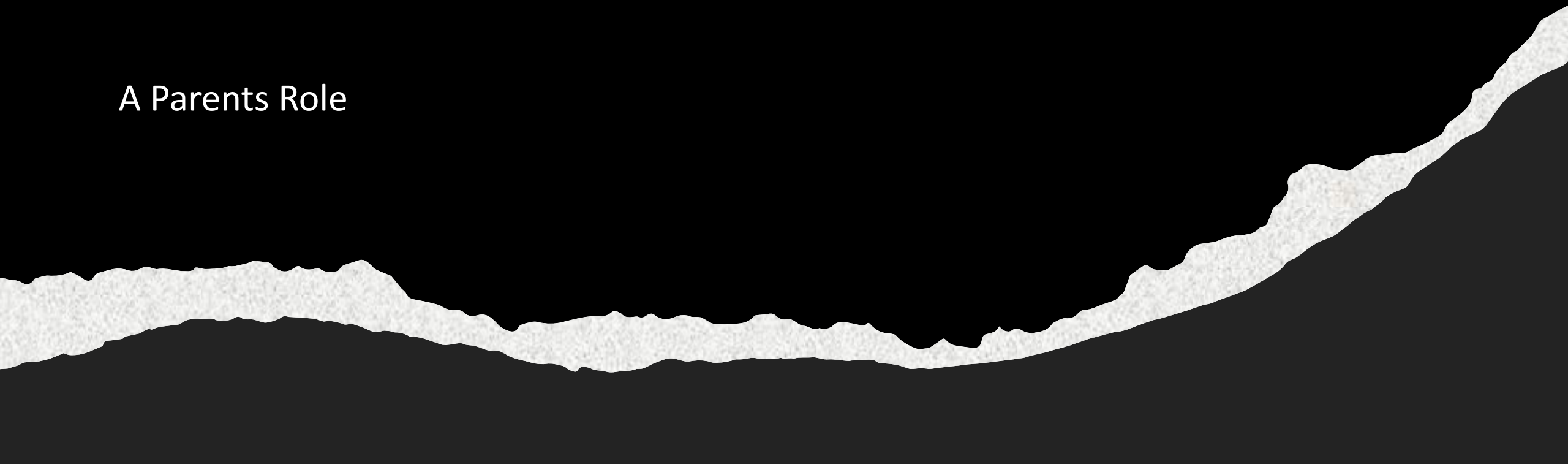


The College Countdown

A Parents Role



Write down the first 3 to
4 words or phrases that
come to mind when you
hear the word college



Now write down the first 3 or 4 words or phrases that come to mind when you hear the words “college admissions”

What about the why?



Why did you go to college (if you did)?



Where did you go to college? Where else did you consider?



How would you go about searching for and applying to college differently today?



If you had it to do over what about your college experience would you do differently?



What do you wish you had known earlier?

What about your child's why?

- Do you want to go to college? Why?
- What about high school do you appreciate the most?
- Which classes do you look forward to the most? Why?
- Why do you want to go to college?
- What is most important to you as you leave high school and look ahead at your next chapter?
- What opportunities do you want the college experience to provide in the future?
- Why are you willing to work hard academically beyond high school to earn a college degree?



Step one decision about where your child wants to apply

- They should first reflect on what their expectations are for their future?
- Does the type of work they want require a 2-year, 4 year or graduate degree?
- If they plan on going to a 4-year college where? How big? What are they looking for that will make it comfortable for them?
- If they are still looking where should they start?
 - Naviance
 - College Express
 - Cappex (College Greenlight)
 - Where do they find if financial fit?
<http://collegecost.ed.gov/scorecard/index.aspx>

MATCH



FIT



COST

College Admission Experience is about researching and opening minds to new ideas

- If you or your child were asked to write the names of the first seven colleges or universities that popped in your head which colleges would it probably be?
- Usually it brings the names of predictable schools, like Harvard, Yale, University of Maryland etc.
- There are over 4600 colleges in the US, including 2-year, trade schools, etc.



What do you know about colleges in the US?

- Colleges that Change Lives
- Average Admit rate of Big 10 universities
- Number of American colleges with undergraduate populations of around 1,000
- Number of American colleges starting with the letter B
- Number of colleges admitting less than 33 percent of applicants
- Number of American universities with undergraduate populations of more than 20,000
- Average admit rate for four-year colleges



- Colleges that Change Lives
40
- Average Admit rate of Big 10 universities
55%
- Number of American colleges with undergraduate populations of around 1,000
1,500
- Number of American colleges starting with the letter B
300
- Number of colleges admitting less than 33 percent of applicants
100
- Number of American universities with undergraduate populations of more than 20,000
270
- Average admit rate for four-year colleges
64%

Check out these numbers

Being realistic about college affordability

Public In State – partially funded by gov't which results in cheaper sticker price for in state students. However, usually large pool of applicants so tougher to earn any type of scholarship.

Public Out of State – typically not great financial fits, less chance of any meaningful scholarship.

