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 that 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.