

Your Handbook
For Success

FINDING THE RIGHT SCHOOL



**OFFICIAL
GUIDE**



MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

While some students will immediately pursue a two- or four-year education, others will choose a different route, and the reasons vary. No matter where you are in the journey choosing the right school will be one of the biggest decisions you will make up to this point in your life.

We have put together this handbook to help families and, prospective college bound students, student-athletes navigate the process and find the right educational opportunity.

When you begin your investigation, remember no two schools are the same and each has unique aspects and characteristics. If you are making/taking campus visits always ask questions and create a list of pros and cons of each school, you visit.

Ask for a copy of the “student-handbook” this book is your rights and remedies when attending the school and you will need to sign the letter of acknowledgment. So read the handbooks and ask questions if you are not sure. The goal is to find the best school that fits your personal goals and needs. Never settle. The right school is out there.

Areas to evaluate and consider:

Program of study.

If you are unsure of what you want to study, you can narrow the focus with a few simple tasks and ask questions: Look at your report card and the academic subjects where you excel and your grades.

- What area of study do you get your best grades?
 - Example if you are good in Math, you might consider programs that are math based like Architecture, Accounting, Actuarial Math, Data Science, Engineering or Finance.

When visiting the campus, prior to arrival, view the academics offered and research the professor(s) who teach those classes and sit in on a lecture, schedule a meeting with the professor and, get to know them and their teaching styles.

This will help you evaluate the program, the professor and ask yourself, do you relate to the teaching style and syllabus being taught.

Type of degree.

If you were not aware, the fact is all college students must declare their chosen major by the second year. So, you do not take courses that do not count toward your major. That is a waste of time and money.

Today, more schools offer online courses you can take at a fraction of the cost of being on-campus. Did you know certain academic courses you take in high school can be applied as college level courses and the credit earned in high school will apply to your academic major in college?

- Look at classes you have taken and talk to your academic advisor about dual credit courses.
- If you are earning college level credits make sure they are accepted when you enroll in college either online or in-person and they count toward your chosen degree plan.

Student-Teacher ratio.

While this might seem trivial, it's important each student and student-athlete have the academic support needed to be successful in school. The reality is, some students need extra time for study while others need academic support of tutors and staff. Find out if study hall is mandatory if you are a student-athlete or if the school provides tutors.

Often the professors are aware of the athletes travel schedule and will allow extra time for course work that is due. However, it is ultimately up to you to find out. All students and athletes must stay on track, maintain academic requirements in courses selected or you will have wasted time and money.

- When visiting the campus, ask what the student-staff ratios are.
- Find out if students and athletes are provided additional support/tutors and is there a cost.

Campus housing.

Most four year and some two-year schools offer on campus housing in the form of a dorm or apartment housing. It is important to understand your living situation and, the differences are distinct. Your safety is paramount in all instances so ask questions and get answers.

Campus housing where a "dorm" is offered ensures students and student-athletes are provided security on-campus and alerts or push notifications are sent to cell phones.

If you are provided the option of "dorm" living consider the type of dorm room setting, will there be 2 or 4 students or student-athletes to the dorm room or can you choose a private dorm.

- What is included in the dorm room for each student. Typically, each dorm room will have the basics, a single bed, desk, chair, and personal closet space.

While the dorm room might seem spacious, if you have suite mates, the space might get tight and, you will have limited privacy.

- Ask how suite mates are paired.
- What are the dos and don'ts of dorm life/living.
- Are the dorms co-ed or single sex.
- If you are an athlete are athletes housed in one section.

Don't forget to ask about bathrooms and, laundry facilities/service if living on campus!

Remember, the more you know the better informed you are and, then you can make educated decision on what works best for you.

Campus dining hall.

On campus dining facilities and meal types offered is going to be important so check them out, try the food and when visiting! Ask your tour guide about meal plans offered and hours of operations too.

- What does each meal plan include: Breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snacks?
- If you have food allergies or dietary restrictions how is this accommodated?
- Hours of operation of the dining hall[s]?
- Distance from dorm or campus housing to the dining hall[s]?
- How about weekend meals?
- What if you have guest on campus – can you purchase meals for them?

If you are an athlete, find out how are your meal plans managed? What if you have a game and or training? What if the dining hall is closed and you are hungry? What are your dining options?

Health care.

Each college is responsible for the health and well-being of all staff, students and athletes while attending/enrolled in school.

Ask admissions what type of immunization records needed by the school.

- Typically proof of vaccination is required as part of enrollment.
 - Mumps, Measles, and Rubella.

If your campus housing has shared bathroom facilities, it is important you wear appropriate footwear in common areas especially the bathroom/shower areas.

To minimize the risk of staph infections in public areas like locker rooms and showers, the best footwear is shower shoes or flip-flops. These provide a barrier between your feet and the potentially contaminated surfaces. Additionally, choosing a slipper with holes made of breathable, non-absorbent materials like rubber or resin can help prevent sweat accumulation and odor, which can exacerbate infections.

- You do not want to end up with a staph infection do to un-sanitary conditions in the dorm shower area or athletic facilities.
- If you don't have health insurance, ask if it can be purchase from the school?
- Ask about student-wellness support both mentally and physically?

Parents ask about HIPPA & FERPA laws at the school. If your student or athlete is in need mentally or physically how will the school notify you? The same hold true of grades and academic progress.