



Bishop Ludden Junior/Senior High School

College Planning Handbook 2011-2012

*815 Fay Road
Syracuse, New York 13219*

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Bishop Ludden exists to further the mission of Jesus Christ by teaching and proclaiming the Gospel, according to the tenets and sacramental life of the Roman Catholic Church.

Through our educational ministry, we promote, develop, and appreciate the sacredness of the whole person. We are called to provide a curriculum and school environment which fosters spiritual growth, moral development, academic excellence, critical thinking and life-long learning.

Through the educational process, we instill in our Catholic school community the need to serve as:

- people who evaluate our world in light of the vision of Jesus Christ
- stewards of the earth and its gifts
- active, informed participants who collaborate in creating a world based on peace and justice

We do this as an Eucharistic Community, in partnership with our parents, parishes and Church, and the civic community.

Bishop Ludden Jr.-Sr. High School

815 Fay Road

Syracuse, NY 13219

www.bishopludden.org

JUNIOR YEAR COLLEGE TIMELINE

SPRING

- Register for Spring ACT and SAT (it is highly recommended that each student take at least one ACT and one SAT test before the end of their junior year)
- Take the ACT and SAT
- Tour several college campuses
- Student/parent conferences with School Counselor (Complete Course Selection)
- Start resume
- Continue to research and explore universities that match students' preferences
- Get familiar with the common application website (set up a login) www.commonapp.org
- Review sources of financial aid
- Prepare for and take AP exams in May
- Solidify summer internships, employment, or academic enrichment programs

SUMMER

- Visit colleges you are serious about attending
- Narrow your list of college choices
- Further investigate college majors and careers
- Continue preparation for Fall college testing (SAT, ACT)
- Revise resume and explore essay topics
- **Check deadlines** and application requirements for schools where you may apply then compare then with Bishop Ludden deadlines
- Relax!

SENIOR YEAR COLLEGE TIMELINE

FALL

- Student conference with school counselor to narrow college choices
- Prepare checklist to include deadlines, application requirements, receipt of test scores, etc.
- Decide if student will apply Early Action, Early Decision or Regular Decision
- Visit with college admissions representatives during their scheduled visits to Bishop Ludden
- Attend Bishop Ludden's College Fair on **Wednesday, September 28th, 2011**
- Continue to tour college campuses (Sign-up for Counseling Office College Tour)
- Schedule interviews with (and write thank you notes for) colleges if appropriate
- Ask faculty to write recommendations, give them at least three weeks to complete
- Finalize college essay and resume and have teachers, counselors or parents proof-read
- Complete and submit college applications
- Submit College Information Sheet with secondary school reports/counselor form and transcript money to School Counselor
- Continue ACT or SAT testing
- Investigate scholarship possibilities available at colleges and **be aware of deadlines**

WINTER

- Apply for FAFSA Pin #
- Complete FAFSA online after January 1
- Complete CSS Profile or school-specific financial aid forms if required
- Be aware of financial aid deadlines and requirements
- Complete outside scholarship applications
- Notify School Counselor of acceptances and updates with colleges
- Arrange auditions, portfolio reviews, or scholarship interviews

SPRING

- Examine financial aid packages
- Prepare for AP exams
- Decide and submit deposit to your school of choice by May 1st
- Write letters to decline offers from colleges that you will not attend
- Notify School Counselor of your final decision so that transcripts may be sent
- Plan for graduation

THOUGHTS ABOUT THE COLLEGE SELECTION PROCESS

The college application and admission process can seem daunting when you first begin; however, your school counselor is there to assist you with this process. By June of 2012, you will be ready for all the excitement and educational opportunities that college will offer.

In addition to thoughtful planning, there will be a great deal of important paperwork to complete and deadlines to meet. **Good organization is the key.** You, your family, and your School Counselor will work together to identify which colleges to investigate, your chances for admission at each, and how you can most effectively present yourself to the institutions to which you apply.

Know both **yourself and the colleges.**

- The first step involves an in-depth look at your desires, needs, strengths, and talents. You should make an honest appraisal of your academic strengths, weaknesses, and performance. Also, assess your extra-curricular activities, interests, and goals.
- The second step involves researching colleges in order to match your academic strengths, learning style, and extracurricular goals with the characteristics of over 2,000 colleges in the USA and Canada. You have the choice of which college to attend and be sure to have made informed decisions about the schools you are applying to.

Keep the college process in perspective:

- While choosing a college is an important decision and a wonderful opportunity, it is not the most important choice you will ever make in your life. There are many schools where you could be happy and do quite well.
- This should be a time for you to enjoy learning about yourself and the possibilities for your future.

Choosing colleges to apply to can be confusing, but with personal knowledge and helpful guidelines, you will be able to gather information and make appropriate selections for yourself. Your discussions with your parents and Counselor will assist you in deciding where to apply. Despite all that you might be led to believe, there is not just one "perfect college" for you. It is likely that there will be several appropriate colleges for you to seriously consider. It is our hope that you will approach the college search process with an open mind and a positive attitude so that you might consider all the possibilities that will be available to you.

HOW COLLEGES SELECT THEIR STUDENTS

Colleges all have their own methods of selecting the students that they admit, but these six criteria are the factors they look at. They are called the “Big Six.” The first three of the Big Six are factors evaluated by all colleges; the more selective colleges evaluate the second three. The emphasis placed on these factors varies at each college and some may place more emphasis on one than the other. There is no intent to rank these in order of importance.

"THE BIG 6"

1. Grade point average (**GPA**).
2. **SAT** and/or **ACT** test scores – some colleges require SAT Subject Tests.
3. A strong **college preparatory curriculum** or the **strength** of your curriculum compared to others in your high school.
4. **Extracurricular activities** that emphasize depth of involvement, and leadership– this information is included on the application or resume.
5. **Essay(s)**. Some colleges challenge you to develop a well-written, intellectual essay; while others ask you to write a personal statement to better define you. Some colleges ask you to do both.
6. **Counselor recommendations** and **teacher recommendations** if needed. Some colleges ask for a counselor or school recommendation. Some ask for teacher recommendations. Some colleges do not require recommendations.

WHO AND WHAT INFLUENCES YOUR CHOICE?

In order to make the best decision, it is important to identify and understand what and what might influence your decision. A good way to begin identifying your influencers is to imagine that you are in the middle of a decision surrounded by some common influence factors.

CAREER GOALS – A certain career or college major may limit the number of available colleges.

PARENTS – Parents may set limits on range, cost of college, type of college, or other factors.

PEER PRESSURE - Students sometimes choose to go to the same college as friends and classmates.

SPECIAL INTERESTS – An interest in Art, Music, Dance, Drama and/or Athletics may influence your college choice.

OTHER PEOPLE'S EXPECTATION – Relatives, school personnel, and friends sometimes want certain things.

STATUS OF COLLEGE – There are various rankings of colleges and assumed quality. Is the "status" important?

LOCATION OF COLLEGE – How far from home? Location could significantly limit your choices.

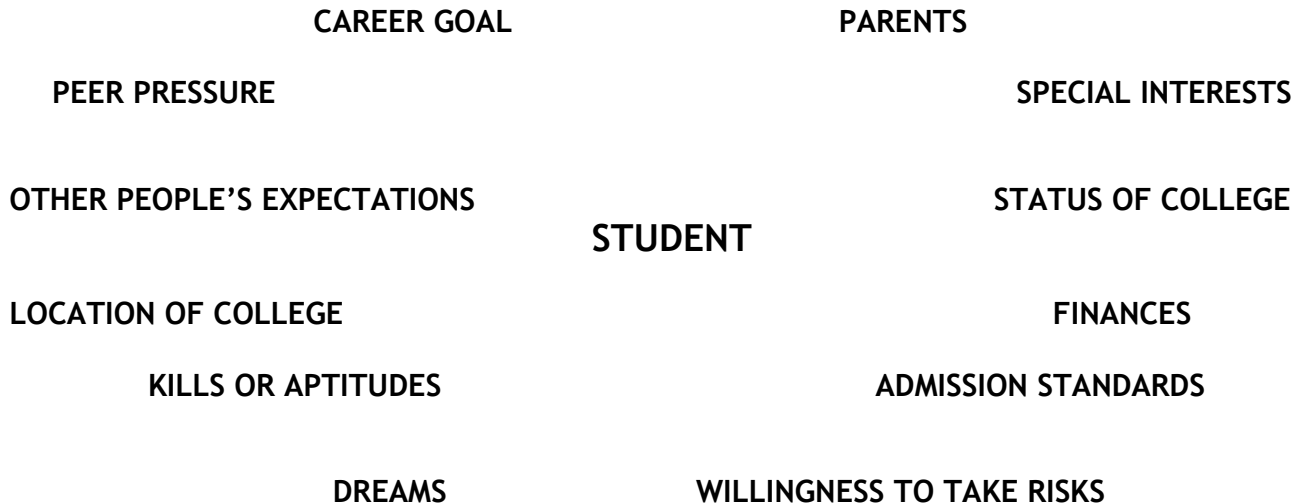
FINANCES – Will the cost of the college be an important factor in your selection?

