

# *The Skinny College Resource Guide*



Education  
The Door to Opportunity

# Key



“If you are planning for a year, sow rice; if you are planning for a decade, plant trees; if you are planning for a lifetime, educate people”

~ Chinese Proverb

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## Introduction

The *Skinny College Resource Guide* is a by-product of countless conversations that I had with friends and Cook County Commissioner Robert Steele over the last year. It grew out of a common concern that we shared about a social epidemic, i.e. staggering drop-out rates among public high school students on Chicago's Westside. So, I called on Joyce (Williams) Sprowl, CPA, a friend who attended Westinghouse High School with me, to see if she would be willing to help me put together a list of scholarships and internships to pass on to these students. Joyce is not only a skilled problem-solver, she is a 'woman-of-action', so within a few weeks a blizzard of information was sent my way!

The information contained in this guide consists of materials that Joyce and other business professionals generously provided. The final work product however, came out of a collaborative effort with churches, grassroots community organizations, local not-for-profits, and child advocacy organizations, etc.. Because these organizations are better acquainted with the breadth of challenges these high school students face, Commissioner Steele felt it was important to allow them to decide how this information should be 'packaged', and communicated. A Collaborative Team was organized for this purpose and a novel idea was birthed, i.e. to create a guide. The guide they suggested should provide high school students with a roadmap that makes the college application process less intimidating.

They also felt that the guide should be granular so that students would not have to read it from cover-to-cover. This was accomplished by framing the information so that students could extract the sections that best filled their needs.

In terms of communicating that the guide was available, the Collaborative Team suggested that information be distributed at Commissioner Steele's Third Annual Youth Summit at University of Illinois, on May 7, 2009. They also suggested that the guide be reviewed with high school guidance counselors, churches; and parents so that they could better support the students' efforts. The Collaborative Team will be working with these groups in the coming months.

Many heartfelt thanks to my friend Joyce, and all the kind people who sent information; Commissioner Robert Steele for proposing a framework to effectively put these resources to use; and the Collaborative Team for their spirited but constructive input. It is our belief that in spite of its size, this svelte guide provides an abundance of valuable information. And, we pray that disenfranchised youth in urban communities throughout Cook County will find the *Skinny College Resource Guide* to be a well of resources that inspires their hope for a brighter future. -*Valerie Holden, Community Volunteer*

## Collaborative Team



Team Members	Organization	Area of Expertise
Ellen Acevedo	UCAN	Youth Advocacy; Personal Development; Coaching Community Partnerships
Rev. Dr. Michael Bonds	Westside Ministers Association	
April Curtis	UCAN	Youth Advocacy; Personal Development; Coaching Community Programming
Dr. Dennis Deer	Greater Westside Community Coalition	
Deveda Francois	All Africa	Public School Advocacy
Valerie Holden	Community Volunteer	Program Development
Diane Jones	Women on the Move	Grassroots Community Organization
DeLois Mix	Lake Shore Chapter of the Links	Mentoring Program for Teenage Girls on Westside
Claude Robinson	UCAN	Youth Advocacy; Personal Development; Coaching
Anthony Robinson	Westinghouse Alumni Association	Westinghouse High School
Colette South	Private Consultant	Quality Control
Robert Steele	Cook County Commissioner 2 <sup>nd</sup> District	Community & Economic Development &
Rev. Terry Weston	TW Ministries	Nationally Known Motivational Speaker on Youth Leadership, Churches, etc..



## Student Notes

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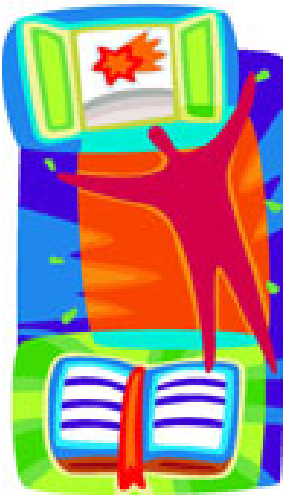
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## List of Scholarships

This document, dated 05/01/09 can be obtained at:  
[www.robertsteele.org](http://www.robertsteele.org) \* Resources'  
or by calling\* 312/603-3019



## 2009 Tylenol Scholarships

Deadline: May 15, 2009

The Tylenol scholarship program helps students who are pursuing careers in the healthcare, life sciences, or related fields, manage the rising costs of education. The program will award \$250,000 in scholarships based on leadership qualities and academic performance, including ten \$10,000 and thirty \$5,000 grants.

### Qualifications:

Must be a resident of the 50 United States, Puerto Rico, or the District of Columbia.

Must have completed at least one year of undergraduate or graduate course of study in the Spring of 2009 at an accredited two or four year college, university or vocational - technical school

Must provide proof of enrollment to a public health/health education, medical school, nursing and/or pharmacy degree program

Must have one or more years of school remaining

Past winners are not eligible to apply or win for the 2009/2010 year

Employees of McNeil Consumer and Specialty Pharmaceuticals, ISTS, Inc., their affiliates, subsidiaries, advertising and promotion agencies and the families of each are not eligible.

For more information: <http://www.tylenol.com/scholarship>

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This 200 Free Scholarship List is created by Black Excel, and it's our latest. We have featured over 1,000+ scholarships at our website. Remember that most groups provide scholarships on an annual basis, so don't stress yourself over any one particular deadline. Students are advised to target "good" scholarship sources...and apply every year.

- 1) Ron Brown Scholarships <http://www.ronbrown.org/>
- 2) FastWEB Scholarship Search <http://www.fastweb.com/>
- 3) United Negro College Fund Scholarships  
<http://www.uncf.org/scholarships/uncfscholarship.asp>
- 4) Jackie Robinson Foundation Scholarships <http://www.jackierobinson.org/>
- 5) Intel Science Talent Search <http://www.sciserv.org/sts>
- 6) Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund <http://www.thurgoodmarshallfund.org/>
- 7) FinAid: The Smart Students Guide to Financial Aid (scholarships)  
<http://www.finaid.org/scholarships/>
- 8) United Negro College Fund <http://www.uncf.org/>
- 9) Gates Millennium Scholarships (Annual)  
[http://www.gmsp.org/\(hmrfvje1fdxdi0nwbrpmbd45\)/default.aspx](http://www.gmsp.org/(hmrfvje1fdxdi0nwbrpmbd45)/default.aspx)
- 10) McDonald's Scholarships (Annual) <http://www.mcdonaldsnymetro.com/>
- 11) Broke Scholars Scholarships <http://scholarships.brokescholar.com/>
- 12) National Society of Black Engineers Scholarships <http://www.nsbe.org/programs/>
- 13) National Merit Scholarships <http://www.nationalmerit.org/>
- 14) College Board Scholarship Search [http://appscollegeboard.com/cbsearch\\_ss/welcome.jsp](http://appscollegeboard.com/cbsearch_ss/welcome.jsp)
- 15) Black Excel Scholarship Gateways <http://www.blackexcel.org/>
- 16) FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>
- 17) LULAC - National Scholastic Achievement Awards <http://mach25.collegenet.com/cgi-bin/M25/GetScholar?page=10177>
- 18) Scholarship & Financial Aid Help <http://www.blackexcel.org/fin-sch.htm>
- 19) NAACP Scholarships [http://www.naacp.org/departments/education/scholarship\\_index.html](http://www.naacp.org/departments/education/scholarship_index.html)
- 20) Paralegal Scholarships <http://www.paralegals.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=13>
- 21) ScienceNet Scholarship Listing  
<http://www.sciencenet.emory.edu/undergrad/scholarships.html>
- 22) Black Alliance for Educational Options Scholarships  
<http://www.baeo.org/options/privatelyfinanced.jsp>
- 23) Siemens Foundation Competition <http://www.siemens-foundation.org/>
- 24) College Board Scholarship Search  
<http://cbweb10p.collegeboard.org/fundfinder/html/fundfind01.html>
- 25) International Students Scholarships & Aid Help <http://www.iefa.org/>
- 26) Historically Black College & University Scholarships <http://www.iesabroad.org/info/hbcu.htm>
- 27) Guaranteed Scholarships <http://www.guaranteed-scholarships.com/>
- 28) Hope Scholarships and Lifetime Learning Credits  
<http://www.ed.gov/offices/OPE/PPI/HOPE/index.html>
- 29) Presidential Freedom Scholarships <http://www.nationalservice.org/scholarships>
- 30) Sports Scholarships and Internships <http://www.ncaa.org/about/scholarships.html>
- 31) Student Video Scholarships <http://www.christophers.org/vidcon2k.html>
- 32) Student Inventors Scholarships <http://www.invent.org/collegiate/>
- 33) Decca Scholarships <http://www.decca.org/scholarships/>
- 34) Black Student Fund [http://www.blackstudentfund.org/programs/FinAid/financial\\_aid.htm](http://www.blackstudentfund.org/programs/FinAid/financial_aid.htm)
- 35) Scholarships Pathways <http://scholarshipssite.blogspot.com/>
- 36) Private Scholarships For Seniors <http://www.phs.d211.org/stsvc/college/scholarships.asp>
- 37) ScienceNet Scholarship Listing  
<http://www.sciencenet.emory.edu/undergrad/scholarships.html>
- 38) Chela Education Financing "Gateway to Success Scholarship"  
<http://www.loans4students.org/>
- 39) Princeton Review Scholaahips & Aid <http://www.princetonreview.com/college/finance>
- 40) American Legion Scholarships <http://www.legion.org/>
- 41) Free Scholarship Search <http://www.srnexpress.com/>
- 42) 2005 Holocaust Remembrance Essay Contest <http://www.holocaust.hklaw.com/>
- 43) Horace Mann Scholarship Program <http://www.horacemann.com/scholarship>
- 44) Ayn Rand Institute <http://www.aynrand.org/contests>
- 45) The David and Dovetta Wilson Scholarship Fund- <http://www.wilsonfund.org/>

