



**What makes a great
college?**

**Counselors, Social Workers, Psychologists
and Deans are available to meet with
students about a variety of topics: academics,
college/career, social/emotional. Stop by the
House or email to set up an appointment.
We are here to help.**

Pride | Tradition | Spirit | Warrior





**What makes a great
college?**

Top TEN Party Schools

1. University of California Santa Barbara
2. Florida State University
3. Tulane University
4. University of Alabama
5. Syracuse University
6. University of Southern California
7. University of Georgia
8. Wisconsin- Madison
9. U of I- Urbana Champaign
10. Howard University

**Niche 2024 Rankings*

Best College Dorms

1. Johnson University- Knoxville
2. Washington University- St. Louis
3. Saginaw Valley State University
4. Grand Canyon University
5. High Point University Union University
6. Wisconsin Lutheran College
7. Union University
8. Stevenson University
9. Sonoma State University
10. Colorado Christian University

Colleges that Produce the Most Waubonsie Valley Teachers

1. Illinois State University
2. Northern Illinois University
3. University of Illinois- Urbana Champaign
4. North Central College
5. Eastern Illinois University
6. Western Illinois University
7. Benedictine University
8. Bradley University
9. Aurora University
10. Wheaton College

Top Schools for the Waubonsie Valley Class of 2024

1. College of DuPage
2. University of Illinois- Urbana Champaign
3. University of Illinois Chicago
4. Illinois State University
5. Purdue University
6. University of Missouri Columbia
7. Indiana University- Bloomington
8. Iowa State University
9. Loyola University Chicago
10. Aurora University

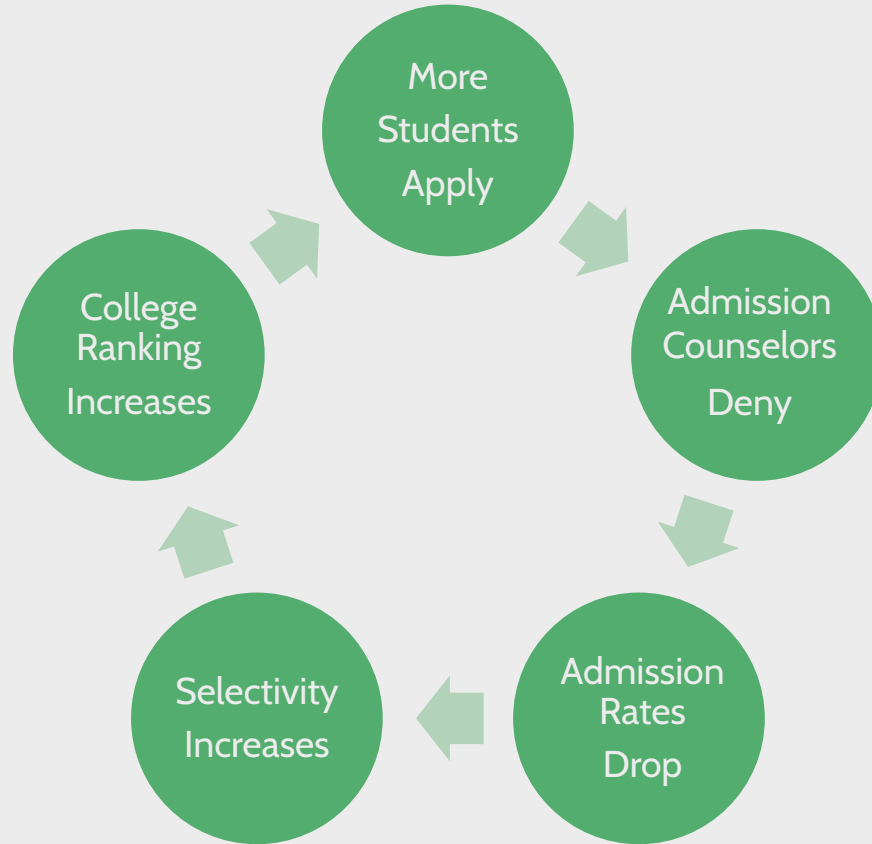
Most Selective Schools – Lowest Acceptance Rate

1. Minerva University
2. California Institute of Technology
3. Stanford University
4. Harvard University
5. Massachusetts Institute of Technology
6. Columbia University
7. Princeton University
8. Yale University
9. Brown University
10. University of Pennsylvania

Can You Really Trust Rankings?

