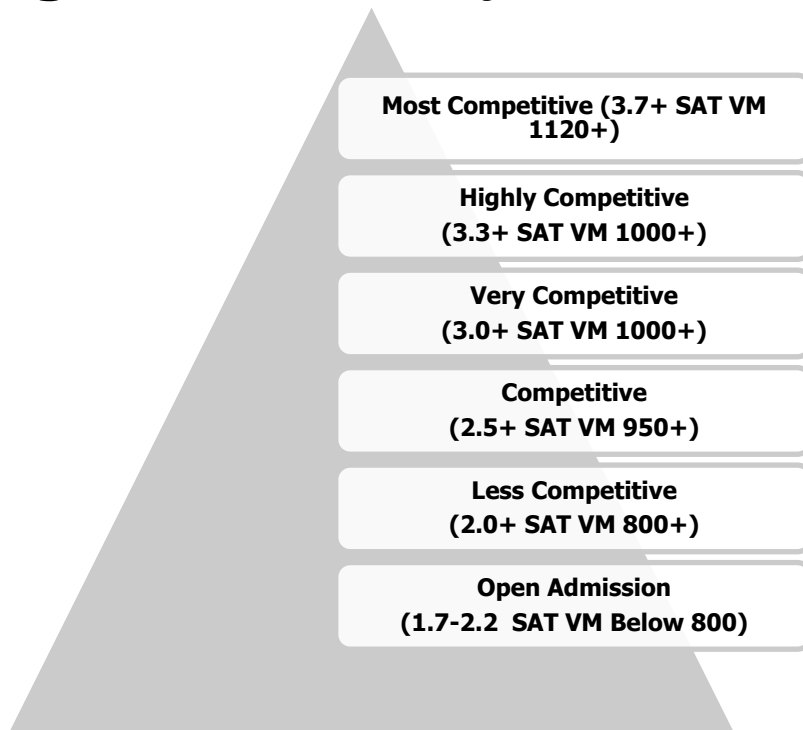
- Case Study #3 – African American, Female, Low SES, Less Competitive 2 YR Private, Weak Financial Aid Package

Cum GPA: 2.2  
Test Scores: CR 490, M 400 Combined: 890  
Involvement: Church-Chorus, CCSC – Chorus, Prom Committee Chair, Volunteer Breakfast Distribution, Employment- Youth After-School Program

- Case Study #4 – African American, Male, Low SES, Most Competitive Private College, Solid Financial Aid Package

Cum GPA: 3.93 (4 AP Courses)  
Test Scores: CR 620, M 700 Combined: 1320  
Involvement: Robotics, ACE (Engineering Program), Male Mentoring Program, Writing Center Volunteer

## CCSC College Admission By GPA + Test Scores



### Sliding Scale for Freshman Applicants to UMass

<b>Weighted High School GPA</b>	<b>Combined SAT-I V&amp;M Must Equal or Exceed (ACT Equivalent in Italics)</b>
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> )

**NO APPLICANT WITH A HIGH SCHOOL GPA BELOW 2.00 MAY BE ADMITTED TO A STATE UNIVERSITY OR UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS CAMPUS**



## FREE & Low-Cost SAT Prep

### Summer Courses:

- Yleana Summer Academy - The Yleana Leadership Academy consists of three core components: a comprehensive SAT program, an advising program to help students write effective college essays and think through collegiate and societal questions, and a leadership program focused around entrepreneurship.
  - June 28-July 19, 2014 at Colgate University in Hamilton, NY
  - July 19-August 9, 2014 at Colgate University and Siena College in Loudonville, NY
- Let's Get Ready - Free or refundable deposit, Various Greater Boston area locations - [www.letsgetready.org](http://www.letsgetready.org) (Grades 11-12)

### Web-Based

- Click on the links below to get started:
  - <http://www.collegeboard.org>
  - <http://www.actstudent.org>
  - <http://ineedapencil.com/Index.aspx>
  - <http://www.number2.com/>
  - <http://www.freesat1prep.com/>
  - <http://www.majortests.com/sat/>
  - <http://www.freevocabulary.com/>
  - <http://www.satexamprep.com/>
- College Board Official Online Course - \$81.00
- ACT Online Prep - \$21.95

### Books

- College Board SAT Study Guide - \$18.00
- The Real ACT Guide - \$30.95



# Junior College Entrance Testing Night

February, 4, 2014

## Secondary School Transcript

STUDENT NAME:

Grade: 99 Birth Date: 05/25/1993 Gender: M

Date of Entry: 08/31/2005 SASID:

CEEB Code: 220489

245 Bent Street  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02141  
(617) 354-0047 Fax: (617) 354-3624 www.ccsccambridge.org

