



Getting into Top US Colleges & Beyond

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Chaper 1

The Pre Application Stage

‘This is one of the most crucial stages for an applicant- the decision making stage. The competition at top US colleges is fierce and it is important to note that US Universities review your academic and extra-curricular activities from Class 9 onwards.

Most students and parents tell us “If I’d only known all of this when I was in class 9th, it would have made the admission process so much easier”. That’s why we specifically added this chapter; we hope this helps you prepare well.

To help you get a head start we start working with you early on to assess your background and build up your profile so that we can highlight your strengths, talents, accomplishments and unique interests to the admissions committee when it comes time to apply. To see how we can help you visit our [profile building services](#)



Under graduate admissions in the US: Top College Admission Trends in 2011

Top international colleges have always been full of surprises and 2011 was possibly the most surprising (and the toughest) college admissions year on record. One of the reasons behind this was wider acceptance of common applications across colleges. Columbia employed this approach for the first time and saw a 32 percent jump in the number of applicants compared to last year. However, it has also meant that the competition became steeper than ever before.

While some high school students were brainstorming on which college to attend, and some of them are still trying to make sure they get their applications in time to some of the colleges still accepting applications for fall 2011 we've been doing some research of our own on the college admission trends in 2011, and have come up some interesting trends:

1. Ivy League gets even more elite

The Ivy League and colleges like Stanford and MIT got even harder to get into this year. In one of our earlier blog posts titled [the law of diminishing acceptance](#), we saw that the acceptance rates across institutes and courses have seen a huge dips since 2010 to 2011 which has obviously made the application process a lot more crucial for aspirants. Also, [college applications](#) at other non-binding early-admission programs such as Yale, Stanford, MIT, and the University of Chicago reached highest ever levels this year another factor that made getting in extremely tough.

2. Southern schools gain popularity

We are not sure if this has something to do with the famous Southern charm; but this year saw a huge number of applicants turning towards colleges in the Southern US regions. Places like Duke, Vanderbilt, Rice, Tulane, Southern Methodist University, Georgia Tech, and Emory were among institutes that gained more than the usual application traffic in 2011. On a light hearted note, we wonder if the pleasant & sunny Southern weather could be a factor in this change.

3. International Applications Rise

The increasing number of international applicants heading to the US was one of the biggest reasons for the large pool of applicants in 2011. Due to technological & cultural advancements, many foreign students, especially from Asian countries, now find their



dream of studying at a top American institute to be within reach. [Brown](#) saw 4800 international applicants in 2011 which accounts for 15 % of the total applications it received and [Michigan state university](#) had approximately 7200 international applicants which represented a 35 % increase in the number of international students since 2007-2008.

4. The waitlist gets lengthier and tougher

Many selective schools have placed thousands of students on the waitlist this year. That's not all though, the chances of getting accepted from the waitlist became inversely proportional to the length of the waitlists. . For instance, Yale offered spots to 98 of the 932 students on the wait-list for their freshman class for 2014. At the same time, the uncertainty that comes with being put on the waitlist has been magnified. For example, Stanford is known to accept anywhere between 0-125 students from the waitlist over the last few years. "We have to expand the size of the waitlist because we are accepting more non-resident students and you can get wider fluctuations with this group," says Philip Ballinger, assistant vice president for enrolment and director of admissions at the University of Washington.

5. Creative writing has its edge

Another noticeable trend in 2011 has been that college applicants are taking creative writing more serious than ever, and with good reason. A lot of high schools students are discovering their interest in creative writing; and a lot of these tend to lean towards streams like liberal arts in college. These applicants want to choose colleges and courses where they can do a lot of it as part of their curriculum. Many students have also started attending writing workshops to hone their skills during summers. This has also resulted in better college essays. Even James Miller; Dean of admissions at Brown University agrees "I do think the writing skills have improved vastly." "Or maybe it's the editing skills" He jokes.

So that was a look at some interesting college application trends in 2011. Hope you derived some valuable insights from those which would help you strategize better for your applications.

Are there any trends or unique things you noticed this year while preparing your applications? We would love to know and even share them with our other readers- tell us by posting on our official [Facebook](#) page. Hope to hear from you guys- keep reading!



Undergraduate Study in the US planning your summer

Greetings from Futureworks and welcome to the Wednesday Words of Wisdom! If you're an aspiring student to a top US college, then the summer is one season when the trials and tribulations of high school and the pressures of college admissions are something you want to keep furthest from your mind. You must understand that this is the golden time, when you could create an edge towards your college acceptance. These twelve weeks are the ones which would positively benefit your college acceptance and it does not involve you being a prisoner of your room memorizing the entire SAT vocabulary or working on your essays all summer.

Here are three quick tips for college aspirants on how to best use the summer-

Pick up an activity

For starters, sit with your elders; your teachers and parents, and brainstorm about summer activities which would help you grow as a person, and could be highlighted when applying for college. Figuring out the most beneficial stream of activities would greatly aid in your acceptance chances at the school of your choice.

The admissions office, particularly the ones at Ivy League and equivalent colleges, look for students who stand out; one way to stand out is to pursue interest that may be 'off the beaten' path and another way to do so is to demonstrate that you are 'exceptional' in a specific area or areas. . Figure out the subjects that interest you and seek programmes which would allow you to grow. If languages interest you, then studying one this summer may just be what you are looking for. Similarly, if you are business minded and entrepreneurial in

nature, try kick starting a small business venture; even if it is from the basement of your home.

College programs

A lot of colleges also offer academic programmes for high school students. These programmes provide the opportunity to immerse students in a particular academic subject, while staying on campus, and exploring academic and career opportunities. For example, Harvard University offers the Secondary School Program which allows for high school



students to live at Harvard, attend classes, and earn college credit. It's a great idea for an aspiring student to be part of one of these during summer.

Look carefully before applying though – some programs are for credit, some are not for credit, some are very selective and are others enable you to conduct research during the program. So before you select a program and apply to it make sure you know what the program offers and what you want to get out of it.

Summer camps

Admission officers at Ivy League schools continue to harp upon the importance of a leadership experiences. There are a number of summer camps that offer residential summer programmes focussing on developing leadership experience which can help here. However, one word of advice would be to try out new things. Only then can you add to your existing skill set, versus redoing things that you already know or have done before.

All in all, give yourself that leeway you have been looking forward to this summer from the routine SAT practice tests (not to say that those should be neglected completely) and follow what you *really* want to do this summer and what you think will develop you overall as a person. And yes, don't forget to include all your summer experiences in your admission applications.

Do [let us know](#) if you want us to assess your profile and recommend activities that would make your profile stand out and strong among other candidates.



Choose a College Major that measures your success

If you travel back a few years in time, you will see how trends have changed in college education as today almost everyone prefers to study in a city college.

Your father is a computer analyst, your mother works as a Scientist with a Pharma company and your aunt is a doctor. The fact that your uncle took up Film Production was considered rebellious at that time. Well, he loved it; he made a career out of it and is earning decent.

Most college students fall into the trap of choosing stereotype majors like Finance, Engineering, Accounting and Economics. They are the typical confused sixteen year olds who are barely able to decide what clothes to wear or which college essay to choose, let alone what their career goals are. However, what they do know is what they like and what brings a smile to their face.

