

The Role of the Counselor in the Admission Process:

- The counselor helps the students assess and understand their future goals.
- The counselor provides a variety of career materials for the student to research future educational and career alternatives.
- The counselor reviews the student's total record (grades., test scores, extracurricular activities) to assist in mapping out an ongoing educational program.
- The counselor provides both general and specific information on colleges and careers and assists in the research process of specialized information for each student.
- The counselor guides the student through the many available resources.
- The counselor takes the students to college fairs giving them the opportunity to talk with even more college representatives.
- The counselor writes recommendation letters for each student. The letters are carefully thought out assessments of the student providing a clear picture of the student's assets and strengths.
- The counselor personally meets and gets to know as many admissions representatives as possible and communicates with many on a regular basis.
- The counselor continues to study and learn up-to-date information on all colleges.
- The counselor publicizes information on scholarships available.
- The counselor prepares the seniors for transition from high school to college throughout the senior year.

Organization for the Application Process:

1. Keep all college information in one box during the entire junior and senior year.
2. Keep all applications in one folder.
3. Work on one application at a time avoiding confusion.
4. Review the entire application before beginning to fill it out.
5. Make a copy of each application to use as a worksheet.
6. Give yourself plenty of time to work on your essays and have an English teacher review them with you. Make sure your essay gives a clear picture of yourself.
7. Discuss any questions you may have with your counselor.
8. Make sure each application is neatly typed or printed in black ink.
9. Keep a copy of your essays for future reference.
10. **Keep deadlines in mind** so that hurried applications do not become a necessity.
11. Make sure every question on your application is answered and every part of your application is completed.

Dictionary of College Application Terms:

Accreditation

Recognition granted to an institution of higher education by an official accrediting agency such as the state or region.

AP

Advance Placement Test. Test designed for the students in Advance Placement courses to determine whether or not they may gain advanced standing in a given subject.

Associate Degree

Two year program you will receive when attending college and receiving 60 credits; mostly seen in Community College.

Bachelor Degree

Four Year program while attending college. Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science.

CEEB Code

Each school has its own code. This code is required on all college applications and on the SAT I and II applications. The code for Alexander Hamilton is 331-840.

Common Application

Over 100 colleges have worked together to develop a Common Application. They encourage its use and make no distinction between it and the college's form. It must be completed only once. Copies may be sent to any number of participating institutions.

Community/Junior College

A two year institution which offers a program enabling a student to transfer to a year program and or receive an associate degree.

Cooperative Education

A combined program of both work and study leading to a college degree.

CSS

College Scholarship Service. The organization analyzes the Profile Aid Form and determines need. CSS provides guidelines to the financial aid office for the offering of funds.

CUNY

City University of New York. A network of colleges including four year, specialized and community colleges. All New York State residents are admitted on the same basis as those residing in New York City.

Deferred Admission (college)

On early decision applications, admission action is deferred to reevaluation at a later date.

Deferred Admission (student)

An admitted student may delay or defer enrollment into a college for one year or one semester with a guarantee of admission at the time he/she chooses.

Early Action

An application for an early offer of admission which permits the accepted candidate to wait until May 1st to accept or decline the offer of admission. Students are not bound to a single application under this plan as they are with Early Decision Application.

Early Decision

An application to a first choice college early in the Fall of the senior year. The applicant is bound by contract to enter that institution if offered admission. The student may submit additional applications if he/she is deferred or rejected.

Fee Waiver

The ability, under certain financial conditions, for students to file applications without the required fee.

Fees

Any costs beyond tuition or room and board, such as student activity fees, lab fees, computer fees.

GPA

Grade point average. The high school grade point average based on grades 9, 10 and 11.

Matriculate

To register or enroll in a college or university as a candidate for a degree.

Non-Matriculate

A student studying at an institution on a part time basis.

Open Admission

A policy which allows students to be accepted regardless of traditional criteria.