- 46) Congressional Hispanic Scholarships <http://www.chciyouth.org/>
- 47) Nursing Scholarships <http://www.blackexcel.org/nursing-scholarships.html>
- 48) College-Bound High School Seniors - Scholarships  
<http://scholarships.fatomei.com/scholar13.html>
- 49) AFROTC High School Scholarships <http://www.afrotc.com/>
- 50) Minority Scholarships <http://www.free-4u.com/minority.htm>
- 51) Scholarships for Minority Accounting Students  
<http://www.aicpa.org/members/div/career/mini/smas.htm>
- 52) The Elks National Foundation Scholarships  
<http://www.elks.org/enf/scholars/ourscholarships.cfm>
- 53) Art Deadlines and Scholarships <http://www.xensei.com/users/adl/>
- 54) Journalism Grants <http://www.mccormicktribune.org/journalism/grantslist.htm>
- 55) African American Scholarships <http://www.littleafricacom/scholarship/>
- 56) Marine Corps Scholarships <http://www.marine-scholars.org/>
- 57) Research for Women & Minorities Underrepresented in the Sciences  
<http://www.research.att.com/academic/urp.html>
- 58) Tylenol Scholarships <http://scholarship.tylenol.com/>
- 59) Undergraduate Scholarships (Health) <http://ugsp.info.nih.gov/InfoUGSP.htm>
- 60) STATE FARM INSURANCE Hispanic Scholarships  
<http://www.statefarm.com/foundati/hispanic.htm>
- 61) National Scholarships at All Levels <http://scholarships.fatomei.com/>
- 62) Burger King Scholars (Annual Awards)  
<http://www.bk.com/CompanyInfo/community/BKscholars/index.aspx>
- 63) Ambassadorial Scholarships [http://www.rotary.org/foundation/educational/amb\\_scho/](http://www.rotary.org/foundation/educational/amb_scho/)
- 64) Baptist Scholarships [http://www.free-4u.com/baptist\\_scholarships.htm](http://www.free-4u.com/baptist_scholarships.htm)
- 65) Methodist Scholarships [http://www.free-4u.com/methodist\\_scholarships.htm](http://www.free-4u.com/methodist_scholarships.htm)
- 66) Project Excellence Scholarships <http://www.project-excellence.com/>
- 67) Discover Card Tribute Award Scholarships <http://www.aasa.org/Discover.htm>
- 68) United States National Peace Essay Contest <http://www.usip.org/ed/npec/index.shtml>
- 69) Gateway to 10 Free Scholarship Searches [http://www.college-scholarships.com/free\\_scholarship\\_searches.htm](http://www.college-scholarships.com/free_scholarship_searches.htm)
- 70) Accounting Scholarships <http://www.aicpa.org/members/div/career/edu/jlcs.htm>
- 71) Americorps <http://www.cns.gov/>
- 72) Sports Scholarships and Internships <http://www.ncaa.org/about/scholarships.html>
- 73) 100 Minority Scholarship Gateways <http://www.blackexcel.org/100minority.htm>
- 74) Awards and Scholarships <http://www-hl.syr.edu/cas-pages/ScholarshipsAvailable.htm>
- 75) American Chemical Society Scholarships  
[http://www.cnetweb.org/american\\_chemical\\_society\\_scholarships.htm](http://www.cnetweb.org/american_chemical_society_scholarships.htm)
- 76) Sallie Mae Grants and Scholarships  
[http://www.salliemae.com/parent\\_answer/decide/explore\\_alternatives/grants.html](http://www.salliemae.com/parent_answer/decide/explore_alternatives/grants.html)
- 77) Scholarships List and Search <http://www.adventuresineducation.org/sbase/>
- 78) New York State Scholarships for Academic Excellence  
<http://www.hesc.com/bulletin.nsf/0/7E4A6245D908330685256DB0006B3A30>
- 79) Hispanic Scholarship Fund <http://www.hsf.net/>
- 80) Scholarship Research Center: US NEWS <http://12.47.197.196/usnews/>
- 81) Pacific Northwest Scholarship Guide Online  
<http://fp2.adhost.com/collegeplan/scholarship/default.asp>
- 82) College Net Scholarship Search <http://mach25.collegenet.com/cgi-bin/M25/index>
- 83) Scholarships For Hispanics <http://www.scholarshipsforhispanics.org/>
- 84) NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND SCHOLARSHIPS  
<http://www.nfb.org/services/schlprg02.htm>
- 85) Actuary Scholarships for Minority Students <http://www.beanactuary.org/minority/>
- 86) Astronaut Scholarship Foundation <http://www.astronautscholarship.org/>
- 87) ELA Foundation Scholarships (disabled) <http://www.elaorg/scholarships/scholarships.html>
- 88) Indian Health Service Scholarships

- <http://www.ihs.gov/JobCareerDevelop/DHPS/SP/spTOC.asp>
- 89) Minority Undergraduate Fellows Program <http://www.naspa.org/resources/mufp/>
- 90) Third Wave Foundation Scholarships  
<http://www.thirdwavefoundation.org/programs/scholarships.html>
- 91) College Connection Scholarships <http://www.collegescholarships.com/>
- 92) Super College Scholarships <http://www.supercollege.com/>
- 93) Indian Students <http://www.gurqaonscoop.com/story/2005/3/14/195141/137>
- 94) Comprehensive Recourse List (All cultures)  
<http://www.globalvision.org/educate/connected/sect4e.html>
- 95) Scholarship Database (Alphabetical Listing)  
<http://www.campuscareercenter.com/scholarships/scholarships.asp>
- 96) Music Scholarships  
<http://www.newenglandconservatory.edu/financeYourEducation/musicscholarships.html>
- 97) Navy Scholarship Lists <http://www.odu.edu/ao/hrnrotc/scholarship/scholarships.htm>
- 98) National Assoc. of Black Journalists Scholarships (NABJ)  
<http://www.nabj.org/programs/scholarships/index.html>
- 99) Science and Engineering Student Scholarships <http://www.bell-labs.com/fellowships/>
- 100) The Roothbert Fund Scholarships <http://www.roothbertfund.org/scholarships.php> In the Black Excel African American Student's College Guide (published by John Wiley & Son and available at Amazon.com), there's a chapter that tells you exactly what to do with regard to "getting the money"! Finding a scholarship is just the first step. -Isaac Black, Founder of Black Excel: The College Help Network [www.BlackExcel.org](http://www.BlackExcel.org)
- 101) Gateway to 10 Free Scholarship Searches [http://www.college-scholarships.com/free\\_scholarship\\_searches.htm](http://www.college-scholarships.com/free_scholarship_searches.htm)
- 102) Federal Scholarships and Aid <http://www.fedmoney.org/>
- 103) International Students Help and Scholarships <http://www.iefaf.org/>
- 104) NACME Scholarship Program <http://www.nacme.org/scholarships/>
- 105) Black Excel Scholarship Gateway <http://www.blackexcel.org/link4.htm>
- 106) Peterson's Aid and Scholarships Help <http://www.petersons.com/finaid/>
- 107) Alpha Kappa Alpha Scholarships <http://www.akaef.org/scholarships.htm>
- 108) Coveted National Scholarships <http://scholarships.fatomei.com/>
- 109) 25 Scholarship Gateways from Black Excel <http://www.blackexcel.org/25scholarships.htm>
- 110) Martin Luther King Scholarships <http://www.sanantonio.gov/mlk/?res=1024&ver=true>
- 111) Financial Aid Research Center <http://www.theoldschool.org/>
- 112) Art and Writing Awards <http://www.artandwriting.org/>
- 113) Wells Fargo Scholarships <http://www.wellsfargo.com/collegesteps>
- 114) Princeton Review Internships  
<http://www.princetonreview.com/cte/search/internshipAdvSearch.asp>
- 115) Chicana/Latina Foundation <http://www.chicanalatina.org/scholarship.html>
- 116) NCAA Scholarships and Internships <http://www.ncaa.org/about/scholarships.html>
- 117) Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute <http://www.chci.org/>
- 118) Morris K. Udall Foundation Scholarships [http://www.udall.gov/p\\_scholarship.asp](http://www.udall.gov/p_scholarship.asp)
- 119) A Better Chance Scholarships [http://www.abetterchance.org/ReferralOrgs&Resources/res\\_coll\\_native\\_schol1.htm](http://www.abetterchance.org/ReferralOrgs&Resources/res_coll_native_schol1.htm)
- 120) Asian American Journalist Association <http://www.aaja.org/>
- 121) American Assoc. of University Women  
[http://www.aauw.org/fga/fellowships\\_grants/index.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/fga/fellowships_grants/index.cfm)
- 122) Scholarships by State <http://www.schoolsintheusa.com/scholarships.cfm>
- 123) State Agencies of Higher Education <http://collegeapps.about.com/od/stateagencies/>
- 124) Engineering School Scholarships <http://www.engineeringedu.com/scholars.html>
- 125) Scholarship News <http://www.free-4u.com/>
- 126) Scholarships and Fellowships List (Graduate Level)  
<http://www.lib.msu.edu/harris23/grants/3gradinf.htm>
- 127) Orphan Foundation of America <http://www.orphan.org/>
- 128) September 11th Scholarship Funds

- <http://www.nasfaa.org/publications/2001/ARScholarshipFundsDetailed110701.html>
- 129) Discover Card Tribute Award Scholarships  
[http://www.aasa.org/awards\\_and\\_scholarships/Discover/index.htm](http://www.aasa.org/awards_and_scholarships/Discover/index.htm)
- 130) American Fire Sprinkler Scholarship Contest <http://www.afsascholarship.org/>
- 131) Mensa Scholarship Essay Scholarship <http://merf.us.mensa.org/scholarships/zipfinder.php>
- 132) Chess Scholarships <http://www.successchess.com/WeibelChess/Scholarships.html>
- 133) Davis-Putter Scholarship Fund (Activist)  
<http://www.ocf.berkeley.edu/%7Ealliance/academic/scholarships.html>
- 134) Federal Student Aid Portal  
<http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/index.jsp>
- 135) Daughters of the American Revolution Scholarships  
[http://www.dar.org/natsociety/edout\\_scholar.cfm#general](http://www.dar.org/natsociety/edout_scholar.cfm#general)
- 136) Fridell Memorial Scholarship (Dale E.) <http://www.straightforwardmedia.com/fridell/>
- 137) Alger Association Scholarships (Horatio) <http://www.horatioalger.org/scholarships>
- 138) Collegiate Inventors Competition <http://www.invent.org/collegiate/>
- 139) Alphabetical Index to Scholarships and Aid  
<http://www.window.state.tx.us/scholars/aid/faidalphabet.html>
- 140) National Security Scholarships Programs <http://www.iie.org/programs/nsep/nsephome.htm>
- 141) Institutes of Health Scholarship Programs  
<http://www.iie.org/programs/nsep/nsephome.htm>
- 142) Adventures in Education <http://adventuresineducation.org/>
- 143) Union Plus Scholarship Database  
<http://www.aflcio.org/familyfunresources/collegcosts/scholar.cfm>
- 144) Verizon Scholarship Program <http://foundation.verizon.com/06011.shtml>
- 145) Michigan Community Scholarships (over 100)  
<http://www.lib.msu.edu/harris23/grants/privcomm.htm>
- 146) College View's Scholarship Search  
[http://www.collegeview.com/financial\\_aid/schol\\_directory/](http://www.collegeview.com/financial_aid/schol_directory/)
- 147) College Xpress Scholarship Search <http://apps.absolutelyscholarships.com/exec/scholarship>
- 148) Scholarships on the Net (1500 Links) <http://whatsonthe.net/scholarmks.htm>
- 149) Scholarships, Prizes, and Honors (Cal based)  
<http://students.berkeley.edu/fao/Scholarships/default.htm>
- 150) Cola-Coca Art & Film Scholarships [http://www.youthdevelopment.coca-cola.com/art\\_refreshing.html](http://www.youthdevelopment.coca-cola.com/art_refreshing.html)
- 151) Art School Scholarships <http://www.straightforwardmedia.com/art/scholarship-guide.php>
- 152) Bowling Scholarships [http://www.bowlingmembership.com/PDF/smart\\_colleges.pdf](http://www.bowlingmembership.com/PDF/smart_colleges.pdf)
- 153) Red Cross Presidential Intern Program  
[http://www.redcross.org/images/pdfs/PIP\\_Fact\\_Sheet.pdf](http://www.redcross.org/images/pdfs/PIP_Fact_Sheet.pdf)
- 154) Congressional Black Caucus Scholarships  
<http://www.cbcbinc.org/Leadership%20Education/Scholarships/index.html>
- 155) Microsoft Scholarships [http://www.microsoft.com/college/ss\\_overview.msp](http://www.microsoft.com/college/ss_overview.msp)
- 156) Scholarship of The Month <http://www.collegescholarships.com/scholarships.html>
- 157) Fellowship Database (Graduate) <http://cuinfo.cornell.edu/Student/GRFN/>
- 158) Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf <http://www.agbell.org/>
- 159) APS Minorities Scholarship Program (Physics) <http://www.aps.org/educ/com/index.html>
- 160) The Minority/Disadvantaged Scholarship Program (architecture)  
<http://www.archfoundation.org/>
- 161) Music For The Blind <http://www.nfmc-music.org/>
- 162) War Memorial Fund <http://www.usjaycees.org/>
- 163) Engineering Awards and Scholarships <http://www.iee.org/EduCareers/Awards/UG/index.cfm>
- 164) Undergraduate Awards for Women  
<http://www.biochem.northwestern.edu/resfunds/undergrad.women.pdf>
- 165) Civil Air Patrol Scholarships <http://level2.cap.gov/index.cfm?nodeID=5589>
- 166) Various College scholarships List <http://www.parktudor.pvt.k12.in.us/scholarships2.htm>
- 167) Typical Scholarship Opportunities

