Assumptions

Your family selected Saint Francis because of our commitment to Holy Cross values and academic excellence.

Your child remains at Saint Francis because of our continued commitment to Holy Cross values and academic excellence.
Holy Cross Parents Know

The most important metric of Saint Francis students is not the college they get into, but the measure of how well they have developed into a Holy Cross man or woman.
Our Core Values

HOPE
- Bringing hope by changing the world through Christ’s love.

RESPECT
- Respecting others by seeing the face of Christ in everyone.

INTEGRITY
- Inspiring integrity of the heart and mind by being true to the Gospel in word and action.

FAMILY
- Celebrating family by building a loving Holy Cross community.

rooted in Holy Cross tradition
### What Do We Know?

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College Rankings

College rankings is a business enterprise that capitalizes on anxiety about college admissions....

Former Dean of Admission, Yale Univ

[On SAT scores:] You measure what you can count easily, and then often fail to measure what really counts.

President of Claremont-McKenna Coll
# Unsung Alma Maters

**Winner of 2013-14 Pulitzer Prizes**
- Univ of Richmond
- Syracuse Univ
- Boston Coll
- Middlebury Coll
- Boston Univ
- Stanford Univ
- Univ of St Thomas
- Univ of Colorado Boulder
- Indiana Univ
- Gannon Univ
- Univ of Minnesota

**Recent MacArthur Fund Genius Grants**
- SUNY Purchase
- SUNY Albany
- Louisiana State Univ
- Villanova Univ
- DePaul Univ
- UC Santa Barbara
- Univ of Kansas
- Univ of Cincinnati
- Coker Coll
- Univ of Illinois

**Top NY Times Reporters**
- Catholic Univ
- Marquette Univ
- Boston Univ
- Grambling State Univ
- Brandeis Univ
- Harvard Univ
- Univ of Chicago
Top 10 Fortune 500 CEOs

- Univ of Arkansas
- Univ of Texas Austin
- Univ of California Davis
- Kettering Univ
- Univ of Nebraska-Lincoln
- Auburn Univ
- Texas A&M
- Rutgers Univ
- Dartmouth Univ
- Univ of Missouri-St. Louis
Everyone Has a List!

Biggest Party Colleges

Most Hardcore Sports Fans

The Daily Beast

The Business Insider
On College Rankings

“I think (rankings) end up limiting students’ horizons too early....”

Condoleezza Rice

*Former Stanford Univ Provost and U.S. Secretary of State*

graduate of *Univ of Denver*
<table>
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<td>Emory &amp; Henry Coll</td>
<td>Knox College</td>
<td>St. John's College</td>
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<td>Evergreen State Coll</td>
<td>Lawrence University</td>
<td>Saint Mary's College [CA]</td>
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<td>Millsaps College</td>
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<td>Reed College</td>
<td>Willamette Univ</td>
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<td>Juniata College</td>
<td>Rhodes College</td>
<td>Wooster, College of</td>
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A Note on Selectivity

Selectivity is Arbitrarily Rising

- Colleges are encouraging more students to apply
- More students are applying to more schools
- Many spots are reserved for athletes and special talents
- Over 20% of college ranking based on peer perceptions
- Schools defer admits to keep SAT scores of incoming class high
Reflect on Rankings

Are we relying on rankings even though at times they obscure our children’s goals and interests?

Are we giving authority to metrics-based lists above and beyond the experiences of students and counselors?

Are we prioritizing our college list and expectations?
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Yale or Jail?

Life is something that happens slowly, and whether or not they go to their first choice is not that important - it is not “Yale or jail”....They should be thinking more about what they are going to do with their lives...college allows them to live more fully in their time.

Anthony Carnevale
Center on Education & Workforce at Georgetown
The college admissions mania ignores what we know about adolescent development

- The college admissions process has taken much of the joy out of being a high school student
- Earlier expectations from colleges remove 4 months of critical developmental time
Students’ college aspirations, when unaligned with career interests, help feed the frenzy.

- The goal must be to align interests with schools that provide programs and majors that complement future goals.