Profile

Many private colleges and universities require the Profile Form. It is used to determine the amount of financial aid offered to a student.

Rank in Class

The numerical position of a student in his/her graduating class. This rank is computed using a weighted average.

Rolling Admissions

A policy whereby review of applications for admission is done on a first-come, first-serve basis. Notification of acceptance or rejection is usually weeks after the college receives all credentials.

ROTC

Reserve Officers Training Corps. A scholarship or training program offered by the armed forces on many colleges' campuses. There is no obligation of service to the armed forces that must be fulfilled after graduation.

Score Choice

Score Choice allows you to put a hold on scores for all subject tests (SAT II) you take on a specific test date. This gives you a chance to review your performance on those tests before deciding whether to make any or all of them an active part of your score record. Once activated, however, those particular scores may not be withheld again. For more information, see the Registration Bulletin for the SAT program. Students should make sure that the scores are released by the summer of junior year.

Types of Post-Secondary Education:

University: An institution which offers undergraduate, graduate and professional degrees.

College: An institution which offers study toward a two or four year undergraduate degree.

Specialized Technical School: An institution which offers undergraduate programs combining liberal arts and technical studies in order to serve students with special educational or career goals (e.g. engineering).

United States Military Academies: Four-year institutions which offer programs leading to the B.S. degree as well as officer rank. Application for the military academics should be started in the Spring of the junior year. The U.S. Military Academy at West Point(Army), U.S. Air Force Academy(Air Force), U.S. Naval Academy(Navy), U.S. Coast Guard Academy(Coast Guard).

Community College: A two- year institution that is publicly supported and offers Associate degrees and one year certificates. Many community colleges do not offer on-campus housing.

Junior College: A private two year institution which offers study leading to an Associate degree.

Agricultural and Technical School: An institution which offers a two year Associate degree and usually has housing available on campus.

Hospital School of Nursing: A nursing school located within a hospital and directed toward a R.N. (Registered Nurse) designation without a B.S. degree.

Business School: A private school which offers one or two year degree and non-degree programs in the field of business.

Vocational School: An institution that provides specialized training leading to certificate or a diploma rather than a degree (e.g. computer school, diesel driving school)

Junior Year Checklist:

- Make an appointment to meet with your guidance counselor
 - Take the May SAT
 - Research colleges
- Take all Regents, AP classes or college courses offered in school to have an impressive transcript
 - Do some volunteer work or take on a summer job
 - Fill out the NCAA form
- **VISIT COLLEGES OVER THE SUMMER BREAK!!!**

Calendar for Senior Year:

September:

1. Make appointment with your counselor.
2. Check transcript to make sure you have all your graduation requirements or are scheduled to take them during senior year.
3. Become familiar with the application process.
4. Attend College Fairs.
5. Complete SAT application for the October or November SAT.
6. Complete activity record, if you have not already completed one.
7. Obtain applications for any school for which you plan to apply early action or early decision.
8. Write to college for applications and catalogs.
9. Make dates for college visitations and interviews.
10. Release SAT II scores if you did not do so during the summer.

OCTOBER

1. Start regular visits to the Guidance Office – College Research Center for research
2. Attend Alexander Hamilton College Fair
3. Discuss college choices with your counselor
4. Meet college representatives in the Guidance Office
5. Complete Early Action and Early Decision applications
6. Prepare for SAT's and/or ACT's
7. Prepare applications for the *SUNY-State University of New York State* schools and *CUNY-City University of New York* schools.
8. Complete essay and have your essay reviewed by your English teacher and counselor
9. Register for December SAT I or SAT II

NOVEMBER

1. Take the SAT I or SAT II
2. Keep deadline dates for applications in mind
3. Complete interviews and college visits
4. Work on applications
5. Mail application for December ACT by deadline
6. Meet with college representative in the Guidance Office
7. Submit all applications with January 1 deadline to the Guidance Office by the Thanksgiving recess. ***Remember that school will be closed for the holiday recess.

