

MERCY STREET

studio



SENIOR PREP GUIDE

THE ULTIMATE



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THE FUTURE BEGINS NOW



Senior year is a season that comes exactly once, and we have spent the last 15 years making sure Seacoast seniors get to remember it exactly as it felt.

Our team has photographed over 1600 seniors and we have never once gotten tired of it. Every session is different because every senior is unique. Our very favorite thing is finding ways to showcase every senior as an individual.

We have chased golden hour light from rocky shorelines to downtown alleyways. We have been waist-deep in the ocean, waded through wildflower fields, squeezed into horse stalls, and stood on tarmacs, all because a senior had a vision and we were not going to be the ones to say no. In fact, we love your ideas, whether they're big or small - we love bringing whatever vision you have for your session, to life.

This guide is our way of making sure you walk into your session feeling ready, excited, and completely at ease. Read it, pass it to a parent, bookmark the parts you want to come back to. Then show up, be yourself, and let us take care of the rest.

We truly cannot wait to meet you.

Erin, Cathi, & Lia

Senior Photography Team
Mercy Street Studio





THE ULTIMATE YOU



**NO GUESSES.
NO FINE PRINT.**

Here's what your Ultimate Session includes:

- A Pre-Shoot Consultation
- Two hours of photography
- Multiple locations
- Unlimited outfit changes
- A proofing gallery delivered within 3 days (you choose the ones we edit!)
- Sibling, best friend, and family shots included at no extra charge (up to six people total).
- A sneak peek on social media within 24 hours of your session (if you want one)
- A pre-session prep guide (you are reading it right now)

HOW IT WORKS.

- You'll arrive at The Crown - A Hair & Makeup Boutique (in South Berwick) with clean/dry hair at your appointment time. This will be 1-2 hours before your shoot.
- We meet at your shoot location at your shoot time (around 2 hours before sunset).
- We take pictures of you (it's fun), we give you lots of guidance and posing/unposing tips so your photos look natural and effortless.
- The next day we post a sneak peek because you'll be dying to see at least one shot from your session :-)
- Within 3 days we'll email you the link to your proofing gallery.
- You will have one week to choose the images you want us to finalize. You'll choose your digital package:
 - 15 digital images: \$469
 - 20 digital images: \$529
 - 50 digital images: \$699
- Once you purchase your digital images we'll get to work on edits and they'll be ready for you to download within a week.





Fashion First.



START WITH YOUR OUTFITS. EVERYTHING ELSE FOLLOWS.

How many outfits:

- 3-6 (ish)

What photographs well:

- color, patterns, textures, layers
- yes to the above. read it again.
- clothing that fits well & feels good
- clothing that you love
- clothing that allows you to sit/move
- clothing that flows
- if you loved your prom gown, bring it

What to leave at home:

- large logos
- neon or extremely bright colors
- strapless tops (looks too naked in headshots)
- anything you haven't tried on
- anything that doesn't feel like you
- clothing with stains, wrinkles, missing buttons, broken zippers.

Details that matter:

- wear the right undergarments: nude/flesh colored, bras that fit and straps that work with your outfits.
- "Nike pro" shorts under dresses are great and helpful for changes and movement.
- jewelry and accessories
- freshly done nails (fingers & toes).



IF YOU AREN'T INTO FASHION: JUST BE YOU. WEAR WHAT YOU WEAR. WEAR WHAT YOU LOVE.
YOU ARE PERFECT AS YOU ARE.



ON LOCATION



SEACOAST LOCATIONS WE LOVE:

- Rocky shorelines, sandy beaches.
- Portsmouth: Gardens, waterfront, cafes
- Waterfront forts
- Flower patches and fields
- Downtown: Dover, Portsmouth, Kittery
- Your marina/boat/golf course/school
- Places that mean something to you (your own backyard, a favorite trail)

If you have somewhere in mind, tell us.
We'll give you our honest opinion.

LET YOUR OUTFITS LEAD THE WAY.

Once you have your looks figured out, your location choice gets a lot easier. A flowy boho dress calls for a different backdrop than a blazer and jeans. A session built around your love of horses needs a different setting than one built around your love of the ocean. Want to be in heels, don't choose the beach. Start with what you are wearing, then build outward.

