



RUST COLLEGE

“Serving Students Is Our Mission.”



PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

Finding the right school or university for your son or daughter to attend is not an easy task. At Rust College we believe we are the right fit for students who are serious about their future and who want to make a difference in the years to come. All of our programs are designed with students in mind and with a philosophy that will under-gird successful experiences.

We challenge students who enroll at Rust to set goals and stay focused. We challenge students to know who they are and to be proud of who they are. It is our objective to nurture and bring out the very best in the young people who grace this campus.

We take pride in our small campus with its warm and friendly faculty and staff. We don't just know students by name—we also know their families and where they come from. That is what makes Rust unique—it is what gives us that special touch.

Rust has many graduates who are traditional professionals such as doctors, nurses, lawyers, teachers, and preachers. We also have a significant number who have become politicians, computer programmers and technicians, accountants, research chemists, editors, and writers—and the list goes on.

You ask how does your son or daughter get there? At Rust, we provide your son or daughter with professors who are experts in their field and with the opportunity to participate in internships across the country. Also in the classroom, graduates return to share their accomplishments to help put your child on the road to achieving great things. We further enhance student experiences by encouraging them to take advantage of traveling and study abroad programs. It is a great way for students to see the world and explore new avenues of learning. We believe that these experiences combined with others make a successful student.

Making the choice to attend college is a big decision. Making the choice to attend Rust is a good decision. We invite you to join others at Rust “where tomorrow’s leaders are students today.”

David L. Beckley
President



TIPS FOR THE APPLICATION PROCESS

By William Morrison

Completing the application process can be an overwhelming task for even the most prepared senior. To survive this process, keep the following four tips in mind:

1. DO YOUR “HOMEWORK” EARLY.

Not only will you be applying to colleges in addition to all of your other activities, but many of the schools you apply to will place a premium on senior-year grades so they must not slip. Complete as much research as you can before senior year.

2. KNOW YOUR DEADLINES.

Know what kind of deadlines the schools have and take full advantage of them. You can then group your applications by deadline and tackle them a few at a time instead of stressing while trying to complete them all at once.

3. DON'T SLACK ON ANY PART OF THE APPLICATION.

The reason that schools want essays, short answers, or recommendations is because they value them as part of the process. Many students make the mistake of thinking that their numbers will be good enough to get them in. Don't sell yourself short; be thorough on each and every part of the application.



4. HAVE A QUALITY SAFETY SCHOOL OR TWO.

Having a quality safety school can take a lot of pressure off during the process because you will know that at the end of the day, you will have a great school that you will be happy to have as an option.

Most importantly, relax. If you follow these four simple rules, you will be able to see this process for what it is—a truly exciting time in your life that will lead you into a whole new world of possibilities. ■

William Morrison is a college counselor at Highland Park High School in Highland Park, Illinois.



YOU'RE NOT IN HIGH SCHOOL ANYMORE: Learning to Study for College Courses

By Sally Wood

For many college freshmen, the difference between studying in high school and studying in college is shocking. College involves large classes and few daily assignments; midterms and finals are a large percentage of the course grade; and the class syllabus may be the only reminder of due dates. So—from the beginning—you must approach your studies seriously. Here are a few tips to help you make the transition:

- Find a quiet, distraction-free place where you can concentrate.
- Use a daily planner to keep track of due dates and exam dates.
- Set a daily schedule. Devoting two hours of study for every hour spent in class will help you avoid panic at the end of the semester.
- Choose a course schedule that allows an hour between classes. Use this time to review your notes or read chapters that correspond to the day's lecture topics.
- Don't get behind. You'll be expected to read more than 100 pages weekly for each lecture course. Don't procrastinate, and read carefully when you read.
- Take good lecture and reading notes. Focus on important points that may be covered on the exam.
- Consolidate text notes and lecture notes.
- Ask for help. Attend study groups, and visit your professor in his/her office if needed.
- Make flash cards out of index cards. Write the word or question on one side; write the definition or the answer on the other side. Use the cards to quiz yourself.
- Take time to relax. If you spend all your time studying, you'll burn out and maybe even drop out. Find a balance between studying and having fun.

