

Navigating the College Admissions Process



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St. Joseph's College

- Location : Patchogue, NY
 - Suburban Campus
 - Commuter School
- Small, Private, 4-year, Liberal Arts Institution
- Current tuition - \$17,800
- Rolling Admissions
- GPA Requirement – Strong B student
 - unweighted GPA of at least an 80
- SAT average – 1080 (Critical Reading/Math Combined)
 - Minimum of 1020 required
- ACT – 22 Composite Score Required
- NCAA Division III

Before Applying to College

- Know where you stand academically
 - Stay on top of graduation requirements
- Research careers of interest, majors, and colleges
- VISIT, VISIT, VISIT!
 - Open Houses, individual interview appointments, overnight visits
- Get involved in outside activities
 - Leadership roles, work, community service
- Have a few “safe schools” and “reach schools”
 - Both academically, and financially



College Timeline

Junior Year

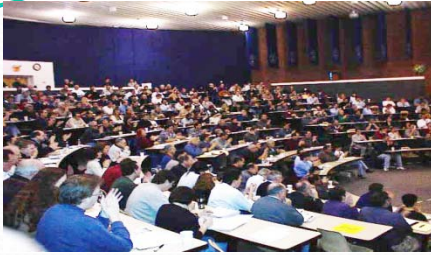
- Take the PSATs to gauge your skill level
- Research and visit colleges of interest
- Finalize list of schools to apply to
- Take the SAT and/or ACT
- Look for outside scholarship opportunities

College Timeline

Senior Year

- Senior Year
 - Putting Together the Applications
 - Requesting letters of Recommendation
 - Preparing your essay
 - Taking the SAT or ACT
 - Continue working on coursework even after you receive an admissions decision
 - Complete the FAFSA

Find the right fit



Large lecture halls vs. Small classrooms



Professors vs. Teaching Assistants



Dorming vs. Commuting



Can the student enter as undecided?

Financing Interest Rate Table			5	10	15	20
Monthly Pymt.	Total Interest	Total Cost	102,469.41	96,497.83	5,971.58	8
\$1,103.57	\$91,042.82	\$245,042.82	51,034.53	90,014.54	6,483.29	7
1,130.96	81,571.91	235,571.91	51,034.53	82,975.68	7,038.86	7
1,148.20	74,704.16	230,704.16	51,034.53	75,333.64	7,642.04	6
1,165.20	69,120.20	241,861.20	51,034.53	67,036.74	8,296.90	5
1,183.20	64,319.51	243,000.00	51,034.53	58,028.86	9,007.88	5
1,201.38	60,000.00	243,000.00	51,034.53	48,249.00	9,779.78	4
1,219.33	57,000.00	243,000.00	51,034.53	37,631.24	10,617.83	3
1,237.41	97,470.00	243,000.00	51,034.53	26,103.55	11,527.70	2
1,255.61	104,010.63	258,010.63	51,034.53	13,588.01	12,515.53	1



What do colleges evaluate?

- Cumulative Average
- Major Subjects - Recommended
 - Math, English, History, Science, Language
- Course Level
 - Regents, Honors, AP, College Courses
- Regents Exam Scores
- SAT and ACT scores
- Letters of Recommendation
- College Essay
- Activities Resume

College Admissions Process

- *Types of Admission*
 - Early Decision
 - Early Action
 - Single Choice Early Action
 - Rolling

College Admissions Process

- The Campus Visit
 - Before your visit
 - During your visit
 - The interview
 - The campus tour
 - After your visit

College Admissions Process

- **Completing the College Application**
 - Read carefully – instructions and questions
 - Neatness and spelling count
 - Check for completeness
 - Keep a copy
 - Deadlines and requirements
 - Submit or mail
 - Email account
 - Confirmation of receipt

SAT vs. ACT

- Differences
- Preference
- Preparation
- Number of tests taken
- Writing component
- Score report policy and Score Choice



Things to Avoid



- DO NOT load up your schedule with study halls or simply elective credits
- Take more challenging courses but ONLY if you think you are capable of doing well
- DO NOT stop going to class or completing class work once you have been admitted into college.
- Admissions Counselors will look for a “Downward Trend” in grades as a warning sign that a student may not be ready for college work.

Keep in mind...

- How does the institution view transfer students?
 - Scholarship opportunities? Limits to transfer credits?
- What are the additional fees?
 - Technology fee, tuition deposit, activities fee, etc.
 - Application fees
- Is the school a liberal arts institution or major-specific?
- Athletics, Clubs and Organizations, Study Abroad
- Career Exploration Assistance
 - Résumé writing, internships
- Ask Questions!
 - retention rates, campus safety

Scholarship Opportunities

- Do not reject schools because of tuition price!
- SUNY vs. Private
 - More flexibility, more funds
- Athletic Scholarship, Music Scholarship
- Outside Scholarship Searches:



Financing College

- Completing the FAFSA form
 - FAFSA.gov ONLY
 - Deadlines
 - Free to complete
 - Up to 10 schools may receive information
 - May access form on January first (for 2011-2012)
 - Use estimate of 2010 tax information
 - Print worksheet

Financing College

- Grants
 - Government or institutional
- Loans
 - Stafford loans=student loans
 - Parent Plus loans
 - Government loans with fixed rates
 - Payment deferred until after graduation
- Employment Opportunities
 - Work study positions
- State Aid (TAP in New York)
 - Residency requirements
 - Income based for full time students

Admissions Tips

- Don't be overwhelmed!
 - Call or e-mail Admissions Counselors
 - Make sure the student is involved
 - Many institutions will not work with the parent



- Make your e-mail address, Facebook, MySpace accounts appropriate

- Make information labels for college fairs
- Activities Résumé



Important dates

- Mini College Fairs
- Onsite Admissions
- Upcoming SAT dates
- ACT Test date
- Oct 5, Oct 19
- Oct/Nov – see your counselor for exact dates
- Nov 5, Dec 3
- Dec 10