



Have I found my college home?

Now that most seniors are at the tail end of the application/audition season, the adults in their world begin to assume that “everything has been figured out.” The reality is these last few months leading up to the national College Decision Day (May 1st) can be as challenging (in different ways) as the days and months preceding them. This is normal if less than fun! For some, the effort required to narrow down their choices can be overwhelming. Students in this position are encouraged to spend time reading course descriptions and familiarizing themselves with different major, study abroad and course sequence options as well as graduation requirements at the schools that have accepted them. The school that is the best fit for you may reveal itself in the differences.

The website [ratemyprofessors](https://ratemyprofessors.com) provides student reviews of individual instructors as well as academic departments at most colleges and universities, which can provide a helpful perspective. Research has shown that the real differences in college outcomes exist at the departmental level, or within the classrooms of individual professors, who teach with a great deal of autonomy under the principles of academic freedom. The school name matters much less than the professors and peers you work with while you’re there. The “best” college decisions come from students who’ve actively engaged with potential instructors/classmates (Go auditions!), reviewed departmental websites/instructor bios and sat in on classes before they arrive on campus!

Another way to narrow down choices is to attend admitted student events. Although the Covid-19 outbreak may impact this option, schools may still host on campus overnights/events in the spring, which can clarify lingering questions. Because attending far away sessions is not always possible, colleges may offer regional new student get togethers as well to connect admitted and current students, alumni, and families. Having a better sense of future peers may prompt a decision.

It is not uncommon for students at this point in the year to reconsider everything they’d previously thought. Do I even want to go to college? Does my list of college possibilities really reflect my current interests? Am I ready to go to college and be successful? **Don’t panic.** Taking a step back to reconfirm goals and values can provide a great starting point toward a decision-making process that will yield positive results. There is still time to submit applications for next fall if that makes sense for you. College success (whenever it is undertaken) is built upon high school success. **JOB #1 is graduating from high school.** Don’t let current distractions jeopardize your status as a high school graduate. **Stay focused and the rest will follow!**

Important information for college applications:

SPCPA School Code: 242 284

Counselor: Alison Green
(greena@spcpa.org)

School Information:
16 W 5th St
St Paul, MN 55102
(651) 290-2225

MAKE A DECISION

DILEMMA:					
DATE:		DECISION NEEDED BY:			
DECISION IMPORTANCE:	TRIVIAL	NON-LETHAL	WORTHWHILE	WEIGHTY	LIFE-CHANGING
INDECISIVENESS LEVEL:	WISHTY	WASHY	NEUTRAL	PARTISAN	MUD MADE UP
BEST-CASE SCENARIO:					
☐ PIPE DREAM					
WORST-CASE SCENARIO:					
☐ APOCALYPSE					
GUT FEELINGS			PLUSSES(+) AND MINUSES(-)		
			+		
			-		
			+		
			-		
			+		
			-		
			+		
			-		
INTUITIVE CONCLUSION:			RATIONAL CONCLUSION:		
DECISION:					
☐ FOR TODAY					
NEXT STEPS:					

“OR YOU COULD ALWAYS FLIP A COIN”

College Application.....

SPCPA transcripts/student reports are **NOT** processed during the dates listed below. *The no processing window extends before and after the longer holiday periods ...* **Spring Break (March 24 - April 12)**



More options

No applications? **Need more options?**

Regular Decision deadlines began January 1st but extend into March, April and beyond at many four-year colleges and universities, particularly state schools. Click [here](#) and [here](#) for options.

- Community colleges typically accept students well into the summer (June/July/August) before the fall term starts. Apply early if interested in the **Power of You** program at [St Paul College](#) and [MCTC](#).
- Already applied to the U of MN-Twin Cities? You can add other campuses in the U of MN system with just a couple of clicks using the [Share My App](#) Option available through the student's application tracker:

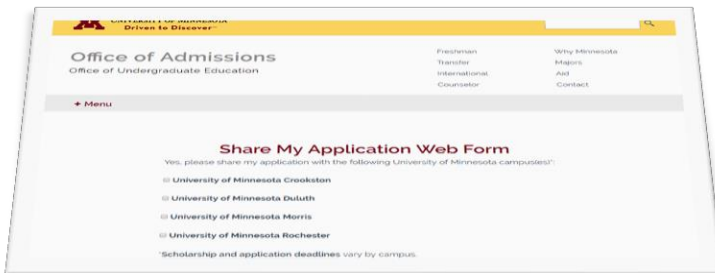
the
Power of YOUTM

SPCPA students have 2 options:
[Minneapolis Community and Technical College \(MCTC\)](#), and [St Paul College](#).

Free tuition & fees for students who enroll in one of the participating community colleges in the fall after high school graduation.

- 2 years/72 credits covered
- Technical/career focused options
- 4-year degree focused options
- Transfer agreements with U of MN-TC, Augsburg, MN State Schools (Mankato, St Cloud, etc.)

- 2022 Graduate
- \$75,000 Family



Associated FAFSA
Deadline: March 1st - St Paul College
July 26th - MCTC

- Attend class on time/daily
- Maintain 2.0 GPA
- Meet with POY Advisor 3X/semester
- Complete 10 hours community service
- Complete Professor Feedback form before midterms each semester

Is a No Always a No (and other thoughts on disappointing college news)... Receiving a denial, waitlist, "with conditions" or "financial aid impaired" decision is a drag. But, these situations don't have to be all bad. **Start by reorienting your focus toward the schools that want you AND are working to make it possible for you to attend!** You are the person in charge of your great college experience (not any one school)! Can't stop hoping? Reread the decision letter all the way to the end. **If you have been offered next steps, take them!** Have you confirmed that you want to be on their waitlist (assuming this is the case)? Sent an update or another letter or recommendation (if allowed)? Submitted financial aid verification information? **If you have been denied without any option, ask if they can suggest steps that you can take to make your application stronger when you reapply.** Then do it! If they have an **alternative admission option** (late/early start, preliminary program, etc.), letting the school know you'd participate (if selected) could make the difference between attending and not attending. Whatever you decide, **if you have a high school diploma, there will always be a college option in your future!**