It depends on what you want to measure.

The Cycle of College Rankings



**It should be about the
best fit for the student,
NOT the best sounding name
or highest ranked college**



**What makes a great
college?**



Location,
Location,
Location,

LOCATION MATTERS

- Traveling home
 - Over 50% of all college students attend schools less than 100 miles from home.
 - Only 16% of students travel 500 or more miles from home.
- Where do you want to live during college?
- Where do you want to live after college?
- What type of work do you want to do and where is it in demand?

SIZE MATTERS

<5000



Tall

5000 - 15,000



Grande

15,000 - 30,000



Venti

30,000+



Trenta

How Big is Big, How Small is Small

Small Schools

- Waubonsie Valley
- 1 Feeder Middle School

Large Schools

- Waubonsie Valley
- Metea Valley
- Neuqua Valley
- DeKalb
- Naperville North
- Naperville Central
- East Aurora
- West Aurora
- Oswego
- Oswego East
- Wheaton Warrenville South
- Wheaton North
- Downers Grove North
- Downers Grove South
- Hinsdale Central
- Hinsdale South

CLASS SIZES

Small Schools

- Student to faculty ratio 15:1
- Average class size 20 or less
- Course taught by professors, no teaching assistants



Large Schools

- Student to faculty ratio 20:1
- Average class size 20-50
- 20% of classes are 50+
- Lower level classes led by teaching assistants





**SHOW ME THE
MONEY!**

The Cost of College – Sticker Price

Average cost of tuition and fees for IL public schools

- \$14,500 per year 4-year colleges/universities
- \$4,000 per year for community colleges

Related Expenses (average per year)

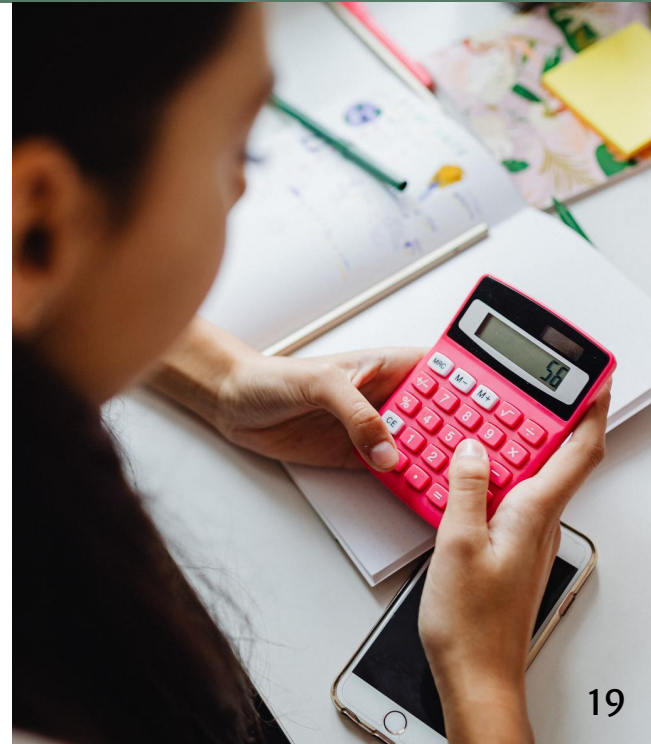
- Housing – \$10,000
- Textbooks – \$1000
- Food – \$3000 – \$5500

Net Price- The amount a student will pay

- Net price calculators located on college websites

Dual Credit / AP Credits

- Will you have college credit when you enter?



Financial Aid: scholarships, grants, loans

EFC (Estimated Family Contribution)/SAI (Student Aid Index)

FAFSA Made Changes for students entering college for fall 2024-25

Loans

- Subsidized Loans - based on financial need and US Dept of Ed pays the interest while in school
- Unsubsidized Loans - no requirement to demonstrate financial need. Interest accrues while in school and student is responsible for the interest.
- Student loan limits:
 - \$5,500 as freshmen
 - \$6,500 as sophomores
 - \$7,500 as juniors and beyond

Return On Investment – Will Your College Tuition Work for You?