DECEMBER

1. REMEMBER: IT IS THE STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO CHECK APPLICATION DEADLINES!!!
2. Take SAT II tests in December
3. Take SAT I in December if you have not taken it in November
4. Take ACT in December
5. Send applications for January SAT I and SAT II by the deadline
6. Pick up Financial Aid Forms in Guidance Office

JANUARY

1. File Financial Aid Forms as soon as possible
2. Check senior courses and credits for final semester with your guidance counselor
3. Arrange to have mid-year reports sent to colleges
4. Have SAT I's and SAT II's sent to the colleges from the collegeboard
5. PREPARE FOR MID-TERM ANND FINAL EXAMINATION!!!
6. FIRST SEMESTER GRADES ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT IN THE APPLICATION PROCESS

FEBRUARY

1. Complete and send applications with Spring deadlines
2. Music majors should arrange for auditions
3. Art majors should complete portfolios
4. Prepare SUNY Special Talent and Supplementary applications
5. Research scholarship opportunities

March

1. Register for AP examinations
2. Visit colleges for final decision making
3. Be certain that all applications and tests have been completed

April

1. Contact students from colleges that you are considering to get all information for final decision making
2. Continue to seek scholarship awards
3. Notify the Guidance Office about your college admissions decision

May

1. **** FINAL DECISION!!! **** Candidate Reply Date is usually May 1
2. Send deposit to one school
3. Notify all other schools of your plans for the coming year
4. Take AP examinations
5. Notify the Guidance Office of final decision so that a final transcript will be sent to the school of your choice

June

1. GRADUATION !!!! ☺
2. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU CHECK THE GUIDANCE OFFICE FOR SCHOLARSHIPS AND LISTEN TO THE ANNOUNCEMENTS SO THAT YOU WILL NOT MISS ANY OPPORTUNITIES.

*As you examine colleges through the many
Research sources available,
Ask yourself the following questions:*

SIZE: Do I want a school with several hundred or several thousand students?

LOCATION: Do I want to live in or near a big city?
Do I want to be within a certain distance from home?
Do I like a warm climate or would I rather be near ski country?
Do I want to live off campus or in dormitory housing?

TYPE: Am I interested primarily in a public or private institution?
Do I want a school that specializes in a particular area of study?
Do I want a college with a religious orientation?

STUDENT BODY: What is the geographic distribution of the student body?
Do many of the students live on campus or do most of them commute to school?
Are most of the students from one part of the country?

COMPETITIVENESS: What grade point average is the college looking for?
Do I fit into its median SAT or ACT scores?
Do I need SAT II tests?

SPECIALIZATION: Does the college fulfill my special need in the curriculum area?
Can I take a cooperative work-study program if I want to?
Can I take a dual major?

SPECIAL ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENT: Do I need specific high school subjects for admission to the program of my choice?
What standardized tests should I take for admissions?
Does this college require interviews?
Are these interviews on campus or alumni interviews?
Are there music or drama auditions required?

FINANCES: What are the overall financial costs of each college?
Are there opportunities for financial assistance available?

FACILITIES: Are there athletic facilities for my needs?
Will I be able to get plenty of computer time?
Will the laboratory facilities fulfill my requirements for study and research?
Are the dormitories adequate for my housing needs?
Is the library a comfortable place to study as well as an adequate research facility?

CAMPUS LIFE: What kind of extracurricular activities are available for me?
Are there interscholastic and intramural athletics?
Are there fraternities and sororities?
Are they an important part of campus life?
Does the Student Union have recreational facilities?
Are there cultural events on campus?

These are just a few of the questions you will want answered as you research the colleges for you. You may also want to know about:

- A Professional Advisory Committee if you are considering graduate school
- Counseling Services if you are having any study skills problems
- Study Abroad programs
- The possibilities for cross enrollment in nearby colleges
- The strength of placement services for career placement upon graduation
- The ROTC programs available on campus

One of the best ways to learn about a college is to visit the campus. Plan to make a visit during the school year when classes are in session. Many colleges schedule campus tours.