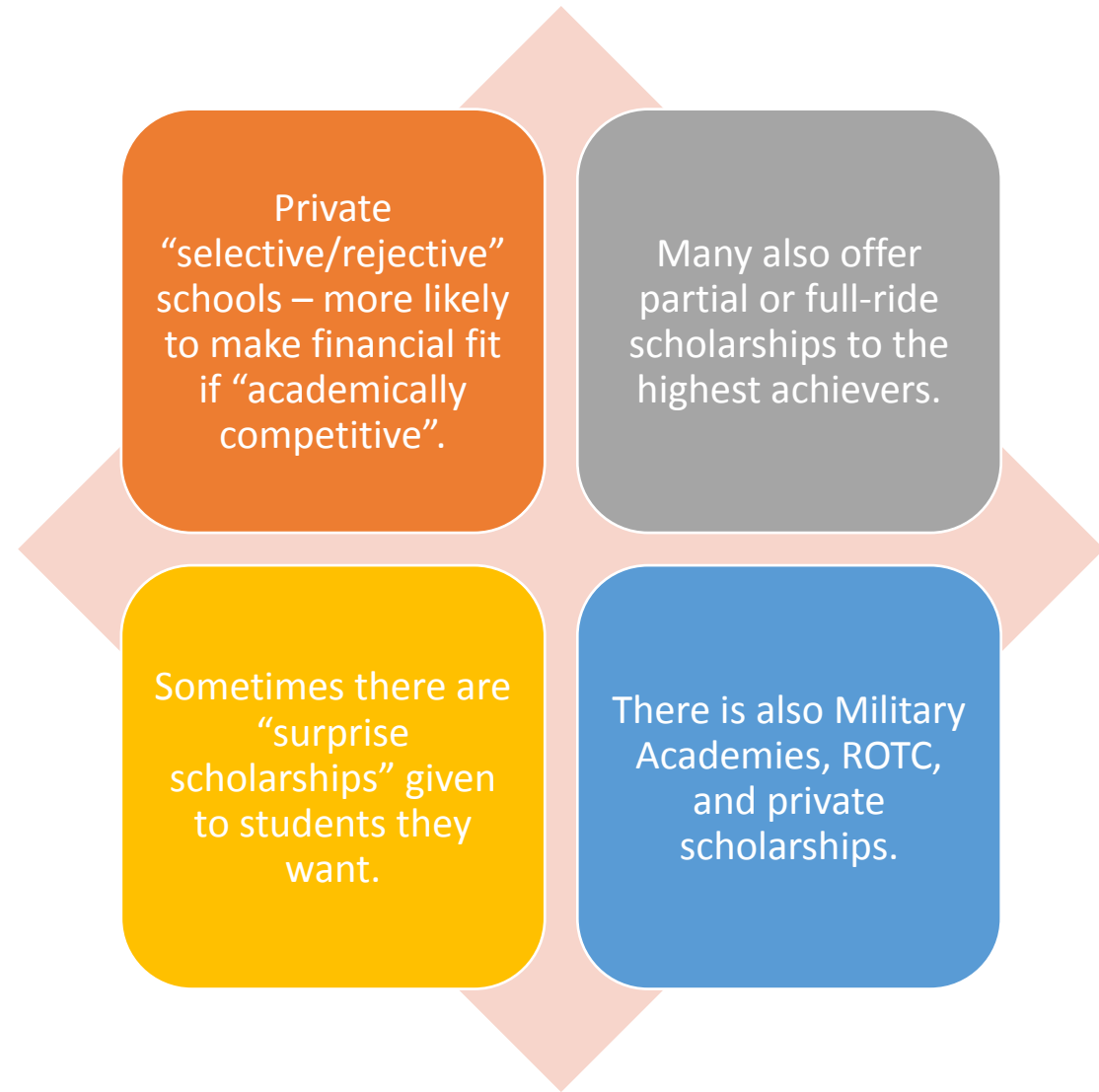
Public two year colleges – community, some have dorms, if go and plan to transfer try to get in Phi Beta Kappa (an academic honor society) better chance for scholarship money when transfer.

Private Schools – more likely to be flexible with scholarships. Sometimes can meet or better cost of in state school.

Elite Competitive Scholarships make out of state schools more affordable.

- Based on Academic achievement, Test Scores, Leadership, Service
 - Many require nominations
 - Should look at profiles of past winners for the attributes that lead to these scholarships
 - Many include interviews
 - Examples:
 - UNC Chapel Hill – Morehead Cain Scholarship
 - UNC Chapel Hill & Duke – Robinson Scholarship
 - North Carolina State – Park Scholarship
 - University of Virginia – Jefferson Scholarship
 - UNC – Charlotte – Levine Scholarship

Other Ways to make Financial Fit



HIGH-ACHIEVING/
HIGH-NEED PROGRAMS
(POSSE/JACK KENT COOKE/
QUESTBRIDGE/GATES)

COLLEGE ESSAY GUY
APPLICATION HUB &
MATCHLIGHTERS

#1

AWESOME

TWO COLLEGES'
SCHOLARSHIP WEBPAGES

COLLEGEBOARD'S NET
PRICE CALCULATOR

MOST GENEROUS
COLLEGES INTERVIEWS

#2

IN-STATE PUBLIC
UNIVERSITIES'
AID OPTIONS

NOT RICH

RICH

COMMUNITY COLLEGE
2+2 PROGRAM
(NC'S RIBN,
NC STATE C3)

#3

NOT AWESOME

LESS SELECTIVE PRIVATE
WEBPAGE

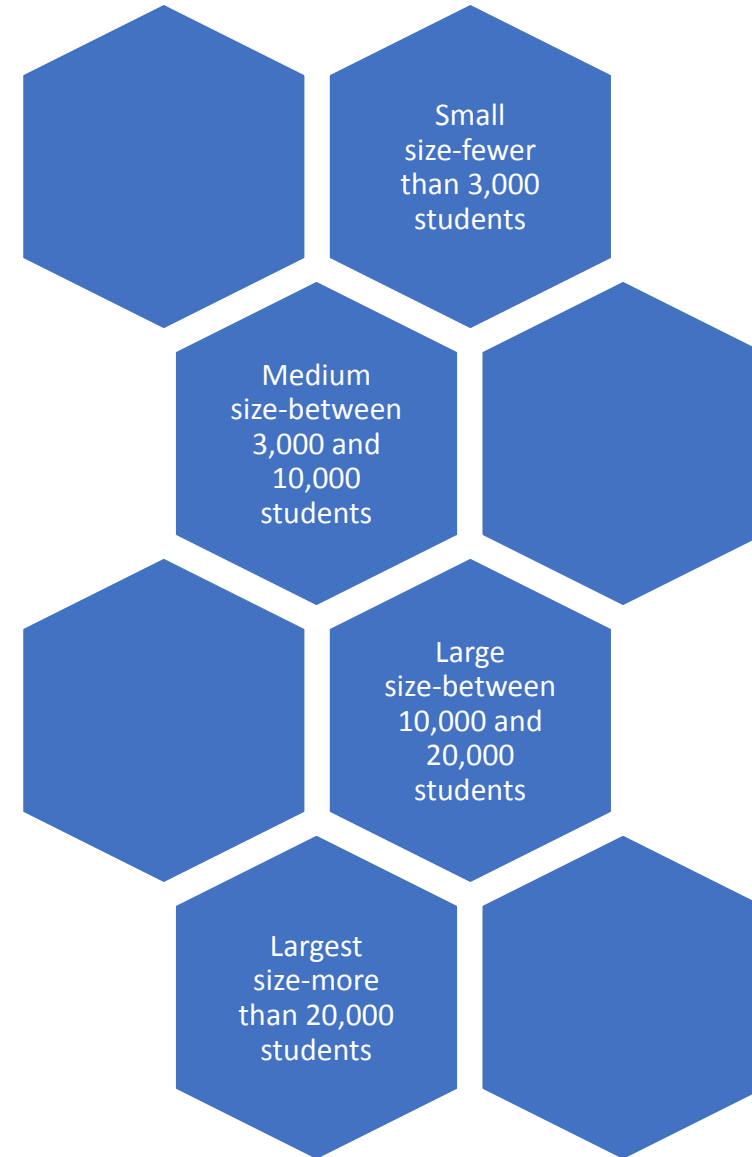
SUMMER BRIDGE/
SPRING ACCEPTANCE
PROGRAM

