



Your College Navigator, LLC

Admissions by design, not chance!

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April 2017

1st - Seniors should have final letters of acceptance

8th - **ACT and ACT plus Writing**

Juniors – Visit colleges

Prepare for AP Exams

Seniors – Compare offers of admission; revisit top choices

Evaluate financial aid packages and explore college funding options

May 2017

1st – Common reply date for college enrollment

6th – **SAT Reasoning and Subject Tests**

(register by 4/7
late registration 4/18)

1st - **12th** AP exams

Juniors – work on resume; speak to advisor about military colleges or ROTC programs

Seniors – notify the colleges that you will not attend and take some time to thank those who wrote your letters of recommendation

Evaluate financial aid packages and explore college funding options

Social Media—Think Before You Post

Stories abound of students and even teachers sharing inappropriate items on social media. One would hope students who are about to apply to colleges and be evaluated by admission officers would know better. The truth is that the vast majority of high school students are very responsible about their social media presence, and we only hear about the foolish ones whose mistakes live on as lessons for others.

A big question most parents ask is whether or not colleges are fishing in the social media waters. Are colleges and universities proactively seeking out information on prospective applicants or not?

Recent research from Kaplan Test Prep, a survey of nearly 400 admissions officers, demonstrates that “the percentage of admission officers who visit applicants’ social media pages to learn more about them has hit a record high of 40% — quadruple the percentage who did so in 2008,” when Kaplan first explored this issue. Further research also identified that only 11 percent of admission officers do it “often.” Googling an applicant to learn more about them has remained relatively stable over the past two years, at 29 percent.

Why are colleges looking?

It’s interesting to note that what triggers admission officers to look beyond the traditional elements of the application (GPA, standardized test scores, extracurriculars) and turn to Google and Facebook are both positive and negative factors. Contributing factors include:

Special talents - Students who are musicians, writers, models or poets will often invite admission officers to view their social media presence in their applications. According to Kaplan’s research, 42 percent of admission officers reported an in-

crease in such invitations compared to two years ago.

Award verification - There is no formal “fact-checking” process when students submit their applications. Colleges generally take at face-value whatever honors students list and the time commitments and leadership roles students state in their extracurricular activities and work experiences. However, a mention of a particularly distinguished award will sometimes trigger a search.

Negative stuff - Some admission officers say that if an applicant mentions he or she has a criminal background or a record of disciplinary action, they will do some online digging to get more details.

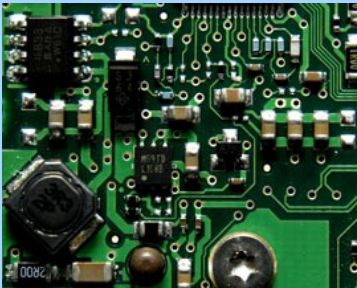
Scholarship applications - Students applying for special scholarships can come under greater scrutiny, as schools want to ensure those receiving the scholarships are fully deserving; extra due diligence can come in the form of online checking.

The worst reason a student’s social media presence may be viewed is referred to as “Admissions Sabotage.” The ugly truth is that college admissions officers are occasionally anonymously alerted to social media postings by students or parents who are trying to sabotage another student’s chance of being accepted, presumably with the hope that they will instead be accepted. Admission officers will typically follow-up to verify any accusations.

What’s the take-away for high school students? Clean up your current social media profile before you begin the application process and *think* before you post.

Career Paths for Electrical Engineering Majors

- Computer Network Engineer
- Electrical Drafter
- Electrical Engineer
- Electrical Technician
- Electro-Mechanical Technician
- Electronics Engineer
- Engineering Professor
- Mechanical Drafter
- Instrument Technician
- Engineering Sales
- Testing Research Engineer
- Design Engineer
- Project Engineer
- Test Engineer
- System Engineer
- Application Engineer Consulting
- Software Engineer
- Hardware Engineer



For both electrical engineering and electrical engineering technology programs, prospective students should make sure that the program they are considering has been accredited by ABET, the accrediting agency for engineering and technology programs, in order to make sure their program meets the standards required by employers. ABET provides a searchable database of all accredited programs on its website at <http://main.abet.org/aps/Accreditedprogramsearch.aspx>.

