



Fall 2016 College Visits Users' Guide

Providence Academy College Counseling

Disclaimer: The descriptions in this guide have been formed from the combined experience of P.A.'s college counselors, input from admission representatives, feedback from P.A. 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.

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 I 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)

3:15 PM: University of St. Thomas (St. Paul, MN)

(go to learn more about the largest Catholic university in Minnesota with a groundbreaking Catholic studies program, powerhouse Division III athletics program, and the opportunity to study business, engineering, or education)

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)

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

(Luther is a Lutheran college of 2,300 campus 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)

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)

11:15 AM: Wartburg College (Waverly, IA)

(a Lutheran liberal arts college similar to Gustavus Adolphus, with a large music program and a high percentage of students competing in sports...50% of students are Lutheran and 68% are from Iowa)

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

11:15 AM: University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

(Minnesota’s flagship university has much more to it than you might think...UMTC is truly one of the country’s premier public research universities and has global reach...popular programs like Carlson School of Management and the College of Science and Engineering have high admission standards, and the Honors

program can be a serious option for students otherwise drawn to very competitive out-of-region colleges. Almost any academic interest can be found at UMT, and the campus is much more residential than it was several decades ago)

11:15 AM: Winona State University (Winona, MN)

(Winona State is a mid-sized public college enrolling 8,600 undergraduates in a quirky, riverside community in southeastern Minnesota. WSU is a good option for students looking for a Minnesota option for studying Nursing, Education, or Business. Lots of school spirit and a compact, nicely updated campus make WSU worth a look for students interested in being "away" for college but still close by. Half the size and twice as far from home as MSU-Mankato)

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...the Catholic student community is 14% 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')

1:30 PM: Gustavus Adolphus College (St. Peter, MN)

(go if you are looking for the tried and true Lutheran college tradition, where exploration of religious values and finding one's vocation are emphasized. One of the classic friendly Minnesota colleges where students are known as individuals and can prepare themselves very well in any liberal arts discipline, plus education and music.)

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)

3:15 PM: Gonzaga University (Spokane, WA)

(Gonzaga is a Catholic and Jesuit college in Spokane enrolling 5,000 undergraduates. It has a famous college basketball program, and students who relish school spirit will enjoy this atmosphere. The academic offers include business, engineering, and nursing)

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)

3:15 PM: Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (Troy, NY)

(RPI has built its reputation as a selective, elite engineering and technical university. With 5,700 undergraduates, it is larger than Harvey Mudd and Caltech, and smaller than Georgia Tech. Located three hours north of New York City)

3:15 PM: Florida Southern College (Lakeland, FL)

(Located midway between Tampa and Orlando, Florida Southern enrolls 2,100 students and competes in Division II athletics. 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)

Thursday, October 6

8:00 AM: 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)

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)

8:00 AM: Durham University (United Kingdom)

(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: University of Houston (Houston, TX)

(UH is a very large, urban university enrolling 33,000 undergraduate students. Notable academic programs include the Moores School of Music, which produced one Mr. Richard Carrillo, plus the College of Architecture, and the Conrad Hilton College of Hotel and Restaurant Management)

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 thresholds)

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)

(In many respects, Pepperdine feels like the college version of Providence Academy, located on the California coast...Pepperdine offers a strongly Christian college setting with stout academic standards...incomparable ocean views...the town of Malibu is sleepy and 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 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)

3:15 PM: 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)

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

(DePaul is 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)

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

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

(Chapman is a private college similar to St. Thomas, TCU, or University of Denver, but located minutes from Disneyland in sunny Orange County, California. Many majors are available 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: University of Wisconsin, Madison

(UW-Madison is a very popular out-of-state university option due to the tuition reciprocity program and because of its attractive lakeside campus in one of America's preeminent college towns. The sheer size helps to define the UW-Madison experience. You can study just about anything at UW-Madison, but note that admission for Minnesota residents and to high demand programs like business and engineering is tougher than at almost any other Big Ten university other than Michigan)

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

(Butler is an 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)

(UVM is one of the "public Ivies" on the East Coast. With an enrollment of 10,000 undergraduates, UVM is a public university of manageable size that is in a very fun city with strong presence of winter sports like skiing. Strong academic offerings include health sciences, engineering, environmental issues, business.

