



Young Women's Preparatory Academy College Bound Newsletter

October 2010

Volume 2, Number 2

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"I have an open door policy. That means that if the door is open – "come on in" you are welcome anytime."

YWPA's College Bound

SENIORS, Since your success will be highlighted on a regular basis by an e-mail that I send out to all seniors and faculty, please make sure to provide me with copies of your acceptance letters. Here at YWPA, we are very proud of all your accomplishments!

"miamidadecap" – College Discussion Forum

What is "miamidadecap"?

It is a community discussion form where you will be able to ask any question about college, testing, scholarships and financial aid.

Students, parents, college admissions, CAP Advisors are invited to ask questions, share information, post valuable announcements and enter into meaningful discussions about any and all aspects of the postsecondary education process.

"miamidadecap" is about sharing information and helping our students.

How do I find "miamidadecap"?

<http://miamidadecap.vanillaforums.com/>

Join the conversation – get help – help others!!!

College Planning for High School Seniors

From: American Education Services (AES)

Now is the time for high school seniors to organize everything related to their college plans. There are applications and forms to complete and deadlines to keep track of. We've compiled a list of things seniors should do this year to make sure their plans fall into place... without those last-minute anxiety attacks!

- Make a calendar showing application deadlines for admission, financial aid, and scholarships. Students can use the [collegeCalendar on aesSuccess.org](http://collegeCalendar.on.aesSuccess.org) to keep track of their upcoming deadlines.
- Research scholarship opportunities.
- Take a full course load of college-prep classes.
- Strive to make good grades.
- Register for and take the standardized tests (SAT, ACT).
- Participate in extracurricular or volunteer activities.
- Attend college-prep or financial aid nights.
- Ask teachers or a school counselor for letters of recommendation.
- Narrow your list of colleges to three to six schools.
- Visit the colleges you're most interested in attending.



College Searches

FACTS.org

College Board:
ACT:

Princeton Review:

EduPrep:

Search for colleges,
and scholarships:

College and scholarship
searches

Knowledge for College:

Art and Design Colleges:

College Accreditation:

Colleges that Change Lives:

Florida Health Careers:

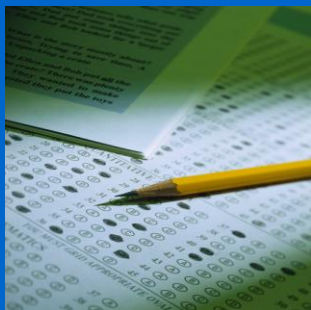
Colleges in the UK:

Virtual College Tours:

College Confidential
College View

Occupational Outlook
Handbook

The common Application:



TESTING

Here are some websites that
provide SAT and ACT
preparation

Number2.com

- Complete admission and scholarship applications.
- Complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) as soon as possible after January 1.

To view the entire college-planning timeline, with tips for everyone from freshmen to seniors, go to the [Preparing section of EducationPlanner.org](http://www.eduplan.org/Preparing%20section%20of%20EducationPlanner.org).

Choosing a Free College

By Claudine Vainrub, MBA and Principal of EduPlan

How to choose a College that will not Bankrupt me

At this time of the year, seniors and even graduate admissions candidates are thinking about their college and graduate school options. Being that the economy has hit many of us hard this year; the choices might not seem as abundant as when our family income is higher. So how do we evaluate the best college and grad school options for a tight budget? Here are some things you can do to enhance your chances of choosing programs that will allow you an outstanding education, while not making you go bankrupt in the process:

For more information on this topic, please go to:

<http://eduplan.us/choosing-a-free-college/>

College Application Checklist

Seniors, each year several colleges and universities send me a report that gives me the disposition of all applications received at their institution. I am amazed at the number of applications that end up incomplete. Common mistakes are: **no transcripts, waiting for SAT/ACT test scores, application fees not paid or residency statement is not correct or complete.** Remember that when you do the Florida State university application on-line, that you must print off the last page and complete the residency verification part. When completed, mail this to the college along with your application fee and your essays and letters of recommendation. Finally, when you send anything to an admissions office, please always follow-up with them in two weeks to verify that they received your information.