Majoring in Electrical Engineering/EE Technology

What do cell phones, computers, televisions and automobiles have in common? Electrical engineers and electrical engineering technologists play central roles in designing and building these and other familiar tools we use in everyday life. They're also at the forefront of creating important new technologies, such as life-saving medical devices, solar energy, and robots. If you've always been fascinated by cutting-edge technologies, majoring in electrical engineering or electrical engineering technology may be a good choice.

Electrical engineering (EE) and electrical engineering technology (EET) are two separate but closely related college majors. Although the course requirements for both majors have some overlap, there are key differences between the two that are important to understand in order to decide which major is the better match for your interests and career goals. One key difference: EE programs focus more heavily on theory and conceptual design of electrical systems, while EET programs focus on the application and implementation of electrical systems.

Graduates of electrical engineering programs are trained to become professional *engineers*. Their program of study will include multiple semesters of advanced calculus, physics and other sciences, and courses from other disciplines, such as computer science, mechanical engineering, and materials science. In addition to courses in circuits, electronics, digital design and microprocessors, EE majors also take advanced courses in design theory and methodology and in specialized areas such as communications systems, optical systems or medical instrumentation, all with heavy laboratory components.

Upon graduation, EE majors are qualified for entry level positions as electrical engineers, and after gaining several years of experience, they may apply for licensure as a professional engineer. Electrical

engineers are typically involved with designing, developing and supervising the manufacture of electrical equipment. They work in a wide range of industries, including the aerospace, biomedical, automotive, semiconductor and computer industries, among others.

Job and salary prospects for electrical engineers are strong. According to U.S. Bureau of Labor statistics, the median income for electrical engineers is \$82,160. A survey conducted by the IEEE, a professional association for electrical engineers, found that the median starting salary for new electrical engineering grads was just over \$60,000 a year. Salary ranges vary based upon the size of the company and the industry.

Graduates of four year electrical engineering technology programs are trained as engineering technologists. In general, their coursework is more narrowly focused and application oriented than that of EE programs. While EET students also take courses in circuits, electronics, and microprocessors, these courses will generally deal more with practical implementation versus theoretical concepts. EET students also take several semesters of mathematics in college, but the courses will focus on advanced algebra, trigonometry and applied calculus.

After graduating with a bachelor's in EET, students typically work in entry level positions applying the principles of science, math and engineering to solve technical problems. They may assist scientists and engineers with finding solutions to technical questions during the research and design phase of product development. Others work in manufacturing and field settings, assuring that production quality is maintained. Some graduates of four year EET programs may opt to attend graduate school to receive a masters in electrical engineering.

Financial Matters: Appealing for More Financial Aid



If your first choice college offers everything you want but the price tag is making you waiver, don't give up hope. Instead, consider appealing to the college's financial aid office for more money. While colleges and universities won't encourage it, you are within bounds. Individual financial aid officers are empowered to make adjustments, if they are deemed warranted.

If you plan to pursue an appeal with the financial aid office, be prepared with the following:

First rule - if possible, try NOT to make a deposit until you've settled the financial aid discussion. Once they have your money, colleges will be less motivated to reel you in with a better deal.

Be realistic. Gail Holt, Dean of Financial Aid at Amherst College (www.amherst.edu) shares "Be realistic

about what you – and the college – can contribute. Show the college that this is a partnership that you want to be part of, but need just a bit more assistance."

Know exactly what you CAN afford, but be honest here. If your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is more than the cost of tuition, then make sure that your request makes sense. Do your homework and negotiate in good faith.

Be informed. Make sure you have researched the specific financial aid policies at each college before entering into a conversation with them. Nothing would be more damaging than contacting a college, touting your child's fabulous grades, awesome SAT scores and requesting merit aid, only to find out that that school doesn't award merit aid. End of discussion.

If merit aid is available, check if the colleges you're considering offer "preferential packaging" – it's a practice whereby they will meet a larger share of financial need based on the academic stats of your child, i.e., stronger grades and test scores will receive more money. Take a look to see if your child's test scores are in the "middle 50" or in the "top 25." There

will be more money at schools where their scores raise the school's profile. You can also check out some fascinating financial aid statistics, including what percentage of need colleges typically meet, at College Data (www.collegedata.com).

