

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.

**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 (fall and spring) 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.

**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.

### **To How Many Schools Should You Apply?**

There is no set answer to this question. The goal is to find a good match between you and the school; and of course to be accepted at the school(s) you are interested in attending. Keep in mind that application fees can be expensive, so do thorough research before submitting an application. As a general rule, we recommend a **maximum** of five or six colleges. Schools can be broken up into the categories discussed below. We recommend that all students apply to at least one safety school.

#### **Categories**

- **Safety School:** Your GPA and college entrance exam scores (SAT or ACT) are significantly above the averages reported by the college as admission requirements. Included in your safety schools should be a **financial safety**

school. This would be a school that you could afford to attend even if you receive no financial aid.

- **Comfort School:** Your GPA and college entrance exam scores are near the averages reported by the college as admission requirements.
- **Reach School:** Your GPA and college entrance exam scores are significantly below the averages reported by the college as admission requirements.

Please see the sample student profile below for an example of the category in which each of the colleges would fall.

Sample Student Profile: GPA – 85, SAT Score – 1050 (Based on combined Critical Reading and Math, **not** Writing)

College	Recommended GPA for Admission	Recommended SAT Scores for Admission	Admissions Category
A	80	950	Safety
B	85	1000	Comfortable
C	90	1200	Reach

Please see the Appendix for the SUNY Admissions Information Summaries (\*).

### 2 Year vs. 4 Year Colleges

One major choice that students need to make is whether they would like to attend a 2 year or a 4 year college. Some factors as to why students will choose a 2 year school include: they want to live at home, they want to save money, the career they would like to pursue only requires a 2 year degree, or perhaps they are not able to get into their “top choice” directly out of high school and they want to improve their grades to transfer to that college. (Be sure to communicate with the 4 year colleges you are interested in transferring to throughout the whole process.) Many students think of only community colleges when they think about 2 year colleges. However, there are a large number of private and public 2 year schools that will allow you to live away from home and either graduate with the degree you need for your career, or transfer to a 4 year college. Many 2 year colleges have direct transfer programs to 4 year colleges. Like any other part of this process it is important to think about what you are looking for from your college experience, where you stand academically, and what degree you need to pursue your career when making this choice. Many students will apply to a combination of 2 year and 4 year colleges when making their final choices about applications.