Here are some general guidelines and suggestions that I hope will help you with the application process.

1. **The General Application:** Is all information accurate and legible? Don't leave questions blank unless the application allows it. **Most, if not all colleges now prefer that you apply on-line.**
2. **Academic Transcripts:** Forms needed to request that transcripts are found in the Registrar's Office. If we are able to send your transcripts electronically, there will be no charges. One dollar will be required if we must print and mail your transcripts.
3. **Letters of Recommendation:** Do you have the number of recommendations required? Also, check with the admissions office if they need to be sealed. **Remember that not all colleges require letters!! Please do not overburden your teacher, counselor, or me with unnecessary letters of recommendation requests.**
4. **Work Samples/Portfolios:** Include your name, contact information and the project title on every item. Send copies, not originals.
5. **Application Essays:** Make sure your name, social security number, date of birth, contact information and essay title are on each page. Be original and remember to change college names around if you are

Max the Test

Princeton Review

State University Minimums:

SAT: Math: 460 / Verbal: 460
/ writing: 440

ACT: 19 Reading
19 Math

NCAA INFORMATION

NCAA online:

NCAA Clearinghouse initial
eligibility

Recruiting search website:

CampusChamps.com -

Tennis Recruiting:

**If you have any favorite
websites that you would
like to share with us,
please e-mail the links
to me at:**

igottlieb@dadeschools.net



Common Application Errors

"I'll start the application next week." Don't run out of time to complete the application. Give yourself at least two weeks to find mistakes.

"I already ran a spell-check on my computer." Words can be spelled correctly but used incorrectly. Ask a counselor,

sending your essay to more than one college.

6. **SAT/ACT Scores:** If you need to send test scores to additional schools, contact the testing company immediately. **SAT:** www.collegeboard.com
ACT: www.act.org Scores are mailed about three weeks after your request. Due to timing issues, I strongly recommend that seniors indicate where they want scores sent when they register for a test. This will save precious time. **Remember that our high school code is 101545. This code MUST be on all test registration forms.**
7. **Signatures:** Before mailing, verify that all necessary forms have been signed.
8. **Keep Copies:** Create a file to hold copies of all documents in case you need to refer to them later.
- 9.

Vegan and Eco-Friendly Campuses

Peta's Most Vegetarian-Friendly Colleges:

<http://www.peta2.com/college/c-vegschools-winners.asp>

Sierra Club's Cool Schools:

<http://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/200909/cool-schools/>

Green Colleges:

<http://mycollegeguide.org/blog/12/2009/green-degree-6-ecofriendly-colleges-america/>

<http://www.insidecollege.com/reno/15-Green-Colleges-and-Universities/253/list.do>

Colleges that allow companion animals:

<http://mycollegeguide.org/blog/05/2010/pet-friendly-colleges/>

<http://www.petside.com/the-sidewalk/top-pet-friendly-colleges.php>

Mother Jones Magazine Top 10 Activist Schools:

<http://www.insidecollege.com/reno/Top-10-Activist-Schools/431/list.do>

Carolyn Kost

"Data from 73,249 people living in 27 countries, including the United States, show that having a 500-book library boosted a child's education by 3.2 years on average."
<http://www.livescience.com/culture/books-education-children-100521.html>

Scholarship Application Myths Dispelled: GPA Isn't Everything

Completing scholarship applications for high-demand rewards can be daunting, especially if your GPA is less than stellar. You may feel like the competition winners are guaranteed to be A+ students with 4.0+ GPAs. Don't.

Don't be afraid of writing an essay just because you know the other applicants will include valedictorians, all-star jocks, and club presidents. Their resumes may list achievements yours doesn't, but that doesn't prevent you from putting up a good fight. Even if you aren't the president of a student organization, the fastest track runner at your school, or at the head of your class, you still have something to offer. And if you want to win scholarships, you have to learn how to highlight your assets.

teacher or family member to proof read the application to catch any errors or poor phrasing.

