

THE ROAD TO COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

Identify Your Goals

The College Process will start with gathering application materials and information that pertain to your student's individual needs, working within the timeline to identify what major and type of institution they are looking for.

Research & Finalize Your Options

Refine your list of Schools and identify your deadlines. We encourage students to take a well-rounded approach and apply to around 5 - 10 schools.

Gather Your Materials

Ensure you have all the components necessary to apply. This can include your SAT Score, Letters of Recommendation, and the College Essay

Financial Aid

Create a FAFSA profile and complete the required information. Do not forget to apply for scholarships and other individual college aid opportunities!

Evaluate and Decide

Receive and compare your college acceptance packages. Send in your final decisions by May 1st and have your student inform the Counseling Center of where they will be going in the Fall!



Introduction to the College Process

QUESTIONS?

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The Counselors take an active role in assisting your student with the College Process! We meet individually with students both Junior and Senior year specifically to discuss this.

We encourage students to keep us updated on where they are in the process - and ask questions as they arise!

Junior Checklist

- ✓ Identify your Major / Career of Choice
- ✓ Curate your List of Colleges you are interested in learning more about
- ✓ Write your College Essay to best reflect you (remember this is assigned in class)
- ✓ Fill out your Letter of Recommendation Form, and give to your Recommenders (Don't forget to include your Counselor!)
- ✓ Register to take the SAT (Keep in mind the SAT prep course that St. Mary's offers!)

Where to Begin

The best place to start is identifying your student's major of interest. If this is something they are unsure of - we encourage the first step to take is an interest survey!

O'NET provides a comprehensive questionnaire that can point your student in the right direction.

<https://www.mynextmove.org/explore/ip>

Still trying to curate a list of Colleges of Interest?

Take the interest quiz:

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search/college-quiz>

After identifying possible majors and colleges of choice, there is still a lot to consider.

The best way to learn about institutions is visiting campus, gaining information through the College Website, and speaking with Representatives.

Typically our students will apply to 5 - 10 schools! Starting to identify which schools fit your interest and need allows for this list to get started.

The Counseling Center also provides opportunities to meet with College Representatives right here on Campus! Keep an eye on the SCOOP and the morning announcements for when they are here

Helpful Websites

COLLEGE BOARD

The website has a multitude of helpful information on the College Process! You can register for the SAT here - and find quizzes that relate to College and Career choices

<https://www.collegeboard.org/>

THE COMMON APP

Where many students begin when applying to schools. You can start adding information as early as August of your Junior Year! This is not the only way to apply to College - but the most frequently used one.

<https://www.commonapp.org/>

KHAN ACADEMY

A free resource for SAT Prep as well as a place to find free videos on class content!

<https://www.khanacademy.org/>

O'NET INTEREST PROFILE

Where your student can identify their interests and get paired with possible careers. This website also provides salary comparisons and expected growth in the field.

<https://www.mynextmove.org/explore/ip>