

Advice to Students

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Overall Advice:

Remember it is you who is going to college, not anyone in your immediate family. Own this search. Drive it, or it may drive you a little crazy.

Think of yourself as the CEO of your own college search and delegate responsibility when needed, but again, own up to this process.

Know that what you do in college is a far better predictor of future success and happiness than where you go to college.

The Recommended Dos:

- Be open-minded.
- Be confident.
- Conduct serious self-reflection on your strengths and weaknesses/academic and social interests.
- Keep this process in perspective.
- Know that this process takes effort, time, research, visits, etc.
- Delegate appropriately.
- Trust your instincts.
- Keep the lines of communication wide open with everyone who has a stake in this process.
- Remain authentic and sincere throughout this process.
- Take advantage of all the resources that are available to you.
- Be realistic.
- Think about what might be the deal makers and deal breakers before you visit campuses and research websites.
- Trust Naviance data and your school counselors.
- Ask direct sources if you have questions about an institution of interest or an admissions question that is not answered through college/university websites.
- Support your peers.

Please Be Careful Not To:

- Assume that adults will do the lion's share of the work associated with the college admissions process.
- Try to do this ALL yourself. PLEASE ask for help and guidance when you need it.
- Procrastinate – PLEASE DON'T DO THIS.
- Apply to an institution you have no intention of attending or don't really like.
- Become frozen with fear. Believe it or not, this could be fun.
- Be closed-minded about college options or about the opportunities that are out there.
- Only talk and act upon the admissions process and nothing else most of senior year of high school.
- Think this is or promote this as the most important life-changing choice. Education is a life-long process.
- Believe that there is only ONE college out there that is right for you.
- Turn this process into a status competition. Honestly, gaming THIS process can really backfire.
- Pay too much attention to neighborhood hearsay or media reports.

➤ The most important parts of the application will depend on the institution and how much emphasis is given to the following. This should not be where you begin:

- **Tangibles:**

- High School Transcript/Rigor/throughout 4 years
- Recommendations from Teachers
- Recommendations from School Counselor
- Extra-Curricular Activities
- College Essays
- Standardized Testing
- Interview

- **Intangibles:**

- Special Talent
- Legacy (will entirely depend on the college)
- Demonstrated Interest

Useful websites:

The College Board <http://www.collegeboard.org/>

Fairtest <http://www.fairtest.org/>

The Education Conservancy <http://www.educationconservancy.org/>

Colleges that Change Lives <http://www.ctcl.org/>

The National Association for College Admission Counseling <http://www.nacacnet.org>