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The College Application Process

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PARENT BRAG SHEET

Student Name _____

6. To what extent has your son or daughter shown special initiative or leadership abilities?

7. Are there any special circumstances, background information, or other factors you feel may be relevant to your child's application?

8. Please rate your son or daughter in the following areas:

1. Average 2. Above average 3. Excellent (top 10%) 4. Outstanding

____ motivation ____ leadership ____ energy ____ creative qualities
____ self confidence ____ maturity ____ personality ____ concern for others
____ self discipline ____ initiative ____ sense of humor ____ respect for others

What major are you considering to study? Why? And/Or why is this specific college/university a good fit for you?

Pick a moment where you were most proud of your actions and describe it. Tell why you take pride in it.

List three words that someone would use to describe you. EXPLAIN each in several sentences.

List two teachers from Galena Park High School who know you well:

**TIPS TO THE COLLEGE CAMPUS VISIT...
COLLEGE CAMPUS VISITS**

- **Oxford College's "Tips To The College**
 - **"Campus Visit"**
 - **What to do before, during, and after the campus visit**
 - **Top 10 List of things to do on a campus visit**
 - **Questions to ask on the college visit**
 - **CampusTours.com - Virtual College Tours**
 - **eCampusTours.com - 360° x 360° tours**
1. Select the number of schools you want to visit (4-6)
 2. Research the school prior to the visit.
 3. Make a list of questions you wLLest?B.06907(i)-11.7149(s)5012(s)2.71284(c)-14.7

3. Go to a dormitory and see a student's room. Do the residence halls have lounges or study areas? What

Differences Between High School & Colleges/Universities

HIGH SCHOOL	COLLEGE/UNIVERSITIES
HS students are in class approximately 6 hours a day,	College classes may meet only once or twice a week,
HS students have contact with their teachers four or five times a week,	The opportunities for direct teacher contact are much more limited,
HS students spend a limited amount of time completing homework assignments at home,	College students must learn how to budget study time for themselves,
They often work on assignments during a study hall or resource room period,	As a general rule, for every hour of class time,

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. I want to go to college. How do I know where?

- The decision of where to go to enroll in college is a very personal one. It is dependent upon a number of factors, such as: your major; whether you want to live on campus or commute from home; if you want to go to a women's college or college sponsored by a reli

COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Community College Web - <http://www.mcli.dist.maricopa.edu/cc> This site links to 1,257 community colleges in the U.S., Canada, and elsewhere around the world. Search alphabetically (by the first letter of the college's name), geographically (by the country/state/province), or by keywords in the college name or location.

Community College Directory - <http://www.community-college.org/> Search 1,300 U.S. community colleges by state..

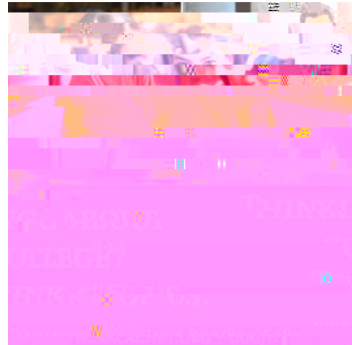
Community Colleges - <http://cset.sp.utoledo.edu/twoyrcol.html> . This site links to over 1,000 two-year colleges in the United States listed by state.

Business, Trade, and Technical Schools - <http://www.rwm.org/rwm/states.html> . Search for postsecondary vocational schools by state.

GoTRAIN - <http://www.GoTRAIN.com/> . / Technical schools and vocational training.
<http://www.technical-schools-guide.com>

Students Rights & Responsibilities

National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) sponsors 47 National College Fairs™ in the U.S. that you are invited to attend free of charge.
Visit www.nacacnet.org,
Events Calendar for



Students' Rights and Responsibilities

1631 Prince Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-2818

Phone: 703/836-2222
800/822-6285
Fax: 703/836-8015

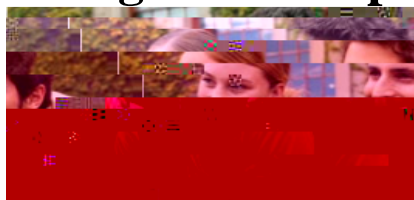
www.nacacnet.org
If you need more information about college admission, contact the counselors in your school. They want to help you make good decisions about your future.