THREE THINGS TO REMEMBER:

1. We look at locations differently than you do. You might not see potential in something we can make magical.
2. Locations with good lighting is important. Trust us on this.
3. No matter where we go, you are the subject. The location is just the frame.





some portraits are better with the people who got you here

(they don't have to stay for the whole thing)



Senior sessions are about you, but the people who love you are part of your story too. Including them costs nothing* extra and creates some of the most treasured portraits.



*SESSION FEE INCLUDES UP TO 6 PEOPLE





Your Signature Shot

LET'S MAKE A PHOTO THAT IS UNMISTAKABLY YOU

What makes a great Signature Shot:

- Your sport: cleats, stick, glove, racket, jersey, ball, puck
- Your instrument: the guitar, trumpet, drums
- Your art: a sketchbook, a canvas, the ceramics wheel, the darkroom
- Your passion project: your camera, your beekeeping suit, your medals
- Your animal: your dog who has been there through all of it

If it matters to you, it belongs in your session.



Family and signature shots do not take over the session. Your classic portraits are still the main event. We save the last few minutes specifically for this, and the result is something completely different from anything else in your gallery.

Think of it as the exclamation point at the end of the sentence.

THE PRE-SHOOT CHECKLIST

FOR THE PLANNERS, THE PROCRASTINATORS, AND EVERYONE IN BETWEEN.

A little prep goes a long way toward a relaxed, confident session day.
Here is everything you need to do and when to do it.

One Week Out

- ☐ Hair appointments (give it a few days to settle before your session)
- ☐ Try on every outfit, sit in it, and look in a full-length mirror
- ☐ Steam or press anything that needs it and hang it up
- ☐ Choose jewelry and shoes for each look
- ☐ Give us a heads-up if your location ideas or outfit plans have changed
- ☐ Optional: Think through your Signature Shot; let us know what you're bringing

The Night Before

- ☐ Review outfits (leave on hangers) & pack everything else in a bag
- ☐ Confirm your session time and location/meeting details on email.
- ☐ GPS the location so you know what time to leave
- ☐ Drink plenty of water & get a good night of sleep
- ☐ Remind your forever people what time to show up (if applicable)

Day-Of Bag

- ☐ All outfits, hung or neatly folded
- ☐ Shoes for each look (not needed for beach sessions)
- ☐ Touch-up makeup, lip gloss, or whatever you normally use
- ☐ A brush or comb
- ☐ Props or gear for your Signature Shot
- ☐ A water bottle





AFTER THE SESSION

SNEAK PEEKS
GALLERIES &
ORDERING

The session is done, the golden hour is gone, and you are probably already looking at your phone hoping we snuck a shot onto Instagram. Here is exactly what happens next.

The 24-hour sneak peek.

Within 24 hours(ish) of your session we will post a sneak peek on our social media. Follow us at @mercystreetstudio so you do not miss it, and tag us when you share it. We will cheer you on.

Your proofing gallery.

Ultimate seniors get to choose from a large gallery of unedited images - this is one of the most exciting parts! You choose the images you want us to edit!



Choose your digital package.

Your gallery stays open for a week. That gives you and your family plenty of time to go through everything and decide what you love. You'll purchase your digital package and then we'll get to work on editing them. You'll have them within 7 days from your purchase date!

Need a little more time?

We can extend your gallery for an additional two weeks for \$25. Just let us know before it closes and we will take care of it.





Good Questions



What if it rains on my session day?

If there is severe weather, we reschedule at no charge, no drama, no lost fees. Light clouds or a little wind? Totally workable and honestly sometimes magical. We will make the call together **on the day of your session.**

How long is the actual session?

Typically one hour for hair & makeup, then two hours for photography, outfit changes, and travel between locations.

Will I have to know how to pose?

No. Not even a little. Directing you is literally our job and we are very good at it. We will walk you through every moment. Just show up and move naturally. Our superpower is making people feel at ease. Nerves are normal; they go away fast.

My senior is nonbinary, LGBTQ+, neurodivergent, disabled, non-traditional, etc...

We are a safe space for every person. We love you as you are, we'll try to use your preferred pronouns and adapt to whatever your needs and preferences are during your session. Just let us know. We love you.

Can I print the pictures on my own?

Once you purchase your digital images, they are yours to print and share.



THAT'S IT.

THE ONLY THING LEFT TO DO
IS SHOW UP AND HAVE FUN.

**FEEL FREE TO
REACH OUT IF YOU
HAVE QUESTIONS.**

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