



ST. DAVID'S SCHOOL College Planning Internet Resources

COLLEGE INFORMATION/MATCHING/PLANNING and TEST PREPARATION

www.4Tests.com

Free practice tests for AP, CLEP, ACT, SAT, PSAT and GED.

College Board Online

www.collegeboard.org

College Board is not just for test registration! Use the College Planning and College Search tabs to access college planning tools, including a comprehensive college search engine, career and majors information, an application calendar, essay-writing advice, and financial planning and aid resources.

College Data

www.collegedata.com

Search 1,800+ colleges by location, size, cost, and majors, as well as obtain detailed college profiles with data on enrollment, admission rates, qualifications of recently enrolled freshmen, costs, and more.

College Majors 101

www.collegemajors101.com

This site provides in-depth information about different college majors and career choices.

College Navigator

<http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator>

College Navigator is a free consumer information tool designed to help students and parents get information about nearly 7,000 postsecondary institutions in the United States. This user-friendly site offers information on areas from campus safety to aid availability to accreditation and graduation rates.

College Results Online

www.collegeresults.org

This site provides graduation rates and comparisons for nearly any 4-year college or university in the country.

Colleges That Change Lives

www.ctcl.org

CTCL is a non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement and support of a student-centered college search process. Advice is given to help families take the emphasis off college names and prestige and to focus on how a student's needs and desires "fit" with a school's mission and identity.

College Toolkit

www.collegetoolkit.com

College Toolkit provides online tools to research schools and scholarships, take a career assessment test, learn about financial aid options, and explain the FAFSA application.

CollegeView

www.collegeview.com

This website has separate portals for students, parents, and counselors, covering relevant topics such as college selection, financial aid, application advice, campus life, and information on careers and majors. Scheduled online chats with college admission offices are offered as well as links to related websites.

Embark

www.embark.com

This site includes a college planning timeline, research tools to learn about colleges and graduate school programs, an application profile tool to assist in the completion of applications, an Expected Family Contribution calculator, and information on financing a college education.

FairTest

<http://fairtest.org>

Sponsored by the National Center for Fair and Open Testing, Fair Test lists over 830 colleges and universities that do not require the SAT or ACT test scores in the admissions process.

Kaplan Testing Center

www.kaplan.com

Kaplan's products and services are presented, including some that are web-only and free. A highlight is the fee-based, online SAT prep course.

Peterson's StudentEdge

www.studentedge.com

StudentEdge offers free online college and career planning resources.

Princeton Review

www.princetonreview.com

This site offers college searches and ads for TPR's publications, software, and services.

SallieMae College Answer

www.collegeanswer.com/index.jsp

Learn how to assess yourself, understand college requirements, prepare for standardized tests, and get college advice.

University and College Accountability Network

www.ucan-network.org

The National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU) consumer information initiative is designed to provide prospective students and their families concise, web-based, consumer-friendly information on individual private colleges and universities.

U.S. News Online

<http://colleges.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-colleges>

“The news magazine admissions professionals love to hate” has a major net presence with their annual “Ranking the Colleges” issue online.

MILITARY ACADEMY LINKS

CollegeView

<http://www.collegeview.com/articles/article/the-basics-of-applying-to-a-military-academy>

This site provides an introduction to the process of applying to a military institution, covering details ranging from the nomination process to the stringent physical requirements.

U.S. Military Academy at West Point	www.USMA.edu
U.S. Naval Academy	www.USNA.edu
U.S. Coast Guard Academy	www.USCGA.edu
U.S. Merchant Marine Academy	www.USMMA.edu

LIFE AND LEARNING ON CAMPUS

Campus Tours

www.campustours.com

This site offers virtual tours and interactive, photorealistic campus maps of numerous U.S. colleges and universities.

College Click TV

www.collegeclicktv.com

Students can take virtual college tours, watch student videos and interviews, and compare colleges and universities by key statistics.

College Week Live

www.collegeweeklive.com

“The world’s largest online college fair” offers live chat and video with students and administration representatives from hundreds of colleges.

ECampus Tours

www.eCampusTours.com

This college planning website features virtual tours of college campuses as well as information on choosing a college, financial aid, campus life, career exploration, scholarships, and more.

Unigo

www.unigo.com

“College students and experts tell you what the colleges won’t.” Reviews, videos, and photos from college campuses across the country.

