



Fall 2017 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.

Tuesday September 12

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

(Minnesota's largest Catholic university boasts of a first-of-its-kind interdisciplinary Center for Catholic Studies, powerhouse Division III athletics, excellent campus facilities, and academic programs in business, engineering, or education)

Wednesday, September 13

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

(Drake is Iowa's urban private university, located in the heart of Des Moines and enrolling over 3,300 undergraduates. Many professional programs are available, including journalism, pharmacy, occupational therapy, education, business, and law. Career development and internship offerings are among Drake's strengths.)

Thursday, September 14

11:15 AM: Dartmouth College (Hanover, NH)

(Dartmouth is one of the world's most intimate research universities, known for its deep traditions and being the the Ivy League institution with the smallest number of graduate programs and smallest population of graduate students. The location in northern New England – 2 hours north of Boston – offers a great connection to the out-of-doors. High occurrence of study abroad and internship completion help define the student experience. Dartmouth is an out-of-the-way, world-of-its-own 'college on the hill')

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

(If St. Mary's is less familiar to you than St. Olaf, St. John's/St. Benedict, or Gustavus Adolphus, you should learn about this quintessential small Catholic college in the beautiful bluff region of southeastern Minnesota. St. Mary's has long been known for its great opportunities in music, theater, and sciences. An impressive new science building will open for fall 2017. St. Mary's has lower tuition than other MN private colleges. Division III MIAC athletics, including hockey, are important, but with only 1,100 students, there might be better opportunities to contribute and compete here than at some of the other MIAC colleges)

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

(Villanova is worth a look from anyone who is also interested in Notre Dame, Boston College, or Vanderbilt. Villanova offers a Catholic university environment with strong programs in business or engineering, great school spirit, as well as a safe and suburban campus near a major East coast city offering plentiful opportunities)

Friday, September 15

8:00 AM: North Central University (Minneapolis, MN)

(NCU is a small Bible-based college enrolling 1,100 students, located in downtown Minneapolis. Academic offerings include education, journalism, counseling, and music production)

Monday, September 18

8:00 AM: Lafayette College (Easton, PA)

(Lafayette has long had a niche as a comprehensive liberal arts college with engineering program. It is a short list, with Princeton and Trinity College in Connecticut as the other entries. Lafayette is also the smallest Division 1 college in the country with an enrollment of 2,500 students. Located one hour east of New York City, Lafayette provides a traditional 'eastern' college experience with a classic campus, deep traditions, old rivalries, Greek life, and a personal touch)

Tuesday, September 19

8:00 AM: Denison University (Granville, OH)

(The beauty of the Denison campus will knock your socks off. It is the classic "small-town college-on-the-hill," with impressive views of the quaint town of Granville, located about 30 minutes from Columbus. Denison is at the larger end of the small college spectrum, with 2,120 students. About 70% of students are from outside of Ohio, and over half come from more than 500 miles away. Offers a very robust merit scholarship program.)

8:00 AM: DePaul University (Chicago, IL)

(DePaul is the Midwest's answer to 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)

8:00 AM: University of Wisconsin, Madison (Madison, WI)

(UW-Madison is a very popular out-of-state university option due to the tuition reciprocity program for Minnesota residents 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 as selective as at any highly selective university)

11:15 AM: Bethel University (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 20

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

(Wartburg is a Lutheran liberal arts college similar to Gustavus Adolphus, with a large music program and a high percentage of students competing in sports. Located three hours south of the Twin Cities. 50% of students are Lutheran and 68% are from Iowa)

3:15 PM: Cornell College (Mount Vernon, IA)

(Cornell is beautiful Iowa college with a unique one-course-at-a-time academic calendar. Part of the Colleges that Change Lives consortium, this is the place for students seeking a close-knit residential liberal arts experience along a road less traveled)

Thursday, September 21

8:00 AM: Loras College (Dubuque, IA)

(Loras is a 1,600 student Catholic college nestled in majestic bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River in Dubuque, Iowa. Offers Division III athletics and academic programs include Business, Media Studies, Sport Management, Engineering, and Criminal Justice. Loras offers a great program for students interested in studying the Catholic intellectual tradition called the Breitbach Catholic Thinkers and Leaders Program, a four-year experience that includes an expenses paid trip to Rome and an additional merit scholarship)

3:15 PM: 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 UMTC, and the campus is much more residential than it was several decades ago)

Friday, September 22

1:30 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 a city location, popular Division 1 sports (no football, but famous for men's basketball), and lots of academic choices including programs in nursing, engineering, communication fields. The student body comes mainly from the Midwest.)