By following these steps, you'll have no problem transitioning into a successful, enjoyable college career! ■

Sally Wood is a freelance writer and editor from Marionville, Missouri. She worked as a high school counselor in the Aurora R-VIII School District in Aurora, Missouri, from 1980–2000.

FILING THE FAFSA

By James Maroney

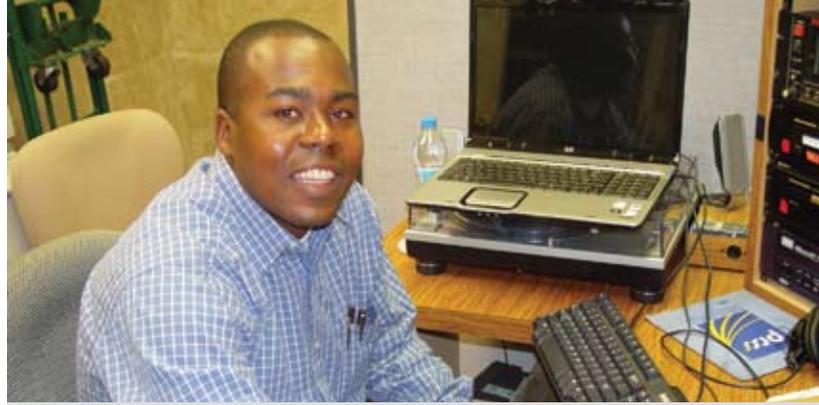
Many people believe that private scholarships are the answer for their college-funding woes. While you may have heard that millions of dollars in scholarships go unclaimed each year, that simply is not true. In reality, private scholarships provide only a small percentage of college funding. The vast majority of financial aid is provided by federal and state governments and by schools. The following information will help your students get all of the need-based aid for which they are eligible.

The first step in filing for need-based aid requires your students to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which is available in paper format in the high school guidance office or online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. In order to complete your FAFSA online, you'll have to apply for a PIN (Personal Identification Number), which you can do at www.pin.ed.gov. If you do this early, you'll be a step ahead of the pack when starting the FAFSA. Rust College's financial school code is **002433**.

Filing the FAFSA online has many advantages. First, the online form is processed in two weeks as opposed to four weeks for the paper form. Second, the online form will check your students' responses and will not let them submit the application with mistakes. If your students have submitted the paper form with an error, it will be returned for corrections and will need to be resubmitted. Finally, the online form automatically generates an estimate of your Expected Family Contribution (EFC).

It is extremely important that your students file the FAFSA application before priority deadlines. Information from tax forms is necessary in order to complete the FAFSA. Do not worry if your taxes are not completed. Families should file on an estimated basis by the priority deadline, which can start as early as January. When your taxes are complete, you can then file a correction with FAFSA. The following analogy from a dean of admissions illustrates the importance of filing early: Financial aid is like a pot of soup. The first couple of ladles are going to be full, but at the end you are going to be scraping the bottom of the pot for what is left. Make sure you are getting your full ladle. ■

James Maroney is the director of educational consulting for First Choice College Placement (www.firstchoicecollege.com).



FINANCIAL AID CALENDAR

By Kimberly Hardy, MSW, LGSW

As seniors in high school, your students are poised to complete the next phase of their education, and you're there to help. All of the financial aid forms and deadlines may confuse you. Not sure where to start? Use the timeline below for guidance.

