

Enhancing Your Chances of Being Admitted to Your TOP CHOICE College

Are you in your final semester or are on the waiting list and have not been admitted to your NUMBER ONE choice college yet???? If so, you may wish to consider writing a one page letter, addressed to college's admissions office, to the attention of the admissions representative assigned to your high school. Consider the following proven strategies:

1. CURRENT YEAR ENHANCEMENTS.

How you feel you have improved your candidacy since the start of this academic year. Consider sending a copy of your quarterly grades, your seventh semester grades (when available), your latest ACT and SAT scores, and mention recent leadership experiences, awards, etc..

2. WHY THAT COLLEGE IS THE BEST CHOICE FOR YOU – “MATCHING”.

Mention several specific factors that the college prides itself on and that you find appealing. Be sure to read the college's mission statement and cite reasons pertinent to your interests, such as an academic program, nonacademic activity, size, location, housing, cost, quality, etc.....

3. WHY THE COLLEGE WOULD LIKE YOU – “MATCHING”.

Mention specific ways you plan to contribute to the betterment of the college.

4. FAMILIARITY.

Mention if you have visited the campus and what impressed you the most. You may also mention other ways you have investigated the college, if they are important in your decision.

5. CONNECTIONS.

Mention if you have any family members or friends who attend(ed) the college.

6. FAMILY'S WILLINGNESS AND ABILITY TO PAY FULL COSTS.

This could be a factor especially at more expensive private colleges.

7. MAIL YOUR INFORMATION TO THE COLLEGE'S ADMISSIONS OFFICE.

It should be addressed to the admissions rep assigned to your high school. The rep's name can be obtained from the college's website or by calling the admissions office.

8. ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATION

Include only if the person making the recommendation can provide information or insights not already in your file. To preserve authenticity, the recommendation should be mailed by the recommender. You should provide him/her a stamped envelope, addressed to the college's admissions office, to the attention of the admissions rep (see #7 above).

9. FOLLOW UP PHONE CALLS.

Wait a week or two after the above information is mailed. Call the admissions office to find out if they have received the information and to get a sense for the decision timeline. If your admissions rep is available, ask if there is anything else he/she would recommend you do to enhance your chances of being admitted. By the way, phone calls appear to be more effective than email messages.

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