



Next Step Newsletter

Don't Pay Sticker Price

Over the last 20 years, the average tuition and fees at *private* universities have jumped 157%. Think that's bad? The average *in-state* tuition and fees at *public* universities have risen a whopping 237%.

After recovering from sticker shock, there is some good news: 80% of students attending college receive a discount through a combination of federal, state, and institutional grants; private scholar-

ships; federal student loans; and work study. It's slightly counter-intuitive to wrap your head around the fact that sometimes the most expensive schools on paper can be the most affordable. The best way to find out just how generous a school might be is to explore its "net price calculator," a feature that every college is required by law to have on its website. You will receive a fairly likely indicator of the amount of

merit aid and how much need-based aid your student is likely to receive, but the colleges aren't bound to provide those discounts. The other recommended "trick" is to adjust the test scores and the reported GPA on the net price calculator to see how those changes impact the amount of aid. A 100 point increase in SAT score can mean thousands of dollars more in aid. ~written by Lee Briener in *College Admissions Strategies*

Interview Questions Interpreted

What are college admissions counselors looking for when they ask you to "Tell us something about yourself"? What should guide your response when asked "What adjectives best describe you?" or "What do you hope to gain from attending this

university?" For excellent advice for how to answer these and other questions, go to www.linkforcounselors.com/12-college-interview-questions-you-must-prepare-for/

For instance, author Jason

Bullock explains that the question "How do you spend your time when not in school?" is not, contrary to how it may sound, a "gotcha" question. Your honest response gives a sense of your values and your ability to create balance in your life.

College Open Houses

Lancaster Bible College	4/12
Cairn University	2/15, 16
Liberty University	2/21-24
Waynesburg University	2/13
Ohio Christian University	2/15
Messiah College	2/18
Shippensburg University	3/23

Dates and Deadlines:

- ⇒ March 9 SAT: Register by February 8, 2019— That's Tomorrow!!
- ⇒ April 13 ACT: Register by March 8
- ⇒ **March 13: Career Day @ SCA**
- ⇒ May 4 SAT: Register by April 5