#4

APPRENTICESHIP/
EMPLOYER-FUNDED
(STARBUCKS ACHIEVEMENT PLAN,
ATRIUM'S RISE TO SUCCESS)

GAP YEAR OPTIONS
(NOLS, ROTARY,

Other Factors
that affect your
child's decision
Some basic size
distinctions



Qualities cont'd – Academic Environment

What level of intellectual intensity or academic pressure are you comfortable with?

- Are your children figuring they will have to work hard and study hard? (there should be no other choice or why are they going?)

What about academic pressure and competition?

- Are they okay with a tremendous workload?
- Do they prioritize well?
- Can they discipline themselves?

If you say yes to these than select a college with a competitive academic environment. However if become distraught with:

- a grade lower than an A,
- do not work well under stress?

Then they may want a college with less academic pressure.

Are any of
these
important?

internships/work experiences

learning resources (learning center, tutors, extra time on tests, etc.)

considerable freedom in choosing courses

programs for students with learning style differences (LD, ADD, ADHD, etc.)

independent study options

applying what I learn to real world problems

preparation for the military

more hands-on learning opportunities

counseling/psychological/medical services

courses geared to my specific academic/career interests

excellent study abroad programs

research opportunities

personalized academic advising

personalized career advising

writing center

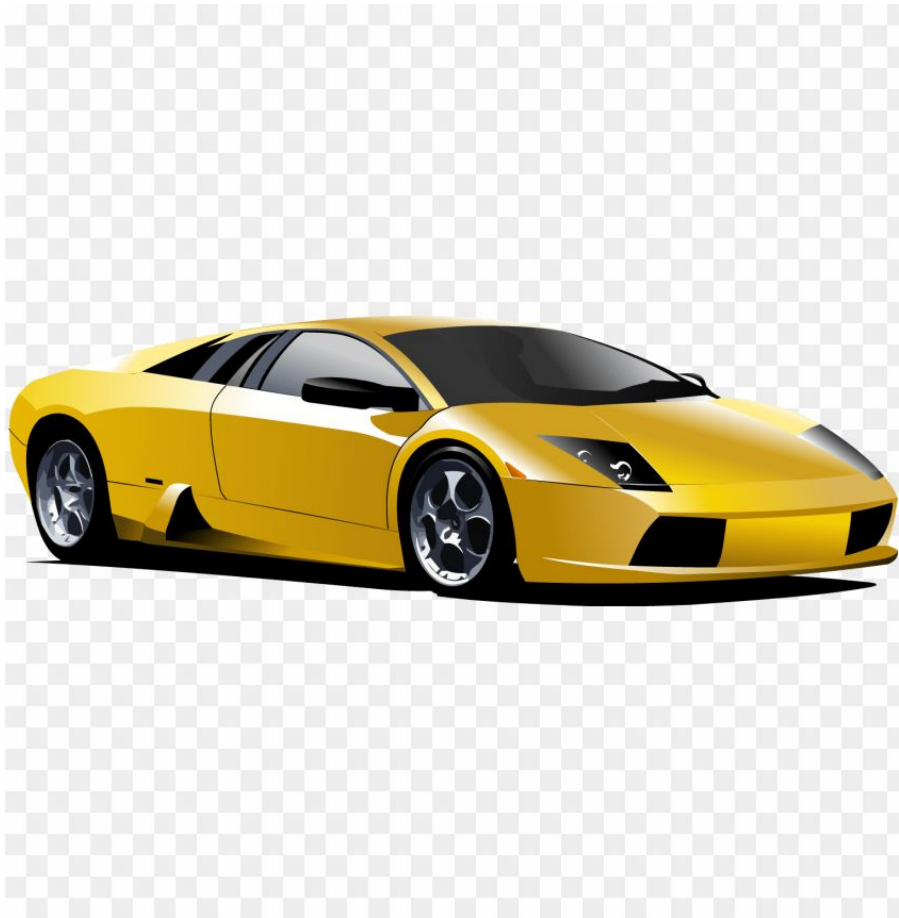
The best college searches are the ones that help students discover themselves along the way!



Colleges have a wide funnel of prospective students that tapers down through the admission process.

Students start their search near the bottom of the funnel, based on preconceived notions of quality or name.

The perception of the car shapes the way you feel about it. Same for college.



A few tips from Steven Antonoff to help

1

Visualize your perfect day at college.

2

Research schools on: Collegexpress & use practical college research tools.

3

Relieve some stress by adding 2-3 schools you have a good chance of getting into (because you probably haven't yet).

4

Plan 3 school visits to 3 very different colleges/universities.

How many colleges have they narrowed it down to?
And do they have a good list?

You should have between 6 and 12 colleges on your final list.

They should be broken down:

3 Reach

3 Target or Probably

3 Likely (if more schools on list they should fit in Target or Likely)

Importance of Probably and Likely Schools

- The more you “fit” by institutional standards into or above the school criteria the better chance for Merit Scholarships!



