# Websites for Researching Colleges and Universities

(adapted from Saint Ursula Academy, Cincinnati, OH)

**As you may already know, there are many on-line resources for researching colleges and universities. The following is a list of websites that the DVHS College & Career Center finds most useful.**

## WHERE TO FIND THE FACTS:

**THE #1 PLACE TO FIND THE FACTS is ON THE COLLEGE'S WEBSITE. However, if you can't find the information you are looking for, here are a few good sites to use.**

**Naviance** (https://dvhs.schoolloop.com/counhome) - is an on-line college and career planning resource JUST FOR DVHS students. Each student was given his/her own, personal account beginning freshman year. Students can use the SAT/ACT & GPA scattergram to compare their personal data with how previous DVHS students have fared in the admission process at a variety of colleges and universities across the country and world. They can also use the "SuperMatch" tool to generate a list of colleges and majors based on their interests. The students are encouraged to keep the list of "Colleges I'm Thinking About" and their resumes updated. **Parents are welcome to have a separate login upon request.**

**College Board** (http://www.collegeboard.com) - provides factual information for more than 3500 schools through its Big Future portal. You'll find a broad range of information from the most popular majors to AP credit and placement policy. You'll also find a "College Matchmaker" to generate a potential list of college matches.

**College Navigator** (http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator) - is a free consumer information resource provided by the U.S. Department of Education. You can easily find and explore schools based on search criteria such as: academic major, location, size, varsity athletic programs, tuition, and entrance exam scores. The site's design looks dated but contains a treasure trove of information.

**Common Data Set** – Google "Common Data Set and Name of Institution" (e.g. Common Data Set Vanderbilt") - The Common Data Set refers to the source data that colleges and universities provide annually, in a standardized format, for use in college guides and other venues. Analyzing the data can provide insight about admissions, merit aid and other areas of interest. CollegeData.com provides much of the same information (i.e. early action/decision stats; admission factors/criteria; financial aid distribution) in an easier to digest format.

**CollegeXpress** (http://www.collegexpress.com) - provides college search options and lists that can help you identify and explore colleges by major, location and a variety of other criteria. You'll find more than 700 lists — everything from academic major to campus vibe to vegetarian-friendly.

**Campus Safety and Security Data Tool** (http://ope.ed.gov/security) - maintained by the U.S. Government is helpful for evaluating schools from a safety perspective.

**FairTest - SAT/ACT Optional Schools** (http://www.fairtest.org) - The National Center for Fair & Open Testing, a nonprofit advocacy organization provides a list of more than 800 four-year colleges and universities that do not use the SAT or ACT to admit substantial numbers of bachelor degree candidates.

# WHERE TO FIND THE INSIDE SCOOP:
### **Reviews are helpful, but remember that one person's opinion or experience is subjective!**

**Unigo** (http://www.unigo.com) - posts "insider" reviews, videos and photos contributed by students attending the college.  While the reviews can be highly subjective, they can help prospective students get a sense of a college's atmosphere and pulse.

**Cappex** (https://www.cappex.com) - provides college search tools, reviews, and scholarship information.

**Niche** (https://colleges.niche.com) - provides reviews, rankings and insight into making the college search process more transparent.

**College Confidential** (http://www.collegeconfidential.com) - the popular college admissions site and discussion forum is a source of school-specific gossip (whether reliable or not) and information.

**U.S. News and World Report Best Colleges** (http://colleges.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-colleges) - Beyond its annual rankings, the site offers a myriad of college data and guidance. In addition to ranking national universities and liberal arts colleges, you'll find an assortment of interesting lists including: A+ Options for B Students, Learning Communities, Up-and-Coming Colleges, Internships-Co-ops, Study Abroad, Best Undergrad Teaching and Writing Programs.


# CAN'T VISIT? HOW TO GET THE NEXT BEST THING:

**YOUniversityTV.com** (http://www.YOUniversityTV.com) - features entertaining and informative video tours of college campuses from Florida to California to Hawaii.

**YouVisit** (http://www.youvisit.com) - YouVisit's virtual tours and virtual reality content can be seen on the web, mobile devices, social platforms, and leading virtual reality headsets.


# FINANCIAL AID, SCHOLARSHIP, and MORE:

**College Reality Check**  (http://collegerealitycheck.com) - provided by the Chronicle of Higher Education provides tool to compare schools on financial measures such as graduation rates, average net price, debt repayment and post-graduation earnings.

**Kiplinger's Best College Values** (http://www.kiplinger.com/fronts/channels/college) - ranks U.S. colleges and universities in three separate lists: public, private universities, and liberal arts colleges. Users can query, view and sort the schools on each list by various financial and quality measures.

**Scholarship Sites:**
- Check Naviance and Schoolloop for weekly updates
- http://www.fastweb.com
- https://www.unigo.com/scholarships
- http://www.scholarships.com