During your visit, walk around campus and get a feeling for its size and atmosphere. Find out about the things that are important to you. Visit the student center, the cafeteria, the dormitories and the library. Talk to the students wherever you go.

If the college recommends that applicants have an interview, schedule it for the same time you visit the campus.

There are a few things that should not come into consideration at the present time. One is selection of school because some of your high school friends are planning on being there. While they may be good friends, their needs for higher education may not be the same as yours. So what is best for your future may not be what is best for theirs.

Another consideration that should be put off for a while is the financial aspects of college. While you may be realistic about the cost of college, avoid worrying about costs during the first stages of the application process. The final decision will not be made until April or May and by then, financial aid information will be forthcoming to help in the decision-making process.

WHAT DOES A COLLEGE LOOK FOR IN AN APPLICANT?

A college is not looking for one particular factor in an applicant. Selection of a freshman class is a complex task which depends upon many factors. Admissions counselors seek applicants who are capable of enriching the college at the same time as they are capable of gaining enrichment from the college. Each applicant must put together a package of his or her many strong points so that the application is seen in its most positive form.

The criteria, which must be included in each applicant's package, in a neat and clear manner is listed below.

ACADEMIC RECORD

Grade Point Average Not only the grades themselves, but also what courses were taken to receive those grades

Type of Curriculum What was the quality of the course work?
Were the courses Regents, honors?
Did the student take AP courses?
Quality of the senior year program
Has the student continued to maintain a difficult schedule of course work?

** It should be noted that while various schools use different priorities in choosing their freshman class, the vast majority give priority to the academic record, particularly the grades earned in the major subjects: English, Social Studies, Mathematics, Science and Second Language.

STANDARDIZED TEST SCORES

- How did the student score on SAT's and/or ACT's?
- Has the student taken SAT II tests to show achievement in specific areas of the curriculum?

SENIOR YEAR GRADES

The grades received in the senior year give the applicant the opportunity to show the colleges what he/she is capable of achieving, and that there is motivation for success. While the senior year cannot change weak credentials in grades 9, 10 and 11, it can indicate that a student has matured and should be given consideration. For those seniors who already have good credentials, a good first semester is important.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Has the student given a great deal of time and energy to an athletic endeavor?
- Has the student shown leadership qualities through work on a newspaper, in a volunteer organization?
- Does this student spend several hours a day working outside of school?

RECOMMENDATIONS

Have the teachers and/or counselor given this student particularly strong recommendations?

INTERVIEWS

- How did the student appear at the interview?
- Was his/her dress appropriate?
- Did he/she conduct himself/herself in a mature manner?
- Has the student done his/her homework insofar as the college was concerned?
- Did the student know enough about the college to know it was a place he/she would like to attend?
- Is the student able to answer questions about himself/herself and why he/she would like to study at this college?
- Can the student answer why this is the “right” college for him/her?
- Was the student prepared for the interview?

Most interviewers will say at the end of their portion of the interview, “Do you have any questions?” The student should not ask questions that can be answered in the catalog. However, students are able to get research assistantships during the summer or whether or not computer time is difficult to get. **Only you know exactly what it is you still want to know about this college.

SPECIAL INFORMATION

This information should be conveyed to the college admissions office:

1. Do you have a special talent which makes you unique (e.g., proficiency in a second language, ability in one of the performing arts, a great deal of travel experience)?
2. Have you done some extraordinary independent study (research in a scientific field, computer work)?
3. Have you had an unusual summer activity?

ESSAY

*** NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF AN ESSAY ***

The essay is of extreme importance and can be the decisive factor in many college applications. Essays should not be done in a hurried fashion. The essay should be a “masterpiece” which displays your best qualities of character as well as your writing ability. Whatever your talent is, the essay should reflect who you are, how you feel about life. This is your personal statement which gives a verbal picture of you for the admissions committee.

