



Ashland High School College Connection Newsletter



Provided by Donnley Fenn and AHS Counseling Office

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THE VALUE OF DOUBT & ANXIETY

In a *New Yorker Magazine* essay, *The Gift of Doubt*, Malcolm Gladwell reviews a biography of the economist Albert O. Hirschman. It is especially relevant for current juniors about to enter the summer before a final senior year, with its all-consuming college admissions process. The path to college is fraught with doubt and anxiety, considered by most people to be negatives. Hirschman, however, has discovered that doubt can actually liberate a person from their dependence on the need to know everything before acting. He has written that anxiety about the unknown is a powerful motivator “capable of driving even the most reluctant party (*read: high school senior*) toward some solution.” If the chosen solution ends in varying degrees of failure, then one is forced to explore creative alternatives which result in further growth and development. In other words, allow yourself to take risks in applying to colleges without full knowledge of those colleges or guarantees of success. And learn to interpret anxiety and doubt as useful emotions allowing you to live productively in an unsure world. Share this newsletter with a parent or friend and try to find a few minutes for yourself during the closing days of school to read through these pages, designed mainly for rising seniors.

Passing Forward the Lessons Learned

(“*bestcollegefit.com*” 1/27/18, by Peter Van Buskirk)

Among the excitement and relief of many positive early action results are also many students who find themselves holding letters of deferral or denial—and wondering what went wrong.

The angst has been brought home to me in various conversations with bewildered students and parents over the last six weeks. In all cases, the conversations involved excellent students—young people with strong records and well-developed talents coming from challenging academic programs. In most cases the reason behind the non-admission often revolves around a lack of purpose or intentionality regarding the submitted application. In other words, the students expected their credentials to stand on their own merit, assuming the sheer weight of good grades, superb extracurricular activities and worthy goals would carry the day. Their credentials are strong enough to start a conversation, but often fall short of “clinching the deal.” Consider, for example, the highly involved student whose application failed to convey the generosity that shaped his character or the student who neglected to mention that the absence of a foreign language on her senior year schedule was due to a conflict with a course she is taking at a local college. Perhaps, in response to the typical “Why do you want to attend our school?” essay, instead of a rather gratuitous answer citing the school’s ranking and the prestige of its faculty, had the student reached beyond the obvious to reveal the synergy between the student’s aptitude, goals and learning style and the institution’s ability to complement them, he would have positioned himself much more effectively. While there is not much current seniors can do to change the presentations of their submitted applications, the lessons learned in the process are worth passing forward to those sophomores and juniors who can benefit from them as they will soon be preparing their own college applications.

Counselors See Shift Away from For-sure Admission to Calif. State Schools

(“*Inside Higher Ed*”, 3/26/18, by Scott Jaschik)

Counselors report being stunned by the decisions coming out of some **University of California** and **Cal State** campuses. Counselors say they see clear and consistent patterns in how applicants from their high schools are treated and are seriously surprised this year. Several applicants report being rejected by all the UC campuses to which they have applied but being admitted to competitive private liberal arts colleges. One was admitted to **Smith College (MA)** but rejected by **California State University at Long Beach**. One counselor said it is the “middle group” within the University of California where he is seeing the most change. He said that next year he will be discouraging students from using any UC as a safety. Five UC campuses — **Berkeley, Irvine, Los Angeles, San Diego and Santa Barbara** — received more than 100,000 applications each. UC campuses also seem to be using longer wait lists to manage their yields, rather than risk having several hundred more freshmen than planned show up. Cal State campuses are also becoming a stretch for many, in part because of increasing demand. The **California State University** system has adopted a new approach such that, in the future, those who meet Cal State admissions requirements and who are rejected by the campuses to which they apply will receive an offer for admission to another Cal State campus. But whether that reduces pressure remains to be seen. Some Cal State campuses are much more popular than others, based on academic strengths and/or location. For the **University of California** the pressure on applicants only seems to be growing.

