



# THE COLLEGE CONNECTION NEWSLETTER

FOR HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS AND SENIORS

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## WHAT IS A FINANCIAL AID APPEAL?

*(parentingforcollege.com)*

Just like any other large consumer purchase, college tuition prices are negotiable. The sticker price you see is very rarely the price you pay. Data collected by the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO) revealed that colleges discounted tuition for the 2018–19 school year by over 50 percent.

This year, because of the pandemic, you can anticipate that many (but not all) colleges will be even more flexible in order to lure students due to low application numbers based on the fact that families are struggling financially.

When you appeal your financial aid award, you are simply asking for more money. Don't be afraid to do this; the college will not be offended or react by rescinding their offer of admission. They may say no, but it does not hurt to ask. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain by appealing your award.

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## WHAT TO DO WHILE YOU'RE WAITING TO HEAR FROM COLLEGES

*(fastweb.com)*

February and March are tense times within the world of college admissions – for everyone involved – students, parents and admissions officials alike. Potential college students anxiously wait to hear back from their top colleges choices. The students' angst is rising and parents feel powerless, wanting to end the madness of the waiting game. The colleges work around the clock, reading application after application trying to evaluate each and every student thoroughly to the best of their ability to get the decisions out in a timely manner.

Here are tips to keep you from losing it during the intense and, often, grueling period of waiting to hear back from colleges on whether or not you've been accepted:

**Remain confident** - It's a case of the coulda, woulda, shoulda's. You could have written your essay, filled out your application or sent in your packet thousands of different ways – but you didn't.

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## 60 QUESTIONS TO ASK ON YOUR COLLEGE TOUR

*(Princetonreview.com)*

Want to know what life's really like at your dream school? Chat up the real experts on campus—the students. When you tour colleges, make sure you talk with as many current students as you can. Ask them what they love and what bothers them most about their schools. This list of potential questions will help you spark some conversations with students on all your college visits, so you can find the school that fits you best.

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## SCHOLARSHIPS

### CIRKLED IN NO SWEAT SCHOLARSHIP

Create an account and earn points by filling out your profile. Deadline March 31st 2022



### MYIMPACT CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP

MyImpact Challenge is a civic engagement contest hosted by the Bill of Rights Institute. Deadline to apply May 16th



### NATIONAL CCAA SCHOLARSHIP

For seniors planning to attend a Catholic College in the fall. Deadline to apply April 4th



### CAMERON IMPACT SCHOLARSHIP FOR THE CLASS OF 2023

Scholarship for those who demonstrate leadership. Deadline September 9th 2022



### CALIFORNIA STATE SUMMER SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS

A four week summer program for talented and motivated high school students in California and beyond. Application Opens in December

### QUESTBRIDGE

The National College Match is a college admission and scholarship process through which high-achieving, low-income students can be admitted early with full four-year scholarships. Application opens late summer



### UNICO SCHOLARSHIP

To promote the image of Italian Americans along with Italian heritage and culture by supporting charitable, scientific, cultural, educational, and literary projects. Deadline April 15, 2021



### HORATIO ALGER ASSOCIATION

Manages 70 of the largest need based scholarship opportunities in the country for high school juniors who have faced or overcome obstacles. Scholarships by state and by career.



## SENIOR CHECKLIST



Deadline for colleges to let you know is March 31st



Check portals for offers and financial aid packages



Apply for scholarships

**FUN FACT**  
**UCLA is the #1-most-applied-to college, with nearly 139,500 applications yearly**

## HOW TO: BUILD YOUR COLLEGE LIST

(Collegeraptor.com)

Starting to build your college list can be confusing. Some students start by putting down the names of colleges they know. Others ask for suggestions from people they trust. However, without knowing much about the colleges, those might not be the best way to build your college list.

College is a huge investment in time and money. Even if colleges with brand-names have a great reputation, or are well known for its sports teams, it might not be the college for you. The best way to build your college list is to do research. These four steps will help you build your college list.

### 1. Get to know yourself, put together a list of wants and must-haves

That's right, the first thing you need to do when building your college list is to get to know yourself and what you want in a college. When considering your preferences, be honest about what is important to you. You want a college that's the right fit for you.

- **Location** – What locations are you willing to consider? Think about distance from home, weather, and possible opportunities in the area. In what areas will you feel most comfortable?
- **Location type** – Do you want a college that is in an urban, suburban or rural setting?
- **Major** – What's your intended major? If you don't know exactly what you want to study, are there subjects that you are learning towards?
- **Extracurricular activities** – Are there specific extracurricular activities that are important to you?
- **Athletics** – Do you want to be a college athlete and compete competitively for the college? What division will you consider?
- **Religious affiliation** – Do you want to attend a religious college?
- **Student population size** – Do you want to go to a college that is the size of your high school or the size of a city? Or, somewhere in the middle?
- **Other things you want or need** – What else is important to you in a college? A gym or fitness center? A strong career center? Whatever it is that is important to you, add it to the list.

