

# Planning for College & Finding the Right Fit



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# Get Started Early

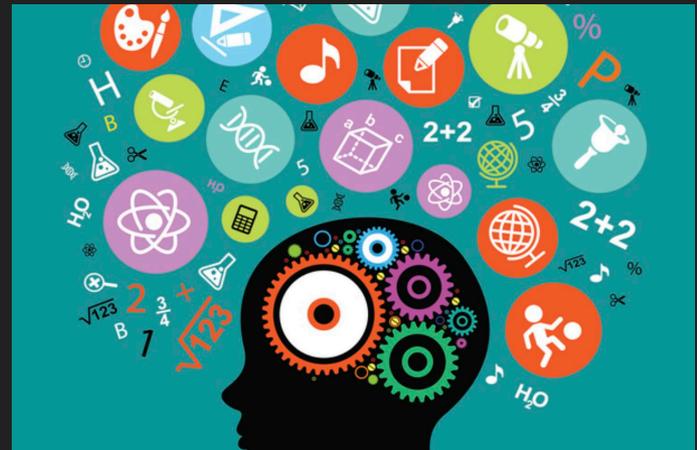
- What will you do when you graduate?
- Begin gathering information on schools that offer your program of interest.
- There are over 50 college choices in Kansas!

# Know Your Choices

- Technical Schools
- 2 year Public Colleges
- 2 year Private Colleges
- 4 year State Universities
- 4 year Public Colleges and Universities
- 4 year Private Colleges and Universities

# Identify Your Abilities & Interests

- ⦿ What are your skills and talents?
- ⦿ What classes have you enjoyed the most during your high school career?
- ⦿ Would you like to work with people, things or ideas?



# Know What Factors to Consider

- Is the college's location important?
  - Close to home
  - Far from home
- Would you prefer living on-campus or commuting from home?
- What size of college do you prefer?
  - Small (100-2,000)
  - Medium (2,000-10,000)
  - Large (10,000 or more)
- What size of town are you looking for?
  - Small town
  - Large, city environment



# Factors to Consider (cont'd)

- What type of college are you considering?
  - Community College
  - 4-year (Private or Public)
  - Technical/Trade School
- Will participating in specific extracurricular activities be important in your decision?
  - Student Government
  - Religious Organizations
  - Sports
  - Fraternities and Sororities

# Factors to Consider (cont'd)

- What are the Admission Requirements?
  - ACT/SAT scores, GPA, coursework, etc.
  - Deadlines
  - Essays or Interviews
  - Decision process
- Does the college accept your AP courses or other college credits you've already earned?
- Is accreditation of the academic program/institution important to you?
- Will each institution equally prepare me for my career choice or help me choose a career?

# Know the Cost of Your Education

- Tuition and Fees
- Room and Board
- Books
- Travel Expenses
- Personal Expenses



# Can I Afford it?

- Don't rule out a school based on their cost of attendance alone
- Consider this:
  - Financial Aid amounts are based on the cost of attendance for each individual school
  - Cost of Attendance charts
  - Scholarships and Grants could be available



# Financial Aid

- FAFSA
  - Typically can be filed beginning in fall or winter
  - Priority deadline is usually March 1 or April 1 at schools
  - <https://studentaid.gov/>
- Financial Aid Offices at colleges & universities
  - Often list Federal Aid information & links
  - Will help families budget and plan for college
  - Explains financial aid eligibility, how to understand your aid & how to accept scholarship and grants
  - Great to include appointment with Financial Aid on campus visits!
  - <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/home>
- Scholarship Websites
  - [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
  - [www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com)
  - <https://www.vuscholarships.com/>

# Utilize Your Resources

## ○ High School Counselor

- Reference Books
- Institutional Viewbooks/Brochures
- Personal Knowledge

## ○ College Admissions Counselors

- Check the calendar in the Guidance Office
- Sign-up in advance to meet with reps (depending on school policy)
- Pay attention to presentations
- We get paid to help you!

