

- 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 8.) 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

College Searching

Internet Searches

These programs typically 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

Then you would 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: Often, these sites will have *Parent* sections specifically designed for you!

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

Bridges: www.bridges.com Site ID:1011241 Password: mohonschool

The Choices program, which is the in-school version of Bridges, is available in the library, Betty Jarvis Library and all the computer labs in the high school (see page 3).

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 know what major you want to study you can simply look it up and get a list of colleges that the Rugg's team believes have 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 right at Mohonasen. It's a great way to get