



## Safety Schools

**What is a safety school?** A safety school is one you are fairly certain will admit you. But one person's safety school might be another person's "reach." So this is a very individual designation. Mrs. Schweber will help you figure out if a school can reasonably be considered a safety school for you.

**What should I consider in choosing a safety school?** Be sure it is a school you really would be willing to attend. There is no point to applying if you would never go there.

**Should I let a school know it is my safety?** No. Not only will you sound arrogant, but if it is at all selective, they may not select you if they know you will turn them down upon getting a better offer. Colleges are considered more or less "selective" partly based on their "yield"—the number of accepted students who enroll.

**So what if an alumni interviewer asks where else I am applying?** It is appropriate to be vague. Stating that you are applying to the UW-Madison is always a fine answer, and one that would be expected anyway. Be careful of saying anything that might give the idea that the college is low on your list.

**But what about those questions on applications asking what other colleges I am applying to?** They are looking for two things: In what league does this student consider him/herself? and, Are we this student's safety? If the college specifically requires you to list all colleges you are applying to, then you must do so.

**If my safety school accepts me, should I say yes?** Not until you have heard from your other colleges. Schools may not require you to accept their offers until May 1, unless you have applied Early Decision.

**Do I have to apply to a safety school, or can I apply late, if I don't get accepted anywhere?** MCDS strongly advises you to include a safety school among your applications. It does occasionally happen that a student does not get accepted anywhere, and it is usually because he/she didn't have a safety, or didn't have an appropriate safety. Be aware that after April 1 there are significantly fewer schools with available places, and most financial aid is gone. It can also be quite difficult to get on-campus housing if you are admitted late.