# Online Resources

- Reliable Internet Sources
  - High School Website
  - Individual College/University Website
    - Catalog
    - Virtual Tours
    - The College Tour (Amazon Prime)
    - Admission requirements
    - Academic information
    - Costs (“Net price calculator”)
  - College Board: [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)



# Do Your Research

- What are the requirements for admission?
  - View the school website for details
  - Contact the Admissions Office
- What is the application deadline?
  - Some schools will have deadlines, others will not
- How selective is the school?
- Apply to your top 3-5 choices
  - It is better to be prepared for each school rather than playing “catch up” later

# College Planning Conferences (CPCs)

- Put the date on your calendar
  - Check with your counselor for dates (typically in fall & junior fairs in spring)
- Decide which schools you want to visit with at the CPC and stop by their tables
- Write down questions in advance so you can ask them of each representative you visit with
- Complete the contact cards or QR Code
  - Labels or [www.strivescan.com](http://www.strivescan.com)
- If time allows, visit with other schools
- When you get home, read and sort the brochures, scan QR codes to get on mailing lists

# Visit Campus

- Personal visit vs. Campus Event
- Spring breaks & weekends are convenient, but may not be as in-depth or true depiction of campuses
- Set up an appointment with the Admissions Office in advance
- Visit when school is in session
- Wear comfortable clothing and shoes
- Check your schedule for the day
  - Are you meeting with faculty, financial aid, going on a campus tour, looking at housing options?
  - Allow extra time to explore!
- Notify the school if you won't be able to attend
- Don't just do a "drive through"



# Start the Admission Process

- Complete an Application for Admission
- Pay the Application Fee
  - Fees will range from \$0 - \$50
  - Apply Kansas Free App Days in October but some KS colleges don't have fee any time
- Submit Your Information
  - ACT or SAT Scores
  - High School Transcript and Senior Class Schedule
  - College Transcripts
- Note Any Other Documents You Need to Send
  - Letters of Recommendation, Interviews or Essays, Activity Chart or Resume
  - Create a Professional E-mail and Check it
  - Use for Applying Online, Contacting Schools, and Scholarships

# Social Media

## ○ Use Social Media Wisely

- Review your privacy settings and make changes if needed
- Review your photos and remove any albums or tagged photos that are not appropriate
- Do not post blogs, notes, or make derogatory wall comments about colleges especially if you choose not to limit your privacy.



# After You Have Been Accepted

- ◎ Celebrate!
- ◎ Make Housing Arrangements
  - Learn your school's requirements
- ◎ Complete the FAFSA
- ◎ Enroll in Classes
  - Many schools have orientation programs
- ◎ Take Care of All Deposits
- ◎ Notify Other Schools of Your Decision
  - Don't feel bad for deciding that another school is a better fit for you.



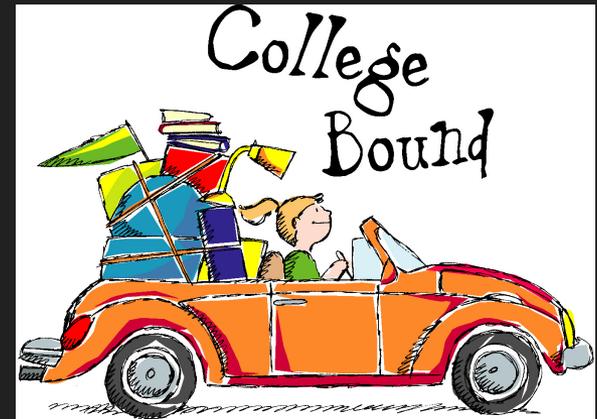
# Remember. . . it is YOUR Future!

- Be sure to avoid:
  - Deciding not to apply to a school because you think you won't be accepted
  - Procrastination
  - Letting others make the choice for you



# In Review

- Get started EARLY
- RESEARCH your options
- Attend COLLEGE PLANNING CONFERENCES
- VISIT the colleges you're considering
- APPLY for admission
- Check in with your Admissions Rep
- Check into FINANCIAL AID
- Make HOUSING arrangements
- ENROLL in classes



# Questions?



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