

College 101: Starting your Application Journey

April 2019
Bowie Public Library

Tamara M. Baptiste-Wallace,
The College Application Specialist



- 1998: BS Engineering
- 2001: M.Eng. Engineering Management



- 2009: Modern Day Technology Leader
- 2015: Community Service Nominee



- Certified Project Management with over 20 years of experience leading multi-million dollar programs

About Me



- Conference presenter and educator – communicating with impact, message delivery, and connecting with your audience



- 2015: HOW Nominee, Technology and Government



- Advisory Circle Board, Girls on the Run DC

Our Students do Great Things!



Ms. Tamara helped me configure all of my thoughts, stories, ideas and experiences...into a compelling essay.



Amber A – Virginia Tech '21



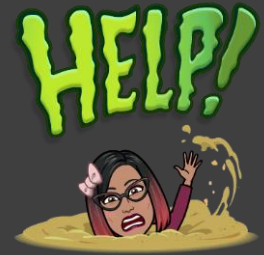
Rod B. – MIT '20

Working with Ms. Tamara was a great experience. She made me do the work to find my voice and made sure I managed my time well.

I cannot tell you how much I appreciate your help and guidance. I was at maximum capacity, so your work truly was a life saver. And it saved our mom and son relationship too, limiting the amount of stress between us during a very stressful time.

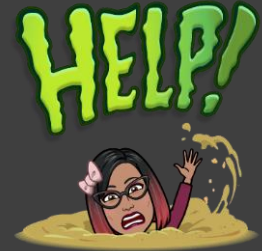
Lynnea L. - Mom

How can we help you?



- Sophomores and Juniors
 - Identify and narrow down the list of colleges
 - Understand what colleges are looking for in their applicants
 - Identify a course schedule that maximizes their opportunities
 - Prepare and polish their resume
 - Identify volunteer opportunities or summer experiences
 - Practice their writing skills by completing mock applications
- Seniors
 - Finalize their list of colleges (with parents / guardians)
 - Prepare and polish their resume
 - Generate college essay, personal statement and writing supplement ideas.
 - Review, edit, polish all essays
 - Prepare for Alumni Interviews, and
 - Prepare packets to provide recommenders with the information they need

Upcoming Bootcamp



Do you need a guide to help
you start your college journey
on the right foot?

Join the  **the College Application Specialist** for
ESSAY IDEAS • INTERVIEW PREP • RESUMÉ REVIEW

College Prep Bootcamp for Sophomores and Juniors

What: A Live Webinar Series

When: Two Sunday a month

Dates: June 9 – August 18, 2019




Topics:

- Identify colleges that might be right for you
- Narrow down major options (as well as the schools that offer them)
- Help students identify the classes they need to take to make them college ready
- Prepare a resume
- Break down the college essay prompts, and so much more

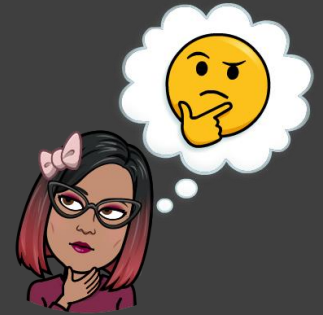
Cost: \$1000 (\$300 due at registration)

To register or for more information contact
thecollegeappspecialist@gmail.com
www.thecollegeappspecialist.com



 @thecollegeappspecialist  @collegeappspec  @__collegeappspecialist__

Food for Thought



Why College?

- On average, college graduates earn \$1M more in earnings over a lifetime (Georgetown Study)
- Median yearly income GAP between high school and college graduates is around \$17,500 ([Pew Research 2016](#))

Why get help?