Well, there are two important aspects here that we need to delve into.

One – Passion and Two – How much college education he/she can afford?

Choosing a major just for securing a job that does help in paying off the student loan debt but in the end, it proves to be a wrong decision. It is more of maintaining equilibrium of passions, skills, and personality strengths and hands-on experience during the first four semesters that help decides what College Major to choose.

Here are some pointers to help you get there

- Sit down and think deep. What excites you? What jobs appeal to you? Do you like socializing or would rather sit in a corner and crunch numbers? Today, colleges have career centers that offer you career counselling and tests to help you answer some of these questions
- The next step is to analyze your strengths and abilities. What are your talents? Any extracurricular activities that have fetched you medals? This calls for a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats)
- The third one is what you value the most. By values, we mean community work, handling pressure, stability, security, status, working alone or with groups, positive thinking and moral values.
- The fourth stop brings you closer to your goals. It is time to explore career options. The web gives you a general list of occupations and provides links to resources with



- you lots of information about careers you can choose from. You can also google websites for latest trends in careers and jobs
- Fifth in line comes reality check. Are you choosing Accounting because your father wants you to or do you really like playing with numbers? Yes, your father secretly wishes you would choose Engineering or Earth science. In this case, ignorance is bliss! It is very important to think hard and make the right decision
- The sixth and the final step is to narrow your choices and focus on choosing a major. Following the first five steps must certainly give you an idea about what to choose. Take help of resources and tools on the web. Better still, there are consultancies out there to help you chart your 'Major' journey.

Last but not the least; take the advice of your Professors, college's alumni and classmates.

Someone has rightly said 'It is human nature to try harder when interested in something, and not try as hard when uninterested.

If you enjoyed reading this article, please LIKE Future Works Consulting on Facebook [by clicking HERE](#). Do check out our [full-spectrum of services](#) to know how we could assist you.



Confused between City Colleges or Rural Colleges?

If you travel back a few years in time, you will see how trends have changed in college education as today almost everyone prefers to study in a city college. This is contrary to the scenario 3-4 decades ago, when the only priority was to get a green campus in a quaint college town to study in city colleges as they provide better accessibility & great exposure to them.

Today, we will assess whether big city schools are right for you or not.

Let Us Look at the Positives of City Colleges

All colleges in cities offer several options for amusement. So if you are bored, just hop on to the college bus and go for shopping, check out the museum or join clubs. This is in addition to all the activities and entertainment options available at the college itself. City schools also have access to nearby colleges which nurtures a sense of sharing between the students. Students can share academic and social resources between them. Studying in a city also provides you more internship opportunities, off-campus jobs and volunteer opportunities. You also get transportation convenience as all major city colleges are very well connected by trains & buses.

The Downside

First of all, a very small percentage of colleges are in the city and if you are only considering them there is a strong chance that you will miss out on some other great colleges outside the cities. By living in a centralized campus, students develop a feeling of community & belongingness. Statistics show that the attrition rate is higher at big city colleges, with safety being one of the factors. Although safety in city schools is generally good, you cannot rule out the dangers that come along with living in a big city.

Misconceptions

The general misconception about colleges outside cities is that they are pretty slow moving. Infact, colleges in more remote locations usually try harder for most of the activities. Whether that means bringing concerts on campus or creating a sense of school spirit, and even providing extra-curricular venues for students to enjoy life outside the class. Unlike the city colleges, the suburban and rural campuses are alive on weekends as students don't leave the campus for outings.

In the end, the experience that you will have in your college will go way beyond education. You will learn and explore new things, make friends some of whom will be connected with you throughout life. If you have made the decision to study in a college in U.S., we wish you good luck with the process of searching for the right type of campus whether rural or urban.



SAT scores-A perspective

We will be looking at one of most important & inquired topic in a college aspirant's academic life; the Scholastic Aptitude Test or popularly; the SAT.

SAT is a standardized test for college admissions in the US and the SAT scores are a major component of a college application. So much so, that the SAT scores can sometimes make or break an application. Considering the weight age it holds in college applications, there is no bad time to discuss the SAT, however, with one test just conducted on May 7th and another round the corner on June 4th, this is perhaps the most relevant time of the year to talk about the test; So, as a follow up to one of our previous SAT related [posts](#), we'd like to take this opportunity to guide our college goers on SAT a little bit. Read on!

The SAT is developed, published, and scored by the College Board. The test is intended to assess a student's readiness for college. SAT consists of three major sections: Critical Reading, Mathematics, and Writing. Possible SAT scores range from 600 to 2400, combining test results from three 800-point sections (Mathematics, Critical Reading, and Writing).

SAT scores for top colleges

First time college applicants are likely to wonder whether their SAT scores are good enough to get into an Ivy League or similar schools. To help you figure out where you stand, here is a list of the average SAT of students accepted at various top colleges in the US for 2010; but before we look at that, it's important to understand the 25-75% rule that the SAT scoring system follows. This is how it works: For each section in the test, the lower number is for the 25th percentile of students who enrolled in (not just applied to) the college. For instance, in case of Brown University, 25% of enrolled students received a Math score of 670 or lower.

The upper number is for the 75th percentile of students who enrolled in the college. Again, in case of Brown, 75% of enrolled students got a math score of 770- or lower (looked at another way, 25% of students got above a 770).

Therefore, if you took the SAT, and if you have an SAT math score of 780, then you would be in the top 25% of applicants to Brown for that one measure as far as Math goes. Similarly, if you have a Math score of 660, you are in the bottom 25% of applicants for that measure.



Let's look at the data now:

College	SAT Scores					
	Reading		Math		Writing	
	25%	75%	25%	75%	25%	75%
Brown	650	760	670	770	670	770
Columbia	680	770	680	780	690	770
Cornell	630	730	660	770	-	-
Dartmouth	660	770	670	780	670	770
Harvard	690	780	690	790	690	780
Princeton	690	790	700	790	700	780
Penn	660	750	690	780	670	760
Yale	700	800	700	780	700	790

Understanding these numbers is important when you plan how many colleges to apply to, and when you figure out which schools are a [reach](#), a [match](#), or a [safety](#). If your scores are below the 25th percentile numbers, you should consider the school a reach. However, this does not mean you have no chance of getting – remember that 25% of students who enrol have a score that is at or below that lower number.

How to survive the SAT

Here are few quick tips to do well in the SAT:

1) Time Management:

The preparation for SAT starts as early as the freshman year of high school begins; for Indian students this would be around the time secondary school starts i.e. Class 9. While this may seem a bit too early, it actually helps in the long run so because you don't have to overburden yourself with preparation classes and books in the last few months before the test. Also, involving the SAT in your overall strategy from the beginning helps you manage your time better so that you can give the required attention for other activities and for focusing on actually writing your application later on. Another facet of time management is working on your speed for the test. A good way to preparing is timing yourself while doing test questions for a stipulated time each day. This will also help you manage your stress levels.



