

College Selection

Choosing a college is one of the most important decisions a young person will make. High school students should visit the colleges they are considering. Visits are best when classes are in session so HS students can get a 'feel' about the college. Tours arranged by the colleges usually include class visitation and if the HS student has an idea about a major the tour will visit classes for the particular field. HS student can't wait until they are seniors to visit all the places they are thinking about. If possible go before your senior year. A visit may eliminate the college you have dreamed about but realize it's not for you when you get there.

HS students should also consider their possible major and choose a college well suited for that course of study. Percentages are high for students who attend more than one college for whatever reason. Help to reduce the chances of a change because of course of study or lack of compatibility by using the worksheets as a guide. The student can fill out one and parents/guardians fill out another. Then compare and talk about the choices. Students should remember parents are there to help and provide advice from their experiences and simply by the fact that they are on the 'other side' of 18. Parents need to remember that the student will be going to college and they may be looking for someplace to become more independent and not looking for the same things parents were seeking. Certainly easier said than done. An open, non judgmental discussion can lead to a less stressful, tense and frustrating discussion.

Two worksheets follow this page. One is for the student and one is for the parent. Fill them out separately and see what you both come up with. Let this be a starting point for your discussions.