Youniversity TV

www.youniversitytv.com

Find college video tours of every major college in the United States on this website. Also offered are articles and tips on how to prepare for college.

FINANCIAL AID and PLANNING

The College Board

www.collegeboard.com

The College Board offers information on understanding college costs, scholarships, financial aid applications, education loans, and college financing. The College Board is also home to the CSS/Financial Aid application service used to determine eligibility for non-federal student aid funds.

College Foundation of North Carolina

www.cfnc.org

This site provides financial assistance information and various other college and career searches particularly geared toward North Carolina colleges and universities.

The FAFSA Online

www.fafsa.ed.gov

This is the federal financial aid website which, among other things, allows you to file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online. (See also p.83 in College Match.)

FAFSA Forecaster

www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov

FAFSA Forecaster provides an estimate of your eligibility for federal student aid.

Federal Student Aid

www.federalstudentaid.ed.gov

This website offers a guide to federal student aid.

The Financial Aid Information Page

www.finaid.org

This NASFAA-sponsored financial aid information site is the “bible” for all financial aid information. It’s hard to imagine anything related to financial aid that’s not included here, with links ranging from institutions to government to scholarship and scam alerts. The **EFC estimator** (estimates the family contribution using either federal methodology or typical institutional methodology) and the access to **Fast Web** (see below) are also highlights of this site.

Financial Aid Search Through the Web (FASTWeb)

www.studentservices.com/fastweb

www.fastweb.com

To use this site, a student completes a detailed profile. FastWeb responds with a list of matching award programs, saves a student's profile, and emails new sources of merit aid to the student's online "mailbox." Students can generate a form letter for requesting applications and further information about an award program and then print the letter directly from their web browsers.

Get College Funding

www.getcollegefunding.org

This resource provides facts regarding the college funding process through free seminars in a variety of venues, assesses your family's financial aid eligibility and makes appropriate recommendations through a free personal assessment consultation, counsels your family in order to optimize the children's financial aid eligibility, and offloads the task of completing your FAFSA and CSS profile forms.

Making It Count

www.elearning.makingitcount.com

This site provides a comprehensive, interactive overview of the entire college financing process and access to important college financing tools.

MeritAid.com

www.meritaid.com

A comprehensive directory of merit and academic scholarships from colleges across the country.

My College Advisor

www.mycollegeadvisor.com

My College Advisor provides approximate costs of attending college.

SallieMae

www.salliemae.com

The nation's largest provider of federal and private student loans offers information about saving, planning, and paying for college.

Scholarships

www.scholarships.com/success

This site helps students rank scholarships, grants, and financial aid information in order of unique fit and highest likelihood of success.

Student Scholarship Search

www.studentscholarshipsearch.com

With a free directory of scholarships, grants, and awards, this site offers tips, advice, tricks, and tools for line searches for scholarships and financial aid.

Supercollege

www.supercollege.com

Scholarships, grants, and contests.

UPromise

www.upromise.com

Sponsored by SallieMae, this free college savings program offers monetary rewards for everyday purchases from member merchants.

529 College Savings Plans

These sites offer details about various 529 tax-free savings plans for education financing.

www.collegesavings.org

www.freshmanfund.com

www.savingforcollege.com

www.529.com

SCHOLARSHIP SEARCHES

www.fastweb.com

www.finaid.org

www.guaranteed-scholarships.com

www.meritaid.com

www.moolahspot.com

www.mystudentedge.com

www.naviance.com

www.scholarships.com

www.scholarshipsforstudents.com

www.scholarshipexperts.com

www.studentscholarshipsearch.com

www.supercollege.com

BLOGS

The Answer Sheet – A School Survival Guide for Parents (and Everyone Else)

<http://Washingtonpost.com/answersheet>

The Choice (Demystifying College Admissions and Aid)

<http://thechoice.blogs.nytimes.com>

UNC Admissions Blog

<http://unc.admissions.blogspot.com>

MISCELLANEOUS

The Personal Statement

<http://students.berkeley.edu/apa/personalstatement>

This University of California at Berkeley website leads students step by step through the process of writing a college admissions essay that will give readers a well-organized picture of the student's personality and goals. The site covers brainstorming, drafting, and revising the essay.