SKILLS OR APTITUDES – Will a particular skill whether athletic, artistic, musical affect the choice of college?

ADMISSION STANDARDS – Admission standards above your grades and test scores may limit your choice.

DREAMS – Some students have had a "dream" school for years.

WILLINGNESS TO TAKE RISKS – Are you willing to take a risk such as going far away, going to a different type of college than most, or a new type of environment?



Look at the illustration above and think about your own situation. Take a moment to consider and circle those influencers that may be affecting your choice. Are there additional influencers that may affect you? Add them to the illustration. Put an asterisk next to the top five influencers you will have to deal with in your choice

10 TIPS FOR PARENTS

1. Don't judge a book by its cover. Seniors are more apprehensive than they look. Touchiness may mask anxiety about "getting in" or leaving friends and family.
2. It is not where they go that matters: it's what they do when they get there. With the possible exception of a few schools (less than 20), what college students do with the opportunities at their colleges (over 2,000 to choose from) is more important than what particular school they attend.
3. Let your child get more in charge of the future. Over-leading the college search and college decision process robs your teenager of an opportunity to take a giant step toward adulthood. Be a gentle coach. Keep a calendar of due dates.
4. Adolescents are just like people. They benefit more from compliments than criticism, particularly during transitions. And like people, they resist being controlled or judged. Talk to your senior showing the same respect you give your best friend. Get help if arguments are frequent or fierce.
5. Letting go is over- and under-rated. The emotional recipe for launching teenagers is to gradually let go of your responsibility for your child's decisions and behavior, while holding on to accountability and promoting warm, age-appropriate connections. Negotiate for a few firmly-held rules, and one family connection per week.
6. You still need to "be there." The way to "be there" for your child as college draws near is not to disappear, nor to engulf your son/daughter with last-minute lessons about life and hold on too tightly. Be watchful for signs of serious substance abuse, depression, or eating disorders.
7. Checkbooks and computers are important. Children launching to college need as much education about managing money and using computers as they do about managing alcohol and sex. Moreover, be frank about what you are willing to pay for college.
8. Parenting is not over. Your children are not really leaving home forever, and your job as an active parent is not over. Mothers and fathers are critical anchors to adolescents as they go off to college. Divorced parents need to work together to support new college students emotionally and financially.
9. E.T. was right: phone home, don't come home. The best cure for students' homesickness is not to come home, but to get involved in college life, and use the phone and e-mail to stay connected. The best cure for parents' kid-sickness is not for you to call your child every day, but to get focused on new dreams.
10. What empty nest? The empty nest is a thing of the past for most mothers who have had multiple roles, but it may be a new reality for fathers who have been active co-parents. The first few weeks or months may feel sad, but focusing on new projects for mid-life helps a great deal. So does working on relationships, and building new connections to adult kids.



SEARCH STRATEGY

Searching for and then applying to colleges is an exciting time of your life. Done well, it gives you the opportunity to learn a great deal about yourself, while exploring the many possibilities open to you. While there are some aspects of the college search that you have little control over, **there is so much that is in your hands**. Some ways in which you can maximize both the learning process and outcomes of the college search:

***You** are the one who will be going off to college – not your parents, your teachers, your neighbors, or anyone else. **Take ownership of this process, and engage in it.** The best way to get started is to ask yourself some honest questions about what your values, talents, needs, and goals are. You need to gain a realistic perception of your credentials (grades, test scores), your values, talents, needs, and goals. You will need to develop some personal criteria to differentiate between colleges. Recently, a dean of admissions at a highly selective college stated that “students who take a thoughtful approach to the search, and who construct a college list that makes sense in terms of ‘match,’ are often seen as more compelling candidates”. This type of match means your list has consistency in the type of colleges you are considering. You might be considering urban universities, small liberal arts colleges, large state universities, Catholic colleges, or colleges in a rural setting.

Various Strategies exist and are personal to your style and goals.

Traditional: For years School Counselors have suggested that students apply to about six colleges that fall equally into three categories: Reach, ‘Possibles’, and Safeties. **Reach** colleges are those that admit students with grades and test scores above your own or colleges that accept 20% or fewer of all qualified applicants. **Possible** colleges are those at which you have a good chance of acceptance, and **Safety** colleges are those that accept students with grades and test scores the same as or below your own.

Well Researched: Some students do extensive research, visit all the colleges on their list, and confer with many people about their considered colleges. These students have a good idea of what the results of their application will net in terms of acceptance and scholarship. These students tend to apply to fewer colleges and colleges that have a sound consistency in terms of type.

All Safeties: Some students “cut to the chase” and apply only to schools that they know they will be accepted into. For some, the aim is to get scholarship money and by applying to these safety schools for admission, they feel confident that they will be offered scholarship money.

Selective Programs or selective colleges: Students who are seeking very selective programs within colleges such as the BS/MD medical programs will file multiple applications in an attempt to secure one or more acceptances. The same strategy holds for those applying to the most selective colleges. Frequently these students will not do college visits to all these schools until they receive their acceptances.

One and Out: Some students do extensive research and limit their applications to one or two colleges. These students may apply using Early Action or Early Decision. The comfort is an easier application season and early knowledge of where they will be studying. It is important for the one and out students to be aware of the financial implications of their choice.

HOW TO DECIDE WHICH COLLEGE IS FOR YOU

What type of college are you considering?

A **University** is an institution made up of various colleges. The colleges in a university are semi-autonomous with specific graduation requirements in addition to general graduation requirements of the University.

A **College** generally has majors that are housed in one academic group. Some colleges call themselves a "Liberal Arts College" in which they declare that their purpose is to provide a sound general education resulting in a well-rounded, educated person ready to take on the challenges of the adult work world.

Career Specific or Specialty schools exist for students who are focused into a specific career field such as: colleges specializing in art, culinary, performing arts, dance, and/or business

How far from home are you willing to go?

Some students limit their choice by area of the country or number of driving hours from home.

Are you more interested in a state supported, private, or a private Catholic college?

Private – are generally smaller and more expensive since they receive no direct state aid and are one price regardless of where you live.

Public in New York - There are over 50 public Colleges in NY that are less expensive due to state funding.

Public outside of New York – Public universities outside of New York have a surcharge for NY students.

Catholic Colleges – Private colleges administered by various orders of Priests, Brothers, or Sisters

Is the locale or the physical setting of the college important to you?

Urban Campus – These campuses are in cities, sometimes with no defined campus such as Cleveland State, George Washington, New York University. Others, located in cities, have a defined campus such as Syracuse University, University at Buffalo, or the University of Rochester.

Suburban Campus – These campuses are in the suburbs of cities such as St. John Fisher, Cazenovia College, Daemon College and Nazareth College.

Small Town – These campuses are located in rural or small town areas such as Geneseo, Brockport, Clarkson University and Alfred University.

Easy Access to Major Metro Area – This category puts you in a campus within 40 miles of a major metro area. If this criteria is interesting to you check how easy the access is using public transportation, or if the college provides vans for periodic shuttling.

Go to [CollegeBoard.com \(http://collegesearch.collegeboard.com/search/index.jsp\)](http://collegesearch.collegeboard.com/search/index.jsp) to conduct a detailed search.

What impact will the cost of the college have on your choice?

When comparing costs, compare like expenses such as "Tuition, Room and Board". Also learn about financial aid and scholarships to determine what the actual out of pocket expense will be.

- Tuition and fees are the cost of the classes.
- Room and Board represents the cost of your residence hall room and a meal plan.
- Additional costs are books, fees, technology fees, transportation, laundry, and spending money.

How important is the quality and style of the residence halls on campus to you?

Some colleges have the traditional two person rooms with community bathrooms. Some colleges can also offer suite style residence halls. As you are considering residence halls, evaluate other new areas on campus such as upscale cafeterias, modern recreation centers, or new classroom buildings.

Will your career choice or college major choice affect what college you attend?

You may need to confine your list of colleges to those having your major. Understand that some majors at a college may have more stringent admission standards than others. At some colleges, you apply to the college or university in general, at others you apply for a certain major at the college.

Do you want to attend a small, medium, or large college?

