

got college?

# got college? News

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SPRING INTO SUMMER  
ISSUE

## Parents and College Admission: What is Your Role?

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Think of college admissions like teaching your student to drive - the parent is the coach, and usually a driver education teacher is involved, but the goal is to get the teen to drive on his/her own. The same with college admissions- the goal is to get your student to do the "driving" of the college search, application, and decision-making process. Our experience is that the more the student is involved in leading the process, and the less the parent is "steering", the better the outcome. Not only will this enable the student to own the process, but it will empower him/her to gain skills and knowledge to problem-solve once college begins.

So yes parents, talk to your student about their

ideas for college, about financing college, about your ideas for colleges to consider. But students should be responsible for choosing which colleges to visit, developing their college apply list, completing applications, writing essays and making the final choice of what college to attend. Once your student starts college, he/she will likely feel more confident of the choice and more able to "drive" in the right direction.

**Need help negotiating this process?** For 8th-10th grade students, contact us for an [Early Planning Session](#) to plan your student's high school courses, discuss activities to explore, plan ACT/SAT testing, and begin looking at college options.

Our 2014 Comprehensive Course for Juniors is full, but we continue to offer [Initial Consultations and Individual Packages](#) for current 11th grade students. Start with the Initial Consultation, and then consider the Individual Package that includes counseling the student through all stages of the research, application and decision making process. [Contact us](#) now to get started and avoid the stress of last minute planning and applying to college.



"Like" us on Facebook and follow our timely tips and relevant information.

Many colleges offer **Spring Open Houses**, day long opportunities to get a more in-depth campus experience. Campus and housing tours are offered throughout the day. Special lectures, parades, departmental exhibits, facility tours, athletic games, and student club fairs are some of the many events open to students and parents. Check our list of [23 College Open Houses](#) and make your plans!



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# What is a Safety, Target or Reach College for my Student?

Safety, target and reach colleges are the foundation for a strong college apply list. There are two keys to creating this strong foundation: appropriately determining an individual student's likely categories for colleges, and applying to the correct number of colleges in each category.

Understand that the colleges in each category are personalized to each student and his or her grades, test scores, curriculum rigor, and extra curricular activities. College "X" can be a safety school for one student, but a target for another and a reach for another. To determine the category of a college for a particular student, we compare that student's GPA with the average GPA of last year's admit-

ted class. We also compare the student's ACT/SAT scores with the middle 50% test scores of last year's admitted class.



The admit rate (percentage of students admitted out of the number who applied) for a college also affects this categorization. If college "X" has an admit rate of 75%, that indicates that many students are admitted. This fairly high admit rate improves the chances of admission. If a campus only admits 18% of the applications, there is a much lower chance for admission, even for students who are quite similar to those from last year's admitted class.

Here are some sample 2013 admit rates from colleges.:

**Univ of Southern CA: 20%**

**UC Davis: 41%**

**CSU Long Beach: 35%**

**Sonoma State: 90%**

**University of Arizona: 78%**

**St Mary's College of CA: 69%**

After making these calculations and reviewing a student's course rigor and extracurricular activities, we help students determine which colleges are in which categories.

We recommend students apply to a total of 6-12 colleges, with most colleges being in the safety and target categories.

For example, a biology student with a 3.4 GPA, average SAT scores and a couple of activities might have an apply list that resembles this:

**Safety:** San Jose State, Sonoma State, Univ of Arizona

**Target:** Long Beach State, St Mary's College, Univ of Redlands, CSU Fullerton, University of the Pacific

**Reach:** Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, UC Santa Cruz

Majors being applied to can also affect a student's chances, and the reason why we constantly says "it depends".

Need help with this? Our [Individual Counseling Package for Juniors](#) includes determining a student's apply list, as well as one-on-one guidance with researching colleges, completing applications, writing strong essays, and making a well-matched final decision. Visit our [website](#) for more details and to contact us.

**We offer Individual College Admissions Counseling for Juniors and Seniors**

**Contact us for help with college research, apply list development, application completion and essay writing**

**More information on our [website](#)**



# Seniors: Decision Time is Almost Here!

May 1st is the National Commitment Deadline for all 4 year college-bound high school seniors to make final decisions about their ultimate college. Whether your student was admitted to his/her top choice, or is looking at options "farther down the list", we suggest following these tips to make a strong decision:

**1. Re-visit your top 2 or 4 choices.** Colleges look and feel differently once the student is admitted. Students have matured since applying, and sometimes their earlier impressions change. Students should ask themselves, "Can I see myself living, studying and thriving here for 4 years? Where will I be successful?"