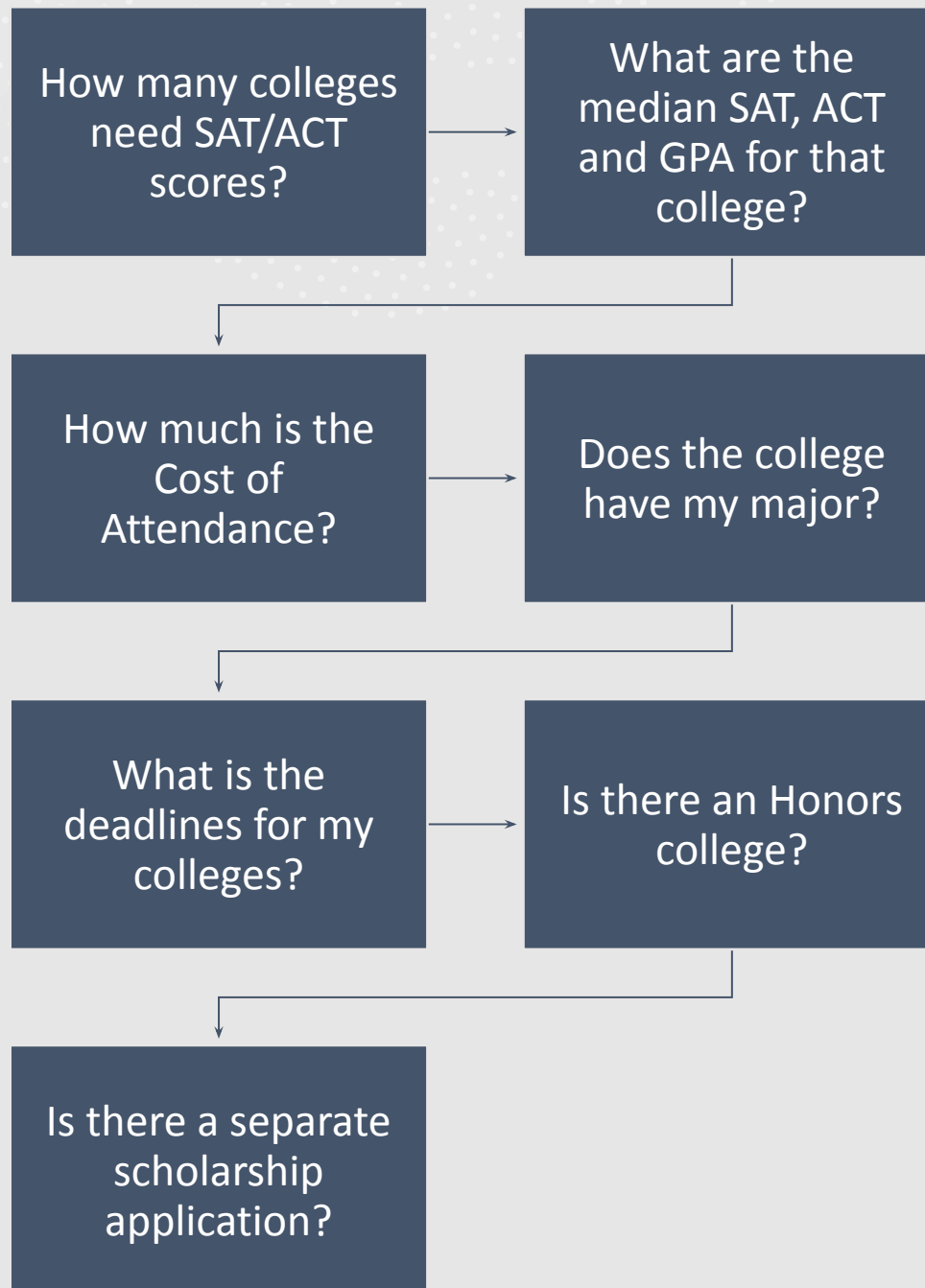
Your list should
look something
like this



Your list should look something like this

FIT	MATCH	COST
▶ Type	SAFE/LIKELY/SLAM DUNK	FINANCIAL SAFETY
▶ Coed/Single Sex	1-2	At least 1-2
▶ 2-year/4-year		
▶ Military/Art/HBCU		
▶ Residential/Commuter		
▶ Size	TARGET/MATCH	FINANCIAL MATCH
▶ Location	2-4	FINANCIAL REACH
▶ Urban/Rural		
▶ Distance from Home		
▶ College Town/City	REACH/STRETCH 1-2	No More Than 2
▶ Majors/Activities		
▶ Academic Options		"WAIT AND SEE" No More Than 2

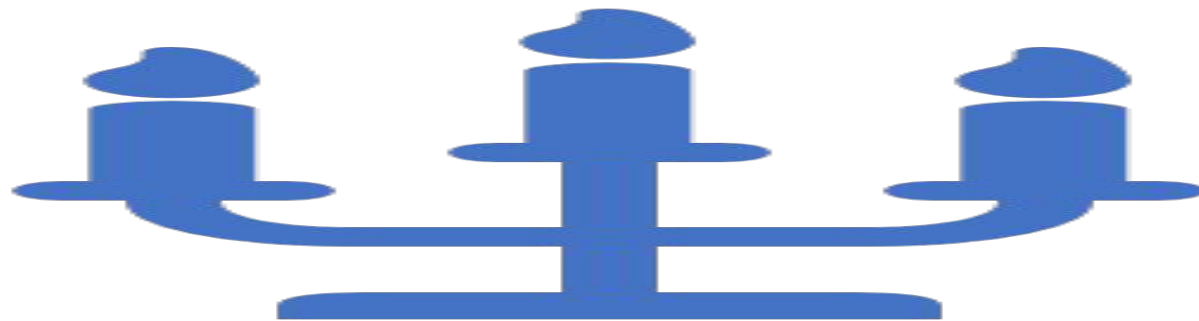
So your child
has their list,
or have
they?



Then you should also have something that looks like this

[illegible]

Test Date	Test	Registration Deadline	Late Registration	Multiple Choice Scores Available
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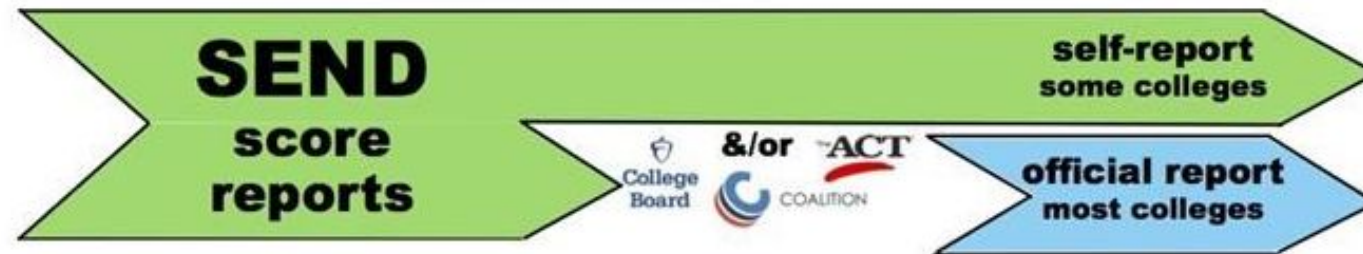
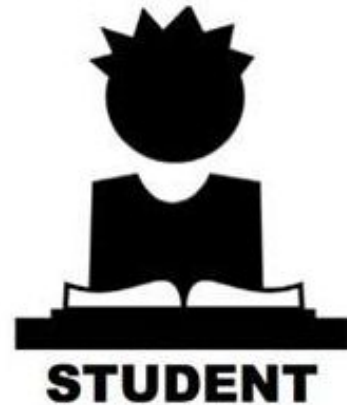