IMPORTANT WEBSITES FOR TAKING OUT COLLEGE LOANS

<https://studentloans.gov/myDirectLoan/index.action> Any federally-backed loan, directly from the government will require a Direct Loan Master Promissory Note (MPN), a legal document in which you promise to repay your loan(s) and any accrued interest and fees to the U.S. Department of Education. This website is tied to the government FAFSA website. You can use your verified FSA ID. It also explains the terms and conditions of your loan(s). Your school will tell you what loans, if any, you are eligible to receive. The entire MPN Process must be completed in a single session of approximately 30 minutes.

<http://mappingyourfuture.org/paying/debtwizard> This website helps you decide how much you can borrow. You can use the interactive calculator to determine: 1) How much you can afford to borrow in student loan funds based on your future expected earnings; 2) The salary you will need in order to afford your student loan payments. You can update the interest rate to reflect the interest rate of your loans. Website also includes other up-to-date financial tools and other info.

Hidden College Costs

(By Kathleen Carmichael, Ph.D., Northwestern University)

Yet even with careful college planning, you may encounter costs that take you by surprise. These costs crop up in the form of "miscellaneous fees" charged by your school for services or as penalties. Some colleges and universities provide lists of these fees on their Web sites. More often students learn of these fees only after they have incurred them.

Here are some fees to be aware of:

Course materials / laboratory use: You might assume that these fees would be built into tuition, but frequently materials-intensive classes (ranging from art to engineering) will saddle you with additional required costs.

Card replacement: Hang onto your student ID and meal card to avoid paying replacement fees (usually \$15-\$20).

Late tuition payment: Penalties for late payment are stiff, generally ranging from \$50 to \$100.

Service fees for cancellation, adding / dropping classes and late or changing registration: A little preparation can mean significant savings in change of registration fees. If you like to 'shop around' for classes, do so the semester before you plan to register.

Dorm damage: Just like a landlord, your school reserves the right to bill you for wear and tear to its housing facilities for anything ranging from broken fixtures to adhesive tape left on the walls.

Seniors Who Used the Commonapp!!!

If the college you have chosen to attend is one for which you used the Commonapp, you must let your counselor know, so that in June your final transcript can be uploaded. Schools will only be uploading final transcripts and final reports on the Common Application for schools they know have been selected by their graduating seniors.

How to Find the Right Fit

("Washington Post's Grade Point blog", Jeffrey Selingo)

Academic Fit - Most tours skip classrooms, but if you're on campus and classes are in session, go sit in one in your major if possible. How engaging are the classes? Ask to see a syllabus. Walk the hallways of faculty offices and knock on a door or two. How accessible are the faculty? What is the percentage of full-time faculty? What percentage of first-year classes do they teach?

Social Fit - Questions you can ask yourself: Do I care about Greek life? Does the campus offer the activities and clubs I'm interested in? If you play sports in high school but have no desire to join the varsity team, ask about your club sport. While larger campuses usually offer a wider variety of activities, the competition for spots in some of them is also greater.

Financial Fit - Be aware of excess debt. Students who took on excessive debt to go to college struggle in the job market afterwards. Students with high levels of debt end up taking jobs just to pay the bills. In the end, where you go to college matters less than how you go to college in terms of your payoff after graduation.

Exploration Summer Program Opportunities

- Arizona State University (Phoenix, AZ)
<https://eoss.asu.edu/collegiate-academy>
- DigiPen Institute of Technology (Redmond, WA)
<https://projectfun.digipen.edu/summer-programs>
- University of California-Los Angeles
www.summer.ucla.edu/institutes
- University of California-Santa Barbara
www.summerdiscovery.com/uc-santa-barbara

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Junior CHECKLIST for May / June

_____ June 2 SAT - May 3 regular deadline,
late: May 23

_____ June 9 ACT - May 4 regular deadline,
late: May 18.

_____ Take AP exams May (results arrive in July)

_____ Make appointments for summer interviews at
selected colleges. (Be sure to follow visits with
thank you notes.)

_____ Start a file of brochures and applications for
schools you like.

_____ Finalize plans for summer jobs, camps, and
educational opportunities.

_____ Read local newspapers to find out which civic,
cultural, and service organizations in your area
award scholarships to graduating seniors. Start
a file.

_____ If you play a spring sport and hope to continue
as an undergraduate, make sure that college
"coaches know about you now, either live or
by youtube, video upload, or dvd." By spring
of your senior year it might be too late.

