

Beyond The Numbers: Navigate The College Application Process With These Eight Tips

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The college application process can be an intimidating process for parents, their children, and even for grandparents. But by approaching it thoughtfully and collaboratively, you can help your child navigate this process more smoothly. Here are eight tips to help guide your family through the college application process.

1. Start Early

Starting the college conversation early can ease the pressure. Discuss interests, potential majors, and career aspirations well before the application season. Begin college visits during their sophomore or junior year of high school, or even earlier.

2. Research Thoroughly

Research various colleges, their programs, campus culture, and financial aid options. Websites like [College Board](#) and [Niche](#) offer detailed insights and reviews.

3. Utilize College Counselors and Outside Consultants

College counselors and consultants are invaluable resources in the college application process. They can provide guidance, resources, and personalized advice based on your child's personality, preferences, and academic record. Start early, and schedule regular check-ins.



4. Encourage Extracurricular Involvement

Colleges value well-rounded applicants who are engaged in extracurricular activities. Encourage your child to pursue interests and activities they are passionate about, whether it's sports, arts, volunteer work, or clubs. Leadership roles and honors are considered highly.

5. Prepare for Standardized Tests

Help your child prepare for the SAT and ACT by encouraging them to utilize resources such as prep books, online courses, or tutoring. Recommend a long-term study schedule that allows consistent preparation over time, reducing last-minute stress.

6. Craft a Strong Application

Assist your child in crafting a compelling application for each school. This includes a well-written personal statement and a resume of their academic and extracurricular achievements. Many schools accept or even require the [Common App](#), which streamlines the process significantly.



7. Stay Organized

Keeping track of deadlines, application requirements, and documents is critical. Create a timeline with all important dates and a checklist to ensure nothing is missed. Try free online tools like [Trello](#) or [Asana](#) to stay organized.

8. Understand Early Decision and Early Action

Many colleges offer Early Decision (ED) and Early Action (EA) application options. Understanding the differences and implications of these options can help in making strategic decisions.

Bonus Tip

It can be tempting to encourage your child to attend the “best” (most prominent) college to which they are accepted but that may not necessarily be the best choice for them. Helping them understand the type of school where they are most likely to thrive and not just survive can make all the difference, not just during their college experience but also for life after college.

The college application process is a significant milestone in your child's life. By starting early, staying organized, and providing support and guidance, you can help make this journey less stressful and more rewarding. It's not just about getting into college but finding the right fit for your child's future success.

For more insights on enriching your family's life experience beyond financial success, stay tuned for more insights from our "Beyond the Numbers" series.

To learn more or get help with your life experiences, please call 404.264.1400 or email us at info@homrichberg.com.

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