

Late Stage College Planning:

Preparing for college during
the high school years

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Observations

- Many students don't begin planning for college until their junior year of high school.
- Many parents we work with across the country communicate to us that college counseling services are inadequate at their student's high school
- We find that the majority of students begin building their college lists based on:
 - prestige
 - name recognition
 - college rankings
 - where their friends are applying to
 - where parents want the student to apply to
 - location



More Observations

- Four-year colleges graduated an average of just 53% of entering students within six years (and 40% and 30% was prevalent too)

Source: Study by American Enterprise Institute looked at full-time, first-time students who entered college in fall of 2001. Data taken from 1400 colleges.

- One in three students that enter two- and four-year colleges end up transferring to another college

Source: National Association of College Admissions Counseling, April 2010

- We find many students don't fully consider the difference between the learning environments of public and private colleges and universities



What Needs to Change

- Students need to begin preparing for college as soon as they enter high school to receive guidance on the skills they need to acquire during the high school years
- Students (and parents) need access to both group and individual college counseling where students can begin to visualize their path
- Parents need to also prepare for college! (Helping their student develop discipline, independence, social skills, financial skills, take on responsibilities)
- Students need to get educated on how to begin to building their college lists and how to fully research colleges
- Students need to get familiar with various types of colleges (and most should not make their college choice until April of their senior year in high school)

The College Experience (our definition)

- The time for a student to make the biggest decision of his/her life: making the college choice
- The time for a student to learn to live independently (financially, time management, academic self-discipline, etc.)
- The time for a student to successfully make the transition from adolescence to young adulthood
- The time to build the necessary life skills to succeed
- The time during which students identify:
 - **what are their innate skills**
 - **what are their areas of interest / passion**



Going the Extra Mile

- Career Testing: **Interests, Skills, Personality, Values**
- College Matching: **Matching the student's profile with the freshman profile of colleges and what type of learning environment will best suit the student**
- In-Depth College Visits: **Sitting in on classes, talking to professors, talking to students, checking out dorm life, visiting the Career Services Office**
- Internships: **Beginning freshman year; it is imperative to compare "book knowledge" with the day-to-day tasks of a particular profession**



Our Unofficial Results

Planning ahead can make a difference!

Four areas of planning included in what we do:

- Career Testing: **Students enter college more focused with chosen pathways**
- College Matching: **Students transfer less and graduate within four years more often**
- In-Depth College Visits: **Students have a smoother transition from high school to college**
- Internships: **Students approach their college experience from the perspective of building life skills, exploring areas they haven't yet been exposed to, and with an eye on professions that would marry their innate skills and passions**



Did You Know?

Parents that proactively plan ahead tend to reduce their college expenses significantly more than those that don't!

- My motto is “No family should pay sticker price for college.”
- Fox College Funding’s specialty is working with middle and upper middle income families that can’t qualify for much or any need-based aid
- Parents may be able to send their student to a private college for the same or less than a public university
- Parents can reduce their college expenses by tens of thousands of dollars by combining various academic, financial aid, cash flow and tax reduction strategies