Expert Tips for High School Students Applying for College – by Elizabeth LaScala

Each year high school students make serious college application mistakes. Here are seven tips as you begin to apply:

1. Balance Your College List. Many students apply to many highly selective schools and risk rejection from all of them. The trick is to create a list that is balanced by admission probability. Each on your list should be one you would be delighted to attend.

2. Apply in Moderation. A smart student will build a short college list with common threads that reflect the careful research you have done to find colleges that are a good match for you. About eight well-researched schools is a good number.

3. Take Time to Complete Each Application. Be sure to set aside enough time to complete each application to the best of your ability. You can submit your application when the application cycle opens; there is no need to wait until the last minute.

4. Follow Instructions. Read everything carefully and be sure you follow instructions to the letter. Use the help email or call center if uncertain.

5. Preview your Application. This step ensures that your carefully constructed written work gets sent to the admission staff the way you intended.

Finding encouragement that motivates – by Joe Villmow; NextStepU 2013

Encouragement is good. Motivation is better. Encouragement comes from others, those who believe in you and support your goals. These are the people who push you to be your best. They pick you up after you try and fail. They’re always there for you.

Motivation comes from you. Others can encourage you to exercise, for example, but if you don’t have the motivation to exercise there’s nothing they can do to get you on a bike. You have to look to yourself for that.

Who and what will keep you motivated?
Seek individuals and organizations that will encourage you as your motivation grows. It may be your parents, a teacher or school counselor, your pastor or a friend. You may also find other sources of encouragement, like a favorite song that speaks to you; a peer group of like-minded people, or inspirational quotes. Listen to the stories of how those who inspire you succeeded.

If you only have a bit of motivation, make it count. Find that first source of encouragement and build from there. Eventually, you will find your motivation and look more to yourself.
October- College Planning Tips - from ICAN

**Sophomores:**
*Talk to your school counselor about taking the PLAN test or the PSAT/NMSQT test. These tests prepare you for the ACT or SAT. Also, remember the grades you earn now will affect your ability to get into college. Colleges look at all four years of high school.

*Explore colleges and careers through online resources such as www.bls.gov/k12 or www.ihaveaplaniowa.gov. Talk with your parents about your college and career goals and what you can do to attain them.

*Keep track of your assignments, test dates, activities and important events by using a planner.

**Juniors:**
*Check with your high school counselor to register for the PSAT. These scores are used to determine National Merit Scholars.

*Review your college savings plan; start saving money now if you haven’t already done so.

*Keep your grades up. College looks at your overall GPA through all four years of high school.

*Beware of scholarship search and financial aid service organizations that charge a fee for service. Much of the information you may be seeking is available at no cost.

**Seniors:**
*Register to take the ACT if you haven’t taken already taken them. You may also retake the test if you are unhappy with your previous score.

*Ask your teachers, high school counselor and/or employers to write letters of recommendation for your admission and scholarship applications.

*Are you narrowing down your college choices? Have you completed an admission application? Colleges have admission deadlines and application requirements. Be sure to stay on top of these tasks.

**Parents:**
*Play an active role. Keep the line of communication open throughout your student’s high school years. Talk to their teachers and counselor about their progress and any concerns that you have. Being involved can help them succeed.

*Work with your student to set clear goals before you visit colleges. Work together to create a list of targeted questions for our student to ask during the tour. Let your student set up the visit and take the lead in asking questions. College admission staff agrees that one of the biggest mistakes you can make as a parent is to take over the process.

**College Advice For Your Freshman Year**
1. Don’t put pressure on yourself to get straight A’s from the get-go.
2. Sometimes studying hurts and that’s a good thing.
3. Memorize the phrase “pluralistic ignorance”
4. If you don’t like parties, there may be something you can do.
5. Collect as many mentors as you can.
6. On tests, change your answers if you second-guess yourself.
7. Think hard about whether online classes are the best choice for you.
8. When picking a major, get the facts.
9. Finally, take time to make true friends.

-From: Pacific Standard:
“Collect Mentors and Make True Friends: Advice for New College Students from Sociologists”
By Lisa Wade and Gwen Sharp
September 25, 2013
How high is Mount Everest? To find out, you need only turn to the nearest encyclopedia or computer. But the answer wasn’t always so easy to come by. It wasn’t until 1852, during the Great Trigonometric Survey of India, that the mountain was recognized as the world’s highest peak. As you can guess from the survey’s name, math played a key role in the work of the surveyors.

Geographic specialists (including surveyors, cartographers, surveying technicians, and photogrammetrists) use math as well as computers, aerial photography, and even satellites to measure and map the globe. They also help construction teams and property owners find the best places to build.

**Did you know?**

Surveyors use measurements to determine land, air, and water boundaries. Surveying technicians help them by making measurements out in the field. Cartographers make maps using physical, social, and historical information.

**Did You Know...?**

**Outlook**

Government economists expect jobs for surveyors and cartographers and photogrammetrists to grow faster than the average for all careers through 2020. Job growth should be about as fast as the average. Opportunities for surveyors should result from increased construction. When construction slows down, however, surveyors may see competition for work. For the best opportunities, surveyors should know how to use GIS (Geographic Information System) technology. Cartographers and photogrammetrists should be in demand because maps are being used more and more in national security and local government planning. Opportunities for qualified photogrammetrists should be excellent.

**Compensation**

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that the average yearly salary of:

- Cartographers and photogrammetrists: $60,110
- Surveyors: $58,740
- Surveying & mapping technicians: $42,050

**Make High School Count**

Preparation is the key to any career. To become a geographic specialist, you should:

- go for challenging math courses, such as trig and calc.
- pay special attention in physics and earth science classes.
- study history to see how the search for and ownership of land has affected the world.
- study computer science and computer-assisted drafting
- Take an art class to get a feel for turning ideas into images.

*bigfuture: by the 2013 The College Board*
Mentor Information - Student Responsibilities

The student is in a unique position to benefit from the mentor-protégé relationship. As a protégé, the student has certain responsibilities also. The student will:

- make time available on a regular basis to ensure that he/she can meet with the mentor twice each month (at least 10-12 times throughout the academic year) outside of class.
- establish and maintain a positive, caring, respectful relationship with mentor.
- be open and honest with the mentor.
- work with the mentor to develop a “plan” to provide for the mentor-protégé interaction.
- keep the mentor informed about progress with the project and in school courses.
- work, with guidance of the mentor, to become self-directing and independent.

Expert Tips for High School Students Applying for College (cont. from pg. 1)

6. **Demonstrate Early Interest.** Stealth applicants are those who do not show interest early on and then apply to a college. Among students with similar credentials, the ones who demonstrate early interest are far more likely to be offered admission. Visit, write, interview, attend college rep sessions and attend regional presentations to show interest.

7. **Promptly Ask for Letter of Recommendation.** Ask your favorite teacher(s) early if s/he will write a letter of recommendation. Give your teacher enough time. Ask to meet and discuss activities and how the class inspired you.

* Lamorinda Weekly
  (www.lamorindaweekly.com)
  – Elizabeth LaScala - 9/25/13

About Our Organization…

Who are we?

A life-enhancing college-prep program that provides opportunities for capable and motivated high school students to gain the academic and life skills necessary to enter and succeed in post-secondary education.

* 100% funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education
* Serving high school students from Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, and Missouri since 1992

Word of the Month

from Number2.com

**bandy** (verb)
To exchange; to toss about, as a ball from person to person

The student council gathered to bandy about ideas for a theme for the homecoming week.

www.Number2.com (ACT prep)

For Question on page 1

Answer: E