Consider the following:

- Debt at Graduation
- Will your salary pay your loans off?
- Salary varies by major & job
- Average Alumni Salary

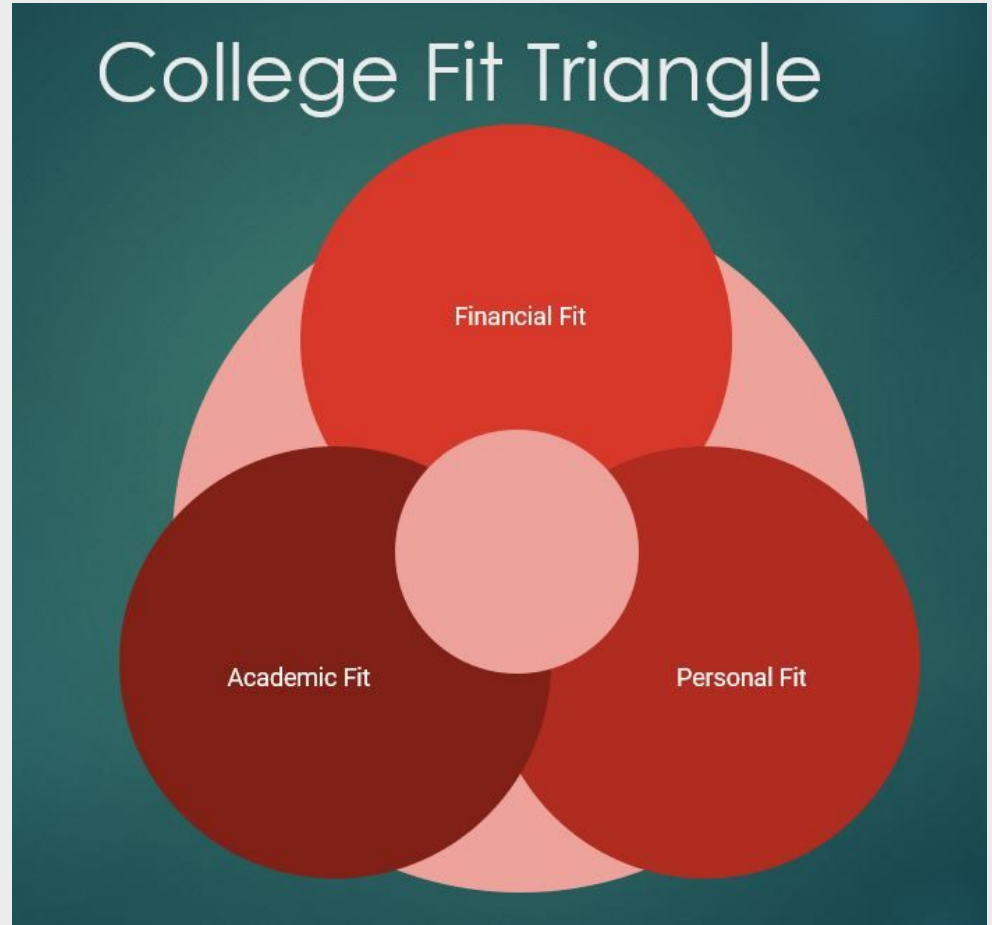


Am I right for this college?

- High School GPA- Target, Reach, Safety
- Test Scores- Test Blind, Test Optional or Test Scores Required?

• Admissions Standards

**WV graduation requirements can be different than college admissions requirements*



Is This College Right For Me?

- Does it have my Major / Minor
- What Resources Are Available?
 - Library, Writing Center, Career Center, Academic Advisors, Student supports (accommodations)
- Opportunities
 - Academic Internships, Study Abroad, Research
- Direct contact with professors

•



OUTCOMES



Student Outcomes

- Student Retention Rate
- Nationwide, 1 in 3 students won't return for sophomore year
- Advertised Graduation Rate
 - 4-Year National average is around 35%
 - 6-Year National average is around 62%
- Post Graduation Outcomes: How many students are
 - Entering Workforce
 - Working in their field
 - Graduate School
- Career Services on Campus

College experiences that impact college and future job satisfaction & well-being

1. TAKING A COURSE with a professor who makes learning exciting.
2. WORKING WITH PROFESSORS who care about students personally.
3. FINDING A MENTOR who encourages students to pursue personal goals.
4. WORKING ON A PROJECT across several semesters.
5. PARTICIPATING IN AN INTERNSHIP that applies classroom learning.
6. BEING ACTIVE IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.

