The College Selection Process

I. Assessment Tools

A. Ask yourself:
   • Why do I want to go to college?
   • What areas of studies or careers interest me the most?
   • What activities do I enjoy?
   • What talents or skills do I have?
     (academic/ music/ art/ drama/ athletic/ leadership)
   • What resources (financial/ personal) are available to me?

B. Consider the following factors about colleges you research:
   • Location
   • Type
   • Size/ Student Body
   • Academics
   • Campus Life
   • Financial aid options/ Scholarships
   • Reach or Realistic?

The goal should not be to find THE college, but to find several of many places
where you’ll be happy and productive.

II. Where to begin

A. General Resources
   • Your college counselor
   • Guidebooks
   • College Literature
   • Web Sites
   • Family/ Friends

B. Getting more details
   • Connect with an alum
   • Take a virtual visit
   • View the video/ DVD
   • Attend a college fair or school visit

III. Visiting a college campus

A. You visit may include:
   • Information Sessions
   • Campus Tours
   • Personal Interviews
   • Visit a class
   • Tour facilities
   • Have lunch
   • Stay overnight
   • Explore the surrounding town or city
   • Talk to students
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B. Take notice
   • Condition of the campus
   • Facilities
   • Classrooms
   • Housing
   • Read the bulletin boards & newspapers

IV. The Interview

A. Who will conduct the interview?
   • Directors
   • Admission Officer
   • Current student
   • Alums

B. Commonly asked questions
   • What classes do you enjoy the most?
   • What do you do outside of class?
   • What do you do in the summer?
   • What books have you found enjoyable but challenging?
   • Whom do you admire?
   • What are your post-college plans?
   • What are you looking for in a college and/or what brings you to this one?
   • What will you contribute to this college?

C. Tips
   • Prepare
   • Explain
   • Boast
   • Expound
   • Question

D. Some questions worth asking
   • What is the average class size?
   • What are your internship options?
   • Where can I study or take classes off campus?
   • Are there research opportunities for undergraduates?
   • What happens here on weekends?
   • What do students like best about this school?
   • What do they complain about?