- [http://www.esu3.org/districts/bellevue/curriculum/east/js Sheridan/counseling/ScholarshipFiles/main\\_list.htm#st](http://www.esu3.org/districts/bellevue/curriculum/east/js Sheridan/counseling/ScholarshipFiles/main_list.htm#st) counseling/ScholarshipFiles/main\_list.htm#st
- 168) AXA ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIP <http://www.axa-achievement.com/>
- 169) FEDERAL EMPLOYEE EDUCATION FUND <http://www.feea.org/scholarships.shtml>
- 170) PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARD <http://www.prudential.com/> spirit for more information.
- 171) Undesignated Scholarships (Engineering)  
<http://students.sae.org/awdscholar/scholarships/undesigned/>
- 172) WAL\*MART COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP <http://www.walmartfoundation.org/>
- 173) Scholarships for Minority accounting Students  
<http://www.aicpa.org/members/div/career/mini/smas.htm>
- 174) Actuarial Scholarships for Minority Students  
<http://www.beanactuary.org/minority/scholarship.cfm>
- 175) Minority Scholarships (All levels) <http://scholarships.fatomei.com/scholar3.html>
- 176) Findaid: Minority Scholarships <http://www.findaid.org/otheraid/minority.phtml>
- 177) Library Scholarships  
<http://www.ala.org/ala/lita/litaresources/litascholarships/litascholarships.htm>
- 178) Study Abroad Scholarships <http://www.iesabroad.org/minorityFinancialAid.do>
- 179) Native American & Other Scholarships  
[http://www.abetterchance.org/ReferralOrgs&Resources/res-coll\\_native\\_schol1.htm](http://www.abetterchance.org/ReferralOrgs&Resources/res-coll_native_schol1.htm)
- 180) Sports Figures Scholarships  
[http://sportsfigures.espn.com/sportsfigures/stu\\_sportsfigurechal\\_1.jsp](http://sportsfigures.espn.com/sportsfigures/stu_sportsfigurechal_1.jsp)
- 181) Scholarship Scams <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/conline/edcams/scholarship/>
- 182) Students of Color Scholarships <http://www.financialaid4you.com/index.php/scholarships>
- 183) USA Access Education Scholarships  
[http://www.usafunds.org/planning/access\\_to\\_education\\_scholarship/index.html](http://www.usafunds.org/planning/access_to_education_scholarship/index.html)
- 184) Fellowships and Scholarships <http://www.sacnas.org/fellow.html>
- 185) Dow Jones Scholarship and Program Listings  
[http://djnewspaperfund.dowjones.com/fund/cg\\_js\\_min\\_scholarships.asp](http://djnewspaperfund.dowjones.com/fund/cg_js_min_scholarships.asp)
- 186) Ernest Hemingway Awards Scholarships  
[http://djnewspaperfund.dowjones.com/fund/cg\\_gen\\_scholarships.asp](http://djnewspaperfund.dowjones.com/fund/cg_gen_scholarships.asp)
- 187) Minority Journalism Internships  
[http://djnewspaperfund.dowjones.com/fund/cg\\_min\\_internships.asp](http://djnewspaperfund.dowjones.com/fund/cg_min_internships.asp)
- 188) Hispanic/Latino Scholarships  
<http://www.elmhurst.edu/%7Ebio/ariola/Hablamos/scholarships.html>
- 189) General Scholarships <http://www.hccfl.edu/scholarship/general.html>
- 190) Jewish Scholarships <http://www.free-4u.com/jewish.htm>
- 191) Scholarship Opportunities (graduate) <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/finaid/external-finaid.shtml>
- 192) Ford Foundation Fellowships for Minorities <http://national-academies.org/fellowships>
- 193) Scholarships in Many Areas <http://www.meredith.edu/finaid/outsideaid.htm>
- 194) League Foundation: Alternative Lifestyles Scholarships <http://www.league-att.org/foundation/>
- 195) Datatel Scholarships <http://www.datatel.com/global/scholarships/applicants.cfm>
- 196) Alpha Kappa Alpha Awards <http://www.akaef.org/>
- 197) National Black Police Assoc. Scholarships <http://www.blackpolice.org/>
- 198) Elks Most Valuable Student Scholarship <http://www.elks.org/>
- 199) National Back Nurses' Assoc. Scholarships <http://www.nbna.org/>
- 200) Scholarships Based on Ethnicity <http://www.college.ucla.edu/UP/SRC/ethnic.htm>

**Scholarship Gateway provided by Isaac Black, Founder Black Excel: The College Help Network**  
www.BlackExcel.org, OR: Ijblack1@aol.com. Black Excel has 501c (3) nonprofit status with the IRS.

# Summer Programs



Below is a list of summer programs primarily targeted at assisting minority students:

Black Excel

<http://www.blackexcel.org/summerprograms2007-1.htm>

<http://www.blackexcel.org/summer-progs.htm>

College Horizons

<http://www.collegehorizons.org>

Target: Native American students; rising sophomores & juniors College sites change each year (2008 programs at Duke Univ. and Lawrence Univ.

Dedicated Engineers

[http://www.dedicatedengineers.org/Resources/summer\\_programs.htm](http://www.dedicatedengineers.org/Resources/summer_programs.htm)

Dow Jones Newspaper Fund

[http://djnewspaperfund.dowjones.com/fund/hss\\_summer\\_workshop.asp](http://djnewspaperfund.dowjones.com/fund/hss_summer_workshop.asp)

INROADS

<http://www.inroads.org/interns/internWhatItTakes.jsp>

Quality Education for Minorities (QEM) Network

<http://www.qem.org/internship..htm>

WECAAARE Education Foundation

<http://www.wecaaare.org/pages.asp?pageid=6833>

College-Specific:

California Institute of Technology

Young Engineering and Science Scholars <http://www.yess.caltech.edu/>

Target: Historically under-represented students in science and engineering; rising sophomores and juniors.

Carleton College, Liberal Arts Experience

<http://apps.carleton.edu/summer/clae>

Target: African American students; rising juniors

**This document, dated 05/01/09 can be obtained at:**  
[www.robertsteele.org](http://www.robertsteele.org) \* Resources'  
or by calling\* 312/603-3019

Cornell University, CURIE Academy

<http://www.engineering.cornell.edu/diversity/office-diversity-programs/summer-programs/highschool-programs/curie-academy/index.cfm>

Target: High school girls interested in engineering; rising juniors and seniors

Cornell University, CATALYST Academy

<http://www.engineering.cornell.edu/diversity/office-diversity-programs/summer-programs/highschool-programs/catalyst/index.cfm>

Target: African American/Latino or Native American students interested in science, technology, engineering and math; rising sophomores, juniors and seniors

Howard University

Summer Enrichment Program and Recruitment

[http://www.cpnahs.howard.edu/ctr\\_excellence/summer\\_enrichment.htm](http://www.cpnahs.howard.edu/ctr_excellence/summer_enrichment.htm)

Target: African American/Hispanic students applying for admission to health professions in the CPNAHS at Howard University

Lehigh University, Students That Are Ready (S.T.A.R.) Academies <http://www.lehigh.edu/star/>

Target: Economically and academically disadvantaged and/or at-risk middle/high school aged students

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, MITES

<http://web.mit.edu/mites/www/>

Target: First-generation, historically under-represented in science & engineering; rising seniors

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, PREFACE Summer Program

<http://doso.rpi.edu/update.do?catcenterkey=87>

Target: Historically under-represented students in science/technology; rising sophomores & juniors interested in engineering and technology

University of Notre Dame, African American Scholars Program

Target: Catholic African American high school students

Latino Community Leadership Seminar

<http://www.nd.edu/~lclsem/>

Target: Catholic Latino students; rising seniors

Worcester Polytechnic Institute, STRIVE

<http://www.wpi.edu/Admin/Diversity/K12/Strive/program.html>

# College Checklist for Students

## Freshman/Sophomore Year

It may seem like college is a long way off. It really isn't. The college or university you choose can influence the course of your life for many years after graduation. Decide what you would like in a college.

Ask your guidance counselor to register with [www.prephq.com](http://www.prephq.com) , a free internet service that allows them to establish an efficient way to communicate college info to students and parents.

Register on Prep HQ and start your resume.

Find out about the different types of schools and decide which characteristics are most important to you.

Consider what you'd like to do once you've finished college. What is your dream job? Think about career possibilities, explore different occupations, and give some serious consideration to planning your career.

[Go to [mapping-your-future.org/planning](http://mapping-your-future.org/planning)

Get to know your guidance counselor, and other college resources available in your school.

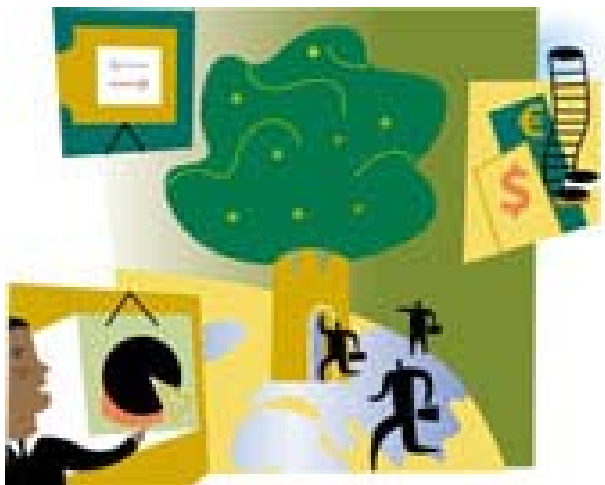
Discuss a four year career path with your guidance counselor, based on your interests.

Talk to adults in a variety of professions to determine what they like and dislike about their jobs and what kind of education is needed for each kind of job.

Colleges will look for challenging coursework, grade point average, and extracurricular activities such as sports, volunteer work, and community involvement.

It isn't too late to start saving for college. Every little bit counts!

If there is any chance you will compete in a Division I or Division II sport, check the NCAA website for high school eligibility at [www.naaclearinghouse.net](http://www.naaclearinghouse.net)



## Junior Year

Your junior year is the best time to explore the possibilities ahead of you - whether those possibilities include college, travel, or a career. Now is the time to ask questions about your future, shadow a job, visit colleges, take interest surveys.

