



The College Application Process:
It Takes a Village

part of the Think College Webinar Series
Presented by
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CHANGING EXPECTATIONS. INCREASING OPPORTUNITIES.

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Our Village



Family

Friends

Current or past employers

Teachers & school staff

Pastor or church community

Who is a part of your child's village?

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Colleges are looking at the village too....

- How prepared are you for your child to go to college?
- Are you comfortable with your child's level of independence?
 - Can you let your child safely fail?
- Is the village realistic in expectations and assessment?
- Can you trust others to foster your child's independence?

Colleges need to know that your child is prepared for this experience and may ask you just as many questions about your son or daughter!



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Getting Started

- Talk to your child about college
 - Personal Goals
 - Career Goals
 - Expectations
- Narrow down the colleges that are the right fit considering
 - Distance
 - Deadlines
 - Pros and Cons
 - Personal Ranking



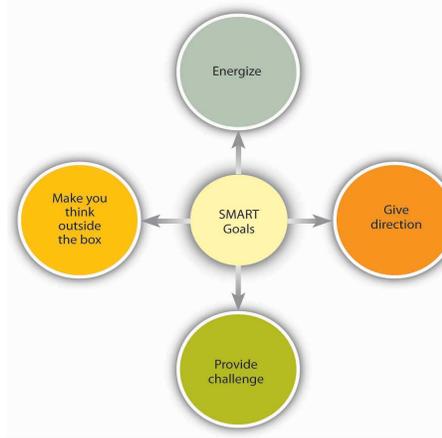
Pictured here is a vision board, which we used to help brainstorm as a group about what we thought of each college, what questions we had, and more...



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Tools To Help Identify Goals

- Person-Centered Planning
- Self-determination
- Life Planning
- Career Development
- Strengths-based Assessments
- CIRCLES meeting



For more information on planning, visit these resources:
 PACER Center: <https://www.pacer.org/transition/learning-center/independent-community-living/person-centered.asp>
 Self-determination.org: <http://www.selfdetermination.res.ku.edu>



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ONE PROGRAM IS NOT LIKE THE OTHER...

Not standardized across programs

What additional information or documentation is required

Early action



Unique forms and distinct application deadlines

Interview process

Costs to apply, tuition, fees, housing, and more



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Common Data Requests

- High School Transcript
- Recent IEP or Education Plan
- Individual Plan of Support from Division of Rehabilitation Services
 - Vocational Rehabilitation Status
- Neuropsychological evaluation (completed in past two years)
- Functional Behavior Assessment
 - Guardianship paperwork
 - Medical Physical



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Common Application Requests

 PERSONAL ESSAY OR STUDENT QUESTIONNAIRE	 RECOMMENDATIONS (AT LEAST 2)	 EMPLOYMENT	 VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCES
 DAILY LIVING ACTIVITIES	 DAY IN THE LIFE	 STUDENT GOALS	 EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION



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Personal Essay

What are your biggest strengths?

What do you like to do in your free time?

Why do you want to go to college?

What are your dreams for the future?

What skills do you want to learn?

Who are you?

- Be creative
- Memorable
- Power point
- Video
- What to include



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Letters of Recommendation

Think ahead and help create relationships with people who can provide a good recommendation.

- Personal (non-relative)
- Educational (teacher, administrator)
- Extracurricular (coach, other type of instructor)
- Professional (employer, volunteer coordinator, service provider)



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Employment and Volunteer Experience



- Demonstrate responsibility**
 - Team manager
 - Volunteer at charity event
- Demonstrate independence**
 - Church activities
 - School ambassador
- Demonstrate ability to learn**
 - Library assistant
 - Barrista



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A Day in the Life

TIME	ACTIVITY	ASSISTANCE	SUPPORT
EARLY MORNING			
MID MORNING			
AFTERNOON			
EARLY EVENING			
EVENING			
NIGHT			



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Daily Living Activities/Skills Inventory

- Supervision required/ stays home alone
- Takes medication independently
- Personal hygiene routine (brushing teeth, combing hair, dressing)
- Gets up independently
- Follows a schedule

- Deals with conflicts
- Communicates needs
- Can share personal information
- Adjusts to new situations
- Identifies money

- Manages belongings
- Takes public transportation
- Finds way around in new places
- Asks for help
- Uses phone

- Uses email/text
- Follows directions
- Copes with stress



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ANTICIPATED NEED FOR SUPPORT

- Taking care of yourself
- Living on your own

- Academic interests and supports
- Preferred method of learning



- Assistive technology
- Financial management
- Talents and strengths



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Plan Your Campus Visit

Watch Online Videos

Attend open house

Review activity and news on social media

Schedule appointment with program staff

Connect with other parents

Student connections



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The Interview

What to expect

- Panels of staff or students
- May last over an hour
- Student alone or with family
- Use of Skype or Facetime

How to prepare

- Practice with people who you do not know
- Take a video
- Create three questions about the program
- Review goals
- Review strengths and weaknesses



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Common Interview Questions

Are you excited to live away from home?

What are your future goals?

Why do you want to go to this college?

How are you going to take care of yourself?

What are you good at?

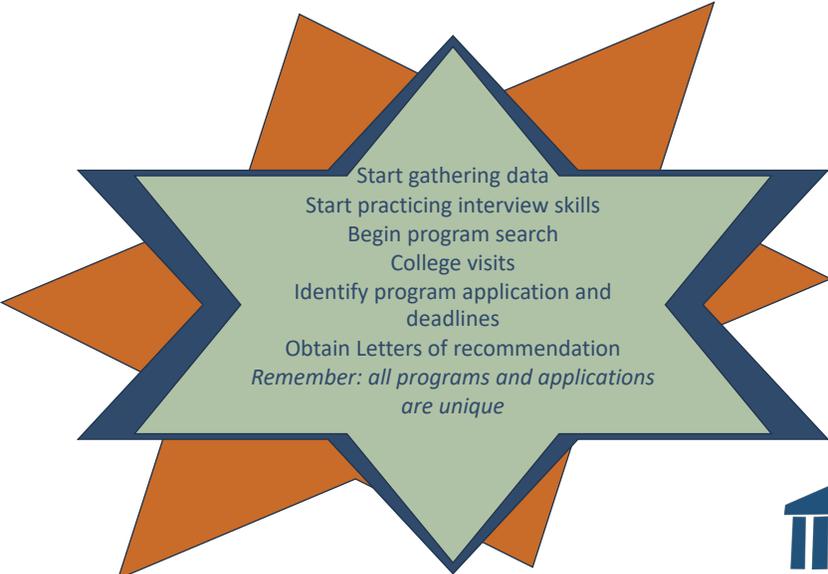
What kind of things do you need help with?





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The Take Aways



- Start gathering data
- Start practicing interview skills
- Begin program search
- College visits
- Identify program application and deadlines
- Obtain Letters of recommendation

Remember: all programs and applications are unique



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No one can do it alone, you (and your child) need a village to be successful!

