

Sample Pages

ONLY DIRECT COLLEGE AND FINANCIAL AID PLANNING MANUAL FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

STEPS To A SCHOOL CHOICE

2008-2009 EDITION

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STEP 1 What's My Future?

Why go on to School? I've prepared. I've earned power. Personal fulfillment? Career satisfaction? There are many reasons to attend college.

- Gather information about careers...
- Assess yourself...

Here are some tools to accomplish this:

- 1. Read about Careers...



STEP 2 What Can You do?

Personalized advice for students based on their interests, skills, and personality. Includes a list of careers and a self-assessment tool.

MY FUTURE: A PERSONALIZED CAREER PLAN

Interest	Skills	Personality
Artistic	Creative	Imaginative
Conventional	Organized	Detail-oriented
Human Relations	Interpersonal	Empathetic
Investigative	Analytical	Curious
Liberal Arts	Verbal	Communicative
Mathematical	Logical	Problem-solving
Natural Sciences	Scientific	Observant
Physical Sciences	Technical	Practical
Realistic	Practical	Hands-on
Social Sciences	Interpersonal	Observant
Technical	Logical	Detail-oriented

STEP 3 What Else Matters?

Checklist for students to consider when choosing a college. Includes sections for Financial Aid, Location, and Other Factors.

Category	Factor	Yes	No
Financial Aid	Does the college offer financial aid?		
	Does the college offer the type of aid you need?		
	Does the college have a good financial aid office?		
	Does the college have a good track record of awarding aid?		
	Does the college have a good reputation for financial aid?		
Location	Do you like the location of the college?		
	Is the college close to home?		
	Do you like the climate?		
	Do you like the scenery?		
	Do you like the culture?		
Other Factors	Do you like the size of the college?		
	Do you like the type of college?		
	Do you like the type of campus?		
	Do you like the type of faculty?		
	Do you like the type of students?		

STEP 4 Exploring Colleges

How to explore colleges and find the right one for you. Includes a list of questions to ask and a checklist for evaluating colleges.

QUESTIONS TO ASK

- What are the college's strengths?
- What are the college's weaknesses?
- What are the college's values?
- What are the college's traditions?
- What are the college's goals?

CHECKLIST FOR EVALUATING COLLEGES

- Academic Quality
- Financial Aid
- Location
- Other Factors

STEP 5 Visiting Schools

How to visit schools and make the most of your trip. Includes a checklist for preparing for a visit and a list of questions to ask.

PREPARING FOR A VISIT

- Research the college
- Contact the college
- Plan your trip

QUESTIONS TO ASK

- What are the college's strengths?
- What are the college's weaknesses?
- What are the college's values?
- What are the college's traditions?
- What are the college's goals?

STEP 6 Reading the Catalog

How to read a college catalog and find the information you need. Includes a checklist for reading a catalog and a list of questions to ask.

CHECKLIST FOR READING A CATALOG

- Read the catalog
- Find the information you need
- Compare colleges

QUESTIONS TO ASK

- What are the college's strengths?
- What are the college's weaknesses?
- What are the college's values?
- What are the college's traditions?
- What are the college's goals?

STEP 7 Speaking to Reps

How to speak to college representatives and get the information you need. Includes a checklist for speaking to reps and a list of questions to ask.

CHECKLIST FOR SPEAKING TO REPS

- Research the college
- Contact the college
- Plan your trip

QUESTIONS TO ASK

- What are the college's strengths?
- What are the college's weaknesses?
- What are the college's values?
- What are the college's traditions?
- What are the college's goals?

STEP 8 What Does it Cost?

How to determine the cost of college and find the right one for you. Includes a checklist for determining cost and a list of questions to ask.

CHECKLIST FOR DETERMINING COST

- Research the college
- Contact the college
- Plan your trip

QUESTIONS TO ASK

- What are the college's strengths?
- What are the college's weaknesses?
- What are the college's values?
- What are the college's traditions?
- What are the college's goals?

STEP 9 What Can You Afford?

How to determine what you can afford for college and find the right one for you. Includes a checklist for determining affordability and a list of questions to ask.

CHECKLIST FOR DETERMINING AFFORDABILITY

- Research the college
- Contact the college
- Plan your trip

QUESTIONS TO ASK

- What are the college's strengths?
- What are the college's weaknesses?
- What are the college's values?
- What are the college's traditions?
- What are the college's goals?

STEP 10 Proving Your Need

How to prove your financial need and get the aid you need. Includes a checklist for proving your need and a list of questions to ask.

CHECKLIST FOR PROVING YOUR NEED

- Research the college
- Contact the college
- Plan your trip

QUESTIONS TO ASK

- What are the college's strengths?
- What are the college's weaknesses?
- What are the college's values?
- What are the college's traditions?
- What are the college's goals?

STEP 11 Finding the Help

How to find financial help and get the aid you need. Includes a checklist for finding help and a list of questions to ask.

CHECKLIST FOR FINDING HELP

- Research the college
- Contact the college
- Plan your trip

QUESTIONS TO ASK

- What are the college's strengths?
- What are the college's weaknesses?
- What are the college's values?
- What are the college's traditions?
- What are the college's goals?

STEP 12 Taking the Tests

How to take college entrance tests and get the best score. Includes a checklist for taking tests and a list of questions to ask.

CHECKLIST FOR TAKING TESTS

- Research the college
- Contact the college
- Plan your trip

QUESTIONS TO ASK

- What are the college's strengths?
- What are the college's weaknesses?
- What are the college's values?
- What are the college's traditions?
- What are the college's goals?

STEP 13 Writing the Essay

How to write a college essay and get the best score. Includes a checklist for writing essays and a list of questions to ask.

CHECKLIST FOR WRITING ESSAYS

- Research the college
- Contact the college
- Plan your trip

QUESTIONS TO ASK

- What are the college's strengths?
- What are the college's weaknesses?
- What are the college's values?
- What are the college's traditions?
- What are the college's goals?

STEP 14 Applying

How to apply to college and get the aid you need. Includes a checklist for applying and a list of questions to ask.

CHECKLIST FOR APPLYING

- Research the college
- Contact the college
- Plan your trip

QUESTIONS TO ASK

- What are the college's strengths?
- What are the college's weaknesses?
- What are the college's values?
- What are the college's traditions?
- What are the college's goals?

STEP 15 Getting the Help

How to get financial help and get the aid you need. Includes a checklist for getting help and a list of questions to ask.

CHECKLIST FOR GETTING HELP

- Research the college
- Contact the college
- Plan your trip

QUESTIONS TO ASK

- What are the college's strengths?
- What are the college's weaknesses?
- What are the college's values?
- What are the college's traditions?
- What are the college's goals?

STEP 16 Key Words

Key words for college planning. Includes a list of key words and their definitions.

- Academic Quality
- Financial Aid
- Location
- Other Factors

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