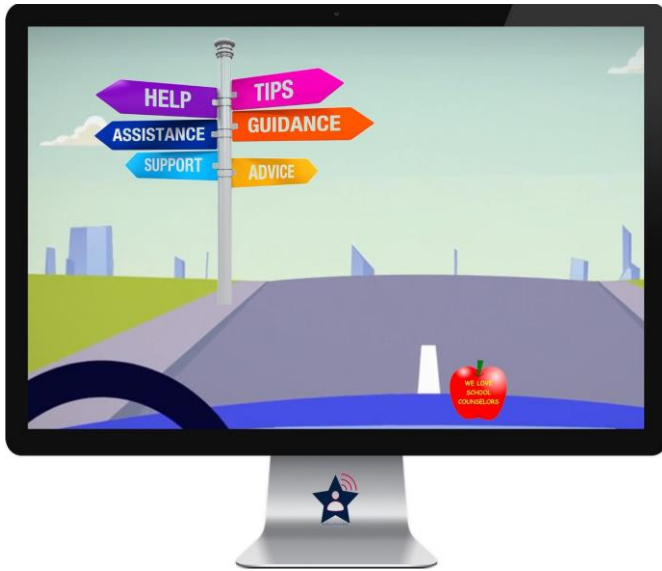


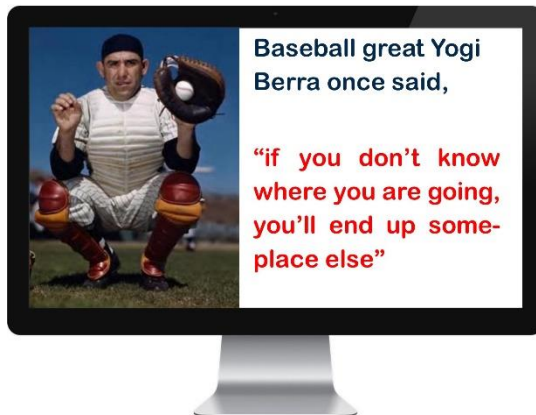
2023 COLLEGE ADVISORY GUIDE



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3. TAKE ACADEMICS SERIOUSLY
4. ENJOY THE JOURNEY
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1. Planning for College



College may still look like a distant reality. But the truth is, it's right around the corner. It might seem unbelievable, but your time in high school will fly by!

That's why it's smart to think ahead! Here are some critical principles to remember if you're college-bound.

2. Set a Direction

Where do you want to be in ten years? What sort of direction do you have for your life? Even though you might not be able to map out a perfect "plan" for yourself, you know enough to start setting some goals.

What do you want your life to look like? What are your priorities? Showing compassion? Financially success? Adventure? What sorts of careers interest you and reflect these priorities?



From there, work backward. What college major would be most useful in your career field? Which colleges offer these majors?

What part of the country is most appealing to you when choosing a college home?

Though certainly not necessary at this stage in the game, it's never too early to start researching and making a list of potential colleges.

3. Take Academics Seriously



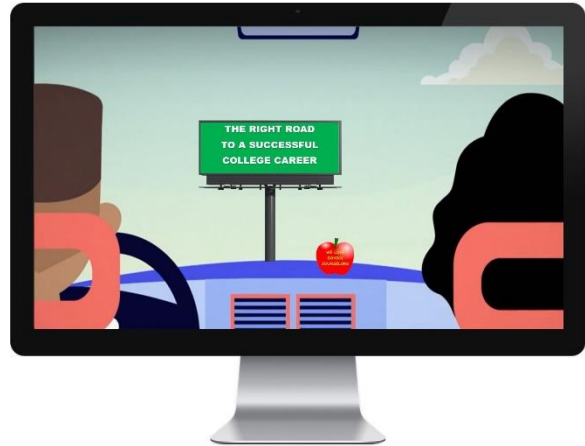
With these goals in mind, envision the high school GPA you'd like to earn. Grades really matter and will be one of the primary considerations when getting accepted into college.

Also, although it's competitive to attain academic scholarships, you increase your odds by **keeping your grades up**.

This will require developing good time management.

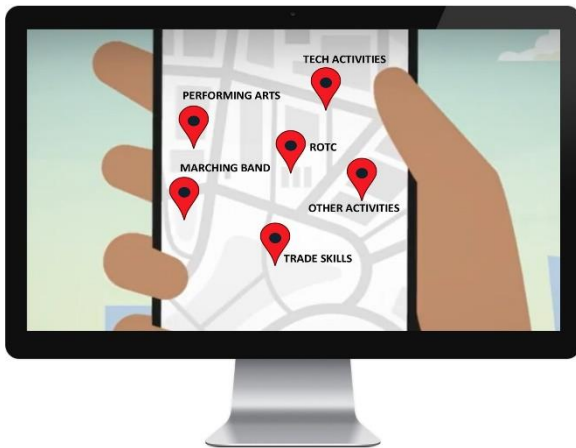
4. Enjoy the Journey

Finally, and most importantly: don't stress about your future. While it's wise to keep it in mind and work towards your college dreams, high school is a great time of life that is meant to be fun!



So, enjoy the season for what it is! Soak up being a kid. Savor every moment with family and friends and know that more exciting adventures are yet to come in college!

5. Figure Out What You Love



Colleges are looking for well-rounded students who have participated in a variety of sports, clubs, and extra-curricular activities.....

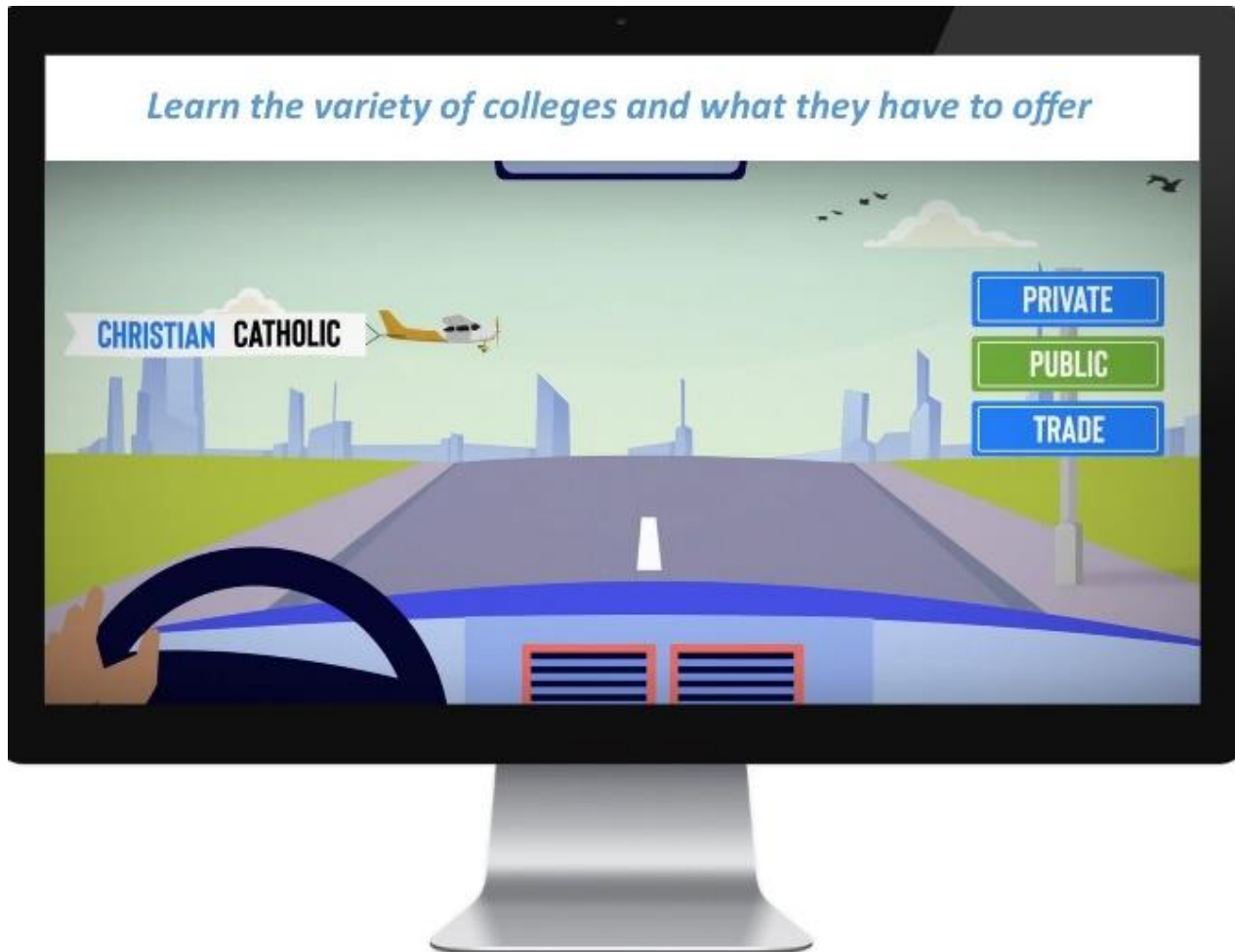
.....However, beware of doing these things to make your future resume "look good." After all, only about

