



Providence Academy College Day – April 15, 2026

Session Descriptions and Locations

Special Sessions for Upper School Parents

Affording a College Education 12:40 – 1:25 p.m. (Location: N214 Chemistry-Lewin)

Join the conversation with two College Enrollment Leaders to discuss the different forms of financial aid, the application process for both need-based aid and merit scholarships, and the financing options available to students and families. *Presenters: College Leaders from University of Illinois and Grinnell College*

A Parent's Role in the College Search Process 12:40 – 1:25 p.m. (Location: N216 Hippler)

The changing landscape of college admission can too often result in an anxiety-filled and unpleasant process for students and their parents. Admission professionals will offer their advice and insights for how parents can appropriately assist and parent their students in a manner that makes the college process less confusing, more effective, and even enjoyable. *Presenters: College Reps from Elon University and Hamline University*

Sophomores and Juniors will be pre-assigned to one of their preferred sessions.

These sessions will run from 12:40-1:25 p.m. in various classrooms.

The college fair portion will run from 1:30 - 2:45 p.m. in Gym A.

Applying to Fine Arts Programs (Location: W235 Choir Room)

The application process for students seeking to pursue majors in the fine arts or performing arts can have unique demands and often a different timetable from other college searches. Applying to arts-focused colleges or to the music or fine arts divisions within comprehensive institutions can require on-campus auditions or portfolio submissions. Panelists will discuss how students can best prepare for their candidacies to these programs.

Presenters: MCAD, SCAD, Concordia College, Lawrence University

Honors Communities on College Campuses (Location: N315 Milovich)

Many institutions – small or large, public or private – sponsor honors colleges or honors programs in order to offer ambitious students an enriched academic and social experience. Honors students have the opportunity to collaborate with the college's top faculty, to engage in experiential learning or undergraduate research, and receive special support for prestigious postgraduate opportunities. Using the honors communities on their campuses as examples, the panelists will answer your questions about the honors experience in college.

Presenters: Baylor University, UNL, Viterbo University, Gonzaga University

Intercollegiate Athletics (Location: N321 Test Center)

College admission professionals will discuss the distinctions between NCAA divisions, basic recruiting rules, eligibility certification through the NCAA, as well as athletic scholarship possibilities. Panelists will also briefly cover club and intramural sports.

Presenters: University of Kansas, Bucknell University, St. Mary's University (MN), University of Mary

Study Outside the U.S. (Location: N304 Brodeur)

Universities both inside the U.S. and outside are eager to present adventurous American students with unique college study abroad enrichment experiences. A panel of admission professionals will talk about the benefits of attending international colleges and domestic university study abroad programs, the different types of offerings, what to look for, and how financing such an amazing experience is possible, including for students on scholarships or other types of financial aid.

Presenters: University of Manitoba, University of East Anglia, Luther College, University of Delaware

Military Options (Location: N233 Mr. Hester)

Military Academy representatives and an ROTC representative will discuss the opportunities that the Service Academies and ROTC have to offer, including the aspects of camaraderie, travel opportunities, scholarship assistance, and professional development offered by the U.S. Armed Forces.

Presenters: Military Representatives (United States Naval Academy, United States Air Force Academy, United States Military Academy, United States Merchant Marines, United States Navy ROTC)

Navigating Catholic Higher Education (Location: N231 Kennedy)

This panel will bring together representatives from Catholic institutions for a discussion about student life at a Catholic college. The relationships and spaces where knowledge, ideas, faith, and hopes are shared among peers journeying together – and figuring out how you will find good friends, wise faculty, and reliable mentors – are critical in any college search. Panelists will discuss a range of academic and student life topics, with the goal of helping students identify their best-fit collegiate environments to learn, live, and serve with faith and character.

Presenters: Benedictine College, Univ. of Portland, College of the Holy Cross, St. Mary's College, Univ. of St. Thomas

Straight Talk about S.T.E.M. (Location: N210 Physics-Plucinski)

Panelists from colleges with significant academic offerings in science, math, engineering, and technological disciplines will discuss S.T.E.M. education in various campus contexts, the important questions students should consider when investigating these options, and how to best prepare academically for admission to and success within college S.T.E.M. programs.

