



“The reality is that the application process starts with a few small, seemingly inconsequential steps. ”

When Should We Start?

Regardless of where I speak or with whom I speak, parents always ask one question... when should we start the college application process? Start it too soon and you unnecessarily step into a pressure cooker. Wait and you risk being put at a disadvantage when your child’s application is read last and he has to make himself stand out against the previous 5000 applications an admissions counselor just read. Unfortunately, when to start is one of the most difficult questions to answer. Arguably, a family could start the process before their first child is born. After all, paying for college can certainly take 18 years of saving.

The reality is that the application process starts with a few small, seemingly inconsequential steps. Here are a few places to start:

- **Talking:** Parents are verbally preparing their children for college and even graduate school constantly, singing old college songs and making statements like, “When you go to college...” (Continued on page 4)

Write your College Application Essay(s) Early!!!!

College Essay Seminars:

Wilton, Connecticut

Date: Saturday, June 21st

Time: 10 am – 4 pm

Wilton Library (137 Old Ridgefield Rd)

President’s Room

Ridgefield, Connecticut

Date: Saturday, July 19th

Time: 10 am – 4 pm

Ridgefield Library (472 Main St)

History Room

Pre-registration is required. Seminar Fee is \$450. Please call 203-938-3878 for more information.

Winning Highlights:

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College Essay Seminar Registration

Student Contact Information

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email (Student/Parent) _____

Secondary School _____

Seminar Date and Location _____

Activities

Please list any extracurricular activities (including sports, music, community programs, work experience, hobbies, travel, etc.) in which you participate:

Activity	Grade Level (9, 10, 11, 12, PS)	Hours per Week	Positions Held
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Essay Topics

List three topics you want to include in your college essay(s):

Send registration with full payment to:

**Winning Applications
54 Danbury Road #223
Ridgefield, CT 06877**

Registration closes June 10th and July 9th for Wilton and Ridgefield respectively. A minimum of two students is required to conduct a seminar.

Admissions Q & A: *What's Really Important?*



Q: What is the most important part of the application?

A: Grades and standardized tests will dictate the schools to which a student applies. The most important part of the application, after grades and standardized scores, is the essay. How will you fit into XYZ college? Will you stay in your room or the library and study or will you share your own diversity? Colleges search for applicants who will, over pizza in their freshmen dorms, educate their fellow students about their difference. That “uniqueness” is the part of *you* grades and standardized tests can’t show. Enter the all-important essays. The next time a friend points out/compliments you on something you do...perhaps that is part of your own diversity. Note it.

Submit questions to [stephaniekleinwassink @winningapplications.net](mailto:stephaniekleinwassink@winningapplications.net)

“Will you stay in your room or the library and study or will you share your own diversity?”

Spotlight School: University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

- Private, 4-year university, coed, urban
- 4,807 undergraduate students
- 3.89 average high school GPA
- 89% graduate within 6 years
- SAT or ACT (subject tests not required)

The University of Chicago, which has had more faculty, former faculty and alumni Nobel Laureates than any other university in the United States, is one of the most prestigious universities in the world. It is unsurprising, therefore, that University of Chicago students are known both for their commitment to academics and their quantitative expertise. *The Insider’s Guide* quotes one student as saying, “Everyone here is proud to be a nerd.”

A diverse institution, the Gothic-styled university is situated on Chicago’s south side less than a mile from Lake Michigan. While students are described as seriously committed to academics, there are more than 300 student groups, focused on fun. Freshmen do not live in their own dorm, but are mixed in with the upperclassmen, from whom, according to the U of C web site, they can get valuable advice.

Source: The Insider’s Guide to the Colleges 2008, Peterson’s Four-Year Colleges 2008



Winning Applications Resources:

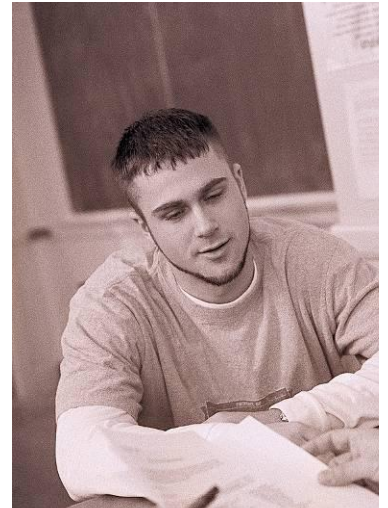
Announcing a New Therapy Group for High School Seniors:

Graduating from high school is a most exciting step, yet for some students it is accompanied by significant anxiety and self doubt, which may become obstacles to greater self growth and may inhibit the process of “launching” one’s life. This group will provide college-bound seniors with the opportunity to gain greater self confidence and to develop new skills with which to approach the new world that awaits them.

When: Starting May 1, 2008
Thursday afternoons 4-5:30
For eight to ten weeks

Where: South Salem, NY

Contact: For more information and a free phone consultation:
Richard A. Flambert, M.D., 914-763-0440
Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist
mindmd@optonline.net

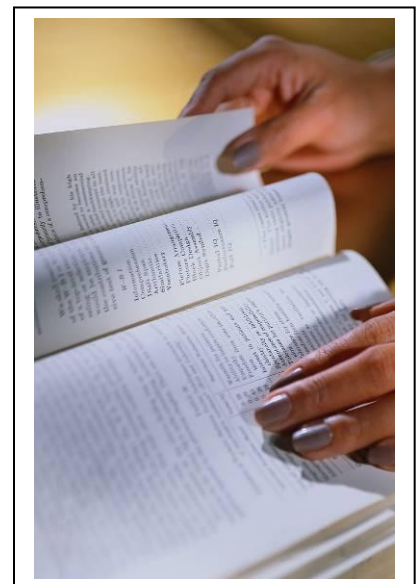


“...visiting colleges enables young people to envision themselves on a college campus.”

When Should We Start? (Continued from page 1)

Visiting: While noting what your son/daughter *likes or dislikes* about high school (size, location, teacher-student ratio, etc.) can be important, visiting colleges enables young people to envision themselves on a college campus. Visits help them to determine if they prefer rural/urban, large/small, warm/cold. Opportunities to visit college campuses could include:

- Your alma mater’s alumni homecoming weekend.
- Trips to college campuses locally or while on vacation.
- Overnights with extended family or friends currently in college.



Winning Applications

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06877

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203.938.3878

FAX:

203.938.4755

We're on the Web!
See us at:

www.winningapplications.net

EMAIL:

stephaniekleinwassink
@winningapplications.net

When Should We Start?

- **Save:** While some of the writing assignments high school teachers assign might annoy them....students should save them. Why reinvent the wheel? If they've written something that might, with a few edits, fit an application's essay question, they should use it.
- **SAT/ACT:** One of the most onerous parts of the application process is the standardized testing. Many schools require the SAT/ACT with Writing and two subject tests. While most students wait until the spring/summer of their junior year to take the tests, some students opt to start a little earlier. Many schools will accept scores from standardized tests taken as many as four years ago. Encourage your sophomore to purchase a standardized test practice book and to go to www.collegeboard.com to try practice tests. If the tests prove easy, discuss the possibility of taking the exam(s) early.

Web sites like www.collegeboard.com make starting the application process a lot easier. The specter of jumping into the application process can often be more daunting than the process itself.



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 confidence and ease.