

CLASS OF 2012: PLANNING FOR LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

There are several options you can consider when thinking about college:

Colleges or Universities

- There are over 3,000 colleges and universities in the United States and over 65 in Indiana
- Among these are state schools and private schools
- You can enroll in two year (Associate Degree) or four year (Bachelors Degree) programs
- There are also public community colleges (usually 2 year Associate Degree programs)

Examples near Munster:

State Schools: Indiana University, Purdue University, Ball State, IUPUI, Indiana State, IPFW, Purdue Calumet, IU Northwest

Private Schools: Notre Dame, Butler, University of Indianapolis, St. Joseph's College, Calumet College, St. Francis College, Univ. of Evansville, Bethel

Public Community Colleges: Ivy Tech, South Suburban, Prairie State

Vocational Training and Certification Programs

- These programs train you for specific occupations
- They usually last 6-18 months
- You can earn certifications in different areas of work

Examples near Munster:

Culinary Institute, Creative Hair Styling Academy, College of Court Reporting, American Certified Massage School

Apprenticeship Programs

- Programs that train a new generation of practitioners of a skill
- Most of training is done while working for an employer who helps the "apprentices" learn their trade

Examples near Munster:

Northwestern Indiana Building and Construction Trades Council Apprenticeship Programs: Bricklayer, Carpenters and Millwrights, Electricians, Laborers, Painters, Operating Engineers, Pipe Fitters

Military

- Education PLUS service commitment
- Academies
- ROTC Scholarship programs
- Training programs within the armed forces

Examples: Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, National Guard

Class of 2012: A Timeline for College Planning

SPRING 2011

- ✓ Consider taking SAT/ACT prep course
- ✓ Take SAT and/or ACT test
- ✓ Start exploring colleges that interest you
- ✓ Visit colleges through campus visits or Spring Preview Days
- ✓ Take AP tests to meet diploma requirements
- ✓ Earn good grades in your classes

SUMMER 2011

- ✓ Visit colleges. Take campus tours. Meet with Dept. Reps about programs that interest you.
- ✓ Talk with family about options that are best for you.
- ✓ If you're an athlete, register with the NCAA Clearinghouse
- ✓ Complete MHS Summer Mailing forms and bring to senior registration

FALL 2011

- ✓ Retake ACT or SAT if necessary
- ✓ Attend college fairs
- ✓ Meet with college reps that visit MHS
- ✓ Fill out and send in college applications
- ✓ Continue to earning good grades
- ✓ Begin Scholarship process

WINTER 2012

- ✓ Attend Financial Aid Night in January
- ✓ Fill out FAFSA
- ✓ Continue scholarship search, particularly local scholarships which are coming available
- ✓ Continue earning good grades
- ✓ Continue taking college visits if necessary

SPRING 2012

- ✓ Admission decisions from competitive colleges: April 1st
- ✓ Receive Financial Aid packages
- ✓ Notify college of intent to enroll by May 1st and submit monetary deposit
- ✓ Continue Scholarship process

WAYS TO OBTAIN COLLEGE INFORMATION....

- Websites
- High School Counselors and Guidance Resources
- Parents/Friends
- College Fairs
- College Admissions Offices
- Fee-for-service College Advisors

How to navigate a college website:



Understand that every college's website is different. When researching colleges online, you want to look at a variety of different things, such as the majors and degree programs they offer, if it's a two or four year degree program, cost and financial aid, location, size of the school, and student life. All of this information is provided on the school's website, you just have to find it. For example, if you want to find the majors that Purdue offers, you want to look for and click on the term "Academics" (as shown above). You will then see the words "Undergraduate Majors," which should take you to a list of the majors and programs that Purdue has available to undergraduate students. You can also see other options that Purdue offers on their homepage such as Admissions, Visiting Purdue, Information for Students, Information for Parents, etc. You just have to research and figure out what is best for you!

Top Ten Tips for Selecting a College

- 10.** Assess your skills and interest.
- 9.** If you know what career interests you the most, find out what kind of education and training you'll need to work in that field.
- 8.** Take the standardized tests that may be required for admission to college.
- 7.** Familiarize yourself with the different types of schools and find out what characteristics to look for when selecting a school.
- 6.** Choose the characteristics that are important to you.
- 5.** Gather information about schools including costs, financial aid, and admission requirements.
- 4.** Make a short list of the schools that possess the characteristics you're looking for and that best meet your goals and needs.
- 3.** Apply for admission to the four to six schools that top your list.
- 2.** Visit the schools. Some schools offer an online campus tour if you are unable to visit in person.
- 1.** Compare financial aid packages. Even though a school's tuition may be higher, they may offer you more financial aid.

Tough Questions to Ask on your College Visit

What academic elements are considered in the admissions process? (For example: courses, grades, test scores, rank, etc.)

How many students return after their freshman year?

Will my AP/Dual credit classes transfer here?

What is the average class size?

Does this college offer the major that interests me?

What are your housing options? Can I have a car on campus?

What is the yearly cost of attendance including books, tuition, fees, housing, and meal plans?

What kind of campus activities and recreational opportunities do you have on campus?