Think You Can’t

#1. I can’t go to college -- nobody in my family has ever gone.

WRONG. In every family, someone has to be first. Why not you? For instance, you may have to explain to the family why college is important to you. On the other hand, being first is likely to be a source of pride, for you and for your family.

#2. I can’t go to college, because I can’t afford it.

WRONG. Most students get financial aid to help pay for college, and most aid is based on need. This means that the less money you have, the more aid you might get.

#3. College is too hard for me.

NOT YOU, TOO! Most students worry about being good enough for college, so you’re not alone. One idea: in high school, don’t just study -- learn how to study. Most good students have strategies for studying. Once you learn how to study, chances are you’ll do fine. Still need help? Professors are really helpful, and so are tutors.

#4. I’ve been in school for 9 years. That’s enough! I just want a good job.

GIVE COLLEGE A CHANCE. It’s not like high school or junior high. For one thing, in college you pick a major -- a subject area that you want to learn about. As for that good job -- the best jobs and the best salaries go to college grads.

#5. I can’t go to college -- I don’t know what to do with my life.

JOIN THE CROWD. Thousands of college freshmen haven’t decided on a major or on a career. That’s how college helps. It exposes you to all sorts of subjects you’ve never heard of before. College is a great place to learn more about careers you’ll love for life.

#6. I can’t go because I don’t know how to apply, or where I want to go.

WRONG. Tell your high school counselors you want to go to college fairs, where colleges introduce themselves to students. Ask them how to write to schools for information. Try to visit colleges that interest you. Keep at it. After a while, you’ll get a feel for differences among colleges, and start to know what you want.

#7. I can’t go to college, because I just won’t “fit in”.

NOT SO. 1: Most colleges have students from many backgrounds. Homesick? Need a hand? Look for people with your background in the African-American club, on the soccer field, or in a Korean study group, etc. But remember: 2. College is a great place to meet new kinds of people with different life-styles. And the more people you understand and feel comfortable with, the better prepared you’ll be for the world after college.

Go To College?
Where Am I?

Where Should I Be?

By Kathy Randels

First semester is over! Only a few short months remain before high school graduation. Most of you have already begun the process of thinking about future plans--colleges, vo-tech centers, trade schools. Many of you have dreams of where you want to go, and maybe even some idea of what program of study you would like to complete there. But dreams require actions before they can become a reality. This checklist is a guide to help you determine where you are in the college application process, and the things you must do in order to make sure your dream of attending the college of your choice becomes a reality.

Application mailed to college or colleges of choice.
- Be sure to send needed application fees.
- Apply at more than one college. (Remember to include at least one college in the area, such as Wichita State University or Butler County Community College. This will ensure your eligibility for financial aid at a local school, if money does not come through for a college farther away.)

High school transcript sent to college or colleges of choice.
- See your high school registrar or counselor. You will need to complete a special form to request the sending of an official school transcript.

ACT or SAT Test Taken
- Send your ACT/SAT test scores to your colleges of choice.

FAFSA completed and mailed.
- Remember that both you and your parents will need to complete 1996 Tax forms before you fill out the FAFSA. Taxes do not necessarily need to be filed with the IRS before the April 15 deadline date, but use information on the completed tax forms to fill out the FAFSA now.

Watch the information you receive from your colleges of interest for other deadline dates.
- In order to meet the Kansas deadline date for priority consideration, your FAFSA must be processed by April 1, 1997. This means the FAFSA forms need to be submitted before the end of February.

If you need assistance with any of the above-mentioned items or would like to participate in a computer search for sources of private scholarships, please contact the Project Discovery Counselor at your high school. You can also reach us most afternoons by phone at 978-3127.

Dreams require actions before they can become a reality.

Five Tips To Better

Understanding Your Financial Aid Award

by Darryl Neighbor

By now you are about ready to make your final decision on a college choice. Often times this choice is not only based on objective criteria such as educational program or personal fit, but one of financial consideration. Consequently, you've applied for financial aid in hopes of receiving enough assistance to make your choice affordable.

Colleges and universities offer a variety of aid programs and inform students in different ways. You should know that there are never two awards exactly alike. Therefore, you must understand the differences and become familiar with the "fine print" or consumer information provided.

You may have heard from friends or family that you should negotiate with colleges and universities for a better financial aid package. After all, everyone's heard that the squeaky wheel gets the grease. In most cases, institutions have provided you with their best aid offer in the initial award. You should not expect that bargaining will be successful.

However, if your family has or will experience a change in family circumstances such as loss of income and/or benefits, divorce, separation, death, unusually high medical and dental expenses or elementary and/or secondary tuition expenses, then you should request another review of your financial aid...
application. If you and your family are requesting this review documentation will be required.

The tips outlined here will guide you in determining whether you should accept or decline an aid offer. You must consider your financial aid offer in terms of long-term commitments as well. You will want to keep in mind the total of your commitment in long-term loans. Loans can provide an excellent source of funding for college; however, you should not enter into borrowing blindly. Some students enter careers without consideration of starting salaries and the relationship to monthly repayment obligations. Be aware of these obligations yearly to keep them in check.

Colleges and universities offer a variety of aid programs and inform students in different ways.

It is best to direct your questions to your college financial aid office. Get your answers and make an informed decision now and for your future.

The following tips will lead you to a better understanding of your financial aid award:

- **Tip #1:** Know whether all or part of your aid offer is renewable.
- **Tip #2:** Inquire whether you can expect a similar award for your subsequent years in college.
- **Tip #3:** Ascertain whether any of the aid is based upon specific GPA requirements, major, participation, etc. Clearly understand the standards of progress established by the college for aid renewability.

- **Tip #4:** Determine whether your aid award will be affected if you receive additional outside scholarships from your high school, local clubs, etc. In other words, you should find out whether or not your aid package will be adjusted by a reduction or eliminated if you receive other scholarships, grants, loans or work and in what order.

- **Tip #5:** Adhere to the time limit for responding to the award letter—typically 15 days. If you need additional time, simply request an extension. Most colleges and universities will grant a reasonable request.

**Ways You Can Develop Good Study Habits**

*By Paul James*

Ever wonder what it takes to be a successful student? Well, if so there is a simple solution and it’s called studying. Few people actually live up to the old phrase “naturally smart.” All students can perform very well in school if they take the time to study properly. Here are a few tips to eliminate test anxiety and to enjoy being a high school student.

All successful students do one thing exceptionally well and that is LISTEN. You must have a good ear to understand exactly what is asked of you. Every teacher has a slightly different teaching style so it is important that we listen to what is asked and tailor this to any given teaching style. Being attentive during class is extremely critical for any student to be successful. Then, read carefully what the teacher emphasizes. Try to increase your memory by practicing with note or flash cards.

**Being attentive during class is extremely critical for any student to be successful.**

Use parents or siblings to assist you with projects. Many people learn more effectively when using human interactive methods. Most important, know what works best for you. If you get a good grade on an exam continue to use those methods that made you successful. Never abandon a method that has given you a great reward! So, listen, be alert, be aware of different teaching styles, and develop personal methods of increasing memory.

Remember, there are many avenues to academic prosperity. Recognize what your strengths and weaknesses are and work to build strengths and eliminate areas of weaknesses. Never be afraid to set goals and make it a rule to get to know your teachers!

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