



Fall 2016 College Visits Users' Guide

Providence Academy College Counseling

Disclaimer: The descriptions in this guide have been formed from the combined experience of PA's college counselors, input from admission representatives, feedback from PA students and graduates, and recognized college guides. It does not depict all that there is to know about these campuses, nor does it mention all the strong academic offerings which may be available. We hope it helps you choose visits well and to broaden your college search!

REMINDER: To attend college meetings scheduled during the Light Blue or Pink elective periods, students must obtain a college visit pass from Mrs. Peterson at least one day in advance of the visit and then, also one day in advance, speak with and obtain the signature of their elective course or study hall instructor. With a signed college visit pass, students may proceed directly to the college meeting at the start of the period. There is no need to report to the elective course or study hall first.

Thursday, September 8

11:15 AM: Hillsdale College (Hillsdale, MI)

(go if you like Notre Dame but think it may be too big, U. of Dallas...go if you are looking for classical education, conservative values, political opportunities within the Republican party, students with old fashioned sensibilities, Division II athletics, seriously religious students at a college without religious affiliation)

1:30 PM: North Dakota State University (Fargo, ND)

(go if you are looking for a smaller flagship-type public university than is common here in the Midwest. If large campuses like University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, Iowa State, or UW-Madison concern you, NDSU's enrollment of just 12,000 undergraduates may be a better fit. NDSU has a very successful and increasingly prominent athletics program, particularly in Division 1 championship subdivision football)

1:30 PM: University of Mary (Bismarck, ND)

(one of the most affordable Catholic university options in the country, all graduates of Catholic high schools receive, at minimum, free room and board. Has health science and business major offerings not often found at colleges this small. Part of the Cardinal Newman Society college list for strong Catholic identity but non-Catholics also attend)

Friday, September 9

1:30 PM: University of Kansas (Lawrence, KS)

(go if you like UW-Madison, Indiana Univ-Bloomington, Purdue...go if you are looking for a classic flagship campus with attainable admission standards, strong programs in Engineering, Business, and Journalism/Mass Communications, almost every MN student qualifies for a \$10,000 scholarship...KU prides itself on its academics, a "rah rah" experience, and a close knit community)

Monday, September 12

8:00 AM: Columbia University (New York, NY)

(arguably the most iconic university in New York City, located in Manhattan's Morningside Heights neighborhood, Columbia University is an exemplary urban private university known for its renowned Common Core and its academic programs in the arts, humanities, science, and engineering...offers an extremely diverse, avant garde, and socially conscious student body)

8:00 AM: University of Chicago

(go if you are looking for distinctively intense intellectual focus on ideas, a rigorous core curriculum, all offered on a big and grand campus and in one of this country's most famous big cities)

8:00 AM: Thomas Aquinas College (Santa Paula, CA)

(go if you are looking for Great Books, a college that is like Dr. Hippler's classes, a very small college with a serious Catholic identity and less than 500 students total)

Tuesday, September 13

11:15 AM: Benedictine College (Atchison, KS)

(go if you like CSB/SJU, U. of Dallas, U. of Mary...go if you are looking for serious Catholic identity and piety, plus unique leadership programs steeped in Catholicism)

Wednesday, September 14

8:00 AM: University of Notre Dame (South Bend, IN)

(go if you like....okay, who doesn't like Notre Dame? Notre Dame admits just 19% of applicants and the ACT range is 32-35. Has all the characteristics of the most elite private universities, but add an iconic Catholic identity, strong dorm system instead of Greek Life, and an amazing number of Masses and chapels on campus. The athletic sports culture and hyper-driven academic atmosphere are not for everyone)

8:00 AM: University of North Dakota (Grand Forks, ND)

(go if you are looking for excellent opportunities in the health sciences, energy, environmental, and aerospace/aviation fields at a very affordable price for MN residents...college town campus with its own medical school, law school, big education and engineering programs, and one of the most famous college hockey programs anywhere)

11:15 AM: Saint Mary's University of Minnesota (Winona, MN)

(go if you like St. Olaf, CSB/SJU, or Gustavus Adolphus...go if you are looking for a quintessential small Catholic college experience in the beautiful bluff region of Minnesota...feels a bit like New England but is a mere 2.5 hours away. Great opportunities in music, theater, and sciences...impressive new science building will open for fall 2017...Strong tradition of governance by the Christian Brothers, with lower tuition than other MN private colleges. Division III MIAC athletics, including hockey, but with only 1,100 students, there might be better opportunities to contribute and compete than at other MIAC colleges)

