



UNLOCKING THE DOOR TO COLLEGE

Welcome Parents!
December 14, 2009



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.



Types of Colleges.....

- **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 the College
Visitation
Worksheet found in
the Passport to
Success binder*



<i>College Name</i>	UMCP	UVA	Goucher	Drexel
<i>Location</i>	College Park MD	Charlottesville VA	Towson, MD	Phila, PA
<i>Size</i>				
<i>Environment</i>	Suburban	Small town	Suburban	Urban
<i>Adm. Req.</i>				
<i>Academics</i>				
<i>Costs</i>				
<i>Housing</i>				
<i>Facilities</i>				
<i>Deadlines</i>				



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.



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 1st deadline. Decision not binding
- **Rolling Admissions:** decisions made as applications are received
- **Priority Deadline:** U of Maryland, College Park, Nov. 1, 2010

BE AWARE OF DEADLINES

What's Next???



January

- Practice ACT – January 9
- Practice SAT – January 30
- Decide when to take the ACT: Feb/Apr/June
- Decide when to take the SAT: Jan/March/May/June
- 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

- **Complete self assessment and schedule college meeting with counselor (parents may attend)**

April

- **Visit colleges (Spring Break)**
- **Attend College Admissions Night, April 13**
- **Attend Montgomery Co. College Fair, April 14**
- **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. Feldsott, 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 with
your son/daughter!**