August 26, 2023	SAT	July 28, 2024	August 15, 2023	September 18, 2023*
September 9, 2023	ACT	August 4, 2023	August 18, 2023*	September 22–November 1, 2023*
October 7, 2023	SAT	September 8, 2023	September 26, 2023	October 13, 2023*
October 28, 2023	ACT	September 22, 2023	October 6, 2023*	November 10–December 22, 2023*
November 4, 2023	SAT	October 6, 2023	October 24, 2023	November 17, 2023*
December 2, 2023	SAT	November 3, 2023	November 21, 2023	December 15, 2023*
December 9, 2023	ACT	November 3, 2023	November 10, 2023*	December 22, 2023– February 2, 2024*

Test Prep Ideas

- College Board or Khan Academy - <https://www.khanacademy.org/SAT>
- ACT Academy - <https://tinyurl.com/2p8hkvpn>
- Method Test Prep - <https://www.methodtestprep.com/>
- Compass Test Prep - <https://www.compassprep.com/>
- The Answer Class - <https://theanswerclass.com/>
- Kaplan - <https://www.kaptest.com/>
- Peterson - <https://www.petersons.com/testprep/>
- Private Tutor
- Also buy or borrow SAT Test Prep book or ACT Test Prep book

STEPS TO APPLY TO 4-YEAR COLLEGES



College Visits

- When to go
 - When college is in session
 - Spring Break
 - Long weekend
 - Fall
 - Summer to see campus
- Schedule tour
- Schedule time to talk to admissions rep if possible
- Talk to students other than tour guide
- Make sure look at dorms, cafeteria, gym, etc.
- Research town
- Look at bulletin boards
- Pick up college newspaper or journal



College Visits: Enjoy your visit and your trip

- Don't plan too much for one day.
- Try to have a map of campus and surrounding areas.
- Maybe even go into town and visit a local coffee shop, see what they think about the college.



College Visits: Enjoy your visit and your trip

- Don't plan too much for one day.
- Try to have a map of campus and surrounding areas.
- Maybe even go into town and visit a local coffee shop, see what they think about the college.

Anywhere else to research?

- The College Tour on Amazon or <https://www.thecollege tour.com/watch/texas-am-university/>



This week we are back in Texas with a beautiful episode of Texas A&M University! With Nobel Prize-winning faculty, 140 fields of study, and over 1,100 student organizations, Texas A&M produces the leaders of tomorrow. Hear from some of them during the episode!



Welcome to Texas A&M University!

Welcome to Aggieland! Located in Bryan-College Station, Texas A&M University is the largest public university in the United States. It is a

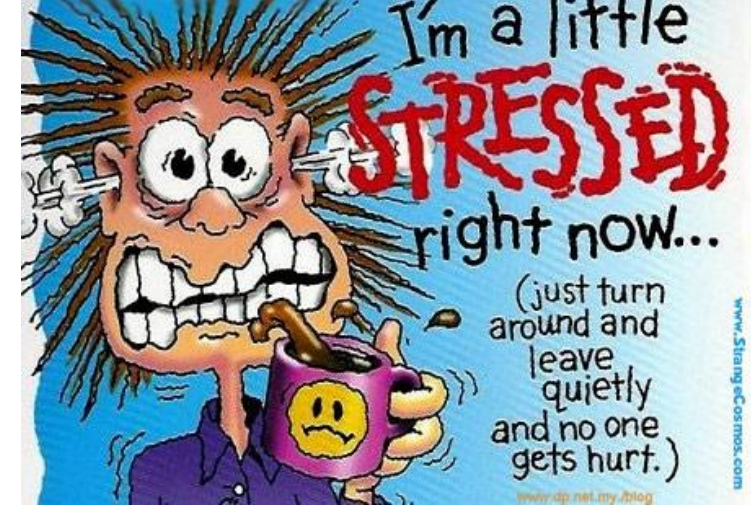
land-, sea-, and space-grant institution dedicated to creating leaders and shaping the world. In this episode, Aggie students will share their stories so you can explore the vast opportunities available for students and their expansive campus with vibrant student life at Texas A&M.

Preparing for you College Interview

- For some schools interviewing for college admission is optional.

Before interview research school

- If you can have someone help with a mock interview.
- Make a good impression!
- Dress appropriately
- Don't forget a pen and paper
- Arrive on time



Prepare a list of your own questions

- What do students seem to like best about your school?

How does the school match roommates?

What is your favorite part of campus?

How does the advising system work?

How many student's in last year's freshman class returned for sophomore year?

Academic Resume

Ultimate goal is to create a few concise but descriptive statements to showcase your experiences. Statements should contain action words and specific examples

Things to think about beyond just what you did:

- How did you do it?
- Why was it important?
- What impact did it have?
- What did you learn or gain from it?
- Ex: President of the Spanish Club
- Planned agendas and led weekly meetings of approx. 20 club members

Every Academic Resume will be different because it is yours-You can be creative

contact

123.456.789
AmeliaRoberts@gmail.com
45 Winfield Dr.
Charleston, SC 90764
LinkedIn.com/username

123.456.789

AmeliaRoberts@gmail.com

45 Winfield Dr.

Charleston, SC 90764

LinkedIn.com/username

education

CLASS OF 2019, 3.8/4.0 GPA
Heritage High School
Charleston, SC

CLASS OF 2019, 3.8/4.0 GPA

Heritage High School

Charleston, SC

RELEVANT COURSEWORK

Intro to Business /
Entrepreneurship / Computer
Applications

Intro to Business /

Entrepreneurship / Computer

Applications

awards

National Merit Scholarship Finalist
Academic Honor Roll

National Merit Scholarship Finalist

Academic Honor Roll

key skills

Spanish - Conversational
70+ WMP Typist
Google Suite
Customer Service
Project Planning / Budgeting
Public Speaking

Spanish - Conversational

70+ WMP Typist

Google Suite

Customer Service

Project Planning / Budgeting

Public Speaking

career objective

Responsible and ambitious student (3.8/4.0 GPA) with excellent time management. Seeking to apply my customer service abilities and project/event planning skills to the Business Development summer internship at your company. Possess proven communication skills and strong work ethic that will aid your company in meeting its milestones.