16% of high school athletes will go on to compete in sports at the college level (and less than 2% will get any sort of athletic scholarship).



Invest your energy in things you genuinely love. And if you're not sure what interests you, jump in and experience the opportunities around you, whether that be joining chess club, trying out for color guard, or volunteering at your local hospital.....Taking risks allows you to grow and figure out who you are, where you're naturally gifted, and what brings you joy in life.

These experiences, even the not-so-good ones, have value in reshaping and redirecting your long-range goals and life direction.

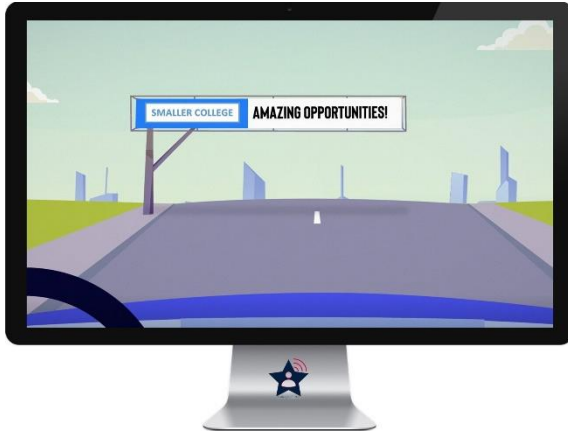


6. CHOOSING THE RIGHT COLLEGE

Speak with college students at different types of schools. Whether you are in a traditional high school setting, graduated high school years ago, or are homeschooled, seek the opinion of those people you most respect.

Ask yourself what aspects of high school you most, and least, enjoy(ed). However, in the end, remember that you are the one who will be attending the school.

You may notice that cost was not mentioned above. The cost of the school should not be a factor at this early stage. Some experts believe that one of the mistakes made by students and their families is that they eliminate colleges based on cost too early in the decision-making process.



Some do not understand the financial aid process and how affordable even a private college education can be!

Before moving on, let's address the issue of academic reputation. Schools that have.. ...an exceptional academic reputation can offer unique opportunities. However, many schools are not as well known that can offer excellent programs and opportunities.

A smaller or lesser-known school may provide you with the opportunity to become more involved in holding student leadership and/or student work positions will allow you to gain valuable experience.

This can be especially important when considering the competitive job market after graduation, a position to help you with information and recommendations as you consider employment or graduate school.

7. Your Best Options

Ask yourself, what am I looking for in a college?

- ⇒ Big College or University
- ⇒ Smaller College
- ⇒ Location - how far am I willing to go from home?
- ⇒ Urban, suburban, or rural campus?
- ⇒ Private, Public, Trade, Tech
- ⇒ Christian, Catholic?
- ⇒ Something else?

Once you have established the type of school that will best meet your needs and interests, you can consider numerous factors to further narrow down the field. Some of the factors discussed below may not be important to you, while others may play a critical role in your decision. Remember...it's your call!

8. Internship Real-life experience”

Ask what internship and co-op type experiences are available in your area(s) of interest.

These opportunities may be paid or unpaid. The important.. ...thing is that you can gain valuable work experience while still in school.

This will help you become more marketable upon graduation. You should view any such opportunity as a chance to build your resume.

9. Academic Standards



The higher profile school certainly has advantages as well. In addition to name recognition, these schools..... ..may provide a greater challenge, forcing you to "stretch" yourself further than you have before. By looking through a school's admissions material, or placing a call to the

admissions office, you can easily learn the academic profile of the "average" student.

If your scores and grades place you at the lower end of the academic profile, you still may be accepted but realize that it will likely be a greater challenge. If you are on the higher end, your position as an applicant is enhanced

10. Career Planning and Placement



This may be one of the most overlooked issues when students consider colleges and universities. Make sure that you ask what career planning and placement services are available.

Ask about the percentage of students who go on to graduate school and/or find employment in their chosen field

11. Accreditation

Most schools are accredited by a regional accrediting agency while some individual programs may have professional or national accreditation. For example, the National Association of Schools of Music professionally accredits some music programs."

If you are looking at a particular program at a school, this may indicate its strengt



12. Attrition



students in four years.

" Attrition" is a term that refers to the number of students who drop out or leave school. You should be aware if a college or university has a lower number of its students returning after their first year, or if the school graduates only a small percentage of its

Knowing whether a school has many students who leave before completing their program is important.

Students may leave for a variety of reasons - they may change majors, can no longer afford the school, were not challenged enough, could not handle the academic program, or perhaps they just didn't like the atmosphere.

If you discover that many students are leaving the school because of finances, this may be an indicator that financial aid awards decrease substantially for continuing students, or the cost is increasing at an especially high rate.

Ask an admission representative and current students these types of questions to gain an understanding of the attrition rate.

13. Majors/Programs

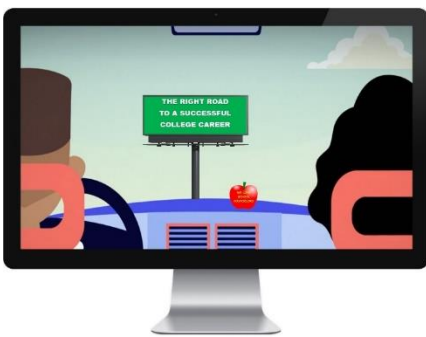


You need to be confident that your needs and interests will be met as you consider your major or program of interest. We have already considered two ways to help you determine the strength of an academic program - the job placement rate and professional accreditation (if applicable).