	S1	CREDIT	S2	CREDIT	Y1	CREDIT	GRADING SCALE												
							Letter Grade	Numerical Equivalent	Standard	Honors	AP								
None Community Charter School of Cambridge																			
Academic Enrichment			P	0.00															
Academic Enrichment			P	0.00															
Advisory	P	0.00	P	0.00			A+	98-100	4.3	4.8	5.3								
Drop Everything and Read	A	0.00	A	0.00			A	94-97	4.0	4.5	5.0								
Applied Geometry	A+	0.50	A+	0.50			A-	90-93	3.7	4.2	4.7								
Humanities 9	A-	1.00	A	1.00			B+	87-89	3.3	3.8	4.3								
Physics	A	0.50	A-	0.50			B	83-86	3.0	3.5	4.0								
Spanish 2	B	0.50	B+	0.50			B-	80-82	2.7	3.2	3.7								
None Community Charter School of Cambridge																			
Algebra 2 / Trigonometry	A	0.50	A	0.50			C+	77-79	2.3	2.8	3.3								
Advisory	P	0.00					C	73-76	2.0	2.5	3.0								
Drop Everything and Read	P	0.00					C-	70-72	1.7	2.2	2.7								
Enrichment	P	0.00					F	Below 70	0	0	0								
Enrichment	P	0.00																	
Applied Physics & Engineering	A	0.50	A+	0.50															
Humanities 10	A*	1.00	A*	1.00															
Spanish 3	A-	0.50	B+	0.50															
Wellness & Movement	P	0.00	P	0.00															
None Community Charter School of Cambridge																			
Academic Enrichment	P	0.00																	
Advisory	P	0.00																	
Biology - Advanced	B+	0.50	B+	0.50															
English Literature AP	A-	0.50	A-	0.50															
History: US 2	A*	0.50	A-	0.50															
Pre-Calculus	A-	0.50	A-	0.50															
Spanish 4	B	0.50	B	0.50															
None Community Charter School of Cambridge																			
Studio Art	B+	0.50	B-	0.50															
Calculus AP	B-	0.50	C	0.50															
Chemistry	A-	0.50	C+	0.50															
English Language and Composition AP	A-	0.50	B	0.50															
History: Modern World	A	0.50	A-	0.50															
Total Credits Earned:		35.5																	
Cumulative GPA:		3.79																	
Graduation date:																			

### CLASS RANK

CCSC does not rank its students.

### GPA

Grade Point Averages are calculated for core academic courses only and are weighted for AP and Honors Distinction courses. Courses given Honors credit are indicated with an asterisk\*.

Humanities counts twice given that is a combined English/language arts, history, and social studies course and it meets for a double period.

Single semester courses count for 1/2 credit.

Unless taken under dual-enrollment agreement, we do not reflect grades earned at other institutions on our transcript. We include copies of the other institutions' transcripts.

~ Symbol indicates that course was retaken during summer school.

### Required Non-Core Courses

DEAR (Drop Everything and READ)  
WAM (Wellness and Movement)  
Advisory  
Enrichment

## Minimum Graduation and College Admissions Standards

<p><b>CCSC Minimum Course Load</b></p> <p><u>Graduation Requirements</u>          Successful completion of a minimum of 16 credits in Grades 9 through 12 as follows:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">Humanities</td> <td style="text-align: right;">4 credits</td> </tr> <tr> <td>English</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2 credits</td> </tr> <tr> <td>History</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1 credits</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mathematics</td> <td style="text-align: right;">4 credits</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Science</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3 credits</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Spanish</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2 credits</td> </tr> </table> <hr/> <p>Credits              16 total</p> <p><i>Note: The Spanish requirement is waived only for students with documented disabilities that significantly impede their ability to acquire or use language.</i></p> <p>Each course (except Humanities) is worth 0.5 credits per semester and 1 credit for a full year. Each Humanities course is worth 1 credit per semester and 2 credits for a full year since Humanities is a combined English/language arts, history, and social studies course and meets for twice the time as single credit courses.</p>	Humanities	4 credits	English	2 credits	History	1 credits	Mathematics	4 credits	Science	3 credits	Spanish	2 credits	<p><b>Massachusetts State Colleges and Universities</b></p> <p><u>Minimum Admissions Requirements</u></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">English credits</td> <td style="text-align: right;">4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mathematics credits</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Science (2 Lab-Based) credits</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Social Sciences credits</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Foreign Language credits</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Electives credits</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2</td> </tr> </table> <hr/> <p>Credits              16 total</p> <p><b>Highly Selective Admissions/CCSC Maximum Course Load</b></p> <p><u>Minimum Admissions Requirements</u></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">English credits</td> <td style="text-align: right;">4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mathematics credits</td> <td style="text-align: right;">4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Science (2 Lab-Based) credits</td> <td style="text-align: right;">4</td> </tr> </table>	English credits	4	Mathematics credits	3	Science (2 Lab-Based) credits	3	Social Sciences credits	2	Foreign Language credits	2	Electives credits	2	English credits	4	Mathematics credits	4	Science (2 Lab-Based) credits	4
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## How Parents/Guardians Can Help

- Make your home a place where it is easy to learn. Limit distractions (cell phone use, hours watching television, playing video games, etc.)
- Schedule a quiet homework or reading time every day.
- Hold high (but reasonable) expectations. Except NO EXCUSES. Don't enable; Empower.
- Model the value of learning, self-discipline, and hard work.
- Encourage your child's involvement in extra-curricular activities
- Be your child's advocate.
  - Ask questions
  - Check powergrade frequently
  - Be in regular contact with child's teachers, advisor and counselors.
  - If the student seems over-stressed, or if there are personal issues affecting the student's ability to concentrate. Seek help from the guidance counselor.

## FREE & Low-Cost SAT Prep

### **Summer Courses:**

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### Freshman College Program Overview

#### 9<sup>th</sup> Grade SWBATs

- Understand why college is important.
- Understand that their 9th grade academic record and extracurricular involvement will become a part of their college application.
- Understand that getting off to a poor start can jeopardize their chances of getting into to their top choice colleges later.
- Understand the importance of extra-curricular involvement.
- Start or join at least one club or organization.
- Develop a system to keep track of extracurricular activities, leadership positions, community service, honors, awards, summer experiences, and jobs.

#### College Prep Services

Pathways to College Orientation

(Advisory-Based) Early College Awareness Workshops

CCSC Alumni Panel

Out to College Day

Teenlife Community Service Fair

Phillips Exeter Academy Summer Opportunities Fair

Utilize the Naviance Resume feature to begin a tracking system for honors and activities.

Register for SAT Subject Tests (If Applicable)

Freshman Parent College Planning Night (June 4th)