

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS OF COLLEGE-BOUND STUDENTS

Finding the RIGHT FIT





Finding the RIGHT FIT:

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Deciding on a college will be a landmark occasion in the life of your son or daughter. Their college experience will provide them opportunities to develop their mind, grow socially and individually, prepare them for a rewarding career, and set the course for the rest of their lives.

Choosing which college is right for them usually becomes a decision the entire family makes together. Most families find the college search process a fascinating and memorable experience. Embrace it as an adventure and it can truly be one of your greatest memories as a parent.

Centenary University has prepared this guide to help parents consider the various topics related to the college search. There are many important things to take into consideration—more than we can cover here—so our goal is to address the fundamentals to get you started. We want to help you help your son or daughter find the right college.

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a small white piece of paper. On the paper, there is a faint pink circular stamp. The background is a solid light green color.

Ask . Questions

Your priorities in selecting a college may be different than those of your son or daughter. As you talk things through, it is important to remember which one of you will actually be attending college.

While the final decision should really be your son or daughter's to make, you can guide them in smart decision making. Start by asking your son or daughter open-ended questions, like these:

- Why is going to a college important to you?
- How will a college education prepare you for a career?
- What subjects do you think you'll enjoy most?
- Would you like to get to know your professors?
- Would you rather live on campus or at home? Why?
- What special advantages would a smaller, private college offer? What about a big state school?
- What extra-curricular activities do you think would be fun?
- How might a campus with lots of green space differ from one in the city?

Is your son or daughter...

- Interested in attending a quality, private college that's also affordable?
- Likely to prefer a more personal campus environment over a big school?
- Eager to gain career-specific experience before graduation?
- Already thinking about employment after graduation?
- Looking for a "collegiate experience" that goes beyond earning a degree?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, Centenary is a great choice you'll want to investigate.

Centenary University celebrates learning by supporting students in all aspects of their college experience. We provide them with key advantages like:

- Student Focus
- Career Emphasis
- Faculty Collaboration
- Leadership Experience

Characteristics That Impact the **EXPERIENCE**

Big University or Small College

Every school is different, of course, but some basic characteristics are largely a function of size. Big schools typically offer many choices and resources. Facilities are generally scaled to accommodate the size of the campus community. Depending on your child's preferences, the sheer size of big schools can make them feel impersonal.

Small schools generally feel more personal with the campus community closely connected. They offer things large schools simply cannot, like small class sizes and individualized attention. A lot of small universities provide excellent overall opportunities, including top quality facilities, internships, and a great selection of strong academic programs.

Access to Faculty

Compared to larger universities that emphasize research, smaller universities often place greater emphasis on teaching. Faculty members are more easily accessible to students, allowing them to gear the curriculum to the specific interests of your son or daughter. Which do you think offers students a better learning experience: a lecture hall with a couple hundred students or a seminar-style room with a couple dozen students?

Centenary is known for our dedicated faculty's collaborative approach. Professors work together—across academic disciplines—to enrich the learning experience for each individual student. Centenary's student-to-faculty ratio is 17:1!

Centenary University offers advantages of a large school like 54 programs of study, great facilities, opportunities to lead and learn outside the classroom, and an amazing Career Development Center, but in a personal setting where students and professors know each other.



Centenary emphasizes education your son or daughter can use – in a first career, in graduate or professional school, in a future career that may not even exist today, and throughout their lives.



State or Private School

A student may choose to attend a state school or a private school for any number of reasons, but cost need not be the deciding factor. If you’ve been looking at the “sticker price” that universities post on their websites, you know the prices vary a lot. Some private schools have a higher sticker price than state schools, but they also may have private scholarships (“institutional aid”) that state schools do not offer.

When you compare the cost of one school to another, be sure you look at the “bottom line” cost to attend. Ask each school about their average range of Expected Family Contribution (EFC), which is determined, among other factors, by your family’s income.

The Cost of Not Going to College

Choosing to attend a college is an investment in your child’s future. Getting a college education can cost a lot, but not getting a college education can cost even more in the long run. On average, over your child’s working lifetime, a bachelor’s degree will be worth \$1 million in additional earnings compared to the average earnings of those who end their education after graduating from high school.

For many Centenary University students, the bottom line cost to attend our quality, private college is about the same as a state school.



FAFSA INFORMATION

The FAFSA opens on October 1st. Practically every college’s financial aid program requires your son or daughter to complete the free application for federal student aid so you can see if you qualify for federal and state loans, grants, and/or work-study programs.

