

High School & Beyond Planning — News & Information

November 2016

11th Grade

Finding the Right Fit

Choosing a college is a complex and often confusing process that requires students and families to know about the different types of schools, admission requirements, financial aid, and more.

When it comes to choosing a college, you will hear the term “fit” tossed around quite a bit. You’re told to find a college that is a good “fit”, but what does that really mean?

There are many colleges, programs, and degrees to choose from. High school juniors have spent some time thinking about different types of careers and have explored what sort of education beyond high school is necessary for that path. That exploration will help students figure out what school is the best fit.

The more the school is matched with your teen’s interests and needs, the better fit it is. The better the fit, the likelier it is that your child will stay and complete school successfully. It’s also important to think about other factors that can influence your child’s experience like the size of the school or the distance from home.

One way to find your best fit is to explore **SuperMatch** in Naviance Family Connection!

CHOOSING A COLLEGE	
WHAT’S IMPORTANT	WHAT’S NOT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Available academic programs & majors in the field of interest ✓ Available support services ✓ Campus atmosphere ✓ Distance from home ✓ Diversity of students ✓ Extracurricular activities ✓ Financial aid offered ✓ Graduation & employment rate ✓ Housing options ✓ Location ✓ Size of school & class size 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Best friend is going ✓ Boyfriend or girlfriend is going ✓ Good sports teams (for non-athletes) ✓ It’s closest to home ✓ School colors ✓ The sticker price of that program



Have Naviance Questions?

naviance@everettsd.org

Ever wanted to find the perfect type of college option?

Now you can!

Check it out in Naviance Family Connection...

SuperMatch



Did You Know?

Academic & Support Services Offered: Most schools offer some type of academic support programs to help students. For example, some schools offer small tutoring programs. Others might have entire offices dedicated to help student achievement, including targeted services for diverse populations.

Myth Buster

MYTH: Students should go to the most prestigious college to which he or she is admitted.

REALITY: Students should go to the college that is the **best fit** for them. If it happens to be prestigious, that's fine.

Best fit has to do with how students feel when they are on campus. Is the school a good fit for how your child learns? How do the professors teach?

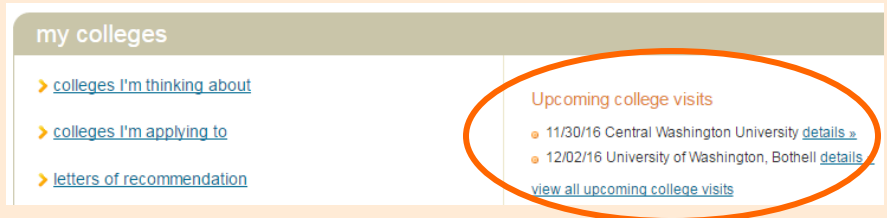
Students who go to schools that aren't a good fit are likely to be unhappy, regardless of the school's prestige.

Source: [College Trends: Myths](#)
Student Achievement Council

 [Check Student
Online Grades Here!](#)

Student Checklist

- ☐ **Begin to prepare for the ACT or SAT.** Free test prep materials are available in Naviance Family Connection. Look for the **SAT Resources** and **ACT Resources** pages.
- ☐ Also check out **Naviance Test Prep** for both **SAT & AP** exam prep courses
- ☐ Ask your counselor if you qualify for a test fee waiver.
- ☐ **Create a list of potential colleges** using Naviance Family Connection and add them to the **colleges I'm thinking about** list.
- ☐ **Attend college admission rep sessions at your school.** Check under the **Colleges tab** in Naviance for upcoming dates.



Family Checklist

- ☐ **Attend college fairs with your student.** Encourage your teen to ask questions and talk with the college representatives at the fair or by attending a session with a college admissions specialist in the career center at their school.
- ☐ **If possible, take your child to visit college campuses,** preferably when classes are in session. Or encourage your child to participate in school field trips to campuses.
- ☐ **Encourage your student to prepare for the ACT or SAT** using the free test prep materials available in Naviance Family Connection. Look for the **SAT Resources** and **ACT Resources** pages.
- ☐ Also check out **Naviance Test Prep** for both **SAT & AP** exam prep courses

Sources: [Federal Student Aid](#), [NACAC](#)



Visit readyssetgrad.org to learn more and access resources to help your child make a plan.