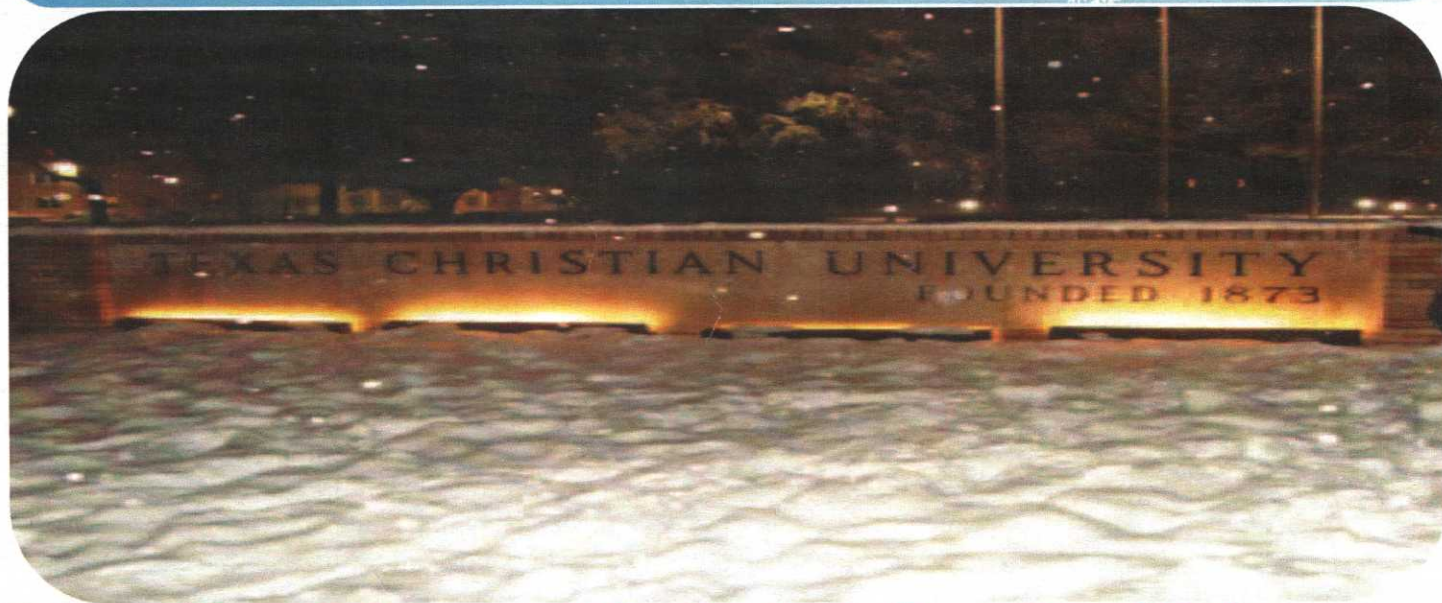


Seeking

COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE

December 2012

Monthly Rants From The Staff At College Planning Authority



Top 10 Reasons Why Students Drop Out of College

1. Homesickness and feeling that you don't fit in. It's a whole new world out there, and you may not be ready to embrace it.

2. Educational burnout. While college gives you control and flexibility over your schedule, the hard demanding schedule, challenging courses, and huge amount of homework makes a lot of students question the desire to continue.

3. Academic unpreparedness. Sometimes, high school didn't really prepare a student for college. Other times, students slacked off in high school and paid the price during their post-secondary years. The high school goal was to pass (so that students could get into college); in college, it is to succeed.

4. Personal or family issues. You may have had an unfortunate illness in the family or you yourself just got totally stressed out from the workload.

5. Financial constraints. Tuition costs continue to soar, and scholarships or grants are not always available. Additionally, financial situations can change from year to year.

6. Too much fun. Some students take advantage of their new freedom and friendships, which could put them on academic probation due to suffering grades or absence in classes.

7. The school isn't a good academic fit for the student. You've selected a great school that is top notch. However, you struggle with keeping pace with your classmates. Conversely, you may be bored with the lack of rigor at your school. You may even hate the average class size of 100-300 and prefer much smaller classes for more individualized attention.

8. Setting sights on the wrong major. You may have wanted to be a doctor but after taking several science classes, you decided that you're rather go into marketing. Does your school have a marketing major? If not, you're likely to go elsewhere.

9. No guidance or mentors. In high school, teachers and counselors were there to guide you. It can be a lot harder to get the personalized attention that you've been used to and that could turn people off quickly.

10. External demands, particularly within part time or full time employment. Can we say Mark Zuckerberg and Facebook? When the job puts too many demands on you, you may have to choose, and money usually wins out.



Q & A

If you have any questions you would like answered or discussed in upcoming newsletters please email them to Olivia@cpauthority.com!!!

Q. Why are college rankings helpful in choosing what college to attend?

A. The purpose of rankings is to show the public the strength of the colleges academic program. It helps students look at the key factors to determine if the college is the right fit for them.

Q. What classes in high school should I take to prepare for college?

A. You should take challenging yet maintainable classes. Colleges look highly upon AP classes, but do not take so many that you will not succeed in them. Take a few challenging classes and then classes that you are interested in or that may pertain to a major in college you want to pursue.

