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[Home](#) > An open letter to students and parents

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Submitted by 24 Enrollment Managers on September 16, 2019 - 3:00am

There are few times more exciting to work on a college campus than the start of a new academic year. Across the country, thousands of new students descend on institutions of higher learning, each student with their own talents and aspirations, eager to share their understanding of the world, excited to discover more about who they are and what the world has to offer. Those of us working in college admissions offices are grateful and humbled to watch this happen every fall, as bright, able students begin a journey of discovery as strangers and emerge from the experience knowing more about themselves, each other and the possibilities that await after graduation.

To be sure, the process of starting college, and the application process that accompanies it, can have its moments of anxiety and uncertainty. Applying to college opens students to scrutiny in ways few other events in life do, and the uncertainty that accompanies the college application process can be rife with doubts. The same can occur in the initial few days of the first year of college, or even subsequent years, as students see the academic and social challenges awaiting them, many wondering if they are up to the tasks required of them.

Recent studies suggest more students are experiencing bouts of anxiety, doubt and depression over the transition to college, and life in general, than ever before. Increasing competition for limited spots at some colleges, concerns over the ability to meet the financial demands of college attendance and general concern if the student is heading in the right direction are just some of the factors contributing to this increase. Combined with what other reports see as rising personal and social pressures, it is easy to understand why more students than ever before are looking for reassurance at a time of transition that seems to offer so little of it.

To those students applying to college this fall, we say to you -- we hear you, and we are here to help. Out of the thousands of higher education institutions in the United States -- be it a four-year college or university, a two-year college, or a technical

training program -- not a single one runs an Office of Judgment. The purpose of an office of admission is to authentically represent our institution and the experience it can provide. We review each applicant and determine if that student's talents, goals and interests will be best served by our school, without exceeding our capacity to serve all students who enroll.

It's been said that no one goes into college admissions because they want to see how many students they can reject. This isn't always easy for students to understand, especially when there are more qualified applicants than room to admit them. But that is a limitation of the college, not the students. There are many places where you can shine, and the application process give you the opportunity to explore all of them.

Our work with you is designed to nurture and encourage you in every step of the application process, to create a dialogue that allows you to bring forth the best, clearest picture of who you are, what you think about and what our institution can do to help you grow. If your work on an application finds you wondering where to turn for help, support or reassurance, contact us. Helping you is not our job; it is our privilege.

Recognizing that many of life's challenges aren't related to college, it is important to realize you also have local support to help you with any issues that may come up in your life. Understanding that teachers and school counselors are often faced with high numbers of students to serve, these professionals have a remarkable track record of stepping up and offering help to students who ask for it. From reviewing drafts of admissions essays, to listening to your plans for the future, to connecting you to other professionals who may offer greater help with other challenges, the educators and support teams of your local schools are here for you as well.

To those students starting their college careers this fall, we say welcome. Our work with your application for admission may be over, but our help in welcoming you to campus and assisting with a smooth adjustment to your new academic home is never over. Our colleagues in other parts of the college, including student services, academic support and the faculty, know there is more to a successful college transition than good grades and a strong classroom experience.

If asking for help feels uncomfortable, know that every student feels that way. It may look like everyone in college is walking around with great confidence, but nearly no one is. College is a new world, with a new language, culture and norms. It's more

than OK to acknowledge that you need some help making sense of this new world, and research shows that's much more likely to happen if you find a peer or mentor to connect with. It's also the No. 1 reason you'll come back for the next semester, and the next year, and graduate. Start with the one person for whom asking feels the least awkward. People who work for colleges are there for one reason -- your success -- and they want to help.

To the parents looking for the best way to promote strong, healthy, autonomous life habits in their children who are college bound, we strongly urge you to play an active role that puts the student at the center of the application and transition processes. The skills needed to complete a college application require the same levels of judgment, organization, collaboration, leadership and initiative that make for a strong college experience. Now is the time for students to refine those skills by practicing them and receiving constructive feedback that allows them to reflect, regroup and try again if necessary.

