

# COLLEGE CORNER

DECEMBER EDITION



## Deck the Halls with Applications...

**NOW IS THE TIME FOR SENIORS TO GET STARTED ON THOSE FINAL COLLEGE APPLICATIONS!**

Around this time of year, it is especially important to keep deadlines in mind. Seniors should be checking the websites for each of their schools of interest and creating timelines for all remaining applications.

It's also important to keep track of financial aid deadlines as students begin receiving their decisions. Some schools have separate applications for aid, so be sure your students are checking on the financial aid pages of colleges where they have been accepted! More information about what to do once you've been accepted on page 2.

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It's FAFSA Season!

# What to do After You've Been Accepted

**Tell Ms. Pearson!**

**Read the acceptance letter thoroughly for deadlines and information about next steps.**

Create a list or spreadsheet with everything that needs to be done and when it needs to be completed. In order to officially be an enrolled student, you will send an enrollment deposit. This deposit serves a number of important purposes, such as ensuring your place in housing and certain degree programs with number cut-cuffs. Therefore, it's very important to know when you need to send in this deposit. However...

**Don't send the enrollment deposit right away!**

Even if the first acceptance you receive is to your dream school, you want to wait until you receive more acceptance letters so that your decision will be fully informed by knowing all of your options. This is especially important when thinking about the financial component to the college decision. Which leads to the next point...

**Make sure you have all of your financial information submitted.**

If you haven't already submitted the FAFSA, do this ASAP! If you have any questions or want to set an appointment time please contact Ms. Pearson. Schools won't be able to give you a comprehensive aid package unless they have your family's financial information. Once you've submitted the FAFSA, also be sure to check out the financial aid page on the school's website to see if there are any additional applications necessary for grants and/or scholarships.

**Compare costs.**

As it gets to be later on in the winter, more and more schools will begin to send out those financial aid packages. Shop around to see which school is giving the most, and then communicate with the other schools about the ranges you're being offered by other institutions. Remember, how much you will be paying for your education should be a conversation with your schools of interest! They've already said that they wanted you with their acceptance letter, so see how much you can get!

**2.**

*SAT TEST DATES:*

*DEC 7*

*MARCH 14*

*MAY 2*



# 6 Pages to Visit on College Websites

Starting off the college search process can be very stressful, especially when you don't know what you're looking for in a school. When choosing a college, you want to make sure it will be the right fit academically, socially, and financially, and digging deeper into each college's website can answer a lot of questions. Make sure to check out these six pages as you are researching!

## 1. Admissions

This page should be the first stop for any prospective student!! Admissions sites contain the types of general information that potential applicants should be aware of, such as admissions requirements and statistics, fast facts about the school, and steps to applying. Always take an in-depth look through the admissions page!

## 2. Financial Aid/Net Price Calculator

It's important to know about what types of financial aid are available before choosing a school. Do they have merit-based scholarships/grants as well as need-based? Are the scholarships renewable for all 4 years you are enrolled? These are all questions that can be answered on the financial aid page. Also, be sure to look at the Net Price Calculator, which gives you a good idea of what kind of aid you can expect to receive if you attend the college.

## 3. Academic Department of Interest

Take a look around department pages to get an idea of what kinds of opportunities are available for students in that academic area. You can also read about the primary professors for your major of choice and see the list of class requirements necessary to graduate with that major. Some department pages may also contain graduate outcomes, such as internships and job placements, as well as graduate school attendance. In addition, you can look for information about the types of academic support services available for your major

## 4. Student Life

You're only in class for a select number of hours per week! Check out the student/campus life pages to learn about what the school offers in terms of non-academic programming. What speakers do they bring onto campus? What kind of student-run organizations do they have? Are there any annual events for the school community?

## 5. Career Services

The quality of the career services offered area vitally important consideration when choosing a school! One of the main reasons students attend college is to find a job and career upon graduation. You want to make sure that your college will be setting you up for these opportunities! Career Center pages give you a glimpse into the services that the school provides to its students to help them find success in life after school. The school's statistics and job placement information are good indicators to look at!

## 6. Campus Safety

Annual safety reports containing crime statistics on the college's campus must be made publicly available. Learn about any trends in crime that are present at the school. Is there anything ongoing that is concerning? Is the college advertising safety initiatives to address any of those concerns?

# 'Tis the Season (To Submit the FAFSA)

Now is the time to gather those W2's and tax returns and settle for an hour and go to [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov)! As time goes on, federal aid money runs out at schools, so the sooner you submit the FAFSA the more likely you are to receive aid. Be sure to check on each college of interest's website for their priority FAFSA deadline, as this is an indicator of when they have begun to run out in past years. But remember that you should be submitting the FAFSA much before this priority deadline, as this will increase your chances of receiving the most money!



Contact Ms. Pearson if you have questions or want to schedule an appointment!