"One copy is enough." Print out any online forms and keep copies of all paperwork.

"I can send my application as soon as I'm finished." Before you seal the envelope or click "Send" on your computer, double- and triple-check that you have included all necessary materials.

Follow-up in two weeks to verify that all mailed materials have been received.

"I assume this is right." If you're confused by a question or any part of the application, ask someone. A quick call to the admissions office can save you from making an embarrassing error



You must see Ms. Roundtree to request copies of your Transcripts to be sent to those Colleges you applied to. Don't forget to give me a copy!



Put extra effort into your application and put your best foot forward. Show the scholarship sponsors and the judge's board that your skills and talents go beyond your report card. Many scholarship benefactors believe that everyone has something worth rewarding, so market yourself in a way that lives up to those expectations. Show you possess traits worthy of an award, and your effort will pay off (emphasis on pay).

Taken from: <http://collegeprowler.com/scholarship/>

Contributed by:

Mrs. Kawesi T. Nimmons, CAP Advisor

Booker T. Washington Sr. High School

How Much Will a College Expect You to Pay?

From: The College Solution Newsletter
by Lynn O'Shaughnessy

You can't possibly answer that question unless you know what your [Expected Family Contribution](#) or EFC is.

An EFC is the amount of money, at a minimum, that a college will expect you to pay for one year of your child's college education. Often times you will have to pay more than your stated [EFC](#) unless you're attending an elite school with excellent financial aid packages.

Your EFC will be expressed as a dollar amount. A low-income family could have an EFC that's as low as \$0. There is no ceiling as to how high the EFC can be for wealthy families. The highest I've ever seen was about \$108,000 for a family where the father was a CEO. Obviously, \$108,000 is way above the price of one year's costs at any college.

How To Obtain Your EFC

Getting advance notice is better than waiting until your child receives his or her financial aid packages in the spring of her senior year in high school. I think families should obtain their EFC as early as a child's freshman year in high school. Here are two calculators that you can use to obtain your EFC.

[College Board's EFC Calculator](#) [FinAid's EFC Calculator](#)

Here is some of the information that you'll need to use the calculators:

- **Number of children in college.**
- **Marital status of parents.**
- **Adjusted gross income.**
- **Non-retirement investments.**
- **Income taxes paid for most recent calendar year.**

4 Ways to Cut the Cost of College

From: The College Solution Newsletter
by Lynn O'Shaughnessy

Sure college prices are continuing to climb, but there are ways to slash those prices.

In a recent post that I wrote for [CBSMoneyWatch](#), I shared four little-known ways to



<http://tinyurl.com/24htzg8>

Sponsored by:
Office of Student Financial
Assistance (OSFA)
Florida Department of
Education



cut costs:

1. Avoid reach schools.
2. Explore colleges in other time zones.
3. Check grad rates -- avoid colleges that don't get students out in four years.
4. Obtain your Expected Family Contribution, which can help you target generous schools.

Here's my post that explains all these cost-saving strategies:

[4 Little Known Ways to Cut the Cost of College](#)

Student Loan Mistakes

At a recent school visit, a financial aid staff member was completely exasperated. When asked if everything was okay, she replied, "A student just came by my office and asked for money to buy textbooks." No problem...right? WRONG. Apparently this student had received a full Pell grant plus institutional aid which more than covered his cost of attendance at this particular school. So why was he asking for more money? The student had purchased a car with the money and now had nothing left for books. The financial aid staff member then said, "And you know the worst part? *It's only the second day of school!*"

The *San Francisco Chronicle* published an article entitled "The 6 Worst Student Loan Mistakes You Can Make." Here are the first two:

Mistake #1: Falsifying your application - not only will you lose your loan, but you may be charged with fraud and sent to prison "*where you'll receive your education for free, but not likely the prestigious degree you were hoping for.*"

Mistake #2: Spending money on wants, not needs - do not borrow against your future just to keep up appearances on campus. The latest and greatest gadgets, purses, or entertainment will become obsolete in a short while. Invest in your education which lasts a lot longer!

