

# Making a Decision

### How to choose between several acceptances:

- Do some soul-searching to figure out which of your colleges would provide the best fit for you. Consider and prioritize location, size, mix of students, academics, extracurricular activities and facilities.
- Although this decision is ultimately a personal one, it never hurts to ask for advice from people who know you well and care about your future, like your parents, counselors, friends or relatives.
- Get first-hand knowledge about what it is really like to attend a particular college from current students. Don't be afraid to ask frank questions—your future college will be your home, school and work for the next four years.
- Visiting a college's campus (even virtually) can help break a deadlock if you can't decide between two or more colleges. At this point, a campus visit is less about facts and figures than intuition and whether or not you click with a school.
- If you receive offers of financial aid from more than one college, use the

**College Board's Compare Your Aid Awards tool** to compare:

- Total amount of aid awarded
- Family share of costs (if any)
- Percentage of gift aid (grants and scholarships) versus self-help aid (work-study loans) for up to four schools, side by side.
- Colleges expect your final decision by May 1 (Universal Enrollment Deadline), so you have about one month to make up your mind. Try to keep your options open in case circumstances change (e.g., you decide to change your intended major).
- Once you have made a decision, send in your acceptance letter. Don't forget to let all of the schools that offered you admission your final choice. A simple email thanking them for their consideration, but declining their offer will do.
- ☐ Remember to send a brief note thanking those teachers who supported your application by writing a letter of recommendation and let them know where you've decided to attend.
- ☐ Congratulations, you have made it to the end of the process! Remember to keep up with all of the paperwork your college sends you over the summer and, if you have questions, call us or the admissions office at your new college.