

THE

# Academic Student's Guide to College Search



## Find a college that fits your major interests and graduate school goals

As an academic student, you're interested in finding a college that will support and elevate your grad school goals through rigorous programs, expert faculty, and robust undergraduate research opportunities. You're in it for the long haul, but at this point in your college search, you should focus on the undergraduate experience and how it will help build your grad school opportunities.

### WHAT YOU SHOULD LOOK FOR IN A COLLEGE:



#### INSPIRING FACULTY:

You want professors who have equal parts knowledge AND experience and who will engage you in the classroom (talk with you, not at you). Colleges with small class sizes have an advantage because it encourages discussion and allows you to get on a first-name basis with your professors. Note: You're not just looking for a teacher, you're looking for a mentor.



#### MEANINGFUL MAJORS:

This probably feels like a no-brainer, but it's the small details that matter. A college might offer a major that interests you, but it could be padded with general education credits or irrelevant courses. Instead, focus on the number of classes in your major and experiential learning opportunities provided.

#### \*PRO-TIP\*

Look for colleges that allow you to build your own major, double major, or pick up a few minors based on your grad school goals.



#### UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH:

Not all colleges provide undergrads the opportunity to conduct research. An opportunity like this can help you build the foundation for your graduate studies. Students who conduct undergraduate research have the opportunity to work side-by-side with their professors on important topics. Students at Saint Rose who conduct undergraduate research often get published in academic journals or present their work at conferences.

#### \*BONUS BULLET\*

#### ACCELERATED DEGREES:

You already have grad school on your mind — why not look for colleges that can fast track you to your master's degree? Saint Rose offers 2-in-4 programs that allow students to receive both their bachelor's and master's in four years, saving them time and up to \$12,000 in tuition.



#### OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER:

**Location:** Do you want to stay close to home or go somewhere out of state?

**Affordability:** The Net Price Calculator can estimate how much financial aid you'll receive.

**Academics:** Are there any industries that interest you? Do any majors stand out?

**Livability:** Is the campus the right size? Do you like the surrounding community?

## HOW YOU SHOULD SEARCH FOR A COLLEGE:

### GET TO KNOW FACULTY:

Research faculty bios, read their published work, find them on YouTube, or even shoot them an email! They should be happy to explain their program and how it can help you reach your goals. And if they are not, maybe their college is not the right fit?

### GO FOR A TEST-DRIVE:

Look for colleges that offer the opportunity for you to test-drive the student experience before you make a decision. At Saint Rose, we have a “Knight for a Day” visit, where students can shadow a student in their major of interest and attend classes.

### TAKE A COLLEGE COURSE:

Some colleges offer pre-college programs that allow you to get a feel for what it is like to be a student at that college. Many Saint Rose students participated in our Pre-College Experience program before making their decision.

### GET A HEAD START:

If you can, take AP, IB, or even some college classes in high school so you can transfer in college credits. That way you can focus on your major credits, and get even closer to your grad school goals.

## OTHER COLLEGE SEARCH TIPS:



### MEET WITH YOUR SCHOOL COUNSELOR:

They know you best and can help you with the admissions process from start to finish.



### RESEARCH ONLINE:

See if your school has a subscription to online search and match databases.



### CHECK YOUR MAIL:

You'll get a ton of mail from colleges — keep only the content that interests you!



### VISIT CAMPUSES:

This will help you narrow down the colleges that interest you the most.

## SAINT ROSE STATS:



Full-time faculty: 177



14-to-1 student to faculty ratio



Teaching assistant: 0

### COVID-19 DISCLAIMER:

The COVID-19 pandemic might limit visit opportunities and other aspects of the college search process. Despite these challenges, many colleges have made adjustments, and you should still be able to have a rewarding search experience. For example, Saint Rose now offers virtual visit opportunities. Learn more at [www.strose.edu/visit](http://www.strose.edu/visit).

Do you have any questions?

Contact us: [admit@strose.edu](mailto:admit@strose.edu)

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