Guiding the Way to Higher Education
Families, Counselors, and Communities Together
ESSENTIAL IV
Follow the Road to College
Questions

1. What is your biggest fear as relates to your student applying and attending college?
2. What counseling did you receive when you were in high school about the college admission process?
3. Do you know what services or resources are available to help your student with the college admission process?
Asking the Right Questions

- Small or large?
- Weather?
- Cost?
- School with specific major or school with lots of variety?
- Retention and graduation rate?
- Athletics and activities?
- Urban, suburban, rural?
- Two year or four year?
- Diversity?
More important is finding a college that is right for the student, and that the goals and personality of the student are well matched with the college. Students who think first about who they are and what they want are more likely to choose a college that fits them.
Applying to College

- Make a list of needs and wants of your ideal college.
- Keep college information in separate folders including email folders.
- Keep notes about likes and dislikes, contacts, and visits.
- Set up a checklist for all college applications including:
  - Deadlines (admission, scholarships, and financial aid)
  - Transcripts
  - Test scores
  - Essays
  - Recommendations
Applying to College

• Keep a calendar with room for notes and a place to record all pertinent deadlines, contacts, interviews, etc.
• Read all information sent by colleges, both email and print.
• Make copies of every application for admission, scholarship, and financial aid before sending!
As the student finalizes the list of colleges and begins filling out applications, follow the Golden Rule of the college admission process:

*Never apply to a college that you would not gladly attend if offered the choice.*
Admission Decisions

Academic Record
- Level of courses completed
- Grades in academic courses
- HS GPA or Class Rank

Test Scores
- ACT or SAT, maybe SAT II’s - check with individual college to determine requirements.

Student Activities and Employment
- How is time spent outside the classroom?
- Clubs, community service
- Commitments and responsibilities.

Essay(s)
- Topics may or may not relate to academic or career interests/goals.
- Should be descriptive and specific to the student as an individual.

Letters of Recommendation
- Additional insight about the student from an advocate’s perspective (teacher, counselor, mentor, employer, organization advisor or sponsor, etc.)
The School Counselor: A Valuable Resource

Counselors are one of the best resources your student has; they are the student’s ally throughout the middle/high school years and the entire college admission process.
Prepare for College Calendar

- Freshman Year
- Sophomore Year
- Junior Year
- Senior Year
The application period can be a time of anxiety for students.

Help your student follow the procedures properly and meet all deadlines.

Be an active participant in the exploration process.