



HIFE

COLLEGE PLANNING

Scholars

Volume IV Issue III

JULY 1, 2016

HIFE CPP REQUIREMENTS:

- ◆ Must have a minimum GPA of 2.5
- ◆ Must seek to attend an accredited institution
- ◆ Must be willing to complete the assigned homework provided by the HIFE Coach

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Benefits of the CPP

Message From The Dean - Bob Fulcomer

If you want to learn about a country, the best way is to visit it. The same goes for learning about a college. Summer is a good time to plan on visiting several different schools to see their culture, speak with their professors, take a tour of the campus and "try on" the idea of walking around and living there every day. Try taking some short trips with a parent or turn it into a mini-vacation and

visit several campuses in a particular area. Pictures may be worth a thousand words, but they are not enough. Many students have had their heart set on a specific school and have not even seen the campus or the surrounding area. When they visit, they realize that something felt "off" in the culture, climate or setting. It is a lot better to know that the college is the right fit before you go there then after your first

semester. By visiting the campus before you apply, you might decide you will be more comfortable attending a different college. You may just know by walking around the campus and talking with the people that the college is the right place for you!



Get a Head Start on College Visits

The acceptance letters have been mailed and the admissions decision deadline at most universities has passed, with the latest crop of high school seniors deciding where they'll attend college this fall. As seniors finish the taxing college admissions process, sophomores and juniors are beginning their own search for a future home. For students and parents alike, one of the first tasks is deciding which colleges and universities to visit. Parents should help their

children think in terms of the types of schools to visit rather than focusing on specific institutions when first approaching college visits, says Mary Conger, founder of the campus visit service Collegocity. "Try [to] see a large public research university, a small selective liberal arts college, a technical college, and a religious college," she notes. "Doing this provides wider exposure to what's out there." Early in the college visit process, parents and guardians should be

expected to take on a role that is more of an adviser than director, says Tim Desch, assistant dean of undergraduate admissions for the W.P. Carey School of Business at Arizona State University. "I think parents assume a certain role, and that is to guide and educate their [child], but, often-times, that kind of accelerates them into being a little too intrusive," Desch acknowledges. "The role for a parent is to be encouraging." A common problem

Get a Head Start on College Visits (cont.)



students and parents face during the early stages of the college search process is navigating the overwhelming number of options. Parents should guide their child through all the possibilities, Conger says.

"[The parents'] job right now is to help their kids see all the options that are out there," she notes. "They should be explorers with them." Carly Parks, a 16-year-old high school sophomore from Cincinnati, says that her course of study will be the largest factor in her college decision. "For me, the major is the biggest indicator," Parks says. "If a school didn't have a [particular] major, it wouldn't be as high on my list."

While it may be an effective way to narrow a college list, it's important that students keep an open mind early in the process, says Carol DelPropost, assistant vice president of admission and financial aid at Ohio Wesleyan University. "If a student wants to choose [a university] based on a major, they ought to explore that major and what the requirements are pretty carefully," DelPropost says. "What I often suggest is to look for opportunities to present or do research or play a

role in some kind of organization or initiative they perhaps may not have had the opportunity to do at another institution."

Although crafting a list of schools can be laborious, planning extended road trips to multiple colleges can be just as stressful for families—but there are alternatives. Instead of organizing a lengthy college visit schedule, Conger recommends that families take detours to visit campuses while on other trips or vacations.

"It familiarizes them with campuses and helps them [to] start thinking about college without the drama of a big, weeklong road trip," she says.

When visiting a school for the first time, DelPropost recommends that students prepare themselves with background information on the school so that they can be ready to ask questions while on campus. However, Parks, the prospective student, says she'd rather visit a college before doing heavy research.

"For me, it's about letting it happen," Parks says.

"I'd rather go off on my own [and] see how everything works around campus."

While spontaneous exploration is a useful way to mold first

impressions, doing some research can help students and parents avoid extra legwork later in the process, says Arizona State's Desch.

"I would caution [students] against going in too unprepared," Desch notes.

"It is an investment of time and there are so many things for them to learn and be prepared for. But that isn't to say that there shouldn't be a part of the visit that's a little more informal."

Many high school students will have already made the decision to attend a school before they have even made a single visit. But, as Desch warns, the greatest mistake a student can make early on in the college search process is to limit his or her options.