2) Take the test more than once:

Another tip that will help you fetch good SAT is to take the test more than once, if required. This is a common practice among US students and not surprisingly, most of them do better the second or the third time, since they understand the format and type of questions much better by then. However remember it's always important to go in well prepared for your first test; we often hear students saying they will 'just give the SAT a shot' even though they haven't prepared for it. We do not recommend that, particularly as most competitive schools look at all your scores. If you want to practice we suggest taking the PSAT instead.

3) Prepare for the test day:

While this one seems like regulation, a lot of students harm their own cause by staying up till late the night before to do that last bit of 'brush up' or revision. While this is not a bad idea in principle, what it sometimes does is leave the student exhausted and lethargic during the actual test and adding to the stress levels because they haven't had time to rest mentally. So, the 3rd tip would be to be prepared for the test day by having a good sleep the night before the exam. Spend some time the night before making sure all the stationary and equipment required e.g.; calculator, are in place.

Remember, you will have 3 hours and 45 minutes to take the SAT and these will be some of the most decisive hours of your student life yet. By following these 3 basic tips you give yourself a big chance of doing well in the SAT. However, this was just the tip of the iceberg and next week, we will be going deeper in the subject of SAT preparation, when we look at each test section individually to help you prepare better, especially those who plan to take the test on June 4th!

We can recommend some great SAT classes for you! [Get in touch](#) and find out today!



Count on your ACT Scores for Ivy League Admissions

Your ACT scores will now open you gates for Ivy League school. Isn't it what you always wanted?

However studying hard and securing enough ACT scores is tough and then being eligible for Ivy League admissions is something you all will relish. There are top eight Ivy schools in United States. They are the most selective colleges. By selective I mean really selective. According to sources, receiving 200,000 applications from top-performing schools and selecting almost 11.9 percent is what we call selection. These universities have excellent academic records, best faculty and attract top students. Ivy League owns a beautiful and historic campus. You will be interested to know the fact that 'Ivy league' term originally referred to sports and not academics and came into existence in 1930's. It brought together football teams from eight private universities in North-eastern United States. Some are situated in large cities and some in small. Some have religious affiliations while some do not. All these eight universities have common educational traits it is 'you' who need to decide what you actually want from your education?

Here are the top eight universities that have Ivy League

- [Brown](#)
- [Columbia University](#)
- [Cornell](#)
- [Dartmouth](#)
- [Harvard](#)
- [Penn](#)
- [Princeton](#)
- [Yale](#)

However, now the Ivy League is less known for sports and more for professional education. The harmful factor is students consider Ivy League as product and pay handsome amount of fees on coaching and counselling to get the product. The main strengths that a student should possess to get in Ivy League are exceptional writing and good reference letters. Being an Ivy student will give you undeniable benefits. It will add good weight to your resume.



So concentrate on your ACT scores as well and also focus on other parts as sole ACT scores won't take you to Ivy League if other parts are weak. As admission officers find it easy to compare students on ACT or SAT scores. But do not underestimate them too. It might be really tough to get 36s for each ACT subject but it is surely not impossible. ACT has four parts:-

- English Language
- Reading
- Math
- Science

Score 1 is considered to be lowest and 36 the highest. The scores from four parts are averaged and then a composite score is generated. Usually 50% of the students score below 21. So the average score is considered as 21.

If you are intrigued by reading this post then [LIKE](#) us on Facebook. Keep reading to learn more on Ivy League, ACT scores and any other admission procedures. We will help you out in improving your odds of admission. Please use the contact form to [get in touch with us](#).

10 ways to make your application shine

Hello Everyone! Today I will share with you 10 ways to improve and strengthen your application in our Top school Tuesdays.

1. **Challenging classes-** No application will shine if you don't have strong academic records. Admission officers will not be satisfied by just your extracurricular activities. It is very important to take up classes that challenge your minds and not money. Your core subjects need to have good grades. Your extracurricular activities won't help in calculating your GPA. Join classes that accelerate your knowledge.
2. **Award winning Essays-** Application essays are rated as very important in all colleges. Manage the space well. Essays have specific categories where you can list your accomplishments, extracurricular activities. Do not merge them. Be organized in writing your essay. Your essay should reflect your character.
3. **Thoughtful essay topics-** Avoid writing on bad essay topics. Topics like drug addiction, sex life, politics, and tragedy based events; comic scene, jail life (or anything negative related to you or your family) should be strictly avoided.
4. **Recommendation letters-** Recommendation letters are from the **people who know you well** and **not from those who you know well**. Avoid letters from celebs or well known authorities as these may appear artificial. Your teachers, mentors and coaches may know you well and can write about your passions and character well. **Six blunders that you should avoid-**
 1. Be punctual; do not miss your deadlines.
 2. Avoid making early decisions and applying when you are not confirmed which school to apply.
 3. Carelessness in writing wrong college name will directly reject your application.
 4. Inform your counselors that you have applied online too.
 5. Waiting till last minute for letter of recommendation.
 6. Parent's involvement in admission process.
1. **Interview questions-** Be precise and prompt in answering questions like 'tell me about yourself'. Be thoughtful while answering questions. Your answers should reflect how ambitious and passionate you are.
2. **Avoid interview mistakes-** Reach in time at the Interview location. Do not be late. Dress up properly in formals. Do not talk much. Answer to the point.
3. **Update your social networking sites-** To get to know the real image of applicant; admission officers sometimes visit their profiles where they can come to



4. know about your actual image. so try to update them properly and with professional touch try to feed only limited data.
5. **Show interest-** You can show that you are interested in specific college by campus visits, contacting the admission officer and asking your doubts, sending a thank you greeting to the ones who have helped you (college representatives).
6. **Extracurricular activities that add-** Mention extracurricular activity like volunteering, managing events in families and communities, joining a student council and leading it.

We know you have been following us regularly and can't wait for our next post.

Our consulting packages include [hourly consultation](#). Please email your resume to kavita@futureworks.co.in and we will provide you an assessment based on your information

Chapter 2

During The Application Stage

‘I hope you all are geared up for phase 2. This is the stage where you will be implementing the plans from stage 1 i.e. the pre application stage and applying to your dream colleges. I hope you are all charged up for stage 2 and following articles help you.’

Don’t hesitate to [contact us](#) if you need any help. Our teams of experts have graduated from top, elite universities institutes, such as Columbia and Oxford and have interviewed candidates as part of the admissions process. They understand the admission system and what admission committee’s expect from candidates from an ‘insider’s viewpoint.’

How to keep cool through your college admission process

In this article we will talk about how to be sane through your college admission process. College admission process is very stressful for many students and mysterious for parents. College life is full of excitement for students. But before actually starting with your college there is a lot of preparation involved for both of you. Most probably it is seen that students randomly take admissions where their friends are or they have a gut feeling which they cannot explain confidently.

Students who are smart enough will try to analyze their admission process by -

- Discussing with parents about various available options keeping in mind their interests, hobbies, likes/dislikes.
- Why their friend is opting for any specific college?
- Matching their own perceptions with reality
- College ranking lists
- Visiting the college campuses
- Meeting a guidance counselor. A third person's view is important. And more importantly he/she will use all the resources available with them to make your decision right. Ask them as many questions you have.