Size can be considered by the number of students enrolled and/or the acreage of the campus and number of buildings. College visits are necessary to determine how the size of the college will affect your desire to attend. Size Ranges – Small: under 2,000; Medium: 2,000 – 7,500; Large: 7,500 - 15,000; Extra Large: over 15,000.

Will the number and type of campus activities have and affect on your choice?

The breadth of activities offered at the school may become a part of your search. You may want a school that offers an Art Club, a strong campus ministry program, or an organized volunteer program. Other activities may be various types of club sports, music or artistic groups, ethnic group clubs, outdoor programs, or spectator sports and their influence on life on campus.

What about the academic programs at colleges?

Colleges have different academic environments and you may want to consider matching your learning style to what is common at the colleges you are considering. Consider if there are special academic programs such as study abroad programs, exchange programs with neighboring colleges, research opportunities, or available internships. Consider if the college calendar run by semesters or quarters. Ask yourself how competitive you want the academic programs to be. Investigate what opportunities exist for tutoring if you might need help.

Are you interested in playing a sport in college?

Sports at a college can be intramural sports that are played within the college for recreation. Colleges list what intramural sports they offer. Check: <http://www.ncaa.org/sponsorships/> Interscholastic sports at colleges have various affiliations.

NCAA Division I college sports are the most competitive and the schools offer scholarships to recruit athletes. Sports at the Division I level are more intense and demand a significant time commitment.

NCAA Division II college sports are at a slightly lower level and are allowed to offer fewer total scholarships. Many cover only a part of the educational costs.

NCAA Division III colleges do not offer scholarships for athletic talent; however, they recruit athletes to play.

NAIA (National Association for Intercollegiate Athletics) colleges are generally smaller and do offer scholarships for athletic talent.

Student-athletes considering intercollegiate sports need to “study up” on the rules and regulations for recruiting and scholarships for sports. At the end of the junior year, student-athletes interested in participating in college athletics need to complete the NCAA Clearinghouse Form online at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net. Create a profile online and pay the fee. Bring the appropriate forms to the Counseling Office to request that your transcripts be sent to the Clearinghouse in order to be approved for NCAA Division I or Division II athletics.

“Random Considerations”

- What does the campus “feel” like? Can you see yourself at the college for four years?
- What is the atmosphere on campus? Competitive? Cooperative? Intellectual? “Preppy”? Non-conformist? Socially aware? Experimental? Artistic? Do you see your values represented?
- Is there a “party” atmosphere on weekdays? How serious are students about their academic endeavors?
- Is the campus available to nearby internships or cooperative educational opportunities?
- What kind of entertainment is available on or off campus? Is it accessible to movies, concerts, dancing, music, plays, exhibits, lectures, cultural activities, or athletic events??
- How safe is the campus? Security Measures? Blue-light phones? Escort Service? Campus Police? Do you feel comfortable in the setting of the campus?

COLLEGE MAJORS

College of Arts and Science

The College of Arts and Science at a university is similar to majors offered at a liberal arts college. Some of these majors are studied because a student has a love for the academic subject. Other majors are studied as preparation for a graduate or professional program. As an example this may be Biology major in the College of Arts and Sciences at a university.

Business Administration

Business majors intend to begin their careers in business as managers, administrators, accountants, sales reps, marketing specialists, finance, information or operational specialists, computer experts, etc. Often business majors have flexibility in their career track (e.g. an accountant can become a CEO.). Students go to colleges of business within universities or go to a liberal arts college and major in business, finance, or economics. Some students go to a career-focused or specialty college in business.

Communications and Journalism

Some universities have separate colleges of communication and/or journalism while others have a major in the College of Arts and Sciences, or at a Liberal Arts College. The field of communication is quite comprehensive with students majoring in print journalism, broadcast journalism, public relations, or public policy, mass media, etc.

Design, Architecture, Fine Arts, Music

The major component of success in these fields is talent. Some students study along a performance track, while others intend to teach in their field of expertise. Some students study for these careers in colleges at a university, while others at a liberal arts college having a specific major. Some study at art institutes, or schools specializing in music or art. Architecture is offered at a select few colleges.

Education

Teachers either graduate from colleges of education at a university or major in the liberal arts with the intent to get a teaching graduate degree. Some universities have five-year teacher education programs for certification. Students attending college out of state need to check reciprocity agreements from state to state in regards to teacher certification.

Engineering

Engineers design or improve the design of products, equipment, and systems. Students study engineering in a college of engineering at universities, while others begin at a liberal arts college in what is usually called a 3+2 program. Look for cooperative programs at colleges and check into the quality of the laboratory equipment the engineering students have to work with. Engineering technology programs train people in a more “hands on” environment.

Pre-Professional Majors

Pre-Professional majors will need graduate work to become licensed to practice. There are no prescribed undergraduate majors to gain admission to these graduate programs. Some colleges have specific 'pre' majors while others advise the student to choose an appropriate undergraduate major. Many students prepare for professional schools at liberal arts colleges. Some of these pre-professional programs are in Pre-Medical, Pre-Dental, Pre-Veterinary, Pre-Law, etc.



Health Careers

Physicians - College graduates seek admission to medical schools that usually take 4 years plus residency experiences. Pre-med is an advising situation and not a major. Students usually major in biology or some other science as undergrads. There are special programs students may find appealing. A six-year medical program directly from high school exists at certain colleges. There are other programs that guarantee a spot in medical school as long as the student progresses satisfactorily. An example of this is the University of Cincinnati Medical School combined programs. There are also similar Programs at University of Rochester, and George Washington University.

Nurses – An expanding opportunity field as the RN work force is aging. Some programs are “direct entry” with nursing courses in the first year, while other programs begin with a pre-nursing year requiring admission at the end of the first year.

Specialties –These include Radiological Technicians, Physician Assistants, Physical Therapists, Pharmacists, Dental Hygienist, etc. Specialties can require a Doctorate degree (e.g. Physical Therapy). These programs can be direct entry from high school at some colleges, or can require a pre-program followed by an additional admission program.

Social Work or Sociology

Some universities have a separate College of Social Services or a major in social work in the College of Arts and Science. There is certification and licensure necessary to be employed. Internships can be helpful in obtaining the first position.

Specific Career Training

Students can choose to attend a college or choose a major that is very specific to a certain career field. Examples of specific career training are at schools of culinary arts, business, aviation, environmental programs, computer science, or a specific technology. Specific career training could be found in a major at a college or a university, while at other times it will be at a specific career school.



Internships (Career Exploration) and Cooperative Education

Colleges offer internship opportunities in which the college assists the student in finding temporary placement (either paid or not paid) in a specific career field. Internships are usually part-time during the school year or on summer break. Cooperative Education is a similar job-training program but is usually full-time during an academic term instead of regular class attendance. Cooperative Education usually results in additional time to earn a degree. Work experience or volunteer hours in your major should assist in obtaining your first job.

INFORMATIONAL INTERVIEWING



Talking to people in your potential career field just makes sense. Consider supplementing that secondhand knowledge with informational interviewing -- the ultimate networking technique for all students. *Networking* is the process of discovering and *utilizing connections* between people. Genuine networks stem from friendships or business relationships.

What is an informational interview?: A highly focused conversation with someone in your intended career field who can provide you with key information you need to launch your career.

Why conduct an informational interview?: To see what the career is like from someone actually doing the job, not just reading about it in an article or on the internet.

- You can learn about the realities of the work world and what to expect.
- You may discover opportunities that are available in a given field, including jobs and career paths you may not have thought of or known existed.
- Your dream career can be affirmed and turn out to be everything you thought it would be.
- On the other hand, the career you thought always wanted may turn out to be wrong for you.
- If you are unsure about which career path to follow, you can obtain the information you need to choose. Or you might narrow a wide field down to a specific niche.
- You can glean information you need to strategize entry into your chosen career.
- You gain access to information that not many other entry-level candidates will have.

Proposed Questions for your informational interview:

- What are the duties performed during a typical day? Week? Month? Year? Does s/he have a set routine? (As the person describes the duties, ask what skills are needed). How much variety is there on a day-to-day basis?
- What kinds of courses are most valuable in order to gain skills necessary for success in this occupation?
- What sort of education does the individual have? What is their job title?
- Which skills are most important to acquire? (i.e. - which skills do employers look for?)
- What are the main or most important personal characteristics for success in the field?
- What other kinds of workers frequently interact with this position?
- What are the employment prospects in the advisor's geographic area? Where are the best employment prospects? What are the employment prospects at the advisor's company? Is mobility a necessary factor for success?
- What are some related occupations?
- What are the different salary ranges?
- What are the demands and frustrations that typically accompany this type of work?
- How can you determine that you have the ability or potential to be successful in this specific occupation?
- Is this a rapidly growing field? Is it possible to predict future needs for workers in this field?
- What has been the individual's career path from college to present?
- What are the satisfying aspects of the advisor's work?
- What are the toughest problems and decisions with which the advisor must cope?