WEBSITES FOR RISING SENIORS

<http://www.library.illinois.edu/sshel/specialcollections/rankings> This website lists all the links which rank colleges and university in regard to certain criteria. In addition to the ubiquitous US News and Princeton Review rankings, you can access a list of 25 national rankings, such as: *Kiplinger's 100 Best Values in Public Colleges* and *Wall Street Journal's Top 50 Feeder Schools*—Click on: "General/Undergraduate" in the left column.

<http://myintuition.org>—This new calculator is a joint effort of 15 colleges, including **Dartmouth, Pomona, Columbia, Williams, Wellesley, Rice and Colorado College**. You use it anonymously, and you answer about six or seven quick questions about your finances, such as your annual income and home ownership status. In just three minutes, you can get an estimate of how much college will really cost.

<http://www.liberalartscolleges.com>—Here is a complete guide to liberal arts colleges which includes tabs on Applying, Budgeting, Picking a School, School Comparisons, College Rankings.

You'll find articles on "10 Apps to Help You Prepare for College", "Liberal Arts Colleges that Meet Full Financial Need" and much more.

Fairtest.org - For high school juniors beginning the college search process. FairTest's website lists more than 1000 accredited, bachelor-degree granting institutions which do not require all or many applicants to submit ACT/SAT scores before admissions decisions are made. It remains available and free at: <http://fairtest.org/university/optional>

<https://www.cappex.com/scholarships> Most comprehensive database of merit scholarships on the web that recognizes individual academic, artistic and athletic achievements. Merit scholarships do not based on need. They can often be renewed for multiple years, so often they are worth four times their face value.

<http://www.collegeplan.org/cpnow/keys/keys.shtml> In this free webpage you will find a step-by-step walk through the process of identifying prospective colleges and preparing admission materials. Also checkout: "The College Planning Scholarship Guide" at <http://www.collegeplan.org/cpnow/pnwguide/pnwguide.htm>

WEBSITES FOR RISING SENIORS

<http://www.parchment.com/c/college/college-rankings.php> - Tens of thousands of students have contributed to a database of over 1,410,819 acceptances at hundreds of colleges in the US. Using a formula similar to the one used to rank chess masters, Parchment helps decipher the meaning of those student choices.

<https://collegescorecard.ed.gov>—Details annual costs, graduation rates, salaries after graduation and other information for more than 7,000 institutions of higher education. Great for comparing and sorting schools. Includes such info as: 23 four-year schools with low costs that lead to high incomes and 30 four-year schools with high graduation rates and low costs;

COLLEGE NEWS

*** 41% of students now enrolled in higher education are 25 and older, according to the National Center for Education Statistics. However, 38% of those leave in the first year due to financial, work or family obligations. So take advantage of your window of opportunity.

*** The president of the **University of Portland** (OR) has apologized for not doing more when a sexually explicit speech by a tennis player from India, acting as the emcee of the event, led others to walk out of an awards banquet honoring athletes at the university.

*** A recent *Scientific Report* study says that "by failing to consider students' sleep patterns, colleges are making decisions that result in many students facing more academic difficulty than they might otherwise." The focus of the research is known as social jet lag.

*** The **University of Michigan** has announced a \$150 million gift that will support cancer research and care. The funds will support research projects, allow the hiring of up-and-coming scholars, and create endowed professorships for leaders in various research fields.

*** The California Supreme Court has determined public colleges in the state must warn and shield their students from potential violence in "school-sponsored activities." Experts say the ruling could have nationwide implications.

*** A new analysis of more than 2,000 classes in science, mathematics and technology at a range of colleges and universities has found that, compared with more "active learning" models, the lecture remains dominant in 55% of classrooms where class time was spent on "conventional lecturing."

*** **Utah State University** has hired an outside investigator to examine complaints about its piano program where students charge that sexist treatment and intimidation are common.

*** Circulating social media messages were asking why a conference on cyberwarfare and artificial intelligence, scheduled for early April at **Yale University**, included only fifteen men scheduled to speak. Two qualified female Yale professors of Computer Science were added to the list.

