

# 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and after seeing negative images/messages on the students social media account, the student admission offer was rescinded.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 9<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> 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,  
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