To read the complete article, please visit the following website:

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/g/a/2010/09/08/investopedia46858.DTL>.

Source: www.nasfaa.org/publications/2010/awmistakes090910.html

COLLEGE FAIRS

Ft. Lauderdale NACAC College Fair – Thursday, November 4th 5:00 - 8:30pm

Ft. Lauderdale/Broward County Conv. Center / Ft. Lauderdale, FL

This is an excellent fair for undecided seniors and other students who are eager to dig into the college search process. Approximately 150+ colleges and universities will be represented. Informative workshops on admissions, testing, scholarships and financial aid will also be given.

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY: Summer Bridge Program

The Summer Bridge Program is now called the CARE Program (Center for Academic Retention and Enhancement). This program is for first-time-in-college students who may have been disadvantaged due to economic, educational, or cultural circumstances. Curricular guidelines are a minimum 2.8 GPA (looking only at the academic subjects) and either a 1330 on the SAT or a 19 on the ACT. Student who know that it is not likely they will meet the normal freshman standards, and they do appear to be meeting CARE standards, should submit a CARE application along with

their regular application to the university. The deadline for CARE applications is February 15th. Contact us: Center for Academic Retention and Enhancement, A5400 University Center, The Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306-2450, Telephone: (850) 644-9699, Email: care@admin.fsu.edu.

Their website link is <http://care.fsu.edu/summer.html>

University of South Florida: Freshman Summer Institute (FSI)

The University of South Florida provides a world of opportunity for a select number of students who possess the desire to succeed. For some students, this desire may not be completely reflected in their high school record. The University recognizes the potential for success in these students and helps make their academic goals a reality through our Freshman Summer Institute. The program provides access to a university education for promising students from first generation and/or limited income families and identifies qualified individuals through a review of admission applications, academic records, and family income as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

To be considered for the Freshman Summer Institute, individuals are encouraged to apply for admission to the University of South Florida as early as possible. Each year a limited number of students enter USF through this program.

FSI admission may be offered to students with a high school GPA equal to or greater than 2.80, a SAT total equal to or greater than 1310 (combined scores on SAT Critical Reading, SAT Math and SAT Writing). On the ACT, an applicant needs a composite score equal to or greater than 20.

To learn more about FSI, please go to: <http://www.ugs.usf.edu/fsi/fsi.htm>

Considering a College Honors Program

If you're looking for small classes, in-depth discussions, and an opportunity to get to know your professors, don't be surprised if your search takes you to a large public university. In an effort to recruit and retain top students, many large universities have created honors programs that go beyond a few special classes. To read more about this topic, please go to: [Considering a College Honors Program](#)

Career Exploration

Great web resources from students.gov

You may have noticed that the information in our "Career Spotlight section" comes from the Occupational Outlook Handbook from the Department of Labor - a great place to learn about all kinds of careers. But it's not the only great resource on students.gov that can help you learn about careers in the fields that interest you. Here are a few other random selections from the "Explore careers" section:

Career Voyages - Start exploring career options and be in demand by knowing about high-growth jobs with better wages and a brighter future! Career Voyages is the result of collaboration between the U.S. Department of Labor and the U.S. Department of Education. <http://www.careervoyages.gov/>

Anthropology and Archeology Career Guide (National Park Service) - Great career resources, guidance and links for future archeologists and anthropologists from the National Archeology and Ethnology Program of the National Park Service.



<http://www.cr.nps.gov/archeology/PUBLIC/career.htm>

Aviation and Space Careers (US Federal Aviation Administration) - This helpful site from the Federal Aviation Administration will help you learn more about the types of careers available in the aviation field or search for a job with the FAA.

http://www.faa.gov/education_research/education/aviation_space/careers

Check out the many other career resources on **students.gov's** 'Explore careers' page:

http://www.students.gov/STUGOVWebApp/SG_Ctrl?Topic=0404