MAKING A COLLEGE CHOICE

Making a college choice can be as difficult as making other important decisions that challenge you. Until you find a place to begin, a method to organize the task into smaller pieces, a way to pour a great deal of information into a meaningful package, it may seem almost impossible to make a good decision.

Begin by identifying what your reasons are for going to college.

What do you hope to gain?

What learning opportunities do you need?

What are your goals?

What are your career ambitions?

How will college help you achieve these goals and ambitions?

The next step is to relate these goals to factors you can use as you search for colleges that meet your needs. Factors to consider are:

A. Type of college

- 1. Two- or four-year college
- 2. Residential or commuter
- 3. Large or small
- 4. College or university

B. Location

- 1. What area(s) of the country can you realistically consider?
- 2. What about the relation between location and costs?
- 3. Are specific interests and goals tied to a specific location?

C. Admissions selectivity

- 1. What are the application procedures?
 - i. What tests are required?
 - ii. Are there any deadlines?
 - iii. What high school course preparation is need?
- 2. Are you eligible for admission?
- 3. What academic demands can you expect to find?

D. Costs

- 1. How much will it cost? Can you afford the school?
- 2. What type of financial aide is available? Look beyond freshman year award potential.
- 3. How do you apply for financial aid?

E. Majors and study programs available

- 1. Does the school offer the major your want? Who teaches the courses
- 2. If you are undecided, does the school offer you the chance to explore areas of your interest? Student-teacher ratio? Average class size?
- 3. Does the school have any type of internship program?

F. Social Life

- 1. What is the campus atmosphere like? This could include housing.
- 2. What extracurricular activities are available?

After you have developed a list of colleges to consider, begin to form a detailed and complete picture of each college. This will be helpful in identifying those that best fit your needs.

THE VALUE OF A CATHOLIC EDUCATION

"For many people, education – and most especially Catholic education – does not and should not end upon graduation from high school. The value of a Catholic education is most profoundly realized in post-secondary education, an essential stage in the formation of a mature Catholic mind.

Catholic education forms the human person in right order with God; what is at stake is the very meaning of the human person. During the years of vital discernment, a young adult needs to involve the whole person, body and soul, marrying faith and reason in the pursuit of truth and in the governance of his education and future.

A Catholic liberal arts education, during this crucial time in the formation of the person, is essential to understanding the unity of all truths. This is the special contribution of the Catholic intellectual tradition, which even for non-Catholic students ought to be an essential component of the study of Western culture – yet too often is entirely ignored at non-Catholic colleges.

In addition to providing an essential foundation in the Catholic liberal arts, a faithful Catholic college helps the student understand that knowledge learned in the pursuit of a specialized academic discipline does not conflict with faith. Instead that knowledge is enhanced and clarified by Catholic theology, and the student's faith is deepened and enriched."

Eileen Cubanski

Recommended Catholic Colleges

Mount St. Mary's University – Emmitsburg, MD
The Thomas More College of Liberal Arts – Merrimack, NH
The Catholic University of America – Washington, DC
The College of Saint Thomas More – Forth Worth, TX
Franciscan University of Steubenville - Steubenville, OH
Holy Apostles College & Seminary – Cromwell, CT
John Paul the Great Catholic University – San Diego, CA
St. Gregory's University – Shawnee, OK
Southern Catholic College – Dawsonville, GA
Wyoming Catholic College – Lander, WY
Thomas Aquinas College – Santa Paula, CA
Wyoming Catholic College – Lander, WY

Ave Maria University – Ave Maria, FL
Benedictine College – Atchison, KS
Christendom College – Front Royal, VA
DeSales University – Center Valley, PA
Magdalen College – Warner, NH
Providence College – Providence, RI
University of Dallas – Irving, TX
University of St. Thomas – Houston, TX
Aquinas College – Nashville, TN
Belmont Abbey College – Belmont, NC

- Taken from The Newman Guide to Choosing a Catholic College

Newman Centers

Newman Centers are student-centered parishes and centers at non-Catholic universities throughout the country. They have programs and activities that specifically help college students grow in their Catholic faith. Many Newman Centers also host FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) bible studies, mission trips, and other activities for students.

Newman Centers were named in honor of Cardinal John Henry Newman and were inspired by Newman's writings. Nebraska is home to several Newman Centers which provide valuable care and nurture of a student's faith life while in college. Newman Centers in Nebraska and contact information are listed below.

