

Welcome to Virtual College Week

College Survival Guide for Parents

October 26, 2017

6:00 p.m. ET

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College Survival Guide for Parents

College Search/Selection and Application Process

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Which College to Attend?

One of the biggest financial decisions a student and their family make.... an investment in their child's future.

College Admissions Processes

Two Categories:

1. College Search & Selection Process
2. College Application Process

1. College Search and Selection

*Tips to help your student make
an informed choice*

College Search and Selection

Tips to help your student make an informed choice

Encourage your student to:

1. Create a college email account – and check it, read emails!
 - Use email for college purposes only
 - Refrain from using email names like...sexykitten18 or partytime24
 - Don't use parent email. Most schools use the students email for matching test scores and inquiry records in their systems.
2. Research each school
 - Websites
 - Virtual Tours
 - Factors to consider:
 - Academic Program, Size, Average Freshman Class size, Type, Cost, Distance from home, academic profile of incoming freshman class

College Search and Selection

Tips to help your student make an informed choice

Encourage your student to:

3. Join social media, text messaging and institutional apps

- Many schools have a social media presence, text messaging, and institutional apps for prospective students
- These apps are a great way to see what life is like on campus

4. Think before they post on social media

- Many schools are starting to look at prospective students social media presence
- There have been several recent cases where a student was admitted to a university and after seeing negative images/messages on the students social media account, the student admission offer was rescinded.

College Search and Selection

Tips to help your student make an informed choice

Follow up with your student:

1. **Talk with your student, designate times for discussion**
 - Why are they interested in each school?
 - Which ones they think will be a reach vs. safety?
2. **Narrow down list, select schools to visit**
 - Schools offer several different types of visit opportunities
 - The visit experience is often the key determinant in selecting the right college

College Search and Selection

Tips to help your student make an informed choice

Parent exploration:

1. Join the prospective parent communication/ mailing list
2. Do your own research on each school, compare notes with your student
 - Hot topics for parents:
 - Safety
 - Cost
 - Scholarships/Financial Aid information
 - Important dates and deadlines
 - Distance from home

2. College Application Process

Tips for helping your student navigate applications and stay on track

College Application Process

Tips for helping your student navigate applications and stay on track

#1 TIP:

APPY EARLY

Most schools open their application in July or August of the summer before the students senior year!

College Application Process

Tips for helping your student navigate applications and stay on track

#2 TIP:

Find out what is required for each
institution application

College Application Process

Tips for helping your student navigate applications and stay on track

#3 TIP:

Find out what criteria each institution uses to make their decision

College Application Process

Tips for helping your student navigate applications and stay on track

Encourage student to:

1. Make connections with their Admissions Counselor at each institution
 - Admissions requirements? Essay? Interview? Recommendations?
 - What are they looking for in an applicant?
 - Important dates and deadlines?
2. Submit the FAFSA
3. Seek out advice from high school teachers

College Application Process

Tips for helping your student navigate applications and stay on track

Review together acceptance packages:

1. Figure approximate out-of-pocket cost
 - Financial Aid award
 - Scholarship packages
2. Create “Next Steps” list for each school
 - Register for Orientation
 - Submit your final documents
 - High school transcripts
 - College transcripts
 - Immunization paperwork
 - Submit housing contract

Helpful Tips to Remember

- Take ACT and SAT in fall and spring of junior year
- Admissions decisions are based on 9th -11th grade grades
- Let your student do the work.
- Generate conversation/discussion
- Make time with student to discuss college process
- Develop a timeline of dates and deadlines for schools your student is applying to
- Celebrate positive outcomes
- Remember....this is their journey
- Refrain from your perception of published costs
- Student record's are private - FERPA

Contact Information

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Questions.....

Thank you for attending Virtual
College Week. For additional
information or questions please visit
FloridaShines.org or email us,
collegenight@flvc.org