Three things to keep in mind before selecting a college:-

Size, type and Location

- Size- Do you just want to go to large colleges or small but good ones?
- Type- All colleges are different depending on the type of course or area you want to specialize.
- Location/Place- Colleges are situated in urban as well as remote areas. Decide whether you would like to go to urban/City College depending on what area you like to live in.

Some tidbits for parents to make the admission process smoother for you and your child:-

- Let the child apply to the college of their choice. Do not worry if it does not have a brand name.
- Be oblivious to relatives and neighbours suggestions
- Don't be too aggressive on your decisions.
- Do not let your parental interference dominate your parental support.



- Do not exert control on your child but help.
- Discuss frankly about the geographic as well as financial restrictions that may limit your child's college options.
- Try to teach your child time management as they are far away from management lessons in high schools. Time management will help them in essay writing and much more.
- Teach your child to think strategically.
- Finally, your child should be happy with his/her decision.

It is ultimately YOU who will be benefited or affected for your future. As someone has rightly said “There is no time like present” So start your preparations today as “Tomorrow never comes”.

[Futureworks](#) understands student's mindset and will help them out to get them a better future. Futureworks conducts workshops for parents and students to gain an overview on the key aspects of admissions process. If you enjoyed reading this article, [like](#) us on Facebook



College admission tools

A few weeks ago, [US News Education](#) published an article on various tools available to aid the college admission process.

- **Net price calculator**

The first tool to aid College admission process provided by US News is the Net price calculator. Net price calculator is a tool to help families estimate their out of pocket expense to attend College. Using this tool will help you understand how a college's financial aid policies may apply to your specific situation. In order to use the calculator, you will need information about your income, taxes and some other financial obligations. In addition, you will need information about your assets (including savings, investments, home equity, and other assets.) Many US Colleges have calculators on their websites like [Dartmouth](#),

[Purdue University](#) and [Amherst University](#). Starting Oct. 29, each higher education institution in the United States is required to post a net price calculator on its respective college website.

Also read [this](#) to know more about how to use an aid calculator.

- **Evernote**

Evernote, though initially not designed specifically for college admission process, now is widely used by students and parents to produce and organize their notes, opinions, and experiences in one place.

On this Eric Berg, vice president for enrollment at the College of St. Scholastica in Minnesota says "It's vital that students don't spend any time during their senior year idle when it comes to the college admissions process and programs like [Evernote] only help. A modern-day student who says, 'I don't have any tools to be organized' hasn't looked."

You can also look at some tips for using evernote for school and colleges [here](#).

- **Virtual tours**

These days for college students the tedious and sometimes costly campus visits have been supplemented with Virtual Tours. Virtual tour sites such as [eCampusTours](#) and [YourCampus360](#) allow students to see a campus from the



convenience of the couch. To view some more tools to enjoy the virtual campus tour you can look at this article from [US News](#).

- **Intel AppUp**

Intel has come up with Intel AppUp where there are dozens of Apps available. Among these apps, are also some, available for students who can really take advantage of these apps, some are free and some for minimal charges. Some noticeable ones are:

- **SAT Vocabulary practice** The SAT Vocabulary Practice for Dummies App focuses exclusively on the vocabulary you need to know to get a good verbal score on the SAT exam.
- **SAT Practice** This app features more than 150 practice questions covering critical reading, writing, and math skills.

Check out the [Intel AppUp](#) for more apps which are beneficial and suitable to you.

- **Skype:**

In addition to the Virtual tour application, Skype is also widely used in the college admission procedure. The free video chat service allows admission officers to connect with prospective students, who are miles away.

Berg here remarked “The opportunity for programs like Skype, where you have immediate and prolonged video interaction with schools, is almost as good as sitting in the office of an admissions counselor, Skype provides instant gratification [for students].”

- **Facebook:**

Facebook pages of MBA programs like the Wharton School and the Yale School of Management provide another method of keeping up with important program news.

This also gives students and parents the advantage when researching the culture of a school, says Kerpen. “Facebook allows unprecedented access, insider’s access, to what’s going on at colleges,” he notes. “For students and parents, it’s a major opportunity to really see what’s going on, [and] what students and alumni are talking about.”

Facebook is also another great source for apps. You may come across thousands of College apps which will aid you. For instance [College Toolbox](#), [SAT Quest](#), [Grockit](#) and many more.



- **Twitter:**

US News also reported Twitter being a powerful tool to observe conversations. Kerpen says “Whereas a college or university may be able to filter the discussions taking place on its Facebook page, it cannot control the conversation on Twitter. Leverage the opportunity to find out what real people are saying.”

Kerpen suggests students and parents use Twitter to connect with others who have unfiltered information about a school.



How writing a Creative College Application Essay can help your chances for success

Published in The Hindustan Times, New Delhi, January 5, 2010

The University of Chicago's Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid recently sent out a sample essay to thousands of high school seniors in the hope "that it lightens your mood, reduces any end-of-the-year stress and inspires your creative juices in completing your applications".

While this sample essay seems to have caused some controversy, I think it is a good backdrop for talking about how an original, creative college essay can help your admission prospects. The student who wrote the essay, identified only as Rohan, applied under the early action programme and was accepted by the University of Chicago.

The sample essay, comparing the college to an elusive lover, was a tongue-in-cheek, quirky, humorous piece. It was written in answer to the question 'How does the University of Chicago, as you know it now, satisfy your desire for a particular kind of learning, community and future?'

So why did this essay work for Rohan? Firstly, the essay stood out and caught the attention of the admissions committee. Further, the applicant did not just write a creative essay – he wrote one that demonstrated that he clearly understood the university's character and image. The University of Chicago has long prided itself on the unusual essays it requires from applicants and is seen to have a 'quirky' image.

Importantly, he made sure he answered the question – some applicants fail to do this, because they tend to focus mainly on the 'being creative' part of their creative essay. The essay was actually quite specific about 'Why Chicago?' The University of Chicago is seen as unique in terms of its focus on intellectualism and individuality and he reflected that in his essay: *"To be honest, I must confess I had already dreamt of a rosy future together, one filled with late nights and long discussions over the Gothic era and the ethical stage of Kierkegaard..."*

The essay also reveals a lot about the applicant – for example, it revealed that he is a risk-taker, has a passion to learn from great minds and that he would enjoy researching original texts. It also demonstrated a strong desire to attend the University of Chicago and referred to how much time he had spent getting to know the university: *"You never called after that*

one time, I visited you thrice, but you never come around anymore. Tell me, was I just one in a line of many?”

In his essay, Rohan objected to the “why”, showing that he was intellectually curious and did not shy away from questioning the status quo. *“I knew going into it that you would be an expensive one to keep around, I accounted for all that; I understand someone of your caliber and taste. And now you inquire as to my wishes? They’re simple, accept me for who I am! Why can’t you just love and not ask why? Not ask about my assets or my past?”*

So, if you do write a creative essay, make sure it answers the question, reflects who you are and demonstrates that you understand what makes the university unique. Given that, it is unlikely that using the same creative essay for different universities will work – do not be tempted to ‘reuse’ your creative essay. Also, creativity comes in many shapes and forms, so pick something that you are comfortable with and that will appeal to the universities you are applying to.

