

- Is the size of the student body important to you?
- What are the facilities like? (i.e. dorms, classrooms, labs, gym, cafeterias)

College Cost: There are many sources of financial aid; therefore cost should not exclude any of your college choices at this point. (see information on safety schools on page 9.) There are many factors that determine how financial aid is awarded, these include:

- Family income
- Family size
- Family assets
- Other family members enrolled in college
- Student income and assets

To get a better sense of the **MINIMUM your family will be expected to pay** each year for college, go to the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) calculator at one of the following websites: www.collegeboard.org/student/pay/add-it-up/401.html.

Beginning in October 2011, each college website will have a **Net Price Calculator** that will use the EFC to take the next step: Estimate a potential financial aid package, including what scholarships and/or grants the student may receive based on academic record. It will then show you what that college could cost you out of pocket. You can access this calculator via the college's website or the above website through college board.

College Searching

Internet Searches

There are several programs which allow you to select certain criteria from an extensive list and then a list of schools that match your criteria will be provided. For example, you could select the following:

- Programs/Majors: Biology and Biochemistry
- Campus Setting: Urban
- Location: New York or Massachusetts
- Enrollment (size of school): Medium – 5,000 to 10,000 students
- Sports: Division 3 Bowling

You would then be given a list of colleges that match all of those criteria so that you could then research those schools. **Even if you are undecided about a major, think about the other things you would like in a college when doing some searching.**

Parents: Several of the following websites have *Parent* sections specifically designed for you!

The College Board: www.collegeboard.org - This is the largest clearinghouse for information on colleges and universities. Click on “College Matchmaker” on the left-hand toolbar.

Guidance Direct: www.guidancedirect.com School ID: 0459359 Password: M86S8085 (see page 3).

Cappex: www.cappex.com – You can see colleges who might be looking for someone like you, scholarships and view your chances of getting into specific colleges here.

Princeton Review: www.princetonreview.com - This site offers college choices in three categories: Long shots, matches and safety schools.

US News & World Report: www.usnews.com - Click on the *Education* link at the top of the page. Keep in mind that the rankings on this list are somewhat subjective, but it has a list of majors to find schools that offer certain programs.

SUNY Website: www.suny.edu/student - This is the website for the whole SUNY system. There is a *Campus Search* link in the Get Started section among other links for a variety of information.

The ACT Website: www.actstudent.org - This website has an excellent *College Planning* section rather than a college search section.

Individual College Websites: This is the best place to find the most up-to-date information on a particular school. Visit the *Undergraduate Admissions* or *Prospective Students* page for general information. Go to the *Academics* link to find information on specific majors, both a list of pre-requisites to get into that major and courses needed to earn a degree in that field. Never be afraid to call or email the Admissions Office for clarification on questions that may arise.

More Research Options

Websites are one great way to develop a list of potential schools, but there are other resources that can be very helpful as well. The following are some other ways to find out about colleges:

Rugg's Recommendations on the Colleges: This book lists “quality departments at quality colleges” and what they consider the top 1000 schools in the United States. If you have a major you want to research you can simply look it up and get a list of colleges that the Rugg's team deems as having an excellent program for that major. Colleges are organized into three groups, Most Selective (SAT scores above 1800, ACT above 27), Very Selective (SAT between 1650 and 1800, ACT between 24 and 26) and Selective (SAT scores around 1650, ACT around 24). They use all three sections of the SAT (critical reading, math and writing) for these groupings. Each counselor has an up-to-date copy of Rugg's Recommendations in his or her office.

Colleges Visiting Mohonasen: Every fall a number of colleges send admission representatives to meet with students at Mohonasen. It's a great way to get answers to questions you have from visiting the school's website. There are a number of ways to find out who is coming and when they'll be here. You can:

- Listen to the morning announcements.
- Stop by the Counseling and Career Center weekly.
- Look in the C&CC window or in your homeroom - Upcoming visits are prominently displayed in the window of the C&CC and in senior homerooms.
- Visit the High School Guidance webpage on the mohonasen.org website.
- MHS TV

Colleges Visiting the Capital District: Some colleges visit the area throughout the school year. Instead of just meeting at individual high schools, they hold information sessions at area hotels. Write, call or email the Admissions Office to find out when a representative will be in the area. This is a good opportunity for parents/guardians to ask their questions too!

College Fairs: Over 250 schools send representatives to Hudson Valley Community College twice a year (October and May) for College Fairs. This is an excellent way to meet with admissions staff from a number of schools in one place! Go with questions. Stop down to the C&CC for dates and times or check the CASDA website at <http://casdany.org/eventscal.htm> .

Your College Visits: It's important to try and visit the colleges on your list. It is the only way to get a complete picture of the school and what they have to offer. If possible, visit the school when it is in session and the students are there. Listen to your “gut” reaction to the campus; remember this will not only be your school but also your home. There will be more information on college visits later.