### 2. Compile the BIG college list (10-20 colleges)

After you get to know yourself and what you are looking for in a college, you can start doing your initial research. This list can be quite large depending on your preferences, and that is okay.

### 3. Research, narrow down your college list (8-15 colleges)

Now that you have your big list, start researching the colleges on your list. As you start researching, you'll find things that make you like some colleges more and other colleges less. Take notes and keep editing your college list as you discover more information.

### 4. Categorize, prioritize your college list (6-10 colleges)

As you learn more about the colleges on your list, make changes until you can narrow down to the final number of colleges you will apply to. There is no magic number of colleges you should apply to, but the majority of experts suggest between six and ten colleges.



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**COLLEGE NEWS**

California governor Gavin Newsom, a Democrat, has asked the California Supreme Court to block a lower court's order capping enrollment at the **University of California, Berkeley**, while the ruling is under appeal.

Proposals that would eliminate the use of standardized test scores in the **National Collegiate Athletic Association** rules for initial eligibility for the association's Divisions I and II have advanced in the NCAA's governance process and are on track to be voted on next January.

The Arizona Board of Nursing filed a notice of charges against **Aspen University**. The move came after the university did not sign an agreement with the board that would have required it to halt admissions into its nursing program.

**North Carolina State University's** governing board unanimously voted last week to remove the word "Dixie" from the institution's alma mater over concerns that the word references the Confederacy.

Joseph Castro resigned effective immediately from **California State University's** chancellorship. His sudden departure comes after he was criticized over the way he handled years of sexual harassment and retaliation allegations against a former Fresno State vice president.

**JUNIOR CHECKLIST**

-  Attend virtual college visits
-  Make plans to visit college campuses
-  ACT - Next test date is June 11th. You must register by May 6th. It takes 30 minutes to complete registration and you will need a photo
-  SAT - Next test date is May 7th. You must register by April 8th

**2022 UCB FAMILY EPILEPSY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

Family Epilepsy Scholarship Program™ - Since 2005, UCB, Inc. has awarded over \$2.8 million to more than 550 deserving individuals, including people with epilepsy, their immediate family members, and caregivers who have applied their awards to undergraduate and graduate studies. Deadline has been extended to Tuesday, March 15, 2022

**CLIMATE JUSTICE SCHOLARSHIP**

\$1,000 awarded to one lucky applicant. Jamie Sarai Margolin co founder of Zero Hour created this scholarship. Deadline April 15th.



**VFW's AUXILLARY YOUNG AMERICAN CREATIVE PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST**

Auxillary Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest - More than 4,000 high school students from across the country compete for a \$33,000 scholarship. Deadline to apply is March 31st.



**AROUND THE CORNER FROM COLLEGE**

\$1,000 scholarship to one applicant each season. Deadline is June 30th



**HSF SCHOLARSHIPS**

More than 150 scholarships for Latino students with or without US citizenship.



## WHAT TO DO WHILE YOU'RE WAITING TO HEAR FROM COLLEGES

(Continued from page 1)

- And that's okay. Remain confident in what you did do because it's done. There's nothing you can do about it at this point but wait it out and let life take its course and, truthfully, those slight changes likely would not have mattered anyway.
- **Do not harass the admissions department!** - Don't call the office of admissions and ask why you still have not heard back! They likely are overwhelmed by applicants and the ratio of applicants to staff is certainly imbalanced.
- **Focus on what's ahead** - At this point, you have no way of predicting what the outcome will be, so it's important to begin to prepare for all potential scenarios right now. Create a back-up plan, just in case you aren't accepted into your first choice college for your second choice or a safety school.
- **Give thanks** - While you wait to hear back from schools, occupy your time by formally thanking everyone who helped you throughout the college search, application and admissions processes.
- **Hope for the best, prepare for the worst** - Although it sounds negative, it's always best to prepare for the worst case scenario. If you're mentally prepared for the worst, nothing will shock you and you will be able to handle whatever comes your way.
- **Outline positives** - To keep things in perspective, it can be beneficial to make a list of positive attributes of your second choice or safety school. Why is it a good school? What is it known for? What's the campus like?
- **Shift focus back to senior year** - You've got prom, graduation and endless parties and celebrations to attend. Don't let impatience and waiting put a damper on these moments you're supposed to treasure. Enjoy life as it comes and have fun in the process!
- **Stay positive** - If your friends hear back before you, don't freak out.
- **Don't be a Downer** - So, you're impatient. Don't take out your frustration on your friends!
- **If all else fails, transfer** - If your first-choice school doesn't send you an acceptance letter and you absolutely must go there - good news! Our higher education system has built-in opportunities specifically for second chances. Believe it or not, students transferring colleges is as common a thing as going to college in the first place.

