

Creekview High School

The College Connection

Volume 1

Top Ten Admission Tips



1. **Meet your Counselor**—counselors have important information about colleges, admissions and financial aid. Many colleges require a counselor recommendation.
2. **Take a strong course schedule**—Your class record is a big part of your college application. Challenge yourself. Take AP, IB, or honors classes, or a course at a community college.
3. **Ace the exam**—Practice the test by taking sample versions beforehand. Get plenty of sleep and eat a well-balanced breakfast before your test.
4. **Find the school that's right for you**—Complete a college search by using www.fastweb.com or www.collegeboard.com. Learn more about the colleges you are interested in before you apply.
5. **Fill out the application accurately and neatly**—Approach each application as if it were the only one that you're filling out. Read the directions and follow them precisely. Make a draft copy first, then revise and proofread.
6. **Craft excellent application essays**—Start by brainstorming for an original topic and hone your unique point of view. When writing, be clear, concise and well-organized. Don't forget to check grammar and spelling.
7. **Submit applications early and watch for deadlines**—List deadlines and import dates in one place and refer to them often.
8. **Get great letters of recommendation**—Choose adults who know you well such as teachers, employers, coaches, and clergy. In advance, provide required forms, a stamped addressed envelop, a list of your activities and accomplishments, and the date your recommendation needs to be mailed.
9. **Follow up on your application**—If a college has not sent you something that they should have, contact the college. With thousands of applications being processed, mistakes do happen.
10. **Dazzle them at your college interview**—Stay calm. Prepare by practicing with friends and bring a few questions to ask. Dress for the occasion. First impressions are huge. Follow up with a thank-you note.

Top 10 Scholarship Tips

1. Apply only if you are eligible!
2. Complete the application in full
3. Follow directions
4. Neatness counts
5. Make sure your essay makes an impression
6. Watch out for deadline
7. Make copies before sending
8. Give it a final "once-over"
9. Ask for help if you need it
10. Remember-your scholarship application represents you!



MONEY FOR COLLEGE

The average cost for one year at a public four-year college (tuition, fees, books and supplies, room, board, etc.) is about \$15,000. The average cost for one year at a private four-year college is over \$30,000.

As a general rule, public colleges are larger and less expensive than private colleges. A student attending a public college in a different state, however, will usually have to pay more expensive out-of-state tuition.

Financial aid is money that is given, earned, or lent to help students pay for their education. Financial aid often makes it possible for students to attend colleges that would otherwise be too expensive. Parents and students should never assume that they cannot afford a particular college or university.

The four categories of financial aid are **grants, scholarships, loans, and work-study**. Grants and scholarships are considered "free money". Loans and work-study are considered "self-help" programs.

1. Grant—money given usually because of financial need
2. Scholarship—money awarded for exceptionally academic achievement, an outstanding talent or skill, and/or financial need
3. Work Study—money earned by working a part-time job
4. Loan—borrowed money that must be repaid

Financial aid is most often awarded in the form of a "package". Packages, consisting of grants, scholarships, loans, and/or work-study, are put together by the college financial aid office.

The whole financial aid process can be very confusing, help is available. High school counselors can answer questions, you can ask the college's financial aid office for assistance, and there is a wealth of information on the internet. For information on federal aid, call 1-800-433-3243.

Useful Websites:

College and testing information:

www.collegeboard.com
www.petersons.com

www.princetonreview.com/college
www.act.org

Financial Aid Information and Scholarship Searches:

www.fastweb.com
www.fafsa.ed.gov
www.studentaid.ed.gov
www.collegeanswer.com

www.finaid.org
www.collegesavings.org
www.students.gov
www.collegenet.com