

SCSC College Recruiting Process – General Outline/Timeline



Freshman year of high school

- Start thinking about college/university
 - What fields of study might interest you?
 - Do you want to swim?
 - What part of the country are you open to?
- Start a preliminary list of schools to consider (should be a large list; 20+ schools)

Sophomore year of high school (spring semester)

- Begin refining the things that are important in your search
 - Fields of study
 - Swimming in college (what level?)
 - Do you want a bigger school, smaller school, etc?
 - Big city, small city, etc?
 - Single gender team or combined program?
- Go through list of schools and refine (remove some; add some; etc) – final list should have 10-12 schools
 - List should include several “reach” schools (2-3); in terms of swimming, this means these are schools you will need to improve significantly as a swimmer to be considered; could also be called “dream” schools
 - List should include a majority of “fit” schools (5-7); this means schools where you could swim at right now based on your current best times or will require a little improvement
 - List should include several “safe” schools (2-3); these are schools that, based on your current best times, you would be one of the better swimmers on the team; you would be ensured of being on the team
- Go through list of schools with coach
 - Coach may recommend adding or removing schools
- Register for the NCAA Clearinghouse/NCAA Eligibility Center: <https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/>
- Set up a profile at www.swimcloud.com
- Towards the end of your sophomore year (or into the summer following sophomore year) you will do the following based on the list of schools you have put together
 - Go to each school’s “swimming” website
 - Locate and complete each school’s “prospective student athlete questionnaire” (or similar) and submit to school
 - Prepare a resume (swimming and academic) to submit to each school’s head coach and recruiting coordinator (if applicable)
 - Make a list of questions that are important to you to find out about each school (examples below...add your own)
 - Financial questions? Scholarship (athletic and academic)/aid/etc
 - Questions about the college/university
 - Housing/living arrangements
 - What is the school like?
 - What are classes like?
 - What services do athletes receive?
 - Questions about the swim program
 - Coaching philosophy?
 - Team expectations?
 - How big is the team?

- How do they train?
- Have an honest discussion with your parents on what your family can afford for school (a ballpark idea, at least)

Junior year of high school

- Continue to refine the list of things important to you when determining your college/university
- Continue to update/refine your list of schools based on how you are swimming and what your academic interests are
- You will begin to field inquiries from colleges and universities
 - Set up correspondence with schools that have contacted you
 - Have phone conversations with the coach(es)
 - Ask the questions that are important to you (from above)
 - Take notes during calls so you will remember key talking things that were discussed
 - So you can follow up in future conversations
 - You can also compare with conversations with other schools
- Recruiting Trips
 - If the school is high enough on your list, you may discuss a recruiting trip (you only get 5)
 - Before going on a recruiting trip, you need to know if the school will work for you/your family financially
 - Take notes after the trip and list what you liked about the school and what you didn't like
 - So you can follow up in future conversations
 - You can also compare with conversations with other schools
- Committing to college/university
 - Once you have identified the school you wish to attend, you can "commit" to that school
 - This is a verbal agreement or "pledge" to that school and coach
 - Verbal commitments are not binding, however, you should not make a commitment if you are unsure and you should not change or "back out" of your commitment; likewise the college/university is expected to honor their end of the commitment

Senior year of high school

- Continue the process above if you have not yet made a college decision or commitment
 - It is completely ok if this decision occurs during your senior year (there is no hurry to make this decision; take your time to make the best decision for you)
- National Letter of Intent (Signing Day)
 - There are two periods for signing an NLI (one week in the late fall; in the spring)
 - After signing the NLI, your commitment is binding

RESOURCES

- www.swimcloud.com
 - great place to research schools based on swimming; many search parameters available to identify schools that might be a good fit
- College/University athletic and swimming pages
 - find "top time" reports
- Western University Exchange (WUE)
 - <https://www.wiche.edu/tuition-savings/wue/>

SCSC RESOURCES

- Ask your coaches for help when you need it
 - If you are having trouble getting in touch with a school or coach, ask your SCSC coaches to help reach out on your behalf

- When making your list of schools, ask your SCSC coaches to give you some advice and/or recommendations for schools to consider
- SCSC parents who have had swimmers go through the program and go off to school
- They can help you understand the process and give you some “tips”

NOTES:

The recruiting process can be stressful...get ahead of it and be organized. The goal of this process is to identify the best school, athletically and academically, for each of our swimmers. Even if your child decides they do not want to continue swimming in college, this process can help identify the best school for them.

Be patient...there is no rush to make a decision once things get rolling. This is a big “life” decision and you want to make the best choice with as much information as you can. Do not let anyone pressure you into a decision you are not ready to make.

Have a good understanding, with your family, about what you can afford for school. This will be important once you start talking more seriously with schools about swimming for them.

SCSC coaches can help as much as needed in this process. In terms of swimming, we want to help the swimmers find a place where they can contribute and flourish as an athlete. Not every college coach will be a good fit for every swimmer. Our knowledge of the coaches at the university level can help swimmers find the right coach personality fit for the swimmers.