371:1 Ratio of Students to Guidance Counselors (MD – 2014)

250:1 American School Counselor Recommended Standard

Process Stats








7-10 Average # of schools to which students apply












20-30 Approximate # of hours spent completing each application

8-10 Approximate # of minutes an admissions officer spends reading an application

Sophomores: College Journey Timeline[©]



Jul/ Aug	<p>Begin College Spreadsheet</p> <p>College Tours</p>  
Sep	<p>Meet with your Guidance Counselor</p> 
Oct	<p>Take the PSAT</p> 
Nov	<p>Think about major options</p> <p>Identify what you're looking for in a college</p> 
Dec	<p>Research Scholarships</p> 
Jan	<p>Check in with your Guidance Counselor</p> <p>PSAT Scores</p> 
Feb	<p>Link College Board Account to Khan Academy</p> <p>Identify and apply to summer activities</p>

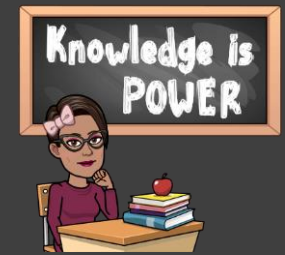
Mar	<p>College Tours</p> <p>Research College Requirements</p> 
Apr	<p>Narrow down your list</p> <p>Research Scholarships</p> <p>Finalize Junior Year Schedule</p> 
May	
Jun	   
Jul	<p>Update College Spreadsheet</p>   
Aug	<p>Get organized</p> 

Juniors: College Journey Timeline[©]

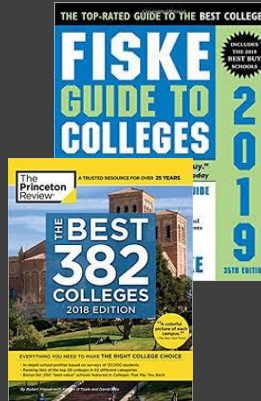


Jul/ Aug	College Tours SAT / ACT Prep		Mar	College Tours	
Sep	Meet with your Guidance Counselor		Apr	Narrow down your list Research Scholarships	
				Finalize Senior Year Schedule	
Oct	Take the PSAT		May		
	Identify your top 10 characteristics				
Nov	Research Colleges / Majors		Jun	Ask for Recommendations	
Dec	SAT / ACT Prep Check in with your Guidance Counselor		Jul	Start your Essays	
Jan					
Feb	Identify your top 10 schools Schedule College Tours		Aug	Finalize your list Get organized	

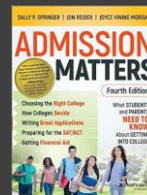
Research Resources



- College Guides
 - Fiske Guide to Colleges
 - The Princeton Review
 - Naviance



- Books
 - Admission Matters



- Websites
 - BigFuture – BigFuture.org
 - Niche – niche.com
 - PrepScholar Blog – prepscholarblog.com

- Scholarships
 - The College Board
 - Naviance
 - Niche
 - Scholly
 - Local organizations (fraternities, sororities)
 - Foundations
- Test Prep (Free)
 - Khan Academy
 - [ACT Academy](#)

Seniors: College Journey Timeline[©]



Sep	<p>Meet with your Guidance Counselor</p> <p>Confirm your Recommendations</p> <p>Last time to take the SAT / ACT</p>		<p>Mar</p> <p>Regular Decisions Announced</p> <p>FAFSA Deadline</p>	
Oct	<p>FAFSA Form Opens</p>		<p>Apr</p> <p>Regular Decisions Announced</p> <p>Visit Schools</p> <p>Talk with your Family</p>	
Nov	<p>Early Action and Early Decision Applications Due</p>		<p>May</p> <p>Make a Decision</p> <p>Pay Your Deposit</p>	
Dec	<p>Regular Decision Applications Due</p> <p>EA / ED Decisions Announced</p>		<p>Jun</p> <p>Graduation</p>	
Jan	<p>Regular Decision Applications Due</p>		<p>Jul</p> <p>Attend Pre-freshman Programs</p>	
Feb	<p>Get Scholarship Applications Completed</p>		<p>Aug</p> <p>Official Move In Day!</p>	

