

Navigating the College Search: A Guide for Sophomores

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Getting Started

College prep starts with SELF-REFLECTION and CONVERSATION:

- ◆ Assess your interests, strengths, weaknesses and goals
- ◆ Ask yourself -
 - ◇ What are your passions?
 - ◇ What kind of environment to you thrive in?
 - ◇ Do you have any interests in academic areas such as math, science, english, world languages?
- ◆ Talk to your parents, talk to siblings, talk to friends about their college experience

Factors to Consider

- ◆ Size of the school
 - ◇ Big like Mizzou (25,000)?
 - ◇ Medium like SLU (10,000)?
 - ◇ Small like Maryville (2,500)?
- ◆ Location - Can you see yourself away from home? How far?
- ◆ Community
 - ◇ Do you want to be in a city like Chicago?
 - ◇ Or a college town like Fayetteville, Arkansas?
- ◆ Selectivity - Do you thrive in a rigorous academic environment?
Would you prefer to be with more like-minded students?
- ◆ Cost - What is affordable? Are there scholarships? Talk to parents!

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Other Factors

- ◆ Academic Programs
 - ◇ What do you want to study/major in?
 - ◇ If you don't know, do they have a variety of options you would like?
- ◆ What kind of support services does the school offer?
- ◆ Is the school diverse?
- ◆ What extracurricular activities do they offer?
- ◆ Are you considering
 - ◇ Playing sports in college?
 - ◇ Auditioning?
 - ◇ Submitting an Art Portfolio?

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Resources

What resources are available to you to help with this process?

SCOIR

Nerinx College Counseling Website

College Websites

College Fairs/Campus Visits

College Reps at Nerinx

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SCOIR

- ◆ SCOIR has a college search feature and information about colleges
- ◆ Scattergrams - you can see admission decisions of previous Nerinx students based on their GPA and ACT
- ◆ Create a list of schools your interested in (Following)
- ◆ Add Activities and Achievements
- ◆ Parents and Counselors can suggest colleges
- ◆ Create list of schools in SCOIR (Following)
- ◆ Eventually create a list of schools to apply to

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College Counseling Website

- ◆ Located “Academics” then “Student Success Center”
- ◆ Information about
 - ◇ ACT and test prep
 - ◇ Scholarships and Financial Aid
 - ◇ College Credit
 - ◇ Career Exploration
- ◆ Tools for the application process
- ◆ College Athletics Information
- ◆ Upcoming College Counseling Events
- ◆ Pre-College and Summer Programs

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Websites, Fairs, Visits & Reps

- ◆ College Website - gather info about admission requirements, campus life, majors and more
- ◆ College Fairs - Maryville University - SUNDAY 1-3pm
 - ◇ Register with Strive Scan
 - ◇ Talk to reps - Questions to ask
- ◆ Drive through campuses or make official visits
- ◆ College Reps at Nerinx
 - ◇ Next fall is the best time to visit with reps
 - ◇ Activity Period - in the gym
 - ◇ List will be on SCOIR

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What to Expect Junior Year?

- ◆ College Kickoff in October - pick three different sessions
- ◆ Take the PSAT in October
- ◆ Opportunities to meet with College Representatives throughout the fall (September - November)
- ◆ Individual meeting with College Counselor to plan senior year schedule (February)
- ◆ Individual meeting with College Counselor and parents to discuss college plans (anytime from November - April)
- ◆ Take the ACT at Nerinx in March

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What to expect Senior Year?

- ◆ Complete Applications beginning in August; on average students apply to 6-7 schools
- ◆ Complete Applications for scholarships
- ◆ Financial Aid process (FAFSA)
- ◆ Complete housing and registration
- ◆ College Decision Day is not until May 1st; you have until 5/1 before they will want a decision

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What to do now - Action Items

- ◆ Get/stay involved at Nerinx and in the community or continue with your extracurriculars
- ◆ Work a summer job, babysit, dog sit, etc
- ◆ Visit colleges on vacation or here in St. Louis (simply drive through)
- ◆ Research/learn more about careers
 - ◇ Pre-College/Summer Program
 - ◇ Shadow/Career Exploration Opportunities
- ◆ Verify Junior year Nerinx schedule is correct
- ◆ Enter Activities and Achievements in SCOIR
- ◆ Explore and think about preferences in a college - use SCOIR
- ◆ Begin to create a list of schools in SCOIR (Following)
- ◆ Attend a college fair or virtual event

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Questions?

OUR CONTACT INFORMATION

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