



**FONTBONNE HALL**  
THE LAB SCHOOL FOR GIRLS  
**SHE CAN.**

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# **College Admissions: Senior Parent Night**

Student Support Services

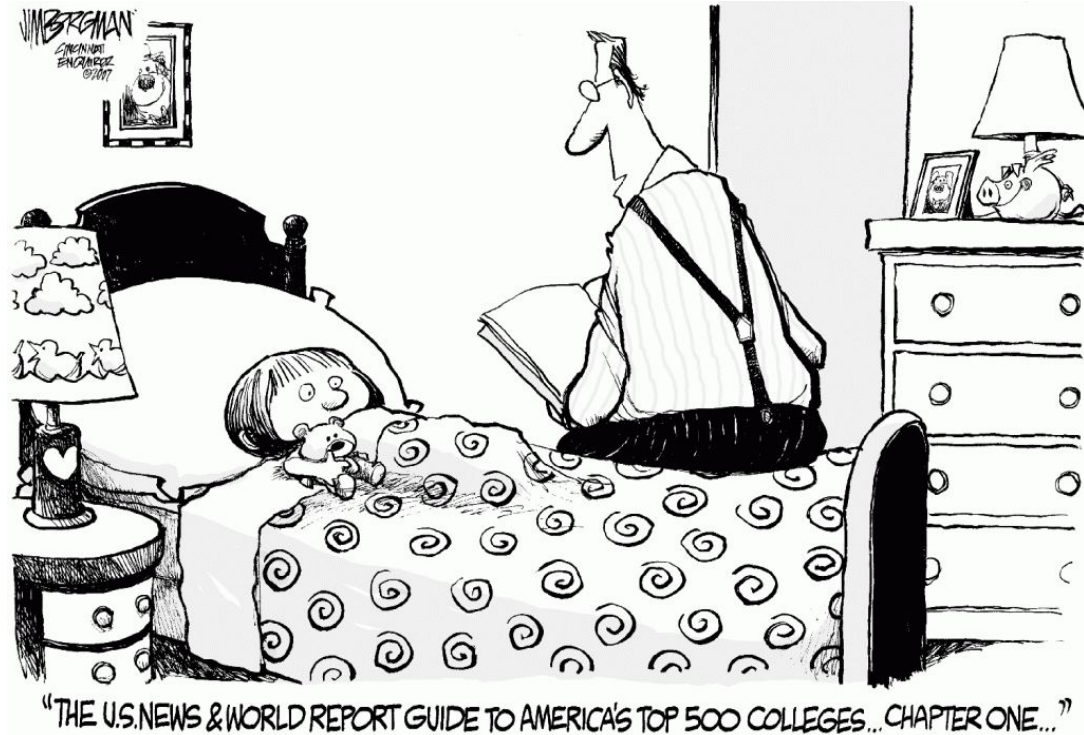
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Mary Raftery - Director of Student Support Services & College Advisement  
Sarah Stiglianese - School Counselor

# Finding “The Right” College

- It is not about finding the right college. It is about finding the college that is right for your daughter.
- A college where she will be happy.
- If she is happy, she is more likely to succeed!



# College Selection

- Students usually apply to ~7 schools.
- They should have a mix of safe, target/match, and reach schools.
  - Financially and academically.
- Use Naviance to help narrow down a larger list of colleges. Then visit/do virtual tours of those schools to narrow the list down further.

# Factors To Consider

- Location
  - Dorming vs. staying home
- Distance
  - Travel costs?
- Size and diversity
- Academic opportunities
  - Does it have the program you need to achieve your career/future goals?
- Personal opportunities
  - Do they have a good career center that assists with internships and job placements?
- Safety
- Do you meet their admissions requirements?

# College Criteria

- College Type
  - Public / Private
- Location
  - In-state / Out-of-state
  - Urban / Suburban / Rural
  - Distance from home
- Cost
  - In-state / Out-of-state
  - Scholarships - Grants - Loans
- Campus Characteristics
  - Class size
  - Professors / TAs
  - Research focus
  - Campus activities / extracurriculars / athletics
- Demographics
  - Religious Affiliation
  - Diversity
  - Gender ratios
- Housing Options
  - On campus / commuter
  - Dorms
  - Fraternities / Sororities

# How to Find Colleges that Meet Your Criteria

- Online searches
  - College Board – [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) (Click on College Search – BigFuture)
  - ACT – [www.act.org/collegesearch](http://www.act.org/collegesearch)
  - Peterson’s College Search – [www.Petersons.com](http://www.Petersons.com)
  - Naviance college search
- Colleges that Change Lives: <http://www.ctcl.org/colleges/list>
- US News & World Report Rankings
- Peer Mentors

# Majors

- What will you study at the school?
- Do they have your major?
- Can you change your major?
- It's okay to be undecided! This is a time for your daughter to explore and find what she is interested in.
- You can assist with this early on by encouraging her to apply to various programs and internships beforehand.