1:30 PM: University of Nebraska, Lincoln (Lincoln, NE)

(a Big Ten university that is much smaller than the University of Minnesota or UW-Madison, with just over 20,000 undergraduate students...a public university known in Catholic circles for its outstanding Catholic student center and fairly high percentage of Catholic students...colleges include business, engineering, education, architecture, and journalism)

Thursday, September 15

1:30 PM: University of Minnesota, Crookston

(go if you are looking for career-oriented and hands-on learning programs in animal sciences, equine science, environmental fields, aviation, horticulture, elementary/early childhood education, or sports and recreation management. Great equestrian team and facilities, plus Division II football. Get the advantages of a small student body – 1,800 students - with a very low cost of attendance)

Monday, September 19

8:00 AM: Boston College (Chestnut Hill, MA)

(go if you are looking for an elite university with a heavily Catholic student body, a beautiful and safe suburban campus very near a major city, great college hockey, no Greek life, serious philosophy and theology options, schools of management, nursing, and education)

2:25 PM: University of Saint Francis (Fort Wayne, IN)

(a Catholic college rooted in Franciscan traditions that enrolls 2,300 students...a strongly residential college with housing guaranteed for all four years of college and required for students under age 21...NAIA athletics, academic offerings in communications, cyber security, game and application design, criminology, education, forensic chemistry, museum studies, risk management, sports management, and more)

Wednesday, September 21

8:00 AM: Bethel University (St. Paul, MN)

(Minnesota's largest evangelical Christian college known for its Christ-centered campus environment...offers perhaps the widest range of majors found in the MIAC except for at University of St. Thomas...studying abroad and community service are highly emphasized...students abide by a "Covenant for Life Together" which outlines special behavioral expectations for Bethel students)

Wednesday, September 22

11:15: Princeton University (Princeton, NJ)

(yes it is elite and yes it is ridiculously selective, but go to learn about an undergraduate-focused university where there are no professional schools...facilities for performing arts and the hard sciences/engineering have recently been enhanced, all students must complete a senior thesis in order to graduate...college town setting with train access to Philadelphia and New York City)

Tuesday, September 27

3:15 PM: Villanova University (Villanova, PA)

(go if you like Notre Dame, Boston College, or Vanderbilt...go if you are looking for a Catholic environment to study business or engineering, a safe and suburban campus that is near a major East coast city offering plentiful opportunities)

3:15 PM: Texas Christian University (Fort Worth, TX)

(go if you like SMU, Baylor, Creighton, Pepperdine, the color purple, or if you think Mr. Estrada is an okay guy...go if you are looking for a mid-sized private university with lots of academic options, big time college sports, Frogs, warmer winters than MN, and very impressive and fresh facilities that won't be a step down from Providence Academy)

3:15 PM: Arizona State University (Tempe, AZ)

(ASU is a HUGE university, but there is an opportunity to make it a lot smaller through its renowned Honors College...you can study anything here, but some unique academic offerings include earth and space exploration, aeronautical and aviation studies, and construction engineering)

Wednesday, September 28

8:00 AM: Saint Louis University (St. Louis, MO)

(go if you like Marquette, Creighton, St. Thomas...go if you are looking for a city campus, strong programs in aviation, engineering, business, nursing, pre-med, occupational therapy, dietetics)

11:15 AM: Marist College (Poughkeepsie, NY)

(go if you like Providence College, U. of Vermont, Dartmouth...go if you are looking for a branch campus in Florence, Italy, private liberal arts college named a "Top 25 Most Connected" campus, academic Fashion program, Sports Journalism and Communication, beautiful Hudson Valley location)

1:30 PM: Saint Olaf College (Northfield, MN)

(go if you are looking for stunning facilities and a well-rounded, thoughtful college experience right here in Minnesota, a place where thinking seriously about the role religion plays in the world and in your life is welcomed not shunned. St. Olaf is becoming ever more national and competitive but still has accessible admission standards...strong Catholic community is 18% of student body with a great parish located near the campus)

1:30 PM: University of Southern California (Los Angeles, CA)

(go if you like Stanford, Northwestern, or Michigan...go if you are looking for a very large and very selective private university...16,000 students, admit rate 17%...with West Coast weather and culture, strong programs in creative fields like cinema/television, architecture, communications, arts, and more)

