

COLLEGE SEARCH & APPLICATION

www.collegeboard.com

The College Board's site allows students to register and prepare for the SAT, locate colleges that match their preferences, and apply on-line. *LikeFinder* begins with a college the student has discovered and then finds others similar to it. Advanced Placement course descriptions are available, too.

www.nasfaa.org/SubHomes/DoItAffordIt/duitcover.html

Print out the Calendar Checklists for college-bound students, beginning in 8th grade, with increasingly detailed agendas through the summer after 12th grade.

www.firstinthefamily.org

This site targets first-generation college families, and seeks to both inspire and guide. Grade-level appropriate planning checklists, and videos that profile students, are key features.

www.educationplanner.com

Peterson's educational data supports this comprehensive web site, which starts with a learning styles quiz, offers a time line of college prep activities, a resume building tool, and much more.

www.collegeboard.com/psatextra

Students who have taken the PSAT should register here, using the code on the PSAT Score Report, to access MyRoad, an excellent web site for college, career and major searches. The ORA Personality Profiler is a good place to start.

www.c3apply.org

This is ACT's comprehensive web site, offering a college search, virtual tours of colleges, an application service, financial aid calculators, plus test registration, sample questions, and preparation tips.

www.Cappex.com

This is an easy web site to navigate, once registered; it walks you through the steps to college admission and offers excellent checklists and tip sheets. Use the college search engines at other web sites, but take advantage of the organizational tools offered on this site.

www.admissions.com

Monster's admissions web site posts recent articles pertaining to all aspects of college admission and paying for college. The day I visited a featured article was *What if my Parents Refuse to Pay?* Click-on "College Rankings" to link to *Kiplinger's* Best Buys, or *BusinessWeek's* rankings of MBA programs, for example. There's a monstrous amount of information at this site.

www.ucan-network.org

The National Association of Independent Colleges & Universities says “What makes U-CAN valuable to students and their families is that the information is comparable across all profiles.” The college and university profiles present information in colorful graphs and charts. Up to 25 links per entry allows searchers to access a wealth of information about each institution.

www.finduru.com

Enter a keyword for a program, major, or characteristic you are searching for in a college (i.e., "lacrosse," or "jazz studies" or "bird-watching"), and the search engine will return a list of college websites that include that specific keyword. You can then narrow down the options based on geographic location, cost to attend, campus setting, etc. This site does not have any commercial ads at present, and there is no registration required to use it.

www.careersandcolleges.com

An experienced college counselor comments that “the college search information [at this site] is probably the most complete and updated information on the web.

www.applyingToSchool.com

A college counselor who tested several well known college search sites suggests that *Applying To School* was “the only service with credible and accurate college match-making results.”

www.princetonreview.com

This Princeton Review site has a fun feature called Counselor-O-Matic, which rates your chances of getting into a specific school. Each college listing comes with a link to what students are saying about the school. A college search and 800 + college applications are also available.

www.collegeview.com

CollegeView allows visitors to pick from a wide range of criteria when they search its database of colleges. Users can request that participating colleges send information. Caution: “featured” colleges have paid for the privilege of being “featured!”

www.collegenet.com

CollegeNet offers search engines to ferret out scholarships, generate lists of colleges based on your criteria, and search school sites for everything from microbiology courses to ultimate Frisbee teams. Note: the first schools you will see are those that have paid for the site's online application service.

<http://mycollegeoptions.com>

Do a quick college search at this web site for free.

www.nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator

This government site offers a wealth of information about colleges in the US and US territories, and allows users to compare up to four colleges side-by-side. Search results can also be exported into a spreadsheet.

www.edref.com/

This site allows you to quickly access basic information about a college or vocational school, such as admissions address, cost of attendance, accreditation, selectivity, programs and degrees.

www.csumentor.edu

Cal State's site provides electronic application to all its campuses, beginning Oct. 1st. Start the "freshman planner" now to simplify application in the fall. Click on "Plan for College," then "High School Students," then "Freshman Course Planner."

www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions

This is a new UC web site that consolidates information for prospective students, including access to publications, such as *Introducing the University*, their high school approved course list, etc. The financial aid calculator is now a pop-up on the main financial aid page.

<http://students.berkeley.edu/admissions/index.asp>

Print out admission and academic information about UC Berkeley.

www.CAcollegeGuide.com

www.californiacolleges.edu

www.aiccu.org

These web sites offer links to, profiles and comparisons of, public and private 2- and 4-year colleges in California.

<http://wue.wiche.edu/>

The Western Undergraduate Exchange provides discounted tuition (150% of in-state tuition) to applicants from other western states. A searchable database of participating public universities is available at this site. Restrictions apply, so read the fine print!

Web sites for students seeking colleges affiliated with a particular religion:

www.catholiccollegesonline.org

www.ajcunet.edu (Jesuit)

www.christiancollegementor.com

www.lutherancolleges.org

www.hillel.org/students (*The Guide to Jewish Life on Campus*)

www.womenscolleges.org

What are the benefits of attending a women's college? A fact-based analysis of the myths surrounding women's colleges is also provided, plus contact information.

www.firstyear.org/

Visit this web site to find information about colleges that have developed high quality programs designed to ensure success and enhance the college experience of freshmen.

www.ctcl.com

This site offers perspectives on “colleges that change lives” and a true/false test that exposes college myths. The book, *Colleges That Change Lives*, can be check-ed out of the *College & Career Center* library.

www.collegesofdistinction.com

Similar to CTCL (above), this web site highlights lesser known colleges with engaged students and solid reputations. “B” students should check out both web sites for possible matches.

www.nsse.iub.edu/index.cfm

Visit this web site to determine if colleges you are considering are participating in the *National Survey of Student Engagement*. If so, ask those colleges for results. And click on “Students and Parents” to access *A Pocket Guide to Choosing a College*.

www.collegeprowler.com/

Guidebooks for 200 popular colleges can be purchased for \$15 each. Frank comments from students make interesting reading, and a sampling of comments can be accessed free of charge.

www.unigo.com

This unconventional college review site features frank comments by current students at featured schools, complimentary or not. Students also comment on common stereotypes about their schools, and respond to the “worst thing, best thing” questions.

www.commonapp.org

300 private colleges (and a few public universities) accept the paper or electronic versions of the Common Application. The paper version is available from high school College & Career Centers.

www.eduinonline.com

Access the Historically Black Colleges’ common application plus scholarship opportunities at this site. Several well-known black colleges are not members of this group.

www.earlyentrance.org/Home

This site provides information about colleges that will consider admitting students prior to completion of the high school program.

www.heath.gwu.edu

The Heath Resource Center offers a wealth of information about higher education for individuals with disabilities.

<http://services.aamc.org/currrdir/section3/start.cfm>

Search programs by a variety of combinations (joint degree programs) of MD and PhD/MS/JD at this website.

www.campusclimateindex.org

This is a free, public database that any college may participate in. The goal of the Index is to help prospective students find campuses committed to LGBT and ally people; and to create safer, more welcoming campuses for LGBT people.

www.knowhow2go.org

Advice on getting to college, from middle school through adult, in **English or Spanish**, is offered here. *Get Tough* encourages students to challenge themselves in school.

<http://cappex.com>

www.zinch.com

www.unigo.com

www.CollegeSupplement.com

These sites provide high school students with tools to create on-line portfolios, including video clips, to market themselves to colleges. College admissions people can use a search function to recruit students with specific interests.