"Make sure it's not [your] only college visit," Desch says. "Ultimately, when you make that decision to go to a college, make sure it's based on experience. Don't go to one place and make that decision."

Source: <http://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/articles/2011/05/31/get-a-head-start-on-college-visits?page=2>



Don't Make These 10 Freshman Mistakes in College

Make the Most of Freshman Year

Starting a new life as a college freshman can be an intimidating and overwhelming experience. As new students try to get their footing, many make some interesting mistakes.



1. Trying to Do It All Alone

Need help with a class? Talk to your professor or go see a tutor. Stressed out? Go see a counselor.

"Don't be afraid to ask for help even before you need it," Twitter user RPI Success says

2. Not Going to Class

Showing up on test day isn't enough. It's hard to make the grades if you're not in class learning the material. You're also paying for lectures even if you don't go to them.

"Go to class! Attendance is highly correlated with grades," Twitter user S. Turgeson, Ed.D. writes.

3. Procrastinating

Procrastination can lead to missed or late assignments, cramming, stress and poor eating. But it's also a bad habit to build for students who are preparing to go out in the workforce.

"I fell behind in many of my

courses due to waiting to the last minute," Twitter user Mary Walters says.

4. Hiding in Your Dorm

Freshman year is a great time for students to explore their interests, make connections and start building their resume. Students should make time to get involved on campus.

"Join an organization. Don't stay in your room or hang with the same people all the time," Twitter user S. Turgeson, Ed.D. writes.

5. Pulling All-Nighters Frequently

Go to sleep. Binging on energy drinks or coffee to stay awake to cram for an exam can lead to bad grades.

Our minds recall and reason better when our bodies are well-rested. Learn more about the risks of pulling an all-nighter, experts say

6. Taking on Too Much

You don't want to be a hermit, but overloading your schedule with courses and extracurriculars is a bad idea. Instead, try to find balance and focus on doing your responsibilities well, experts say.



7. Watching a Lot of Netflix

Students who are studying properly, exercising, participating in extracurriculars or working probably don't have as much time to binge-watch on Netflix or spend hours looking at videos on YouTube. Freshmen should use their time wisely, experts say.

8. Eating Too Much Pizza

It's not just about avoiding the freshman 15. Eating healthy and exercising can help students decrease stress and focus better, experts say.

9. Partying Hard

Excessive drinking on college campuses is a common but unsafe practice.

Students who choose to party should drink responsibly, stay alert and practice safety.

10. Living Off Credit Cards

Considering that most students leave college with student debt, managing student loan refunds correctly and avoiding credit card debt can help students leave college with less of a financial burden. Experts say students can look into personal finance classes on campus or research online to learn financial tips to help them build good money habits in college and after graduation.



Source: <http://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/slideshows/dont-make-these-10-freshman-mistakes-in-college/11>

8301 East Prentice Avenue
Suite #312
Greenwood Village, CO 80111

Phone: 303-597-0197
Fax: 303-369-3900
Email: hifecpp@hife-usa.org

Check us out on the web:
www.hife-usa.org

"Providing Families With College Planning Solutions"

10 QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR COLLEGE TOUR GUIDE

1. What's the most popular student hang out, on and off campus?
2. What are the most popular campus organizations?
3. Is there any kind of shuttle service and what are the hours?
4. Why did you choose to go to this school?
5. What's your favorite part about attending this school?
6. What were the size of your classes freshman year?
7. What would you change about this school?
8. What are the dorms like?
9. How difficult is it to find housing?
10. How is the dining hall food?



Heartland Institute of Financial Education's College Planning Program

HIFE College Planning is a coaching program designed to assist students and parents successfully navigate the complex college preparation, admissions, selection, and financial-aid process.

It is the goal of the Heartland Institute to help young Americans obtain a college education. We help families offset the high

cost of college by utilizing proven strategies to help reduce a family's "out-of-pocket" costs...

Our College Planning Coaches work directly with students and parents to establish an action-plan for college selection and career planning. We help the student develop a personal "resume" that will aid them in competing for valuable student loans, scholarships, grants, and

other forms of assistance that can help offset their college education costs.

The Heartland Institute focus:

"Working together with you and your student to make the college dream come true"

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