

# THE DAUNTING COLLEGE PROCESS

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Not as bad as it's made out to be!

# PART 1: THE COLLEGE SEARCH

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# TYPES OF UNIVERSITIES

- Research universities
  - Ivy League
  - UC Schools
- Liberal arts colleges

# CURRICULUM

- Core Curriculum
- Open Curriculum
- Major speciality
- Class sizes/TAs

# LOCATION



# STUDENT BODY

- Collaborative/competitive
- Diverse
- Liberal/conservative

# COST/FINANCIAL AID

- Public universities cost less
- No financial aid for early international applicants
- Need-blind admissions
- Merit scholarships

# ONLINE RESEARCH

- School website
- Read reviews
- Niche/Unigo/CollegeData



# COLLEGE TRIPS

- Campus tour/information session
- Take pictures
- Ask questions
- Take notes
- Talk to students
- Eat in the dining hall
- Ask for the email of representatives/tour guides

**DON'T APPLY TO TOO  
MANY!**

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# PART 2: THE APPLICATION PROCESS

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# WAYS TO APPLY/OUTCOME

- Ways:
  - Early Decision
  - Restrictive Early Action
  - Early Action
  - Regular Decision
  - Rolling
- Outcomes:
  - Accepted/Deferred/Denied
  - Accepted/Denied/Waitlisted

# ACADEMIC TRANSCRIPT

- Most important factor in a college decision
- Performance
- Rigorous courses
- Wide range of courses
- Continuation

# ADMISSIONS TESTS

- SAT
  - Three sections: Critical Reading, Math, Writing
  - 25 minute sections
  - Better if you're good at English/grammar/vocab
- ACT
  - Four sections: Math, English, Critical Reading, Science
  - 45 minute/1 hour sections
  - Better if you're good at Math/hate vocab
- Subject Tests
  - Usually 2
  - 1 hour long
- Prep books
  - Official SAT Guide/Princeton Review/Barron's
- Tips:
  - Practice, practice, practice.
  - Time yourself.
  - Do not take more than 3 times!



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# SAT

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# THE COLLEGE ESSAY

- Common Application [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)
- Five prompts
- Read samples
- Find the right topic
- Tips while writing:
  - Do not write to impress
  - Do not list your accomplishments
  - Show, don't tell
  - Focus, focus, focus
- The UC Essays – a little different!
- Supplements



# DEMONSTRATED INTEREST

- Especially important for small colleges
- Visiting
- Join the mailing list
- Email reps, but don't overdo it!
- Open all emails
- Applying ED

# EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- 10 activities
- Seek depth, not breadth

# INTERVIEW

- Optional
- Recommended for small colleges
- Straightforward
- Come prepared
- Be authentic
- Ask questions

# BREATHE....

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You will be okay!