

PREPARING OUR COLLEGE BOUND STUDENTS



10 THINGS PARENTS SHOULD KNOW

1. **Manage Time and Emotions in the College Admissions Process.**

2. **Research Colleges Together:** Doing so early can help because it allows families to break the admissions process down into steps across a long timeline, which can make it seem like less work.

3. **Let Your Child Lead:** Allow your children to advocate for themselves by asking questions during the admission process.

4. **Establish Autonomy Early:** Families should work on establishing autonomy in high school so that the less-structured college experience doesn't come as a shock when students arrive on campus.

5. **Discuss What Everyone Wants out of College:** Encourage family meetings to discuss the findings of independent college research conducted by both students and parents.

6. **Create a Financial Plan:** Talk with your teen about paying for college. Discuss budgeting, student loans, scholarships and financial commitments.

7. **Look for Merit Aid Early:** Merit-based scholarships from colleges themselves are often the largest and most steady forms of funding that you don't have to pay back.

8. **Visit Campuses In-Person or Virtually:** Being on campus allows the students to imagine themselves there as well as get a feel for the environment.

9. **Keep Students on Track with Deadlines:** Missed deadlines may equal missed opportunities, whether that's enrolling at a certain school or earning extra money for college. Parents should pay extra close attention to deadlines for scholarships and other forms of financial aid.

10. **Talk About Safety:** At college, teens may be living on their own for the first time. There are responsibilities and freedom that come along with independence. Parents should talk to teens about the dangers of engaging in harmful sexual activities and abusing drugs and alcohol. Explain what your teen should do if he or she or a friend ends up in a compromising situation. Parents should also take time to look at the safety of each school by exploring campus crime statistics available online.