



College Admissions: Everything Parents and Gifted Students Need to Know

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About International College Counselors & Nicole Jobson

We help students from all over the world with everything related to educational planning and admissions.

- PreK-high school, college and graduate school planning and guidance
- School list and school selection
- Extracurricular and academic interest refinement
- Essay editing
- Application review
- Interview preparation
- Guidance with expert advisors
- **Highly Relevant:** Staying on top of changes in admissions & keeping families informed.
- **FREE 30-minute consultation to all listeners – email me: Nicole@Internationalcollegecounselors.com**



Nicole Jobson, M.S.Ed

- 20+ years in education, 10+ years in college advising
- Speaker for Florida Association for the Gifted (FLAG), Broward GAC, IMACS, Dan Marino Foundation, and more.

Plan, Don't Panic

The college admissions process is more stressful, more confusing and far more complicated than before.

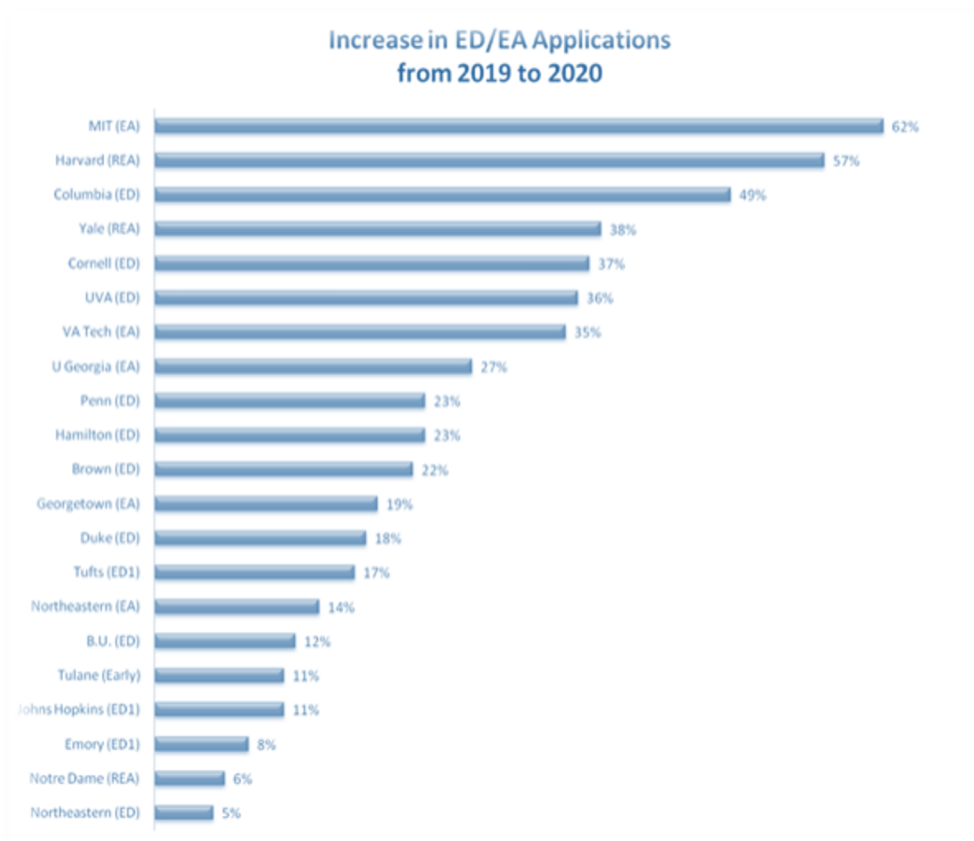
Understanding the **process** – what does and does not matter – we'll structure a **plan** to give your student the best chance at **identifying** and being **admitted** into the college of their dreams.



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Initial Observations - Class of 2021

HUGE Increase in Applications



Expert Strategies For Admission

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Initial Observations - Class of 2021

- With more students applying test options, colleges were able to move closer to more equitable opportunities for students.
- Early Decision still an important tool
- Test scores were considered
- Virtual Information Sessions and tours beneficial to students in lieu of in-person visits



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Lessons for Class of 2022 - and Beyond

- Transcript: Most important!
- Standardized Tests (**Florida public colleges**); end of Subject Tests
- Timing of application: Early Decision
- Essays
- Resume, including what students did during COVID
- Letters of recommendation
- Legacy & Athletes
- Well-rounded class including broad experiences & background



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Context of your School and Environment

Your Child's School vs. Another School:

Colleges look at how your child did in the environment they are in.



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Extracurricular Involvement: Academics

- Independent Research- with a company or without
- Math acceleration: EMF, IMACS, Stanford online and many options for computer science
- MOOCs: Coursera, edX, Udemy, Harvard etc.
- Courses offered through colleges: Brown, Georgetown, University of Massachusetts
- Extra coursework for high school credit – Broward Virtual, FLVS or similar
- Extra coursework for Dual Enrollment credit through Broward College, UF, FAU, FIU, Embry-Riddle



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Extracurricular Involvement: General



- Art, Music, Writing, Theater, Dance
- Speech & Debate, Coding, Robotics, Newspaper, Quiz Bowl, Model UN
- Languages
- Volunteer - start something or join an organization
- Athletics
- A word about fundraising...



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Extracurricular Involvement: From Home

- Write stories
- Learn an instrument
- Improve your art skills
- Learn a language
- Start a business
- Enter a competition- science fair, business, research, art



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How to Make the College Match

- Online information sessions
- Virtual college fairs
- Connect via social media
- Explore the college's website
- Sit in on a class (usually restricted to 11th and 12th grade)
- Speak with current students and alumni
- School college counselor / independent college counselor

Always good to demonstrate interest
(for you and college)



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Things to Do: Students

Apply for Merit-Based Scholarships

- Grades K-12
 - Private: fastweb.com, cappex.com, zinch.com, scholarships.com, davidsongifted.org
 - International College Counselors \$250 Scholarship for 9th-11th graders: internationalcollegecounselors.com
- Seniors-only
 - Institution-based
 - Florida Bright Futures



Expert Strategies For Admission

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Things to Do: Students

- Create an application activity list and add to it over time
- Build vocabulary
- Plan summers wisely
- Expect complications
- Banish self doubt
- Get excited about high school and college



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Things to Do: Parents

- Early on, be honest about finances: use the College Net Price Calculator:
<https://nces.ed.gov>
- Apply for Financial Aid (seniors) FAFSA
 - CSS Profile, IDOC or other school-specific requirements
- Get correct information
 - Experts, not friends and family
- Work together
- Expect complications
- Be a calming influence



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Tips for A Successful High School to College Journey

- Exposure to diverse experiences
 - Summer, after school, hobbies
- Develop intellectually and emotionally
 - College success is based on academic and maturity
- Be open to intellectual risks
- Treat failures as learning opportunities
- Know that many gifted students may also have learning challenges, important to address both



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Based on "How to Raise a Genius"

Questions? Free 30-minute Consultation!

Need personal help with the college admissions process?

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