Responsible and ambitious student (3.8/4.0 GPA) with excellent time management. Seeking to apply my customer service abilities and project/event planning skills to the Business Development summer internship at your company. Possess proven communication skills and strong work ethic that will aid your company in meeting its milestones.

volunteer experience

INFORMATION DESK ASSISTANT
MUSC Children's Hospital / 2019 - Present
Greet hospital patients and visitors and provide guidance in finding the proper patient room, clinic, or various departments
Process and distribute mail and newspapers to patient rooms
Assist wheelchair-bound patients in reaching their desired destinations

INFORMATION DESK ASSISTANT

MUSC Children's Hospital / 2019 - Present

Greet hospital patients and visitors and provide guidance in finding the proper patient room, clinic, or various departments

Process and distribute mail and newspapers to patient rooms

Assist wheelchair-bound patients in reaching their desired destinations

extracurriculars

VOLUNTEER
One80 Place Homeless Shelter / 2016 - 2017
Organized a successful schoolwide canned food drive that collected 400+ cans in one month (November 2016)
Assisted in biweekly meal preparation and lunch service on Saturdays
Processed incoming food donations and organized food pantry, developing new system of grouping items by expiration date to reduce monthly food waste by 15%

VOLUNTEER

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Processed incoming food donations and organized food pantry, developing new system of grouping items by expiration date to reduce monthly food waste by 15%

Amy Anderson

Sometown, AZ 85701 • 555-555-5555 • aa@someomain.com • LinkedIn URL

Profile

Veterinary assistant

whose qualifications include a high school diploma (earned with honors) and a passion for the health, well-being and safety of animals. Developed animal care skills through:

Dedicated service as an SPCA animal shelter volunteer;

Active member and officer in 4-H;

Experience as a horse owner and competitive barrel racer; and

Experience as a household pet owner (dogs, cats, rabbits, hamsters, macaw).

Education

SOMETOWN HIGH SCHOOL — Sometown, AZ

Diploma, 2016 (GPA: 3.8)

Honors: National Honor Society • Sanford A. Greeley Scholarship

Volunteerism

SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS — Sometown, AZ

Animal Ambassador II, 1/16 to Present

Animal Ambassador I, 10/14 to 12/15

Advanced to level II animal ambassador at Sometown SPCA Animal Shelter after completing intensive Animal Handling training program.

Demonstrated dedication to the SPCA by volunteering for an average of 16 hours monthly. Assist in training, socializing and feeding animals awaiting adoption as well as handling basic shelter upkeep tasks.

Qualified for Veterinary Medical Assistant training program, set to begin this spring.

Activities & Awards

Member / Vice President • 4-H (Sometown Chapter), 2015 to Present

County Winner (Second Place) • 4-H Public Speaking Contest, 2016

State 4-H Finalist • Level I Equestrian (Western), 2015

Top 3 Finalist • Multiple youth-division barrel races, 2013 to 2016

Testimonials

...Amy has been a dedicated SPCA volunteer...her love of animals is evident in the caring treatment she has consistently provided. She has a gentle, calming manner that animals respond to..."

— Marcy Elias, Director, Sometown SPCA Shelter

...Amy is a hard worker and a fast learner...I seldom have to show her something more than once before she has mastered it...She interacts very well with shelter staff, fellow volunteers and the general public...I have no doubt that Amy will make a fine veterinary assistant...she has my highest recommendation."

— Bill Short, Vet Assistant, Sometown SPCA Shelter

Your Name

High School Student

123 Your Street
Your City, ST 12345
(123) 456-7890
no_reply@example.com

SKILLS

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed diam nonummy nibh euismod tincidunt ut laoreet dolore magna aliquam erat volutpat.

EXPERIENCE

Company Name, Location - Job Title

MONTH 20XX - PRESENT

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit.

Aenean ac interdum nisi. Sed in consequat mi.

Company Name, Location - Job Title

MONTH 20XX - MONTH 20XX

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit.

Aenean ac interdum nisi. Sed in consequat mi.

Company Name, Location - Job Title

MONTH 20XX - MONTH 20XX

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit.

Aenean ac interdum nisi. Sed in consequat mi.

EDUCATION

School Name, Location - Degree

MONTH 20XX - MONTH 20XX

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed diam nonummy nibh euismod tincidunt ut laoreet dolore.

AWARDS

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit.

Aenean ac interdum nisi.

After you choose your colleges, visit, interview and narrow your list...

TIME TO DECIDE HOW YOU WILL APPLY

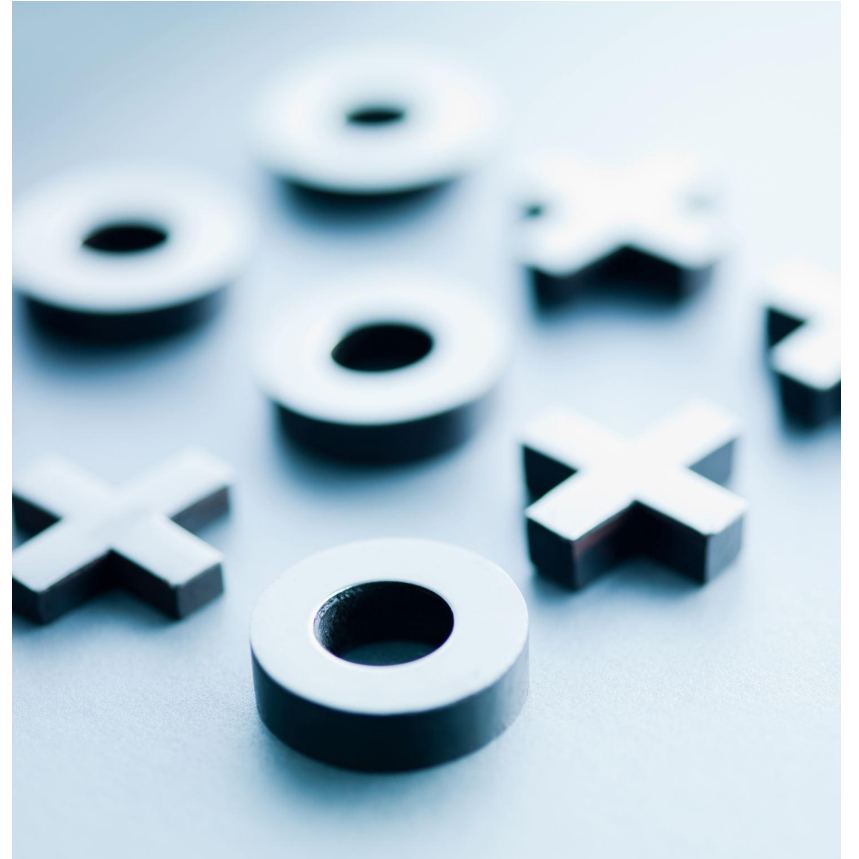
1. Early Decision – This is **BINDING** and you can only apply to one school ED. If you get in you have to immediately withdraw all other applications and plan to attend.