SAT AND ACT TESTS

Bishop Ludden High School/CEEB (College Entry Examination Board) Code: 335448

This number will be needed for all test registration forms and for college applications. If you give this number when requested on forms, your scores will be sent to Bishop Ludden Jr Sr High School. Scores are helpful in predicting admissions to schools.

Sign-up packets for Fall 2011 testing dates will be in the Counseling Office in August, you may also register online at www.collegeboard.com

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT COLLEGE TESTING

- **What is a “good score” on the ACT or SAT?**

The ACT has a scale of 1-36; the average score in New York for the Class of 2009 was 23.1. The SAT has 3 sub-scores on a 200-800 scale. The 2010 national average SAT score for the Critical Reading test was 501, the Math national average was 516, and the Writing Skills national average was 492. Different colleges have different standards: what is acceptable for one may not be acceptable for another. College literature, guidebooks, and college web sites give average ACT and SAT scores for colleges. Most colleges still use just the critical reading and the math scores (out of 1600), however more colleges each year are using all three scores (out of 2400).

- **Why do school counselors recommend that a student take both the SAT & ACT?**

The SAT and ACT are different tests measuring different skills. Depending on your particular strengths and weaknesses, students may perform better on one test than the other.

- **What is the difference between the ACT and SAT?**

In general the ACT is a content-based test, whereas the SAT is more of a critical thinking skills and problem solving test.

- The ACT includes a science test; the SAT does not.
- The ACT math section includes trigonometry.
- The SAT tests vocabulary much more than the ACT.
- The SAT is not entirely a multiple-choice test. There are student produced math questions.
- The SAT has a guessing penalty, you lose $\frac{1}{4}$ point for incorrect responses; the ACT does not.
- The SAT requires the essay at every testing, while the essay is optional for the ACT. It is recommended that students take at least one ACT with the optional writing.

- **Why do colleges require an entrance exam, and how do they use its results?**

Standardized test scores provide an “equalizer” for colleges as they make decisions. High schools offer differing levels of academic preparation. A “B” in one course at one high school might be much harder to earn than an “A” in a neighboring high school. In addition to determining admissibility, colleges use ACT and SAT for placement, to award course credit, for academic advising, in talent search programs, and for awarding scholarships.

- **How do colleges receive a student's test scores?**

- ACT and SAT scores can be sent to four colleges when registering for the tests.
- Additional score reports to colleges can be sent by submitting a request online or by phone for an extra charge.
- Scores are on a test record card which is a part of a student's high school transcript,
- Some colleges demand that scores be sent directly from the testing agencies.
- Check with the schools individually

- **Should Students Take Multiple ACT and SAT tests?**

Students and parents question the advisability of taking the ACT and SAT a second or third time. ACT and SAT testing companies conducted a survey and discovered that re-testing results in higher scores about 50% of the time. If you decide to take a test multiple times, it is beneficial to do some practice on your own before the exam. Colleges utilize the best score that they receive from a student regardless of the number of tests taken. For the SAT, colleges will usually take the highest score from each of the sections: CR-M-W. For the ACT, colleges use the composite score only.

SAT Subject Tests

Subject Tests are a product of the College Board (the same company that produces the SAT tests). They are required or recommended by many selective colleges. Consult college bulletins or their websites and your school counselor if you are unsure if a certain school requires the tests. These tests are very specific to subject content taken by students in school courses. Since the SAT and the Subject Test are administered on the same day, students need to plan their testing schedule carefully.

Advanced Placement Tests (AP)

Advanced Placement Tests are a product of the College Board. High Schools follow a prescribed curriculum for courses that mimic college courses. AP tests are given at Bishop Ludden High School each May. The scores on these tests may determine if a student will be granted college credit or better placement in college courses. Each college handles AP test results differently, and students should check with the individual school for specific policies.

SAT SUBJECT TEST INSTITUTIONS

Subject Tests are either recommended or required by some colleges. Check the admission materials of the colleges to determine their admission procedures and the number of tests required of their applicants. Check the college information to see new policies. The list below is a representative sample of the schools that have an interest in the Subject Tests. Some listed require the Subject Tests and others may recommend them. **Consult the college website or ask your School Counselor if a particular college requires or recommends the SAT Subject Tests.**

American University	Johns Hopkins University	U of Southern California
Amherst College	Lafayette College	University of Texas, Austin
Babson College	Lehigh University	University of Virginia
Bard College	Macalester College	Ursinus College
Barnard College	Mass. Institute of Technology	Vanderbilt University
Bates College	McGill University	Vassar College
Beloit College	Mills College	Wake Forest University
Bennington College	Mount Holyoke College	Washington and Lee University
Boston College	New York University	Washington U in St. Louis
Boston University	Northwestern University	Webb Institute
Bowdoin College	Oberlin College	Wellesley College
Brandeis University	Occidental College	Wesleyan University
Brown University	Pomona College	Whitman College
Bryn Mawr College	Princeton University	Williams College
Bucknell University	Reed College	Worcester Polytechnic
California Institute of Tech	University of Rochester	Yale University
Carnegie Mellon University	Rice University	
Case Western Reserve U	Scripps College	
Claremont McKenna	Skidmore College	
Colby College	Smith College	
Colgate University	St. Lawrence University	
College of the Holy Cross	Stanford University	
College of William and Mary	Swarthmore College	
Colorado College	Trinity College (CT)	
Columbia University	Tufts University	
Connecticut College	Union College	
Cooper Union	U of California, Berkeley	
Cornell University	U of California, Davis	
Dartmouth College	U of California, Irvine	
Davidson College	U of California, Los Angeles	
Duke University	U of California, Merced	
Franklin Olin College of Engineering	U of California, Riverside	
George Washington University	U of California, San Diego	
Georgetown University	U of California, Santa Barbara	
Goucher College	U of California, Santa Cruz	
Hamilton College	University of Chicago	
Harvard and Radcliffe Colleges	University of Delaware	
Harvey Mudd College	U of Mary Washington	
Haverford College	University of Notre Dame	
Hollins University	University of Pennsylvania	
Ithaca College	University of Rochester	

ACT / SAT TEST PREPARATION

There are two primary ways students prepare for the ACT and SAT.

- Attend a professional test preparation course conducted by Kaplan, Princeton Review or Sylvan Learning Centers. Students who take professional courses must dedicate themselves to independent work on their own after the course is over.
- Prepare privately using books, computer software, practice tests, and flash cards. For comparison we take into account those students who tell us that they prepare extensively using material on their own.

Internet Resources:

www.actstudent.org

www.collegeboard.com

www.princetonreview.com

www.march2sucess.com - the Army's free test-prep site

www.petersons.com

www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/prep_one.html - offers free SAT Question of the Day, SAT practice tests and a review of the SAT essay

www.collegeboard.com/myroad *note: student will need code from PSAT test results to sign in.

Print Resources:

The Official SAT Study Guide by the College Board

Test Prep Books published by the Princeton Review, Kaplan, etc.

SAT Prep Classes

Huntington Learning Center

1-800-226-5327

Princeton Review

1-800-443-7737 www.princetonreview.com

Sylvan Learning Center

315-487-2611 www.sylvanlearningcenters.com

Onondaga Community College (OCC)

315-498-6000

RESUME FORMAT

School Counselors assist students in the preparation of a resume. In most cases, seniors will be able to use a resume for college applications and scholarship applications. Most online applications provide a way to upload your resume into the application. Sometimes the college wants you to do it "their way". "Their way" supersedes "our way".

We suggest the following:

1. Save your resume on your home computer so it can be continually updated.
2. Limit your resume to no more than two pages.
3. Use functions such as font size and margins to control length.
4. Use "**bolding**" to highlight sections.
5. Underline key points.
6. Make sure your email address is appropriate. For instance, using your last name or your initials. Creating an email account only for college correspondences is a great option.
7. The quality and depth of your involvement is more important than a long list.

The counseling office recommends an annotated resume that has short explanations that better describes the depth of your involvement. It also describes the activity to someone not familiar with local terminology.

Type your name and contact information at the top of the sheet, centered as follows:

Larry Ludden
DOB (date of birth)
815 Fay Road.
Syracuse, NY 13219
315-123-4567
larryludden@hotmail.com

Sample annotations:

Varsity Lacrosse, grades 11, 12 - Lacrosse is a spring sport which demands 3-4 hours a day for practice and games from March to May.