It's important to maintain good grades. Keep in touch with your counselor about your grades and course selection. Here are some suggestions and recommendations for you.

### September & October

[ ] Ask your school to register for PrepHQ to help make college planning and preparations easier for students and parents.

[ ] Register for the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test / National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). Prepare for this test by using books in the library or going online for practice questions ([www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)), and work on increasing your vocabulary.

[ ] Take the PSAT/NMSQT. (Remember to take your calculator.)

[ ] Identify the sources of college and career information in your school. Start looking through guidance publications, websites, college catalogs, and guidebooks.

[ ] Put together a list of ten colleges that you would like to attend. Begin researching by visiting their websites.

[ ] Talk to your parents and your high school counselor about where you want to go to school.

[ ] Obtain a Social Security Number if you don't already have one. You will need it to apply for college and financial aid.

[ ] Attend a college fair. The National College Fair is held at Navy Pier in the Spring and Fall.

[ ] Talk to college representatives and —and ask them about the visitation schedules, or research them on Prep HQ.

[ ] Create your resume on PrepHQ.

### November & December

[ ] Call (800) 4-FED-AID and ask for FREE copies of financial aid materials, including the FREE Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or go to [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

[ ] Start looking into eligibility requirements of the different federal and alternative loans available.

[ ] Your PSAT/NMSQT score report should be arriving. Review and understand your score.

[ ] Start planning to take the ACT. If you wish to take the December ACT test you must register by November. Ask your high school counselor about registration or register online at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org).

## January & February

- [ ] Begin to plan college visits. During your college visits, make sure to meet with an admissions representative and a financial aid officer to find out what type of aid is available. Talk with students.
- [ ] Go on PrepHQ to investigate private scholarships such as corporations, labor unions, professional associations, religious organizations, and credit unions and other student aid programs. If applicable, go to the library and look for directories of scholarships for women, minorities, and disabled students.
- [ ] Websites such as [collegezone.com](http://collegezone.com) offer FREE searches for scholarship money.
- [ ] Sign up for the ACT-Prep course.
- [ ] Register by January to take the ACT exam in February.

## March & April

- [ ] Registration for Advanced Placement (AP) exams is usually held during the beginning of March. Listen for announcements concerning the exact dates.
- [ ] Register by March to take the April ACT exam.
- [ ] Continue investigating outside funding sources.
- [ ] Look at college profiles on college search sites.
- [ ] Make a list of three to five schools that interest you the most and schedule an official visit.
- [ ] Take the ACT exam in April.
- [ ] Attend the Spring college fair at Navy Pier.
- [ ] Take the Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE) and ACT in April. All juniors are required to take both of these tests for graduation and the score earned on the ACT can be used for college admissions.
- [ ] Meet with a high school guidance counselor for a junior year credit check. This meeting will involve reviewing your credits as well as discussing post high school plans.

## May & June

- [ ] Registration deadline for the June ACT test is May.
- [ ] AP exams are in early May.
- [ ] Consider people to ask for recommendations—teachers, counselors, employers, etc.
- [ ] Continue compiling information about which organizations award scholarships to graduating seniors. (You may have to begin applying the summer before your senior year in high school.)
- [ ] Complete your student resume in PrepHQ, you will need this when requesting recommendations.
- [ ] If you travel this summer, consider scheduling a college visit.
- [ ] Take the ACT exam in June.

## Senior Year

During the beginning of your senior year, you will finalize your college choices. This year is filled with admission applications, scholarship essays, and financial aid information. Throughout your senior year, continue to build your resume by achieving academic success, as well as participating in extra curricular activities. Colleges are very interested in well-rounded students.

### July & August

- [ ] Register on PrepHQ (if you haven't already and complete your resume.
- [ ] Review your career plans and decide which type of school is right for you  
[mapping-your-future.org/selecting/schools.htm](http://mapping-your-future.org/selecting/schools.htm)
- [ ] Visit college campuses.
- [ ] Narrow your college list to approximately five schools. Compare costs of each school that interests you by contacting the colleges by phone, mail, or via their web sites.
- [ ] Make a list of test names, dates and fees, registration deadlines, college application deadlines, and financial aid applications and deadlines.
- [ ] Visit [www.collegezone.com](http://www.collegezone.com) to identify possible scholarship opportunities.

### September

- [ ] Meet with college admissions representatives to become acquainted with their acceptance process.
- [ ] If you are planning to take the ACT or SAT this fall registration information and test dates can be found at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) and/or [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) .
- [ ] If a letter of recommendation is required by your college, begin to ask teachers, guidance counselors, and employers for their assistance. Give them three weeks advance notice.
- [ ] Write a short "thank you" to the person who has supported you in this way. Recommendations are a courtesy, not a requirement.
- [ ] Mark your calendar with registration, admissions, and financial aid deadlines and fees. Determine if the schools that interest you have online admission applications. If not, request an application by mail now.
- [ ] Attend a college fair. You can find a schedule of college fairs at [www.nacacnet.org](http://www.nacacnet.org), and these events are usually hosted twice a year at Navy Pier.
- [ ] If necessary, register to take the ACT. The test dates can be found at [www.schoolguides.com](http://www.schoolguides.com) This is also where you can find info about the SAT exam, and SAT test dates.

### October & November

- [ ] Work on application essays.
- [ ] Visit your top college choices. Talk with students and faculty.
- [ ] Finalize portfolios, audition tapes, writing samples, or other evidence of talent if required for admission.
- [ ] Complete applications for every scholarship for which you may be eligible. Find out which financial aid applications your college choices require and when the forms are due.

[ ] If you are planning on applying for a scholarship competition be sure to check the due dates for everything to be submitted. You usually have to be admitted to the college for consideration in the competition.

[ ] Attend the National College Fair at Navy Pier if you have not attended a college fair.

## December

[ ] Sign up for a PIN [www.pin.ed.gov/PINWebApp/pinindex.jsp](http://www.pin.ed.gov/PINWebApp/pinindex.jsp) for the FASFA (Federal Student Aid), your key to a fast, online financial aid application.

[ ] Finalize admission applications.

[ ] Urge your parents to file their taxes as soon as possible after JANUARY 1. This will ease the financial aid process.

## January

[ ] Apply for outside funding or scholarships.

[ ] Complete the FAFSA online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) . This will usually means you will receive your Student Aid Report (SAR) quicker. Keep your Department of Education PIN number in a safe place.

[ ] KEEP COPIES OF ALL FORMS YOU SUBMIT.

[ ] If the school you are applying to requires a mid-year transcript and you did not indicate this on your initial Transcript Request Form, you should make a note to submit a Transcript Request form with an addressed, stamped envelope to your Counselor, or the designated high school contact.

[ ] You should also follow-up-to ensure that this request does not get misplaced, etc..

## February & March

[ ] Make sure your FAFSA has been mailed or that you have applied online. When you receive your Student Aid Report (SAR), review it for errors and make any corrections as indicated. If you have not received your Student Aid Report within four weeks after sending in your FAFSA, contact the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-433-3243, or check the status on [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

[ ] Registration for AP (Advanced Placement) exams is usually scheduled for the beginning of March. Listen for announcements concerning this.

[ ] College Level Examination Program (CLEP) exams are offered at many colleges and universities and descriptions of the 34 CLEP exams that can be taken can be found at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

[ ] Rank your finalized list of colleges.

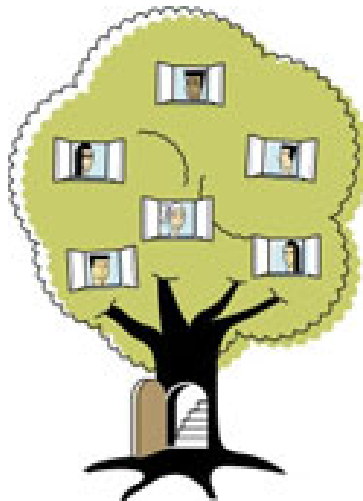
[ ] Look for Pell Grant program information in your Student Aid Report. Additional information about this particular grant can be found at <http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/PellGrants.jsp>

[ ] Submit Student Aid Report (and tax forms, if necessary) to the financial aid office. Be certain your application is complete. Find out what else you need to do to establish and maintain eligibility for financial aid.

[ ] KEEP COPIES OF ALL FORMS YOU SUBMIT to the financial aid office.

## April, May, June & July

- [ ] Watch the mail for college acceptance letters. Compare the financial aid awards you receive. Compare the amount of grants received to the amount of loans received-do not just look at the 'bottom line' figure.
- [ ] Check with your college of choice about the details of signing and returning financial aid award letters.
- [ ] Make your final decision and send in a deposit by the deadline.
- [ ] Notify the other schools' admissions and financial aid offices that you will not be attending.
- [ ] Watch for important deadlines at your college of choice (housing, financial aid, etc.).
- [ ] AP (Advanced Placement) exams in May, verify the dates, and decide when you will take the exam.
- [ ] Return any release forms that are necessary for your school to submit your final transcript to the college of your choice.
- [ ] Complete the Senior Survey on PrepHQ.
- [ ] Apply for a federal student loan, if necessary.
- [ ] Finalize summer school or summer job plans.
- [ ] Prepare a realistic student budget - [mapping-your-future.org/features/budgetcalc.htm](http://mapping-your-future.org/features/budgetcalc.htm)
- [ ] Follow up with the financial aid office to ensure all paperwork is complete.
- [ ] Have a great time at graduation, as you finalize your plans to become part of a distinguished academic group!



# Key



“Education is not received. It is achieved.”

- Author Unknown

# College Entrance Requirements

Entrance requirements vary widely among colleges. The more selective a college is for admission, the more academic units will be required. It is recommended that the student consider taking the following courses at minimum:

Take challenging classes in core academic subjects:

- Most colleges require 4 years of English,
- At least 3 years of social studies (history, civics, geography, economics, etc.),
- 3 years of mathematics,
- 3 years of science,
- Many require 2 years of a foreign language.
- Round out your course load with classes in computer science and the arts.

## Other Tips

- Stay involved in school- or community-based extracurricular activities that interest you or enable you to explore career interests.
- Consider working or volunteering.
- Remember - it's quality (not quantity) that counts.
- Save copies of your report cards, awards, honors and best work for your academic portfolio.
- Athletes, artists, scholars and others should start collecting items for their portfolios (such as game tapes, newspaper clippings, stats, awards, artwork, photographs, school papers, etc.).

# Entrance and Placement Exams

## PSAT/NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS:

The Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) is co-sponsored by the College Board and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. It is a practice test used to assist students in preparing for the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). The PSAT is administered to pre-registered eleventh grade students on a Saturday in mid-October. Students must pay for the PSAT by a date that is usually announced early in the fall. Results are mailed to the school in December. Scores of the PSAT are also used to select outstanding high school juniors for the National Merit Scholarships.

Outstanding students will be identified as being commended or semi-finalists in the fall of their senior year. Semifinalists will be asked to complete an application to become a finalist in the National Merit competition. Finalists will be notified in the spring of the senior year.

## ACT

Most colleges require either the ACT or SAT for admission. Registration can be done on-line; paper forms and you will need your high school code when registering. Practice tests are available in most Guidance offices, and either test may be repeated to improve a score.

