



# What Can I Expect?

The goal of our virtual College Guidance Program is to guide students in the discovery of an academic environment where they will be successful after graduation from High School. As each student comes to us in a different phase of the college search and application process, we strive to meet each one at his or her particular point in the process, and to lead them through the subsequent steps based on their individual needs.

Some students may know exactly where they want to apply and what they wish to study. Others may have very little idea about their interests and talents, much less how to apply them to college and a career.

## **We can work with students at any point in the process!**

### **Phase One: Exploration and Analysis of Interests, Strengths and Challenges, and Hopes for the Future**

- Student intake interview: interests, plan, goals, dreams
- Analyzing strengths and challenges, school record and background
- Strategic planning to boost credentials, improve high school record, make-up credits, etc.
- Identifying and maximizing "stand out" academic, extracurricular, cultural and summer activities that differentiate the student from other applicants

### **Phase Two: Creating the College Application List**

- Collaborative college selection criteria development
- Generation of initial college list emphasizing best fit
- Virtual College Tour Assistance
- Development of comparison charts and chances of acceptance
- Narrowing down the list to "Target", "Reach" and "Safety" Schools

### **Phase Three: Organizing and Beginning the Application Process**

- Decision Options and Strategies including Early Admission, Early Decision, Single Choice Early Action, