

College Admissions Process – What has changed?

By this time of year students are finishing up high school and planning for their freshman year of college. You should normally have all the information you will get from your schools and you should be able to make your decision and start forward in the transition process. This year is a little different, but there are still things that have to be done. Now is an especially good time to reevaluate your college decision process and confirm plans. Below are the typically tasks you should be doing and if there is any change.



1. Review ALL Documents and Information with your family.

- a. Admission Letters – Most college admissions letters give you details about next steps. Some will have information about how to apply for additional financial aid, but by now if you have not made the effort, most of those options are behind you. Check the deadlines for a response on the school’s website. Dates might have changed.
- b. Financial Aid Award Letters – If you have gotten your award letters, GREAT – This means you can start comparing. If you have NOT gotten your award letter yet, go to the school’s portal and log in under your application account and click on anything to do with financial aid. You might have missed it.
- c. Still Waiting on Award Letter? – Reach out to the school’s financial aid department via email. Most offices are closed and staff is working from home. Because of the change to the economy your award letter might be delayed and or not be what it might have been. Don’t be discouraged, just be informed.

2. Make a decision!

- a. Review Family Budget and Offer Letter – Unfortunately, the current economic environment is not prime for a big spend. Even if you could get loans for added cost, your family might not be able to do today what you have been planning. Have a frank conversation and consider finances. Also, track all of your financial changes, loss of job, impact, etc. You might need details about change in family financial situation in the future. Example – Your sophomore year’s financial aid letter will be based on your 2019 taxes. You will want to be able to communicate 2020 changes in details to make a case for need.
- b. Consider Distance & Travel – Prior to this health scare you might have planned to move across the country to go to school. This might still be the case, but for some, the current situation might cause you to rethink the distance of the school from your family. Don’t let this scare you, just be smart and think it through.
- c. What Factors are important to YOU – You fell in love with these schools for a reason, make sure those reasons still exist and make sure your priorities are the same in making your final decision.

3. Communicate Your Decision

- a. YES -- Tell the school you have chosen, Yes. Make sure you get your spot and there are no changes.

- b. NO – Once you are completely sure of your decision and received confirmation from your school of choice, tell the other schools, No. This might open space for other students who are waitlisted and will hopefully discontinue the LARGE volume of communication you keep getting from all of the schools you applied to.
- 4. Complete All Required Tasks**
- a. Pay Deposit
 - b. Complete Housing Application
 - c. Sign up for Orientation
 - d. Ask about Registration Process
- 5. Stay Focused on Current HS Classes and School work**
- 6. Celebrate your Accomplishments**
- a. Crosby Go Live – April 21, 2020 at 6pm on the Crosby Facebook account. Send Jennifer Jamison a photo and complete the survey.
 - b. High School Plans – Some schools are communicating next steps for Cap and Gown distribution and graduation plans. Stay in close contact with the school so you don't miss anything.
 - c. Friends and Family – FaceTime family, I would even say create a little insert about changes to ceremonies and then mail out those announcements and pictures. Let everyone know you DID IT!
- 7. Plan for your Future!**
- a. Explore Dorm Room Ideas – Simple or Elaborate your dorm room will be your new home and you want to plan to make it yours. Go to the schools' website to get dorm dimensions and have fun planning.
 - b. Reach Out on Social Media and Join Class of 2024 at your school social media groups.
 - c. Have Fun & Explore your campus virtually – Find ways to explore clubs, organizations, and activities that are available at your campus. Reach out to these groups and see how you can proactively engage.

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