# Planning for College & Finding the Right Fit



Dana Blubaugh
Pittsburg State University

Dana Bolar Wichita State University

# **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)
  - O Medium (2,000-10,000)
  - Carge (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
  - O4-year (Private or Public)
  - OTechnical/Trade School
- Will participating in specific extracurricular activities be important in your decision?
  - Student Government
  - Religious Organizations
  - Sports
  - OFraternities and Sororities

## Factors to Consider (cont'd)

- What are the Admission Requirements?
  - OACT/SAT scores, GPA, coursework, etc.
  - O Deadlines
  - Essays or Interviews
  - ODecision 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
- O Books
- Travel Expenses
- Personal Expenses



#### Can I Afford it?

- O Don't rule out a school based on their cost of attendance alone
- OConsider this:
  - Financial Aid amounts are based on the cost of attendance for each individual school
  - Scholarships and Grants could be available



#### **Financial Aid**

#### **O** FAFSA

- Can be filed beginning October 1, 2022.
- Priority deadline is March 1, 2023
- O <a href="https://fafsa.ed.gov/">https://fafsa.ed.gov/</a>

#### U.S. Department of Education

- Will help families budget and plan for college
- Explains financial aid eligibility
- https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/home

#### Scholarship Websites

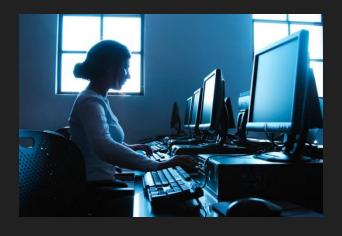
- O www.fastweb.com
- O www.scholarships.com

#### **Utilize Your Resources**

- O 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
  - OHigh School Website
  - Individual College/University Website
    - Catalog
    - Virtual Tours
    - OAdmission requirements
    - OAcademic information
    - Costs ("Net price calculator")
  - College Board: <u>www.collegeboard.org</u>



#### 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
- O 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
- O 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 <u>www.strivescan.com</u>
- O If time allows, visit with other schools
- When you get home, read and sort the brochures

# **Visit Campus**

- Set up an appointment with the AdmissionsOffice 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
  - O ACT 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

#### **Social Media**

#### 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
- O 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
  - OLearn 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!

- OBe 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
- ORESEARCH your options
- Attend COLLEGE PLANNING CONFERENCES
- VISIT the colleges you're considering
- OAPPLY for admission
- Check into FINANCIAL AID
- Make HOUSING arrangements
- OENROLL in classes



#### Questions?



Dana Blubaugh
Pittsburg State Admissions
Representative
dblubaugh@pittstate.edu
620-687-0480



Dana Bolar
Wichita State Admissions
Representative
dana.bolar@wichita.edu
316-358-2366