3:15 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 thresholds, communications programs, strong arts and theater presence (esp. musical theater), strong school spirit and campus life without the overwhelming size)

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)

Monday, October 10

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: Miami University (Oxford, OH)

(Miami University is often called a "Public Ivy," for being a major public university of Ohio that is a fraction of the size of Big Ten schools, with a campus that looks like that of a stately private university. Miami has the classic college look in a classic small college town. Distinguishing features include the strong Greek Life, academic programs in Architecture, Engineering, and Business, and a Division 1 ice hockey program)

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

(Hendrix is a small southern college located in Arkansas that is part of the respected Colleges that Change Lives consortium. Your classmates would be smart and slightly quirky kids who grew up in the south. Come learn more if you are interested in a great intellectual life without a scary admission rate)

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

(Davidson should appeal to any students interested in the Carolinas, Vanderbilt, or the smaller Ivies like Dartmouth or Princeton. Davidson is very small, selective, and ascendant academic institution where a high percentage of students compete at the highest level of college athletics. Located in a vacation-y small town near Charlotte and boasts a strong honor code system)

2:25 PM: Wake Forest University (Winston-Salem, NC)

(Wake Forest is a great place for very smart and involved students who seek an impressive and beautiful campus featuring both academic rigor and a religious atmosphere. Wake has Baptist roots, but now has a significant population of Catholic students. The nickname is "Work Forest," which appeals to students who want to work hard while also enjoying major college sports and strong Greek Life)

3:15 PM: Concordia College (Moorhead, MN)

(Concordia College in Moorhead is part of the larger Fargo, ND area and is also very near to North Dakota State and MSU-Moorhead. An ELCA Lutheran college like Gustavus and St. Olaf, Concordia offers a town with more to do and a School of Business of the kind not usually found at small liberal arts colleges)

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

(go hear about Rhodes if you like Davidson or Sewanee, or if you are drawn to bigger urban universities like Vanderbilt, Emory, or Wash. U. but would not mind something smaller...go if you are looking for a charming gem of a southern campus with a strong academic reputation as a liberal arts college)

3:15 PM: Centre College (Danville, KY)

(Centre College is one of the true unheralded college gems in the entire country...if you are looking for small place where students and alumni are fanatical about their school and where closeness among students and faculty is both naturally occurring and highly prized, then Centre merits a look. Comparable to Denison University, Centre also might appeal to students who like TCU, Vanderbilt, or even Notre Dame)

Tuesday, October 11

8:00 AM: Wheaton College (Wheaton, 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: Lake Forest College (Lake Forest, IL)

(Perhaps no other small college in the country can offer a campus as beautiful and pastoral as Lake Forest's that is also located within a major metro area. Lake Forest offers significant "big city" programming that utilizes Chicago, is a small Midwest college with heavy out-of-region draw, and a small college where it is possible to study business and entrepreneurship. A good Chicago-area option for students not interested in the urban experience of Loyola or DePaul, and not looking for the elite admission criteria of Northwestern and U. Chicago)

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

(The Rice University experience is built around elite academic programs in a variety of disciplines – with special emphasis on science and engineering – and a residential college system that hugely influences life beyond the classroom. A slightly zany "nerd culture" makes Rice not feel much like a Texas college, but it has football – of course - and it has a very verdant location within the major metropolitan area of Houston)

11:15 AM: 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. Come learn more, especially if you like Davidson, Elon, Pepperdine, TCU, or Wake Forest)

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

(go if you like Georgetown, NYU, or George Washington Univ...go if you are looking for urban, East Coast bustle and diversity in a city not quite as hectic as New York City)

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)

Wednesday, October 12

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

(This is the small Catholic college option near Boston, 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)

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

(go if you like St. Thomas, CSB/SJU, St. Mary's of Minnesota, Marquette, or the Packers...go if you are looking for a primarily undergraduate liberal arts college that is Catholic, has serious D3 sports – especially hockey – and a classic campus feel.)

