



"Student tour guides are sometimes less than forthcoming with respect to a school's shortcomings."

### Winning Highlights:

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## 10 Things To Do on a College Trip

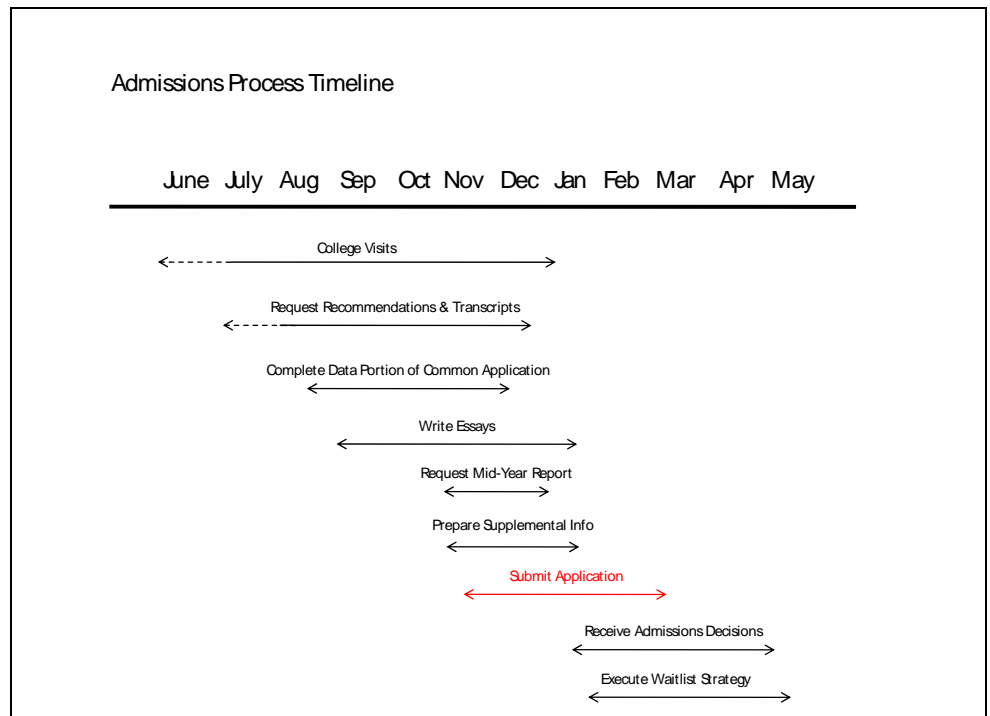
Optimizing a school trip can make the application process much easier. Here are a few tips that will get you on the right track.

It may seem obvious, but **phone first**. Some schools require prospective applicants to reserve a spot in the information session and tour. Since information session and tour times vary seasonally, confirming the time will prevent mix ups. While you have them on the phone, make sure you are on the school's mailing list and find out about the other resources available to prospective students.

**Interview... even if it is not required.** Interviewing showcases an important component of your application: interpersonal skills. Interpersonal skills are difficult to demonstrate in an essay. If possible, interview with an admissions committee member on campus versus an alumnus. It will be, after all, a member of the admissions committee who will be evaluating your application.

*(Continued on page 4)*

**Winning Tip:** Understanding the admissions timeline helps students and parents plan ahead for deadlines.



## Admissions Q & A: To share or not to share



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*“Caroline should not focus on the applicant pool since she cannot control it. “*

Q: My daughter, Caroline, worked with a counselor to decide on her top 10 schools. Her best friend, Jennifer, who has slightly better scores and grades, is constantly asking Caroline where she plans to apply. Caroline is concerned that Jennifer will apply to the same schools and “box out” Caroline’s applications. Should she share her list?

A: There are a number of ways Caroline can manage this issue. As diversity is the name of the game, Jennifer’s application could box Caroline’s out...but so could another applicant’s. Caroline should not focus on the applicant pool since she cannot control it. Instead, her focus should be on making her application stand out. It is somewhat unrealistic to think the average high school girl (or boy for that matter) will not share her college list. High school friends can agree, however, to apply to different schools. Another option is to mention a few of the schools that she has considered, without disclosing the whole list.



### Spotlight School: Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA

- Private, 4-Year University, Coed, Suburban
- Undergraduate Students, 4553; Graduate Students, 1826
- 94% of students return as sophomores
- 86% graduate within 6 years
- SAT or ACT with writing is accepted

Lehigh University’s well manicured campus is set in the hills of suburban Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. While the campus is beautiful, some of the older dorms are “a little iffy.” Students rave about the faculty, who they call, “outgoing and happy to meet with students.” Initially, students rely on cliques, but as other students are easy to get to know, most students mix.

Lehigh has wonderful traditions. Each class proudly waves its own Lehigh flag, for example. Another tradition underscores the fact that the alumni’s link to the school is particularly strong. At the beginning of the academic year Lehigh hosts a ceremony in which the class that graduated 50 years ago adopts the entering class.

# 10 Things to Do on a College Trip (continued)

An **overnight stay** is the best way to get a sense of how you would fit in on campus. Unlike anything else, it gives you a chance to experience a college's classes, dorm life, campus safety, cafeteria food, and social life up close...blemishes and all.

**Pick up the school newspaper.** Hopefully you took clear, meaningful notes while sitting in the info session and taking the tour. All too often things *were* clear when you visited, but later everything is mush. School newspapers differentiate the school and highlight issues students and the administration consider important. Referring to the college paper will come in handy, especially when you are answering that all too difficult supplemental essay question, " Why ABC College?"

**Take the tour.** It is a great way to get a sense of the campus. While on the tour, be observant. Is the campus well cared for? That can be an indication of whether alumni give money to the school. Alumni who have had a great experience and feel that their school was a part of their success often give back.

**Attend the information session.** Other than an interview, this is the closest most applicants get to the admissions committee. Take advantage of it. Ask thoughtful questions during, or better yet after, the information session. Get the speaker's card and follow up with an email or note. The note will not get you in, but it will likely be included in your application and provides another data point on which your application will be evaluated.

**Talk to students** who are not affiliated with the admissions office. Student tour guides are sometimes less than forthcoming with respect to a school's shortcomings. Other students, ones who do not work for the admissions office, may offer different insights.

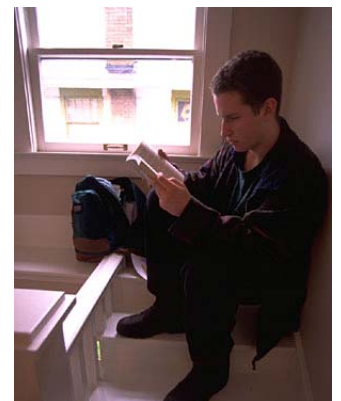
Investigate **the campus' crime statistics** *and* those of the surrounding neighborhood. Campus safety is important. Students need to feel safe when walking back from late night study sessions or socializing. If the prospective student neglects to do that research, a parent should. Knowing the campus is safe will make everyone more comfortable.

**Find out if they like you.** One way to quickly assess the relationship between the administration and the students is to get a sense of how students are treated by college employees. Are students, particularly undergrads, considered a nuisance? If so, take notice.



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## *About Winning Applications*

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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 confidence and ease.