

## Values-Based College Planning

### **What do you want out of a college education?**

- How will you be different after you graduate?
- What do you want to explore? Academically, activities/hobbies, personally, socially?
- What are your strengths? Weaknesses?
- How important are the following? Gaining independence, exposure to new ideas, exposure to people of different backgrounds, working closely with professors, getting career skills and direction, exploring your purpose in life, making great friends and having fun, getting involved in politics and the community?

### **Can you take care of yourself?**

- Do you get enough sleep? Eat well? Exercise?
- Do you have a good self-image and self-esteem?
- Are you organized and able to manage your free time?
- Do you have good basic study skills of listening, taking notes, and studying?
- Can you adjust to new situations and make new friends easily?

### **Are you motivated to use the resources and opportunities that college provides?**

#### College Research Resources\*

- College counselor
- Friends and relatives currently in college
- Guidebooks (Fiske, Princeton Review, Insider's Guide)
- School tours and information sessions
- Visits by admissions officers to your school
- College websites and brochures

\* Take everything with a grain of salt, since information can be outdated, biased, or based on limited information. Use multiple resources and visit the college whenever possible.

*Keep an open mind. Start with a broad list of different schools, then narrow it down. Pick 1-2 schools you know you can get into and that you would want to attend. Don't apply to too many schools.*

#### Tips for Campus Tours

- Plan ahead – look at tour and information session times, make reservations if necessary, get there early
- Attend the campus tour and the information session
- Visit when class is in session (not during summer, breaks or finals) – consider spring break junior year
- Ask questions to tour guide and other students –
  - What do students do on weekends and free time?
  - What are freshman classes like?
  - What do people do after graduating?
  - What are typical living arrangements?
  - Which facilities do you use regularly (gym, dining halls, libraries, etc.)?
  - What do you like or dislike most about your school?
- Ask yourself: Can I see myself living and learning here for 4 years?
- Take notes! Write down your impressions of each school and pros/cons in a notebook.
- Consider re-visiting top choices: ask if you can stay on campus with a current student and attend classes