



Fall 2017 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. This guide 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.

Monday, October 9

8:00 AM: Durham University (UK)

(Durham enrolls 17,000 students and is located 3 hours north of London, near the Scotland border...it is a good option for students looking for flexible, interdisciplinary liberal arts programs that can be completed in just three years...21% of students are from outside the UK and the number of students from the U.S. is growing...the community life will remind you of Harry Potter, complete with an Oxbridge-style house system)

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

(College of the Holy Cross is a Catholic liberal arts college operated by the Jesuits, located near Boston. It can be distinguished for being smaller than Boston College, Georgetown, or Providence College as it enrolls just 2,900 undergraduates and has no graduate students. With 90% of students living on campus and a 92% six year graduation rate, Holy Cross offers the great academic life typical of the best small colleges on the East Coast)

8:00 AM: University of Tampa (Tampa, FL)

(U. Tampa is an urban private university in the south with a "melting pot" student body and attainable admission standards. Academic programs include business and marine sciences, with Division II athletic opportunities available as well. Imagine Florida's version of University of St. Thomas, minus the Catholic college piece)

2:25 PM: Southern Methodist University (Dallas, TX)

(SMU is a mid-sized private university offering, among other things, a strong presence for conservatives including the George W. Bush Presidential Library, very stately brick campus, Division I athletics, and the opportunity to study engineering, business, or at an esteemed School of Arts)

2:25 PM: Stonehill College (Easton, MA)

(This is the small Catholic college option near Boston, with a smaller enrollment than Boston College, Holy Cross, or Providence. Division II athletics. Offers majors in wider variety of business disciplines than most colleges its size, plus a major in healthcare administration)

2:25 PM: Syracuse University (Syracuse, NY)

(Syracuse has a similar profile to colleges such as University of Southern California and Boston University, offering a large enrollment - 15,000 undergraduates – that few other private universities can match. The “Orange” athletic teams are well-known and generate a lot of school spirit. The most prominent academic programs include communications/journalism, engineering, business, and public affairs.)

3:15 PM: Creighton University (Omaha, NE)

(Creighton is a wonderful option for the student looking for business, nursing, or strong professional schools like dentistry, law, and medicine in a Catholic setting. Omaha’s healthy economy and safe environment adds to Creighton’s appeal and to students’ opportunities)

3:15 PM: Loyola University Chicago

(Loyola is an excellent option for students looking for a major Catholic university with professional schools and excellent journalism and business programs. Loyola includes both a beautiful campus on Lake Michigan and an active campus in downtown Chicago that is home to the business and communications programs)

3:15 PM: University of Miami (FL)

(People may have a misconception about University of Miami, not realizing it is a competitive private university enrolling 11,000 undergraduates. Academic offerings include business, engineering, marine and atmospheric science, music, and nursing. Miami draws a lot of students from the Northeast and Midwest. Students interested in a diverse and energetic campus environment, or anything having to do with Latin America, should take time to learn about Miami.)

Tuesday, October 10

8:00 AM: Elon University (Elon, NC)

(Elon’s classic campus architecture, communications programs, strong arts and theater presence (esp. musical theater), strong school spirit and ‘Division 1 campus life’ make it a must-add to any college list that includes places like Wake Forest, U. of Richmond, William and Mary, or Washington and Lee)

8:00 AM: University of Rochester (Rochester, NY)

(U. of Rochester stands apart for its engineering and science programs as well as the prestigious Eastman School of Music. It has all of the academic strengths one would expect to find at an elite private university in the same mold as Carnegie Mellon, Wash. U., or Johns Hopkins. Over 75% of students participate in undergraduate research and 70% are from out-of-state. A high quality university in a snowy setting.)

8:00 AM: Simpson College (Indianola, IA)

(Simpson College is a small liberal arts college enrolling 1,400 students in the community of Indianola, about 12 miles south of Des Moines. Founded by the United Methodist Church, Simpson offers programs in forensic science, business and accounting, international relations, actuarial science, multimedia journalism, and many options in music and theater.)