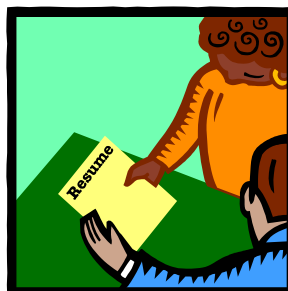
Sunday School Teacher, grades 9 thru 12 - I am responsible for planning the lessons, teaching, and attending team meetings once a month.

Group your activities to best describe you and what you have accomplished. Such as:

In-School Activities, Out-of-School Activities, Community Service, Awards and Achievements, Work Experience, Extra Curricular Activities, Achievements and Awards, Service Projects, or Enrichment Experiences. Use ONLY the categories that pertain to you.

*An alternate resume is one that is set up in spreadsheet style.

{Examples can be found in the Counseling Office}



THE COLLEGE OR SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY

Seniors usually write college essays as an early assignment in English class. However, it is important to brainstorm and do a practice essay over the summer.

An important part of the college application at some colleges is the essay and/or personal statement. Some colleges provide questions for students to answer while others leave the topic open-ended.

- Most outside scholarships require an essay.
- Essays should give pertinent personal information to aid college/scholarship admissions committees in their decision making process.
- Students should use their best writing skills/style to make themselves “shine.”
- The length should be between one and three pages.
- Answer the question in a clear, personal, and **original** manner.
- If you are able to choose the topic, write about something that is sincerely important.
- The essay is a chance for the college to hear your “voice.”



WHEN YOU WRITE YOUR ESSAY....

- Save your essay(s) on your computer. This way you can modify and re-use it.
- **Start early.** Leave plenty of time to revise, reword, and rewrite, and have someone proofread
- Focus on an aspect of yourself that will show your best side. You might have overcome some adversity, worked through a difficult project, or profited from a specific incident. A narrow focus is more interesting than are broad-based generalizations.
- Consider the three “Common Application” topics as early practice possibilities. (1) Evaluate a significant experience or achievement that has special meaning to you; (2) discuss some issue of personal, local, or national concern and its importance to you; (3) indicate a person who has had significant influence on you, and describe that influence.
- Feel comfortable in expressing anxieties. Everybody has them, and it is good to know that you can see and face them.
- Speak positively. Negatives tend to turn people off. Complaining is unwise.
- Write about your greatest assets and achievement. You should be proud of them! You can “brag” as long as you do it with grace.

DO NOT...

- Repeat but expand on information given elsewhere on your application.
- Regurgitate your resume
- Write on general, impersonal topics. **The college wants to know about YOU.**
- Sacrifice your essay to excuse your shortcomings.
- Use clichés, slang, or contractions.

THE CAMPUS VISIT

A visit to the college or university is a **MUST** to determine if the school meets your needs and future goals. The campus visit is probably the most important activity to help you decide which college to attend. Here are some tips to arrange the campus visit:

- CALL the Admissions Office 3-4 weeks in advance to request a campus visit.
- When calling to schedule your visit and appointments: Write down name of person scheduling and conducting the appointment.
- Have a particular DATE and TIME in mind, but be flexible.
- Plan to meet with an Admissions Staff member and take a tour of the campus. The interview is often a chance to share information and have questions answered. You may take an unofficial copy of your transcript and a resume to help the interviewer get to know you.
- Weekday visits are preferable to weekend visits, especially if you want to speak with professors or sit in on classes. The campus is also generally more alive on weekdays.
- If you plan to stay overnight, request a listing of hotels/motels and restaurants in the area.
- Summer is a good time for campus visits; however, you may want to return in the fall when classes are in session. {Bishop Ludden gives (3) excused absences for college visits.}
- Some colleges have scheduled tours in the summer months.
- Colleges sponsor Open Houses, Visitation Days, Football Weekends, etc, which are an opportunity to learn and explore.
- Conduct research by reading college brochures or websites prior to the campus visit.
- Note any questions you may want to ask or things you may want to look for.
- Take notes shortly after you leave in order to remember key impressions.

THE CAMPUS TOUR

Visiting college campuses provides you with an opportunity to see the campus grounds, facilities, and residence halls. Wear comfortable shoes and clothing. Pay attention to:

- Upkeep of the grounds...Does the school take pride in the look of the school?
- Condition of buildings/labs/classrooms...Are they in need of repair?
- New construction/renovation...always a good sign!
- Faculty Office Hours...is faculty accessible to students?
- Athletic/Fitness facilities or intramural programs?
- Residence halls...security? In good condition? First-year students only?
- Sororities/Fraternities...their role on campus?
- Library...wireless? Adequate holdings for research projects?
- Bookstore...is it well-stocked and easily accessible?
- Counseling and Health facilities...available and adequate?
- Career Services...evidence of job postings and interviewers on campus?
- Information and Ride boards...variety of activities going on?
- Dining halls...? Reports from students? Try the food for yourself, if possible!
- Read the campus newspaper to see what issues are important to the students.
- Read bulletin boards.
- Approach students randomly and ask why they chose this particular college, and how they like the college now.
- Do you feel comfortable on campus and would you be happy to call it home for 4 years?

THE INTERVIEW

Some colleges require or suggest a formal campus interview. Some colleges have local alumni that volunteer to interview applicants. This is a time to share information and have questions answered. Arrive on time or a few minutes early. Dress neatly but conservatively. Speak clearly, assume a good posture, and look at the interviewer. Be prepared to discuss your academic profile: GPA, ACT/SAT scores, curriculum and your college major choice. Be prepared to tell why you chose this school and what you hope to gain during your four years there. Learn as much as you can about the college you are interviewing for. Consult the list of questions to ask college admission counselors to formulate your personal questions to ask. Review these questions that may be asked in the interview:

- How did you first hear about our college?
- How familiar are you with this college and its programs?
- What accomplishments/activities have had a significant impact on your life?
- What are your academic strengths/weaknesses?
- What is the most significant contribution you have made to your school/community?
- What books or articles have made a lasting impression on your way of thinking?
- What might you be interested in as a future profession?



QUESTIONS TO ASK A COLLEGE ADMISSION COUNSELOR

1. What majors does this college offer? What are the three most popular majors?
2. What is the teacher / student ratio?
3. Are there special services for students with learning disabilities?
4. What is considered when deciding to admit a student?
5. Does the college have an athletic program? What NCAA division?
6. Does the college have a health and fitness center on campus?
7. How competitive are the academic programs?
8. Does the college recognize AP courses and what is the policy for granting credit?
9. How many courses or credits are required for graduation?
10. What is the college calendar? Quarters? Semesters? Trimesters?
11. Do most students graduate in four years?
12. How safe is the campus? What security policies are in place? Are emergency phones readily available?
13. What type of residence halls are available for in-coming first-year students?
14. Does the college provide housing for all four years?
15. Does the college have an honors college or special academic programs?
16. Do you have a co-operative education program or formalized internships available?
17. What is the cost of attending including room, board, and tuition?
18. Are there part-time job opportunities on campus for students, not on financial aid?

19. What percentage of students attend graduate schools?
20. Are there opportunities for study abroad?
21. What is the geographic composition of the student body?
22. How accessible is your faculty to the students?
23. Are there transportation facilities on campus?
24. Does the campus have ample computer labs or wireless capability?
25. Do students bring their own computers, and are the residence halls wireless?
26. Describe the churches or chapels available on or near campus.
27. Is there a campus ministry program for a student like me?
28. Describe your extracurricular programs.
29. Describe your setting: weather, location, size, campus layout, and neighborhood.
30. How do I schedule an appointment for a tour and interview?
31. Do you prefer the ACT or SAT? Do I need to take the SAT Subject Test?
32. What is the retention rate of your students after the first year?
33. Do you have health / medical facilities on or near campus?
34. What programs exist for an "undecided student"?
35. Is personal counseling available?
36. Is there a job placement office on campus for seniors? What percentage obtain jobs after graduating?
37. Is tutoring available for all students?
38. Are first-year students permitted to have cars on campus?
39. Must one join specific organizations to be a part of campus life?
40. Are there sororities and fraternities and what percent of students are "Greek"?
41. How will this college change in the next two to five years?

ADMISSION DECISION DEFINITIONS

REGULAR DECISION is a plan in which the college sets a deadline for completing applications, and responds on a specific date. The dates for application deadlines and notification are listed in the literature or website of the college. You may apply to as many colleges as you want, and you are not required to make a decision regarding enrollment before May 1.

