



COLLEGE 101

A GUIDE TO COLLEGE PLANNING



FALL OF SENIOR YEAR

- Senior Credit Check
- College Application Process
- Apply for Scholarships
- Meet with counselor
- Finalize College list/Attend College Fair
- Attend Financial Aid Workshops



How to Choose a College: Focus on the Fit

- Academic
- Social
- Emotional
- Financial



Academic Fit

- Academic Challenge
- Requirements for admissions
- Fields of Study
- Learning Style



How to Choose a College: Various Factors to consider

- Distance from home
- Size
- Public vs. Private
- Sectarian
- Single Sex or Coed
- Special Talents
- Specials Needs
- Cost



Types of Colleges

- Public Colleges are funded by local and state governments and usually offer lower tuition rates than private colleges, especially for students who are residents of the state here a college is located.
- Private Colleges rely mainly on tuition, fees and private sources of funding. Private donations can sometimes provide generous financial aid packages for students.
- Four-year Colleges offer four-year programs that lead to a bachelor's degree. These include universities and liberal arts colleges.
- Two-year Colleges offer programs that last up to two years that lead to a certificate or an associate degree. These include community colleges, vocational-technical colleges and career colleges.
- Liberal Arts Colleges offer a broad base of courses in the liberal arts, which includes areas such as literature, history, languages, mathematics and life sciences. Most are private and offer four-year programs that lead to a bachelor's degree. These colleges can prepare you for a variety of career or for graduate study.
- Universities often are larger and offer more majors and degree options – bachelor's master's and doctoral degrees,-- than colleges. Most universities contain several smaller colleges, such as colleges of liberal arts, engineering or health sciences.
- Community College offer two-year associate degrees that prepare you to transfer to a four-year college to earn a bachelor's degree. They also offer other associate degrees and certificates that focus on preparing you for a certain career.
- Vocational-Technical and Career Colleges offer specialized training in a particular industry or career. Possible programs of study include the culinary arts, firefighting, dental hygiene and media-records technology. These colleges usually offer certificates or associate degrees.



College Application Process

- Visit school websites for application requirements and deadlines
- Read carefully and follow directions
- Decide on Type of Admission Decision: Early Action vs Early Decision
- If applying to Public Universities: Apply Early
- Common Application
 - The common application process allow you to: connect to More, work smarter, stay on track and streamline resources : <http://www.commonapp.org/>



The Common App

- Allows students to complete a single application to multiple schools
- Makes college application process substantially less time consuming
- Schools that currently accept this application include all eight Ivy-League Universities, most private liberal arts colleges, and some of the largest public universities.



Common App

The screenshot displays the Common App website interface. At the top left is the logo "THE COMMON APPLICATION". To its right are navigation links: "About Us", "Member Colleges", and "Media Inquiries". Below the logo is a "MISSION" section with a text box stating: "We are a not-for-profit membership organization committed to providing reliable services that promote equity, access, and integrity in the college application process." To the right of the mission is a login section with tabs for "Applicants", "Members", and "Recommenders". It includes input fields for "User name" and "Password", a "Forgotten Password?" link, and buttons for "Sign In", "HELP CENTER Go", and "CREATE AN ACCOUNT Go". Below the mission is a "SEARCH FOR COLLEGES" section with a search bar containing the text "Type college name here" and a "Search" button. At the bottom, there are three columns: "FACEBOOK" with a post from "CA4" about the last day for decisions, "TWITTER" with a post from "@commonapp" about understanding and celebrating decisions, and "FEATURED" which is currently empty.

- Create an account/log-in
- Help Center-home for all support services
- Member Colleges-complete list of all participating colleges and requirements



College Application Process

- Seft Reported Academic Report – SRAR
- Grades are inputted by the student at the time of application
- Official transcript ill be sent at later time
- IMS Systems (Cincinnati Public Schools)



Letters of Recommendation

- Many colleges and universities require letters of recommendation
- You can ask teachers, coaches, counselors, pastors, or family and friends
- Please allow 2 weeks for letter completion
- Follow up with a thank you note to each reference



Application Essay/Personal Statement

- Make sure to answer all question
- Ask you English teacher to review the essay if time allow
- Choose a topic note listed on the application
- The essay is a time for the college to get to know you the student not just grades and ACT scores.



FASFA Workshops

- Plan on attending Financial Aid planning and assistance sessions
- Financial Aid Completion Workshops will be announced
- Please apply for FASFA EARLY!! Money runs out!!



Scholarships

- Scholarships are gifts-you do not pay them back
- Can be given based on merit, financial need, special talents or traits
- Start search as early as the summer
- Ongoing process
- Avoid scholarships scams
- For scholarship listing visit the Taft website, go to “Student Resources” and visit free scholarship sites.