Monday, September 25

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

(High Point is worth a look if you like TCU, Northeastern, Bradley. Well known for having a highly entrepreneurial culture and campus amenities that go way beyond the norm and include an on-campus steak house. This southern campus includes a high percentage of out-of-state students from mid-Atlantic and New England. Unique majors include interior design, pharmacy, non-profit leadership, exercise science, interactive media and game design)

8:00 AM: Northern Arizona University (Flagstaff, AZ)

(A public college located near the Grand Canyon with academic programs that include engineering, nursing, music, business, geography, and education. Offers fixed tuition with no year-to-year increases while a student is enrolled.)

8:00 AM: Pepperdine University (Malibu, CA)

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

2:25 PM: Bryant University (Smithfield, RI)

(Bryant appears as a typical small New England college from the outside, but offers a very distinctive integrated business-and-liberal arts curriculum. Every student must major in either the College of Business or College of Arts and Science while minoring in the other. Bryant enrolls 3,500 undergraduate students and is located 15 minutes from Providence, Rhode Island and an hour from Boston)

2:25 PM: 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)

2:25 PM: Seton Hall University (South Orange, NJ)

(Seton Hall can be sensibly grouped with Creighton, Marquette, Fordham, Providence College, It is a good option is you are looking for good academic options for serious Catholic students, classical studies, Great Books, strong honors program, Nursing, and Business with great internship options befitting a college near NYC. The dual-degree programs in Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Language Pathology, and Physician Assistant should be on radar for any student looking to get a bachelor's and terminal degree in these fields on one campus and in less time)

3:15 PM: University of California, Davis

(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. UC-Davis is also a terrific science-oriented college that also offers a gentler tempo than larger UC schools such as Berkeley or UCLA. Davis is a crunchy town of 65,000 located just outside of Sacramento and 90 minutes from San Francisco)

3:15 PM: University of Colorado, Boulder

(UC-Boulder has similar attributes as UW-Madison, UC-Berkeley, or UT-Austin. This public university with legendary scenery has one of the highest academic statures in the Western U.S. This campus and town will appeal to students looking for a place that is a hive of activity, all the time)

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)

Tuesday, September 26

8:00 AM: University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa, AL)

(Alabama is famous for national championships in football, but the university has been assertive in recruiting talented out-of-state students with low tuition costs and generous scholarships. The academic options run the gamut, with the Engineering and the Honors College programs meriting special mention.)

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 with the exception of certain high demand majors like engineering and computer science)

8:00 AM: Texas Christian University (Fort Worth, TX)

(TCU is riding a wave of popularity and increasing visibility as a selective mid-sized private university with lots of academic options, big time college sports, warmer winters than MN, and very impressive and fresh facilities that won't be a step down from Providence Academy. Strong academic programs include Business, Journalism, Music and Theatre, Nursing, an impressive Honors College.)

11:15 AM: George Mason University (Fairfax, VA)

(Mason has become well-known in the last decade for "March Madness" basketball success, but it also stands out as 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)

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: University of Portland (Portland, OR)

(UP's size – 3,500 students – bridges that of small colleges and mid-sized universities It is a Catholic university operated by the Congregation of the Holy Cross – the same order that founded Notre Dame – and offers direct entry programs into nursing, business, and engineering. Sensibly grouped with other Catholic college options on the West Coast such as Santa Clara, U. San Diego, and Gonzaga, but also shares similarities with TCU, U. Denver, and U. Dayton)

1:30 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 Barrett Honors College which features its own residential college format and course offerings for the 6,800 honors students. You can study anything at ASU, but some unique academic offerings include earth and space exploration, aeronautical and aviation studies, and construction engineering)

1:30 PM: Kansas State University (Manhattan, KS)

(Kansas State is known for its classic college town environment and academic specialties in veterinary medicine, architecture, engineering, and food sciences. Many academic programs have a discounted price due to reciprocity agreements among Midwestern states. A good option to consider if Iowa State or U. of Nebraska are on your radar. The rabid Wildcats fanbase is one of the most loyal in the country.)

1:30 PM: University of Iowa (Iowa City, IA)

(University of Iowa may be in the state of Iowa, but it is not a rural college. The campus is adjacent to downtown Iowa City and is more compact than University of Minnesota. Popular programs include business, biomedical engineering, and journalism, and unique programs include creative writing, hearing sciences, business analytics, and public health. Offers the Big Ten experience without the massive enrollment of UofM or Madison)

3:15 PM: Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology (Terre Haute, IN)

(Rose-Hulman is a great option for an intimate technical education. With 1,900 undergraduates, it 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 while getting plenty of individualized attention and hands-on opportunities.)