Newman Center – St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church (402) 474-7914 http://newmancenter.unl.edu

320 N. 16th St., Lincoln www.huskercatholic.org

UNO – St. Margaret Mary Parish

6116 Dodge St., Omaha

UNK – Newman Center (308) 234-1539

821 W. 27th St., Kearney cathnewman@unk.edu

Wayne State – Catholic Newman Center (402) 375-1155

412 E. 8th St., Wayne

COLLEGE FAIRS

Attending college fairs is a must! You will have dozens of college admission representatives from schools far and wide all gathered in one spot – so don't miss it! And, worse, don't come unprepared.

What's the game plan?

Know what to expect – how is the event structured, what's the dress code like, and even how long the event will run. These seem pretty basic, but you don't want to shop up late and dressed inappropriately. Just ask organizers or counselors prior to the event and you'll be ready for the day!

Who's there?

Get a list of schools in attendance before you go to the college fair, and plan your time wisely. Collect as much college information as you can. Better yet, before you go to the fair have a list of hot prospects you want to check out. Pull that list together by doing online research.

During the fair...

Show your initiative by talking to the college reps at the college fairs; they are often the ones who will review your application. A student who asks great questions on college night is an admission rep's dream! Here are a few good questions to ask:

How would you describe the student body's personality?

How is this school distinctive?

How many students transfer to another school during or after their first year?

Don't waste time!

Do not use the college fair as a time to socialize with neighbors and friends. Use your time wisely! Keep an open mind when at the fair. There will be at least a handful of colleges you've never heard of. Make it a priority to stop by the tables of two or three schools that are not household names. The reputation of a university does not guarantee that it's the best school for you.

Leave with homework

Pick up as much literature as possible from a variety of colleges. Ask for an application, information on specific majors and a financial aid brochure. Before leaving each table and moving on the next, ask the admissions representative for a business card. This will provide you with a contact person in the admissions office, someone who might later be able to serve as an advocate for your application.

After the event, sort through all of the information (and goodies!) you picked up throughout the day. Spend a bit more time comparing programs, locations, class size, etc. And getting ready for your next step – the campus tour!

NEBRASKA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Central Community College Hastings Campus

550 S. Technical Blvd. Hastings, NE 68902-1024 (402) 463-9811 (877) – 220-0780 www.ccneb.edu

CCC - Columbus Campus

4500 63rd St. Columbus, NE 68602-1027 (402) 564-7132 (877) – 220-0780 www.cccneb.edu

CCC - Grand Island

Campus

PO Box 4903 Grand Island, NE 68802-4903 (308) 398-4222 (877) – 220-0780 www.cccneb.edu

CCC - Holdredge Campus

1308 2nd St. Holdredge, NE 68949 (308) 995-8133 (877) – 220-0780 www.cccneb.edu

CCC - Kearney Campus

3519 Second Ave. Kearney, NE (308) 338-4001 (877) – 220-0780 www.cccneb.edu

CCC-Lexington Campus

1501 Plum Creek Parkway Lexington, NE 68850 (308) 324-8480

Metropolitan Community College

Box 3777 Omaha, NE 68103-0777 (402) 457-2400 (800) 228-9553 www.mccneb.edu

MCC - Elkhorn Valley

204th St. & West Dodge Rd. Elkhorn, NE 68022 (402) 289-1200 www.mccneb.edu

MCC - Fort Omaha

30th & Fort Street Omaha, NE 68111 (402) 457-2700 www.mccneb.edu

MCC - South Omaha

2909 Edward Babe Gomez Ave. Omaha, NE 68107 (402) 738-4500 www.mccneb.edu

Mid-Plains Community College

North Platte Campus

1101 Halligan Drive. North Platte, NE 69101 (308) 535-3600 www.mpcca.ne.us

MPCC - McCook Campus

1205 E. Third Street McCook, NE 69001 (308) 345-8100 www.mpcca.ne.us

Northeast Community College

801 E. Benjamin Ave. Norfolk, NE 68702 (402) 371-2020 (800) 348-9033 www.northeastcollege.com

Southeast Community College – Beatrice Campus

4771 W. Scott Rd.
Beatrice, NE 68310-7042
(402) 228-3468
(800) 233-5027
www.southeast.edu

SCC – Lincoln Campus

8800 "O" Street Lincoln, NE 68520-1299 (402) 471-3333 (800) 642-4075 www.southeast.edu