The ACT is a curriculum based test published by American College Testing. It is composed of four, 35-60 minute tests in the areas of English, mathematics, social studies, reading and science reasoning. Students receive four separate scores plus a composite score. Each score is reported as the accurate portion from a total of 36. There is also an optional writing assessment; check with each college to determine if you will need this section. The ACT is also taken in conjunction with the PSAT in the spring of the student's Junior year. (Presently, this ACT score is not accepted by the NCAA.)

## SAT

Sometimes referred to as the SAT Reasoning Test or the SAT I, the Scholastic Aptitude Test is published by the College Board. It measures critical reading, mathematical reasoning, and writing skills. It is three hours and 35 minutes in length. There are three scores of 200-800 for each test section; two sub-scores of 20-80 for the writing multiple choice section and 2-12 for the essay.

The SAT II or SAT Subject Tests are one-hour tests that measure how much students know about a particular academic subject and how well they can apply that knowledge. Students may register for up to three tests on one date. They are usually offered on the same days as the SAT, but there are exceptions - check carefully.

## AP (Advanced Placement Exams)

These exams are based on college level courses; they are designed to test a student's knowledge in specific subject areas. The scores range from 1-5 and are primarily used for college placement, credit or advanced standing. They are given once a year, in May, to students who have pre-registered. Because AP scores are not accepted by all colleges, students should check with their schools of choice before taking the exams.

## CLEP (College Level Examination Program)

These exams provide students of any age with the opportunity to demonstrate college-level achievement in undergraduate college courses. They are offered at various colleges and universities in Illinois, some of which are identified in the Attachments. Because some colleges do not recognize CLEP credit be sure to check each college you are interested in attending before taking these exams.

## TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language)

The TOEFL, administered by the College Board, provides an alternative test for students who have been speaking English for less than five years. The test is used to evaluate the English proficiency of these students. Highly selective colleges may require students to submit SAT scores for the mathematics component along with the TOEFL.

# College Application Process

## OBTAINING APPLICATIONS

Most colleges prefer students to complete applications on-line by going to the college's website.  
Many of the applications from Illinois schools are available via your counselor.  
Other applications may be obtained by writing or calling the college/university.  
Once you have the application, read it over carefully and note the deadlines!

## COMPLETING APPLICATIONS

Fill out the entire application!  
Some applications have just one part with the counselor information included. (e.g., NIU, WIU)  
Other applications will have separate sections for the student, the counselor, and the teacher (e.g., Northwestern and U. of Chicago). If this is the case, please give the counselor and/or teacher his/her section a.s.a.p. The counselor's part should be turned in with the Transcript Request Form attached. (If the counselor or teacher sends their section before you finish your part of the application, don't panic! The college will just start a file for you and add information as it is received).

## ON-LINE APPLICATIONS

Many schools now prefer on-line applications and many will have you print a signature page for the counselor; read the application thoroughly before starting; make working copies; identify deadline dates; follow directions carefully; proofread; make photocopies of everything you send.

## LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

When asking for a letter of recommendation, provide the teacher/counselor with a completed College Recommendation Request Form; paper copies are usually available in your counselor's office and can be accessed on PrepHQ; please allow 2-3 weeks for counselors. Make arrangements with teachers on an individual basis.

Write a short "thank you" to the person who has supported you in this way. Recommendations are a courtesy, not a requirement.

## SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS

Attach the following with a paper clip and find out if they should be given to your high school guidance counselor:

- Completed Transcript Request Form, which is available on PrepHQ.
- Completed and signed application or signature page.
- An envelope addressed to the college with your high school as the return address.
- Proper postage.
- The application fee (if applicable).

Note: If you apply on-line and just a transcript is needed, please verify if the request should go to your counselor, and make it easy for them to help you by attaching an addressed, stamped envelope.

### WHY DO COLLEGES REQUIRE ESSAYS?

A college application includes a lot of information about you, such as grades, recommendations, lists of your extracurricular activities and test scores. All of that information is very important and helps admission officers form a picture of your accomplishments and abilities. However, while it tells about how other people see you, there isn't much about how you see yourself. It's that inside view - how you see yourself - that colleges hope to find in your essay.

The essay can be a way of showing that you have researched and thought carefully about the college to which you are applying. It shows, in your own words, why you and the college would be a good "match." An essay demonstrates your writing ability, which is a key component to success in college. In your essay, you can show that you are willing to put yourself into what you do.

For selective colleges, the essay helps admission committees draw distinctions and make choices among applicants. An essay will rarely take an applicant out of consideration at a college, but it certainly can elevate an applicant in an admission committee's eyes.

Key points that admission officers look for in an essay:

Make sure to answer the essay question and to follow all the instructions that are given.

Start off with a strong opening paragraph that captures the reader's interest.

Use a style that you find comfortable and that is appropriate for the subject matter.

Use correct grammar, punctuation and spelling.

Make a point and stick to it; develop your argument or narrative.

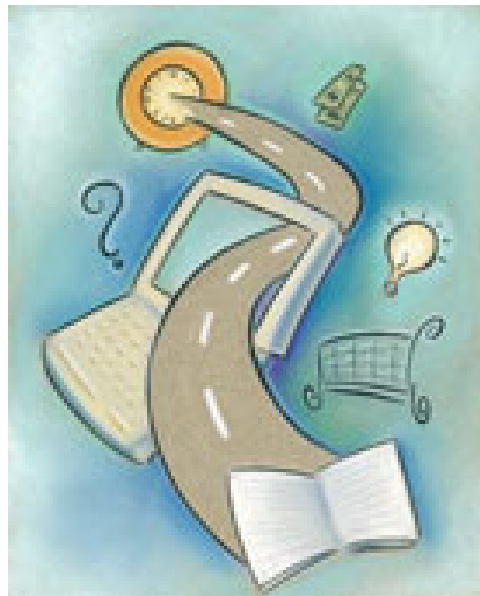
Check all of your facts. Do you mention a date, place or event in your essay? Make sure it's correct.

Have you given your reader complete information, so he or she won't be confused?

In general, it's best to be succinct. If there is a recommended length for the essay, pay attention to it.

The essay should be neatly typed.

Remember that mistakes, especially sloppy mistakes, make it look like you didn't take the essay (and, by extension, the application) very seriously.



# Request for Recommendation

The College Recommendation Request Form is available on PrepHQ website and in my Guidance offices. You will need to create your resume in PrepHQ; print it and attach the completed College Recommendation Form to the resume before submitting it to your counselor. Please allow at least three weeks for a letter to be written.

Since recommendations are a courtesy and not a requirement, you may want to write a short thank you note to the person who has supported you in this way.

1. What major/area of study are you considering for college? ("undecided" is okay)
2. What career(s) are you considering pursuing?
3. List 2 academic faculty members (preferably junior year) who could give a positive appraisal.
4. Describe yourself by identifying 3 personal qualities. Write a supportive paragraph for each.
5. Anything else? Significant factual information about you, your academic record, your personality, your hopes for the future, or perhaps unusual family circumstances (illness, strong parental support, travel, changes in school due to moving) would be helpful.

If there is information you would like to have emphasized in the letter of recommendation to help the colleges make a more accurate appraisal of your application please specify this at the time of your request?

# Types of Admission Decisions

The college admission process has its own language; rolling admission, early decision, early action and wait listed. Some of the most frequently mentioned practices include the following:

## Early Decision

This plan allows a student to apply between October and mid-January (generally) for an early determination of admissibility. If accepted, the student is obligated to attend. The student may submit other applications during this period, but only one can be early decision. If accepted through the early decision program, the student must withdraw all other applications.

## Early Action/Notification

These plans have varying rules. They invite early application but they are non-binding agreements to attend the college. A small number of schools have a plan called "Early Action Single Choice" which is more like an Early Decision plan. Please read your college application carefully to understand the guidelines of Early Action programs.

## Deferred Decision

The college or university determines that more information is needed to make a final decision about a candidate's application. Often the decision is delayed until seventh semester grades and/or new test scores are received.

## Rolling Admission

The college or university will notify the student as soon as the application has been processed (usually in four to six weeks) and the file is complete. It is to the student's advantage to apply early. A student is not required to respond to an offer of admission until he/she has received a response from all schools that they have applied to or by May 1, whichever comes first.

## Wait Listed

This is not an offer of admission to the college, it means that you are admissible provided there is room. 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. They are expected to notify you of the resolution of your wait list status no later than August 1st.

## Deferred Admission

This plan permits a student, once accepted, to postpone matriculation for one year in order to pursue other plans.



# Campus Visits

There are many ways to find out about a college; websites, brochures and college fairs. But there is no substitute for seeing the campus yourself. If you are an athlete who is being recruited by a college, remember that you are a student first.

Attend a general student tour and open house offered by the college. Be sure you like the school as a whole, not just the athletic program. Here are some ideas to help you make the most of a campus visit.

Before you go:

Call the Admissions Office in advance, tell them the date you would like to visit as well as the time of day that you expect to arrive.

Inquire about scheduling an interview or attending an information session, visiting classes and talking with the faculty.

If you want to stay overnight in a residence hall, ask if they can make arrangements.

Research the college using the resources the school's website.

Make a list of questions that you want answered.

While you are on campus:

Talk to as many students as possible.

Take a tour of the campus.

Sit in on a class.

Have a meal in the cafeteria.

Pick up copies of the college newspaper and magazine.

Prepare for the Admissions Interview:

Take along a list of your questions.

You will be asked about your academic background interests, hobbies, goals, and perhaps why you're interested in the college, so be ready to talk!

As with any interview, be on time, or call ahead if you know you will be delayed.

**There is no substitute for seeing a college yourself!**

# Suggested Questions and Observations for Campus Visits

## QUESTIONS

### WHEN YOU TALK TO STUDENTS:

Are campus jobs readily available?

What's the library like as a place to study? To do research?

Are faculty members interested in students and accessible outside of class?

How many hours a week do you study? Is that typical here?

What do you like most about this college? Least? If you could change something, what would it be?

Are the athletic facilities open to all students or only to athletes?

Do many students go home on the weekends?

Is it possible to study in your dorm room?

### IN AN INTERVIEW:

Does the college have academic programs that fit my interests?

Will I have access to special equipment (such as an electron microscope) as a first-year student?

What are the strengths and weaknesses of the college's advising system?

How many students will there be in courses I'm likely to take in my first year? Are those courses taught by professors or graduate assistants?

Will there be any new programs or facilities in the next two years?

Will I have to pay additional fees for computer time?

## OBSERVATIONS

### WHEN YOU ATTEND CLASS :

Are students prepared for the class? Do they seem interested in the material?

Am I intellectually challenged by what is taking place in class?

Is there time for questions and discussion? Do students participate?

Is there a good rapport between professors and students?

Do I feel that the students are learning - either new facts or new ways of thinking about a subject?

### AS YOU TOUR CAMPUS:

Are computers and lab equipment up-to-date and plentiful?

Are the buildings in good repair? The grounds well-kept?

What is the cafeteria like?

Are the residence halls pleasant and quiet enough to study in?

Are there laundry and kitchen facilities?

What is the surrounding town or city like?

## Frequently Asked Questions

How many applications are enough?

Ideally, 3-5 applications although this will vary from student to student. It is also important to understand the difference between schools with varying degrees of selectivity.

Reach School: Your credentials may meet or are below the published admission standards for the school. Note: All "highly selective" schools should be considered a reach school for every student.

Target School: Your credentials are in the range of the published admission standards for the school.

