

# Top 10 College Admission Tips

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1. Meet with your counselor! Counselors have important information about colleges, admissions and financial aid. Many colleges also require a counselor recommendation.
2. Take a strong course schedule. Your class record is a big part of your college application. Don't take courses that simply pad your GPA. Challenge yourself. Take AP, IB or honors courses, or a course at a community college.
3. Ace the entrance exams. Practice the test by taking sample versions beforehand. Get plenty of sleep and eat a well-balanced breakfast before you test. Be sure to read the directions and test questions carefully. Pace yourself so you have time to review your work.
4. Find the school that's right for you. Ask your guidance counselor for advice. Learn more about schools via their websites, campus visits and college fairs.
5. Fill out the application accurately and neatly. Approach each application as if it were the only one that you're willing to fill out. Read the directions and follow them precisely. Make a draft copy first, then revise and proofread.
6. Craft application essays with excellence. Start by brainstorming for an original topic and hone your unique point of view. When writing, be clear, concise and well-organized. Don't forget to check grammar and spelling.
7. Submit applications early and watch for deadlines. List deadlines and important dates in one place and refer to them often.
8. Get great letters of recommendation. Choose adults who know you well, such as teachers, employers, coaches, and clergy. Provide required forms in advance, a stamped addressed envelope, a list of your activities and accomplishments and the date your recommendations need to be mailed.
9. Follow up on your applications. If a college hasn't sent you something that they should have, check on your application. With thousands of applications being processed, mistakes do occasionally happen.
10. Dazzle them at your college interview. Stay calm. Prepare by practicing with friends, and formulate a few questions to ask. Dress for the occasion. Follow up with a thank-you note.