A regularly scheduled weekly meeting to discuss college application issues in high school and transition issues in college, typically around 20 to 30 minutes, provides a healthy avenue of reliable support and structure your student can count on. There will be ample opportunities to take steps to support your child in this process, but as is the case with almost every parental duty, the vital steps are to listen more than speak and to love the child you have, not the child you want.

Cultural and technological advances have created opportunities for students that were difficult to imagine even a handful of years ago, yet this abundance of choice seems to have brought new levels of hesitation, doubt and stress for many young people. Our work as admissions professionals -- as educators in our own right -- is to do everything we can to clear the field of opportunity of as many of those doubts as possible, and provide each student with the opportunity to realize the very best in themselves, in others, and in the world they will help shape.

Bill Conley
Vice president for enrollment management
Bucknell University

Bob Herr
Vice president for enrollment management and dean of college admissions
Drew University

Jody Chycinski
Associate vice president and director of admissions
Grand Valley State University

Deren Finks
Dean of admissions emeritus
Harvey Mudd College

Laurie Koehler
Vice president, marketing and enrollment strategy
Ithaca College

Greg MacDonald
Vice president, enrollment management
Lafayette College

Ken Anselment
Dean of admissions and financial aid
Lawrence University

John Ambrose
Interim executive director of admissions and recruitment
Michigan State University

Robert Springall
Vice president for enrollment management
Muhlenberg College

Gregory Mitton
Associate dean of admission/director of financial aid
Muhlenberg College

Gerri Daniels
Executive director, admissions
Northern Michigan University

J. Carey Thompson
Vice president for enrollment and communications, dean of admission
Rhodes College

Heath Einstein
Director of admission
Texas Christian University

Angel Perez
Vice president, enrollment and student success
Trinity College

Matt Malatesta
Vice president for admissions financial aid and enrollment
Union College, N.Y.

Clark Brigger
Executive director of admissions
University of Colorado Boulder

Don Bishop
Associate vice president for undergraduate enrollment
University of Notre Dame

Jim Rawlins
Director of admissions/assistant vice president for enrollment management
University of Oregon

Eric Furda
Dean of admissions
University of Pennsylvania

Gil Villanueva
Associate vice president and dean of admission
University of Richmond

Timothy Brunold
Dean of admission
University of Southern California

Andrew Wright
Vice president for enrollment management
University of Southern Indiana

Jeffery Gates
Senior vice president for student life and enrollment management
Utica College

Raymond Brown
Vice president for enrollment
Valparaiso University

Admissions [1]

Source URL: <https://www.insidehighered.com/admissions/views/2019/09/16/open-letter-students-and-parents>

Links

[1] <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/focus/admissions>

Scholarship Scams Scam Warning Signs

- You have to pay a fee
- Money-back offers or guarantees
- Credit card or bank account information required
- Provides "exclusive" information

Common Scams

"Phishing"

Unsolicited emails that bear the logo of your bank or credit card

Appear legitimate but are traps to lure you into giving out your personal or account information

NEVER give out Social Security, credit card or bank account numbers to unsolicited emails or calls

"Pharming"

Unsolicited emails that encourage you to visit a website or click on suspicious links

Make sure your inbox spam filters are up to date

BE CAREFUL about giving out your contact information or email address

Reporting Scams

National Fraud Information Center (NFIC)

File an online complaint at www.fraud.org

Federal Trade Commission (FTC)

File an online complaint at www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams, call 202-326-222, or write to:
Federal Trade Commission Consumer Response Center
600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20580

State Attorney General's Office

File your complaint with the Consumer Protection Division in your state. Visit www.naag.org to find your state Attorney General's Office

US Postal Inspection Service (USPIS)

File an online complaint involving mail fraud at postalinspectors.uspis.gov, call the Crime Hotline at 877-876-2455 or write to:
Criminal Investigations Service Center
222 S. Riverside Plaza, Ste. 1250
Chicago, IL 60606-6100