8:00 AM: Hope College (Holland, MI)

(Hope is a Christian liberal arts college located minutes from the Lake Michigan shoreline in Holland, a quaint

college town about 30 minutes from Grand Rapids, Mich. Hope's 3,300 students experience a strong Christian college atmosphere, where chapel is offered 3 times per week and is very well attended. Catholic students comprise about 20 percent of the student body. Students interested in colleges such as Hillsdale, Wheaton, TCU, Benedictine, or Pepperdine should have a look).

11:15 AM: Indiana University, Bloomington

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

11:15 AM: Northeastern University (Boston, MA)

(Northeastern has become famous for its pre-professional education options and hands-on experiences like co-ops. The city campus, steps from Boston's museums and Fenway Park, is in one of the most exciting urban areas in the country. Comparable to University of Pennsylvania.)

11:15 AM: Pomona College (Claremont, CA)

(Pomona is an East coast-style liberal arts college with a lot more sun and warmer weather. A big different between Pomona and other small colleges are its robust facilities and bigger variety of students thanks to the Claremont colleges consortium that includes Claremont McKenna, Harvey Mudd, etc. Students interested in colleges like Dartmouth, Williams, Amherst, Carleton, or Bowdoin should also consider Pomona.)

3:15 PM: Ripon College (Ripon, WI)

(Ripon is an intentionally small liberal arts college of under 1,000 students in the small town of Ripon, Wisc. With the combination of its size and strong academic bonafides, including a chapter of the prestigious Phi Beta Kappa honor society, Ripon is one of the more unique college options in the upper Midwest.)

3:15 PM: College of St. Benedict and St. John's University

(CSB/SJU offer excellence in the small college category, with a 4-year residential campus, award-winning study abroad options, and a strong track record of effectively supporting students of different ability levels. The split campus approach enables the two colleges to cater to the real developmental differences between men and women while still offering an integrated academic and social scene)

3:15 PM: Gettysburg College (Gettysburg, PA)

(This "college by the battlefield" is steeped in Civil War history and located mere steps from the Gettysburg National Military Park. History and English are strong departments at the college, as is the Sunderman Conservatory of Music. Students interested in a classic East Coast college experience along the lines of Lafayette, College of William and Mary, or Bucknell should consider checking out Gettysburg)

3:15 PM: University of Tulsa (Tulsa, OK)

(University of Tulsa is a private university with great engineering programs that offers a warmer setting than MN or the Northeast. Tulsa is friendly and unintimidating large city with a low cost of living. With engineering programs everywhere becoming more competitive in admissions, U. of Tulsa is fantastic option to have on your radar. It is also among the non-Catholic private colleges boasting of a phenomenal Catholic student center.)

Wednesday, October 11

3:15 PM: Butler University (Indianapolis, IN)

(Butler is an attractive, big city 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)

3:15 PM: University of Dayton (Dayton, OH)

(The distinctive aspects of University of Dayton are its service-leadership focus, strong athletics at a small school, and an engineering program that includes harder-to-find chemical and aerospace engineering departments. A good fit alongside other Catholic colleges like Marquette or Creighton, or other private colleges such as TCU, Bradley, or Butler)

3:15 PM: Furman University (Greenville, SC)

(Furman is a liberal arts university that offers a relatively conservative and religious environment in a beautiful region of South Carolina. About 70% of Furman's 2,700 students come from out-of-state. The Furman Advantage program guarantees all students a major out-of-class experience such as a funded internship, study abroad, or a research opportunity. Come learn more, especially if you like Davidson, Elon, Pepperdine, TCU, or Wake Forest)

Thursday, October 12

8:00 AM: Trinity College (Hartford, CT)

(Trinity could stand in for the classic 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)

8:00 AM: The King's College (New York, NY)

(The King's College is a Christian college located in the heart of New York City enrolling 500 students. With a core curriculum that comprises fully half of the graduation requirements, the King's experience is one of developing an intellectual foundation in politics, philosophy, and economics in tandem with other traditional liberal arts disciplines. Beyond the classroom, students belong to a House System and live in college-managed apartments spread across different areas of Manhattan)

11:15 AM: Adelphi University (Garden City, NY)