ROLLING ADMISSION is a term used to describe the application process in which an institution reviews applications as they are received. Admission decisions are made as soon as complete applications are in the Admission Office. Colleges send admission decisions anywhere between two weeks and two months after a completed application is on file. You may apply to as many colleges as you want, and you will be required to make a decision regarding enrollment May 1.

EARLY ACTION permits you to apply to a college of your choice and receive a decision early in the senior year without any obligation to attend. A common Early Action deadline is November 1. You are not committed to attend, and you may apply to other colleges. You are not required to make a commitment before May 1, but you are encouraged to do so as soon as a final choice is made.

EARLY DECISION requires that you commit to a college or university at the time of application. A common Early Decision application deadline is November 1. You should apply under an Early Decision plan only if you are absolutely sure you want to attend that college. If admitted you must enroll unless your financial aid package is inadequate. You may submit only one Early Decision application.

WAIT LIST is a process by which the college neither admits nor denies the applicant but extends the possibility of admission in the future. The college admission staff might eventually offer admission to wait listed candidates if sufficient numbers of regularly admitted candidates do not accept the offers of admission. Students may be offered admission as late as in the summer, but frequently never receive an offer of admission.

DEFERRED or SECOND REVIEW describes a process in which the college has delayed a decision on admission. In some cases the college asks for more information, particularly first semester senior year grades and recent test scores.

MAY 1 DATE – May 1 of the senior year is the date that colleges have adopted as a Universal Acceptance Date. By May 1, you must submit your non-refundable deposit to the one college you choose to attend. Some colleges ask for a housing deposit prior to May 1 but this should be advertised as a refundable deposit.

ADMISSION POLICIES

Admission Policies range from open admission colleges to the most selective colleges. Open admission colleges basically admit all high school graduates. There are some selective programs at open admission colleges that may require more competitive standards. At the most selective colleges the competition for admission is intense for even the most outstanding students. Special talent, legacy, and athletics are beneficial. Students are denied with even the most outstanding credentials. Examples of the most selective colleges are Harvard, Stanford, Rice, Notre Dame, Yale, Cornell, and the other Ivy League schools. Admission policies at the rest of the colleges fall somewhere between open admission and the most selective. One barometer of the selectivity of the college is to determine the middle 50% range of the ACT/SAT scores of the enrolled students.

COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCEDURES

1. Prepare a checklist of colleges to where you will apply and note application and scholarship deadlines.
2. Complete the college application either on the college's website, through the common application website or in a paper form (see below).
3. Submit \$3/per school and one College Information Sheet/per school for an official transcript to the Counseling Office and ask your School Counselor to have your transcript and Secondary School Report/Counselor Report Forms sent to the college (see deadlines on the following page).
4. Request teacher recommendation(s) if necessary (give teachers 3 weeks notice to complete). Advise them to hand recommendations into the Counseling Office when they are completed.
5. Send official ACT or SAT scores directly from testing agency, if necessary

College Applications Using a the College Website

- Most college applications are sent electronically from a computer. Some colleges actually require an online application. Use the college's application on their website, or use the common application (see below) and submit the application electronically.
- After submitting the application online bring in \$3.00 for an official transcript, along with any supplemental forms that the college may require, to the Counseling Office (see deadlines on next page).

The Common Application (www.commonapp.org)

- The Common Application is very efficient and enables students to apply to multiple colleges using the same form. There is a list on www.commonapp.org of the colleges that accept the Common Application.

- Colleges that utilize the Common Application frequently require a Supplemental Form that needs to be included. There is a link on the Common Application website to obtain the Supplemental Form.

The SUNY Application (<https://www.suny.edu/student/oas/welcome.do>)

- The SUNY application is an efficient way to apply to any State University in New York (up to 6 SUNY schools with 1 application). There is also a paper version that will be available in the Counseling Office in late August. The fee is \$40 per school.

Paper Applications

- Some students prefer to apply using a paper application. Students should complete and mail the application form, application fee, and any other supporting documents (resumes or essays) directly to the college or university.
- After submitting the application by mail, bring \$3.00 for an official transcript along with any special forms to your School Counselor

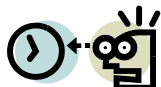
Secondary School Report or Counselor Report/Recommendation Form

- This is the form you bring to the counseling office.
- You should fill out the identifying information on the top of this form. Bring \$3.00 to request an official transcript, fill out a College Information Sheet and give the forms to your counselor.
- Due to the volume of applications processed, you must turn in to the office all school report forms and requests/information sheets for transcripts two weeks prior to application deadlines.

Teacher Letter of Recommendation

- It is the responsibility of the student to obtain teacher recommendations.
- Students must request *in person* a letter of recommendation from a teacher and request that they hand it in to Mrs. Heffron upon completion.
- Students must provide teachers a copy of the Student Profile Form (this can be picked up in the Counseling Office).
- Allow at least 15 school days (3 weeks) to process the request.

Deadlines



Colleges and Scholarships have specific deadline dates that are most important. **Seniors are responsible for meeting these deadlines.** In order for your School Counselor to respond to your transcript and supplemental forms requests, these internal deadlines **NEED** to exist:

Transcript and Forms Requested:

October 18
November 2
November 8
December 1

Transcript and Forms mailed by:

November 1
November 15
November 23*
Christmas Break**

***If you need to meet a December 1st deadline, transcript money and counselor forms must be to your School Counselor by November 9th.** Because Thanksgiving falls late in November, the Office must have all forms sent out by November 23th to meet the December 1 deadline.

****In order to guarantee mailing by Christmas vacation, all transcript and forms requests must be to your School Counselor by December 1st.** If you need to meet a January 1 application deadline, you should get your transcript request into the office by December 1st.

Beginning in January, your School Counselor is able to respond to requests within one week.

Points to Remember:

- Nov. 1 is the Early Action / Early Decision date for most colleges. Notify your School Counselor no later than October 18th.
- Be aware that many colleges have a **Dec. 1st** deadline for **scholarship consideration**. You need to have your forms into your School Counselor by Nov. 8th to meet a Dec. 1st deadline.
- **Be aware that many colleges have a Jan. 1st deadline. All forms must be into your School Counselor by December 1st to guarantee a Jan. 1st deadline.**

COLLEGE FAIRS

The following college fair is recommended for additional insight and information:

Wednesday, September 28th, 2011 – 6:30-8:30pm

Location: Bishop Ludden Jr Sr High School

- Some fairs prepare a listing of colleges for you to review before you attend.
- Some fairs prepare a floor plan so you can locate the colleges you are interested in first.
- If time permits, visit tables of colleges you know nothing about – you may be pleasantly surprised.
- Come prepared with a pen and pad to take notes.
- Complete the postcard or sign-in sheet they provide in order to receive information by mail.
- Talk to the representatives but do not monopolize their time.
- Bring a large, sturdy carry bag with you to collect materials.
- Bring copies of your resume to hand out
- Dress appropriately!

PAYING FOR COLLEGE

Financial Aid Information Session (By College Funding Services)

October, 2010 – Date TBA

Bishop Ludden High School

Financial Aid based on Need

There is a system in place to determine the family's ability to pay for college. This system uses a form (FAFSA) that asks the income and assets of the student and parents. The result of filing the FAFSA form produces a number that is called the "**expected family contribution**," or the **EFC**. The college receives that EFC dollar amount and subtracts it from the cost of the college. The difference is referred to as "**eligibility for financial aid**." The college prepares a "financial aid package" outlining what assistance you can expect to receive. You can estimate your "eligibility for financial aid" by using the estimators available online. One such website is www.finaid.org and search on the word "calculators".

There may be three forms used to determine the family's ability to pay:

- **FAFSA** (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is the main form for entry into the financial aid based on need system. Most colleges use only the FAFSA form for financial aid. It is filed in January of the senior year and reflects income from the prior year. The FAFSA website is www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- **CSS PROFILE** This form is used by some colleges to dispense their own money to students who need it the most. Generally speaking, the most selective and most expensive colleges use the CSS PROFILE form in addition to the FAFSA. There is a list of colleges that participate in the program available in Guidance, but the most accurate source is the college's own website. The Profile is at www.collegeboard.com.
- **COLLEGE FORMS** Some colleges ask you to file a separate form indicating your desire to file for financial aid. Look in the material provided by the college or on the college website to see if your college asks for a separate form.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The biggest source of scholarship money is from the college that you will attend. Colleges use their scholarship money as a means to attract good students. Scholarships are awarded for academic merit, to leaders, community service volunteers, and students with exceptional talent in art, music, or athletics. If you would like to receive a scholarship, make scholarship availability a part of your search process and selection criteria. In general, you will be more competitive for academic scholarships if you are in the top 25% of the students who apply to that college.