**2. Research the chosen major (if there is one) and class offerings.** This is a step students often ignore until after enrolling. Do that research now and ask, which classes look interesting? Is this department one that fits my needs, focus and interests? If your student is undeclared, he/she should research classes and understand what types of programs are available to help undeclared students find an appropriate major by the end of the freshman or sophomore year.

**3. Ask more questions related to your long term goals.** Planning on getting a job immediately after college? Ask what the college or department does to help students find internships and jobs, and what percentage of students have jobs within 6 months of graduat-

ing. Planning on graduate school? Ask how many student go onto masters and doctoral programs. Planning on med school? Ask how well the colleges does in preparing students for med school.

**4. Keep an open-mind.** There is no such thing as a "perfect college". All colleges have both positive and negative aspects. Focus on those aspects that are most important to you.

Do you have younger students in need of college planning?  
For 8th-10th graders, use our

[Early Planning Session](#)

A great way to get started on, or update, your student's 4 year high school plan

**5. Make a final decision to attend the college where you will most likely "shine".** This decision is not based on rankings, neighborhood gossip or the opinions of friends or relatives. This is your student's choice, based on his/her individual social, academic and financial needs and desires. **By choosing a "best fit" college, your student will more likely have a successful college career.**

**6. Waitlists.** Follow any directions for "opting" in, especially for UCs. If after committing to a college, you are offered a seat via a waitlist, you can then accept it. Let your initially committed to college know.

**7. Commit to your final choice college by May 1,** the National Intent to Register Day. You can commit to only one college, as agreed to when you signed your applications. Colleges can and do discover when students have double committed or deposited, and typically will negate any offers of admissions, which are always conditional.

**8. After committing, be sure to follow through with a few more tasks.** First, decline offers from other colleges, so that fellow students can move off the waiting list. Then make sure you take care of any "to-do" items for your college before the first day of classes—take placement tests, sign up for housing, make any deposits, sign up for summer orientation, etc. Check your student portal every week to make sure you don't miss any important requests or required steps.

**9. Celebrate the exciting adventure ahead of you!**





**got college?**

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*Practical help for searching,  
applying and choosing*

Q

I have heard about a program that allows students to attend western colleges at a reduce tuition rate? What is it called? How does it work? What colleges participate?

A

The program you are asking about is the Western Undergraduate Exchange Program, or WUE. California students can attend college at many 2 and 4 year colleges in western states and receive thousands of dollars in yearly tuition discounts. As part of WUE, students are encouraged to fill seats at "less popular" campuses and sometimes in the less populated majors, However, there are some "gem" opportunities for students who are independent enough to consider going out of state, and who are open to campuses that may not have been on their initial "college radar". For example, Portland State University offers an \$11,902 tuition discount for students choosing one of 34 majors, including engineering, computer science, math, physics and criminal justice. The University of Nevada, Reno offers an \$11,037 tuition discount to students in over 70 majors including engineering, English, biology, finance, nursing and veterinary science. These discounts are sometime competitive, sometimes not. At a time when many California colleges are impacted by an over-abundance of applicants, these colleges offer students excellent educational opportunities at a much lower tuition rate than other out-of-state campuses. Check our [website](#) for more information.

## Our Philosophy and Services

*We believe that all students can find colleges where they can be successful academically and socially, and where they can grow and mature in aspirations, experiences and confidence.*

*Our goal is to help students develop lists of colleges to apply to that best-fit their unique interests and needs. And while the admissions process has become more complex and selective over time, we guide students and parents through steps to identify options and reduce stress, while enabling students to build their confidence and life-long decision-making skills.*

**8th—10th graders:**

[Early Planning](#)

**Juniors:**

[Comprehensive Course](#)

[Individual Counseling](#)

**Seniors:**

[Individual Essay Workshop](#)

[Individual Counseling](#)

*Interested in learning more about college admissions? Follow out timely tips and "Like" us on:*