Your written picture will describe your personality, ability, motivation and how much you care about getting accepted to college. Your writing is an example of your emotional and intellectual capabilities and of how much time and effort you put into this portion of your application. Answer the exact question that has been asked while making sure that you, the individual, come through in the answer.

Standardized Tests

SAT I ACT SAT II REGENTS

Every secondary school has its own system of grading. Therefore, it is a difficult task for a college to compare the students at Alexander Hamilton with an applicant from another school in another city or state. Standardized tests give the college common criteria to use for comparing the applicants.

Every college has its own requirements for standardized tests. You must check with the colleges you will be applying to in order to know which standardized tests you will need to complete your application requirements.

There are a few basic points to keep in mind where standardized tests are concerned:

- Plan to take the SAT I or ACT twice, once in the Spring of junior year and at least once in the Fall of your senior year.
- The Alexander Hamilton code is 331840.
- Scores are returned about four to six weeks after the test date
- Not all tests are given at all test centers. The registration bulletin provides all information on test dates and centers.
- You can take either a SAT I or SAT II on a given day, but you cannot take both on the same day.
- There is no quick way to develop the skill of reading and understanding material. You can improve your reading ability through habitual reading of all kinds of materials.
- Preparation courses are valuable in helping students to become familiar with the test format. Our school offers SAT preparation during the school day. Test anxiety may be lessened as the student learns better test techniques.

SAT II (Formerly Achievement Tests)

SAT II's are designed to test the level of knowledge of a student in a particular academic discipline. Each SAT II test is one hour long on a specific subject. It is generally a good idea to take an SAT II upon completion of the subject. Highly selective colleges usually require or recommend specific subject tests. Some colleges consider them as factors in the admissions, others use them to place students in the appropriate level of work when they enroll. SAT II's are given in the following subject areas:

AMERICAN HISTORY	GERMAN
BIOLOGY	HEBREW
CHEMISTRY	ITALIAN
ENGLISH COMPOSITION	LATIN
EUROPEAN HISTORY (WORLD CULTURES)	LITERATURE SPANISH
FRENCH	MATHEMATICS (LEVEL I AND II C)

***Be sure to determine specific admissions testing criteria for the colleges you are applying to.

SCORE CHOICE OPTION

Score Choice allows you to put a hold on scores for all subject tests you take on a single date. This gives you a chance to review your performance on those tests before you decide to make any or all of them an active part of your school record. Once activated, however, those particular scores may not be withheld again. For more information, see the Registration bulletin in the SAT Program. Once the scores are released, you must request that they be sent to colleges that require them.

PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test and the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test)

All juniors should take this test in the Fall of their Junior year. Many sophomores take the PSAT to familiarize themselves with the format of the test. It gives the student a rough estimate of his/her future SAT scores and points out the student's strengths and weaknesses so that further preparation may raise future scores. The

NMSQT Selection Index (twice the verbal score plus math score) determines the minimum score to receive national recognition for National Merit Scholarships.

SAT I: Scholastic Aptitude Test

This test is designed to measure verbal and mathematical reasoning. It should be taken in junior year and again in senior year. It is a required test for admission to many colleges since it is used to supplement the secondary school record.

ACT: American College Testing Program

This standardized test is usually accepted in lieu of the SAT I. It is the student's responsibility to check if the ACT is accepted at a particular school. It is a multiple choice test score reported on a scale of 1 to 36 for each individual test portion and on a composite average.

Financial Aid:

- There is one overriding equation, which must be kept in mind about financial aid. This equation covers every person who applies for aid for college.