2. Early Action – This is non-binding. You can apply to several colleges Early Action. You apply early and get a decision early but do not have to confirm till May 1st.

3. Restrictive Early Action – Non-binding but not suppose to apply to any other schools EA, ED.

4. Regular Decision – Non-Binding, can apply to other schools you want any way you want.

5. Rolling Admissions – The college will review applications as they become complete.
Hint: Apply early because once the spots are full, they're full!



Early Decision Guidelines

- Should Consider if:
 - You have visited & have very good knowledge of a number of colleges
 - Have narrowed choices to one-if admitted will attend
 - Your cumulative GPA & SAT/ACT scores are competitive for college
 - Course work meets rigor suggested
 - You can afford college
- Reconsider if
 - You are counting on October SAT
 - You suspect your record is not yet good enough
 - If you feel like you are just now going to step up academically
 - Or if you're really not sure where you want to go.



College Applications

Good News

- Online applications are the norm
- Colleges accept 2/3 of freshman applications.
- There are almost 4000 colleges in the US

Bad News

- **Restrictive colleges** are named that for a reason

What application platform should I use?

Common Application

Common
Application-Over 1000
institutions

Pros

Common App completely
free to use. (Colleges
have application fees but
platform free.)

Sends out system alerts
when deadlines are
approaching to keep you
on track.

Keeps a requirement
tracker for each
application (including
essays and when to
submit your FAFSA)

Allows you to self-report
test scores

BUT STILL HAVE TO SEND
OFFICIAL TO MOST
SCHOOLS

- Comes as a mobile app, which can keep task lists and give you alerts.
- Provides a virtual Counselor
- Offers services in Spanish
- Been around since 1975, significant experience.
- **CONS**
- **Because of multiple applications, colleges relying more on demonstrated interest.**

Common Application

Common App was designed to simplify the application process



Free online application



Colleges and Universities join agreeing to accept the Common App from students who choose to use it.




Should you use Common App?

There are now over 1000 college using the college app, if your college is on there, YES

- Some sites for you to visit:
- [Common App Site:](https://www.commonapp.org)
<https://www.commonapp.org>
- App Support:
<https://appsupport.commonapp.org/>
- Virtual Counselor:
<https://www.commonapp.org/virtual-counselor>
- Common App You Tube Video Help
<https://www.youtube.com/user/CommonAppMedia>

There is also other applications

Common Black College Application - \$20 dollar fee to apply to all 68 college members. Need to visit the college websites individually to see what essay requirement or recommendations needed.



University of California (UC) Schools have own application



There are other schools such as Georgetown, University of Chicago and some others who have own application and requirements.

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide, featuring a stylized globe with a blue and green color scheme. The globe is partially visible, showing the top and left edges.

Recommendations and Essays

- Your student needs to ask 2 Academic teachers if they could please write them a POSITIVE recommendation. No later than Sept. 15th
- Follow up with Teacher recommendation packet.
- They should NOT Forget to do their School Counselors Packet as soon as they can but do a good job! Should get it done sooner rather than later

The personal essay statement

Common Application's personal essay is 650 words

Other applications have different word counts

How do you start

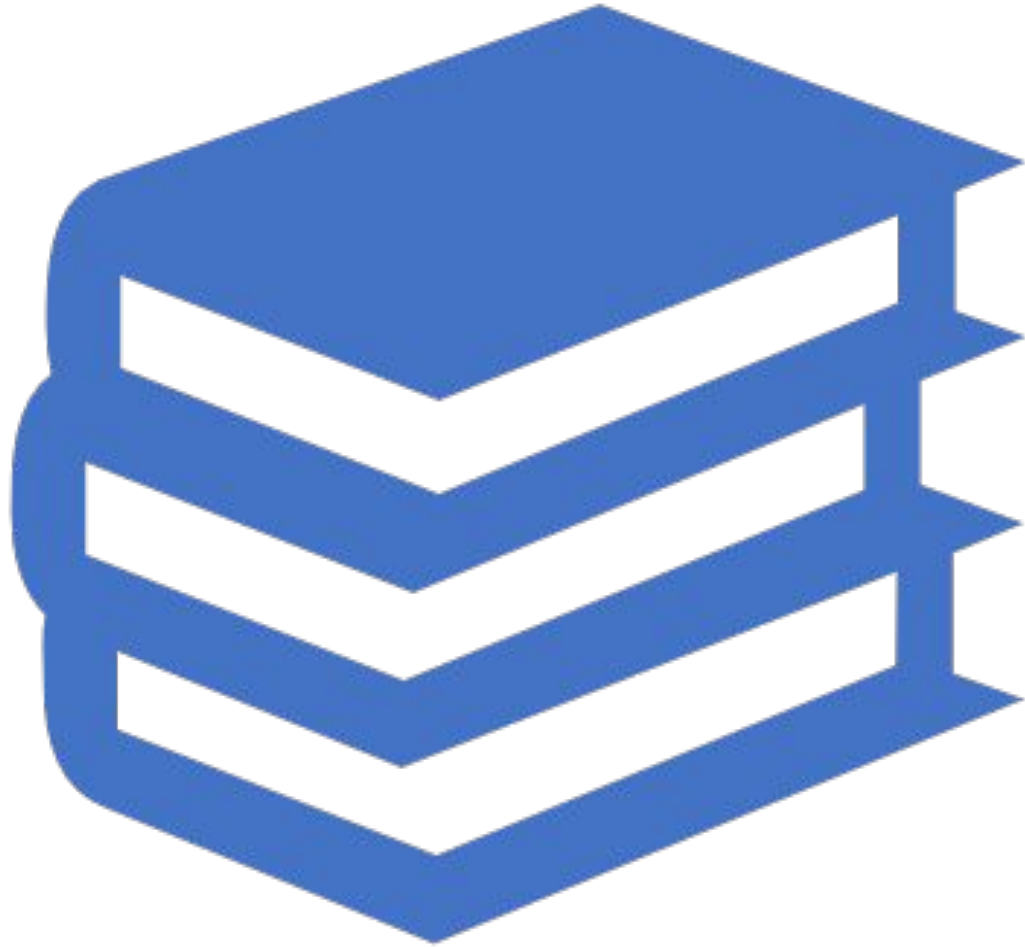
- One way:
 - Each week set a day aside and sit for 30 to 60 minutes and just start writing.
 - If you do not get anywhere stop till the next week and try again.
 - If you do get going keep going with it. Then take a break for a couple of days and come back and see if still like it or want to go a different way etc.
- OR attend a college essay camp