Better Business Bureau (BBB)

File an online complaint about a business at www.bbb.org or call 703-276-0100

2019-2020 Calendar

July 2019

26-SAT Registration Deadline - 8/24 Test

August 2019

13-SAT Late Registration Deadline - 8/24 Test

16-ACT Registration Deadline - 9/14 Test

24-SAT & Subject Tests

30-ACT Late Registration Deadline - 9/14 Test

September 2019

6-SAT Registration Deadline - 10/5 Test

14-ACT Test

20-ACT Registration Deadline - 10/26 Test

24-SAT Late Registration Deadline - 10/5 Test

October 2019

FAFSA application period begins, submit ASAP to maximize chances for aid

3-SAT Registration Deadline - 11/2 Test

4-ACT Late Registration Deadline - 10/26 Test

5-SAT & Subject Tests

16-PSAT/NMSQT (Primary)

19-PSAT/NMSQT (Saturday)

22-SAT Late Registration Deadline - 11/2 Test

26-ACT Test

30-PSAT/NMSQT (Alternate)

November 2019

2-SAT & Subject Tests

8-SAT Registration Deadline - 12/7 Test

8-ACT Registration Deadline - 12/14 Test

22-ACT Late Registration Deadline - 12/14 Test

26-SAT Late Registration Deadline - 12/7 Test

December 2019

7-SAT & Subject Tests

14-ACT Test

January 2020

Remind students to complete FAFSA and submit

10-ACT Registration Deadline - 2/8 Test

17-ACT Late Registration Deadline - 2/8 Test

February 2020

8-ACT Test

14-SAT Registration Deadline - 3/14 Test

28-ACT Registration Deadline - 4/4 Test

March 2020

3-SAT Late Registration Deadline - 3/14 Test

13-ACT Late Registration Deadline - 4/4 Test

14-SAT Test (only)

April 2020

3-SAT Registration Deadline - 5/2 Test

4-ACT Test

21-SAT Late Registration Deadline - 5/2 Test

May 2020

2-SAT & Subject Tests

4-8-AP Exams - Week 1

8-SAT Registration Deadline - 6/6 Test

8-ACT Registration Deadline - 6/13 Test

11-15-AP Exams - Week 2

22-ACT Late Registration Deadline - 6/13 Test

27-SAT Late Registration Deadline - 6/6 Test

June 2020

6-SAT & Subject Tests

13-ACT Test

30-Last day to submit 2019-20 FAFSA

Contacts

Associations/Organizations

ACA (American Counseling Association)
800-347-6647 / membership@counseling.org
www.counseling.org

ASCA (American School Counselor Association)
703-683-ASCA / asca@schoolcounselor.org
www.schoolcounselor.org

The College Board
212-713-8000 / www.collegeboard.com

NACAC (National Association for College Admission Counseling)
800-822-6285 / info@nacacnet.org
www.nacacnet.org

NASFAA (National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators)
202-785-0453 / info@nasfaa.org
www.nasfaa.org

NCAN (National College Access Network)
202-347-4848 / ncan@collegeaccess.org
www.collegeaccess.org

NSPA (National Scholarship Providers Assoc)
303-442-2524 / nspa@scholarshipproviders.org
www.scholarshipproviders.org

Government

U.S. Department of Education
800-USA-LEARN (800-872-5327)
www.ed.gov

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
800-4-FED-AID (800-433-3243)
www.fafsa.ed.gov

FSAIC (Federal Student Aid Information Center)
800-4-FED-AID (800-433-3243)
www.studentaidhelp.ed.gov

NCES (National Center for Education Statistics)
202-502-7300
www.nces.ed.gov

Testing

ACT (American College Testing)
319-337-1270 / www.actstudent.org

AP (Advanced Placement)
888-CALL-4-AP (888-225-5427)
apcentral.collegeboard.com

CLEP (College-Level Examination Program)
212-713-8000 / clep.collegeboard.org

PSAT (Preliminary SAT) / NMSQT (National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test)
212-713-8000
collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat

SAT and SAT (Scholastic Assessment Test) Subject Tests
212-713-8000
collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat

Have a question or
comment?

memberservices@fastweb.com

College & Career

College Admissions

College Search

www.fastweb.com/college-search

Common Application

www.commonapp.org

Educational Opportunity Centers Program

www2.ed.gov/programs/trioeoc

Job Corps

www.jobcorps.gov

NACAC College Fairs

www.nacacfairs.org

Jobs & Career

Monster Career Advice

www.monster.com/career-advice/career-levels/entry-level

Fastweb Part-Time Jobs

www.fastweb.com/part-time-jobs

Career Planning

www.fastweb.com/career-planning

Bureau of Labor Statistics

www.bls.gov

Occupational Outlook Handbook

www.bls.gov/oco

Web Resources

ERIC (Education Resources Information Center)

www.eric.ed.gov

College Insight

www.college-insight.org

Student Tax Info

www.irs.gov/individuals/students

National Center for Education Statistics

nces.ed.gov

Selective Service System

www.sss.gov

Social Security Administration

www.ssa.gov

TRIO Programs

www.coenet.us

U.S. Department of Education

www.ed.gov

Higher Ed News & Views

Chronicle of Higher Education

www.chronicle.com

Higher Education Watch

www.higheredwatch.org

Inside Higher Ed

www.insidehighered.com

Financial Aid

Important Resources

Scholarship Search

www.fastweb.com

FinAid

www.finaid.org

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

www.fafsa.ed.gov

FSA ID Management

<https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>

FAFSA 4Caster

www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov

CSS PROFILE

<https://cssprofile.collegeboard.com>

Federal Student Aid for Counselors

financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov

Federal Student Aid for Students

www.studentaid.ed.gov

IFAP (Information for Financial Aid Professionals)

www.ifap.ed.gov

Mapping Your Future

www.mappingyourfuture.org

NASFAA (National Association of Financial Aid Administrators)

www.nasfaa.org

NACAC (National Association for College Admission Counseling)

www.nacacnet.org

FTC Project Scholarship Scam

www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams

OPE (Office of Postsecondary Education)

www.ed.gov/ope

Guide to Federal Student Aid

www.studentaid.ed.gov/guide

Financial Aid Calculators

www.finaid.org/calculators

AmeriCorps

www.americorps.gov

City Year

www.cityyear.org

Student Loans

www.studentloans.gov

EduPASS: International Students

www.edupass.org

Federal Loans

US Dept. of Education

The US Dept of Education offers low-interest loans to cover cost of college or career school.

Direct Subsidized Loan

For undergrad students with financial need

School determines amount and may not exceed financial need

Dept of Education pays interest while in school at least half time

Direct Unsubsidized Loan

For undergrad and grad students enrolled no requirement to demonstrate financial need

School determines amount based on cost of attendance and other financial aid

Student is responsible for interest

Direct PLUS Loan for Parents

For grad or professional students and parents of dependent undergraduate students

Loan amount is maximum cost of attendance

Credit check required

Dept. of Education is the lender

Private Loans

Students should borrow with federal loans first which are cheaper, more available and have better repayment terms than private/student loans

Eligibility, interest rate and fees for private loan based on credit scores

More information on private/alternative loans at www.finaid.org/loans/

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Get Started

- **Create** your free student profile at www.fastweb.com.
- **Complete** your profile and update it regularly to see more personalized matches.
- **Download** the free College Scholarship app and get your matches on any device.

Get Scholarships

- **Check** your app to see your scholarship opportunities.
- **Watch** your email for scholarship, internship, and part-time job notifications.
- **Login** to your home page to view and track your opportunities.

Important Reminders

- Complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) every year.
- October 1st is when the FAFSA application process begins at www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- Beware of scams. If you have to pay a fee to get money or apply for a scholarship, it's probably a scam.

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