(Adelphi is Long Island's oldest university with 5,200 students studying Arts & Science, Business, Nursing, and Psychology. The diverse student body hails mainly from the east coast. A unique offering is the full School of Psychology where it is possible to study neuroscience and complete an accelerated master's program in general psychology)

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

(Westmont is a 1,300 student Christian liberal arts college located along the California coast. Go to this visit if you are seeking a college option similar to Wheaton, Hillsdale, or Pepperdine)

1:30 PM: Viterbo University (La Crosse, WI)

(Viterbo is a Catholic college enrolling 1,800 undergraduates in the scenic small city of La Crosse, Wisc. With its campus embedded in a residential area near downtown, Viterbo has a large nursing program in close proximity to two highly regarded hospitals and extensive performing arts facilities both on campus and downtown. The BFA programs in music and theatre attract students from across the country.)

Friday, October 13

8:00 AM: University of Southern California (Los Angeles, CA)

(USC is a college option to consider alongside Stanford, Northwestern, or Michigan. It will appeal to students seeking 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)

8:00 AM: Wheaton College (IL)

(Wheaton College is arguably the premier evangelical Christian college in the United States, a conservative campus known for academic rigor that is featured in Colleges that Change Lives and has a convenient and safe suburban Chicago location. Students excited about Hillsdale, Pepperdine, or the religious aspects of Baylor might benefit from learning about Wheaton)

11:15 AM: Yale University (New Haven, CT)

(Yale probably needs no introduction, but its most distinctive characteristics are its elite humanities and social science offerings, comparatively free and vigorous debate on campus and the significant political scene, and the highly regarded residential college system)

1:30 PM: St. Catherine University (St. Paul, MN)

(St. Kate's is one of the best options in the Twin Cities Metro for a 4-year nursing program offering direct admission. The Associated Private Colleges of the Twin Cities consortium provides opportunities to take classes or pursue other majors at St. Thomas, Hamline, Macalester, etc)

Monday, October 16

2:25 PM: Northern Michigan University (Marquette, MI)

(Northern Michigan is a public college with an enrollment of 7,500 students offering programs in Art and Design, Business, Clinical Science, Nursing, Construction Management, and Education)

2:25 PM: Luther College (Decorah, IA)

(Luther is a Lutheran college of 2,300 students with an expansive, scenic campus in Decorah, about 2.5 hours from the Twin Cities. Luther stands out for the opportunities it offers to student musicians, its programs in the sciences and in Nursing, and for its high quality Division III athletics program. A "January term" academic calendar allows over two-thirds of Luther students to go abroad during college. Decorah gets high marks as a charming college town)

3:15 PM: Northwestern University (Evanston, IL)

(Northwestern is the nearest highly selective, mid-sized research university to home and is the only private university option in the Big Ten conference. NU has academic opportunities in Engineering, Journalism, or

Music with strong liberal arts requirements. The bustling campus is near, but not in, Chicago. NU is an elite university that still has a very good environment for religious students, including an active Catholic center)

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

(Providence College, or PC, offers a change of pace from Boston College or Villanova. PC is a Catholic liberal arts college with no graduate programs, and its governance by the Dominican Fathers gives it a faithful, muscular, robustly intellectual Catholic feel. PC has less of a national recruitment draw than BC or Villanova, with 90% of students hailing from New England or the mid-Atlantic)

Tuesday, October 17

3:15 PM: Grand Canyon University (Phoenix, AZ)

(Grand Canyon University is a departure from the traditionally-managed college or university. A private, Christian university located in Phoenix, GCU has experienced rapid expansion and now has Division I athletic programs and a very broad array of academic programs. GCU is an accredited, for-profit institution with an interdenominational Christian mission and an enrollment of 19,000 students.)

Wednesday, October 18

3:15 PM: Holy Cross College (Notre Dame, IN)

(Holy Cross College is a small, Catholic liberal arts institution sharing a similar mission and values with University of Notre Dame. Students can complete a four-year degree in this intimate, residential setting, or take one or two years of honors coursework before transferring to a larger, more selective university. A good option for students wishing to access the student activities, classes, club sports, and academic resources of the University of Notre Dame – including tickets to ND football games – but for whom starting college with more personal attention is the better fit)

Monday, October 23

3:15 PM: St. Norbert College (De Pere, WI)

(St. Norbert College is a bit of a hidden gem for the student looking for a primarily undergraduate liberal arts college that is Catholic, has serious D3 sports – especially hockey – and a classic campus feel. Campus life is shaped by the fact that students are required to live on campus for all four years.)