College Planner

- #1 Rule to remember- Colleges are businesses and very big businesses at that.
 - In 2011 Dartmouth's budget was over 850 million dollars
 - Houston Community College was just shy of 300 million dollars.

According to College Board average cost of tuition, fees, and room and board at private, non-profit, four year college is \$48,510. Cost of attendance at some is over \$70,000 a year.





What can a student do to obtain the highest percentage of need:

- GPA
- Standardized Test Scores
- Rigor
- Community Involvement
- School Activities
- Volunteering for the betterment of humanity

What are some other ways to receive aid for college

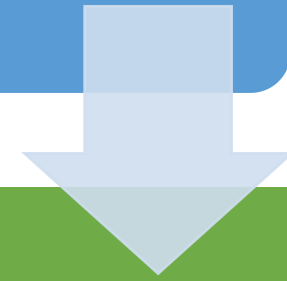
ROTC Scholarships

Full or Partial-ride scholarships

Co-op Programs

What are college Co-Op Programs?

Co-ops – or cooperative educational experiences – offer students the chance of payment and academic credit for an actual job experience during their undergraduate career.



According to The College Affordability Guide, 56.8% of employers made full-time offers to their co-op students.

- Even if your co-op company doesn't hire your cohort pool, your practical work experience make you appealing to other employers

Difference between Co-op and Internships

- One major difference between internship and co-op is that co-ops tend to be full-time positions that take place over course of semester.
- Internships are generally fewer hours and considered part-time positions.
- Schools more thoroughly vet experiences for co-op, they don't want you filling co-workers coffee orders.

- There are 3 standard models of co-op
 1. Alternating semester- alternate one sems. Academic and next sems. Full-time co-op
 2. Part-time program – you work at co-op like any other part time job
 3. One semester program – this one requires you to complete just one semester of a co-op program.

Most universities plan for you to finish degree and co-op in four years a few allow for five to finish it.

Does Income from Co-ops Impact Financial Aid?

Most schools, your co-op wages don't count toward your Expected Family Income (next year the EFC will be called the SAI, Student Aid Index). This means you won't have to worry about paying more.

Co-op earnings are considered regular earned income for tax purposes and are reported as earned income on the FAFSA (for the prior-prior year it was earned).

However, question 44f on the FAFSA asks about co-op earnings.

In the student income section of the SAI worksheet, co-op earnings are subtracted from total student income.

Financial Aid

FAFSA.gov or
Studentaid.gov

FAFSA stands for – **Free
Application for Student
Aid**

Your Prior Prior year of
taxes will be 2022

FAFSA-if you
will start
college Fall
of 2024

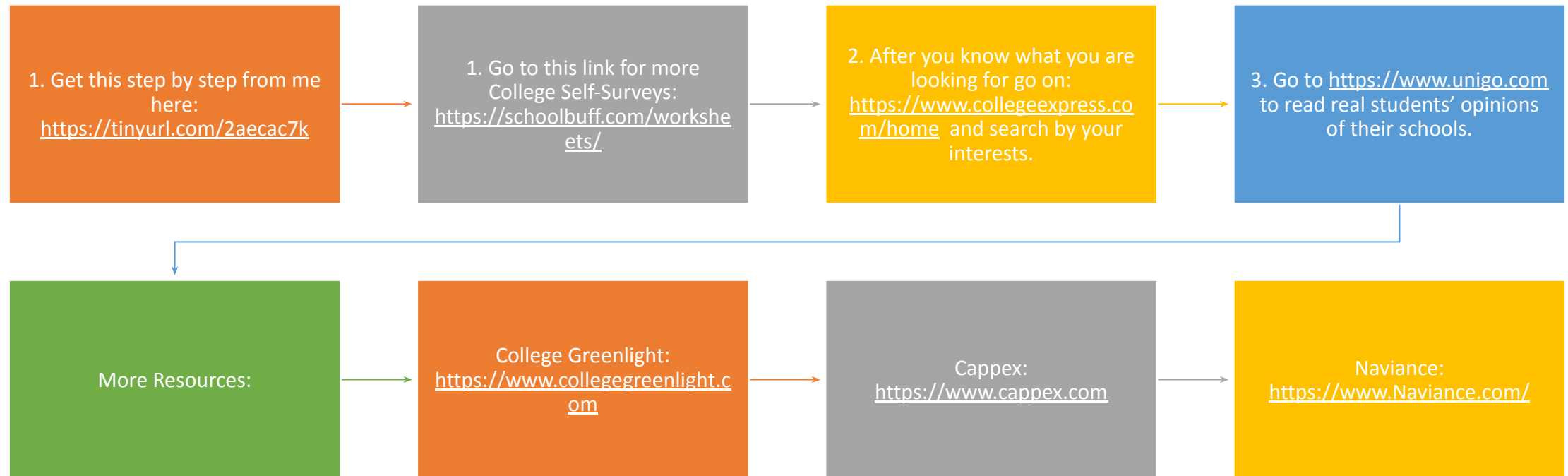




FAFSA for 2024

WILL NOT OPEN TILL DECEMBER 2023

Still can't figure out how to make your list?



A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a dark blue pen, poised to write on a document. The document contains various tables and text, typical of a college application form. A large, irregular white shape has been cut out from the right side of the image, creating a clean space for text.

Other Resources

- The College List by Steven Antonoff
 - The Truth about College Admission/Workbook by Brennan Barnard and Rick Clark
 - College that Change Lives
 - The Price You Pay for College
 - College Essentials by College Essay Guy
-
- Podcasts
 - The Truth about College
 - College Essay Guy