However, you can also ask about the percentage of faculty with a doctorate or terminal degree. If you are considering a pre-professional program such as Pre-Medicine, or Pre-Law, be sure to ask about the placement rate for graduate school.

This will provide yet another indicator of the program's strength. Learn what percentage of students who begin the program, complete it.

14. Enrollment History



You should ask about the school's enrollment history over the past few years. Is enrollment increasing, decreasing, or unchanged? There may be good reasons for any increase or decrease in enrollment. Some schools remain at a constant enrollment by choice. They may not have the facilities for additional students or have decided to increase the academic standards and maintain their current enrollment.

15. Faculty-to-Student Ratio and Class Size

Colleges and universities recognize that many students are not content to sit in lecture halls with 300-400 classmates. Learn what you can expect in terms of class size and faculty-to-student ratio. If you are considering a larger school, it may be wise to ask for the specific faculty-to-student ratio in your chosen major.

If the faculty-to-student ratio is high, be aware that you may be competing with many other students for your professor's ear.

16. Find Out Who "Teaches" The Classes



The "instructor" may not always be the professor you thought would be teaching the class. At some colleges and universities, graduate assistants may teach courses, especially lower-level ones. You may be comfortable with this but learn ahead of time what to expect.

17. Academic Assistance

Find out what type of academic assistance is available. Schools may have academic assistance for students with special learning needs, seminars on improving study skills, tutoring, assistance on research papers, supplemental instruction, and/or study groups.

Whether you are an "A student" or "struggling", everyone encounters the need for academic help at some point.

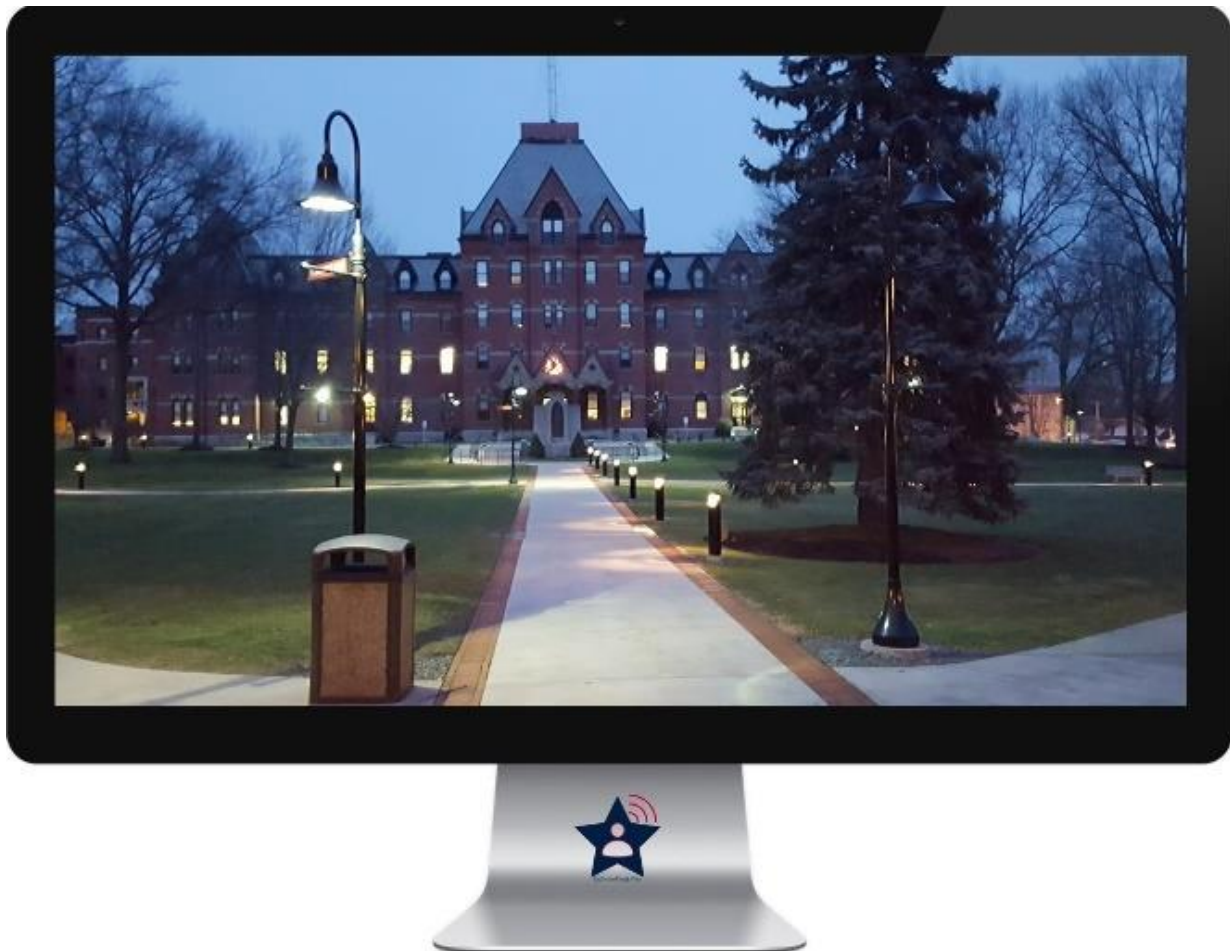
18. Organizations, Clubs, and Activities



Although probably not as important as other areas, clubs, organizations, and athletics can all add to your college experience.

Ask about your specific areas of interest. This can be particularly important if, for example, you would like to major in journalism and the school has little opportunity to work on such projects as the yearbook or student newspaper.

