



## Choosing a College

There are many options for students who choose to further their education after high school. By the time you are a junior in high school, you should be thinking about your academic/vocational choices for the future.

There are many factors to consider such as:

- type of school
- cost
- school size
- class size
- location

Colleges and universities usually award four year degrees and offer a broad range of academic choices. Community, Junior or Technical colleges are institutions that offer certificates, diplomas, and two-year associate degrees. In addition, there are various career colleges that offer educational opportunities. Don't limit your search to familiar institutions. Choose a school that meets your own criteria, not because family members or significant others choose to attend.

Cost is an important consideration. When looking at the cost of a school, be sure to consider items such as tuition, fees, books, room and board, transportation, and other personal expenses. Be sure to examine the financial aid package offered by the school, before you eliminate it just because of cost. You may receive more financial aid at a more costly school.

One of the single most important things that can help you make a decision is to visit the campus. Be sure to visit when classes are in session to get the true flavor of the school. Many schools will even let you stay overnight in a campus residence hall. Ask your admissions representative if you may attend a freshman level class. Most schools offer tours guided by current students. This is a great time to ask questions about the classes, living arrangements, and the social life. Be sure to take notes during each visit and compare the schools. If you do your homework, you're sure to find a good fit.