

# How to Choose a College

## A Step-by-step Approach for Students & Parents

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# What Your Counselor Will Do:

1. Assist in research
2. Help to call colleges for appointments
3. Make transcripts
4. Check applications for completeness & accuracy
5. Write recommendations as requested
6. Generally coordinate the process



# What Your Counselor Won't Do:



1. 'Tell' a student which school to attend
2. Fill out applications
3. Do the research
4. Loan you money...

Step 1

# Consider Your Reasons For Attending College

- Achievement of a personal goal
- Career preparation
- Learning opportunities
- Influence of family & friends
- Involvement in extracurricular activities

*To increase my earning power*

*To meet new & interesting people*

*To obtain a professional degree*

*To study new & different subjects*

## Step 2

# Identify College Characteristics Important to YOU!

- Majors & educational programs
- Type of school & degrees offered
- Location & size
- Costs & financial aid
- College affiliation
- College accreditation
- Academic reputation



# Step 3 List Colleges You Are Considering & Collect Information

## *Sources of information:*

- College catalogues & information bulletins
- College representatives
- Parents, students & alumni
- School counselors & teachers
- Directories & computerized information systems
- Professionals in the field
- Choices/bridges program (introduced in EIP class)

*Your list:*

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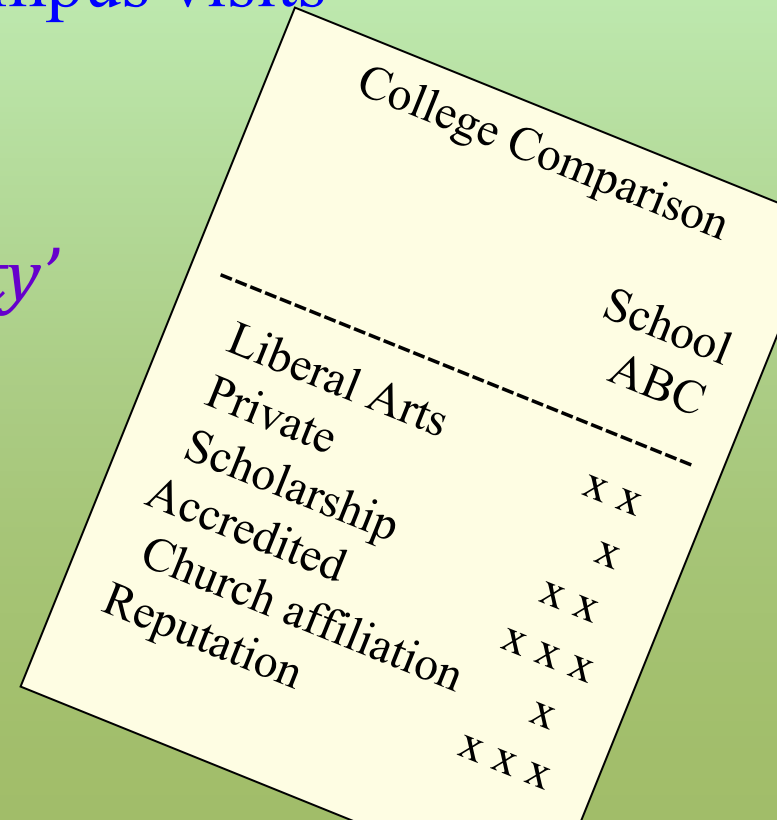
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# Investigate & Compare Colleges

- Prepare a college comparison checklist
- Weigh advantages & disadvantages
- Contact the admissions office
- Schedule appointments for your campus visits

*Every campus has a 'personality'*



College Comparison

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|                    | School<br>ABC |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Liberal Arts       |               |
| Private            |               |
| Scholarship        | x x           |
| Accredited         | x             |
| Church affiliation | x x           |
| Reputation         | x x x         |
|                    | x             |
|                    | x x x         |



## Step 5

# Apply For Admission

- Review your high school course preparation (senior audits)
- Take appropriate college admissions tests (SAT/ACT)
- Know application fees & deadlines
- Know scholarship requirements

Make copies &  
keep accurate  
records!



# Apply For Admission....Continued

- Submit application materials (work with your counselor!) Application for admission

- H.S. Transcript

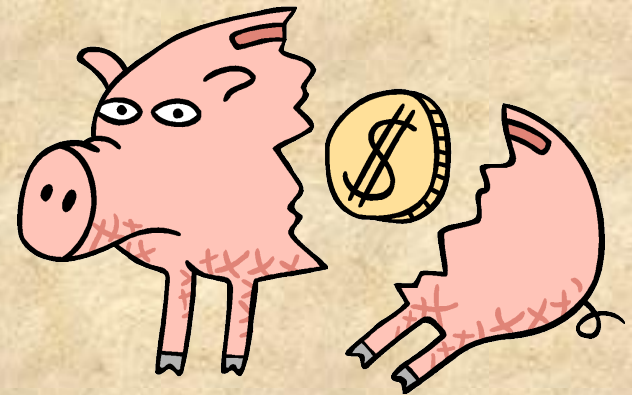
- Recommendations

- Admissions tests results

- If you apply on-line, notify your counselor so that supporting documents can be sent

# Determine Your Financial Plan For College

- Calculate institutional costs
  - Investigate ALL possible resources
    - Parents
    - Savings
    - Financial aid
      - Scholarships
      - Grants/loans
      - Work study
- \*\*Secure necessary forms & note deadlines
- \*\*Apply for financial aid as early as possible



- ***Don't eliminate any college because of costs!!***



# What Does College Cost?



| Budget Items  | Colleges----Sample Costs----Per Year |                  |                  |
|---|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
|   | Brockport                            | FLCC             | RIT              |
| <b>Tuition &amp; fees</b>                                   | <b>5,356.00</b>                      | <b>3,050.00</b>  | <b>24,333.00</b> |
| <b>Room &amp; Board</b>                                     | <b>7,830.00</b>                      | <b>---</b>       | <b>8,748.00</b>  |
| <b>Books &amp; Supplies</b>                                 | <b>1,000.00</b>                      | <b>1,000.00</b>  | <b>1,000.00</b>  |
| <b>Transportation</b>                                       | <b>200.00</b>                        | <b>5,000.00</b>  | <b>200.00</b>    |
| <b>Miscellaneous</b><br>(personal expenses, dates, laundry) | <b>1,600.00</b>                      | <b>1,600.00</b>  | <b>1,600.00</b>  |
| <b>Total Budget</b>   | <b>15,986.00</b>                     | <b>10,650.00</b> | <b>35,881.00</b> |

***\*\*These are estimates, check with college officials for accurate costs!***

## Step 7

# Make Some Decisions

- Show initiative & be assertive
- Talk with your parents/counselor
- Select a college that meets your needs & preferences
- Follow up with colleges to which you have applied

*Take 'college planning'  
one step at a time!*

*Keep in mind...*

*making sound decisions will lead to satisfying experiences*

# A Final Word (or Two..)

**\*\*About Visitations to Colleges\*\***