

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS MONTGOMERY BLAIR HIGH SCHOOL

Note: This material supplements the “Yellow Pages” of the Blair Student Plan Book. Visit the Career Center link on the Blair website (mbhs.edu) for specific information on the college application process. Use the “CX Online and eChoices” websites to research career interests and search for colleges.

### *What factors should be considered when selecting colleges?*

- Try to find colleges with **majors** that interest you. Look for college guide books that list colleges by their strong majors and by selectivity level.
- Consider if **size** is important. Large universities offer a wide variety of majors but typically average larger class sizes.
- Does **location** matter? Institutions can be in urban, suburban, small town and rural settings.
- Is **diversity** important? Consider the mix of students by gender, age, geography and race/ethnicity.

### *How can you meet college representatives who come to Blair?*

Check your “Yellow Pages” to see how juniors and seniors get permission to attend the information sessions held by 200 colleges at Blair each fall. The Career Center link at mbhs.edu will list the visit schedule.

### *What is the right number of college applications?*

Students should have reach, mid-level and safety schools on their lists. Make sure your credentials match those described by the colleges. Check each college’s website for specific application requirements.

### *Why should I visit a college?*

After you’ve read all the literature, form your own opinion. Spring break is a great time to go; also consider late August when many colleges are in session. Call to set up visits with each admissions office.

### *How do college admission officers evaluate applications?*

- Transcript
- Standardized test scores (PSAT, SAT/ACT, TOEFL, AP)
- Essay
- Recommendations from teachers and counselor
- Interviews (if available)
- Extracurricular activities (school-related, volunteer, employment, internships)

### *How does financial aid work?*

- FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is the largest need-based program; apply between January 1 and March 1 during senior year.
- State and institutional programs are available; many are based on financial need and/or merit. Some private scholarships are open to underclassmen. Check Career Center listings at mbhs.edu.

### *What are the key filing dates for transcripts and teacher/counselor recommendations?*

- See the “Yellow Pages” for transcript and teacher/counselor recommendation timelines; 20 working days are required for all transcripts to be processed.

### *What is required to attend Montgomery College?*

- Official transcript
- \$25 application fee
- Completed application
- Placement test if needed

**Remember to read the Blair Plan Book “Yellow Pages” and the Trailblazer packet when you receive it in April.**