Several people on online forums have stated that they felt that this essay leveraged a common creative theme and could not understand why it helped the applicant get admitted.

Others disagreed, because they understood what the University of Chicago stood for and hence realised why the essay had worked in Rohan’s favour. So, if you do get someone to review your creative essay, make sure that they really understand the specific characteristics of the university you are applying to.



The Common App wants you to write uncommon

Today we are focusing on undergraduate [college admission application](#).

What is the Common App?

The Common Application is a standardized undergraduate college application form that is accepted at more than 240 accredited, independent colleges and universities nationwide.

Common mistake every student makes

You all are browsing the web for ‘Common App Essay’ and ending up with the same results! The reader is going to see through it right away and curse under breath for want of originality!

No-nonsense tips

We have listed here some no-nonsense, tried and tested tips for the Common App:

1. The Common App Essay offers 6 essay choices. The first five are all those typical topics that no one really wants to write about, let alone read. Make use of the sixth one that is ‘The topic of your choice’. Telling a good but honest story will fetch you more than writing about the same stuff that Harry and Sally wrote.
2. You need a editor, once your story is ready. Someone’s got to proof read it. Your choices are a trusted friend or a cousin. Looking at the essay from a third person point of view makes a huge difference.
3. Let us call this your first draft. Show it to your trusted friend and be open to suggestions. Write down the suggestions and comments on a piece of paper. Sleep over it. Next day go over them and decide which ones to include and which ones to strike off.
4. Now inculcate these changes and give them back to the friend. Let the friend take his/her own time and come up with their feedback. This is going to be of paramount importance in finalizing the draft.
5. The friend has approved your draft and you are ready to give it a finishing touch. Sleep over it again. You need a break. Revisit it after a day and do a spell and grammar check before submitting.



The college application essay is your best chance to let the college admissions officer know who you really are. This is what gives you an edge over. This is what sets you apart from the rest. In the words of Steve Martin – “be so good they can’t ignore you.”

Was not this an enlightening article? Do not miss next week’s featured column Wednesday Words of Wisdom! We are coming up with more interesting thoughts that we would be sharing with you.

We offer admissions consulting. You can check out our [Consulting packages](#). Our customised packages aim to focus on the areas you need help to maximise your chances of gaining admission to your top choice schools.

Improved Technology- A new and easier way to college admission process

In today's post we will talk on how technology has proven bliss to college admission process. Hope you remember we talked about [5 Must Read Social Networking Tips for Job Hunting](#). Technology is making our life easy. We are becoming more organized and fast and trying to invent new things. College application process would be very lengthy and time consuming if it would not be done online. Now students can submit their applications, essay writing online so fast. Technology has definitely increased the competition but more positively.

- Students can now easily search for any college online. They can attend virtual tours at just one click. They get to know more about college through college websites.
- You can compare fees online of various colleges. You can get information on financial aids provided by just sitting at home. They can evaluate courses and read students reviews on the same.
- Students can get feedback on their recommendation letters online.
- Social sites like face book, you tube are used to know the personal information and also the students can use these sites to promote themselves. They can upload their pics, videos which showcase their unique abilities that can be seen by employers and concerned persons. They can join conversation, attend webinars on social sites, and post on blogs with help of twitter handle.
- One most added advantage of online process is there is no time limit. If you would have to go personally and submit the documents in college you have the time barrier. But online you can submit it 24/7. Now even admission officers and faculty rely on new technology.
- For colleges, the benefit is number of college applications are increasing as some students apply online even if they are not interested.
- Not only Social networking sites, but smart phones and various applications on phones have made users Internet friendly.
- Students these days can record voice, dance, and monologue performances using their PC's and then provide links to their performances to display their skills for Admission officers and principals of Arts colleges
- Loss of data on computers is a big disadvantage as physical paper forms would not get lost easily.
- Common application has made it easy for students as they can complete one essay and submit it to number of colleges. They only need to attach supplement essays for specific colleges.



- Editing the applications, spell checks and grammar checks are far more feasible and fast.

So we see how we all have become technology savvy and how efficiently we can apply to colleges. Did you like us on [facebook](#)? You can also follow us on [twitter](#) for quick a discussion.



Your Facebook profile could be your ticket to College Admission

All of you will be able to relate with our topic today: How much does Online Profile matter when it comes to college admissions? As if grades and test scores were not enough, now students have to worry about their Facebook and MySpace pages. Apparently, Admission Officers are looking at social networking sites to gather information about prospective candidates. Whether the info is really used to take a decision or not is still not completely known.

Facebook Could Set Your College Path?

Kaplan Test Prep's 2010 survey of college admissions officers shows that 82 percent of admission officers say they use Facebook to evaluate prospective students. However, Facebook profiles do not influence the admissions officers' decisions. Nevertheless, they could be used to narrow down the selection of candidates.

Yes, you all must be getting sleepless nights thinking about if the admissions officer viewed your last week's beach party picture. Well, do not worry. If you set your profile to private, they will not be able to see the picture. That cannot be said about your profile picture, though as that is visible to all!

Let us tackle the question of whether an applicant's social media activity has an effect on college admissions or not.

Well, colleges get endless applications and it is difficult to sort through. Keeping that in mind, one should make sure of giving the best application loaded with academics and strengths. When it comes to Facebook, it is important to watch your privacy settings. There is definitely a possibility that an admissions officer is going through it right now. Having said that, it does not mean that, that decides the fate of your application.

However, it is always better for your personal and academic future to remove those racy pics from your Facebook and MySpace pages. The admissions officer do not have time to go through each and every FB or MS profile but what if some jealous friend tries to seek revenge by sending your FB page link to an admissions officer? This has very much happened and is an excellent example of how an Internet can be a bane and a boon.

Let us get realistic here. People who evaluate college admission applications are real people—in their early thirties or probably just touching. They know all about Facebook and



how it works. Of course, the evaluation process is based on—your completed application, transcript, SAT scores, essays, and letters of recommendation—but there is no law that says an admission officer cannot look at a student’s Facebook Profile.

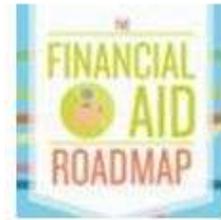
So why take the risk at all? A little common sense will go a long way in enhancing your academic career than your Facebook profile.

Did you just [‘LIKE’ Future Works Consulting](#) on Facebook? Visit our [full-spectrum of services](#) to avail expert help today.

Financial Aid help you get through College

Welcome back friends to our weekly series of College Goers Thursday. In today's world, choosing a college is ideally dependent on the student who wants to take admission unless he/she depends on financial aid. Top selective college fees are so huge that money does pay a major role in choosing the college. Usually scholarships are of two types. One can be need based and the others are based on merit. Need based scholarships are given to those who have very poor financial resources. Parents do not need to take the burden of student loans.

Need based scholarships can be given by organization, school, college or by any other institution. They are strictly given on the basis of financial circumstances. They may sometimes partly be given on academic grounds. The student may require attaining certain percentage/grades in exams. If you are opting for loan, then the loan payment should not exceed more than 10-15% of your income. College costs can vary from institution to institution. The need based financial aid is given depending on the cost of education and your family's financial status.