How to apply for scholarships

- Frequently your application for admission is your scholarship application.
- Some scholarships require a separate form. Search the college website to see if an application form is required.
- "Outside scholarships" require a separate application. These are scholarships offered by companies, industry, ethnic groups, clubs, associations, or local community groups. Listings of these scholarships are kept up to date in the Counseling Office.

How to search for scholarships

- The college website
- Websites such as www.fastweb.com or www.finaid.org.

TRANSCRIPTS FOR SCHOLARSHIP PURPOSES ARE FREE, REQUEST THEM FROM THE COUNSELING SECRETARY

ONLINE RESOURCES

College Websites

The best college information can be found on the colleges' **individual websites**. These websites include the majors offered, scholarships, admission criteria and other pertinent information. Colleges frequently have an **on-line application** on their websites also.

ACT and SAT Websites

- www.collegeboard.com - On this website students register for the SAT test, Subject Tests, and for the CSS PROFILE (a financial aid form used at some colleges). In addition, you can search colleges, learn about financial aid, and get general college information.
- www.actstudent.org On this website students register for the ACT tests. In addition, you can search colleges, learn about financial aid, and get general college information.
- Professional Test Preparers have their own websites for you to check out. They provide additional information, but their main goal is to sell test preparation classes and books. Some are: www.princetonreview.com– Princeton Review
www.kaplan.com– Kaplan Testing Service

Financial Aid, Scholarship and College Information Websites

- www.finaid.org – the best financial aid site, scholarship search links.
- www.fastweb.com– excellent scholarship search.
- www.collegeview.com - college search website with additional information.
- www.collegenet.com - college and scholarship search with direct links to college.
- www.petersons.com - college search with other college information, good links to colleges.
- www.usnews.com - results of the magazine's college rankings, click on Best Colleges.
- www.anycollege.com - college and scholarship search tool
- www.gocollege.com– college and scholarship searches, plus download full size SAT tests.
- www.xap.com – college search website.
- www.collegeanswer.com - scholarships, loans education, managed by SallieMae.
- www.studentloanfunding.com– scholarship search and loan info.
- www.scholarships.com – scholarship search
- www.fafsa.ed.gov – federal government financial aid website. FAFSA filed online
- www.pin.ed.gov - Personal Identification Number for FAFSA online.
- www.collegeboard.com- complete the CSS Profile.

Common Application

- www.commonapp.org - common application, many students use this website to apply to colleges using a “common application.”

CATHOLIC COLLEGES

National Catholic College Admission Association: www.catholiccollegesonline.org

Jesuit Colleges: www.ajcunet.edu

Albertus Magnus College (CT)
Alvernia College (PA)
Anna Maria College (MA)
Aquinas College (MI)
Assumption College (MA)
Barat College (IL)
Barry University (FL)
Bellarmine College (KY)
Belmont Abbey College (NC)
Benedictine University (IL)
Boston College (MA)
Brescia University (KY)
Cabrini College (PA)
Canisius College (NY)
Carlow College (PA)
Carroll College (MT)
Catholic University of America
Chestnut Hill College (PA)
Clarke College (IA)
College Misericordia (PA)
College of Mt. St. Joseph (OH)
College of Notre Dame (CA)
College of Notre Dame (MD)
College of St. Benedict (MN)
College of St. Catherine (MN)
College of St. Joseph Vermont
College of St. Rose (NY)
College of the Holy Cross (MA)
Creighton University (NE)
De Paul University (IL)
Dominican University (IL)
Duquesne University (PA)
Elms College (MA)
Emmanuel College (MA)
Fairfield University (CT)
Fordham University (NY)
Franciscan Univ Steubenville
Gannon University (PA)
Georgetown University (DC)
Gonzaga University (WA)
Gwynedd-Mercy College (PA)
Holy Cross College (IN)
Immaculata College (PA)
Iona College (NY)
John Carroll University (OH)
King's College (PA)
La Roche College (PA)
La Salle University (PA)
Le Moyne College (NY)
Lewis University (IL)
Lexington College (IL)
Lourdes College (OH)
Loyola College (MD)
Loyola Marymount Univ (CA)
Loyola Univ Chicago (IL)
Loyola Univ New Orleans (LA)
Manhattan College (NY)
Marian College (IN)
Marian Coll of Fond DuLac (WI)
Marquette University (WI)
Marygrove College (MI)
Marymount College (NY)
Marymount College (CA)
Marymount Univ (VA)
Marywood Univ (PA)
Mercyhurst College (PA)
Merrimack College (MA)
Mount Mary College (WI)
Mount St. Mary's College (CA)
Mount St. Mary's College (MD)
Niagara University (NY)
Notre Dame College (NH)
Ohio Dominican College (OH)
Providence College (RI)
Quincy University (IL)
Regis College (MA)
Regis University (CO)
Rosemont College (PA)
Sacred Heart University (CT)
St. Mary's College (IN)
Salve Regina University (RI)
Santa Clara University (CA)
Seattle University (WA)
Seton Hall University (NJ)
Seton Hill College (PA)
Siena College (NY)
Siena Heights University (MI)
Spring Hill College (AL)
St. Ambrose University (IA)
St. Anselm College (NH)
St. Bonaventure University (NY)
St. Francis College (PA)
St. Francis DeSales University
St. John Fisher College (NY)
St. John's University (NY)
St. Joseph College (IN)
St. Joseph's University (PA)
St. Leo University (FL)
St. Louis University (MO)
St. Mary-of-the-Woods Coll (IN)
St. Michael's College (VT)
St. Norbert College (WI)
St. Peter's College (NJ)
St. Vincent College (PA)
St. Xavier University (IL)
Stonehill College (MA)
Thomas More College (KY)
Trinity College (DC)
Trinity College of Vermont (VT)
University of Dallas (TX)
University of Dayton (OH)
University of Detroit Mercy (MI)
University of Notre Dame (IN)
University of Portland (OR)
University of San Diego (CA)
University of San Francisco (CA)
University of Scranton (PA)
Ursuline College (OH)
Villa Maria Coll of Buffalo (NY)
Villanova University (PA)
Walsh University (OH)
Wheeling Jesuit University (WV)
Xavier University (OH)



NEWSWEEK MAGAZINES' 25 NEW IVY'S

Boston College
Bowdoin College
Carnegie Mellon
Pomona College
Colby College
Colgate University
Davidson College
Emory University
Kenyon College
Macalester College
University of Michigan
New York University
University of North Carolina
Notre Dame University
Olin College of Engineering
Reed College
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rice University
University of Rochester
Skidmore College
Tufts University
University of California, Los Angeles
Vanderbilt University
University of Virginia
Washington University in St. Louis

NATION'S LARGEST PRIVATE COLLEGES

(Includes undergrads and graduate students)

New York University – 41,783
Brigham Young University – 34,174
University of Southern California – 33,408
Boston University – 32,778
Harvard University – 25,778
George Washington University – 25,078
Northeastern University – 24,460
University of Pennsylvania – 23,980
DePaul University – 23,401
Columbia University – 22,656

NATION'S LARGEST CATHOLIC COLLEGES

(Includes undergrads and graduate students)

DePaul University – 23,401
St. John's University – 20,086
Loyola University Chicago – 15,545
Georgetown University – 14,826
Fordham University – 14,448
Saint Leo University – 13,780
Boston College – 13,783
Saint Louis University – 12,309
University of Notre Dame – 11,786
Marquette University – 11,516

THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK (SUNY) SYSTEM

{[HTTP://WWW.SUNY.EDU/STUDENT/CAMPUSES_COMPLETE_LIST.CFM](http://www.suny.edu/student/campuses_complete_list.cfm)}

Community Colleges

Adirondack
 Broome
 Cayuga
 Clinton
 Columbia-Greene
 Corning
 Dutchess
 Erie
 Fashion Institute of Technology
 Finger Lakes
 Fulton-Montgomery
 Genesee
 Herkimer County
 Hudson Valley
 Jamestown
 Jefferson
 Mohawk Valley
 Monroe
 Nassau
 Niagara
 North
 Onondaga
 Orange
 Rockland
 Schenectady
 Suffolk
 Sullivan
 Tompkins Cortland
 Ulster
 Westchester

University Centers (Doctoral Degree Granting Institution)

