



“Schools offer more competitive applicants scholarships to entice those applicants to matriculate.”

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Saving Money in the College Application Process

One of the most difficult parts of watching your children go off to college is paying for it. Scholarships may be far and few between and the stuck credit markets have made student loans less available. Here are a few ideas to make the application process...and college...more affordable.

College Visits: Some teenagers who are involved in sports or are otherwise overly committed choose to apply to a variety of schools that appeal to them and then wait to visit after they are accepted.

While the drawbacks of this strategy could include not finding the “right” school, it forces students to do rigorous internet and word of mouth investigation. Students who go this route feel they’ll fit in almost anywhere. Parents save money on airfare, gas, car rentals, hotels, etc.

Admissions Counselor: Another way to save money in the application process is to use an admissions counselor. Some families take a small portion of the funds saved for college to pay for this service. Despite the fees to the counselor, the guidance students receive makes their application more competitive. Schools offer more competitive applicants scholarships to entice those applicants to matriculate.



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Saving Money in the College Application Process (cont.)

Application Fees: Applying early can help to reduce admissions fees. If your son/daughter applies early decision (ED)/early action (EA), they can reduce the number of schools to which they apply, therefore lowering the application fees. If they are accepted in an early admission round, they forgo the fees associated with sending numerous regular decision (RD) applications.

Waiving Application Fees: In cases of real hardship, applicants can waive schools’ application fees entirely. Schools will not penalize students who legitimately need to waive the fee. In fact, most schools separate the financial aid process from the application process. The admissions officer reading the applicant’s file is unlikely to know the application fee was waived.

Public Universities: Public universities offer a phenomenal education and are typically less costly than private universities.

While these ideas won’t make it easier to drive away, leaving your son or daughter on campus, they should make it more affordable.

Admissions Q&A : What about the FAFSA?

Q: Does it make sense to fill out the FAFSA?

A: The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is a little like the free lottery...you can't win if you don't play. Take the two hours and fill-out the forms. Even if you do not qualify for the \$86 billion in student financial aid, some programs are designed for students who federal aid rejects. In addition, colleges need the FAFSA to offer other scholarships for which your son or daughter could be eligible. You can even get help with the FAFSA from the Federal Student Aid Information Center by calling (800-4-FEDAID) 800-433-3243 or logging onto their web site

www.federalstudentaid.edu.gov.

(Source www.fastweb.com)

Winning Web Sites:

www.unigo.com
www.fastweb.com

Spotlight School: University of Vermont, Burlington, VT



- Public, 4-year university, coed, suburban
- 8908 full-time undergraduate students
- SAT middle 50%: V 530-630, M 540-630
- 6-year graduation rate, 65%
- Percent receiving financial aid, first year, 67%
- SAT or ACT with writing required

The University of Vermont is a misnomer. UVM, actually Universitas Viridis Montis, is an acronym for University of the Green Mountains. Founded in 1791, UVM is situated close to picturesque Lake Champlain—about an hour away from the border of Canada. Burlington, Vermont is a quaint college town—home to mom-and-pop stores as well as national retailers such as The North Face. The North Face might come in handy in January. UVM suffers from a party / back-up school reputation. The faculty and administration have tried to combat this image by increasing the program’s rigor and making the campus (dorms included) completely dry.

Living up to its “Green Mountain” name, the university is focused on being environmentally friendly. The new student center cafeteria offers reclaimed plastic ware and the most extensive recycling program I have seen to date. Students note that professors are accessible and have a great desire to see students excel. UVM’s most popular majors include environmental studies, business and English.

About Winning Applications

Welcome to Winning Applications! We offer expert guidance in the college and graduate school application process. Our consultants, who have worked in university admissions, help students get into preferred schools in the United States and abroad. Through thoughtful and individualized effort, we enable students to develop successful applications that showcase each student's special talents and best attributes.

The Winning Applications team provides counseling and advice through all stages of the application process. From school selection to essay preparation and interview training, we help students navigate the admissions process with

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