Free Tuition for Community College in Oregon

The Oregon Promise covers most of tuition costs for recent Oregon high school graduates attending community colleges. The scholarship covers costs left over after federal and state aid, and the maximum dollar amount is set based on the average cost of enrolling in 12 credits per semester. (That was about \$3,400 in 2016-17.) Recipients need a 2.5 GPA to qualify, and can get funding for between six and 12 credits per semester. The program started without an income cutoff, but facing budget pressures, lawmakers recently announced that grants to wealthier families (those earning roughly \$100,000 or more) would be cut off.

<https://oregonstudentaid.gov/oregon-promise.aspx>

200 Best Schools That Give Best Bang for Tuition Buck

"Colleges That Pay You Back 2018" spotlights affordable quality schools that offer significant financial aid and have excellent records of alumni employment. "Only 7 percent of the nation's four-year colleges made it into this book," says Robert Franek, the book's lead author and editor-in-chief of *Princeton Review*. "These schools were bona fide standouts for the return they deliver." Among all the colleges in the book (both public and private), the average grant to freshman with need is \$26,800, the median starting salary of graduates is \$55,700, and the mid-career salary is \$108,700. Available through Amazon: New for \$11.82, free shipping from Fairview Books.

Ten Top Schools in Video Design

University of Southern California, New York University, DigiPen Institute of Technology (WA), Becker College (MA), Rochester Institute of Technology (NY), University of Utah, Worcester Polytechnic Institute (MA), Hampshire College (MA), LaSalle College Vancouver (BC, Canada), and Drexel University (PA). For more visit: www.princetonreview.com/game-design for a complete

Online Rumors and Myths

(*"Omaha World-Herald"*, by Maggie O'Brien, 4/2/17)

Senior year of high school doesn't matter to colleges. - **False**
All schools require a final transcript to see that students are still challenging themselves, and final-semester grades can impact college scholarship decisions.

A low ACT/SAT score will destroy your chances of getting into college. - **False**

Schools look at high school grades, class rank, leadership involvement, ACT scores, and a student's schedule and level of class difficulty. If you earn a two-year degree from a community college, you don't need high school ACT or SAT scores.

Community colleges are second-rate — a last resort. - **False**
Community colleges are more relevant now than ever because of the type of transfer career training programs they offer and low cost of first two years of college.

Students need to decide their careers before they choose a college. - **False**
Many very successful students use the resources in college to help them decide what to study and eventually what career they want to pursue.

For 2018 College Freshmen: "I Wish Someone Had Told Me"

(*"The College Crier," Devon O'Brien*)

GO TO CLASS - the temptation is there to sleep in (don't schedule early classes if you can avoid it). Class attendance can make a difference in your grades.

BE ON TIME TO CLASS - class disruption may be noticed by your professor and it won't be appreciated by your classmates.

COMMUNICATION is critical - if you are having difficulties with someone like a roommate or professor, talk it out.

BUREAUCRACY reigns in college- yes, you will need to navigate the system. Learn the procedures, deadlines, actions you need to take and who to talk to if you need help. Remember your fellow students aren't the experts - go to those who are so you stay on track.

SUPPORT SYSTEMS are crucial, especially in the early weeks - make friends, get to know people, talk to everyone!

CLOSE TO HOME - resist the temptation to go home every weekend. By staying on campus you'll get more connected, make new friends and learn about the happenings on campus. Never can tell, staying on campus may open up a whole new world.

EXPECT TO FEEL LONELY, FRIGHTENED AND ISOLATED - this is a big change. The comfort is that you're not the only one going having these feelings. When feeling down call home, call a friend, talk to your RA and realize these feelings are natural.

READ EVERYTHING - both to stay in touch and be aware of important information. You may find that even advertisements are exciting. After all, they're addressed to YOU!

JOIN IN ON ALL THE ACTIVITIES you can while still doing well in your classes. Getting involved can make the homesickness just a little easier.

PROFESSORS are just people too - don't be afraid to use their office hours, get to know them, ask questions when you don't understand. The professors are there to help you - don't be left behind.

