

Office of
Advanced
Programs

The College Connection

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Creating a College-Going
Culture in WCPS



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SMCM Facts

Enrollment

First generation 20%
Not from MD/US 25%

Residing on Campus

80%

4-Year Graduation Rate

72%

Median SAT (CR+M)

1170-1370

Average HS GPA

3.8

Students Receiving Aid

84% overall
100% of those who
filed the FAFSA

Student-Faculty Ratio

12-to-1

Source www.smcm.edu

Finding the Best Match

Although magazines such as *U.S. News and World Report* often rank the "best" colleges, the truly best school is the one that matches a student's goals and needs. Students should begin researching colleges long before their senior year so that they can decide what they want from a school and which school is the best fit for them. In fact, elementary school is not too soon to start learning about colleges and visiting campuses.

What makes one college a better fit than another? Students should consider the following criteria:

Admissions: requirements, selectivity, deadlines;

Academics and career preparation: majors offered, class size, career counseling, internships;

Location: urban, rural, or small town; in-state or out-of-state;

Student body: total enrollment, percent living on campus, diversity;

Campus life: dormitories and dining facilities, technology, clubs and activities, athletic offerings, transportation;

Financial aid: merit scholarships, work-study programs, percent of students receiving aid.

Try the College Matchmaker on collegeboard.com to start your search today.

Website of the Month



www.usnews.com/education

Each year, *U.S. News and World Report* publishes an education issue, both in magazine form and online, that ranks the best colleges, universities and graduate schools based on specific criteria. The site also hosts blogs on a variety of education topics, such as college life and law school admissions, and includes profiles of 1,600 schools. Check it out!

College of the Month

St. Mary's College of Maryland, one of only two public honors colleges in the nation, has been ranked as a top liberal arts college by *U.S. News and World Report* and several other publications. Offering small class sizes and a

faculty that speaks over 20 languages, St. Mary's sponsors study-abroad programs in England, France, Germany, China, Thailand, and Italy, making these programs so affordable that half of the student body participates.



The college boasts a graduation rate 20% higher than other Maryland schools, offers over 100 student-run clubs, and guarantees housing for four years. Go, Seahawks!

Office of Advanced Programs

Supervisor of Advanced Programs
Jessica Reinhard
301-766-2922

College Readiness Specialist
Lori Parks-Murphy
301-766-8721

Providing world class educational
opportunities for all students

www.wcboe.k12.md.us



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School Spotlight: WHS

Career Guidance Technician Andy Gossard visited Toni Stake's College Prep class at **Williamsport High School** in December and presented information on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the financial aid process in general. Parents were invited to attend the session, which was held in the computer lab and included information on the different types of loans, obtaining a Personal Identification Number (PIN), and locating scholarship requirements and forms on college websites.



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Important Dates

January 1

FAFSA open for online submission

January 13

Registration deadline for Feb. 11 ACT

January 28

SAT test

February 1

Recommended submission date for FAFSA

February 4

Open House at St. Mary's College of Maryland