Cost of College-Family Contribution = Demonstrated Need

- In the simplest of terms, this means that once the college Scholarship Service has identified the amount of Family Contribution, that amount remains the same no matter what the cost of the college. Therefore, it is important to remember that no institution should be eliminated because you believe it is not affordable. Although the government expects each family to contribute something toward college expenses, aid programs exist which will bridge the gap between the total cost of the college and the family's ability to pay.
- The "Demonstrated Need" is assessed through the need analysis system provided through the Financial Aid Form. This form may be obtained in the Guidance Office during the month of December and should be sent to the College Scholarship Service as soon after January 1st as possible.
- The Financial Aid Form is processed separately from the college application. The National Association of College Admissions Counselors that all applications be considered "need blind". That means that the student is considered for the college whether or not the student has financial need.

GRANTS: These are gifts, which do not have to be repaid. Many of these are awarded on the basis of need alone.

SCHOLARSHIPS: These are gifts, which do not have to be repaid. These are awarded when the recipient meets criteria other than need such as athletic, academic and artistic.

LOANS: These require repayment with interest to the source of lending.

COLLEGE WORK STUDY: Jobs obtained through the college and determined by need.

PARENT-LOAN: “PLUS” parent loans for the undergraduate students, which are available at most banks and credit unions.

The COLLEGE INTERVIEW

The interview personalizes the application process. However, while interviews may be required, recommended or optional in many schools, they may not be offered at others.

The Interview

May take place either on campus or locally with an alumnus of the college, allows for an exchange of information both ways, and expresses your seriousness of purpose.

Preparation

Take stock of your personal strength and become knowledgeable of the college. Prepare questions you would like to ask the college counselor.

Guidelines for Interview

Communicate personal qualities. Show confidence and poise, and explain your weakness in your application. Dress neatly, be prompt, be honest, remember the counselor's name, relax and be yourself. Always remember to send a thank you letter to the counselor.

Questions Interviewers Ask

Why are you considering this college?

What are your extracurricular activities outside of school and in the school?

How do you define success?

What can you contribute to this college?

What can you tell me about yourself?

What are your future plans?

What events were critical in your development?

What has been your most significant contribution to your school or community?

What do you expect to achieve in college?

Where else have you applied to college?

Questions to Ask the Interviewer

What are the smallest and largest first year classes?

What is student housing like?

What are the food services options?

Are your facilities capable to the industries of the working world?

How much academic pressure is there your first year? Is there any support?

How diverse is the student body?

How is the social life on campus organized?

What are the graduation requirements?

Do you have intramural teams for those who are not on a team?

What kind of personal qualities do students as a whole tend to have here?

Sample Letter for Application

Your Address
City, State, Zip Code

Date

Office of Admissions
Name of College
Address of College
City, State, Zip Code

Dear _____:

I am a student at Alexander Hamilton High School in Elmsford, New York and will be graduating in June 2010. I am interested in applying for admission to the freshman class of September 2010.

Please send me an application, a catalog, information on financial aid, and information on my special area of interest which is _____.

Thank you very much.

Yours truly,

FULL NAME

Sample Letter of Thank you After Your Interview

Your Address
City, State, Zip Code

Date

Director of Admissions
Name of College
Address of College
City, State, Zip Code

Dear _____:

I would like to thank you for your time and personal interest during my visit to your campus on (specific day and date). (Remind person of something specific which happened or was mentioned during the interview, e. g., I certainly enjoyed our discussion on team sports and appreciate how much we had in common in that area).

Again, thank you for a most interesting and informative meeting.

Sincerely,

FULL NAME

Sample Essay Questions Found on College Applications

Example One

The essay section of the admission application is an opportunity to help us become acquainted with you through a means different from courses, grades, test scores and other objective data. It enables you to demonstrate your ability to organize thoughts and express yourself. With these objectives in mind, please write an essay about one of the topics listed below:

1. Describe a significant experience or achievement that has meaning to you.
2. Discuss some issue of personal, local or national concern and its importance to you.
3. If you could travel through time and interview any historical figure, whom would you choose, what would you ask, and why?