3:15 PM: Saint Louis University (St. Louis, MO)

(SLU is a sensible addition to any college list that includes Marquette, Creighton, and St. Thomas. SLU hallmarks include its city campus in midtown St. Louis and strong programs in aviation, engineering, business, nursing, pre-med, occupational therapy, and dietetics)

3:15 PM: University of Tennessee, Knoxville

(One of the few southern flagship state universities located in a major city – Knoxville, metro population 870,000 – with major school spirit culture and the big range of academic options one would expect. With an enrollment under 20,000, it is more comparable in size to Iowa or Nebraska than to UofM or UW-Madison)

Wednesday, September 27

1:30 PM: Clarke University (Dubuque, IA)

(Clarke is a 1,000-student Catholic liberal arts college in Dubuque, Iowa. Offers NAIA athletics, meaning athletic scholarships are available. Top majors include Nursing, Psychology, Business/Accounting, Education, and Athletic Training)

1:30 PM: Concordia University Wisconsin (Mequon, WI)

(CUW is a liberal arts university affiliated with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod enrolling 2,700 students on a beachside campus just north of Milwaukee. In addition to a private Lake Michigan beach right on campus, CUW has popular majors in business, education, and health care fields, including nursing. CUW offers degrees

in Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy that can be completed in less than the standard time. A residential campus with heated underground tunnels, where it is a student tradition to wear shorts and flip flops even in the dead of winter.)

3:15 PM: Landmark College (Putney, VT)

(Landmark College is a fully accredited, non-profit college that exclusively serves students with diagnosed learning differences. The college is resolute in its commitment to offer personalized assistance and to embrace emerging, alternative technologies and learning environments in a way that expands opportunities for students with diagnosed learning disabilities such as dyslexia, ADHD, and autism spectrum disorder. Located in a serene and pastoral setting in southeastern Vermont, 2.5 hours from Boston and 4 hours from New York City)

Thursday, September 28

3:15 PM: Hillsdale College (Hillsdale, MI)

(Hillsdale is a competitive liberal arts college in the Midwest with a national draw due to its distinctive classical education and traditional academic values, which mirror those of Providence Academy. Most students are serious about their religious life and have wholesome and old fashioned sensibilities, making Hillsdale a comparable option to a range of colleges as diverse as Notre Dame, Hope College, and University of Dallas. Hillsdale is known for its strong network within conservative politics and journalism and also offers Division II athletics)

3:15 PM: Saint Mary's College (IN)

(St. Mary's College offers a small women's college environment with the benefit of vastly expanded academic and student life opportunities that come with proximity to and affiliation with Notre Dame. A dual-degree program with ND Engineering allows SMC students direct access to a Notre Dame curriculum.)

3:15 PM: University of San Diego (San Diego, CA)

(U. of San Diego could go on any college list that includes Pepperdine, TCU, St. Thomas, or Creighton. This Catholic university of 5,600 students offers beautiful weather, proximity to the beach, and strong programs in business and engineering. The campus directory includes an entire section dedicated to the many plazas and enclosed gardens.)

Friday, September 29

11:15 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 and is located in the classic small college town of Oxford, about one hour from Cincinnati. Distinguishing features include the strong Greek Life, academic programs in Architecture, Engineering, and Business, and a Division 1 ice hockey program)

11:15 AM: North Park University (Chicago, IL)

(North Park claims the mantle of a 'city-centered Christian university' and is home to 3,000 students of a variety of faith backgrounds – 24 percent are Catholic and 42 percent are from Protestant denominations. Music, art, and theater are significant academic programs, with business disciplines, nursing, and graphic design available as well)

11:15 AM: Concordia University, St. Paul

(St. Paul's Lutheran university – affiliated with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod – enrolls 1,400 traditional undergraduate students on an urban campus near Interstate 94. A recent “tuition reset” made tuition costs at CUSP the lowest of any private university in the state. Division II athletics and an extensive range of available majors might make CUSP worth a look.)