For need based scholarships parent's first need to fill in the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) (takes one hour to fill) and then the further process starts. All the documents should be submitted in time. The U.S. government has faith in higher education and so raises financial help to the needy students. All colleges use FAFSA for financial aid awards. Students can fill out the FAFSA information online at website. FAFSA requires information about the student, student's dependency status, student's parents and their finances.

How to find more information on financial aids:-

1. Talk to the financial aid department/college advisor at the college where you have decided to take admission
2. Search online. You may find some news updated about financial aids
3. Largest source of funding for going to college are federal student aid programs/Pell grants
4. Use the online financial aid calculators
5. Read the newspapers for local advertisements on scholarships
6. Last but not the least, get your basics on financial aid clear

It is also very important whether you are married or dependent since this will have impact on getting the financial aid. If you are married then your spouse's income will also be considered for calculating the financial aid.



Merit based scholarships go to the students who are top performers. They are awarded scholarships solely on their merit. National merit scholarship is an example of merit based scholarship.

Do not let costs be the hindrance for choosing one institution over another.

We understand these are tough times. The economy is not exactly at its best and you need help, big time! We offer admissions consulting. You can check out our [contact form](#). Our comprehensive services focus on helping you to submit your personal best application and maximize your chances of gaining admission to your top choice colleges.

Start early to make it easy. Be diligent in your efforts.

[Federal Student Aid](#), [Financial aid for](#)



Chapter 3

Post Admission Stage

‘Many congratulations! You have made it to your dream college. Now the real challenge and a journey of a lifetime begin. I hope you are having a great time and making a name for yourself.’

Caution: A Fat acceptance letter may end up being followed by a thin rejection letter

It is early spring, when you, an anxious high school senior, check your inbox for university application responses, and guess what - you're in! You got selected at the under graduate program you always dreamed of! You scream, jump up and down and in short, just go crazy. But wait, you might want to take a second and think about this -most applicants assume that an admission offer means smooth sailing until graduation, however, while that may be the common perception, the harsh truth is that every year, close to 35% of colleges revoke offers of admission the world over.

Here are some situations which can lead to an offer of admission to be revoked:

- **Include all the required information:** Students need to remember that their admission is conditional on the information provided by them during the application. On this, Rod Burgarin, former admission officer of Columbia and Brown University, says "if any new information should come forward after the letter of admission, we do have the option to revoke the letter of admission". Therefore, applicants must make sure that they include each and every piece of information required in the application. This would include all sorts of academic information that you might have put in the letter and also other experiences in the job field, if any. For example, if you mentioned a job internship in your initial application, that you thought you will be doing at the time of filling the application, but for some reason didn't eventually; then the college has grounds to revoke your acceptance when they review and validate the information provided by you. Therefore, make sure you only provide verifiable data and nothing based on assumption. If you so want to talk about future activities then make it clear in the application that you **will** be doing these activities, and don't imply that you have already done them.
- **Ensure academic consistency:** If final grades drop significantly, then the university can reject you based on that. So, if your transcript previously consisted of all A's, then even a single C could be enough for admission officers to re-consider their decision. Therefore, accepted students would only help their cause by not getting complacent and neglecting those last few weeks of high school study and the subsequent final grade.
- **Be on your Best Behavior:** This may seem like a non-issue, and usually most high school students don't have a problem following the rules either, but one needs to



make sure to be on their best behavior for the remainder of the school year. Similarly, if you decide to pay a visit to the school and spend a night in the dorms, be very careful of your behaviour and don't violate the school rules- – even a single act of seemingly harmless, but careless fun or banter can cost you a seat if noticed and reported to the school authorities.

So there you have it- sometimes the race can be lost in the last lap. Make sure you don't falter because even a single step missed might be the difference between the podium and the sideli



What to keep in mind after college acceptance

College admission applications, letter of recommendations, interviews and all the hard work that you put in has paid. You've gotten in and your job is done. Do you really believe so? You must realize that a successful entry in no way guarantees a successful exit. Today's words of wisdom would be focusing on how to stay in, excel and graduate.

Here are some recommendations for the students:

- **Time management**

Managing your time wisely will be important for in general and especially so when you are in college. Time management also means being wise about how you work and play. For instance, if you are having fun on the weekends then you must be productive during the weekdays. While working, one should also try and distance themselves from Facebook and texting.

- **Visiting the career center**

You don't need to wait until the senior year to visit the career center. If you are a first year student and aren't hunting for an internship, you may still visit the career center. Go ahead and fix a meeting with the career coach who may provide tremendous insight on selecting a major and understanding how to use it later. Try clarifying the questions like "will I be able to get a job with this major and/or be admitted to grad or professional school? Does the college or dept. have an active career center-placement office? How many seniors were offered jobs in their major, what is the average salary, how many interviewed on campus. Also, how many grads applied to grad/professional school, what percent were admitted and where?"

- **Identify a mentor.**

Braving the real world is a difficult task better faced with someone at your side to guide you. Having a mentor in college will help you through educational choices, graduation and personal matters. Cultivate a relationship with a professor or administrator whose work and background appeal to you or perhaps even an alumnus. Borrow from his/her experiences and seek counsel in areas you're still developing. With time, he or she will be able to speak convincingly about your talents and abilities. Sooner or later, an internship or a job opportunity will require you to do so. Powerful networking



One should form study groups, participate in student organizations and recognize the value of peers. Tutors and peer mentors in your freshmen year may be networking pathways for you as a senior or a graduate. Staying connected is very important, as it ensures a student has an individual to help them. You may also learn how powerful networking help in college in one of our previous [posts](#).

- **Don't be afraid**

Don't be afraid to ask someone for help or clarification. The University is there to help students and make a student's college experience a successful and enjoyable one. The minute you get a bad grade, go to the professor and ask about it. Find out what you could have done differently so you will know for the next assignment/exam. The professor will note your concern and appreciate the fact that you are proactive.

As a final advice, ensure a successful and enjoyable college experience to help you in a successful exit. If you have any other advice, personal experience or heard a story that would help one sustaining in college, feel free to comment below.

You may also connect with us on [facebook](#) and follow us on [twitter](#) for the latest news from undergraduate world.

Adapting to the American Culture

Be ready for a cultural change as life in America will be vastly different from what you have experienced so far. Studying in the U.S. is a wonderful learning opportunity because you get to know about Americans, their culture and the values that shape their behaviour and attitude.

As you prepare for studies in U.S., here is some healthy advice worth following:

- Start taking initiatives if you want to make friends. The common American culture is that they will help you when you ask for it. If you don't ask for help, Americans will assume that everything is fine and you are taking care of yourself.
- Americans are independent, practical and work oriented. They are proud of their country like everyone else around the world and they welcome everyone who comes to U.S. with an open mind. They are encouraged to be independent at an early stage of life and develop their own goals not relying too much on friends, parents and teachers.
- Americans strongly believe in equality of all people. One gender isn't considered superior over another. You won't find servants or maids in any American families as everyone does his/her own work.
- Americans are open and direct. In classes, you will find them speaking up and giving their opinions. They might challenge topics and disagree with some of the points in the lecture.
- • In U.S. if some one is offering you food or drink, it is considered as a polite behavior to answer 'Yes, Please'. This is contrary to some other cultures, where people politely refuse two or three times before saying yes.
- • There is no nationally sponsored religion in America. All religious beliefs and customs are tolerated since following a particular religion is an individual's private matter.
- The U.S. society is made of diverse culture and ethnic groups who have shaped American values.
- It might take some time for you to get used to the American accent. Slangs are a part of the American speech and it might take some time to get used to it. You may meet people from East/West coast who speak quickly. So in-case you are finding it hard to understand what they are saying, you can politely ask them to repeat or speak slowly.
- In your first year at the college, you might feel like going back to your home country and meeting your family and friends. That is a natural feeling for many students and the best way to come out of home sickness is by concentrating in your university life.



