
College Night

— Parent Perspective —

College is an Investment Decision

- College costs anywhere from \$100K to \$280K and is likely to be one of the largest investments in your lifetime
- You (parents) need to stay involved and provide guidance

Timeline



- Making a college list (and checking it twice!)
 - Naviance
 - Preferences about big vs. small
 - City vs. Rural
 - Reach, Safety, Fit
- Juniors visit schools during winter/April break (better when students are in session)
- Make sure to look at College Open House Schedules and sign up
- Juniors visit schools over summer
- Common App Essay questions are available! Student can start writing.
- FAFSA and CSS
- If you do early decision, must be ready with essay and teachers recommendations by Oct. 1. Music/Theatre/Dance must submit early Fall.

Selecting Schools

- Reach, Safety, “Right Fit”
- Location and How to Get Home
- Rural- What do kids do for fun?
- City- Using public transportation, uber and cost of entertainment
- What do you plan to study and can you change?
 - Applying to a school within a university- not always a slam dunk to switch
 - Ex. Syracuse’s School of Communications requires a 3.8 GPA for internal transfers
- Deciding which school
 - Is scholarship money a key factor?
 - Accepted students’ day is important!

A Journey for Parents and Teens

- An opportunity to listen and learn from your student when traveling to see schools
- Have some fun while you're at it
 - Find good places to eat
 - See the area to get a feel for it
- Take notes because everyone forgets all the details

Sidenote: Let them spend the night if they know someone at the school.
Caution regarding falling in love with a school before being accepted.

Post Admission Spreadsheet

School	Acceptance Deadline	Status Page	Student Page	Username	Password	Money offered
Boston University	May 1	https://ugrad.admissions.tufts.edu/u/apply/status	studentportal.edu	sr12345	1234abcd	\$15,000/year
UConn						
GWU						
Penn State						
UCLA						
Harvard						
Princeton						

Essay Tips

- Common App essay questions are posted in the summer. Your student can start their essay in August
- Something that reveals something about you- showing how you think or how you've been changed or how it's impacted what you want to do with your life.
- Don't write about death or depressing subjects. How many essays do you think the admissions staff reads? Do they want to be depressed?
- Show inner insights, likeability and resilience. Colleges want to be sure the student is a good bet.
- Tell them something that will round out your application- something they don't already know. In the student's voice!

Mom Tips

- Make pre and post admission spreadsheets (exhibits included)
- Make sure your child reads emails regularly
- Once your kids is admitted, no more communication comes to you- it all goes to student.
- Financial aid info often available through the college's portal
- Students will get emails about orientation, housing and connecting with advisors
- BB&B College Night and Beyond Plus program (Lori's favorite tip)

Making the Decision

- Go visit the top choices
- Make a rubric and have the student track the metrics
- Compare financial aid packages- negotiate
- The safety school may offer the biggest package
- Evaluate opportunities
 - Study Abroad
 - Internships- how engaged are alumni in helping
 - Leadership opportunities
 - What does the college provide for enrichment

Questions You Don't Think to Ask

- Dining hall hours -- are they open on weekends and evenings (important in a rural school)
- Health center -- can your child be seen when they are sick?
- Health insurance -- is it mandatory even if your child is covered by you?
- Can your child take classes in a "school" they are not enrolled in
 - Ex. Majoring in History in Liberal Arts, can you take a class in the Music School or Business School?
- Does each dorm room have climate control?