Monday, October 2

8:00 AM: Washington University in St. Louis

(Wash. U. appeals to students for a number of different reasons. It is comparable to Northwestern but without the Big Ten sports and with less bustling surroundings, similar to the Ivies but with a different vibe thanks to its Midwest location, and a lot like Vanderbilt but 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)

Tuesday, October 3

8:00 AM: 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)

8:00 AM: University of Chicago

(UChicago offers a 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. Among elite universities, Chicago is known as a campus where conservative voices are welcome)

8:00 AM: Iowa State University (Ames, IA)

(Iowa State offers a classic Midwest college town campus with strong engineering, science, and business programs, all within an easy 3 hour drive down Interstate 35. A very different setting and atmosphere than the University of Minnesota, but still with major college sports and less stringent admission requirements than UMTC or UW-Madison for popular academic programs)

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

(U. of Dallas is a bastion of Catholic intellectualism with a Great Books curriculum, great professors, a required Rome semester, and a suburban campus with rail access to the entertainment and cultural offerings of a major city)

3:15 PM: University of Denver (Denver, CO)

(University of Denver is the only mid-sized private university between Omaha and the West coast. Academic offerings include business and programs in hotel and tourism management, political science and international affairs. Study abroad is real strength and the college hockey program is a national powerhouse.)

3:15 PM: Boston University

(Boston University is the city of Boston's answer to New York University or George Washington Univ. The campus is located amidst urban, East Coast bustle, offering lots of diversity and energy. With 16,000 undergraduate students, this is a highly selective, large enrollment private university that belongs to the prestigious American Association of Universities. It is the rare urban campus to offer guaranteed student housing for all four years.)

Wednesday, October 4

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

(Boston College is an elite university with a heavily Catholic student body. Its distinguishing attributes include 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)

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

(Vanderbilt is an elite private university from the same mold as Duke, Stanford, Northwestern, Washington University, and U. Penn. Nashville gets high marks as a great city for college students with a warmer but still four-season climate. Vanderbilt's strong points include its cohesive, arboretum-like campus within a large city, premier programs in education and human development, Engineering, tremendous first-year residence program, and a great School of Music)

11:15 AM: University of Minnesota, Duluth

(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 strong academic programs...offerings include business, engineering, education, theater, geography/geographic information science, and the only College of Pharmacy in Minnesota)

Thursday, October 5

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

(Bradley has similar academic options as St. Thomas or Creighton for students who either do not want to stay local or be in a large city. Bradley also offers campus spirit and a college-town environment without having to be at a large university. Students looking for nursing, communications or sports journalism, engineering, or interactive arts should take a look)

8:00 AM: North Dakota State University (Fargo, ND)

(North Dakota State University offers smaller, more student-centered flagship public university experience 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. The "Bison Catholic" Newman Center is also a great resource and is planning for a major expansion.)

1:30 PM: Bethany Lutheran College (Mankato, MN)

(Bethany Lutheran College is a small private college in Mankato enrolling 500 students. Recently launched Nursing and Engineering Science programs have joined other interesting academic options such as Media Arts and Exercise Science.)

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

(Gustavus Adolphus offers 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 with a great legacy of small college excellence, where students are known as individuals and can prepare themselves very well in any liberal arts discipline, plus education and music.)

3:15 PM: Davidson College

(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 an idyllic small town near Charlotte and boasts a strong honor code system)

3:15 PM: Grinnell College (Grinnell, IA)

(Grinnell is perhaps the best-funded small college in the Midwest, capable of helping students tremendously through financial aid. It is also one of the most selective small colleges in the Midwest along with Carleton, a deluxe campus with a middle-of-Iowa location and a legacy of intense progressivism that will not fit everyone)

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

(Williams College belongs in the same breath as colleges like Dartmouth, Princeton, or Carleton. Students intrigued by the idea of a premier, highly selective liberal arts college of surpassing beauty, with a quintessential New England feel and students who forego urban creature comforts for the sake of the life of the mind should check out Williams)

Friday, October 6

8:00 AM: University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, PA)

("UPenn" may require less of an introduction, as it is an iconic, urban, colonial university founded by Benjamin Franklin. Penn has 10,400 undergraduate students and just as many graduate students. It is a big, bustling place near the heart of Philadelphia. Undergraduate academic options include Arts & Science, Engineering, Nursing, and the world-famous Wharton School of Business.)

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.)

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.)

1:30 PM: 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: 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).

1:30 PM: University of Tulsa (Tulsa, OK)

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)

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)

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

(Adelphi is Long Island's - as in, New York – 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)

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)

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 from New England or mid-Atlantic)

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, 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)

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. The Catholic student community is 14% of student body with a great parish located near the campus)

Friday, November 10

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