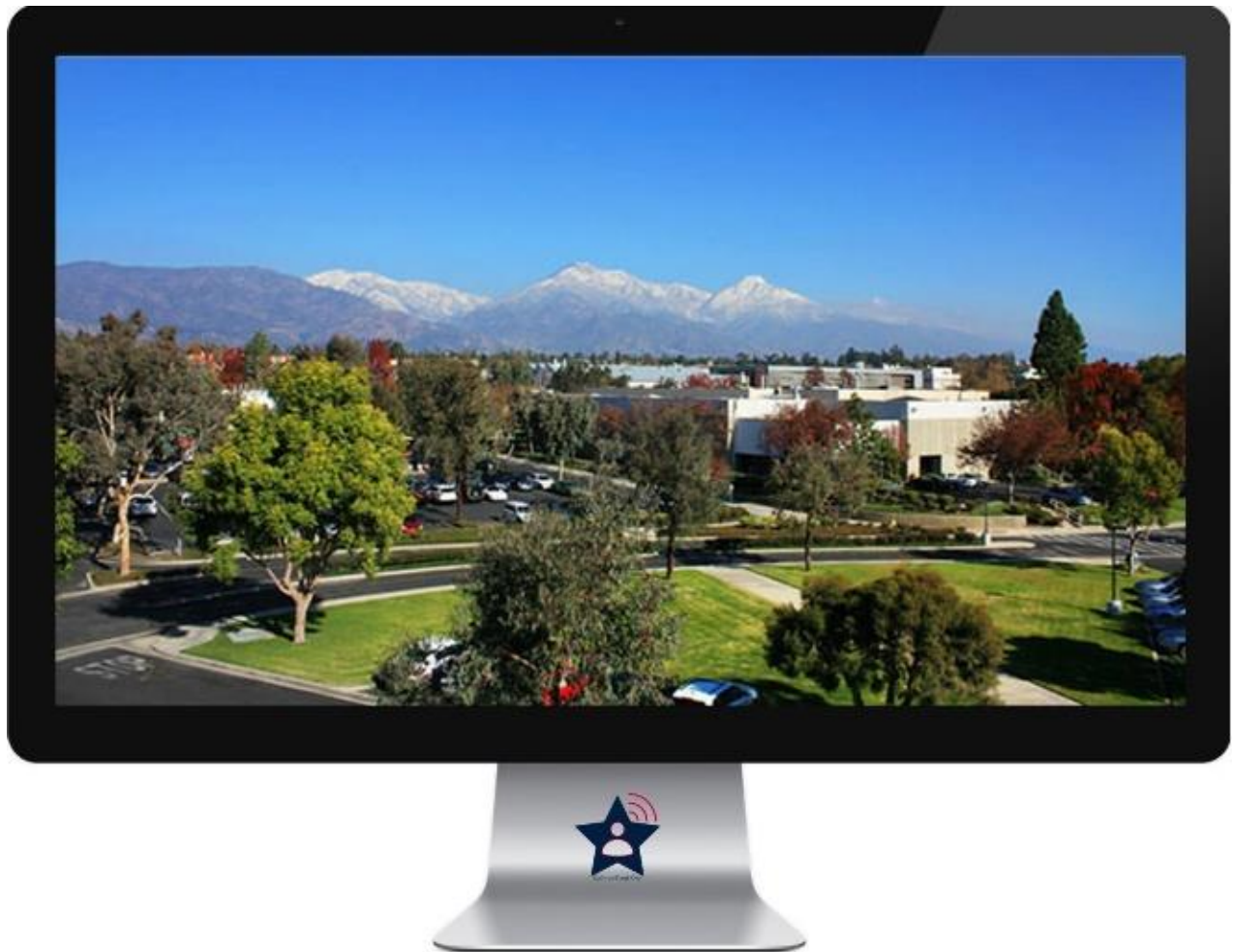
19. CAMPUS VISITS



Many schools can meet your needs academically. I believe the greater challenge is in finding a school where you also feel comfortable. Once you have selected a handful (I would suggest three to five), it is critical to visit the campus. Every college in the country seems to have a viewbook with beautiful pictures of trees, buildings, and smiling faces.

Be assured that schools similar on paper may be very different when you spend time on campus. Be honest with yourself - are you really going to attend "The College for "Intellectual Giants" 1,000 miles away without ever visiting? If you are unable, or unwilling, to visit a campus, that school should be immediately removed from your list. Why even consider a school that you will not have the time, energy, and/or money to visit?

This would be like buying a house without ever seeing it! I would suggest campus visits during your junior year, completing them early in the fall of your senior year. During your visit, you should keep in mind the following objectives. Visit At the Appropriate Time Be sure to visit while school is in session. If you visit during a break or summer, you will not get a clear picture of what the college or university is really like.



Admissions Interview Whether or not the school requires an interview, you should always set up a meeting with an admissions representative. This is an excellent opportunity to confirm that the

the school has the important characteristics you have outlined. If the admissions representative does his/her job effectively, you should leave the meeting with a clear picture of the school's strengths, weaknesses, goals, and expectations.



Financial Aid Interview Specifically requests a financial aid appointment when you set up your visit.

Some colleges or universities may have their admissions representatives handle this type of initial meeting. However, if possible, try to get at least a short meeting with a financial aid representative.

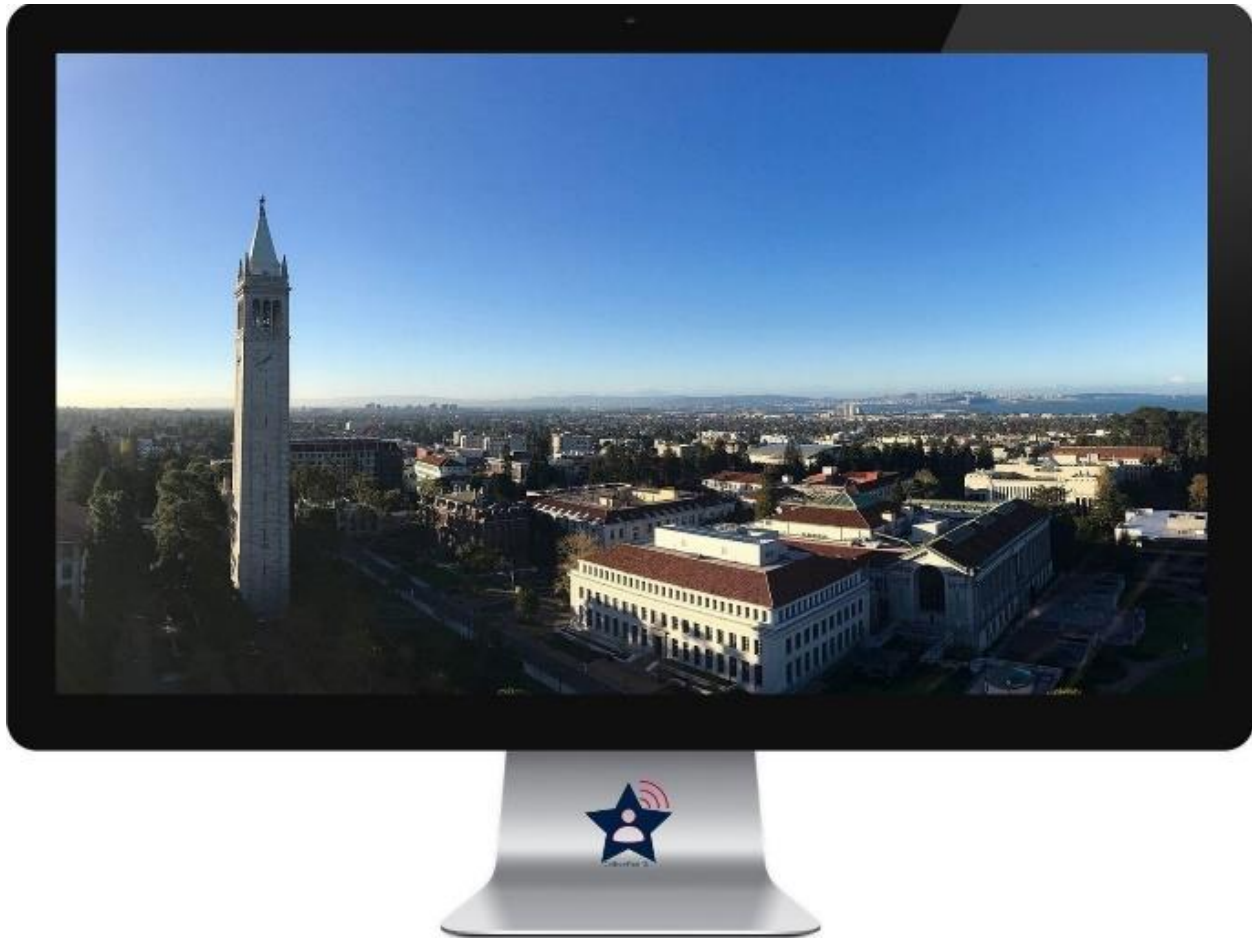
You will be able to address specific questions about scholarships and financial aid forms at this time. Attend Class Ask in advance to attend a class in your major. Although

classes vary, this will at least give you a sample of the class atmosphere.

