Planning for College & Finding the Right Fit

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Get Started Early

- What will you do when you graduate?

- Begin gathering information on schools that offer your program of interest.

- There are over 50 college choices in Kansas!
Know Your Choices

- Technical Schools
- 2 year Public Colleges
- 2 year Private Colleges
- 4 year State Universities
- 4 year Public Colleges and Universities
- 4 year Private Colleges and Universities
Identify Your Abilities & Interests

- What are your skills and talents?
- What classes have you enjoyed the most during your high school career?
- Would you like to work with people, things or ideas?
Know What Factors to Consider

- Is the college’s location important?
  - Close to home
  - Far from home

- Would you prefer living on-campus or commuting from home?

- What size of college do you prefer?
  - Small (100-2,000)
  - Medium (2,000-10,000)
  - Large (10,000 or more)

- What size of town are you looking for?
  - Small town
  - Large, city environment
Factors to Consider (cont’d)

- What type of college are you considering?
  - Community College
  - 4-year (Private or Public)
  - Technical/Trade School

- Will participating in specific extracurricular activities be important in your decision?
  - Student Government
  - Religious Organizations
  - Sports
  - Fraternities and Sororities
Factors to Consider (cont’d)

- What are the Admission Requirements?
  - ACT/SAT scores, GPA, coursework, etc.
  - Deadlines
  - Essays or Interviews
  - Decision process

- Does the college accept your AP courses or other college credits you’ve already earned?

- Is accreditation of the academic program/institution important to you?

- Will each institution equally prepare me for my career choice or help me choose a career?
Know the Cost of Your Education

- Tuition and Fees
- Room and Board
- Books
- Travel Expenses
- Personal Expenses
Can I Afford it?

- Don’t rule out a school based on their cost of attendance alone

- Consider this:
  - Financial Aid amounts are based on the cost of attendance for each individual school
  - Scholarships and Grants could be available
Financial Aid

- **FAFSA**
  - Can be filed beginning in December 2023 (typically October)
  - Priority deadline is March 1, 2024
  - [https://studentaid.gov/](https://studentaid.gov/)

- **U.S. Department of Education**
  - Will help families budget and plan for college
  - Explains financial aid eligibility

- **Scholarship Websites**
  - [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
  - [www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com)
Utilize Your Resources

- High School Counselor
  - Reference Books
  - Institutional Viewbooks/Brochures
  - Personal Knowledge

- College Admissions Counselors
  - Check the calendar in the Guidance Office
  - Sign-up in advance to meet with reps (depending on school policy)
  - Pay attention to presentation
Online Resources

- Reliable Internet Sources
  - High School Website
  - Individual College/University Website
    - Catalog
    - Virtual Tours
    - Admission requirements
    - Academic information
    - Costs (“Net price calculator”)
- College Board: www.collegeboard.org
Do Your Research

- What are the requirements for admission?
  - View the school website for details
  - Contact the Admissions Office

- What is the application deadline?
  - Some schools will have deadlines, others will not

- How selective is the school?

- Apply to your top 3-5 choices
  - It is better to be prepared for each school rather than playing “catch up” later
College Planning Conferences (CPCs)

- Put the date on your calendar
  - Check with your counselor for dates
- Decide which schools you want to visit with at the CPC and stop by their tables
- Write down questions in advance so you can ask them of each representative you visit with
- Complete the contact cards
  - Labels or [www.strivescan.com](http://www.strivescan.com)
- If time allows, visit with other schools
- When you get home, read and sort the brochures
Visit Campus

- Set up an appointment with the Admissions Office in advance
- Visit when school is in session
- Wear comfortable clothing and shoes
- Check your schedule for the day
  - Are you meeting with faculty, financial aid, going on a campus tour, looking at housing options?
  - Allow extra time to explore!
- Notify the school if you won’t be able to attend
Start the Admission Process

- Complete an Application for Admission
- Pay the Application Fee
  - Fees will range from $0 - $50
- Submit Your Information
  - ACT or SAT Scores
  - High School Transcript and Senior Class Schedule
  - College Transcripts
- Note Any Other Documents You Need to Send
  - Letters of Recommendation, Interviews or Essays
- Create a Professional E-mail and Check it
  - Use for Applying Online, Contacting Schools, and Scholarships
Use Social Media Wisely

- Review your privacy settings and make changes if needed
- Review your photos and remove any albums or tagged photos that are not appropriate
- Do not post blogs, notes, or make derogatory wall comments about colleges especially if you choose not to limit your privacy.
After You Have Been Accepted

- Celebrate!
- Make Housing Arrangements
  - Learn your school’s requirements
- Complete the FAFSA
- Enroll in Classes
  - Many schools have orientation programs
- Take Care of All Deposits
- Notify Other Schools of Your Decision
  - Don’t feel bad for deciding that another school is a better fit for you.
Remember. . . it is YOUR Future!

- Be sure to avoid:
  - Deciding not to apply to a school because you think you won’t be accepted
  - Procrastination
  - Letting others make the choice for you
In Review

- Get started EARLY
- RESEARCH your options
- Attend COLLEGE PLANNING CONFERENCES
- VISIT the colleges you’re considering
- APPLY for admission
- Check into FINANCIAL AID
- Make HOUSING arrangements
- ENROLL in classes
Questions?

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