

College Planning Bulletin

A monthly college planning guide for Nebraska high school students

October 2004

Seniors...it's time for campus visits!

If you haven't done so already, it's time to schedule campus visits at your top college choices. Conduct the visits before the end of November as some college application deadlines start hitting in December. Follow these tips for a successful visit.

Contact the admissions office at least two weeks in advance to schedule your visit. Ask about an overnight stay.

Visit while school is in session. You won't get the true flavor during breaks or finals week.

Meet with an admissions representative and financial aid counselor to discuss how to apply and how to pay for college.

Meet with a faculty member in an area of study that interests you.

Stay overnight if possible. Ask about the personality of each residence hall to determine which might best meet your needs.

Read the campus newspaper and posters to get an idea of activities and hot campus issues.

Ask LOTS of questions. See the *College Prep Handbook* for good questions to ask.

The importance of getting involved!

Why get involved in extracurricular activities? Many scholarship donors and college admissions representatives are looking for students with a history of involvement in school clubs and activities, athletics, volunteer activities and part-time jobs.

Your involvement will show admissions reps that you're a well-rounded student who will get involved on campus. It may also make you eligible for scholarships based on specific club involvement (ex. DECA scholarships - see www.deca.org) or community service (ex. Prudential Spirit of Community Award - see www.prudential.com).

How to track your involvement

Use the *Activities Resume* at www.educationquest.org to track your extracurricular involvement throughout high school - then the information is readily available when it's time to apply for scholarships and for college.

The *Activities Resume* will store your resume indefinitely if you update it at least every six months.

October "To Do" List

Juniors and Seniors...complete these tasks during October to stay on the right college-planning track.

- ___ Attend the College Fair or Educational Planning Program in your area.
- ___ Participate in extracurricular activities to improve your chances for scholarships and college admission.
- ___ Seniors, schedule your campus visits.
- ___ Seniors, narrow your college choices, request applications.
- ___ Seniors, register by October 1 for the November 6 SAT.
- ___ Seniors, register by October 29 for the December 4 SAT.