## HOW TO: BUILD YOUR COLLEGE LIST

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- 1-3 Reach schools – A reach school is one that you have a chance of being admitted, but it may be difficult. There is no rule that you must apply to a reach school, but if there is one that you really like, go for it! For highly selective schools (colleges with low acceptances rates), they should always be considered a reach school because even students with perfect grades and test scores might not be accepted.
- 4+ Match schools – A match school is a college that you are likely to be admitted.
- 1-2 Safety schools – A safety school is a college that you will almost certainly be admitted. Do not pick a safety school just to have one on your list. Instead, find a college that you truly like and can envision yourself attending in the future.

## 60 QUESTIONS TO ASK ON YOUR COLLEGE TOUR

*Continued from page 1***The Basics**

Why did you choose this school?, Are you happy here?, What are your school's strengths?, What's your #1 complaint about your school?, What else could stand to be improved?, How accessible are administrators, registrars, financial aid officers, etc.?

**Academics**

What majors are popular?, What departments or programs have the best reputations?, What's your favorite class?, Are your professors good teachers?, Do your professors hold office hours, and will they meet with you outside of class?, Are most of your classes taught by professors or teaching assistants?, Were you able to take most of your first-choice classes?, Are your classes lecture-based or discussion-based?, How much reading and writing is required in your courses?, How often are collaborative work or group presentations required?, How satisfied are you with academic advising?, Do students use any on-campus tutoring programs or writing centers?, How big are your classes?, Does your major require an independent study or capstone project?, Are professors available for research with students?, Is it popular to study abroad?



Asking lots of questions is a great way to learn about schools beyond the glossy college brochures or glowing admission websites.

**Campus Life**

What's it like to be a first-year student here?, What's a typical day like?, How much time do students spend studying per week?, What do you do when you're not in class?, What do you do on the weekends?, What is the social scene like?, What kinds of things are there to do in your school's hometown?, How's the food?, Do most students live on-campus?, How are the dorms?, Which clubs and student organizations are popular?, Do lots of students belong to fraternities or sororities?, What's your favorite place on campus?, Where do you like to study?, What are the facilities like (science labs, libraries, theatres, gyms, etc.)?, Are there enough computer labs?, How is the WiFi on campus?, Is it easy to get around campus?, Are sports popular?, Is there a lot of school spirit?

**Student Body**

How would you describe your fellow students?, Are the students here friendly?, What makes the student body unique?, Is there diversity on campus?, Are there many students from other countries?, Do students of different races and classes interact easily?, Are students cliquish?

**Career Services**

Are internships available? How do you find them?, Is Career Services helpful?, Do you have a mentor?, Does your school have a co-op program?, Are there opportunities to build leadership skills on campus?, What options exist for service learning in the community?, Do employers recruit students on campus?, How easy is it to find summer jobs and other kinds of work through your school?, Who are some of the notable graduates from your college?, How visible is your school's alumni association on campus?, What kinds of hands-on or practical experiences have you had in and outside of the classroom?

## WHAT IS A FINANCIAL AID APPEAL?

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- You might appeal need-based aid if your financial situation has changed since completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) or if there is something you need to clarify beyond what the school saw on the FAFSA.
- To appeal merit-based aid, your student should have a reason to increase the aid such as other higher award offers from other schools or an improved academic performance.

“At many schools, it’s a buyer’s market,” explains Lynn O’Shaughnessy, author of *The College Solution*, a book aimed at helping students find the right school at the right price. “You’re going to be more likely to succeed [in getting more financial aid] if you’re looking at a private school than at a public school. They’re more eager to fill their spots.”

### How Should You Appeal?

Write a financial aid appeal letter either to the admissions office or the financial aid office. Since every family’s circumstances are different, every letter will be different and should be personally crafted. You can, however, follow these simple guidelines:

- Gather all documentation necessary to make your case.
- Use proper grammar and mechanics.
- Do not make demands and remain humble.
- State your reason for appeal clearly.
- Be specific including dates, figures and amounts.
- Provide documentation along with the letter to substantiate your appeal.
- Open and close with gratitude.

### When Should You Appeal?

Once you compare your student’s financial aid awards and determine you are eligible to appeal, craft your letter to the college or colleges. Just remember that May 1 is the decision deadline and once you accept admission, positive appeal decision will be less likely.

## NORTH ISLAND CREDIT UNION SCHOLARSHIP

North Island Credit Union Scholarship - This year we are awarding 10 scholarships of \$1000 each. Resident of Los Angeles, Riverside, San Diego or Orange Counties OR a North Island Credit Union member/dependent of a member who may live outside of our core service area. Application deadline April 8, 2022



## TYLENOL FUTURE CARE SCHOLARSHIP

Each year the makers of TYLENOL® award annual scholarships to well deserving students pursuing careers in healthcare. Application opens May 1st