Anatomy of a College Application

Demographic Info

- Students
- Parents

Courses Taken

- High School
- College Courses
- Summer Programs

Activities / Awards

- Extra-curricular
- Volunteer

Academic Honors /Awards

- Honor Roll
- NHS

Test Scores

- SAT or ACT
- SAT II Test
- TOEFL



Main Essay

- 650 word essay

Supplemental Essays

- Avg 250-500 words / essay
- Unique to each school
- Usually 2-3 questions

Video Essays / Other Materials

- Portfolio (Arts / Music)
- Video Essay (1-2 minutes)
- Resume

Major / Potential Major

Recommendations

- Counselor
- Teacher

Special Programs

- Honors Program
- Merit Scholarship



Anatomy of A College Application

Section	Definition
Demographic Info	Who are you? Where do you come from? Who's in your family? What's your background?
Courses Taken	A list of classes you've taken from 9 th Grade onwards. Includes any summer classes taken for college credit.
Activities / Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A listing of all "after-school" activities including school-sponsored, volunteer, work, church activities, or playing an instrument.• Should be from 9th grade onwards unless you have been doing something all of your life.
Academic Honors / Awards	A listing of the academic awards, prizes, and honors received in high school
Test Scores	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unofficially reported SAT / ACT and SAT Subject Test scores• You must ask the College Board or ACT Organization to send your OFFICIAL score to a school• There is a fee for scores sent to each college.



Anatomy of A College Application

Section	Definition
Main Essay (Written)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A 300-650 word essay asking students to present themselves by responding to a pre-determined question• Students using the Common / Coalition Application may use this essay as their MAIN essay for all schools.*
Supplemental Essays (2-5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Additional UNIQUE essays and answers ranging from 50-300 words each which further delve into the student's background. The more selective the college, the more supplemental essays you can expect to complete.
Video Essays / Supplemental Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some schools encourage sending a video essay as a main essay or to an answer to a supplemental question.• Resumes are generally encouraged; however, most schools won't accept extra materials that they did not ask for.• Exceptions may include those applying to the arts, music, or architecture programs.
Major / Potential Major	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Your intended major in college. It is OK to be undecided.



Anatomy of A College Application

Section	Definition
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All colleges will require a recommendation from your Guidance Counselor as well as a school profile.• Schools may also require recommendations from your Math, English, and/or Foreign Language Teachers.• Schools may provide you the option of sending additional recommendations from other teachers, coaches or other non-related-to-you adults.• Generally speaking, recommendations may not be provided by immediate family members; however, there are exceptions to this rule on a case-by-case basis.
Special / Honors Program Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Variable length essays probing a student's eligibility and desire to enter a special / honors program or qualification for a selective scholarship offered by the school.• Essay content is unique and may NOT be "copied and pasted" from other responses, or from the content of the main essay.

So Why are you Doing this again?

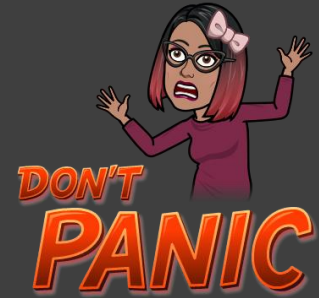


- Because completing college significantly improves your future career prospects, income potential, and
- Before you start, make sure WHY you want to go to college, not just what you want to major in.
 - (P.S. it's ok if you are undecided about a major).
- Preparation is the key to success!
 - The earlier you decided you want to go to college, the more time you have to prepare.
 - The better prepared you are, the less stressed YOU and your family will be during the application process.

Remember, you don't have to do this on your own.

- Find and use your resources.
- Involve your parents.
- Live in your guidance counselor's office.
- And contact me!

How Can I Find you?



EMAIL:
thecollegeappspecialist@gmail.com

CALL ME



Text or Call:
240-283-5458

Follow me on social media!



IG: @__collegeappspecialist__



FB: @thecollegeappspecialist



TW: @collegeappspec