

College Myths

1. Applying for financial aid will hurt my chances of admission.

The admissions process and financial aid process are processed separately if you are applying to a college that is Need-Blind. If the college is Need-Aware, you maybe vulnerable if the college has given out all of their money.

2. Having a great SAT score will get me accepted the highly selective colleges.

SAT and other standardized tests are only one component of the applicant's profile being considered. They are also considering the rigor of your curriculum and other factors to make their decision.

3. A great interview will increase my chance of acceptance.

Again, this is only one factor and at many colleges/universities it is not evaluative, but merely informational.

4. There is only one right college for my child.

There are many colleges along a range that represent a "good fit" for your student.

5. A college catalogue is a good way to choose a college.

College catalogues all have pictures of smiling students and beautiful buildings. A high school student cannot get a real feel for the college by looking at a view book or website.

A visit to the college and knowing what to look for on that visit is a key component to determining if the college may be a good fit.

6. Students can be packaged in a way that test scores and /or weak grades will be overlooked by more personal factors.

At the highly selective colleges a student with weak grades and a program of less rigorous courses than those in the rest of the applicant pool, even those students with leadership qualities, great teacher recommendations, essay, and interview, will have trouble gaining admission to these colleges.

7. The college coach told me.....

It is important to understand that Admissions officers make admissions decisions, not college coaches.

8. A good college is hard to get into.

Keep in mind how you are defining good. A good college is one that is good for you!

9. Colleges are looking for the well-rounded student.

Colleges are actually looking for the well-rounded class. The individual student may be well-rounded, but also has one particular outstanding talent. At your most selective colleges, this can mean state or national recognition.

10. College rankings are important in selecting a college.

Parents and students alike think (mistakenly) that graduating from a college with a high rank and prestige assures them of a successful life. Only 11% of CEO's at *Fortune 500* companies in 2004 were educated at Ivy League schools, according to the executive search firm Spencer Stuart (as reported by the National Association of College Admission Counseling-NACAC).

11. If I haven't heard of it, it can't be very good.

This myth is based on what might have been true thirty or more years ago. Please refer to one of the testimonials written by the parent of one of my students on this very topic!

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