Example Two

It is our aim to get to know you as well as possible through this application. With this in mind, please describe in detail some special interest, experience, achievement or anything else you would like us to know about you. Essays on personal, local or national issues that are of particular concern to you are also welcomed.

Example Three

In order to acquaint us with you, please write a personal statement including your reasons for applying to _____, your interests and any other information you wish to give about yourself. Indicate any career plans you might have. Please take time to prepare a thorough statement. The Admissions Committee requires this information when reviewing your application.

Example Four

It will aid us in reading your application if you will explain in some detail your interest in the field that you wish to pursue at _____, and how you intend to develop that interest in college and beyond.

Example Five

Why do you think _____ is an appropriate place for you to continue your education?

INFORMATION AVAILABLE THROUGH THE INTERNET

In addition to this publication and other printed materials, a host of information about preparing for college is available through the Internet.

Below you will find several sources of information along with their “address” on the Internet. In the event that the “address” of a source changes, you should be able to location information about preparing for college by searing with the use of phrases such as “college planning” or “preparing for college” or by searching with the name of the source instead of the Internet address.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

The College Board:

The College Board is a national membership association of schools and colleges whose aim is to facilitate the transition to higher education. Use the address below to access information offered by the Collage Board.

Address: <http://www.collegeboard.org>

The Common Application:

The Common Application is an application that is accepted by over 150 independent colleges. Students can fill out one Common Application and make copies for all other colleges that accept the Common Application. Forms are online.

Address: <http://www.commonapp.org>

The Financial Aid Information Page:

The Financial Aid Information Page provides links to sources of information about student financial aid.

Address:

<http://www.cs.cmu.edu/afs/cs/user/mkant/Public/FinAid/finaid.html>

Scholarship Search Websites:

<http://www.fastweb.com>

<http://www.meritaid.com>

The FAFSA:

The FAFSA or The Free Application for Federal Student Aid is the financial aid form students will need to apply for federal and state student grants, work-study, and loans.

Address: <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>

The Student Loan Marketing Association (Sallie Mae):

The Student Loan Marketing Association (Sallie Mae) is a provider of financial services and operational support for higher education. Use the address below to access information offered by Sallie Mae on planning for colleges.

Address: <http://www.salliemae.com>

The NCAA Clearinghouse:

The NCAA Initial Clearinghouse is the organization that determines whether prospective college athletes are eligible to play sports at NCAA Division I or Divisions II institutions. It does this by reviewing the student athlete's academic record, SAT or ACT scores, and amateur status to ensure conformity with NCAA rules.

Address: <http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net>

The U. S. Department of Education

The U. S. Department of Education and its Office of Post-Secondary Education have information that may be helpful to you. The Student Guide is available over the Internet from the Education Department.

U. S. Department of (ED)

Address: <http://www.ed.gov>

ED's Office of Post-Secondary Education

Address: <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OPE/index.html>

The Student Guide

Address: <http://www.ed.gov/proginfo/SFA/StudentGuide>

COLLEGE RESOURCES

Resources with Objective Data and Information:

Cass & Birnbaum's Guide to American Colleges. Harper Collins
The College Handbook. College Board
Lovejoy's College Guide. Macmillan
Peterson's Guide to Four-Year Colleges. Peterson's
America's Black & Tribal Colleges. J. Wilson Bowman
Four-Year College Admissions Index of Major & Sports. Orchard House

Resources with Subjective Evaluations and Descriptions:

The Insider's Guide to the Colleges. St. Martin's Griffin
The Multicultural Student's Guide to Colleges. Robert Mitchell

Resources with College Rankings and Ratings:

Barrons' Top 50: An Inside Look at America's Best Colleges. Fischgrund
The Fiske Guide to Colleges. Edward B. Fiske
The Gourman Report. Jack Gourman
The 100 Best Colleges for African-American Students. Wilson
Peterson's Competitive Colleges. Peterson's
Rugg's Recommendations on the Colleges. Frederick Rug