Safety School: Your credentials meet or exceed the published admission standards for the school.

Academic Safety: Your credentials definitely meet or exceed the published admission standards for the school.

Financial Safety: In addition to being an academic safety, this school meets your financial situation.

Do all colleges require an essay?

No. If a college does require an essay as part of their application, it is an important factor. Remember, it is a way to differentiate you from the other applicants who may have similar GPA's and test scores.

What is a personal statement and when should I include it?

A personal statement is an opportunity to explain anything that is not otherwise addressed in the application. It may be used to explain a fluctuation in grades due to an illness, a life altering experience, or any other significant event that would enhance your application. A personal statement is not required by all colleges.

Should I use a paper application or apply on-line?

Some colleges require on-line applications. Most colleges prefer on-line applications; it is important to read the application carefully. Most will also still accept a paper application.

What is the Common Application?

The Common Application is a not-for-profit organization that serves students and colleges and universities by providing an admission application, both on-line and paper, that students may submit to approximately 300 colleges. This allows a student to complete one application for numerous colleges. For more information and a list of participating schools, see [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org).

Is it too late for me to take/retake the ACT or SAT my senior year?

This depends on the application deadline. Check with each individual school.

How do I obtain a letter of recommendation?

Many colleges do not require a letter or recommendation. However, some more selective colleges and universities do require a letter from a teacher and/or a counselor. It is your responsibility to request a letter from the appropriate person(s).

Choose a teacher, coach or counselor who knows you well when asking for a recommendation.

Make an appointment to ask this person to write a letter of recommendation for you. DO NOT assume the letter will be completed if you leave the request in their mailbox or drop it off on their desk; make sure you make personal contact with the teacher or counselor.

Provide the teacher, coach or counselor with a completed College Recommendation Request Form and a resume. Paper copies of this form are available in most Guidance offices and on PrepHQ.

Be sure to give them sufficient time (at least 3 weeks) to write your letter; this should be well in advance of any college application deadlines.

If you would like that person to mail the letter directly to a college, provide them with a stamped, addressed envelope. If you would like your counselor to send the letter of recommendation with your transcript, be sure to tell the teacher, coach or counselor.

Write a short "thank you" to the person who has supported you in this way. Recommendations are a courtesy, not a requirement.

What is the May 1st deadline I keep hearing about?

May 1st is the universal acceptance date. Once you have been admitted to college(s), you have until May 1<sup>st</sup> to examine all of your options (re-visit the campus, review scholarship/financial aid packages, etc.) and select the one school that you plan to attend. It is only with the Early Decision option that the May 1st deadline does not apply.

# College Checklist for Parents

## Freshman Year

- Register on PrepHQ. If your child has already registered, ask for his/her user name and password.
- Discuss the importance of lifelong learning and the value of a college education.
- Promote extended, well-paced study rather than short-term cramming.
- Discuss the impact of grades and course selection on college admission.
- Check curriculum requirements for college entrance.
- Encourage involvement in extracurricular activities, volunteering, and internships or other work experiences.
- Engage your student in decision-making so that he or she learns to look at options carefully, to act decisively, and to take responsibility for final decisions.
- Plan for college expenses. Explore your savings options. Educate yourself about financial aid requirements and how to invest your savings to maximize college financial aid.
- If there is any possibility that your child will play a Division I or Division II sport, go to the NCAA website [www.ncaaclearinghouse.net](http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net) to check the courses and grades required to compete at the college level.

## Sophomore Year

- Start to network with your student's teachers and counselors.
- Talk about his or her interests and career possibilities.
- Begin exploring appropriate college options with your student.
- Continue your support of extracurricular involvement and encourage participation in leadership roles.
- Start a file for college correspondence.

## Junior Year

- If applicable, go to the library with your son or daughter and look for directories on scholarships. PrepHQ is also a great source of information for scholarships.
- Your student should develop and follow a plan of college search.
- Encourage your student to build their resume by taking college prep classes, participating in extra curricular activities, and volunteering at programs outside of school.
- Attend college fairs. The National College Fair is held at Navy Pier twice each year, in the spring and fall.
- Ask if you child's high school offers College Planning for parents.
- Consult with student's high school counselor for college search ideas and other advice.
- Review all options... if a school seems too costly, find out what scholarships and other financial assistance may be available to you.
- Your student should prepare for and take the ACT/SAT exams.

[ ] If you are not certain, find out if your student should take the Advanced Placement or SAT II exams by talking with his/her counselor.

[ ] Network (check progress and commiserate) with other parents.

[ ] Help your child investigate the availability of financial aid from federal, state, local, and private sources. Contact the Student Aid Hotline at the U.S. Department of Education (1-800-4FED-AID) for a student guide to Federal financial aid or go to [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) or [www.findaid.com](http://www.findaid.com)

[ ] Help your child investigate the availability of scholarships provided by organizations such as corporations, labor unions, professional associations, religious organizations, and credit unions. Look on PrepHQ!

## Summer Before Senior Year

[ ] Help your student sort through college mail as it arrives. Sit down with your student and prepare a list of what he/she is looking for in a college and then help him/her sort through the information they receive from the different institutions to decide which ones offer what's on the list.

[ ] Review ACT/SAT results and discuss whether your student should retest.

[ ] Visit different types of schools: small and large, vocational and liberal arts, private and public.

[ ] Develop a list of questions for colleges and take them with you on your visits. See Appendix for suggestions.

## Senior Year

[ ] In order to meet admission deadlines, encourage your child to complete their applications by the end of October.

[ ] Monitor the status of your student's application process on PrepHQ.

[ ] Go on trips with your student to as many of his or her top choices as possible. A visit to the campus is invaluable to making a decision. Make additional visits and encourage your student to spend the night and attend classes at the schools that spark his or her interest.

[ ] Remain open-minded as the short list develops.

[ ] Stay positive - the search for the right school can be exhausting and stressful at times.

[ ] Make sure your child completes all necessary financial aid forms.

[ ] In November, register for a PIN [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov) so you can assist your student with financial aid forms.

[ ] Meet deadlines when applying for merit-based scholarships and need-based assistance (for example, FAFSA -all students applying for federal financial aid must complete the FAFSA - file early).

[ ] Collect all of your tax information and file for financial assistance in a timely fashion (and keep copies) so you can file the FAFSA after January 1.

[ ] Your year-end payroll stub may be needed for financial aid eligibility review, so file this in an easily accessible place.

[ ] In March, the award notices will start coming in. Look at the financing carefully and contact the schools with any questions. Make comparisons!

[ ] Notify the chosen school of the final decision and send in the tuition deposit. It also is common courtesy to notify all other schools that granted acceptance.

# Financial Aid Options

There are three different financial aid forms parents may need to submit depending on the college or university to which their children apply.

## 1. FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

In order to determine eligibility for ANY financial aid (even those items that are not need based), a family must complete the FAFSA. You can access the online application at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

Students will be able to obtain a paper FAFSA by calling the Federal Student Aid Information Center toll-free at 1-800-4-FED-AID. The FAFSA cannot be filed prior to January 1 of a student's senior year in high school but should be completed and mailed by February 15.

If you have additional questions, you can contact the Student Aid Hotline at the U.S. Department of Education at (800) 4FED-AID.

## 2. CSS Profile (College Board's College Scholarship Service)

The other major financial aid form that several hundred usually selective, private institutions use is the CSS. The Profile utilizes institutional methodology which differs somewhat from the calculation performed by the federal government. The Profile collects more specific data than the FAFSA and sends it to colleges. Since there is a cost for this service students should check directly with the college to be sure the Profile is required. Families can complete this form early in the senior year and should do so at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com).

## 3. Institutional Forms

Some schools ask students to complete an individual financial aid document from their own financial aid office. Such forms are usually mailed to accepted students or are included in the application packet.

### TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

Financial assistance comes in several types: grants, scholarships, loans and work-study.

Grants are typically based on financial need and don't need to be repaid.

Scholarships may be awarded based on academics, special achievements or involvement in school or community activities; financial need is sometimes a factor. It is known as gift aid, and does not need to be repaid.

Loans are a significant part of most aid packages. The loan must be repaid, most often not until after graduation. Interest rates are usually lower than other types of loans. The repayment period varies from two to three years up to thirty years.

Work-study refers to part-time jobs on campus; funding is provided through the federal work-study program or institutional funds.

# Financial Aid Terms & Questions

## FINANCIAL AID TERMS

**Financial aid package:** The combination of scholarships, grants, loans and work-study that a student receives

**Need analysis:** Using information provided on the FAFSA form and on other forms a college might require, the income and assets of both parents and student are analyzed. Many variables that affect a family's financial situation are considered, such as the number of people in the household, children in college, age of parents, and types of assets and savings.

**Expected family contributions:** The amount the family and the student could reasonably be expected to contribute toward the cost of a college education. This is determined by the need analysis.

**Need-based aid:** Financial aid award on the basis of the financial need shown by a family, determined by need analysis.

**Merit-based aid:** Financial aid awarded on the basis of factors other than financial need. This usually consists of scholarships awarded for academic performance or for special talents.

**Comprehensive fee:** The total cost of tuition, room, board, and student fees charged by a college or university.

In addition, other expenses such as transportation and books are added to the comprehensive fee to determine the cost of attendance at a college.

## FINANCIAL AID QUESTIONS FOR COLLEGES

What kind of financial assistance does the college offer? Need-based, merit-based, or both?

Can the college provide an early estimate of what our financial aid award might be?

When are the financial aid applications due? What forms are needed to apply?

When will we be notified about the amount of assistance we can expect?

Is there a commitment for financial assistance beyond the first year?

How and when do we apply for financial aid after the first year?

What if we don't qualify for need-based aid? Are there alternative financing options available?

Does the institution have an appeal process to review special circumstances

Can we apply financial aid toward an off-campus study program, either in the US or another country?

Are there any payment options available (such as monthly or quarterly)?

# College and Career Planning for Students with Special Needs



The process of researching and selecting an appropriate college is a complex one for any student and their family....as the previous sections indicate. And for the student with special needs such as learning disabilities, attention deficit disorder or physical disabilities, the process takes on even higher levels of complexity. But there is good news!

More and more colleges are providing services and developing support programs for students with special needs. The goal of this section is to provide some insight to students and their families as to the additional steps they must follow to insure that they find a college that will meet the needs of their student.

## SELF ADVOCACY

The best gift we can give our students with special needs is to teach them the skills to advocate for themselves. Talk to any college counselor or admissions director, and their unending mantra to all students is that they must learn how to ask for help - early and often, especially students with learning differences. Students with special needs must have a complete understanding of their learning difficulties and be familiar and articulate about strategies that work for them.

Once a student leaves high school, the jurisdiction of IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) ends - where the school identifies students and provides them appropriate services - and the responsibility shifts to the student to obtain services and accommodations in college classes.....now that's a big change.

## EARLIER PLANNING

For students with learning disabilities, ADD or ADHD, or other special needs, early college planning is the key, particularly for students looking for or needing specific support programs or services. While most of the 'college planning buzz' occurs for students in their junior and senior years, students with special needs can and should begin their college research earlier than that. When? Freshman year is not too early for students with special needs and their families to initiate college-planning discussions. How? Don't panic - there are so many resources available today - your guidance counselor, college guides, directories, books, college fairs, college rep visits, marketing materials from colleges and their websites. Accumulating information will be the easy part. The key is to first determine what you're looking for in a college and the level of support you believe your student will need.

