



College Q&A Night

By Marna Taylor and Celeste Radanovich
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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 31st at Santa Clara Convention Center, 7pm



3. Resources:

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 1st 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.