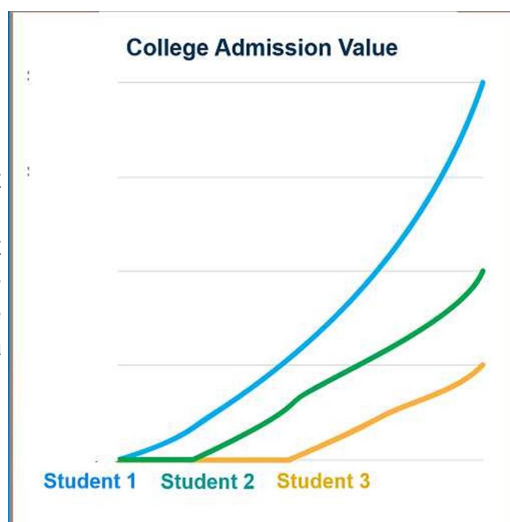
Be prepared. Colleges will generally reconsider awards for just two reasons: 1) the EFC from the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) was incorrect due to a change in the family's financial situation because of an illness, unemployment, etc. or 2) there is a competing offer from another college. If you plan to mention the competing offer, be prepared to fax a copy of the award letter to the financial aid office.

Ask about "second chance" or conditional aid. See if the college is willing to add any additional aid if your child pulls through senior year with straight A's.

Send a letter. Put all of your reasons down in writing and ask for a follow-up meeting, in person if possible or by phone. The college has already accepted you—now you're just asking that they help make it possible for you to attend.

College Admissions Begins the Day You Enter High School

Want to get into a good college? Then take Investing 101. There you will learn how starting early makes all the difference. A young investor can become a millionaire by squirrelling away money early in life, and letting it build through the beauty of compound interest. The one who waits to invest will never catch up. This simple concept can be applied to the college process. **A little planning can go a long way**, but only if you begin early. Just look at the following chart. As you can see, the early investor has the greatest value and reaps the rewards.



The 9th and 10th-grade student is the early investor. One can build an impressive high school resume, but only with thoughtful planning.

Academics - No matter your grades, you should take the most challenging curriculum in which you can do well. If you select the proper classes now, then you will get on track to success. Students with top college intentions diminish their chances of acceptance without a challenging course load, including higher level math and foreign language classes, as well as the important 11th and 12th-grade honors and AP classes. These challenging courses are only open to (cont'd P4)



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Check out our website for
upcoming seminars

those who have the prerequisites. Most high schools have designated pathways you must follow to gain access to higher level classes. You will likely be shut out of a Science Research class or AP Physics class unless you are on the right track. All students, no matter their grades, need to make the right decisions to ensure they are on the path to success. As one head of college admissions observed, **“College admissions begins the day you enter high school.”**

Standardized test planning - here too, “the early bird catches the worm.”

Don't just rely on your high school knowledge to take the SAT and ACT, no matter how smart you are. It takes significant time to prepare! **Think months**, not days or weeks. So, make sure you plan ahead. Decide upon your test prep strategy during the summer between your 10th and 11th grades, or at the latest, early in 11th grade. Will you study on your own, use books, on-line test prep, take a class or utilize a tutor? Once you make that determination, develop a study plan and stick to it. Set goals and track your performance. The earlier in your junior year you take the test, the more time you leave yourself to take the test a second or third time, or even to change which test you are taking. But, be careful. Only take each test when you have studied and are fully prepared.

Extracurriculars are a critical part of the high school resume. Middle School provided the opportunity to “hunt and peck” in the search for your passion. Now's the time to develop it. Here's where

the “investing” concept comes into play again. For example, if you join the chess club in 10th grade, then you could strive to be a club officer in 11th, and cap it off with becoming club president in 12th. Additionally, you can take your interest outside the school by teaching chess at a local community center. This plan shows colleges a sincere commitment to your passion. Your dedicated approach to the pursuit of excellence is way more impressive to colleges than a casual involvement in a roster of activities, since **colleges look for patterns of participation.**

Summer experiences - a critical part of a well-rounded high school career.

The summers in your freshman and sophomore years can be wonderful opportunities to show colleges your enthusiasm for your passion. You can turn your summer into a meaningful experience that will “pop” on your high school resume. Admissions counselors are looking for students who use their free time as a **learning and building experience.** Wise use of summer breaks can set you apart and show yourself as a worthy candidate for consideration into a college's freshman class.

To summarize, **College Investing 101** encompasses your advancement in the classroom, on standardized tests, and in extracurricular activities. With some thoughtful long-range planning, and executing on that plan, all students have a golden opportunity to become the kind of student that colleges are eager to admit.