Student/Parent College Admissions Advice

(*"NY Times" 4/22/18, Letters to Editor*)

+++ "I'm surrounded by people who are top tier in academics, outstanding volunteers, skilled musicians and athletes, and leaders in extracurriculars at a highly competitive school. But many of us didn't get into the schools we dreamed of. While growing up, there was an emphasis on being well-rounded individuals, but it seems colleges are becoming more selective in recruiting people with strengths in a certain area."

+++ "As a parent who is one year out from my son's college admissions process, I offer these insights. First, do not encourage the concept of a "first choice" school. My son applied to six schools, any of which he would have been happy to attend. When he got into three of the six, there was no angst about not getting into a "first choice," just an evaluation of what would be the best fit for his goals."

+++ "If I could get a do-over, I would have looked at more schools where I could have been a big fish in a small pond, instead of only focusing on a school's pedigree."

COLLEGE NEWS

*** **Trinity College Dublin** and **Columbia University** (NYC) are launching a new dual B.A. program. In four years, undergraduates can now earn degrees from the oldest university in Ireland and an Ivy League institution in the U.S.

*** The president of **California Polytechnic State University SLO** has indefinitely suspended all Greek life on campus after two fraternities committed racially insensitive acts, in addition to "racially charged and insensitive events, sexual assaults, hazing and alcohol-related deaths, and violations of the university's code of conduct regarding hosting social events."

*** After two congressmen wrote to **Texas A&M** raising concerns that the Chinese-government backed *Confucius Institutes* are platforms for political propaganda and espionage, Texas A&M said it will close them.

*** The Arizona Supreme Court has ruled that immigrant students with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, status are not eligible for lower in-state tuition rates.

*** The U.S. could see a shortage of up to 120,000 physicians by 2030, according to a new report by the Association of American Medical Colleges. The report attributed the shortage to a growing and aging population.

*** Seeking to raise \$85 million by 2019, **Lawrence University** (WI) embarked on an ambitious plan in 2014 to join the exclusive ranks of so-called full-need colleges. They have raised \$74.3 million in four years. Now 48% of students have an average funding gap of only \$4,200.

*** National Collegiate Athletic Association has determined that Division I colleges and universities could save about \$2.5 billion if they got rid of all sports. If that money were redistributed as scholarships that averaged \$4,000 each, the institutions could fund more than 615,400 scholarships.

*** **Brown University** (RI) has announced a \$100 million gift for its brain science institute. The gift is from Robert J. Carney, an alumnus, and Nancy D. Carney, his wife. The institute will now be named for the Carneys.

SCHOLARSHIPS & CONTEST OPPORTUNITIES

ATTENTION: CLASS OF 2019!!

CAMERON IMPACT SCHOLARSHIP To be awarded in December 2018, to approximately 10-15 high-school seniors. This four-year, merit-based scholarship covers the full tuition and qualified educational expenses, estimated to be between \$20,000-\$50,000 per year. Will only accept the first 3000 applications, so apply ASAP. Eligibility criteria at: <https://www.bryancameroneducationfoundation.org> **Application deadline: September 12, 2018.**

WASHINGTON COLLEGE (MD) FULL RIDE SCHOLARSHIPS The program offers 14 promising freshmen from low-income backgrounds a full-ride to the school, including room and board. School counselors can recommend students. Selected admitted students will be flown to campus to interview. **Application Deadline: January 31, 2019** <http://www.washcoll.edu/admissions/brigade>

HYLAND FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY Open to high school seniors or current college students. Offers a \$2,500 scholarship based solely on a 500-750 word essay: "Pick an experience from your life and explain how it has influenced your educational and personal development." Brief online app at: <https://www.drbradhyland.com/scholarship.html> **Application Deadline: June 30, 2018.**

GRAPHIC ARTS EDUC. & RESEARCH FND. DESIGN COMPETITION Open to high school and college students studying graphic communications/printing, advertising, graphic design, or interactive media. Must design and print an appealing, informational label for a fictitious product. Offers \$2,000, plus an all-expenses paid trip to GRAPH EXPO 2018 in Chicago; \$1,500 (second place), \$1,000 (third place). **Deadline: June 1, 2018.** Details at: <http://gaerf.org/designcompetition.aspx>

