
COLLEGE INSIGHTS GROUP

NEWSLETTER

October 2010/November 2010

CHECK YOUR ENGINES

PSAT Test – October 13th
9th & 11th- make sure you pay for results
10th - free

College Fairs

Oct. 14: Nease College Night

Oct. 16: National College Fair
Jacksonville

Prime Osborn Convention Center

Nov. 3-4: College Week Live
Virtual College Fair

300+ colleges & universities

www.collegeweeklive.com

PLAN Test – November 5
@ Nease for 10th grade – pay in advance

Mark Your Calendar for our
Free Presentation:

*Summer Tune-Up for
College Bound Teens*

January 27, 2011 4:00 - 5:00 pm

Nease High School

Hello Students and Parents:

For the Class of 2010, the college application season is in full swing. Resumes, essays, and application forms clutter their desks. Recommendation requests fill teachers' inboxes. Organization is needed for the seniors and their parents to survive the process.

Remember to check deadlines for each college. If the college offers merit scholarships, the deadlines may differ from the application deadline. There also may be additional requirements for scholarships including separate essays and recommendations. Some school-based scholarships require a nomination from your high school. Search the college's website. This information may be in a special scholarship section of the website, rather than in the admissions area.

Drop by our table at the Nease College Night on October 14th and enter our drawing for "15 Minutes with the Expert." We look forward to seeing you there.

If you have benefitted from the information contained on these two pages please forward this newsletter to friends. Those desiring to subscribe may send an email to info@collegeinsightsgroup.com with the subject line "newsletter" and your email address will be added to our subscribers list.

Keep driving toward the Finish Line,

Diane, Mary and Aletha

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Speaking at the White House's first ever summit on community colleges, President Obama challenged community colleges to produce an additional five million graduates with degrees or certificates in the next ten years, to help reach his goal of having more college graduates than any other nation by 2020. With that in mind, here are some answers to questions about community colleges in Florida: **What is the difference between an Associate in Arts (A.A.) degree and an Associate in Science (A.S.) degree?** The A.A. degree is intended for students who desire to transfer to a university and work toward a Bachelor's degree. The A.S. degree is primarily designed to prepare students for an entry level job in a high-demand/high-wage area of specialization. **Does an A.A. degree guarantee admission to a university?** An A.A. degree guarantees that you will be admitted to a State university in Florida, though not to a particular university or major. If the major is classified as "limited access" by the university, you must meet specific admissions criteria (e.g., prerequisite courses, GPA, early admissions deadlines, etc.) in order to be considered for acceptance. **Can a student with an A.S. degree transfer to a university?** There are some A.S. degrees that have articulation agreements with Florida public universities to allow this. Other A.S. degrees only allow the transfer of general education courses to the university. **Make sure you check for university requirements early!**

Tips for College-Bound Athletes

The number one factor in choosing a college is academics. A sport is just one characteristic to look at when deciding on the best college fit. The first thing to determine is what level of athletic competition is right for you. Below are some tips to assist in the process:

- Access your own skills and interests. Look hard at your abilities and whether you want your sport to be your job at college.
- Talk to your coach about which NCAA Division fits your abilities and interests.
- Participate in a college showcase that provides input on the requirements of the different NCAA Divisions.
 - Division 1 is the most competitive, has the highest profile, and offers athletic scholarships.
 - Division 2 is the second tier, with an above-average level of competition, a somewhat lower profile, and scholarship opportunities.
 - Division 3 is made up mostly of smaller colleges, which range from division powerhouses to no-cut teams. Athletes in this division are students first, athletes second; there are no athletic scholarships (but Division 3 schools still have financial aid and academic scholarships).
- Even if you have the skills to compete at a Division 1 level, you must decide if you really want such a high level of commitment to your sport.
- Decide—do you just want to play? Is your goal having fun? Are you looking to go pro? Do you want to start all four years?
- Do not be seduced by recruiters or by the athletic program's reputation.
- Study each college's program for yourself: ask questions of the coaches, players, and athletic directors.
- Remember: Coaches leave. Don't pick a college solely based on the coach.
- Additional questions to ask:
 - How much time will the sport take--in season and out of season?
 - What percentage of athletes graduate, and how long does it take them to graduate?
 - What is the coach's perspective on academics?
 - Are you permitted to select any major?
 - Do they arrange tutoring and other support throughout the season if you miss classes to travel with the team?
 - Will the athletic scholarship continue if you get hurt and cannot play?

The NCAA sets strict rules governing recruitment practices for Division 1 and 2 programs. Most of these rules apply to the college, but they affect students, as well. Look at the rules early in the process. Student athletes can find a wealth of information on the NCAA website ncaastudent.org.

College Insights—

from an Emory Sophomore

Surviving your freshman year can be a challenge. It is difficult to adjust to the freedom you have as a college student compared to living at home. However, participating in varsity sports, especially at the collegiate level kept me well grounded. The time commitment of 20-25 hours per week for practice and games takes away a lot of the time you have to focus on studying and getting acclimated to your new home on campus. On the other hand, playing varsity soccer was a great way to instantly make 30 friends, before school even started. You are part of the team, and that gives you a sense of identity and belonging. It was good for me to be physically exhausted and constantly crunched for time.

I was surprised that the structure and routine of varsity athletics actually benefited me because I had to plan my day to balance the demands of soccer and academics. No time to goof off and experience the crazy side of college life that is...until the spring when your sport is in hiatus for the most part and then suddenly you have this extra 20-25 hours per week that you thought would bode you well for studying. But NO, you now start experiencing college life by rushing a fraternity trying to be a frat star then reality strikes that it is much harder to balance academics when the playing field is FUN instead of structure and routine. I survived, learned many life lessons and now I am more prepared as I start my sophomore year to know what to expect on the pitch, on campus, and in the classroom. As for being a "frat star", that will have to go on hold during soccer season.

The key to college in general is moderation and balance. Enjoy, but focus on why you are on campus—to get a great education that sets you up to be successful.

~ Nick, Emory 2013

SparkPlug: Bruce Poch, Dean of Admissions at Pomona College, speaking about the admissions process for athletes, said that at some universities and colleges **“coaches get their picks and let the admissions offices know whom to take, and at others, the coach may simply communicate interest in an athlete but will have no direct control over the choices made by the admissions officers.”**

www.collegeinsightsgroup.com