

BOOST YOUR COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE

Some Questions To Ask Yourself:

- 1. Do I want a small college, large university, community college, or technical/professional school?
- 2. Do I want a private or public school?
- 3. What's a liberal arts education and is it right for me?
- 4. How far from home am I willing to travel for college?
- 5. What kind of geographic setting would I most prefer?
- 6. What 3 majors can I see myself studying?
- 7. How important are the following things to me? sports, social activities, academic reputation, campus activities, quality/quantity of facilities, campus rules & policies, etc.

Some Questions to Ask Potential Colleges and Universities:

- 1. What is the Student-Faculty Ratio?
- 2. What percentage of faculty have their PhD's?
- 3. Do students teach any of your courses?
- 4. How many minorities are on campus?
- 5. What's the on-campus population?
- 6. Extra-curricular activities offered?
- 7. How many commuter students are here?
- 8. What about freshman housing?
- 9. Can freshmen have cars on campus?
- 10. Will I have an academic advisor?
- 11. Tell me about campus security.
- 12. Describe the College's relationship with the community.
- 13. How are roommates decided?

- 14. Varsity and intramural sports?
- 15. Is there career planning & job placement help?
- 16. The average SAT/ACT scores of freshmen?
- 17. Any special rules/policies I should know of?
- 18. What about the phones, laundry, & parking?
- 19. Describe student/faculty relationships.
- 20. Is your institution accredited? By whom?
- 21. What's the school's Mission Statement?
- 22. Any plans for expansion or renovations?
- 23. Tell me about scholarships & grants.
- 24. How do I apply for financial aid?
- 25. How is a financial aid package received?
- 26. How many students?

Some Questions to Ask Christian Colleges:

- 1. Must the students and professors sign a Statement of Faith?
- 2. What are the opportunities for spiritual growth through fellowship, discipleship, & outreach?
- 3. Are there church and/or chapel attendance requirements?
- 4. Is your college affiliated with any particular denomination?
- 5. How many different denominations are represented here?
- 6. How is God's Word integrated into the classroom environment?
- 7. Explain how rules, regulations, and policies reflect Biblical standards.

Some Important Tips to Remember:

- 1. Take your SATs or ACTs two to three times (courses, books, & software on test preparation can help greatly).
- 2. Complete your applications in the fall of your senior year.
- 3. Visit the campus! (This will probably be the best indicator of whether the school's a good fit or not).
- 4. Don't decide based on a major alone. (Most college students change majors 2 or 3 times.)
- 5. Don't ever ignore a school because of initial cost; financial aid can change everything.
- <u>PRIORITIZE!</u> What 3 characteristics do you most desire in a school? Focus only on the schools that meet your criterion.
 If you do not prioritize, too many schools will "seem" too good for too long. Make a college or universities fit you—don't make yourself fit it!

COLLEGE-PREP TIMELINE

If you are seriously considering going to college but are wondering *when* you should be doing *what*, keep reading...

10TH GRADE

- **Prepare** for the PSAT/SAT/ACT.
- Request information from colleges.
- Spend the summer after your sophomore year researching potential college choices.
 - o Keep a college journal and record facts and impressions of each college you visit.
 - O Determine the 5 qualities you most desire in a college.

11TH GRADE

- Take the PSAT, SAT or ACT.
- Maintain or improve a strong GPA. Colleges place a heavy emphasis on junior year grades.
- Meet with admissions counselors when they visit your high school.
- **Visit** the colleges you are seriously considering and make sure you have their **application** and are on their **mailing list**.
- Attend Open House or Preview events.

12TH GRADE

September through December

- Take the SAT or ACT again.
- Schedule your own visit or take advantage of the open houses at colleges where you plan to apply.
- Complete and submit admission applications. Be sure to follow each school's directions and be aware of deadlines.
- Maintain contact with your Admissions Counselor.

January

- Complete and send the FAFSA form. This must be completed BEFORE MAY 1 to qualify for state aid (for PA residents).
- Geneva recommends an earlier date of March 15.
- The colleges of your choosing will receive the FAFSA results from the Processing Center.
- The college financial aid office will not process your FAFSA results until you have been accepted at their school.

February through May

- Decision Time!! If you have been accepted at more than one school, it is professional, common
 courtesy to notify ALL of the colleges of your decision.
- In order to officially select a college you will need to send in the reply form with a monetary
 deposit, and your signed financial aid award letter. Word of mouth is not enough to reserve space
 in the residence halls or classrooms.