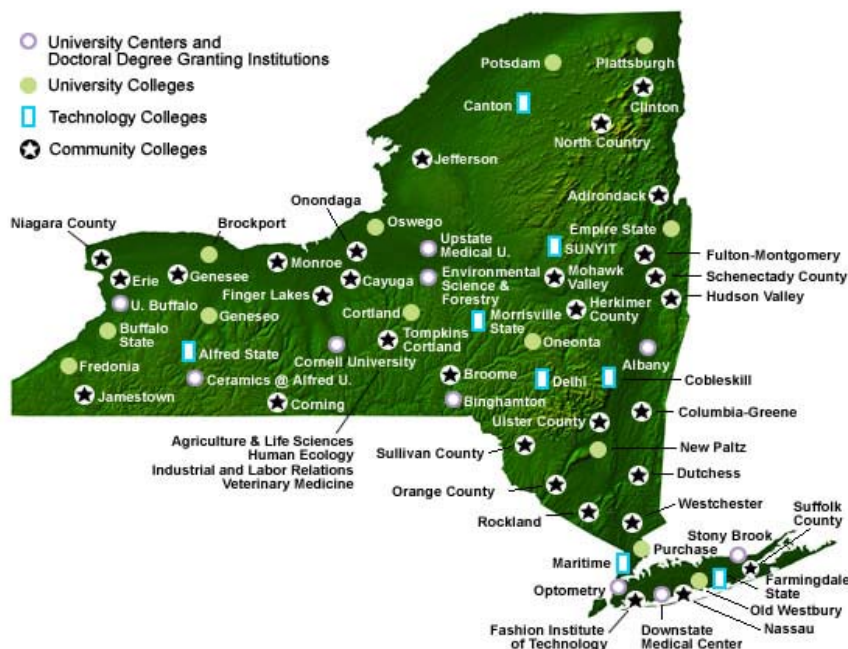
Albany
 Alfred University, NYS College of Ceramics
 Binghamton
 Buffalo, University at
 Cornell, NYS College of Agriculture & Life Sciences
 Cornell, NYS College of Veterinary Medicine
 Cornell, NYS College of Industrial & Labor Relations
 Downstate Medical Center
 ESF, Environmental Science and Forestry
 Optometry
 Stony Brook
 Upstate Medical University

University Colleges

Brockport
 Buffalo State
 Cortland
 Empire State
 Fredonia
 Genesee
 New Paltz
 Old Westbury
 Oneonta
 Oswego
 Plattsburgh
 Potsdam
 Purchase

Technology Colleges

Alfred State
 Canton
 Cobleskill
 Delhi
 Farmingdale State
 Maritime College
 Morrisville State College
 SUNYIT



PRIVATE COLLEGES IN NEW YORK

Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
Albany Law School
Albany Medical College
Alfred University
Bard College
Canisius College
Cazenovia College
Clarkson University
Cochran School of Nursing
Colgate University
The College of New Rochelle
The College of Saint Rose
Concordia College
Cornell University
The Culinary Institute of America
D'Youville College
Daemen College
Dominican College
Dorothea Hopfer School of Nursing at Mount Vernon Hospital
Elmira College
Excelsior College
Fordham University
Hamilton College
Hartwick College
Hilbert College
Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Houghton College
Iona College
Ithaca College
Keuka College
LeMoyne College
Long Island University
Manhattanville College
Maria College
Marist College
Medaille College
Memorial Hospital School of Nursing
Mercy College
Mount Saint Mary College
Nazareth College
New York Chiropractic College
New York Medical College
New York University
Niagara University
Nyack College
Pace University
Paul Smith's College of Arts and Sciences
Polytechnic Institute of NYU
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Roberts Wesleyan College
Rochester Institute of Technology
Sage College
Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing
Sarah Lawrence College
Siena College
Skidmore College
St. Bonaventure University
St. Elizabeth College of Nursing
St. Lawrence University
St. John Fisher College
St. Joseph's College of Nursing
St. Thomas Aquinas College
Syracuse University
Trocaire College
Union College
University of Rochester
Utica College
Vassar College
Villa Maria College of Buffalo
Wells College

THE PUBLIC IVYS

A list compiled by Richard Moll of the State Universities that offer an Ivy-like education.

University of California (system)	New College	University of Texas
University of Colorado	University of South Florida	University of Vermont
Georgia Institute of Technology	University of North Carolina	University of Virginia
University of Illinois	SUNY - Binghamton	University of Washington
Miami University	University of Pittsburgh	William and Mary College
University of Michigan	Penn State	University of Wisconsin

America's Flagship Public Universities compiled by Howard Greene.

University of Arizona	SUNY Binghamton
University of California	University of North Carolina
University of Colorado	Ohio State University
University of Connecticut	Penn State
University of Delaware	Rutgers University
University of Florida	University of Texas
University of Georgia	University of Washington
University of Illinois	William and Mary
University of Iowa	University of Wisconsin
University of Maryland	
Miami University	
University of Michigan	
University of Minnesota	

COLLEGES THAT CHANGE LIVES

As listed by Lauren Pope in his book with the above title.

<http://ctcl.org/about/ctcl>

Agnes Scott College	Millsaps College
Allegheny College	New College of Florida
Austin College	Ohio Wesleyan University
Beloit College	Reed College
Birmingham-Southern College	Rhodes College
Centre College	Southwestern University
Clark University	St. John's College, MD
Cornell College	St. John's College, NM
Denison College	St. Olaf College
Earlham College	Ursinus College
Eckerd College	Wabash College
Emory & Henry College	Wheaton College
The Evergreen State College	Whitman College
Goucher College	Wooster, College of
Guilford College	
Hampshire College	
Hendrix College	
Hiram College	
Hope College	
Juniata College	
Kalamazoo College	
Knox College	
Lawrence University	
Lynchburg College	
Marlboro College	
McDaniel College	

FRED RUGG'S 100 FAVORITE COLLEGES

This author polls counselors and cites that he hears more nice things about these schools than any others.

Albertson (ID)	John Carroll (OH)	Pomona (CA)
Allegheny (PA)	Kalamazoo (MI)	Portland, U of (OR)
Auburn (AL)	Kansas State	Regis (CO)
Baldwin-Wallace (OH)	Keene State (NH)	Rhodes (TN)
Barnard (NY)	Kentucky, U of	Ripon (WI)
Bates (ME)	Lawrence (WI)	Roanoke (VA)
Beloit (WI)	LeMoyne (NY)	Rockhurst (MO)
Berea (WV)	Lewis & Clark (OR)	Rutgers (NJ)
Berry (GA)	Linfield (OR)	Salisbury St (MD)
Bethany (WV)	Loras (IA)	St. Andrews (NC)
Bradley (IL)	Loyola Marymt (CA)	St. Anselm (NH)
Bryn Mawr (PA)	Macalester (MN)	St. Louis (MO)
Butler (IN)	Maine, U of	St. Mary's (IN)
Cal U Davis (CA)	Marquette (WI)	St. Norbert (WI)
Cal U Santa Cruz	Mary Baldwin (VA)	St. Olaf (MN)
Carleton (MN)	Maryland (Baltimore)	San Diego, U of
Clarke (IA)	Mary Washington (VA)	Scripps (CA)
Clemson (SC)	Mercer (GA)	South, U of (TN)
Coe (IA)	Michigan State	Southwestern (TX)
Denison (OH)	Michigan Tech	Spring Hill (AL)
DePauw (IN)	Minnesota, U of	Stanford (CA)
Doane (NE)	Monmouth (IL)	SUNY Fredonia (NY)
Drake (IA)	Montana State	Texas A & M
Earlham (IN)	Montclair State (NJ)	Valparaiso (IN)
Elon (NC)	Mt. Holyoke (MA)	Vanderbilt (TN)
Evansville (IN)	Muskingum (OH)	Wabash (IN)
F. Dickinson (NJ)	Nazareth (NY)	Wash & Jefferson (PA)
Flagler (FL)	Nevada Reno	Washington, U of
Furman (SC)	No. Carolina State	Wellesley (MA)
Georgia Tech (GA)	North Central (IL)	Wells (NY)
Grand Valley (MI)	No. Michigan	Westminster (UT)
Grinnell (IA)	Oberlin (OH)	West Maryland
Hanover (IN)	Ohio Northern	Whitman (WA)
Harvard (MA)	Ohio State	William Jewell (MO)
Haverford (PA)	Ohio U	Williams (MA)
Hawaii Pacific	Ohio Wesleyan	Wingate (NC)
Hollins (VA)	Oregon State	Winona State (MN)
Idaho, U of	Pacific, U of (CA)	Wisconsin, U of
Illinois College	Penn State	Wittenberg (OH)
Illinois Wesleyan	Pittsburgh (PA)	Wofford (SC)
Iowa State	Pitzer (CA)	Wooster (O)

