



Providence Academy College Day – April 21, 2021

Session Descriptions and Locations ****DRAFT****

Pink Period Options (1:30 – 2:20 p.m.)

***All Grade 9 Students will attend "Introduction to the College Search". Grades 10 and 11 students will be assigned by preference and space availability*

Introduction to the College Search (for Grade 9 Students Only)

A panel of PA alumni and college admission professionals will connect their experiences and growth across their four years in Providence Academy's Upper School with their college search, their application process, and their experiences and choices while in college and beyond.

Location: TBA

College Search 101(Grade 10 encouraged, Grade 11 welcomed)

With College Day cancelled last year and modified this year, we know current sophomores have missed out on typical early college exploration experiences. We have defined this session specifically for sophomores who feel unsure of where to start. A small panel of college representatives will offer tips about how to investigate colleges, what kinds of questions to ask of admission officers, and how to connect the college decision with career and life goals. The college representatives will also talk about the general timetable for the college search and what students should be focused on in the coming months.

Location: TBA

Financial Aid & Scholarships

College financial aid professionals will join representatives from the Thrivent financial services firm to discuss the different forms of financial aid, the application process for both need-based aid and merit scholarships, and the financing options available to students and families.

Location: TBA

Honors Communities

Many colleges – both small and large, public and private – sponsor honors programs or full-fledged honors colleges in order to offer ambitious students an enriched academic and social experience. Honors students typically have the opportunity to collaborate with the institution's top faculty, to engage in experiential learning or undergraduate research more easily or earlier in college, to live in honors housing communities, and to receive expert support in applying for internships and/or post-graduate opportunities. Using the honors communities on their campuses as examples, the panelists will unpack the honors experience in college.

Location: TBA

Navigating Catholic Higher Education

This panel will bring together a faculty member, an administrator, and current Catholic college students for a discussion about what it means to be a student at a Catholic college today. Many people consider their college experience to be defined by much more than just their academic experience. The relationships and spaces where knowledge, ideas, faith, and hopes are shared among peers journeying together – and figuring out how you will find good friends, wise faculty, and reliable mentors is critical in any college search. Panelists will discuss a range of academic and student life topics, with the goal of helping students to identify the best environments to learn to live and serve with character.

Location: TBA

Straight Talk about S.T.E.M.

Panelists from colleges with significant academic offerings in science, engineering, and technological disciplines will discuss what students interested in S.T.E.M. education should be thinking about as the college search approaches. S.T.E.M. fields can be pursued in various campus contexts, and this discussion will touch on the important questions students should consider when investigating these options, and how to best prepare academically for admission to and success within college S.T.E.M. programs.

Location: TBA

Military Options (for Grade 10 and 11 Students)

Military Academy representatives and an ROTC representative will discuss the opportunities that the Service Academies and ROTC have to offer, including the aspects of camaraderie, travel opportunities, scholarship assistance, and professional development offered through careers in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Location: TBA

White Period Options (2:25 – 3:15 p.m.)

***Grades 9 – 11 assigned by preference and space availability*

Intercollegiate Athletics

College admission professionals will discuss the distinctions between NCAA divisions, basic recruiting rules, eligibility certification through the NCAA, as well as athletic scholarship possibilities. Panelists will also briefly cover club and intramural sports.

Location: TBA

Applying to Fine Arts Programs

The application process for students seeking to pursue majors in the fine arts or performing arts can have unique demands and often a different timetable from other college searches. Applying to arts-focused colleges or to the music or fine arts divisions within comprehensive institutions can require on-campus auditions or portfolio submissions. Panelists will discuss how students can best prepare for their candidacies to these programs.

Location: TBA

Smaller Catholic Colleges

This panel will feature Catholic colleges with smaller enrollments and with an approach to curriculum and campus culture more deeply shaped by the Catholic intellectual tradition, liturgical life and moral teachings. Frequently a higher percentage of faculty and students at these colleges are Catholic, and the college may be listed among the Cardinal Newman Society's recommended colleges. Possible institutions on this panel include Benedictine College, University of Dallas, Thomas Aquinas College, Catholic University of America, University of Mary, etc.

Location: TBA

Larger Catholic Universities

This panel will feature larger Catholic universities with broad academic options, including colleges of business, engineering, nursing, education, or others, depending on the institution. These campuses typically feature large campus ministry programs with students connecting with faith life in a variety of ways – or not at all. The percentage of Catholic students and faculty on these campuses can vary widely. Possible institutions on this panel include Creighton University, University of Dayton, University of Notre Dame, Santa Clara University, Saint Louis University, etc.

Location: TBA

S.T.E.M. Colleges

This panel will describe the curriculum and experience at institutions – both public and private - which emphasize or specialize in the S.T.E.M. disciplines such as engineering, computing, and the sciences. Possible institutions on this panel include Georgia Tech, Purdue University, Harvey Mudd, Case Western Reserve University, etc.

Location: TBA

Liberal Arts Colleges

This panel will describe the curriculum and experience at liberal arts colleges, which are traditionally defined by their relatively small enrollment (3,000 undergraduates or less), absence of graduate or professional students, a teacher-scholar faculty model emphasizing faculty-student connections, versatile extracurricular life (e.g. Division 3 athletic opportunities), and the popularity of traditional academic disciplines (e.g. Literature, History, Languages, Science, Fine Arts). Possible institutions on this panel include St. Olaf College, Hillsdale College, College of the Holy Cross, Lawrence University, Denison University, etc.

Location: TBA

Public Universities

Large state flagship universities anchor the higher education landscape in the United States, and have historically been engines of opportunity, research, and innovation for their states and local regions. Public universities often have a more accessible cost of attendance, though tuition and admission competitiveness (and also scholarship availability) for out-of-state students can vary widely. Possible institutions on this panel include Indiana University, Auburn University, University of Texas, University of Iowa, etc.

Location: TBA

Private Universities

The mid-sized private research university is perennially one of the most popular institutional categories among PA students. Many institutions in this category have national recognition due to academic reputation, admission competitiveness, intercollegiate athletic success, or all of these. Often institutions in this category are located in major metropolitan areas. Possible institutions on this panel include Texas Christian University, Vanderbilt University, Northwestern University, Boston University, etc.

Location: TBA

International Opportunities

Universities outside the U.S. are eager to attract American students and can offer the adventurous student a unique college experience, often at a considerable cost savings compared to similar U.S. colleges. A panel of admission professionals will speak about the benefits of attending college abroad, how to investigate these options, as well as study abroad programs offered by U.S. colleges.

Location: TBA