IN SEPTEMBER–DECEMBER, YOUR STUDENTS SHOULD:

- Take the SAT or ACT, if they haven't already
- Visit college campuses and attend college fairs
- Request information packages from colleges of interest
- Narrow their college choices down to several finalists
- Research scholarship opportunities and the community in which their schools of choice are located
- Apply for admission to their top choices
- Attend financial aid workshops wherever available
- Apply for scholarships and grants and investigate student loans

IN JANUARY–MARCH, YOUR STUDENTS SHOULD:

- File the FAFSA and other required forms; you can help them fill out the FAFSA online at www.fafsa.ed.gov
- Look for acceptance letters from the schools to which they applied
- Complete any essays required to apply for financial aid offered through their university
- Apply for student loans

IN MARCH–APRIL, YOUR STUDENTS SHOULD:

- Review financial aid packages, which can contain a combination of any of these sources: scholarships, college grants, state grants, student loans, and student employment.

IN MAY–JULY, YOUR STUDENTS SHOULD:

- Choose the school they want to attend
- Notify the admissions office of that school
- Accept and return the financial aid package from the school they've chosen
- File student loan and/or parent loan applications, if necessary
- Notify other schools that they've made a decision
- Contact the financial aid office to determine the details of any work-study arrangements, if necessary ■

Kimberly Hardy, MSW, LGSW, has been a clinical school social worker for many years. She has studied at Morgan State University, The Ohio State University, and The University of Chicago.



SCHOOL SNAPSHOTS



Accreditation: Rust College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097; Telephone number 404-679-4501) to award baccalaureate and associate degrees.

Mission: Rust College is a historically Black, private, co-educational, senior liberal arts college founded in 1866 by the Freedman's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The College is related to the United Methodist Church, and is dedicated to serve students with a variety of academic preparations, through instruction in the humanities, the social and behavioral sciences, natural science, business, technology, and education. Rust College recognizes the three-fold functions of education as being teaching, research, and community service. Its primary mission, however, is teaching. It offers a well-rounded program designed to acquaint students with cultural, moral, and spiritual values, both in theory and in practice. Rust College provides an opportunity for education to all, regardless of race, religion, sex, national origin, or ethnic background.

Location: Rust College is located in the quaint northwest Mississippi town of Holly Springs (population 8,000), which is approximately 45 miles southeast of Memphis, Tennessee, on State Highway 178 and Mississippi Highway 7.

Campus: Rust College is situated on 126 acres three blocks north of the town square. The beautifully landscaped campus includes many modern buildings.

Enrollment: Rust College enrolls 1,100 students.

Student Body: Slightly more than half of the students who attend Rust are from Mississippi. The other half are from 27 states and nine foreign countries. Women make up more than half of the student population.

Student Organizations: Student activities are designed to enhance the academic experience. Students develop skills as leaders and participants in the Student Government Association, class organizations, special service groups, major area clubs, religious organizations, fraternal organizations, and athletic groups.

Athletics: The objectives of the athletic and intramural areas are to teach sportsmanship, fair play, and respect for the rights of others and to provide opportunity for recreation and physical fitness. The College participates in the following intercollegiate sports: basketball, tennis, cross-country, track and field, cheerleading, soccer, fast-pitch softball, volleyball, and pep squad.

Faculty: Rust employs 45 full-time faculty members, 47 percent of whom hold doctorate degrees.

Average Class Size: 20 (with a student-faculty ratio of 16:1)

Residential Facilities: There are five residential halls on the Rust College campus. The on-campus capacity is 856. There is a full-time professional who lives in each building and is responsible for the educational and operational functions of the residence hall.

Financial Assistance: More than 90 percent of students receive some form of financial assistance. Endowment income, annual gifts, and unrestricted contributions to Rust fund scholarships.

Scholarships: Rust College offers scholarships based on academic performance, financial need, and other criteria (including band, drama, and a cappella choir). ■

GENERAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Enrollment Services:

Phone: (662) 252-8000, ext. 4059, or (888) 886-8492

Financial Aid Office:

Phone: (662) 252-8000, ext. 4062, or (888) 886-8492

Web site:

www.rustcollege.edu