INPUTS **and** OUTCOMES

Why the Liberal Arts Matter

Top employers seek graduates who excel as thinkers, problem solvers, and communicators. Studying the natural world, analyzing great literature, and examining the human condition will help your son or daughter develop their intellect, defend their positions with evidence, and convey their ideas with clarity.

Practical Considerations vs. Intangibles

For many students, college selection emphasizes practical considerations:

- Will their studies prepare them for a rewarding career?
- Will they find a great job after they graduate?
- Will they be accepted to a top graduate or professional school?
- Will they (or perhaps you!) get a good return on the investment of time, energy, and money?

College is also an important personal life experience for your son or daughter, so it's important to weigh crucial intangibles, like these:

- Will they feel comfortable in college?
- What will their daily life be like?
- What kind of friends will they make?
- How will they adjust to life with a roommate?
- Will they find people who share their interests?
- Will they be able to explore new interests?
- How will they balance academics and activities?



Especially for traditional-age students, college is a time of change. Choosing to join a welcoming university community like Centenary can make the transition more manageable—and fun!

Centenary emphasizes relevant liberal arts that expose your son or daughter to ideas and concepts they can apply, no matter what career they choose.

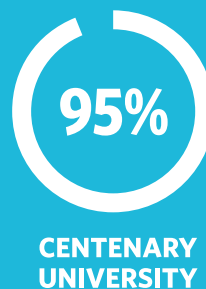
After Graduation

Outcomes reflect the value provided by each individual college. One way to judge a school's success is to look at what previous graduates, especially recent ones, are doing. Are they working in good jobs, participating in career-specific internships, or attending graduate or professional school? Are they emerging leaders in just about every field of interest?



Centenary students lead student organizations. Junior and senior students mentor freshmen. Students can get involved in their professors' research projects. Learning to lead is a major component of the Centenary experience.

PERCENTAGE OF
GRADUATES
EMPLOYED OR
IN GRADUATE
SCHOOL WITHIN
9 MONTHS OF
GRADUATION



NEXT STEPS

for Parents

Managing the college search process should be your son or daughter's responsibility, but you can help them through this sometimes overwhelming chapter of their life by empowering them to take charge of the following:



- Acquire information about colleges they find interesting.
- Visit schools in person, preferably when students are on campus.
- At each college, talk with students and faculty, attend a campus event, and get a feel for the campus community.
- Meet with representatives from admissions and financial aid to learn the actual, bottom-line cost of attending.
- Evaluate and compare total cost, the college experience, and potential outcomes.
- Revisit the most appealing colleges again.
- Apply for admission.



Closing Thoughts

If you have any questions about Centenary University, or the college selection process in general, please feel free to contact a member of our Admissions staff. No matter where the college search is pointing your son or daughter, we want to help.

Centenary University Admissions Office

Toll-free 800-236-8679

Email CentUAdmissions@centenaryuniversity.edu

www.centenaryuniversity.edu



Fast Facts

- Quality, Private, Affordable
- Founded 1867
- 2330 Total Enrollment
- 1150 full-time undergraduate students
- 1180 adult and graduate students
- 62% women, 38% men from 22 states and 7 countries
- 83% of freshmen live on campus
- 54 career-focused programs
- 30 concentrations
- 20 minors
- 13 graduate degrees
- 28 buildings on 105 acres in Hackettstown and Long Valley, NJ
- Learning centers in Parsippany and Edison, NJ
- Environmental Science Center at NJ State Fish Hatchery
- 14 NCAA Division III intercollegiate teams (Colonial States Athletic Conference)
- Nationally ranked equestrian riding teams



Thank You

for your interest in Centenary University. We are an inclusive and collaborative learning community dedicated to preparing our students to enter society as professionals and global citizens. The Centenary experience is distinguished by a fundamental belief in the full potential of each student, a strong liberal arts foundation, focused career preparation, and a culture of service to the community and to the world.



Follow Us



centenaryuniversity.edu

Centenary University of New Jersey is accredited by the Middle States Association of Schools and Colleges; Council on Social Work Education (CSWE); Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC); and International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education (IACBE).

Centenary University admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarships and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs. In accordance with the Jeanne Clery Act, Centenary University prepares, publishes and distributes an annual security report containing specific information about campus security. Policies and crime statistics are available at: Centenaryuniversity.edu/Safety



400 Jefferson Street
Hackettstown, NJ 07840
908-852-1400 • 800-236-8679