2018 TYLENOL FUTURE CARE SCHOLARSHIP Offers ten \$10,000 scholarships and thirty \$5000 scholarships to students nationally who have demonstrated leadership in community and school activities, and intend to major in areas that will lead to careers in health-related fields. **Application Period: May 1 - June 30, 2018.** <http://www.tylenol.com/news/scholarship>

SOCIETY OF BROADCAST ENGINEERS YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP Open only to high school seniors. Must plan to pursue postsecondary study in broadcast engineering or a closely related field. Must submit a completed online application, a brief autobiography detailing their interests and career goals in broadcasting, a statement that explains how they plan to use the scholarship if selected. Offers a minimum of three \$1,500 scholarships. **Deadline: July 1, 2018.** Details at: www.sbe.org/sections/edu_ennes_scholarships.php

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF POLICE ASSOCIATIONS SCHOLARSHIP Offers \$2500 scholarship, open only to high school seniors. Applicants must plan to pursue a career in law enforcement, labor relations, or a related field and have a B average or better. They also must have a parent or guardian who is a member of a union affiliated with the International Union of Police Associations, AFL-CIO. **Deadline: July 1, 2018.** https://iupa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/1315_Edward-Kiernan-Scholarship-App-2018.pdf

ARBORJET TAKING ROOT SCHOLARSHIP Offers Ten \$1,000 non-renewable scholarships. Open to graduating U.S. high school seniors who plan to major in Forestry, Plant Sciences, Horticulture, Entomology, Environmental Science or other related majors and seek a career in the arboriculture industry. Application should be on website by May 1. **Last year's deadline was June 30.** <http://sms.scholarshipamerica.org/arborjet/index.html>

AMERICAN GROUND WATER TRUST SCHOLARSHIPS For high school seniors only. Offers three scholarships of \$1500 to \$2000 for students interested in groundwater science. **Application Deadline: June 1, 2018.** Website: www.agwt.org/content/scholarships

New Videos Help Students Prepare for National College Fairs

Counselors, students and families can also subscribe to an informative blog to receive notifications of new college admissions-related news posts by email. <http://admitted.nacacnet.org/wordpress>

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SCHOLARSHIPS & CONTEST

HARRIOT IRSAY AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF POLISH CULTURE SCHOLARSHIP Awards merit scholarship grants of \$1,000 each, preferably to American citizens or permanent residents of Polish heritage. Requires 200-400 word essay: "Why I Should Receive the Scholarship" + an original article on any subject about Poland. **Application materials must be submitted by July 13, 2018.** Requires \$10 processing fee. <http://www.ampolynstitute.org/index2.html>. Click on "Scholarship" on the left.

XEROX TECHNICAL MINORITY SCHOLARSHIP Xerox offers \$1,000-\$10,000 scholarships to full-time college students, including 2018-19 freshmen, who are considering an undergraduate degree in Chemistry, Engineering, Information Management, Physics or Material Science. **Must be** of African American, Asian, Pacific Island, American Indian, Native Alaskan or Hispanic descent. **Apply in early September. Postmark Deadline: September 30, 2018.** <https://www.xerox.com/en-us/jobs/minority-scholarships/minority-scholarships>

Seniors Still Looking for Colleges??? Space Availability Survey:

After May 6th, 2018, visit the following website for the 31st annual list of colleges with space available for qualified students in their fall 2018 freshman class: <http://www.nacacnet.org>

Smart Money Management in College

- 1.) **Consider buying prepaid phone cards.** This is a very cost-effective way to call home from anywhere at any time without incurring long-distance charges.
- 2.) **Open a checking or savings account near the college.** If you already have an account at home, then ensure that deposits and withdrawals can be made at school. Be sure to clarify any associated fees. Your parents could also provide you with an option, such as a debit card, where they control the amount that is deposited in your account.
- 3.) **Beware of credit card offers.** Talk with your parents about the risks and responsibilities of accepting these offers. It's smart to have your parents involved in any credit card acceptance decisions. When you investigate these offers, look for a company that promotes responsible use of credit. Consider a joint credit card where your parents can limit the maximum transaction amount. Talk with your parents about for what the card can and cannot be used. If they say it should be used only for emergencies, then you should both clearly define the meaning of an emergency. Some students think that buying a new pair of jeans for an evening out is an emergency!
- 4.) **Don't forget to consider transportation costs** to and from school, including the cost of a car or several trips annually by train, air, or bus.
- 5.) **Most importantly, use smart budgeting.** Ask your parents to help you create a realistic money management plan and then adhere to it, holding yourself accountable for all expenditures.