SCC - Milford Campus

600 State Street Milford, NE 68405-8498 (402) 761-2131 (800) 933-7223 www.southeast.edu

Western Nebraska Community College

1601 E. 27th Street Scottsbluff, NE 69361 (308) 635-3606 (800) 348-4435 www.wncc.net

WNCC - Sydney Campus

371 College Drive Sydney, NE 69162 (308) 254-5450 (800) 222-9682

WNCC - Alliance Campus

1750 Sweetwater Ave. Alliance, NE 69301 (308) 763-2000 (800) 559-9622

OTHER 2-YR. COLLEGES

Kaplan College

1821 K Street Lincoln, NE 68508 (402) 474-5315 www.kaplanuniversity.edu

NE College of Technical Agriculture

404 E. 7th St. Curtis, NE 69025 (308) 367-4124 (800) 3CURTIS www.ncta.unl.edu

JUNIORS & SENIORS: APPLY EARLY TO SCC

Plan ahead if considering Southeast Community College (Lincoln, Milford, or Beatrice)

Do 3 Things:

- 1) Enroll early many programs have a waiting list.
- 2) Take an entrance exam.
 - a. Send ACT score (if your Program of Study requires it)
 - b. Take either the ASSET or COMPASS test at SCC no cost immediate feedback
 - c. Call ahead for an appointment
- 3) If any score is too low to qualify for a program they will reserve a place in the program if you develop a plan to improve. For example, if your math score is low you can take a math class at your high school or SCC.

ADDRESS: 8800 "O" Street, Lincoln

PHONE: (402) 471-3333

WEBSITE: http://www.southeast.edu

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA ON COURSE PROGRAM

Some students choose to attend a Community College as a way to complete pre-requisite courses before attending a 4 year college or university. Benefits include a reduced tuition rate as well as smaller class sizes. Students who have earned an associate degree and have completed required academic units can build on what they have already started by going on to pursue a bachelor's degree at the University of Nebraska.

Students who complete On Course requirements are guaranteed admission to UNL, UNO, or UNK. They may even qualify for tuition assistance and scholarships that reduce or eliminate the cost of tuition.

On Course advisors work with students to help ensure that credits transfer toward a bachelor's degree at the University of Nebraska and even help students choose classes that do. On Course requirements include:

- 1. An Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree from a Nebraska Community college, or a high school diploma or GED.
- 2. 16 academic units in English, math, science, social studies and foreign language.
- 3. Additional courses that meet the university's general education requirements, such as speech, literature, aesthetics, citizenship and others.
- 4. A grade of C or higher in all courses taken to fulfill On Course requirements.

On Course Checklist

- Sign up with your community college advisor to be an On Course student.
- Stay on course by taking all required classes & maintaining satisfactory academic progress.
- Apply online at the campus you wish to attend.
 - o UNL: admissions.unl.edu
 - o UNO: unomaha.edu/admissions
 - o UNK: unk.edu/admissions
- Pay application fee
- Provide transcripts from all educational institutions attended, including high school
- Check admission requirements for the specific degree program you wish to enter; some may have a higher GPA or additional course requirements. Admission to the University of Nebraska does not assure you of admission to a specific degree program.

For more information visit: www.Nebraska.edu/oncourse

NEBRASKA PRIVATE CAREER SCHOOLS

La'James College

1660 N. Grant St. Fremont, NE 68025 (402) 721-6502 (888) 880-2106 www.lajamesinternational.com

Capitol School of Hairstyling 2819 S. 125th Ave., Suite 268 Omaha, NE 68144 (402) 333-3329