Keep in mind if the class is a general education requirement or a lower-level course, chances are it will be larger than a 300 or 400- level class which is more focused on students within that major. If you're uncertain about your major, attend one of the general education requirement classes.

Faculty Appointment Schedule an appointment with a professor in your area of interest. This is where you can get more specific questions answered about your major including course requirements, placement rates, internships, co-ops, etc. Ask the questions that are most important to you.





Tour Campus View the academic buildings, dining hall(s), residence halls, library, athletic facilities, bookstore, administrative offices, student union, and any other part of campus that is of interest.

At smaller schools, you will probably be able to see about every building on campus during your tour. Larger schools may have separate tours for different areas. This is a great opportunity for you to hear from a student and get some "inside" information.

Get student opinions regarding professors, classes, social activities, residence halls, etc. Be sure to ask what they like

least about the school as well. Eat-In the Dining Hall Have at least one meal in the dining hall.

This will give you an idea of the quality of food. While we would never recommend choosing one school over another just because of food, it is one more factor you may wish to consider.

Stay Overnight, we believe that an overnight stay can be extremely helpful. This will give you a more informal look at the college atmosphere. You will probably be staying with a student.

This will provide an opportunity to ask questions in a less structured setting. You may be surprised how much a night on campus can sway your opinion - negatively or positively. Open-House Versus Individual Visit Both structured programs and individual visits have their advantages, and both are worth doing if time permits.

Visiting a campus twice may be more feasible if you have narrowed down your options to just two or three schools.

College Visits Continued....

The advantage of an open house is that the school will have a schedule already established.

The open house will probably be more "polished" and you may feel more comfortable with other prospective students present.

The disadvantage of the open house format is that it is less focused on your specific concerns and interests.

If your only visit to campus is for an open house, be sure that the appointments with admissions, financial aid, and faculty are still covered.

If not, try to schedule time for these appointments before or after the open house, or plan a second visit to the campus if you're serious about the school.

Be Consistent As much as possible, follow the same process with each school you visit.



20. Student Athletes



Grandpa used to say, the squeaking wheel gets the grease”

If you are a student-athlete with a desire to play college sports, many opportunities await.

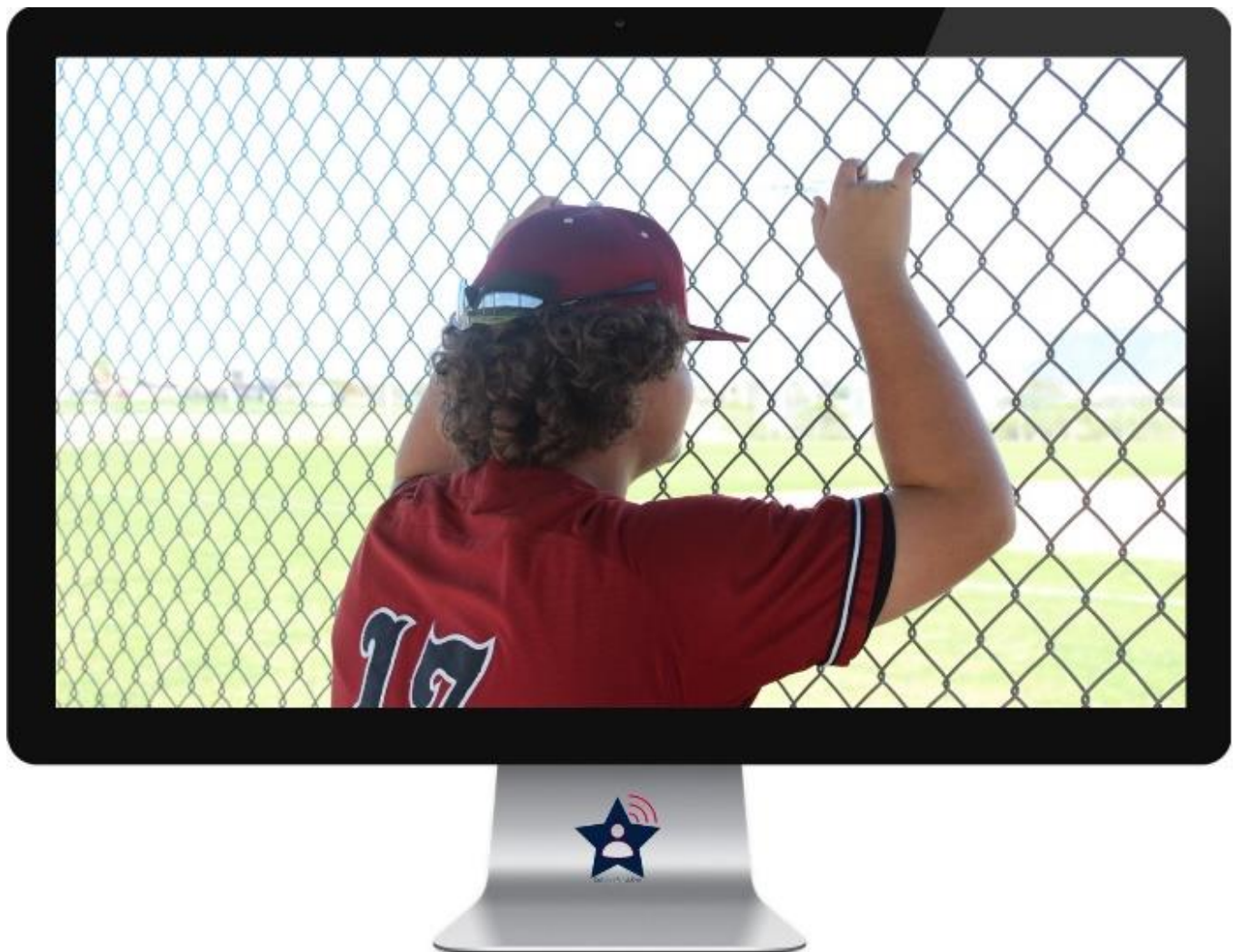
If colleges are beating a path to your door, count your blessings, you are part of only 4% of the vast amount of high school athletes.

The remaining 96% of high school athletes will rarely if ever have a college coach make first contact.

***Be more informed, less influenced,* and take charge of your athletic career.**

Always welcome help from coaches and staff, friends, and family to which colleges they may recommend. However, you are the one packing up and committing to four years.

Your high school offers many tools for success, counselors are there to help guide, coaches, and staff to help you prepare for the journey to a successful college career.



