



DEPAUL COLLEGE PREP
FR. GORDON CAMPUS

Demystifying the College Application Process

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respect respect respect respect
excellence excellence excellence
service service service service

Demystifying the College Application Process

- Finding the right fit
- Financing college
- Tips from a DePaul University Admissions Rep
- Questions?



Some Criteria to Consider

- Geography
- Setting
- Size
- Type
- Cost
- Availability of scholarships and financial aid
- Campus living requirements
- Majors offered
- Diversity
- Extracurricular programming
- Athletics
- Student support services
- Preparation for career and/or continuing education



Finding the Right Fit

- There is a college or university for *every student*.
- **Visiting campus** is a GREAT way to determine if a school is the right fit for a student.
- Try not to focus too much on “brand name” schools.
- Schools like to see students that are *passionate, engaged, and well-rounded*.



Test Optional Schools

www.fairtest.org

Test optional schools in Illinois include:

- Augustana
- Columbia College-Chicago
- DePaul
- Knox
- Lake Forest College
- University of Chicago



Testing Opportunities

At DCP:

Wed. October 10th:
Seniors take the SAT
Juniors take the
PSAT/NMSQT

Wed. April 2nd:
Juniors take the ACT

Outside of School:

ACT (www.act.org):
2018: 10/27, 12/8
2019: 2/9, 4/13, 6/8, 7/13

SAT
(www.collegeboard.org):
2018: 10/6, 11/3, 12/1
2019: 3/9, 5/4, 6/9



How to Prepare for the ACT/SAT

- Read, read, read!
- Think of school work/homework as test prep
- Take practice tests to become familiar with test structure, the skills tested, and timing.
- DePaul Prep Test Prep Course
 - January 27–March 24
 - Sundays 1–4pm
- Test prep books
 - The Princeton Review
- Test prep apps/websites
 - “Daily Practice for the New SAT”
 - “ACT Online Prep”



Choosing the Right School

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/find-colleges/how-find-your-college-fit>

Colleges that Change Lives: <https://ctcl.org/>

- Wheaton College (IL)
- Knox College (IL)
- Beloit (WI)
- Cornell College (IA)
- Wabash College (IN)
- Kalamazoo College (MI)
- Hope College (MI)



Financing College

- Don't focus too much on a school's "sticker price"
- In-state vs. out-of-state public schools
- Private schools
- [Best Colleges for Need-Based Financial Aid:](http://time.com/money/4474375/best-colleges-need-based-financial-aid/)
<http://time.com/money/4474375/best-colleges-need-based-financial-aid/>
- [Midwest Student Exchange Program:](https://msep.mhec.org/) <https://msep.mhec.org/>



Financing College

- Start saving early
 - Get involved!
 - Do your best- in school and outside of school
1. Complete the FAFSA in October (becomes available October 1st)
 2. Automatic consideration for merit-based scholarships (pay attention to application deadlines)
 3. Apply for school-specific and independent scholarships



Timeline for Applying for Admission/Financial Aid

1. Submit college/university application (fall of senior year)
2. Submit FAFSA (October of senior year) – – indicate which schools receive FAFSA
3. Receive admissions decision (winter/spring of senior year)
4. Receive financial aid package (spring of senior year)
5. Review college options and financial aid packages to make college decision (spring of senior year)

May 1st: National Decision Day!



Some tips from an admissions rep

Will Barefield
Assistant Director
Undergraduate Admission
DePaul University



Questions?