Thursday, September 29

11:15 AM: University of Minnesota, Duluth (Duluth, MN)

(UMD is one of Minnesota's medium-sized public universities, along with MSU-Mankato...with 9,000 undergraduates, UMD is an alternative to the Twin Cities campus and can offer a more personalized experience while still providing a range of academic programs...offerings include business, engineering, education, and the only College of Pharmacy in Minnesota)

11:15 AM: Loyola University Chicago

(go if you like Northwestern, Notre Dame, Boston College...go if you are looking for a major Catholic university with professional schools, journalism, beautiful campus on Lake Michigan)

1:30 PM: Dartmouth College (Hanover, NH)

(go if you are looking for an intimate research university with deep traditions, the Ivy with the smallest number of graduate programs and smallest population of graduate students, great connection to the out-of-doors, high occurrence of study abroad and internship completion...an out-of-the-way, world-of-its-own 'college on the hill')

Monday, October 3

8:00 AM: Vanderbilt University (Nashville, TN)

(go if you like Duke, Stanford, Northwestern, Washington University, UPenn...go if you are looking for a great city for college students, warmer but still four-season climate, a coherent campus within a large city, premier programs in education and human development, Engineering, tremendous first-year residence program, great opportunities to study Western art music in a city known for its iconic popular music)

8:00 AM: George Mason University (Fairfax, VA)

(Mason has become well-known in the last decade for "March Madness" basketball success, also is an academically accessible large university of 22,000 students located minutes from Washington, D.C...academic offerings include Nursing, Health Administration, atmospheric sciences, computer game design, BFA theatre, business, and engineering)

8:00 AM: High Point University (High Point, NC)

(go if you like TCU, Northeastern, Bradley...go if you are looking for highly entrepreneurial culture, campus amenities that go way beyond the norm, a southern campus with high percentage of out-of-state students)

from mid-Atlantic and New England, interior design, pharmacy, non-profit leadership, exercise science, interactive media and game design)

2:25 PM: Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology (Terre Haute, IN)

(great option for an intimate technical education...with 1,900 undergraduates. Rose Hulman is very similar to more famous technical institutes like Cal Tech or Harvey Mudd...the athletic teams are called "The Engineers" and this is a place for students who want to immerse themselves in their love for science, computing, and engineering)

2:25 PM: Saint Mary's College (South Bend, IN)

(go if you are the right fit for a small college environment but want some of the vastly expanded academic and student life opportunities that come with proximity to and affiliation with Notre Dame...a women's college, dual-degree program with ND Engineering)

2:25 PM: University of Portland (Portland, OR)

(go if you are looking for a size – 3,500 students – that bridges small colleges and mid-sized universities, Catholic university operated by the Congregation of the Holy Cross - same order that founded Notre Dame, direct entry programs into nursing, business, and engineering, one of the more conservative-leaning colleges on the West Coast)

3:15 PM: University of Dallas (Irving, TX)

(go if you like Benedictine, Hillsdale...go if you are looking for thoughtful Catholicism with the Great Books and great professors, a required Rome semester, and a suburban campus with rail access to the entertainment and cultural offers of Dallas)

3:15 PM: University of Tampa (Tampa, FL)

(go if you are looking for an urban private university in the south with a "melting pot" student body and attainable admission standards, programs in business, marine sciences, Division II athletic opportunities...imagine Florida's version of University of St. Thomas, minus the Catholic college piece)

3:15 PM: Washington and Lee University (Lexington, VA)

(go if you like Princeton, Georgetown, Duke, Davidson...go if you are looking for the most selective small college in the south, tradition-bound atmosphere and stately campus, the only School of Commerce at a top-tier small liberal arts institution, strong presence for politically conservative and religious students...1,800 students in the small Shenandoah Valley town of Lexington makes for an intensely intimate school culture organized around a large fraternity/sorority scene...this may not be for everyone)

Tuesday, October 4

11:15 AM: Baylor University (Waco, TX)

(go if you like TCU or SMU but wish for more specifically Christian campus culture or if you like Wheaton, or Pepperdine but wish for something larger...go if you are looking for a notable Christian university of significant size and scale)

Wednesday, October 5

1:30 PM: Southern Methodist University (Dallas, TX)

(go if you like TCU or wearing bowties...go if you are looking for a strong presence for conservatives including the George W. Bush Presidential Library, very stately brick campus, the opportunity to study engineering, business, or at an esteemed School of Arts)

