

STEPS TO COLLEGE PLANNING

STEP 1: KNOW YOURSELF AND YOUR REASONS FOR ATTENDING COLLEGE

You will be the one to attend college so the final decision is yours. When you research a school, consider how it will fit with your interests, future plans and dreams. You must be able to recognize your strengths and weaknesses.

STEP 2: CONSIDER COLLEGE CHARACTERISTICS

The majors offered are the most important aspects of a college choice, but what if you are undecided? There are other characteristics that are also important which relate to your needs and preferences. The location and the size of the school, accreditation, student life, cost, support services, and the admission policy must be considered during your research.

STEP 3: LIST, COMPARE, AND VISIT COLLEGES

By using the variety of resources available, an informed decision can be made. The counseling office has access to many catalogues and software packages to aid in your research. The College Board College Search & Naviance programs are excellent resources for comparing and contrasting colleges and careers. Remember, the best way to make your decision is to visit the campus and personally talk to students and faculty.

STEP 4: APPLY FOR ADMISSIONS AND OBSERVE DEADLINES

Researching to narrow your choices is important. You should take into consideration the cost of the school and its scholarship requirements. When you have made your decisions you should work with your counselor to compile your applications. Each of the applications for admission should include documents such as high school transcripts, letters of recommendation, your test results, and essays. The completed application must be submitted by the colleges' deadline.

STEP 5: DEVELOP A PLAN TO FINANCE YOUR EDUCATION

Start by talking with your parents/guardians to explore all possible resources, i.e. savings, summer earnings, and financial aid in the form of scholarships. After being accepted to a college, check to see if they offer any special scholarships particular to that school. Make sure to apply for financial aid as early as possible.

STEP 6: REVIEW AND FINALIZE YOUR PLANS

Consider all of the information you have compiled with the schools to which you have been accepted in order to make your final decision. Remember that you will be attending this school for the next few years and your decision must be based on your goals and needs.