True Story

Meet Brandon, as a high school baseball player from Arizona, Brandon dreamed of playing at the college level

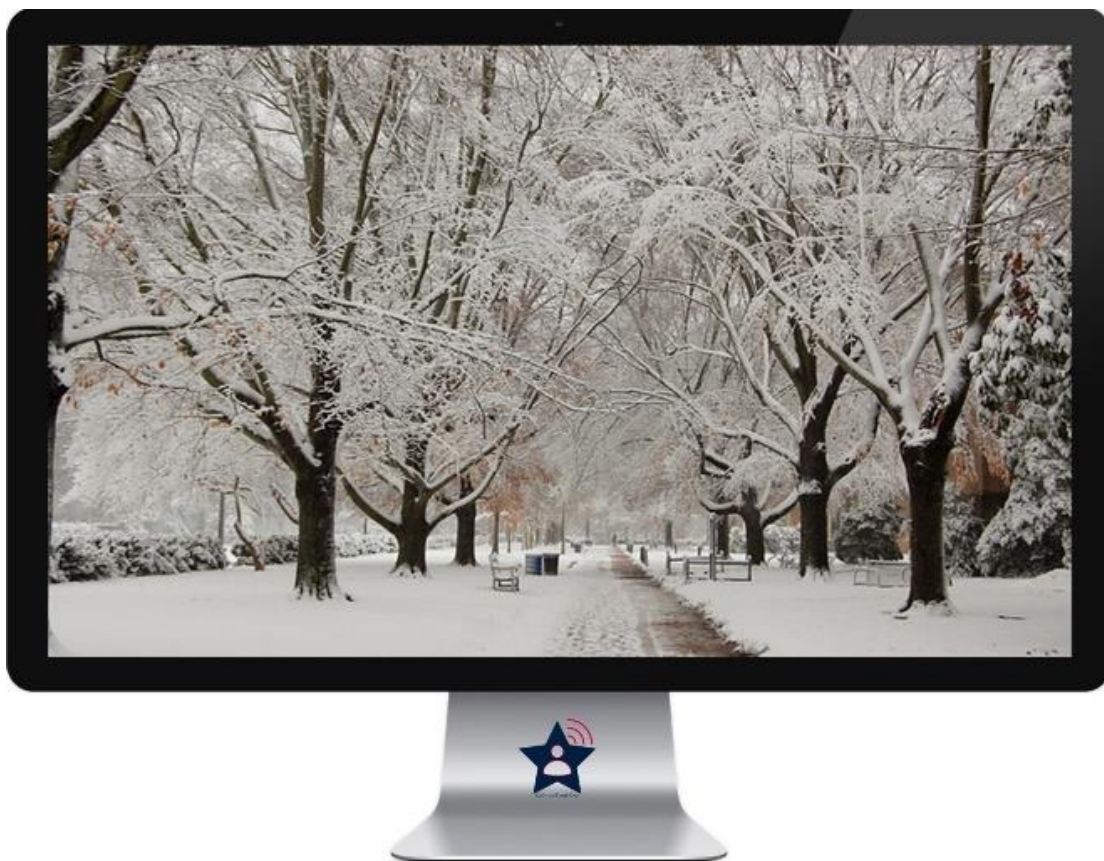
He waited for his coaches to bring a stack of offers, checking his phone each day to see what college coaches came calling.

By his senior year Brandon was concerned, then a family friend that knew a guy that had an uncle that had a college connection.

A last-minute offer was on the table and Brandon took it, packed up his dreams, and headed to college.

After the first season, Brandon packed up again and without hesitation headed back home.....

.....When asked why the quick return, Brandon replied “I had no idea how cold Wisconsin is”.....

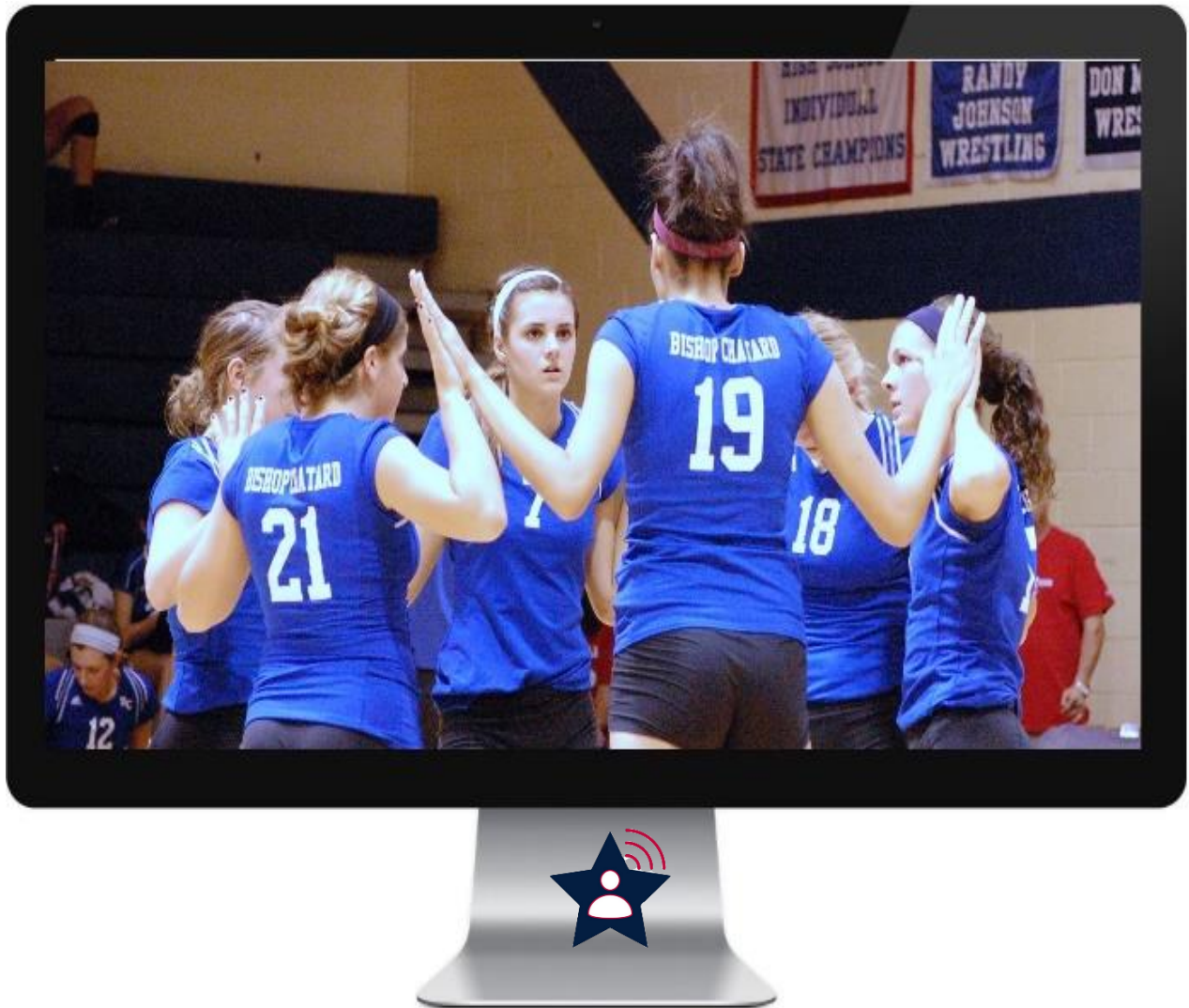


The moral of this story is that the majority of student-athletes are reactive when they should be proactive.

Get to know the associations and learn what they offer for both the short term and the long term.

Check your ego at the door and be realistic in terms of your level of athletic skill.

Your college athletic career will be a plus after graduation.



Only a small number of high school athletes, less than 4%, are “discovered” by college coaches. In most cases, recruits get the ball rolling. Use the College Find research center, with interactive maps and view each college landing page by



clicking the map pin, find the college listed on the side of the map, or find the college name in the main menu tap.