Barbara Schneider

“College Choice and Adolescent Development: Psychological and Social Implications of Early Admission”
The Numbers

64% Colleges reporting an increase in # of applications received

28% Students submitting 7 or more applications (which has tripled over last 20 years)

Student “hedging” by applying to more schools lowers admission rates and helps fuel the fire

- Longer college lists indicate *more research* is needed and can create *additional stress* in the process
Malcolm Gladwell’s advice:

○ Do not go to the best school you’re admitted
○ Go where you’re likely to truly and notably excel
○ Take a close look at your personality and compare to that of the school

This approach makes it likely that a student will graduate with more confidence and success
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The Prognosis

Research shows that your child will be OK! The values, skills, and qualities your child has developed over time are much better determinants of lifetime success.

○ This also drives what employers seek from college graduates more so than the name
The Research

Data suggest school choice is less relevant

- Graduates of selective & non-selective schools with similar SAT scores have no difference in incomes
- Graduates of more selective schools could expect earnings of 7% more

Kruger Princeton Study
The Research

Data suggest school choice is less relevant

- 85% of business leaders felt **field relevant knowledge** is the most important criterion in hiring
- Only 9% felt where a prospective employee went to school was as important

2014 Gallup Poll
Stanford has not really had a great track record, the biggest success (AirBnB) was started by students from RISDI - the best proposals come from students at Waterloo U. What matters most in start up success is sheer determination, not where you went to school.

Sam Altman
Admitted from...

What Can You Do?

Have a *wider mindset* about colleges

- Be realistic about the odds
- Focus on fit and belonging
- Brag about the other brands
- Understand the advantages of going to a less selective college
- Consider test optional schools
What Can You Expect?

Communication with students is critical

○ Individual meetings with seniors will be scheduled during the school day based on counselor/student availability.

○ By limiting our meetings to seniors, we create the situation for students to develop and show their ability to manage their own education and take ownership
What Can You Expect?

The college meeting purpose is to work with a counselor to **refine** and **finalize** the college list, identifying schools where the student will...

- be most successful
- maximize his/her potential, and
- find meaning/value in undergraduate experience

We **cannot** provide financial aid counseling or college essay editing or review.
Disclaimer

Counselors will explain the application process in detail, but students are ultimately responsible for

- submitting applications and material on time
- ordering test scores to be sent to colleges
- notifying counselors/teachers if letters of recommendation are due in accordance with established guidelines.
Here’s how you can help...

1. **ADDRESS** the issue of **cost** and **affordability** openly and before you begin the list
   - Before you ask, “Where can I get in?” think about “Where can I afford to go?”
   - Consider tuition, books, room/board, transportation, visits home, etc.
Your Role

Here’s how you can help...

2. **HELP** your student get prepared for his/her college meeting
   ○ Make sure your student has completed all the tasks on the **checklist**
   ○ Dialogue with your student about **his/her priorities** for college

2. Discuss to Have With Your Student:Good Character vs. College Selection

Who is your son? Is he a good person? Does he have characteristics you are proud of? He will take those values to whatever school he goes to. Acceptance is the greatest sign of love.

3. Prepare your Student for being let down. Prepare **YOURSELF** for disappoint. Assess student’s capacity for disappointment

4. Where can my child get in is the wrong question. Where can I afford to go? (Public vs Private)
Your Role

Here’s how you can help...

3. **PRIORITIZE** importance of *good character* over and above college choice
   ○ Discuss as a family your values and how you define success
   ○ Listen and let the student drive the discussion
   ○ Meet you student where s/he is
Your Role

Here’s how you can help...

4. **ASSESS** your student’s capacity for disappointment and **PREPARE yourself** for possible disappointment
   ○ Develop a plan for how you will **celebrate admissions** and **refocus** following declines
   ○ **Stay positive** -- it’s ok to feel disappointment, but keep emotions in check
“Whether or not you get accepted does not determine how proud we are of everything you have accomplished and the wonderful person you have become. Your worth as a person, student or son is not diminished by what these colleges have decided....”
Our Commitment

As college counselors at Saint Francis we commit to...

- stay true to our **Holy Cross values**
- remain mindful of **developmental needs**
- assist in finding a **best match** based on your student’s academic goals
- work to **empower** your student to take ownership and responsibility
Resources

- Where You Go Is Not Who You’ll Be
  - An Antidote to the College Admissions Mania
  - Frank Bruni
  - New York Times Bestselling Author

- Break Free of the Overparenting Trap and Prepare Your Kid for Success
  - Julie Lythcott-Haims