## LEVELS OF SUPPORT

Like all college-bound students, there are several criteria that the student and family are looking to meet when choosing a college. They include the school's geographic location, size of the college, cost of tuition, academic curriculum, etc.. And for a student with special needs, the primary goal in the college search becomes finding a college that will meet your student's needs - specifically the level of support your student will need to become successful in the collegiate environment.

Typically, one hears of four levels of support provided in some fashion at the college level. Some colleges offer one or more of these levels of support, and it is up to the student and the family to determine what level their student will need and whether specific colleges provide these services:

**HIGHLY STRUCTURED PROGRAMS:** These college programs provide comprehensive services for students with learning disabilities. They are more likely to have separate admissions processes and charge additional fees over and above the tuition costs. The number of students accepted into highly structured programs is usually limited to insure high staff/student ratios. Students are required to submit their psycho-educational evaluations and often personal interviews are required. The admission decision is usually made by the Director of the Support Program or in conjunction with the Director of Admissions. Once admitted, students may develop an Educational Plan, similar to their Individual Educational Plan in high school, and the student may be required to attend study or tutoring sessions. Plus, there is a close monitoring of the student's progress throughout the year.

**COORDINATED SERVICES:** These services are provided to students who voluntarily identify themselves as needing academic help and/or accommodations to be successful in college. Students may submit a special application and the Director of Support Services (or Disability Support Services) at the college may be involved with the admission decision. The Director of Support Services may help the student coordinate services with various teachers, etc. and recommend weekly visits to ensure that the student is getting the necessary help. Traditionally, the onus for receiving these types of services is on the student - to advocate for him/herself and initiate the accommodations - with the help of the Disability Support Services department, if necessary. There are usually no additional fees for Coordinated Services.

**BASIC SERVICES:** Most colleges will provide basic services that comply to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Sometimes these services are directed by persons knowledgeable about learning disabilities, so it is valuable to find that out when researching your colleges. The student is admitted to the college in the normal way and then must seek out these basic support services if needed - often in the form of peer tutoring, or sometimes professional tutoring. There may or may not be charges for the professional tutoring. The degree and effectiveness of basic services varies from college to college, and it will always be up to the student to seek out these services.

**SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENTS:** These are colleges that may not have a bevy of specific services or programs, but the small size of the student body and the care and involvement of the faculty provide a very nurturing environment. Don't rule these schools out, as the primary reason many professors and teachers teach at smaller schools is because of the Close interaction they can have with their students.

## Partial List of Resources for Students with Special Needs

Today there are many resources available to students and their families to use when researching appropriate colleges for students with special needs. The goal of this section is to provide an overview of some of those resources, so while not a complete and comprehensive list; it becomes a good place to start. Hopefully, these resources will provide you some insight into specific support programs, admissions requirements, graduation requirements and some details about campus life of many colleges.

The Guidance Office at your high school may have many of the directories and books listed below and they may be able to help you with your search. Find out when this office is staffed and open to the public, and if they have evening hours during the school year.

### COLLEGE BOOK RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DIFFERENCES:

College Guide: School Search: Guide to Colleges with Programs and Services for Students with Learning Disabilities (Revised)

By: Midge Lipkin Ph.D.

K&W Guide to Colleges for Students with LD/ADHD, 7th Edition

By: Marybeth Kravets, MA, and Imy F. Wax, MS

Published by Princeton Review and Random House

Peterson's Colleges for Students with Learning Disabilities or ADD, 7th Edition

Counseling Secondary Students with Learning Disabilities

By: Michael Koehler and Marybeth Kravets

Published by Simon and Schuster/Prentice Hall

### WEBSITES:

May have general information on post-secondary/college planning.

[www.idanatl.org](http://www.idanatl.org)

[www.ahead.org](http://www.ahead.org)

[www.NCLD.org](http://www.NCLD.org)

[www.cldinternational.org](http://www.cldinternational.org)

[www.chadd.org](http://www.chadd.org)

[www.idonline.org](http://www.idonline.org)

[www.cec.sped.org](http://www.cec.sped.org)

[www.d113.lake.k12.il.us/dhs/depts/counseling/index.htm](http://www.d113.lake.k12.il.us/dhs/depts/counseling/index.htm) - excellent high school website for the college search for students with special needs.

All colleges have websites - go to [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) and type in the name of the college you'd like to research. Look for monikers like 'Disability Services' or 'Support Services' or 'Academic Support Center' on the school's website. Most colleges provide ways online to request information and have it mailed to you. In doing this research, we were overwhelmed by how open and willing college administrators were with sharing information regarding their schools' services for students with unique needs. They were incredibly responsive!

### COLLEGE FAIRS:

Please contact your Guidance Office for the exact dates of Annual College Fairs –

For your high school district

For other area college fairs, such as Navy Pier

Sometimes college fairs offer workshops specifically for Parents and Students with Special Needs

### ACCOMMODATIONS FOR COLLEGE ENTRANCE TESTS:

Clearly, this is a topic of interest and intrigue for students with special needs and their parents. Students with special needs who might need extended time, tests on tape, larger print tests, oral tests and/or

**This document, dated 05/01/09 can be obtained at:**

[www.robertsteele.org](http://www.robertsteele.org) \* Resources'

or by calling\* 312/603-3019

distraction-free environments must go through a special registration process. Students requesting a 'non-standardized version' of the ACT or SAT tests must complete special registration forms, which will require written documentation regarding the disability and signatures of school staff, as well as the general registration form.

Non-standardized testing requires the approval from the ACT and SAT testing agencies. It is imperative that the student, parent, counselor or case manager visit the respective websites of the ACT and SAT to get the exact procedural information for taking these tests with accommodations. Usually, students requesting accommodations on these college entrance tests must register via the mail 'prior to the initial registration deadline' - meaning no late registrations for students needing test accommodations. Only extended time is available on National test dates.

Other accommodations require special testing dates. The websites and respective pages for students with disabilities for the ACT and SAT tests are as follows:

ACT - [www.act.org/aap/disab/](http://www.act.org/aap/disab/)

SAT - [www.collegeboard.com/ssd/student/index/html](http://www.collegeboard.com/ssd/student/index/html)

Note to Parents - You will be required to complete some paperwork in the fall for your junior student to take the PSAT test with accommodations in the spring. *THIS PAPERWORK DOES NOT CARRY OVER TO THE ACT TESTS ADMINISTERED ON NATIONAL TEST DATES.....*you will be required to complete additional paperwork.

### QUESTIONS TO ASK COLLEGES

You've determined the type of college your student is looking for, settled on the level of support she/he will need, researched ad nauseam various colleges; your student has taken the college entrance test(s) with accommodations, and you are all now ready to make your first college visit.

Here are some questions (borrowed from the Deerfield High School website) that you may want to ask of the college admissions or disability department to better understand the admissions criteria and services at the college:

1. What are the admission requirements for the college and are these requirements flexible for students with documented learning disabilities?
2. What are the procedures and timelines for applying for admission to the college and to be eligible to receive services?
3. What accommodations are available on campus? How do students access these services?
4. Are there additional charges for services?
5. Are there special courses designed for students with learning disabilities or remedial or developmental courses available? Will college credit be granted for these courses?
6. Is there someone who will help the students obtain the necessary services and accommodations?
7. Who is responsible for considering petitions for modifying course requirements or waivers?
8. Is there a professional available who is knowledgeable about learning disabilities who will be available to help my student?
9. Are there organized support groups for students with learning disabilities?
10. Are there courses available to help students with time management, study skills, organizational skills, note-taking, and test-taking strategies?
11. Are there any special living arrangements for student with special needs?

### CONCLUSION

The college search and selection process are very exciting times in the life of your student. It is a time of personal growth that comes with a deepening awareness and understanding of what your child will need to be successful beyond high school. There's a saying; there's a college that's right for everyone - you just need to find that one that will match your student's needs!

## Schedule of Attachments

Websites  
College Placement Test Preparation  
Essay Pointers  
Sample Letters  
Application Organizer  
PrepHQ  
Related Documents  
Feedback Request  
Community Flyer  
Copyright Notice



# Websites

## LINKS TO COLLEGE INFORMATION

ACT	<a href="http://www.act.org">www.act.org</a>
College Board	<a href="http://www.collegeboard.com">www.collegeboard.com</a>
College Safety Reports	<a href="http://ope.ed.gov/security/index.asp">http://ope.ed.gov/security/index.asp</a>
Colleges That Change Lives	<a href="http://www.ctcl.com">www.ctcl.com</a>
College View	<a href="http://www.collegeview.com">www.collegeview.com</a>
Common Application	<a href="http://www.commonapp.org">www.commonapp.org</a>
Historically Black Colleges	<a href="http://www.blackhighereducation.com">www.blackhighereducation.com</a>
NCAA	<a href="http://www.ncaa.org">www.ncaa.org</a>
Peterson's Guides	<a href="http://www.petersons.com">www.petersons.com</a>
PrepHQ	<a href="http://www.prephq.com">www.prephq.com</a>
Princeton Review	<a href="http://www.princetonreview.com">www.princetonreview.com</a>
School profiles and applications	<a href="http://www.collegenet.com">www.collegenet.com</a>
U.S. News & World Report	<a href="http://www.usnews.com/usnews/home.htm">www.usnews.com/usnews/home.htm</a>
Virtual Tours	<a href="http://www.campustours.com">www.campustours.com</a>

## LINKS TO FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS

CSS Profile	<a href="http://www.collegeboard.com">www.collegeboard.com</a>
FAFSA on the web	<a href="http://www.fafsa.ed.gov">www.fafsa.ed.gov</a>
FastWeb Student Resource Network	<a href="http://www.fastweb.com">www.fastweb.com</a>
Illinois Student Assistance Commission	<a href="http://www.collegezone.com">www.collegezone.com</a>
The Financial Aid Information Page	<a href="http://www.finaid.org">www.finaid.org</a>

## CAREER RESOURCES & INTEREST SURVEYS

Discover	<a href="http://www.act.org/discover">www.act.org/discover</a>
Mapping Your Future	<a href="http://mapping-your-future.org">http://mapping-your-future.org</a>
Occupational Outlook Handbook	<a href="http://www.bls.gov.oco">www.bls.gov.oco</a>
Trade Careers	<a href="http://www.cisco.org">www.cisco.org</a>

## MILITARY

ASVAB	<a href="http://www.asvabprogram.com">www.asvabprogram.com</a>
Air Force	<a href="http://www.airforce.com">www.airforce.com</a>
Army	<a href="http://www.army.mil/">www.army.mil/</a>
Coast Guard	<a href="http://www.uscg.mil/">www.uscg.mil/</a>
Marines	<a href="http://www.usmc.mil/marinelink">www.usmc.mil/marinelink</a>
Navy	<a href="http://www.navy.mil">www.navy.mil</a>