ONLY 3% OF STUDENTS EXPERIENCE ALL SIX FACTORS!

Source: Gallup-Purdue Index Report 2014.

COLLEGE

»»» LIFE



Student Involvement

- Friends on Campus
- Greek Life
- Clubs/Activities
- On campus vs commuter campus
- Job opportunities
- Community service/volunteering



Campus Culture

- Big Fish, Little Pond
- Personality and Feel
- Demographics
- Religious Beliefs
- Political Climate



What can I do now?



PRE-COLLEGE PLANNING TIMELINE AT WAUBONSIE VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

	JUNIOR YEAR						SENIOR YEAR							
	FALL	SPRING	SUMMER	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	
COLLEGE ADMISSIONS							EARLY DECISION 1		EARLY DECISION 2					
							EARLY ACTION	REGULAR DECISION DEADLINES						
	ROLLING ADMISSIONS													
STANDARDIZED TESTING	PSAT													
		TAKE THE SAT OR ACT											AP EXAM	
		AP EXAMS												
FINANCIAL AID							FILE FAFSA							
						APPLY FEE WAIVERS IF ELIGIBLE				COMPARE AWARD LETTERS				
	SEARCH & APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS													
RESEARCH	COLLEGE VISITS (IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL)													
	RESEARCH COLLEGES & MAKE LISTS IN SCHOOLINKS										REVISIT ACCEPTED COLLEGES			
			KEEP TRACK OF KEY DATES											
COLLEGE APPLICATIONS			BRAINSTORM, WRITE & REVISE ADMISSIONS ESSAYS											
			CREATE COMMON APP AND OTHER ACCOUNTS											
			REQUEST LETTERS OF REC											
					SEND TRANSCRIPTS, TEST SCORES AND LETTERS OF REC FOR EARLY APPS			SEND TRANSCRIPTS, TEST SCORES AND LETTERS OF REC FOR REGULAR DECISION DEADLINES						

Application Deadlines

Early Action – students submit applications early in the fall (Nov 1) and hear from schools by early January or sooner – “*non-binding*”

- Students receive an early response but they do not have to commit until normal reply date May 1

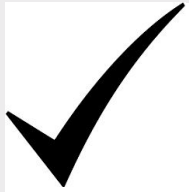
Early Decision – students submit applications early in the fall and schools notify them in December or January – “*binding*”

- Students who are accepted ED must attend this college
- Only apply ED for one school

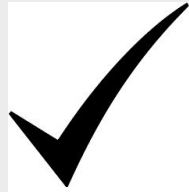
Regular Admission – apply by a mid-winter deadline (Dec 1) and hear from colleges from a few weeks to as late as April

Rolling Admission – students submit applications and schools respond within four to six weeks

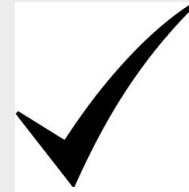
Letters of Recommendation



Identify 2-3 trusted adults to ask for letters
*Teacher/Coach/Counselor/Club Sponsor



Print Student Profile (found on counseling department website)



Ask for letters in a personable way: in person, phone call, formal email
Thank the writer!

Do Your Research

- SchooLinks is your friend
- Pay attention to College Admissions Requirements
- Evaluate your course selections
- Virtual and In-Person College Visits
- Visit a Big School & Small School
- Call your favorites
- Senior meeting in the fall with your counselor

Start Your Applications

- Individual College Websites

- Common Application

**Students have access to their unofficial transcripts through StudentVue/SchoolLinks*

Specific Dates for Senior Year

- August 2024 - Students become seniors in SchooLinks
- August 28 - Senior Application Night
- September 3 - Transcripts/Applications Processed
- September - Senior Q&A Lunch Sessions
- September 26 - Financial Aid Night
- September & October - Individual Counselor Meetings
- October 1 - FAFSA Opens
- October 17 - FAFSA Workshop
- November 1 - Early Admissions Deadline
- January 2024 - Apply for Green & Gold Scholarships

What makes a great college?



The one that is the right fit for you!