

Choosing a College That is Right for You

Crescent Valley High School
Counseling Department

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College Decision Making is a Process...

Step 1: Know your self

- Dream about your goals and future
- Analyze your personal and academic strengths and areas needing improvement
- Think about your interests, values, and achievements

Step 2: Know your reasons for attending college

- Articulate why you want to go to college
- Make a list of the outcomes that you desire from a college education
- Decide if you are committed to academics

Step 3: Consider college characteristics

- Academic offerings
- Academic environment
- Campus activities
- Scholarships offered
- Mission/Philosophy
- Qualities in student body
- Religions/Ethic orientation
- Coeducation or single sex
- Admission policy
- Location
- Cost
- Size

Step 4: Identify, research & compare colleges

- Determine which colleges match the combination of factors you have identified as important to your academic and personal success
- Be an active researcher: All colleges have good and bad points
- Compile information from many resources: people, colleges, Career Center
- Prepare and use a college comparison checklist (Excel)
- Weigh advantages and disadvantages
- Schedule campus visits. Campus visits must be pre-arranged and are suggested in addition to preview days. They should include:
 - ⇒ Tour
 - ⇒ Attend a class
 - ⇒ Meal in campus dining hall
 - ⇒ Meet with any special individuals (coach, department head, etc.)

Step 5: Decide where you will apply

- Identify high interest schools
- Identify your reach, target, and safety schools.
- Continue to learn more about each school

Step 6: Develop a plan of action

- Determine needs to be done, by whom and when for admissions, housing, and financial aid/scholarships
- Submit application materials: application, transcript, test results
- Recommendations, if needed, must be arranged through counseling office.
- Contact school counselor EARLY if you need assistance OR if you're applying to a private college/university or public honors college