From the landing page, you can see videos, and learn campus information and details about the college and the athletic program. If this college is of interest, place it on your wish list with just a click. Remember to click the provided links and learn about the location, campus life, clubs, and social benefits.

Make your goal to be happy on and off the field. Students who hope to play at Division I or Division II school should ask their

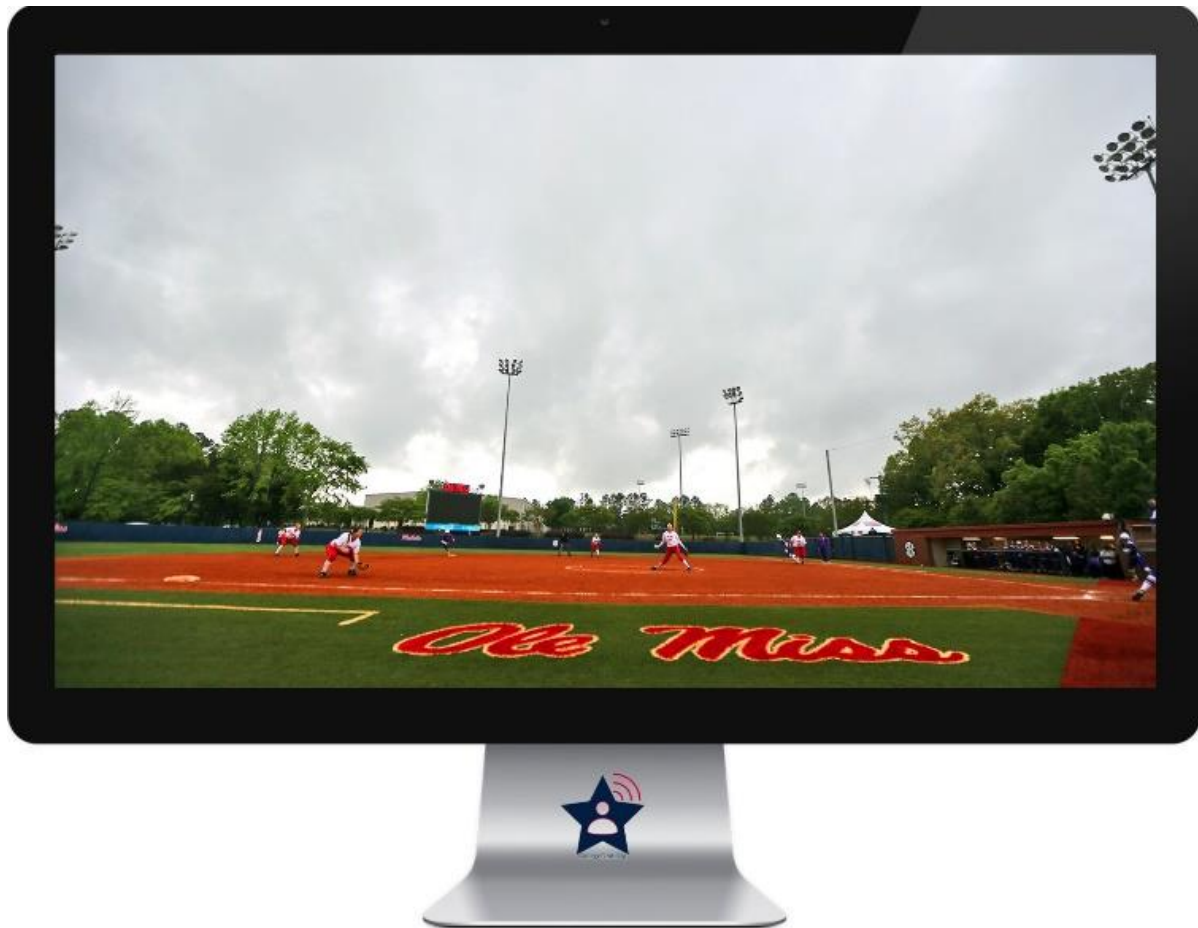
counselors to submit an official transcript to the NCAA following their junior year. (An updated, final transcript is required upon graduation.)

If you attended more than one high school or took courses from more than one program, the NCAA Eligibility Center needs an official transcript from each high school or program.



1. Prepare

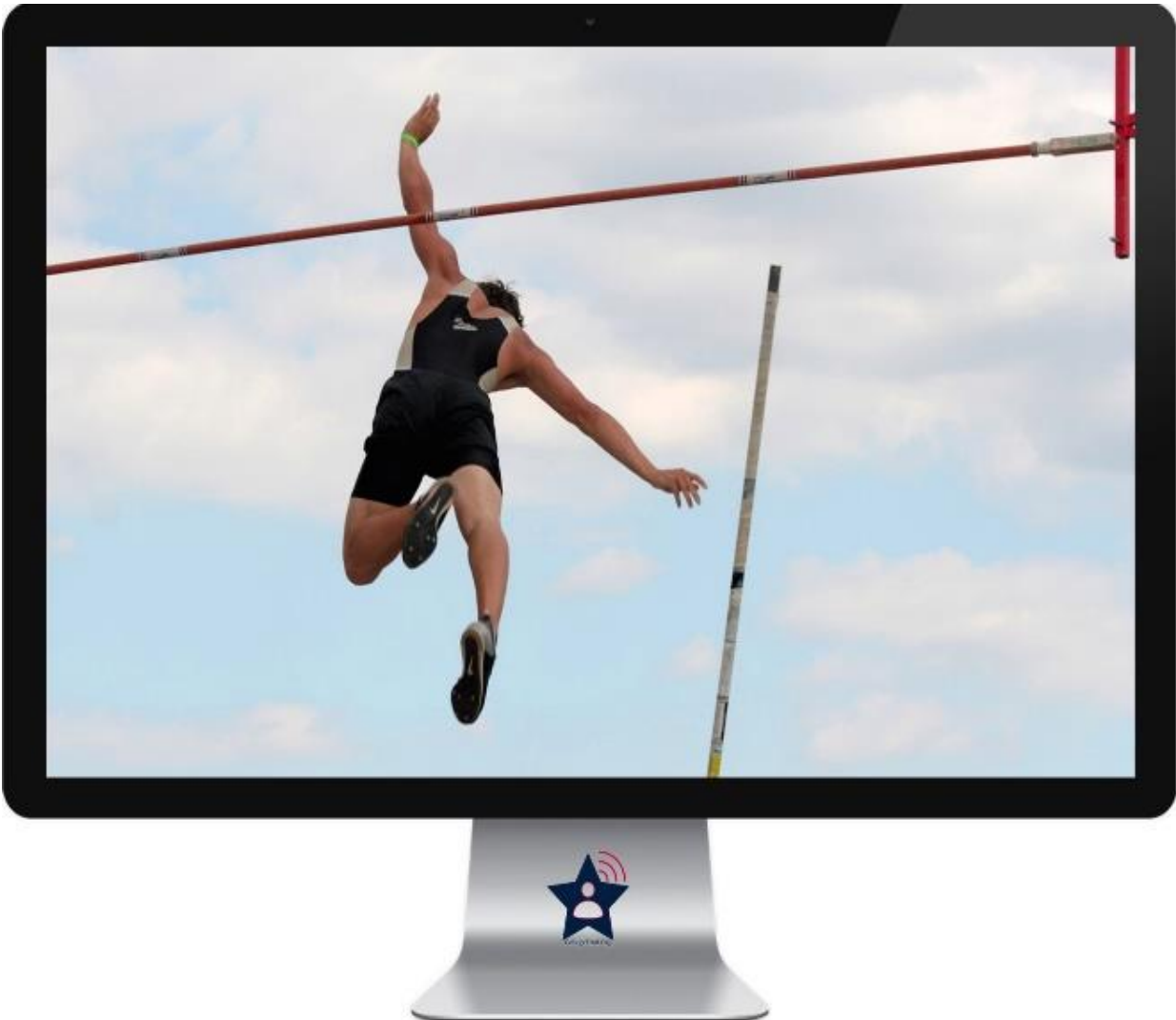
Both the NCAA and the NAIA require student-athletes to register through their respective online eligibility centers.



