

The Senior Scoop

NOVEMBER, 2016

A Publication of the Counseling Department at Monson High School Just for Seniors



Do's and Don'ts for Online Applicants

- Do... visit the the admission website and print a paper copy of the application to use a reference and to know exactly what you will need to gather before you start your application. Walk through each step of the application so you are well prepared for what is to come.
- Do... create a user name and password that you'll remember easily. Record it and keep it in a safe place.
- Do... disable pop-up blockers in order to view the part of the application that displays in pop-up windows.
- Do... use the correct browser. Most online applications functions only with the latest versions of Internet Explorer, Chrome or Firefox (which you can usually download from the application site itself). The online applications are highly secure; so older browser versions are not usually equipped to handle the necessary level of encryption.
- Do... follow directions and complete all steps. On each page be sure to scroll to the bottom of the page and the bottom of each pop-up to avoid missing any information. More than likely you will get an error message if you have failed to complete a required question.
- Don't... forget to save your work. You usually have no more than 40 minutes per Web page before you'll be timed out. Whenever you save an entry or move to a new page, your work is usually automatically stored, but if you plan to leave your application for any length of time - to go grab a snack or answer the phone - use the save/logout feature to store your application.
- Don't... compose your personal statement online. Take time to compose it in a word-processing application, such as Microsoft Word, save it as a text file, and then copy and paste it into the appropriate boxes online.
- Do... print out copies of your personal statement to cross-check your work with your counselor/advisor or an instructor.
- Do... carefully review the summary page. Look for any instance where it says, "no information added," and if you didn't intend to leave that area blank, click "modify" to return to the step where you can fill it in.
- Don't... be afraid to ask for help. If you have technical difficulties, don't be afraid to ask the "Help Desk," "Technical Support," or use the "Contact Us".
- Do... click "Submit Application" when you've finished. Your application won't be sent to the University until you do.
- Do... print out your receipt and keep it! You will have a record of your application id number and a complete summary of your application.

Important Financial Aid Update for 2016-17

The 2016-17 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) can now be completed online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. This is new from previous years when it could only be completed after January 1. Also new this year is that the tax year information will be pulled electronically from the prior-prior year which means from the 2015 calendar year for students applying for the 17-18 school year.

One advantage of the electronic form is that there are built in safety features to help avoid making common mistakes or omitting critical data. The FAFSA should be completed no later than February 1.

The College Scholarship Services' Profile® form is available online at the College Board's web site, www.collegeboard.org. The form is only required at schools listed on the application and should be completed by January 15.

Please be careful if using a third party to help you complete these forms. There are many scams out there, so you should proceed cautiously. If you do need help, contact the Counseling Office for assistance or the financial aid office of the school to which you are applying. If you feel that you must secure professional help in completing the forms, please make sure that you know the person and agree upon a set fee up front before entering into an agreement.



November Scholarship Listing

- Most Valuable Student Scholarship** **November 30, 2016**
 Any high school senior who is a U.S. citizen may apply for an MVS scholarship. For details and to complete an application, visit www.enf.elks.org/mvs.
- Boston University Trustee Scholarship Competition** **December 1, 2016**
 Must attend Boston University. For more information please visit: www.bu.edu/admissions/trustee.
- 2016 GE-Reagan Foundation Scholarship Program** **January 5, 2017**
 This national program awards college scholarships to high school seniors who embody the characteristics of President Ronald Reagan at school, in the community, in the workplace, and at home. Apply online through www.reaganfoundation.org/scholarships or <http://facebook.com/GEReaganScholarships>.
- The National MS Society Scholarship** **January 18, 2017**
 Individuals who have MS or have a parent with MS are eligible to apply as long as they meet all of the eligibility criteria found at: www.nationalmssociety.org/scholarship.
- Massachusetts Elks Scholarship, INC.** **February 1, 2017**
 The program offers grants to students demonstrating financial need, scholarship aptitude, and good citizenship. Please see Guidance to obtain an application.
- Henry David Thoreau Scholarship** **February 1, 2017**
 The Henry David Thoreau Foundation selects Massachusetts' high school seniors interested in environmental studies to receive up to \$20,000 for tuition to the college of their choice. Please visit: www.thoreauscholar.org for more information and to submit your application.
- Big Y Scholarship** **February 1, 2017**
 All Big Y scholarships recognize **academic merit and achievement**. They are awarded to the most academically outstanding students in the **Big Y market area**. Applications can be printed from the Big Y website: www.bigy.com. Under the Services then the community tab. The scholarships are located at the bottom of the page.
- Wace National CO-OP Scholarship Program** **February 15, 2017**
 To qualify for this scholarship, students must: Have a high school GPA of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale or better; Apply and be accepted for the 2017-2018 academic year at one of the WACE Partner Institutes. Please see application for participating Colleges & Universities. To obtain an application, please visit www.waceinc.org.
- Zonta International Young Women in Public Affairs** **March 17, 2017**
 A \$1000 scholarship opportunity to a young woman between the ages of 16 and 20 as of April 1st, and who lives in the Quaboag Valley. This scholarship seeks to recognize a student who demonstrates a commitment to her community, exhibits leadership ability, and shows global awareness. You may download an application at <http://www.zontaqv.org>.
- B. Davis Scholarship** **May 22, 2017**
 This Scholarship is available to all high school juniors and seniors as well as all students currently registered in any post-secondary institution. For more information please visit <http://www.studentawardsearch.com/scholarships.htm>.

Nov. College Rep. Visit Schedule

- November 8 Suffolk University – 8:30
- November 8 College of the Holy Cross – 9:30
- November 15 Sacred Heart University – 12:00
- November 18 Lasell College – 1:00



Department Directory

- Mr. Bardwell (Last Names A-F)
bardwellr@monsonschools.com
- Mrs. Sorel (Last Names I-Z)
sorelk@monsonschools.com
- Mrs. Gouvin, School-to-Career Coordinator
gouvinj@monsonschools.com
- Mrs. Maloney, Social Worker
maloneym@monsonschools.com
- Mrs. Goodrich, Administrative Assistant
goodrichd@monsonschools.com