SMOOTHING THE COLLEGE TRANSITION

By now many seniors have notified your selected school of their intent to register. After such a difficult and important decision, there is usually a great sense of relief. But it's not the time to let down because now all the specific preparations for beginning the freshman year must be taken care of. So here are some suggestions for helping to make your transition from high school to college a smooth one.

Share your mail from the college with your parent(s). In many cases, they will have to sign something or be the ones to do it. If they don't know about it, they can't help you.

Many colleges are now having "mini orientation" sessions during the summer. These group sessions are designed to help you get acquainted with some members of your class, meet faculty and administrators, and, in general, get you ready for the fall. If you have a choice of sessions to attend, go to an early one.

Respond to all Housing Information ASAP to ensure your best choice of residence halls and roommates.

You may be assigned a faculty advisor. If you are told who it is, get in touch with this person during the summer. He or she will be your best contact person if you have questions before you arrive at college. Some colleges automatically assign you to your first semester classes. Others let you register for the classes you want. Hopefully, in that case, you will get your registration materials early enough in the summer to think seriously about what you want. But don't think too long. Classes are usually assigned on a first come basis. Some of your first-choices could be filled by the time you register, so have a list of alternative courses ready.

Immediately follow-up on all correspondence relating to student or parents loans if you plan to use them. (*see loan related articles in newsletter*) Colleges are firm about not letting students attend class or move into residence halls until all financial matters are complete.

Know the placement test policy for English and Math courses. Usually students with SAT scores of 550 in verbal and/or math are exempt. Call your school to double check if in doubt.

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HOW TO LEVEL THE COLLEGE PLAYING FIELD

("NY Times", 4/8/18, by Mr. Harold Levy, former chancellor of the NY City public schools)

This time of year, there's a lot of optimism in the air about college. As acceptance notices come in, it seems like the smartest, hardest-working young people with the greatest potential are being matched to institutions of higher learning that will prepare them for success and promote a free and open society. However, too many academically talented children who come from families where household income hovers at the American median of \$59,000 or below are shut out of college or shunted away from selective universities. The wealthy spend thousands on application coaches, test-prep tutors and essay editors. Increasing numbers of prospective freshmen apply for early decision, which can give the applicant a stronger chance of getting in but closes doors for middle-income students, who often need to make their college choice by comparing financial aid packages. It seems people of means are complicit in a system that seems unable to stop itself from extending privileges to the privileged. If your late-model car boasts the sticker of a prestigious college in the back window, you are participating in a system that may be good for your child but bad for our country. Here are some fundamental steps to make sure higher education is aligned with the democratic values people of good conscience share. Legacy admissions must end. Some leading universities, including M.I.T., Caltech and Berkeley, don't allot extra credit to legacies. We need to press all schools to do the same. Next, college admissions officers have tried to weed out not-so-serious applicants by making a pre-application college visit and a tour weigh in favor of an applicant. They call it "demonstrated interest," but what it mainly signifies is a family's ability to pay for a trip and not much more. The college tours are another way to signify the means, not the seriousness, of a candidate. **Princeton** (NJ) and **Emory** (GA), to name two, do not factor demonstrated interest into their admissions decisions. The rest should follow. While visionary leaders are pushing their college and universities to increase the numbers of first-generation college students, comprehensive reforms must come quickly and they must be more visible. Campuses that are overwhelmingly populated by wealthy students amplify the voices that jeer at our higher education system and energize those who seek to destroy it. It would be a tragedy if they succeeded.

THE COLLEGE CONNECTION NEWSLETTER

FUTURE FOCUS EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

145 Brooks Lane
Ashland, OR 97520

FOR SUBSCRIPTION INFO, CONTACT NEWSLETTER STAFF:
futurefocus@jeffnet.org