

# Preparing For and Applying to College



# Objectives

- Learn key factors for preparing for college in high school
- Discover how to select the right college
- Understand the admissions process
- Learn about resources that can assist you further

# Preparing for College

- Fulfill core curriculum requirements
- Consider AP classes
- Participate in extracurricular/enrichment activities
- Take preparatory and admissions tests

# Assessing Your Needs

- What have I accomplished so far?
- What are my strengths?
- Why do I want to go to college?
- What do I hope to achieve?
- What type of job do I want?
- Which college will be prepare me?

# Beginning Your Search

- Educational materials
- Internet
- Software programs
- College fairs
- Videos/CDs
- Campus visits
- Educational consultants

# Factors to Consider

- Two-year vs. four-year degree
- Entrance difficulty
- Academics
- Cost

# Factors to Consider

- Location and campus environment
- Social life and campus activities
- Security
- Special programs and educational opportunities

# The Admissions Process

- Application
  - Application form
  - Transcripts
  - Essay

# The Admissions Process (Continued)

- Recommendations
- Extracurricular activities
- Standardized test scores
- Interviews

# Other Factors in the Decision-Making Process

- Special strengths and talents
- Potential contributions school community
- The ability of the school to meet the student's needs
- Total number of applicants and spaces available
- Alumni, sibling or other connections to the school
- Ability to finance the education
- Amount of financial aid needed

# The Decision-Making Process

- Application is received
- Admissions committee members individually rate and review applications
- Applications receiving a majority of favorable ratings—accepted
- Applications with mixed reviews—debated further or “wait-listed”

# Making the Decision

- Remember that final the decision should be your child's
- Be sure the school has a wide range of academic possibilities
- Visit the school(s) again, if possible
- Re-evaluate what factors attracted you to the school in the first place

# Additional Resources

- **The College Board**  
<http://www.collegeboard.org>
- **U.S. Department of Education**  
<http://www.ed.gov>
- **National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC)**  
<http://www.nacac.com>

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