

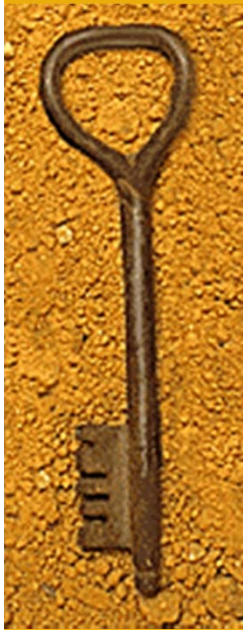


# UNLOCKING THE DOOR TO COLLEGE



**The college process is based upon self reflection...**

**The best college choices are made when students know themselves well...their strengths, goals, and personality type.**



## **Students should ask these questions:**

- ◆ **What are my strengths and weaknesses?**
- ◆ **What classes have I enjoyed?**
- ◆ **What are my interests?**
- ◆ **What are my career goals?**
- ◆ **What activities are important to me?**



# Consider College Characteristics:

- **Location – Do I prefer large metropolitan areas or small college towns...?**
- **Does the distance from home matter?**
- **Size – the entire campus population as well as the average size of classes should be considered.**
- **Admission requirements**



## College Characteristics (continued)...

- Discover which academic departments are strong at each school, such as engineering, foreign languages, etc.
- Reputation – selectivity, success of graduates
- Degree Requirements - specific core curriculum or flexibility in fulfilling requirements?
- Diversity?
- Costs?



## Type of college:

- **Private Liberal Arts Colleges** –
  - Broad cultural foundation in the arts and sciences; offers 4-year program leading to a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree.
  - Much of the first two years is spent in required “core curriculum” courses and the last two years are in a declared academic major.



# Type of College.....

- **Private University**

- Difference between a college and a university is the university is an institution which normally includes 3 types of schools: undergraduate college, professional schools, and graduate programs.
- Smaller in enrollment than state university



# Type of College.....

- **State University or college**
  - Supported financially by state
  - Flagship institutions are typically very large
  - Since it is publicly funded, tuition is lower than that of most private colleges and universities
  - Special consideration given to in-state students
  - Admission requirements are usually highly selective for out-of-state students



# Type of College...

- **Community College**
  - 2 year colleges
  - Offer a wide variety of academic programs leading to an associates degree
  - Less costly
  - Have honors programs that are more selective



# Visit College Campuses

- Visit a variety of campus types and sizes
- Go when college is in session
- Take a campus tour
- Talk to students
- Be aware of each campus' personality
- Spend the night with a student
- Talk to a faculty member in your area of interest
- Schedule an interview, if possible



*Fill out a College  
Visitation  
Worksheet  
(sample included)*



College:	Date:	(Fill in your personal impressions)
My tour of the campus was:		(guided, unguided, hit or miss, too short, too long)
My tour guide was:		(programmed, friendly, approachable, knowledgeable)
Highpoints or low points:		
Things I saw or visited on campus:		
The atmosphere was:		(relaxed, intense, lively, quiet, solitary)
The students looked:		(happy, stressed, preppy, tired, aloof, approachable)
While on campus I spoke to:		(the tour guide, students in the union, an athlete)
The weather was:		(rainy, hot, pleasant, cloudy, humid)
On the weekends, the students like to:		(party, study, sleep, go to athletic events, do laundry, get away)
Student dorms were:		(old, new, crowded, traditional, suite style, freshman only)
The best place to live as a freshman:		
The campus is located in:		(a college town, the middle of nowhere, a suburb, urban downtown)
The food we ate was:		(pretty good, tasteless, varied)
The movies on campus were:		(first run, already on DVD, free)
The athletic facilities were:		(beautiful, shabby, separate for the athletes. up-to-date)



# Narrow Your List

- **REACH SCHOOLS:**

More selective than your qualifications but you'd love to go there. (10-15% chance of admission)

- **TARGET SCHOOLS:**

Matches your qualifications (chance of admission is 50%)

- **LIKELY SCHOOLS:**

Schools where your academic qualifications typically exceed that of the average accepted student.



## Consider....

- Just because the chance of admission at a particular school is greater than that of another school does not mean the school's programs are of lesser quality.
- Selectivity is dependent on the size of the applicant pool.
- Steer clear of rankings – typically have little to do with what you are specifically looking for in a college.



Keep in Mind: This is not a competition to get into the best college....

This is a process to find the college that is the “best fit”.



# How Do Colleges Select Students?

- High school grades/rigor of courses
- SAT/ACT scores
- Recommendations
- Essays
- College needs
- Special talents
- Extracurricular activities
- Interview



# Different Kinds of Admissions

- **Regular Admissions:** usually January deadline
- **Early Decision:** usually November 1st deadline. Application to only 1 school. Decision binding
- **Early Action:** usually November 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. Decision not binding
- **Rolling Admissions:** decisions made as applications are received
- **Priority Deadline:** U of Maryland, College Park, Nov. 1st

**BE AWARE OF DEADLINES**

# What's Next???



## *January*

- Practice SAT
- Practice ACT
- Decide when to take the ACT and/or SAT
- Start to visit local colleges to develop prototype

## *February*

- Students meet with counselors to discuss senior program and start college dialogue – receive transcript
- Sign up for a rigorous senior program

# What's next?....



## *March*

- **College Information Meeting through Social Studies classes**
- **Complete self reflection worksheet/resume' and schedule college meeting with counselor (parents may attend)**

## *April*

- **Visit colleges (Spring Break)**
- **Attend College Admissions Night**
- **Attend Montgomery Co. College Fair**
- **College Meeting with Counselor**

## *May/June*

- **Take SAT subject tests**
- **Meet with counselor to sign senior agreement**

College Meeting with Counselor



# Where/How to get information at B-CC:

- **B-CC Counselor**
- **Family Connection**
- **College and Career Center**
  - **Mrs. Parmelee, CCIC at B-CC**
  - **College Tracks**
  - **College Reps when they visit B-CC**
  - **Computer College Searches**
  - **College Websites**
  - **Scholarship searches**



**Enjoy this College  
Process Journey!**