



## **College Q&A Night**

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## Putting the myths to sleep

1. Colleges are either good or bad.
2. Colleges always choose the best students.
3. Colleges that are hard to get into are better.
4. I can only afford a local college.
5. There is only one perfect college for me.
6. I need to know my major before I apply.

Recommended book: “Where You Go Is Not Who You’ll Be” by Frank Bruni.



## Where to start?

- ***Students need to know themselves:***
  1. Academic needs and interests
  2. Social and living needs and interests
  3. Financial needs
  
- Understand your student's priorities and how they learn best



## Focus on “best-fit” for you!

- Ignore the rankings and suburban legends.
- What makes a college a good fit for YOU?
- Always focus on “best-fit” options and WHY.
- “What one does in college is more important than where one goes.”

Recommended book: “There is Life After College” by Jeffrey Selingo



## Get Informed!

1. Campus Tours & Financial Aid Offices
2. College Fairs
3. Resources
4. CA Master Plan of Higher Education



# 1. College Visits

- Start with a basic and varied list of colleges.
- Visit. Visit. Visit.
- Take several “official” tours.
- Try to visit while students are on campus.
- Utilize Feb & spring breaks and minimum days.
- Beyond tours: eat in the cafeteria, go to the bookstore, sit in on a class, meet with a department chair, visit the surrounding city.
- Do I fit in? Can I see myself living/learning here?
- Use virtual tours to check out campuses farther away



## **2. College Fairs**

### **WACAC College Fair**

May 4th at Mission College, 6-8pm

### **NACAC College Fair**

April 29th at SF Cow Palace, 1:30-4:30pm

### **NACAC STEM Fair –**

Oct 8, 2017 at SC Convention Center, 1-4pm

### **Colleges That Change Lives College Fair**

July 31<sup>st</sup> at Santa Clara Convention Center, 7pm



### 3. Resources:

**[www.got-college.com/gcresources](http://www.got-college.com/gcresources)**

for info on testing, researching colleges, recommended guidebooks, touring, financial aid, scholarships, summer opportunities, athletes, and researching interests

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## 4. CA Master Plan of Higher Education

- **3 tier system:**

1. UC = designed for top 9%
2. CSU = designed for top 33%
3. CA Community Colleges = open access

- **Transfer Path**

- For every 2 spaces for first-time freshman, UC & CSU holds 1 spot for transfers.

## Freshman Year

- Establish good study and time management habits
- Acclimate to high school
- Join 1-2 clubs – get engaged
- Assess strengths and weaknesses for choosing subsequent year courses
- Update 4-year plan including math through senior year



## Sophomore Year

- Focus on study habits
- Begin touring 1-2 local campuses; do not start with Stanford.
- Attend a college fair
- Update 4-year plan



## Junior Year

- Take PSAT in October
- Take practice ACT between fall-Dec 31
- Spring: take 1-2 official tests (SAT/ACT)
- June: SAT Subject Tests for some
- Tour 3-5 colleges/research/college fairs
- Complete Net Price Calculators
- Choose senior courses wisely; it's the springboard into college level academics



## Senior Year

- Develop Apply List by 1<sup>st</sup> day of school
- Summer/Fall/Winter:
  - complete applications
  - write application essays – if required
- Retake SAT/ACT, if needed
- Apply for financial aid beginning Oct. 1st



## Paying for College

- Compare Net Price rather than Sticker Price
- Net Price Calculators –  
found on each college's webpage for financial aid
- Stop by campus financial aid office after taking campus tour to talk & ask questions.
- Plenty of free resources to help you apply in fall of your student's senior year.
- Learn about WUE, Western Undergraduate Exchange



# Our philosophy

ALL students can find colleges where they can be successful academically and socially, and where they can grow and mature in aspirations, experiences, and confidence. 2 key points:

## **College "fit"**

Academically, socially, and financially. All are important, but weighted differently by each student. The better the fit, the more likely a student will graduate college, the ultimate goal of this process.

## **Student engagement**

It's important for a student to be willing to explore their interests and research colleges. Engagement increases the likelihood they will successfully graduate from a best-fitting college.



## Questions?

The journey towards college should be  
a process of discovery,  
of learning what's possible  
and learning more about yourself.