

COUNSELING RESOURCES COLLEGE & CAREER PLANNING

College Selection and Financial Aid Web Sites

The College Zone (<http://www.collegezone.com>)

Sponsored by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC)

This site should be your first stop for comprehensive, reliable information about the college selection and financial aid process. Everything you need is here. You can link to many of the sites listed below through College Zone.

Mapping Your Future (www.mapping-your-future.org)

A site “for students and parents with information on financial strategies, career options, and college planning.” Also available in Spanish.

College Board Cost Calculators (www.collegeboard.com/student/pay/add-it-up/401.html)

Provides excellent cost calculators, including college costs, savings, loans, and other tools.

FastWeb (<http://www.fastweb.com>)

A college and scholarship search database claiming over 600,000 scholarships and 4000 colleges. The service is free, but you must register with an e-mail address, name, address, and other information. However, you may opt to restrict your information from being passed on to third parties such as colleges, marketers, etc. Read the Privacy Policy if you have any questions.

ACT (<http://www.actstudent.org>)

Find out about ACT test dates, register for the ACT, send scores to additional colleges, and more.

FinAid (<http://www.finaid.org>)

Another reliable site with links to scholarship resources, information about scholarship scams, and a variety of calculators to help you in your planning.

Dept. of Education (<http://www.ed.gov>)

Choose the Students or Parents tab at the top of the page and then use the menu bar at the left side of the page to find information on specific topics.

Scholarship Scams (<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/edcams/scholarship/index.html>)

Sponsored by the Federal Trade Commission, this site will help you weed out the good stuff from the stuff that’s too good to be true.

Don’t forget to log onto a college or university’s website -- they often have information for prospective students, a virtual tour, and open house dates.

Other College Selection and Financial Aid Resources

General reference guides (e.g., Peterson’s and Barron’s) are available in the college counselor’s office, as are books on specific topics such as admission to Ivy League schools, NCAA rules and regulations for student athletes, writing application essays, and seeking merit scholarships.

Although nothing can replace a campus visit, viewbooks, course catalogs, videos, and CD-ROMs published by individual colleges and universities can be obtained from the college counselor or by directly contacting the school's admissions office.

DISCOVER, an online resource designed by ACT, allows students to track their achievement as it relates to their performance on the EXPLORE, PLAN, and ACT assessments. It is available in the Counseling Department and at other sites around the school. **DISCOVER** also provides information on over 3000 colleges and universities, an interest inventory, and other components to assist you in the college selection and financial aid process. See your counselor if you need help using this program.

Career Planning Websites

Occupational Outlook Handbook (<http://stats.bls.gov/oco>)

Published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, which is part of the U.S. Dept. of Labor, the OOH provides some of the best information about occupations, including a description of the work, preparation needed, desirable skills, and projections for growth in the field.

Career Voyages (www.careervoyages.gov)

Sponsored by the U.S. Dept. of Labor and the U.S. Dept. of Education, this site will help teens and young adults explore “the fastest growing industries and occupations, and the skills and education required to prepare for them.” It also includes information about apprenticeship programs and two-year professional degree programs at community colleges.

LifeWorks (<http://science.education.nih.gov/LifeWorks>)

This site is sponsored by the National Institutes of Health and focuses on health and medical sciences careers. Use the Career Finder feature to match your interests and skills to possible careers. Also, check out the Prepare for College Early section for ideas on how to plan your high school program in order to get accepted to, and succeed in, the college of your choice.

JobStar (<http://www.jobsmart.org>)

Sponsored by the Bay Area Library and Information System (a regional library agency in California), the Career Guides section has a list of links to websites focused on various career areas, as well as sites with general career and job search information.

Military Career Guide Online (<http://www.todaysmilitary.com>)

This site encompasses all branches of the armed services and provides information about jobs and training available through enlistment. Read the fine print as many career areas are highly selective.

Other Career Planning Resources

There are a number of reference books about careers in the college counselor's office.

Also, **DISCOVER**, the online resource available in the Counseling Department, has an interest inventory component that might help you identify some possible career options.

The Guerin College Preparatory High School library has career reference books, books about general career and job search topics, and books focused on specific career areas.

Your local public library has an extensive career section, including print, video, and online resources. Ask at the Reference desk about what's geared toward career exploration for young adults.