When You Apply to Colleges and Universities, You Have Before You Apply:

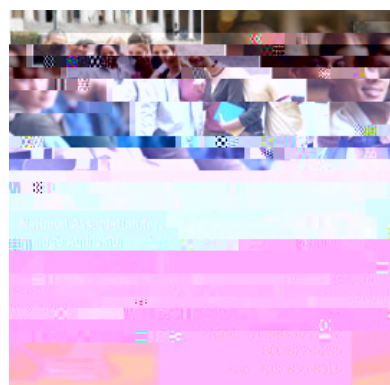
- You have the right to receive factual and comprehensive information from colleges and universities about their admission, financial costs, aid opportunities, practices and packaging policies, and housing policies. If you consider applying under an early admission plan, you have the right to complete information from the college about its process and policies.
- You have the right to be free from high-pressure sales tactics.

When You Are Offered Admission:

- You have the right to wait until May 1 to respond to an offer of admission and/or financial aid.
- Colleges that request commitments to offers of admission and/or financial assistance prior to May 1 must clearly offer you the opportunity to request (in writing) an extension until May 1. They must grant you this extension and your request may not jeopardize your status



Students' Rights and Responsibilities In the College Admission Process



As You Apply:

- You must complete all material required for application and submit your application on or before the published deadlines. You should be the sole author of your applications.
- You should seek the assistance of your high school counselor early and throughout the application period. Follow the process recommended by your high school for filing college applications.
- It is your responsibility to arrange, if appropriate, for visits to and/or interviews at colleges of your choice.

Financial Aid:

- The types of financial aid, including federal, state and local government, need-based and non-need based, and private scholarships and awards
- The methods by which a school determines eligibility for financial aid; how and when the aid is distributed
- Terms and conditions of campus employment, if financial aid is delivered through a work-study aid program.

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Campus Security:

Procedures and policies for reporting crimes and emergencies on campus, as well as the system of adjudication

The number and types of crime reported on and around campus

The school's drug offense policy, as well as descriptions of the school's drug awareness and drug use prevention programs.

To compare campus crime statistics for different

Prospective students have the right to know:

Colleges Must Provide:

General:

- The cost of attending an institution, including tuition, books and supplies, housing, and related costs and fees
- Requirements and procedures for withdrawing from an institution, including refund policies
- Names of associations that accredit, approve or license the institution
- Special facilities and services for disabled students.

Academics:

- The academic program of the institution, including degrees, programs of study, and facilities
- A list of faculty and other instructional personnel
- A report on completion or graduation rates at the college
- At schools that typically prepare students for transfer to a four-year college, such as a community college, information about the transfer-out rate.
- For more information about transferring from a two- year to a four-year institution, see
- The College Transfer Student in America: The Forgotten Student (\$80

(Order

www.aacrao.org/publications/catalog.cfm.)

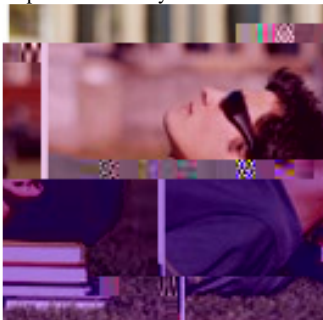


If You Are Placed on a Wait/Alternate List:

- The letter that notifies you of that placement should provide a history that describes the number of students on the wait list, the number offered admission, and the availability of financial aid and housing.
- Colleges may require neither a deposit nor a written commitment as a condition of remaining on a wait list.
- Colleges are expected to notify you of the

for admission and/or financial aid.

- Candidates admitted under early decision programs are a recognized exception to the May 1 deadline.

