

# GETTING INTO MY FIRST-CHOICE COLLEGE

*A plan for parents  
and students*



# My Plan for Getting Into My First-Choice College

(For parents and kids)

*Begin with the end in mind; Start your high school and college planning by asking your teen these questions. Then plan your curriculum around his or her answers.*

**Q: Parents, what are your thoughts about college? Did you go to college? Do you want your children to go to college? If so, why? If not, why not?**

A: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Q: Ask your child, “What are you thinking about for a career? Do you have any ideas about what you’d like to be when you grow up? What are some things you will hope your job offers you (such as working conditions, hours, autonomy, ability for advancement)?”**

A: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Q: Ask your child, “Have you thought about what you would like to major in at college? Since you want to become a \_\_\_\_\_, you may want to major in \_\_\_\_\_.”**

A: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Q: Ask your child, “Have you thought about which colleges you might want to attend?”**

A: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Q: Colleges now expect you to have about 200+ hours of volunteering. My children have earned their volunteer hours in a number of ways; visiting retirement homes, taking care of exchange students, and fostering kittens. Children who are involved in the Scouts also tend to earn a lot of volunteer hours. Ask your teen, “Where would you enjoy volunteering” Then, be sure to keep track of the hours and get a letter of recommendation from the volunteer supervisor.**

A: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Q: Explain to your teen: “If you think you might want to major in \_\_\_\_\_ and you think you would like to attend \_\_\_\_\_ college, then these are the courses you will need to take in high school.”**

A: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

“And these are the test scores that you will need to attain on the SAT \_\_\_\_\_ or ACT \_\_\_\_\_.  
“ So, let’s plan your high school years and make sure we include lots of projects and activities that highlight and develop your special talents and interests.”

**Q: What are your teen’s goals for this year?**

A: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Q: Find out due dates for applications, test dates, etc. for each college. Put all these on your yearly calendar.**

A: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Q: Ask your teen, “How would you like to celebrate graduation?”**

A: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_