Presenters: Clarkson University, Purdue U., Michigan Tech, Carroll University

Undecided, Undeclared, Undetermined (Location: N212 Chemistry-Hoekman)

With so many Colleges and Universities to choose from, it is hard to know where to start. Add in the fact that you have no idea what you want to do just yet and it seems to get more overwhelming. Panelists in this session want to assure you that you are not alone. Actually, you are in the majority...and you CAN still graduate in four years. Panelists will help dispel myths and concerns of being an Undecided, Undeclared, or Undetermined student and will help show you that you can still find your best college fit even if you are unclear about a major, profession, or where your life path will lead you.

Presenters: Coe College, Indiana University, Texas Christian University

Exploring Pre-Health Options (Location: N307 Biology-Buerskin)

Students exploring pre-medicine/nursing/pre-health professions as an academic field, career path, and vocation have many college options to research. What can students do to prepare academically? Should students seek opportunities to shadow healthcare professionals? How do colleges view student summer science research, and should students seek out specific summer enrichment experiences to enhance their readiness for such programs? Panelists will discuss these questions to help attendees gain a better understanding of their options and to assist them in preparing for entry into these types of programs.

Presenters: University of MN-Rochester, St. Catherine University, Cornell College, Marquette University

Exploring Small, Medium, and Large College/University Options (Location: N312 Lecture Hall)

This session will feature a mix of public and private colleges and universities of various sizes and offerings, including liberal arts colleges, which are traditionally defined by their relatively small enrollment, a teacher-scholar faculty model, versatile extracurricular life, and traditional core academic disciplines. Students will also learn about larger, state-sponsored universities that have historically been engines of opportunity, research, and innovation for their regions, often with a more accessible total cost of attendance. The panel will additionally touch on mid-sized private research universities, particularly those that enjoy national recognition due to academic reputation, competitive admission, and/or intercollegiate athletic success. Finally, panelists will discuss how to navigate the admission process, with the goal of helping students identify right-fit programs.

Presenters: Iowa State University, University of San Diego, Willamette University, St. Olaf College

Majoring in Business: Does It Really Pay? (Location: N235 Janz)

Thinking about a business major? You have more options than you think! Business is the #1 college major in America, and this session is your insider's guide to navigating it strategically. We'll break down which tracks lead to the best outcomes, and help you discover why the skills that truly set business grads apart come from liberal arts and sciences. Writing, critical thinking, communication, analytical reasoning: these are part of the secret sauce of the most successful business professionals. Come ready to think differently about business and leave with confidence in pursuing potential pathways to future success.

Presenters :College of St. Benedict/St. John's University, UW-Lacrosse, College of the Holy Cross, University of Missouri

Special Sessions for Freshmen

Freshmen: The College Search 101 and Discerning Your Path/Vocation 12:40 – 1:40 p.m. (Locations: N325 Bio Lab-Boldt and N306 ARC) Freshmen will attend sessions on how to begin their post-secondary planning in earnest and how to make the most of their College Day opportunity by connecting with college admission (and alumni) representatives to learn about different types of colleges (with good questions to ask). Ninth grade students will also learn how to listen to God's call to serve Him in their lives through their talents, interests, and aspirations.

Presenters: Mr. Wolf and NDSU Rep; SPO, PA Alumna/Anselm House representative, and PA seniors

Special Sessions for Seniors

Seniors: Heading Off to College and Staying Connected with PA (12:10-1:45 p.m.)

(Location: Performing Arts Center)

These sessions will focus on the challenges and opportunities of adjusting to a new campus environment, discuss the importance of time management and finding your place and keeping your faith in your collegiate community. Pro tips on academic success, social connection, personal growth, and planning for the future, including goal-setting and making informed decisions about future career paths will be shared, with a few words from the PA Alumni Team on staying connected to the Providence Academy community as life-long Lions. *Presenters: Silvio Vazquez, Chief Enrollment Mgmnt Officer at Wheaton College (IL) and Ms. Greenwood, PA Alumni Manager*