(800) 352-1331

www.capitollook.com

College of Hair Design

304 S. 11th St. Lincoln, NE 68508 (402) 477-4244 www.collegeofhairdesign.com

Columbus Beauty College

2719 13th St. Columbus, NE 68601 (402) 563-3671

Fullen School of Hair Design

1909 Broadway Scottsbluff, NE 69361 (308) 632-3731 (888) 547-5685 www.fullenschoolhairdesign.com

McCook Beauty Academy

201 East C St.
McCook, NE 69001
(308) 345-5285
(800) 246-5286
www.mccookbeautyacademy.com

Xenon International School of Hair Design

8516 Park Drive Omaha, NE 68127 (402) 393-2933 (800) 434-2214

804 N. Webb Rd. Grand Island, NE 68803 (308) 395-8600

Joseph's Colleges of Beauty

5801 "O" Street Lincoln, NE 68510 (402) 435-2333 (800) 742-7827

618 Court St. Beatrice, NE 68310 (402) 223-3588

305 W. 3rd Grand Island, NE 68801 (308) 381-8848

828 W. Second St. Hastings, NE 68901 (402) 463-1357

2213 Central Ave. Kearney, NE 68847 (308) 234-6594

202 Madison Ave. Norfolk, NE 68701 (402) 371-3358

1620 E. 4th St. North Platte, NE 69101 (308) 532-4664

3724 Farnam St. Omaha, NE 68131 (402) 345-4151

TRADE SCHOOLS

The Craftsman School

1809 Capitol Ave. Omaha, NE 68102 (402) 346-4300

The Creative Center

10850 Emmet St. Omaha, NE 68164 (402) 898-1000 (888) 898-1789 www.creativecenter.edu

Custom Diesel Driver Training

14615 Cornhusker Rd. Omaha, NE 68138 (402) 894-1400 www.cddt.net

ITT Technical Institute

9814 M St. Omaha, NE 68127-9812 (402) 331-2900 (800) 677-9260 http://itt-tech.edu

North American Travel School

1109 N. 85th St. Omaha, NE 68114 (402) 397-4848 (800) 579-8756

Omaha Opportunities Industrialization Center, Inc.

2724 N. 24th St. Omaha, NE 68110 (402) 457-4222 http://omahaoic.com

Travel Careers Institute

2120 S. 72nd Omaha, NE 68124-6310 (402) 399-4500 (800) 228-2545 http://www.tandt.com

Vatterott College

11818 "I" Street Omaha, NE 68137 (402) 891-9411 (888) 553-6627 www.vatterott.edu/omaha.asp

NEBRASKA PRIVATE CAREER SCHOOLS CONTINUED...

HEALTH SERVICE SCHOOLS

Alegent Health School of Radiologic Technology 7500 Mercy Rd. Omaha, NE 68124 (402) 398-5527 www.alegent.com

Bryan LGH College of Health Science 5035 Everett St. Lincoln, NE 68506 (402) 481-3801 (800) 742-7844 www.bryanlghcollege.org

Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital School of Radiologic Technology 715 N. St. Joseph Ave. Hastings, NE 68901 (402) 463-4521 http://www.mlmh.org Midwest School of Massage 6550 S. 8rth St., Suite 400 Omaha, NE 68127 (402) 331-8383 (800) 303-6373 www.midwestschoolofmassage.com

Myotherapy Institute 4001 Pioneers Court Dr. Lincoln, NE 68506 (402) 421-7410 www.myotherapy.edu

Omaha College of Health Careers 225 N. 80th St. Omaha, NE 68114-3617 (402) 391-1300 Omaha School of Massage Therapy 9748 Park Drive Omaha, NE 68127 (402) 331-3694 (800) 399-3694 http://www.osmt.com

Regional West Medical Center School of Radiologic Technology 4021 Avenue B Scottsbluff, NE 69361 (308) 630-1155 www.rwmc.net

Universal Center of Healing Arts 8702 N. 30th St. Omaha, NE 68112 (402) 556-4456 www.ucha.com



NEBRASKA PRIVATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Bellevue University

