

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.

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 should be a school that you would like to attend **AND** 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