1:30 PM: University of Colorado, Boulder

(go if you like UW-Madison, UC-Berkeley, or UT-Austin...CU-Boulder is a public university with legendary scenery and has one of the highest academic statures in the Western U.S...a campus and town that are hives of activity, all the time)

1:30 PM: Catholic University of America (Washington, DC)

(the only U.S. college chartered by the U.S. Catholic Bishops, CUA is truly "of" the Catholic Church and is home to many excellent Catholic scholars and 3,400 undergraduate students...located in the heart of Washington, D.C. with Division III athletics...very wide range of academic programs given its relatively small size...offers architecture, education, classical languages and civilization, business, engineering, theology, and music)

Thursday, October 6

8:00 AM: Bradley University (Peoria, IL)

(go if you like St. Thomas or Creighton but do not necessarily want to stay local or be in a large city...go if you are looking for campus spirit and a college-town environment without having to be at a large university, if you want to study nursing, communications or sports journalism, or interactive arts and media)

11:15 AM: Saint Edward's University (Austin, TX)

(there aren't many mid-sized Catholic colleges in the south, and there aren't many private Division II colleges in Texas, but St. Edward's is both. Located in the booming town of Austin, this campus has 4,600 undergraduate students and is operated, like Notre Dame, by the Congregation of the Holy Cross...academic offerings include business, education, interactive games studies, photocommunications, and graphic design)

11:15 AM: University of California, Davis (Davis, CA)

(this is the UC campus with the most agricultural bent...food sciences, animal sciences, environmental sciences, and viticulture (study of winemaking) are all offered, plus engineering and pre-vet programs...a science-oriented school with a gentler tempo than Berkeley or UCLA...Davis is a crunchy town of 65,000 located just outside of Sacramento and 90 minutes from San Francisco)

11:15 AM: Seton Hall University (South Orange, NJ)

(go if you like Creighton, Marquette, Fordham, Providence College...go if you are looking for good academic options for serious Catholic students, classical studies, Great Books, strong honors program, school near NYC with attainable admission standard)

1:30 PM: Goucher College (Baltimore, MD)

(small college of 1,400 students in suburban Maryland, outside Baltimore, that requires every undergraduate to study abroad, part of Colleges that Change Lives)

1:30 PM: Creighton University (Omaha, NE)

(go if you like St. Thomas, Marquette, Notre Dame, TCU...go if you are looking for business, nursing, or strong professional schools like dentistry, law, and medicine in a Catholic setting that have strong admission preference for Creighton grads)

1:30 PM: Pepperdine University (Malibu, CA)

(this is the college version of Providence Academy, located on the California coast...Pepperdine offers is a strongly Christian college setting with stout academic standards...incomparable ocean views...the campus is quite isolated, though Los Angeles is nearby)

3:15 PM: Indiana University, Bloomington (Bloomington, IN)

(Flagship Big Ten university that attracts a larger percentage of out of state students than most...more out of region students than U. of Minnesota...world renowned music school, also strong in foreign languages, journalism, and business...the classic college town and campus)

3:15 PM: Trinity College (Hartford, CT)

(go if you like any East coast liberal arts college...go if you are looking for a traditional New England college with a Guided Studies program focused on Western civilization and the less common offering of an ABET-accredited Engineering program)

3:15 PM: DePaul University (Chicago, IL)

(go if you are looking for the Midwest's NYU...business majors, especially Accounting, are leading programs...the College of Computing and Digital Media has rare programs like Information Assurance and Computer Game Design...go if you are looking for two campuses, one in a Brooklyn-esque neighborhood on Chicago's northside, and the other a "vertical campus" in downtown Chicago)

Friday, October 7

8:00 AM: Purdue University (West Lafayette, IN)

(one of the most recognized science and technology universities in the country...pharmacy, nursing, business, and aerospace fields also offered...all the trappings of a Big Ten campus, not quite as selective as University of Minnesota or UW-Madison)

8:00 AM: Chapman University (Orange, CA)

(a private college similar to St. Thomas, TCU, or University of Denver, but located minutes from Disneyland...many majors that cater to showbiz aspirations like film production, screen acting, and television writing, but business, communications, music, dance, and science majors are strong as well...the immediate surroundings of the campus are fairly quiet and residential)

8:00 AM: Drexel University (Philadelphia, PA)

(very large, very urban, technical university located in the heart of Philadelphia...located across the street from U. Penn. Cooperative education, internships, and work experiences are the hallmark of the Drexel experience)

