



BISHOP LOUIS REICHER COLLEGEWORKBOOK

A GUIDE TO FINDING THE RIGHT COLLEGE
FOR YOU DURING HIGH SCHOOL

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How to Use this Manual

Congratulations student and parent!

You have taken the first step in your post-secondary education.

As with any major goal, research is always the first step. This manual will serve as a guide throughout the planning process towards your goal - a post-secondary education.

Here at Reicher we have compiled a few helpful checklists, surveys, and bubble maps to make decisions along the way easier. While each page in this workbook can be used individually, as a collection they will better serve you on your journey.

Steps 1

Gather a notebook. This will be used to store whatever you collect along the way.

Step 2

Print this workbook and add it to your notebook. Glance over each page.

Step 3

As a parent: Read the *How Do I Help My Child Prepare for College* page.

As a student: Read the *College Where Do I Start* page. Determine where you are in your planning process. Check-off what you can, make a note of what you have not.

Step 4

Add all information you gather to your notebook. It will get full! This is all helpful information to make the best decision - your post-secondary institution.



BISHOP LOUIS
REICHER
A Catholic School Community

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HOW DO I HELP MY CHILD PREPARE FOR COLLEGE?

EARLY HIGH SCHOOL YEARS

- TALK WITH YOUR STUDENT ABOUT THEIR ACADEMIC PLAN
- GUIDE YOUR STUDENT TO ACCEPTABLE CAREERS VIA PERSONALITY, INTEREST, AND SKILL SURVEYS
- MAKE SURE YOUR STUDENT IS ENROLLED IN CHALLENGING COURSES
- TALK WITH YOUR STUDENT'S COLLEGE COUNSELOR
- ENCOURAGE INDEPENDENCE IN LIFE AND SCHOOL WORK
- HELP YOUR STUDENT MANAGE THEIR TIME AND RESOURCES
- SUGGEST ACTIVITIES TO DEVELOPE TEAMWORK, LEADERSHIP, AND COMMITMENT SKILLS
- CONSIDER ENRICHMENT COURSES
- KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR CHILD'S STUDY HABITS AND GRADES
- ADD TO YOUR CHILD'S COLLEGE SAVINGS ACCOUNT
- HELP YOUR STUDENT NARROW DOWN THEIR COLLEGE CHOICE BY HAVING DISCUSSIONS WITH THEM ABOUT FIT AND AFFORDABILITY

JUNIOR/SENIOR YEARS

- ENCOURAGE SERIOUSNESS ON THE PSAT YOUR JUNIOR YEAR
- TAKE TIME OFF TO VISIT COLLEGES
- ATTEND COLLEGE AND FINANCIAL FAIRS WITH YOUR CHILD
- ATTEND JOB FAIRS WITH YOUR CHILD
- ENCOURAGE YOUR STUDENT TO TAKE DUAL CREDIT AND ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES
- KEEP UP WITH YOUR STUDENT'S COLLEGE OF CHOICE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS (I.E. ENTRANCE TESTS, DEADLINES, ETC.)
- HELP YOUR CHILD WITH COLLEGE ESSAYS AND LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION REQUESTS
- ENCOURAGE APPLICATION TO MORE THAN ONE SCHOOL (PREFERABLE 4 OR MORE)
- APPLY FOR THE FASA EARLY - YOU WILL NEED FINANCIAL AND TAX RECORDS
- SEARCH AND APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS
- MAKE SURE YOUR STUDENT'S HIGH SCHOOL (AND DUAL CREDIT) TRANSCRIPT IS SENT TO THE SCHOOL OF CHOICE

COLLEGE WHERE DO I START?

MIDDLE SCHOOL

- ☐ DEVELOP STRONG STUDY HABITS
- ☐ READ FOR FUN
- ☐ PARTICIPATE IN CLASS DISCUSSIONS AND ACTIVITIES
- ☐ TAKE ADVANCED COURSES
- ☐ GET INVOLVED IN THE SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY
- ☐ DEVELOP YOUR WRITING STYLE
- ☐ READ MAGAZINES AND NEWSPAPERS
- ☐ PICK A HIGH SCHOOL TRACK OR FOCUS

YEARLY

- ☐ CONTINUE WITH STRONG LEARNING HABITS DEVELOPED IN MIDDLE SCHOOL VOLUNTEER
- ☐ TAKE CHALLENGING CLASSES
- ☐ KEEP A LIST OF AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS
- ☐ KEEP UP WITH YOUR GRADES/GPA
- ☐ STAY ACTIVE IN THE COMMUNITY AND SCHOOL

9TH GRADE

- ☐ TAKE THE PSAT 8/9
- ☐ RESEARCH COLLEGES
- ☐ RESEARCH CAREERS
- ☐ MAKE A LIST OF COLLEGE MUST HAVES
- ☐ CONSIDER DUAL CREDIT AND/OR
- ☐ ADVANCED CLASSES
- ☐ TAKE THE TSIA

10TH GRADE

- ☐ TAKE THE PSAT/NMSQT
- ☐ VISIT YOUR COLLEGE COUNSELOR
- ☐ VISIT A COLLEGE CAMPUS
- ☐ RESEARCH MAJORS
- ☐ USE YOUR SUMMER WISELY - JOIN A SUMMER CAMP, JOB INTERNSHIP, ETC.

11TH GRADE

- ☐ VISIT COLLEGES
- ☐ TAKE THE PSAT/NMSQT
- ☐ LEARN ABOUT FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS
- ☐ TAKE THE SAT AND/OR ACT DURING THE SUMMER
- ☐ NARROW DOWN YOUR LIST OF COLLEGES
- ☐ APPLY FOR EARLY ADMISSIONS

12TH GRADE

- ☐ VISIT YOUR FINAL COLLEGES
- ☐ APPLY FOR COLLEGE ADMISIONS
- ☐ WRITE GENERIC ESSAYS
- ☐ GATHER LETTERS OF RECOMENDATION
- ☐ TAKE THE SAT/ACT AT LEAST TWICE
- ☐ COMPLETE YOUR FAFSA
- ☐ APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Name: _____

MY COLLEGE MUST HAVES

WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO ME

Think about the statement.
Mark *MUST* if you agree, *POSSIBLY* if you are unsure or it doesn't matter, and *NOT SO MUCH* if you disagree.

	Must	Possibly	Not So Much
My college is in Texas.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My college is diverse.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My college has multiple dorms.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My college has suitable statistics.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My college is Catholic.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My college is well known in sports.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My college is deep in tradition.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My college has Greek life.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My college has flexible learning options.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My college is beautiful.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My college ranked well in my field.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My college is ecologicly friendly.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My college has modern conveniencies.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My college is small and homey.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My college is family legacy school.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My college has a post graduate network.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

POSSIBLE COLLEGES



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