1000 Galvin Road South Bellevue, NE 68005 (402) 293-2000 (800) 756-7920 www.bellevue.edu

Clarkson College

101 South 42nd Street Omaha, NE 68131-2739 (402) 552-3100 (800) 647-5500 www.clarksoncollege.edu

College of Saint Mary

7000 Mercy Rd. Omaha, NE 68106-2377 (402) 399-2400 (800) 926-5534 www.csm.edu

Concordia University

800 North Columbia Ave. Seward, NE 68434 (402) 643-3651 (800) 535-5494 www.cune.edu

Creighton University

2500 California Plaza Omaha, NE 68178 (402) 280-2700 (800) 282-5835 www.creighton.edu

Doane College

1014 Boswell Ave. Crete, NE 68333 (402) 826-8600 (800) 333-6263 www.doane.edu

Hastings College

700 North Turner Avenue Hastings, NE 68901 (800) 532-7642 www.hastings.edu

Midland University

900 North Clarkson Fremont, NE 68025 (800) 642-8382 www.midlandu.edu

Nebraska Christian College

12550 S. 114th St. Papillion, NE 68046 (402)935-9400 www.nechristian.edu

Nebraska Methodist College

720 N. 87th St.
Omaha, NE 68114
(800) 335-5510
www.methodistcollege.edu

Nebraska Weslevan University

5000 St. Paul Avenue Lincoln, NE 68504-2794 (800) 541-3818 www.nebrweslevan.edu

York College

1125 East 8th Street York, NE 68467-2699 (800) 950-9675 www.york.edu

COLLEGE VISITATION

It is beneficial for seniors to visit an institution of higher learning to help them in their future planning. However, a college visit is not considered a sanctioned school activity, but rather a parent-excused absence. The policies for such visits are as follows:

- a. Seniors interested in post-secondary education are limited to two college visitations which must be completed by March 31, unless approved by the administration.
- b. Students wanting assistance in setting up the visits or appointments with college personnel should see the school counselor. It is recommended that appointments be made two weeks in advance of the visit.
- c. Students should obtain a sign out sheet to be signed by a parent and turned into the office the day before the absence. Make sure you write "College Visit" at the top.
- d. It is recommended that the student have taken the ACT/SAT prior to visiting the institution if the institution requires it for admission.
- e. Any college/institution visit taken in which the proper procedure as outlined above is not followed, may be treated as a truancy, and detentions will be issued for each school period missed and/or the student will be assigned to a directly supervised service.

Your tour guide will be an actual student at the college you are visiting, so be prepared to ask questions. The questions below are examples of information that students may want to explore while meeting with a college representative or visiting a college.

Ask the admissions representative:

- What are the admission requirements & deadlines?
- What is the cost of tuition, fees, room & board, and books?
- What are the housing options? Will I be required to live on campus? Is there a wait list? Are meal plans required?
- What is the average class size? Are classes taught by professors or graduate assistants?
- I don't know what I plan to study yet; how easy is it to change majors?
- What are "general education" requirements?
- How easy is it to transfer credits from a community college?
- Is there an honors program and how do you qualify?
- Is there a campus career center? Are internships available? Job placement services?
- Are there study-abroad opportunities?
- What percentage of students return after their freshman year?
- What percentage of students graduate and what is the average length of study?
- How diverse is the student population?
- What percentage of students are commuters?
- What is the student vs. faculty ratio?
- What kind of tutoring/support systems doe the college have?

Note: If you have a disability, ask to meet with the school's disability services coordinator.

Questions about student safety:

- Is there an on-campus health clinic? (Tip: Ask your insurance provider if the campus clinic is "in-network.")
- Where do you refer students who have a serious medical issue?
- How safe is the campus, and what security systems are in place?

Ask your student tour guide or a current student:

Student life:

- Why did you select this school?
- Are the professors accessible?
- How easy or hard was it to get the classes you wanted?
- How many hours a day or week do you study?
- What kind of tutoring/support systems does the college have?

As the financial aid counselor:

- What applications are required for scholarships and financial aid, and what are the deadlines?
- Are academic and departmental scholarships available?
- Will scholarships from other donors affect the amount of aid I receive from the college?
- What types of payment plans does the college offer?
- Can I get a refund if I have to drop a class or drop out suddenly?

Campus life:

- What is the Greek system like?
- Where have you lived on campus?
- Can freshmen have cars on campus? What is the fee for parking on campus?
- How easy is it to get around on campus? Can I walk anywhere I want to go? Is there a free campus shuttle?
- What do students do on weekends? What did you do last weekend?
- What are the big campus traditions? Do a lot of students go to athletic events?
- What kinds of activities, intramural sports or clubs are popular on campus?
- Is there a campus recreation center for students?
- How is the food in the dining halls? What are the hours?

Life off campus:

- How easy is it to get to places if you don't have a car? Are bikes a good option?
- Is there a grocery store nearby?

Ask YOURSELF after your campus visit:

- Was the campus a good size for me?
- How were the residence halls? Too loud or too quiet? How large were the rooms? Was I comfortable with the level of security?
- Is there enough to do on and off campus?

Additional questions for a visit to a community college:

- Will I be required to take placement exams? If so, what are they?
- What is the two-year graduation rate?
- Tell me about your academic transfer program
- Do you have student housing? Is there a wait list?

Some your best feedback will come from students who are actually at the college! They are living the life you may live everyday, so who better to give you insight on the day-to-day activities on campus?