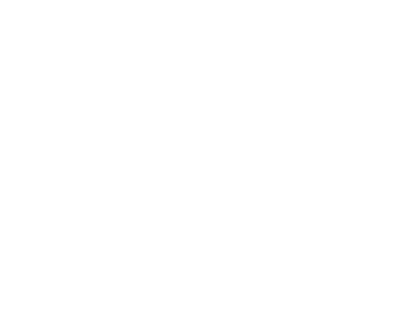


After You Receive Your Admission Decisions:

- You must notify each college or university that accepts you whether you are accepting or rejecting its offer. You should make these notifications as soon as you have made a final decision as to the college you wish to attend, but no later than May 1. It is understood that May 1 will be the postmark date.
- You may confirm your intention to enroll and, if required, submit a deposit to only one college or university. The exception to this arises if you are put on a wait list by a college or university and are later admitted to that institution. You may accept the offer and send a deposit. However, you must immediately notify a college or university at which you previously indicated your intention to enroll.
- If you are accepted under an early decision plan, you must promptly withdraw the applications submitted to other colleges and universities and make no additional applications. If you are an early decision candidate and are seeking financial aid, you need not withdraw other applications until you have received notification about financial aid.

colleges,

colleges, university



Definitions of Admission Options in Higher Education

Non-Restrictive Application Plans

Regular Decision

Definition: Students submit an application by a specified date and receive a decision in a clearly stated period of time.

Commitment: Non-binding

Rolling Admission

Definition: Institutions review applications as they are submitted and render admission decisions throughout the admission cycle.

Commitment: Non-binding

Early Action (EA)

Definition: Students apply early and receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date.

Commitment: Non-binding



resolution of your wait list status by August 1 at the latest.

When You Apply to Colleges and Universities, You Have Before You Apply:

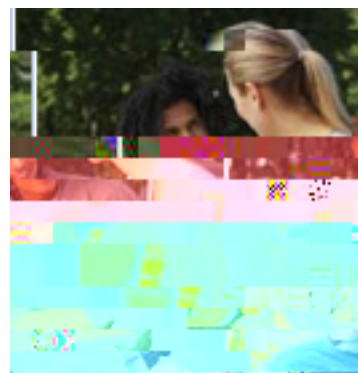
- You have a responsibility to research, and to understand and comply with the policies and procedures of each college or university regarding application fees, financial aid, scholarships, and housing. You should also be sure you understand the policies of each college or university regarding deposits you may be required to make before you enroll.

Restrictive Application Plans

Early Decision (ED)

Definition: Students make a commitment to a first-choice institution where, if admitted they definitely will enroll. The application deadline and decision deadline occur early.

Commitment: Binding



Restrictive Early Action (REA)

Definition: Students apply to an institution of preference and receive a decision early. They may be restricted from applying ED or EA or REA to other institutions. If offered enrollment, they have until May 1 to confirm.

Commitment: Non-Binding

HOW MANY COLLEGES SHOULD A STUDENT APPLY TO?

As the process of college selection is an individual one, based upon the student's interests, accomplishments and needs, there is no one answer that applies to everyone. Applying to more than eight colleges may be superfluous. Although the schools to which you will be applying may vary in selectivity, each should meet the general criteria that you have established.

There are three broad categories into which colleges under consideration should be placed:

- REACH – The most selective schools representing your ideal choice, a possible risk, but still within a realistic range for you in terms of academic survival at college.
- LEVEL – Schools that usually accept students whose credentials tend to match those of the applicant. To determine which schools fit into this category, you should review the entering class profile of the college, which is on file in the College Office.
- SAFETY – A school that still embodies all the qualities you are seeking, but is a confident choice in terms

WHAT COLLEGES LOOK FOR IN PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

As students set the tone of a campus, admissions officers attempt to “balance” the class. This means that they look for students who bring individual talents and strengths to the composite whole of the new class of entering students. Don’t be afraid to ask an admissions officer what the college is seeking. You may be surprised to learn that your qualifications match the college’s needs. Often, a specialized musical talent or athletic promise might strengthen your chances for admission.