There is so much to learn about United States and when you come here for the first time, you may notice that their culture is vastly different from what you follow. Gradually with time, you will get used to the new culture & new way of living.

Seeking some advice on choosing appropriate courses for your studies in United States? Please do not hesitate to reach out to us using the [contact form on our website](#).

Is Homesickness driving you out of your mind?

Hello Friends! We are back with our Foreign Students Fridays. Desire is the one secret that every man has in his/her career. College life is best part of our life if well mixed with study and pleasure. Ready, for your first day at college? Your first day is usually filled with loads of dreams and desires. You feel happy and sad at the same time. Happy as you are entering a new phase of your life and sad as you will miss your family! College life is filled with plenty of emotions. It could be scary, excitable, funny or even depressing. Homesickness is a natural phase that each person faces when moving to a new college. It is very difficult to leave your family and manage all alone in college life. Educational learning is just a part of your life. There will be more events in your future where you might get separated from your family. This may just be the beginning or the end. Higher education, International jobs, Marriages etc are phases where you might have to stay away from your family. So treat college as a temporary phase of your life.

It is important to have a **good friend circle** in college. After your family your good friends are the ones who will stand with you as your support. Some of your friends might also be suffering from homesickness. They will surely help you out by share their experiences and ideas.

Stay focused on your goals. You have come here because you have a dream, the dream that you want to make true. Be focused on your goals. This will help you to settle down.

Keep yourself busy. You are here to study and learn new things. That does not mean you have to be serious all the time and only study. Plan your time and get engaged in extracurricular activities. Maintain a hobby. People who maintain hobbies have healthy lifestyles.

Keep in touch with your family. You could be in touch with them through mails, letters, phone calls, and Skype sessions. Your parents will love if you write letters to them. Snail mail has been a traditional way to keep contact and they will always be. As they have a personal touch and love.

Have a strong willpower. Don't think of short-term pleasures. Think of long-term consequences. What if you do not complete your education and just run back to your family. Will that look good? Your parents expect something from you. They hope to see you become big. Big not just by age but also by wealth and health. Exercising daily will keep your mind healthy.



Do what your parents do and I really mean it. If you and your mother used to cook food for your family, you can try to do the same here. You can cook food for your friend sometime. Or if your family used to pass quality time by reading, you can do the same. This way you will just feel at home.

We at Futureworks try to lessen your work by helping you out in application strategies, procedures. For application instructions, visit our [website](#). FutureWorks helps one through the entire process from advising on pre-application strategy, admissions consulting, a pre-departure skills training workshop and coaching on the job search process while you are at university. It is a one stop shop for admission solutions.

How to save Money in College?

One of the challenges during the transition from high school to college is funds management. The temptation to spend money on all things our parents won't have let us before is hard to resist. Are you also thinking about how to manage your cash and expenses in the college? Here are some quick tips in today's College goes Thursday that will help you save money while in college.

Plan Your Budget

Every month you will have two types of expenses: Fixed, i.e. those which you cannot avoid & Variable, which will keep changing depending on your habits, preferences and misc. activities.

1. Make a list of your monthly fixed expenses such as rent, food, utilities, transportation, school material, parking fees etc.
2. Allocate an allowance in the remaining money for your shopping, entertainment and any other misc. expenses.

Document Your Expenses

1. Make it a habit to record all your expenditures. File your important bills and receipts as this will help you stay organized with your cash flows.
2. Keep a watch on your debit card expenditures and the cash you withdraw from bank.
3. Monitor your bank account for any outstanding balance as banks will charge you an interest for it.

Cash Savings on Books

1. Many students can save money by buying used books as those available at campus bookstores are very expensive.
2. You can also use websites like CampusBooks.com to compare the prices of all books.

Save Money on Transportation Costs

1. Check with your school transportation department if your college has free passes for bus or shuttle service.
2. If you are traveling by Car, you can Carpool with fellow students and pay only a fraction of the cost.



3. Most city transport services, offer special student discounts and student passes. Log-on to StudentUniverse.com & similar website to find out more about them.

Save Money While Shopping

1. Today there are many online coupon sites with which you can get discounts on clothes, groceries and more. Check sites such as RetailMeNot.com for more information.
2. There are many thrift stores and vintage stores that offer great discounts on branded clothes.

Save Communication Expenditures

1. Several cellular companies offer special plans for students. You can use them and avail special offers.
2. You can also use Google Talk and Skype to communicate with your relatives and friends. It will really cut down on the communication costs by a huge margin.
3. All colleges have free internet service. Use it instead of taking a paid internet connection at home.

College students & recent graduates looking to discover the finer aspects of on entrepreneurship and innovation might consider applying for our new program called In-V-Ent-Ed. This program will be delivered in India under the direction of Dr. Jack McGourty, Vice Dean, Corporate, Government, & Global Engagement and Executive Director for The Center for Technology, Innovation, and Community Engagement, The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science at Columbia University. For application instructions, please visit our [website](#).

Did you like this post? [Subscribe](#) to keep up to date with all our latest tips! Enjoy!

Technology, You and its consumption in College Life

Over the last decade, we have seen rapid developments in the technology space and today it has become an integral component of our daily life-cycle. Some years ago, possessing a laptop was considered as a huge thing but today our life revolves around modern gizmos such as tablet, smart-phones and a bunch of web & mobile applications.

Among all, the young student community is one of the major consumers of technology and relies on it heavily for finishing their routine tasks. Nowadays, the first thing that students do after waking up in the morning is to check their Facebook account. Similarly, others are glued to twitter and share their tweets by the minute.

If we can use all the new-age portals, applications and gadgets in a balanced way there is tremendous value that students can derive from these. Here are some simple tips for new students to get the best out of technology during their academic career:

- **Don't over-use Facebook:** Social network sites like Facebook are for networking, making new buddies and sharing general updates with your friends. Sometimes, this can turn into an obsession and students can end up spending time on checking friend's Facebook photos or posting meaning-less status updates. Life is about having fun and Facebook is a part of it. However, don't make Facebook as your life.
- **Don't get addicted to Twitter.** So twitter is very handy for sharing information, news and links but posting tweets such as "OMG, I just brushed my teeth" are of no use for any of your followers or for yourself.
- **Follow-up with your college and lectures on Twitter/FB:** These days most of the top schools have fan-pages on Facebook and Twitter accounts. Also lecturers, have their personal twitter accounts. Make sure you're following your college & lecturers to keep pace with the latest activities. You might have specific questions for them, which can be addressed via these social channels.
- **Usage of University Email:** Just as in professional work environment, a college email account is gateway to important information and notices from departments such as library, class schedule and assignments etc. Students can use the college e-mail to follow-up with teachers and can clear their class lecture doubts.
- **Expectations from Search Engines.** Today a common answer to all queries is Google. So when we are not able to find a solution to any problem, we commonly say that it was not



found on Google. While search-engines are one of our best friends during research, there is life beyond that and quite a few of these common lecture queries can be cracked with the application of human mind.

