

## COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TIP SHEET FOR PARENTS

The period during which your child is exploring their college options is very exciting, but it can also be overwhelming. They may experience moments of empowerment, while at other times they may regress and feel helpless. Like all the major milestones in life, they will benefit from parental support and involvement.

- Be sure to remember this is your child's future and not yours. There's a delicate balance between guidance and over-involvement.
- On average, 80% of college students will change their major at least once over the course of their college career.

### Step One:

Have your student begin by researching colleges on the web and requesting information from the schools that interest them the most. When comparing schools, they should consider these important factors:

1. Location. Would they prefer to be in a big city or small town?
2. Distance. Would they prefer to live close to home or hours away?
3. Size. Would they rather be on a big campus or feel more comfortable on a small campus?
4. Cost. While private schools may cost more than public, they may offer more scholarships and financial aid, so they still may be affordable.
5. Facilities. Is it important to them that a school offers a variety of facilities like a fitness center?
6. Majors. Encourage them to consider schools that offer a wide variety of majors.
7. Extra-curricular activities. Do they plan on joining a sorority, fraternity or participate in intramural sports?
8. Sports teams and school spirit. Is having a football team to cheer for important to them?

### Step Two:

Visit the colleges that interest them the most. College visits have been known to totally change a student's opinion about a school. When making a college visit, they may want to ask these questions.

1. What's the typical class size for freshmen? For upperclassmen?
2. Does the school provide tutors?
3. Are freshmen required to live in dorms and take part in meal plans?
4. Are there fraternities and sororities?
5. How do students feel walking around the campus and surrounding neighborhood at night?
6. What makes this school unique?
7. What happens on campus on the weekends? Does it empty out or is there plenty to do?
8. Can freshmen have cars? Is parking a problem?
9. What services are available to students?

### Step Three:

Begin the application process. By the beginning of their senior year, they should have their choices narrowed down to approximately 5 schools for which they intend to apply. Application procedures and deadlines are posted on the websites of each school. As a whole, colleges prefer the online application and most schools will start accepting new applications after July or August 1.

- Transcripts may be requested from Sharon O'Dell, Guidance Secretary, for a \$2.00 fee.
- If an essay is required, students should seek assistance from websites such as [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)
- Do not provide a letter of recommendation unless one is requested.

Keep in mind that admissions committees are not only admitting on academic merit, but are also looking to build a diverse and talented student body. As colleges attempt to find these versatile students, the pattern of acceptance and rejection may seem random.

Paying for College:

For NHS students, the Bright Futures Scholarship accounts for a majority of the funding for higher education. The second largest source of funds comes directly from the colleges and universities. Most schools will offer the top students academic scholarships ranging from a few hundred to a few thousand dollars. Community service organizations account for the third largest source of funding. Application requirements and deadlines vary and will be posted throughout the year on the NHS website as they become available.

Finally, the federal government provides grants and loans to needy students. Visit [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) now to find out if your family might be eligible by using the FAFSA4caster. The actual application is available online and will open January 1, 2013.

**UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS MATRIX**

UNIVERSITY	LOCATION	MID RANGE GPA * ACCEPTED	MID RANGE ACT ACCEPTED	% OF APPLICANTS ACCEPTED	PREFERRED TIME TO APPLY
<i>Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University</i>	Daytona Beach	3.8	24-29	69%	Fall
Florida A & M University	Tallahassee	3.0-3.5	17-24	37%	Fall
Florida Atlantic University	Boca Raton	3.7-4.3	21-27	51%	Fall
Florida Gulf Coast University	Ft. Myers	3.4-4.2	22-26	54%	By Nov. 15
Florida State University **	Tallahassee	3.9-4.4	26-31	46%	By Oct. 19
University of Central Florida *	Orlando	3.7-4.3	25-29	47%	Fall
University of Florida * **	Gainesville	4.2-4.5	27-32	45%	By Nov. 1
<i>University of Miami</i>	Coral Gables	4.3	28-32	38%	Nov. 1
University of North Florida	Jacksonville	3.6 – 4.4	24-29	57%	Fall
University of South Florida	Tampa	3.8 – 4.4	26-30	40%	Fall
University of West Florida	Pensacola	3.6	26 - 30	51%	By Dec. 1

GPA includes 18 core classes, adding 1 point for C or higher in AP and dual enrollment, .5 for honors classes.

\*Schools that do not super score the ACT

\*\* Schools requiring SSAR (Self-reported Student Academic Record) instead of an official transcript.

Most schools have minimum ACT/SAT scores you must meet for Math, Reading and English. Check their website for more information.

Colleges will request a final transcript upon graduation and may rescind acceptance if challenging classes (AP, dual enrollment) are dropped or grades reflect D's and F's during your senior year.