8:00 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: Washington University in St. Louis (St. Louis, MO)

(go if you like Northwestern but not the bustle of Chicago or Big Ten sports, if you like the Ivies but want options outside the Northeast, or if you'd like Vanderbilt-type college option without as much Greek life. Wash. U. is known for Engineering, Architecture, an elite academic environment offering much personal support and advising, and its luxurious residence halls)

11:15 AM: Santa Clara University (Santa Clara, CA)

(go if you like Villanova, Stanford, Northwestern, or Wash. U....go if you are looking for a Catholic/Jesuit university with great weather situated in the heart of Silicon Valley, for strong students there are better scholarship opportunities and admission chances than at Notre Dame or Stanford)

11:15 AM: 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.)

Thursday, October 13

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, Pepperdine, or Chapman)

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

(Science, technology, and engineering disciplines abound at this college in Michigan's Upper Peninsula...5,600 students means there is a very different feel here than at much larger Purdue, Student body is 75% male)

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

(Seattle is a mid-sized Catholic and Jesuit college located a stone's throw from downtown Seattle. The distinctive urban college setting in a well-known city is one reason to consider Seattle U. Other reasons include its programs in Business, Nursing, Engineering, and Computer Science)

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

(go if you like St. Thomas, Dartmouth, or Hillsdale....go if you are looking for a serene campus, single gender living and social experiences while still in a co-ed academic environment)

Friday, October 14

11:15 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)

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

(Calvin College is a Christian liberal arts institution enrolling 4,000 undergraduates. It is located on the outskirts of Grand Rapids, MI. It stands out as one of the few Christian colleges to offer engineering programs, and other notable majors include Nursing, Dance, Education, Journalism, and Business. Comparable to Hope College and Wheaton College. The Catholic student population is quite small.)

1:30 PM: Nebraska Christian College (Papillion, NE)

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

(Babson is a highly selective small college in a very nice suburb of Boston where all students major in business. Students get more academically specific with their choice of concentrations. Concentrations can be conventional business subjects – Finance, Marketing, Operations Management, etc – or more distinctive, such as Statistical Modeling or Justice, Citizenship, and Social Responsibility. The focus on developing an entrepreneurial mindset makes Babson's academic experience very unique)

Monday, October 17

2:25 PM: Hope College (Holland, MI)

(Hope College is an ecumenically Christian liberal arts college in Michigan with some similarities to Hillsdale but is double the size with 3,200 undergraduates enrolled. Hope is assertive about its Christian identity; 25% of students identify as Catholic. Located in a quaint college town location near the shores of Lake Michigan, Hope is notable for its 4-year on-campus programs in Engineering, Nursing, Dance, and Athletic Training. Good to compare with Hillsdale, Wheaton, Pepperdine, or Baylor)

Tuesday, October 18

11:15 AM: University of Mary (Bismarck, ND)

(U. Mary is 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 has more non-Catholics attending than some institutions on that list)

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

(Marquette is one the quintessential Midwestern Catholic universities. Its downtown Milwaukee location is becoming more of an asset, and the urban setting is more pronounced here than at Creighton. Marquette's trademark is having lots of academic choices, a city location, plus programs in nursing, engineering, communication fields. The student body comes mainly from the Midwest.)

The Guide will be updated soon with profiles about these colleges with visits scheduled for October 25 and later:

Tuesday, October 25

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

Wednesday, October 26

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

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

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

Thursday, October 27

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

1:30 PM: Cornell College (Mount Vernon, IA)

Friday, October 28

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

Tuesday, November 1

8:00 AM: Viterbo University (LaCrosse, WI)

3:15 PM: Lafayette College (Easton, PA)

Tuesday, November 15

11:15 AM: Drake University (Des Moines, IA)