Tuesday, October 24

1:30 PM: Ohio Wesleyan University (Delaware, OH)

(Ohio Wesleyan could be an option for students intrigued by Miami-Ohio, St. Olaf, or Kenyon. It is one of the few small colleges that offers a strong presence of business and management academic programs. Located in an accessible suburb of Columbus, Ohio – similar to Northfield's location relative to MSP)

Wednesday, October 25

3:15 PM: Rhodes College (Memphis, TN)

(Rhodes College presents the hard-to-find option of a small, stunningly beautiful liberal arts college embedded in a big city. If you are drawn to bigger urban universities like Vanderbilt, Emory, or Wash. U. but would not mind something smaller, then Rhodes merits serious consideration. Rhodes is a hidden gem college that attracts serious students and offers exposure to a fascinating and complex city that has been one of the biggest contributors to American culture.)

3:15 PM: Illinois Institute of Technology (Chicago, IL)

(IIT is a private, technology-focused university in the heart of Chicago enrolling 2,800 undergraduate students. Undergraduates can study in any one of eight academic divisions: engineering, architecture, science, human sciences, applied technology, business, or pre-health programs. Transformative technologies such as the cell phone, magnetic recording, and smart grids were pioneered at Illinois Tech. The campus has its own subway stop and is a short walk from the Chicago White Sox ballpark)

Thursday, October 26

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

(Okay, who doesn't know about 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)

1:30 PM: Santa Clara University (Santa Clara, CA)

(Santa Clara is a Catholic/Jesuit university with great weather situated in the heart of Silicon Valley. For strong students, there are better scholarship opportunities and admission chance here than at Notre Dame, Vanderbilt or Stanford. SCU has a sizeable College of Engineering and College of Business.

Friday, October 27

8:00 AM: Northland College (Ashland, WI)

(Northland focuses on the liberal arts with a strong environmental emphasis that is anchored in its northern Wisconsin location near Lake Superior...a 600-student college with hard-to-find academic programs in Geographic Information Systems, Wildlife Ecology, Meteorology, Outdoor Education, and more)

Monday, October 30

3:15 PM: Babson College (Wellesley, MA)

(Babson is a highly selective small college in a suburb of Boston where all students major in business. Students are able to choose up to two concentrations. Concentrations can be conventional business subjects – Finance, Marketing, Operations Management, etc – or more distinctive, such as Statistical Modeling or Justice, Citizenship, & Social Responsibility. The focus on developing an entrepreneurial mindset is exemplified in a required first year course in which all students form and run a small business for the entire school year.)

Wednesday, November 1

1:30 PM: University of Oregon (Eugene, OR)

(U. of Oregon is a public, Pac-12 university located in very scenic surroundings two hours south of Portland. With 20,000 undergraduates, it is smaller than the biggest Midwest public universities and also smaller than its Pacific Northwest neighbor, University of Washington. A good option when looking at Business - especially Sports Business and Marketing - Journalism, Communication Science and Disorders. Strong Honors College.)

Tuesday, November 7

8:00 AM: St. Olaf College (Northfield, MN)

(St. Olaf is an excellent small college with impressive facilities and a well-rounded, thoughtful approach to the college experience. It is 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. St. Olaf is a college of the Lutheran church, with a Catholic student community that makes up 14% of student body)

Friday, November 10

3:15 PM: Illinois Wesleyan University (Bloomington, IL)

(Illinois Wesleyan University, located just over 2 hours from Chicago, is among the top tier of small private colleges in the Midwest. IWU provides the intimate atmosphere of a college with just 1,800 students but also the academic flexibility that comes with offering not only liberal arts and sciences programs but also an exceptional business program and professional schools of art, music, theatre, and nursing.)