11:15 AM: Butler University (Indianapolis, IN)

(attractive, urban private university located in a relaxed, residential area of Indianapolis...larger than a liberal arts college, smaller than places like Northwestern...compares well to Creighton with 4,400 students...has Greek life and lots of school spirit thanks to its college basketball success...academic offerings in dance, international business, pharmacy, and journalism)

11:15 AM: Ohio Wesleyan University (Delaware, OH)

(go if you like Miami-Ohio, St. Olaf, Kenyon...go if you are looking for strong presence of business and management opportunities at small liberal arts college...think of Northfield's location relative to MSP, and that's where OWU is relative to Columbus, OH)

11:15 AM: University of Vermont (Burlington, VT)

(go if you are looking for a more affordable or more attainable option in the East or a public university of manageable size that is in a very fun city with strong presence of winter sports like skiing...go if you like health science, engineering, environmental issues, business)

1:30 PM: Elon University (Elon, NC)

(go if you like Wake Forest, Richmond, William and Mary, Washington and Lee...go if you are looking for an ascendant NC private university with classic campus architecture and reachable admission chances, communications programs, strong arts and theater presence (esp. musical theater), strong school spirit and campus life without the overwhelming size)

1:30 PM: DePauw University (Greencastle, IN)

(go if you like St. Olaf, Denison College, Miami University...a career-oriented liberal arts college with an interesting "fellows" program in management, media, and science research, plus very strong Greek life)

1:30 PM: Florida Southern College (Lakeland, FL)

(Located midway between Tampa and Orlando, Florida Southern is a Division II college enrolling 2,100 students. Strong Greek life and Methodist church affiliation may call to mind SMU in Texas, but on a smaller scale. Offers lots of sun, a lakeside campus setting touted for beauty, and academic programs in business, nursing, education, and music)

3:15 PM: University of San Diego

(go if you like Pepperdine, TCU, or Creighton...go if you are looking for a Catholic university with beautiful weather, proximity to the beach, a small university with good programs in business and engineering)

3:15 PM: Claremont McKenna College (Claremont, CA)

(a highly selective, practical-minded liberal arts college known for very strong social science programs, particularly economics and government. CMC seeks that student who is ambitious for leadership in business and public affairs, but it is also more generally a very rigorous liberal arts college. Only 1,300 students attend CMC, but it is part of the Claremont consortium that includes Pomona College, Harvey Mudd, and others)

3:15 PM: Williams College (Williamstown, MA)

(go if you like Dartmouth, Princeton, or Carleton...go if you are looking for a premier, highly selective liberal arts college of surpassing beauty, quintessential New England feel, foregoing urban creature comforts for the sake of the life of the mind)

The Guide will be updated soon with profiles about these colleges with visits scheduled for October 10 and later:

Monday, October 10

8:00 AM: College of the Holy Cross (Worcester, MA)

8:00 AM: Miami University (Oxford, OH)

2:25 PM: Hendrix College (Conway, AR)

2:25 PM: Davidson College (Davidson, NC)

Tuesday, October 11

11:15 AM: Lake Forest College (Lake Forest, IL)

11:15 AM: Rice University (Houston, TX)

11:15 AM: Furman University (Greenville, SC)

3:15 PM: Boston University (Boston, MA)

Wednesday, October 12

8:00 AM: Stonehill College (Easton, MA)

8:00 AM: St. Norbert College (De Pere, WI)

8:00 AM: Northeastern University (Boston, MA)

11:15 AM: Washington University in St. Louis (St. Louis, MO)

Thursday, October 13

11:15 AM: Nebraska Christian College (Papillion, NE)

11:15 AM: Westmont College (Santa Barbara, CA)

1:30 PM: Michigan Technological University (Houghton, MI)

1:30 PM: Seattle University (Seattle, WA)

1:30 PM: College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University (St. Joseph and Collegeville, MN)

Friday, October 14

11:15 AM: Northland College (Ashland, WI)

11:15 AM: Calvin College (Grand Rapids, MI)

Tuesday, October 18

3:15 PM: Marquette University (Milwaukee, WI)

Tuesday, October 25

3:15 PM: Providence College (Providence, RI)

Wednesday, October 26

11:15 AM: Carleton College (Northfield, MN)

Thursday, October 27

8:00 AM: University of Iowa (Iowa City, IA)

Friday, October 28

11:15 AM: Nova Southeastern University (Fort Lauderdale, FL)