

## COLLEGE ADMISSIONS 101

### I. Types of Colleges and Degrees

1. 4-year college (**Undergraduate**) – Bachelor’s Degree
2. 2-year college (**Community College**) - Associate’s Degree
3. Trade/Vocational Schools – Certificate/Associate’s Degree  
**BEWARE:** Many are **Proprietary Schools** (DevRy, ITT, Colorado Technical University, National American University) – Main goal is to make money. Be a little Skeptical! Many times you can go to the Community College for the same program and pay **THOUSANDS of dollars less.**

#### Graduate and Post-Graduate Studies (to name a few)

4. Master’s Degree – 1-3 years, available in many fields
5. Ph.D. – 4-7 years, available in many fields, most professors have
6. Law Degree (Juris Doctor, J.D.) – 3 years plus Bar Exam
7. Medical Degree (M.D.) – 4 years plus 3-4 year residency (internship)

### II. How are colleges going to decide if they are going to accept me?

1. Grades/Course Selection (Colleges really want to see challenging courses)
2. Test Scores – ACT/SAT/SAT II
3. Extra-curricular Activities (Leadership, Commitment)
4. Letters of Recommendation (Teachers, Counselor, High Horizons Advisor, Coaches, Supervisors, Other)
5. Essay

### III. How do I choose where to apply to college?

1. Type (2-year, 4-year, private, public)
2. Location, size, student body

3. Do they have your possible major?
4. Selectivity – How hard is it to get accepted? (Open, Selective, Highly Selective)
5. Reputation – Many times it goes along with selectivity
6. Sports/Activities
7. Academic Support/Disability Services
8. Will I be a proud graduate?
9. Money (Remember, you can apply for financial aid and possibly scholarships)

**IV. To How many colleges should I apply?            3-7**

1. Range of selectivity: **1-2 in each group; Safety, On-Target, Reach**
  - i. **Safety:** your grades and test scores well above college's average;
  - ii. **On-Target:** your grades and test scores are about college's average scores;
  - iii. **Reach:** your grades and test scores are below college's average scores.
2. All must have all the other things you are looking for; size, location, major, etc
3. **Do NOT let the cost prevent you from applying where you want to go;** Many students get financial aid that makes a school less expensive than you think!! But, in case you don't get much aid, it's a good idea to have at least one school on your list that is more affordable.
4. Don't be afraid of Private Schools; they have more financial aid money to give
5. **Early Decision** – An option for some highly selective schools, where you can apply early, find out the admissions decision early, but if you are accepted, you **MUST** go to that school. If you are thinking of this, definitely consult your advisor.