# What Is Needed To Apply To College?

- Transcript
- SAT, SAT Subject Tests, ACT, TOEFL - official grades sent by College Board by the student. However, many schools are going test optional.
- Selective colleges might require at least 2 SAT Subject Tests
- Teacher/counselor recommendations
- Personal statement/essay
- Application: personal information, educational information, and extracurricular activities
- Interview notes (If the school has interviews, you should call and schedule one).



# What Is Needed To Apply To College?

- FAFSA - available online October 1
  - We will be hosting a financial aid meeting with a financial aid expert as well.
    - Tuesday, October 5, 2021 at 7pm - Virtual
- CSS Profile (certain colleges) - available online October 1

# Early Decision vs. Early Action

## Early Decision

- A binding contract. If accepted, you will have to attend that college. Deadlines are typically November 1st or November 15th. You can only apply to **ONE** college through Early Decision.

## Early Action

- Non-binding contract. If accepted, you have until May 1st to decide if you want to attend that college. You can apply to multiple schools using the Early Action deadline. These deadlines are typically November 1st or November 15th.
- You find out your acceptance mid-December/early January.

# Rolling Admissions vs. Regular Decision

## Rolling Admissions

- Applicants can apply at any time. The university will review the application and give a decision within a few weeks of receiving the application.

## Regular Decision

- Set deadline of when the application is due. The deadline is usually later than the Early Action deadlines.

# Types of Decisions

- Accepted - “Congratulations! We look forward to seeing you in the fall.”
- Denied - “Sorry, but you have not been admitted.”
- Deferred - If you applied Early Action and the school has not decided they will accept you, your application gets moved to the regular decision deadline and they will review it again during that time.
- Waitlisted - Recommended to put down a deposit at another school. You usually do not find out if you are off of the waitlist until after the May 1st deadline.

# Transcripts

- College admissions officers are looking for a challenging course load and honors/AP courses when possible.
- Some colleges might request first quarter of senior year grades.
- Colleges also receive mid-year grades from senior year.

# Recommendations

- Students request 2 teacher recommendation letters.
  - Students made their requests on Naviance.
  - Most colleges will require 1-2.
- Outside recommenders
  - Students can request a coach, supervisor, or other outside recommender for a letter through the Common Application.

# Personal Statement/Essay

- What do you want colleges to know about you?
- Has anything significant happened that affected your academics?
- How do you stand apart from other applicants?
- Did the reader learn anything about you?
- Show your personality!
- Pay attention to spelling and grammar!
- What are you passionate about?
- Why do you want to study your intended major?
- Major obstacles/challenges



"I want to show my colleges I'm well-rounded, so I wrote a poem in Spanish about how chess club has made me a better quarterback."

# Student Aid FAFSA4caster

- Parents can use this tool to receive early estimates, create scenarios based on future earnings, and then establish college funding strategies.
  - <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>



# HEOP/EOP

- A grant for students who are academically or economically disadvantaged
  - Income eligibility guidelines
  - Grades fall below college's average
- Students invited to start in summer to take a freshman seminar to get acclimated to college

## 2021-22 Guidelines

### # of Household Dependents

1 - \$23,606

2 - \$31,894

3 - \$40,182

4 - \$48,470

5 - 56,758

<http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/poverty-guidelines-2021-22.pdf>

# Independent/Outside Scholarships

- [Fastweb.com](https://www.fastweb.com)
- [Scholarships.com](https://www.scholarships.com)
- [Goingmerry.com](https://www.goingmerry.com)
- [Raise.me](https://www.raise.me)
- Check with your place of employment or any other local/national organizations you might be a part of to see if they offer scholarships.
- Do not pay for scholarship services. The websites above all offer access to free scholarship opportunities.

# When should applications be completed?

- ALL SENIORS ARE STRONGLY URGED TO COMPLETE THE COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS PRIOR TO THE DECEMBER BREAK. MEANING, YOU SHOULD HAVE SUBMITTED ALL OF YOUR APPLICATIONS BY DECEMBER 1ST.

## What Else?



- Enjoy the ride.
- Don't panic!
- They are all getting into and going to college!!

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Don't hesitate to reach out with questions or concerns!