

THE GUIDE TO GETTING INTO YOUR BEST-FIT COLLEGE

AT THE LOWEST COST



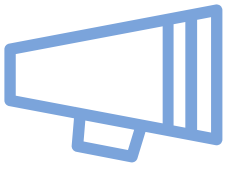
Maximize your GPA

High school grades are the best predictors of college success (and a big factor in scholarships). Start early and develop good study habits to maintain a high GPA.



Take the ACT or SAT four times

Colleges just care about that highest score, and many will combine the highest sub-scores even if they happened on different tests. So keep taking the test.



Excel at one extra-curricular

Champions are made during the offseason. Focus your energy on one extra-curricular activity, and show the skills you've learned in a 90-second YouTube video.



Apply to 7-16 colleges

Don't let one college have a monopoly over you. Increase the competition and your potential for bigger scholarships by applying to multiple schools.



Fill out the FAFSA

Complete the FAFSA online during October of senior year. Also, consult with a financial advisor experienced in college finance to maximize need-based aid.



Look for private, merit-based aid

Use resources like fastaid.com or Scholly to find private scholarships and aid. Don't forget to check your school's counseling site for all locally-offered scholarships.



Ask for recommendation letters

Be among the first to ask teachers for recommendation letters, ideally near the end of your junior year. Plus don't wait to get to know your school counselor!