Overall, there are several general factors that adm

ESSAYS

This is the part of the application process over which you have the most control. Most colleges require the student to submit at least one essay. Prepared over time, and well thought out, the essay is not a daunting task. Refer to the UNIS packet on "WRITING THE COLLEGE ESSAY."

30 QUESTIONS TO EVALUATE YOURSELF

The following questions will help you keep the focus of college selection and admission where it belongs: **on you as an individual**. Your responses will help reveal what you should look for in colleges and prepare you for statements you will be asked to make about yourself in essays and interviews. Use extra pages if needed.

Your Goals and Values

1. **What aspects of your high school years have you enjoyed most?** Have you missed out on anything? If you could live this period over again, would you do anything differently?
2. **What values are most important to you?** What do you care most about? What concerns occupy most of your energy, efforts and thoughts?
3. **How do you define success?** Are you satisfied with your accomplishments to date? What do you want to accomplish in the years ahead?
4. **What kind of person would you like to become?** Of your unique gifts and strengths, which would you most like to develop? What would you like to change about yourself?
5. **Is there anything you have ever secretly wanted to do or be?** If you had a year to go anywhere and do what you wanted, what would it be?
6. **What events or experiences have shaped your growth and your way of thinking?** **Your Education**
7. **What are your academic interests?** Which courses have you enjoyed the most? Which have been the most difficult for you?
8. **What do you choose to learn when you can learn on your own?** Consider interests pursued beyond class assignments, topics chosen for research papers, lab reports, independent projects, personal reading, school activities, job or volunteer work. What do they reveal about you?
9. **How do you learn best?** What methods of teaching engage your interest and effort the most?
10. **How would you describe your school?** Is learning and academic success respected? Has your school environment encouraged you to develop your interests, talents and abilities? Have you felt limited in any way? What would you preserve or change about your school?
11. **How much do you genuinely like to read, discuss ideas, and exchange ideas?** What has been your most stimulating intellectual experience?
12. **How well has your school prepared you for college?** In what areas of skill or knowledge do you feel confident? Inadequate? Have you been challenged enough?
13. **Have you worked up to your potential?** Is your academic record an accurate measure of your ability and potential? Are your SAT scores? What do you consider the best measures of your academic potential for college?
14. **Are there outside circumstances that have interfered with your academic performance in high school?** Consider factors such as illness, an after-school job, home responsibilities, excess school activities, lengthy commute, emotional stress, parental pressure, English not spoken at home, family or personal problems.

Your Activities and Interests

15. **What activities do you enjoy most outside the daily routine of school and other responsibilities?** Which activities have meant the most to you? Looking back, would you have made other choices?
16. **Do your activities show a pattern of commitment, competence or contribution?**
17. **How would others describe your role in your school and home community?** What do you consider your most significant contribution?
18. **After a long, hard day, what do you enjoy doing most?** **The World Around You 1**
19. **How would you describe your school, family, and hometown (country)?** How has your environment influenced your way of thinking? Have your interests and abilities been acknowledged or limited by your home or school?
20. **What do your parents and friends expect of you?** How have their expectations influenced the goals you have set for yourself? What pressures have you felt to conform?
21. **What has been the most controversial issue in your school?** How does the issue concern you? How do you respond? What has been your reaction? Opinion?
22. **How do you deal with people who think and act differently than you do?** What viewpoints challenge you the most? How do you respond? What do you learn about yourself?

23. **What distresses you most about the world around you?** If you had the opportunity to change the world, where would you start?
24. **Do you have any current heroes or heroines?** Historical heroes or heroines?
25. **What books have you read which have changed your way of thinking?**
26. **How would someone who knows you well describe you?**

COLLEGE APPLICATION CHECKLIST

SCHOOL NAME: _____

APPLICATION TYPE & DATE SENT:

Apply Texas App. _____