Q. Should I really look at sending my student to a private school?

A. Yes!! Because donors rather than the government fund private schools they can give more scholarships to students. In some cases you can get a private school education for the same or slightly less than a public school! Have your student apply to at least 4 private schools.

The Importance of the Admission Essay

As college admissions becomes more competitive, and more students are applying to more schools, colleges are increasingly using a student's "soft factors," including letters of recommendation, interviews, resume, and essays to transform an applicant from a series of numbers into a living, breathing human being.

Colleges don't ask you to write essays because they want to make you miserable, they are asking because they want to hear from you! They want to get to know your background, interests, goals, triumphs, failures, likes, and dislikes in your *own* voice. When reading an essay, an admissions officer will try to determine: Who are you? Will you make a valuable contribution to your our campus community? What type of character traits do you possess? Are you responsible? Shy? Creative? A Leader? A nonconformist? How have you shown your intellectual vitality?

Many schools want to know why a student is applying to that particular college. The "Why this college" essay is often the most important -- the dealmaker. Colleges want to know what you hope to gain from your education and also what you will contribute to their campus and student body.

For example, the University of Pennsylvania asks, "A Penn education provides a liberal arts and sciences foundation across multiple disciplines with a practical emphasis in one of four undergraduate schools: the College of Arts and Sciences, the School of Engineering and Applied Science, the School of Nursing, or the Wharton School. Given the undergraduate school to which you are applying, please discuss how you will engage academically at Penn."

Other colleges take a particularly creative approach to the application essay prompt with the hopes that students will reply in kind.

The University of Virginia asked: What is your favorite word and why? Brandeis University queries, "A package arrives at your door. After seeing the contents you know it's going to be the best day of your life. What's inside and how do you spend your day?" and University of Michigan's Honors Program wants students to "Explain Unicorns."

These questions are tough. Ultimately, college admissions officers are trying to determine who they are inviting to campus and how you think. Regardless of how the question is phrased (many schools ask applicants to write about a quotation, literary work, or philosophy topic), be sure to relate the chosen material to your *own* ideas, outlooks, and aspirations. Dig deep - think about who you are, what's important to you, and what you want out of your education, and make sure that your essays accurately reflect those qualities.

Tired of the Texas heat? Want to go to college somewhere cold? Here are the Top 8 colleges for winter enthusiasts rated by US News.

- 1.) **University of Colorado**- Located in Boulder, Colorado the university has tons of world-class ski resorts and slopes in every direction from campus. You can catch the slopes after studying! It is also the number one walking and biking city, so no need for a car on campus!
- 2.) **Dartmouth College**- Located in Hanover, New Hampshire, has an annual Winter Carnival Celebration. This is a time for students to get involved and have some fun by participating in the human dogsled race or snow sculptures. Not only does Dartmouth have excellent outdoor activities it is also ranked #1 in the nation for undergraduate teaching and has a 8 to 1 student to teacher ratio.
- 3.) **Middlebury College** is located in Middlebury, Vermont. The college has a unique style of winter graduation. The graduates dressed in their caps and gowns will snowboard, ski, snowshoe, or some will chose to walk down the campus hill covered in snow. In addition, Middlebury offers a January term. Often known as J-term, it is a semester that begins immediately after New Year's and goes until early February. Schools that have a J-term will offer classes as well as study abroad programs, and internships in the one-month mini session.
- 4.) **University of Montana**- offers the typical outdoors activities as well as an annual New Year's party called First Night. UM's graduate program in creative writing is tied for 10th place in U.S. News and World Report's and their journalism graduates have won eight Pulitzer Prizes.
- 5.) **Sierra Nevada College**-If you enjoy snowboarding or skiing this is the place for you. Their ski team is a 22 time national champion, as well as their snowboarding has won the champion title 6 years in a row.
- 6.) **University of Utah**- located in Salt Lake City, receives hundreds of inches of dry snow a year and has adopted the slogan "the greatest snow on Earth", which is perfect of avid skiers and snowboarders.
- 7.) **Williams College**- is located Williamstown, Massachusetts. Most of Williams' students are from out of state, but the college has been able to embrace them in the snow culture by giving free lessons in all winter sports activities.
- 8.) **University of Wyoming** in Laramie, Wyo., is located between two mountain ranges in the Rocky Mountain region. Students can make the transition from classroom to slopes in less than 30 minutes. (After their studies!) For long weekends they can go to the Colorado slopes located only 2 hours away.



College Interesting Facts:

--Approximately 2.94 million U.S. students graduate from more than 27,000 high schools each year, meaning each college applicant is competing against 27,000 valedictorians, 27,000 salutatorians, 27,000 student government presidents, and 27,000 editors-in-chief.

-- As late as 1940, fewer than 1 in 20 adults held a B.A. degree. From 1945-2000, the number of B.A degrees awarded annually rose almost eightfold, from 157,349 to approximately 1.2 million.



-- Fifty-four percent of full-time students at two- and four-year colleges last year were female.

--Individuals with bachelor's degrees earn an average of 60% more than people with only a high school diploma, which adds up to more than \$800,000 over a lifetime.

--The graduation cap was initially a "hood" and is believed to date back to the Celtic time when Druid priests wore capes and hoods to symbolize their intelligence. Historically, academic dress for faculty or students was clerical dress