Once logged in, enter information about your high school courses and the sport(s) you hope to play in college. There is no such requirement for institutions within the NJCAA, which doesn't have an eligibility center. The NCAA encourages students interested in competing at Division I or Division II schools to register during their sophomore year.

Division III schools set their own admission and eligibility standards. Athletes bound for NAIA schools must register with that organization's eligibility center by their senior year. Remember that registering with the NCAA and NAIA eligibility centers doesn't take the place of applying to college.

You must follow all requirements for submitting applications, test scores, transcripts, and other documents for each school you want to apply to.



2. Respect the Rules

Take the most rigorous college-prep classes you can and keep your grades up. Your academic record and ACT/SAT scores determine your athletic eligibility at many colleges, including

member institutions of the NCAA, the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), and UCSAA (the United States Collegiate Athletic Association) Athletes are subject to the same admission standards as all other applicants.

Students with poor academic records can lose the opportunity to receive an athletic scholarship, and in some cases won't be able to practice or play during their first year of college.

If you choose a school within the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) you won't be required to take the ACT or SAT. But, like all collegiate athletes, once enrolled you must meet academic requirements to preserve eligibility.

3. Take charge, market your skills



1. This is your career profile, you own it

2. Use it to showcase your skills to those you think need to see it



Ryan Dilger

Click on a Video Title Below to View the Video
12th strike out, 3rd strike out immaculate inning

Gender	Male
Age	15
Current School Level	High School
Graduation Year	2024

Parent/Guardian Information

First Name	Dannielle
Last Name	Dilger
Email	Email Parent/Guardian
Phone #	[Redacted]

Personal Bio/Write-Up

I am currently a sophomore at Desert Ridge High in Mesa, AZ. I am hoping to make varsity this year as a pitcher. My coaches consider me a utility player cause I can play both infield and outfield whenever they need me. hit 3rd base is my favorite.



Learn the different types of college, most are public and many have out-of-state tuition rates. Private colleges generally have the same cost to all. There are trade colleges that offer intercollegiate sports, like arts, science, or other career skills. Colleges with a religious affiliation are many.



The *Catholic & Christian* college systems have schools just about everywhere and there are so many others as well. Maybe a *tech/trade* school or a prestigious *private* college.

The landing pages will show the relationship so you can pinpoint the best fit for you. While pursuing your goal to compete at the highest level possible, always remember to have a backup plan.....

.....Consider applying to a college that is a less-competitive school athletically. Another option? Check out colleges that offer the right “fit” in other ways. You may still be able to play the sport you love as part of a club or intramural team.

4. Challenge Yourself



College athletic associations use your test scores—along with your grades in core courses—to determine whether you’re eligible to compete as a college athlete. Learn about NCAA and NAIA requirements and take (and retake) the ACT or SAT to meet target scores. Enter

9999 on your ACT or SAT form to have the results sent to the NCAA.

The code for prospective NAIA student-athletes 9876. Students who plan to compete at a NCAA school aren’t required to take the ACT or SAT. And don’t forget to send your scores to the admission offices of the colleges you want to apply to.

5. Bigger is not always better

Do not be fooled by the idea that playing NCAA D1 is always best.

NCAA D2 and D3 and NAIA offer a great deal of talent and opportunity as well.

USCAA offers outstanding smaller college programs

6. Try to be more informed, less influenced

Sometimes the most stress comes from trying to make others happy, such as a tenacious college recruiter or a high school coach who'd like you to attend his or her choice. Remember, the decision of where to attend college is ultimately yours. Research each school's athletic and academic programs, making sure the institution offers your projected major.

Visit campus to talk with student-athletes and athletic staff about practice and travel schedules, anticipated playing time, and the coaching style favored by program members.



If possible, attend a game. Finally, consider the “broken leg” test: If you broke your leg and were unable to play, would you still be happy to attend school?

7. Get your paperwork in order



Dot your T's and cross your I's Just because a college coach or athletic department has encouraged you doesn't mean that you have been accepted.

You need to apply directly to all colleges you are interested in. Follow each college's requirements, submitting all the documents, applications, letters of recommendation, scores, transcripts, etc.



Your counselor can help with this. Pay attention to each college's deadlines for application. Remember that the final decision on your acceptance at a college comes from the admission office and not the athletic department.

8. Understand what you are signing



For many college-bound athletes, the recruitment process culminates with the completion of official documents.

Before you sign, review any paperwork carefully with a parent or other trusted adult.

9. Work with your school counselor

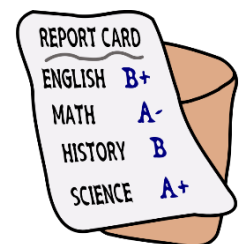


As you complete your final months of high school, check in with your counselor and keep tabs on your online eligibility center account.

Seniors headed for NCAA Division I and Division II schools can use the portal to request final amateurism certification

beginning April 1st.

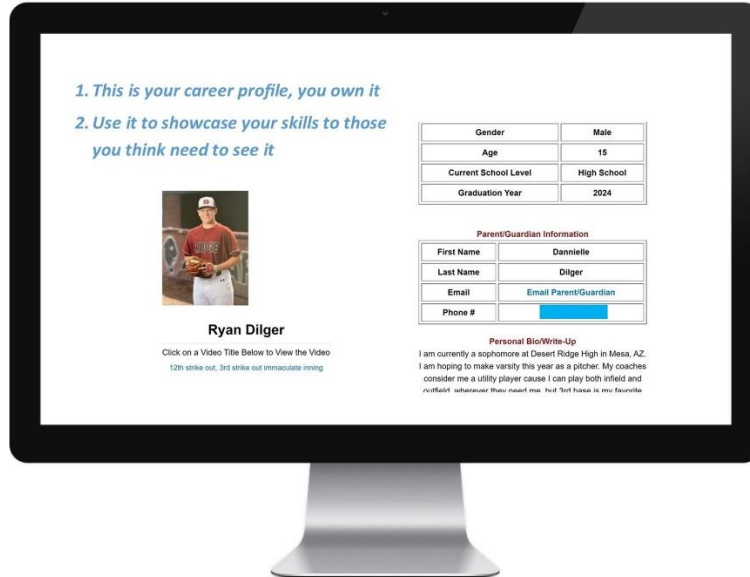
All athletes should work with their school counselor to ensure that a final transcript and proof of graduation are forwarded to the appropriate college athletic



TO USE YOUR INTERACTIVE COLLEGE RESEARCH MAPS



CREATE YOUR SELF-MARKETING PROFILE



VISIT

CollegeFind.Org