# College Placement Test Preparation

Test Preparation, Exam Preparation, Practice Tests, Standardized Tests, Study Guides					
<u>Accuplacer Exam</u>	<u>ACT EXAM</u>	<u>AP Exams</u>	<u>AHPAT EXAM</u>	<u>ASVAB EXAM</u>	<u>Border Patrol EXAM</u>
<u>Building Contractor</u>	<u>CAHSEE</u>	<u>California Real Estate Exam</u>	<u>CBEST / CSET</u>	<u>Civil Service</u>	<u>CLAST</u>
<u>CLEP</u>	<u>Correction Officer</u>	<u>CPA</u>	<u>CSU wpe elm</u>	<u>DAT</u>	<u>DSST Dantes</u>
<u>ExCet</u>	<u>Firefighter Exams</u>	<u>FTCE</u>	<u>GED</u>	<u>GMAT</u>	<u>Golden State</u>
<u>GRE</u>	<u>LSAT</u>	<u>MAT</u>	<u>MCAS Mass</u>	<u>MCAT EXAM</u>	<u>Military Flight Aptitude Test</u>
<u>MSAT</u>	<u>NCLEX-RN (nursing)</u>	<u>NCLEX-PN (nursing)</u>	<u>NJ HSPA</u>	<u>NYSTCE</u>	<u>OAT</u>
<u>PCAT</u>	<u>Police Officer Exam</u>	<u>Police Sgt. Lt., Cpt.</u>	<u>PMP Exam</u>	<u>PRAXIS II NTE</u>	<u>PSAT / NMSQT</u>
<u>Real Estate Sales</u>	<u>Regents Exam New York State</u>	<u>SAT I</u>	<u>SAT Subject Tests (SAT II)</u>	<u>Series 7</u>	<u>SSAT</u>
<u>State Police Exam</u>	<u>California STAR</u>	<u>TASP / THEA</u>	<u>TOEFL / TOEIC</u>	<u>ACT/SAT/PSAT</u>	<u>FCAT</u>

Note: In addition to the above web links, additional information about test prep can be found at <http://www.schoolguides.com/testing.asp>

## Essay Pointers

The college application essay is an opportunity for you to show your talents and creativity to their best advantage. In the essay, you can speak in your own voice and personalize your application. Here's your opportunity to show something about you that doesn't really come across elsewhere in your application. Think about who you are as an individual. How do you view the world? What do you care about deeply? What experiences and people have been important in shaping you as a person? What are your aspirations in life?

Why do colleges require essays?

A college application includes a lot of information about you, such as grades, recommendations, lists of your extracurricular activities and test scores. All of that information is very important and helps admission officers form a picture of your accomplishments and abilities. However, while it tells about how other people see you, there isn't much about how you see yourself. It's that inside view - how you see yourself - that colleges hope to find in your essay.

The essay can be a way of showing that you have researched and thought carefully about the college to which you are applying. It shows, in your own words, why you and the college would be a good "match." An essay demonstrates your writing ability, which is a key component to success in college. In your essay, you can show that you are willing to put yourself into what you do.

For selective colleges, the essay helps admission committees draw distinctions and make choices among applicants. An essay will rarely take an applicant out of consideration at a college, but it certainly can elevate an applicant in an admission committee's eyes.

Key points that admission officers look for in an essay:

- Make sure to answer the essay question and to follow all the instructions that are given.
- Start off with a strong opening paragraph that captures the reader's interest.
- Use a style that you find comfortable and that is appropriate for the subject matter.
- Use correct grammar, punctuation and spelling.
- Make a point and stick to it; develop your argument or narrative.
- Check all of your facts. Do you mention a date, place or event in your essay? Make sure it's correct.
- Have you given your reader complete information, so he or she won't be confused?
- In general, it's best to be succinct. If there is a recommended length for the essay, pay attention to it.
- The essay should be neatly typed.
- Remember that mistakes, especially sloppy mistakes, make it look like you didn't take the essay (and, by extension, the application) very seriously.

# Sample Letters

## Thank You for Your Visit Letter

Date

Director of Admissions  
College or University  
Street Address  
City, State, Zip

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

Thank you for spending time with me when I visited your campus. I especially appreciated your arranging for me to see (name of activity or interest).

The visit increased my interest in (name of college or university), I am excited about the opportunity to attend (name of college or university).

Once again, thank you.

Sincerely yours,

*Signature*

Name  
Your Street Address  
City, State, Zip  
Telephone

## Letter Regarding a Schedule Change

Date

Director of Admissions  
College or University  
Street Address  
City, State, Zip

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

In order to update my application, I am writing to inform you that I am dropping (name of class) from my current/next semester schedule. I decided on this change in order to keep up with (my work load, preparation for AP exams etc.). I have already completed the (name of subject) credits needed for high school graduation and college admission.

If you have any questions, please call the Guidance Department at (630) 420-6502.

Sincerely yours,

*Signature*

Name  
Your Street Address  
City, State, Zip  
Telephone

## Withdrawal of Application Letter

Date

Director of Admissions  
College or University  
Street Address  
City, State, Zip

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

I was pleased to be accepted as a student at (college or university). However, after much consideration, I have decided to attend another school. Know that this decision was very difficult.

Please withdraw my application and accept my thanks for your help and consideration.

Sincerely yours,

*Signature*

Name  
Your Street Address  
City, State, Zip  
Telephone

## Letter Regarding Deferred or Wait List Status

Date

Director of Admissions  
College or University  
Street Address  
City, State, Zip

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

I was disappointed to have been deferred under your (Early Action/Early Decision) plan and hope that in the spring you will be able to act favorably on my application. I realize that if accepted, I am no longer committed to attend; however, I want you to know that (name of college) is still my first choice, and I will attend if accepted.

(Update with new honors, activities, graded paper, recent grades, additional recommendations, etc.)

Thank you for your continued interest and consideration on my behalf.

Sincerely yours,

*Signature*

Name  
Your Street Address  
City, State, Zip  
Telephone

## Prep HQ

Prep HeadQuarters (a.k.a. PrepHQ) is a free web based application that your high schools can use to communicate with students and parents, making it possible to:

Easily develop a scholarship database with local, regional and national information

Build a thorough college and career prep database

Track status and outcomes of applications and scholarships

Publicize college events and monitor event registration

Report and analyze school-specific data

Conduct on-line surveys

Ask your guidance counselor to investigate this no charge service, at [www.prephq.com](http://www.prephq.com)



# Application Organizer

	Name of School	Name of School	Name of School	Name of School
<i><b>APPLICATIONS</b></i>				
Application deadline				
Essay completed				
Application mailed or e-mailed				
<i><b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b></i>				
Contacted teacher/counselor - 1				
Recommendation mailed				
Sent thank you note				
Contacted teacher/counselor - 2				
Recommendation mailed				
Sent thank you note				
Contacted teacher/counselor - 3				
Recommendation mailed				
Sent thank you note				
<i><b>TRANSCRIPTS</b></i>				
Transcript Request Form				
Midyear Transcript Requested (if applicable)				
Final Transcript Requested				
<i><b>TEST SCORES SENT</b></i>				
ACT				
AP Exams				
SAT I				
SAT II				
<i><b>FINANCIAL AID FORMS</b></i>				
Financial aid application deadline				
Sign up for FAFSA PIN (Nov)				
FAFSA form submitted (Jan)				
If needed, college form submitted				

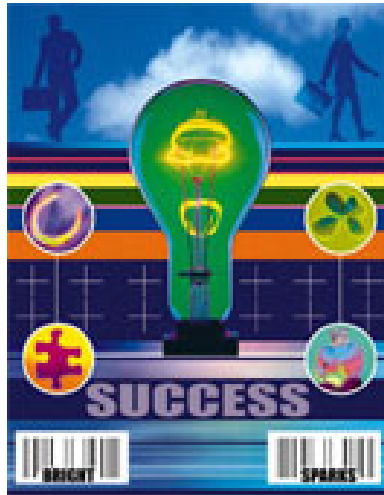
## Related Documents



Also posted on the [www.robertseele.org](http://www.robertseele.org) website, under 'Resources' are the following related documents:

1. Scholarship Application Tips
2. 100 Sample College Scholarship Resume & Essays
3. 2008 Scholarship Resource Guide
4. ACAP - 2009 Summer Internship Opportunities
5. Gear Up – 2009 Summer Jobs & Internship Opportunities

## Feedback Request



### Your Input & Ideas

Please let us know if you found the Skinny College Resource Guide to be useful. What information was most helpful?

The community succeeds when we get your input and ideas. This helps us improve the guide, Related Documents, etc..

### Revisions to the guide

Changes you recommend will be considered throughout the year, but the revised guide will be posted only once a year. The community will be notified when the revised guide is available.

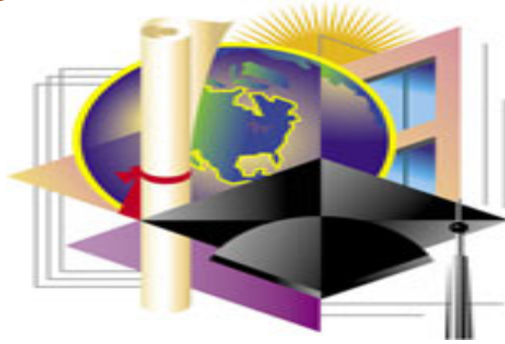
### To Contact Us

Go to [www.robertsteele.org](http://www.robertsteele.org), then 'Contacts'.

**We'd love to hear from you!**

# Cook County Commissioner Robert Steele

*is pleased to announce the  
Skinny College Resource Guide*



### The guide includes:

- ☉ A checklist to guide students from their Freshman – Senior year
- ☉ An extensive list of scholarships
- ☉ A list of terrific summer programs and internships
- ☉ A number of cool websites which allow the students to research occupations – college majors – financial aid – test prep resources - test dates – college fairs – military options – and **FREE** tools that high schools and students can use to electronically manage college application documents

### How students can obtain the guide:

- ☉ Electronically, at [www.robertsteele.org](http://www.robertsteele.org), under 'Resources'
- ☉ At Commissioner Steele's Third Annual Youth Summit, Thursday May 7, 2009 \* 10:00 – 1:00 p.m. University of Illinois, 750 South Halsted Street, Room 605
- ☉ At their high schools and churches, beginning June 1, 2009



A small but robust, step-by-step guide, designed to help at-risk high school students understand exactly what they need to do, by when, to apply to college.



*The  
Skinny College  
Resource Guide*

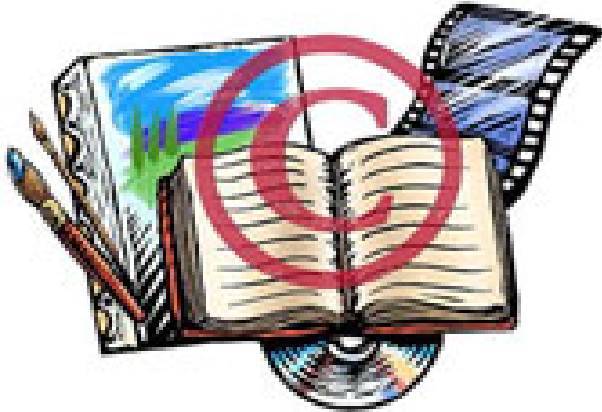
**Gets a High Five!!!**

Related resources that can be found at [www.robertsteele.org](http://www.robertsteele.org) 'Resources' include:

- ☉ 100 Sample Resumes & Essays
- ☉ Scholarship Application Tips
- ☉ 2009 Summer Internships & Job Opportunities

This document, dated 05/01/09 can be obtained at:  
[www.robertsteele.org](http://www.robertsteele.org) \* Resources'  
or by calling\* 312/603-3019

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or by calling\* 312/603-3019

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