

Knowledge IS Power

Submitted by: Vickie Sanchez, Admissions Counselor, UW-La Crosse

Many have heard the saying, “there is no such thing as a stupid question.” It’s true! Especially, when it comes to asking questions about your future. As an admissions counselor I have come across many students who have had great questions about getting into college, but the vast majority don’t ask or even know where to start their college search. Looking back to when I was in high school, all I knew was that I needed to go to college and I had to apply, but I had no clue about everything that needs to happen in between. Here are some words of advice for the admissions process:

★ **If you are a senior**, you should be finishing college applications. Make sure your application is complete and submit it as early as possible.

–Apply for financial aid by filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form now—see pg. 2 for more information. If you struggle financially to pay the application fee, some colleges/universities will waive the fee. To find out, you just need to call and ask the institution if they have such a policy.

–Those students who are taking the ACT or SAT for the first time this spring need to register as soon as possible, and make sure your scores are sent to the schools you want to apply to.

–Do research to find scholarships that are available at www.compassguide.org, and the college or university of your choice.

–Lastly, if you have any questions regarding the application process contact the admissions office and they should have counselors like me ready and willing to help you.

The important thing is to get the process started, and you do that by sending in your application. Timing is everything. If you wait you will have fewer choices for housing and classes when you are accepted for admission.

★ **If you are a junior**, prepare for your senior year by signing up to talk with college/university representatives who visit your school this spring, make campus visits, talk with your counselor or mentor about college and use resources such as COMPASS Guide coaching sessions in the Milwaukee Public Libraries (see schedule), and other materials found in libraries or online.

★ **If you are a sophomore or freshman**, you can go to college fairs, sign up to talk with college/university representatives who visit your school, prepare for the ACT/or SAT, and continue to study hard. And of course ask questions. Your future depends on it!



COACHING CALENDAR Spring 2007

Need FREE HELP finding scholarships? Have questions about colleges and financial aid? Come talk one on one with a COMPASS Guide coach at the following Milwaukee Public Library locations.

Capitol

3969 N. 74th St.

Sundays, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25; Mar 4, 11, 18, 25
Apr. 1, 15, 22, 29

Central

814 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Sundays, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25; Mar 4, 11, 18, 25
Apr. 1, 15, 22, 29

Forest Home

1432 W. Forest Home Ave.

Wednesdays, 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28; Mar. 7, 14, 21, 28
April 4, 18, 25; May 2, 9

M.L. King

310 W. Locust St.

Mondays, 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26; Mar. 5, 12, 19, 26
Apr. 2, 16, 23, 30; May 7

SE HABLA
ESPAÑOL!

Washington Park

2121 N. Sherman Blvd.

Tuesdays, 4:30 to 7 p.m.

Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27; Mar. 6, 13, 20, 27
Apr. 3, 17, 24, May 1, 8

SE HABLA
ESPAÑOL!

Zablocki

3501 W. Oklahoma Ave.

Mondays, 4:30 to 7 p.m.

Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26; Mar. 5, 12, 19, 26
Apr. 2, 16, 23, 30, May 7

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY
For more information, call 229-6453.

February 11, 2007—College Goal Sunday

College Goal Sunday

It will take more than good luck and best intentions to pay for college. You need a plan of action, and it should begin with College Goal Sunday!

At College Goal Sunday, you can:

- Get free on-site professional assistance filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form
- Talk to financial aid professionals about financial aid resources and how to apply
- Get information regarding state-wide student services, admission requirements, and more!

When: Sunday, February 11, 2007, 2:00 pm

Milwaukee High School of the Arts

Front entrance
2300 W. Highland Avenue

Pulaski High School

Front entrance
2500 W. Oklahoma Avenue

Rufus King High School

Front entrance
1801 W. Olive Street

College Goal Sunday is a national, 1-day event that provides free information and assistance to families who are filling out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), the federally required form for students seeking financial aid, such as grants and loans. *Completing the FAFSA is the first and most important step in qualifying for aid.*

BEFORE YOU GO:

Get a PIN: Before attending College Goal Sunday and beginning the FAFSA, you should apply for a US Department of Education personal identification number (PIN) at www.pin.ed.gov. The PIN will allow you to sign your FAFSA electronically and to correct your processed FAFSA information online. Don't share your PIN with anyone. If you are providing parent information on the FAFSA, one of your parents must also sign the application. To sign electronically, your parent must apply for his or her own PIN.

Gather the following information and bring with you to apply:

- 1) Your Social Security number (and your parent's SS#'s if you are providing parent information)
- 2) Your driver's license number if you have one
- 3) Your Alien Registration Number if you are not a US citizen
- 4) Federal tax information or returns (including W2's for yourself, spouse, parents; savings and asset info)
- 5) Records of untaxed income (i.e. SS or TANF benefits)

For more information visit:

<http://www.WICollegeGoalSunday.org>

NOTE: For seniors unable to attend College Goal Sunday, you can find information on how to submit your FAFSA application at: www.studentaid.ed.gov. For junior, sophomore and freshman students, watch for College Goal Sunday in your senior year.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

UWM Center for Urban Initiatives & Research
COMPASS Guide
P.O. Box 413
Milwaukee, WI 53201



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