

# HOW TO CHOOSE A COLLEGE

# WHAT DO I DO BEFORE SENIOR YEAR?

- Take thoughtful elective classes for your future career
- Connect Interests, Strengths, and Course Selection
- Look for opportunities to job shadow/internship
- Post-Secondary Options-
  - Community College
  - Community College then transfer to 4 year college
  - 4 year college
  - Apprenticeships
  - Military
  - Work

# IF YOU KNOW YOUR MAJOR, BUT DON'T KNOW WHAT SCHOOL...

- Career Cruising <https://www2.careercruising.com/main>
  - username- seneca307 password-irish
  - Go to education tab then click the major tab
  - Type in the major you are looking for- major options will come up, choose one that you are interested in
  - You can change the state you'd like to be in and what type of school you are looking for- non-degree, 2 year, 4 year, graduate
  - It will bring up a list of colleges that fit your criteria.
- Naviance
  - Supermatch college search helps you narrow down schools and find schools with your specific major/interest

# DON'T KNOW WHAT MAJOR OR COLLEGE YOU'D LIKE TO GO TO...

- Big Future CollegeBoard
  - <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>
  - You can find schools by major, location, or any of these >
  - You can also explore majors and careers



# HOW WILL YOU GET TO WHERE YOU WANT TO GO?

- Talk about the real price of college
  - Tuition and Fees
  - Fill out the FAFSA at FAFSA.gov and find EFC (Expected Family Contribution)
  - Net Price Calculator (you can find this on every college website)
- Financing
  - Talk about the types of funding available- student loans, parent plus loans, private loans, scholarships, etc.
  - Real talk about finances- what student can expect from family and what they can expect their loan to look like
  - Look at college options and how they fit into your financial situation
- Student/ Parent College Contract -  
<https://www.sdstate.edu/sites/default/files/2017-06/Parent-Student%20College%20Contract%20-%20SDSU.pdf>

# HOW DO I START A COLLEGE LIST?

- Look for:
  - Colleges known for your major
  - Graduation rate
  - Special assistance the college provides
  - Affordability
  - Class size
  - Employment/Job Placement Rate
  - Average Debt
- Start building your college list-  
<https://secure-media.collegeboard.org/CollegePlanning/media/pdf/BigFuture-College-List-Handout.pdf>

# HOW DO I NARROW MY LIST OF COLLEGE CHOICES?

- **Reach**” - a school where your chance of admittance based on your academic profile is low. This includes colleges that are a reach for ANYONE (admit rates between 5%-10%).
- **Target**” - a school where your chance of admittance based on academic profile is 50%. Your academic profile hovers close to the averages.
- **Likely**” - a school where your chance of admittance based on academic profile is high. Your academic profile is higher than the averages.
- **Financial Likely**” - a school that parents can afford if a financial aid package is weak at all other schools or if a family financial situation changes (economy, unemployment, etc). Examples of these schools might include a state university, junior college, or a private college who gives great merit money.

# VISIT CAMPUS

- Go to the college's admissions page and book a college visit with them or go on a college visit day (usually on Columbus Day)
- Look over questions to ask on your college visit
- Make sure to see a dorm if you are going to live there, look at the cafeteria, and check out a classroom.
- Colleges have YouTube channels for prospective students to see campus



# HOW DO I CONNECT WITH COLLEGES?

- When interested in a college, go to the college's website to request information to get on their communication list
- To speak with a college admissions representative, contact the college admissions by phone or email- this is a good way to show you are interested in their school and to find out any information you may not be able to find on their website.

# YOU PROBABLY GET EMAILS LIKE THIS:

Annette,

Xavier University students are no strangers to busy schedules, and my guess is that you aren't either. Senior year is full of "to-do's," not the least of which is applying to colleges.

We want to make it easy for you. Apply to Xavier today for:

1. A waived application fee
2. Consideration for merit-based scholarships and awards

Submit your application to Xavier today, and mark it off of your "to-do" list. And, if you've already started your Common Application, add Xavier University to ensure you are considered for admission.

Enjoy your senior year, Annette. I look forward to seeing your application soon!

Sincerely,

Lauren Parcell  
Dean of Admission  
Xavier University  
3800 Victory Parkway  
Cincinnati, OH 45207-5131

# OR LETTERS LIKE THIS:



# WHAT DO THOSE LETTERS AND EMAILS MEAN?

- They send these to many students to get you to know about their school.
- Some may have codes for free applications waivers so make sure to read through the letter or email.
- This does not mean you have been accepted into their school (you always need to apply to be accepted anywhere).
- This does not mean you will automatically get in, please still look at the academic requirements for that school.

# WHAT FACTORS SHOULD I LOOK AT WHEN TRYING TO FIND THE RIGHT COLLEGE?

## **Major**

- Selectivity, requirements, direct admit programs

## **Location**

- Distance from home, setting, Commuter campus (do most live at home instead of on campus), rural, urban

## **Facilities**

- Dorms, food options, classrooms, parking, sports facilities

## **Size**

- Large University, medium university, or a small college, avg. class size, distance across campus

## **Activities**

- sports, clubs, greek life, internships/co-ops, study abroad

## **Diversity**

- cultural, in/out of state, male/female, lgbtq community, political, religious, socioeconomic

## **Cost**

- family discussion, public & private sticker price, grad school consideration

**A link to help compare schools-**

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/compare-colleges>

# HOW DO I FIND MY FINANCIAL FIT?

- “Sticker price” vs. actual cost (with all financial aid package included in the amount)
- Net Price Calculators- you are able to see what the college will cost you by answer a few questions
  - Example- Lewis University Net Price Calculator

[https://tcc.ruffalonl.com/\(S\(bo05eojy3txiphlvfn4uy4xf\)\)/Lewis%20University/Freshman%20Students](https://tcc.ruffalonl.com/(S(bo05eojy3txiphlvfn4uy4xf))/Lewis%20University/Freshman%20Students)

- Compare school financial aid packages

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/financial-aid-awards/compare-aid-calculator>