- **Use Utilities like Dropbox.** Dropbox is a web-based free file sharing utility that enables easy sharing with other users. It is a very handy tool which comes in use while collaborating on team college projects.
- **Download Portable Office Apps for your SmartPhone** There are situations when we need to read college assignments, journals and presentations while on the go. Depending on your smart-phone make and type, it is a nice thing to download the mobile version of Microsoft word and PowerPoint.
- **Don't overuse common sources such as Wikipedia**

For finding answers about unknown things, Wikipedia is the modern encyclopedia. It is a good resource containing all the relevant details about a topic with references to credible sources. Use it to clear your concepts but not for copying facts to prepare your college assignments and projects. All professors are net-savvy these days and sources like Wikipedia are common among the faculty as well.

As young aspirants who will be soon making it to premier colleges, you need to understand that technology is an enabler for the solving some of the biggest problems, which is helping us do our work faster. But don't over depend on them and assume that search-engines, mobile-applications and other gadgets will get the work done for you.

For more guidance on pre-application strategies you can use the [contact form](#) on our website and write to us.



Getting the most out of your college life

Do you want to make your college life really productive and a memorable one? Our today's post in college goes Thursday will tell you how to turn your college life an experience of a life time.

Do you know the reason for attending college?

The problem with several students is lack of clarity on why they are attending college. Many students just don't know the reasons for taking up a particular course in an institution. The actual reasons are based on individual interest and go beyond the common points such as 'I joined this college because my friend is studying here and it is closer to my home'.

You should have a clear understanding of your goals, your expectations from college life and what all you want to learn from the experience.

Visualize Your College Experience

Have you drawn a visual map of what you think should be the ideal life in college? It includes everything from making new friends, your academics, socializing in events to participating in extra-curricular activities.

Off-course, your real time experience would obviously be very different from what you visualize. But visualization would serve as a guide-map during your college life and help you in making decisions at different stages.

Strategize according to your Subjects

It is quite natural that you are going to like one subject over other. Your learning preferences would in a way depend on your likes/dislikes. As an example, there could be a specific class where you want to go an extra mile by doing deeper level of internet research. On the other hand, there would be classes where you just want to score good grades. There would be classes whose professors are more interactive so you can ask your questions, clear your doubts and even build a relationship that might give you a recommendation in the long-run.

So the bottom-line is plan according to different subjects and decide what kind of outcome you expect from each topic.



Plan your daily routine

During the college life students spend their evenings having fun with friends and by the time they sleep it is already midnight. Since lot of classes start pretty early in the morning, it is vital to keep up the balance by waking up on time.

An early start to the day can really boost productivity and can provide a pleasant experience to the morning lectures. For those who find it had to wake up early, weekends are always there to rejuvenate

Combine Work with Play

All work and no play can make Jack a dull boy. The daily dose of college routine can be quite hectic & exhausting with all the lectures, assignments and time spent in the library.

Participate in those activities which rejuvenate your mind & give a sense of freshness for the next day. If you are into sports, you can engage in a game of basketball, ping-pong or even do some swimming. Those not into sports can go to a gym, hang-out with friends or play computer games.

We are sure there may be many more ways to improve your productivity in college and in the coming weeks of college goes Thursday we will discuss this topic again. Meanwhile, it would be great to hear your opinions and answer your queries.

College students & recent graduates looking to discover the finer aspects of on entrepreneurship and innovation might consider applying for our new program called In-V-Ent-Ed. This program will be delivered in India under the direction of Dr. Jack McGourty, Vice Dean, Corporate, Government, & Global Engagement and Executive Director for The Center for Technology, Innovation, and Community Engagement, The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science at Columbia University. For application instructions, please visit our [website](#).



Increase your GPA

Are you aiming for a high GPA to get into the school of your dreams? Then you should definitely know how to study the best you can. If not, then today's post for college goes Thursday will be definitely be worth reading.

How to study better to increase your GPA?

The first tip for students is to regularly attend classes. Use the course material provided, your lecture notes, and write out a master guide for exam reviews. It is essential to write out the key concepts and to also understand the workings of the concept. Medical students often use tricks and mnemonic to commit information to memory and you can too. You can also relate things to you personally, for example if you are trying to remember the year 1968 and your mom is 68, use that as the link. Try it, it really works.

Where should I study?

Move around a little! Changing the place where you study can sometimes help combat boredom and fatigue. While most people have a tough time studying at home, studying in a public place might distract you less. This way, you would be less distracted by the TV, cell, music or the fridge! Take your texts along to coffee shops, libraries, parks, a friend's house or to campus. Most public places now have free wi-fi so using the internet isn't difficult either. If you need music, carry your i-pod. Make finding the best place to study a game and make sure to try out new places.

Who makes a good study partner?

Studying in groups can be very motivating and prove to be a key to study better. The quality of your learning experience is directly related to the attitudes of the people you work with. Working with smart people will facilitate discussion. The best way to understand an idea is talking about it with other intelligent people.

When choosing study partners a good rule to follow is, chose one person far more knowledgeable and one person less knowledgeable than you. This way the group can teach each other key concepts and identify components that may have gone unaddressed.

Learn how twitter can increase your GPA.

A [recent study](#) performed by Reynol Junco at Lock Haven University in Pennsylvania found that students who used the microblogging platform Twitter earned a GPA that was, on average, half a point higher than those who didn't.



The study took a group of 140 students who had not used Twitter previously and had half make use of the service and the other half abstain. The half that used Twitter was able to tweet during class, submit homework via the service and otherwise interact with their instructors while the other half had to do without such benefits.

When it was done, students who had used Twitter had an average GPA of 2.8, just under a “B” and a full half a grade point higher than those who did not. The Twitter users also showed a higher level of engagement and a higher level of commitment to the school.

Stanford’s 60 minute exercise to increase your GPA

Recently Stanford University psychologists designed an exercise to increase the GPA of minority students. Stanford psychologists say “But when black freshmen participated in an hour-long exercise designed by Stanford psychologists to show that everyone – no matter what their race or ethnicity –has a tough time adjusting to college right away, their grades went up and the minority achievement gap shrank by 52 percent.” And years later, those students said they were happier and healthier than some of their black peers who didn’t take part in the exercise. You can read more on the exercise on [Stanford’s website](#).

We are sure there may be many more ways to improve your GPA and, as always, we love your comments and mails, so don’t hesitate to teach us more.

We would like to thank you for downloading this book and hope this helped you in your undergraduate life.

Don’t hesitate to share your feedback with the [editor](#) and [author](#) so we can improvise.

For business related opportunities and related queries please [contact us](#)!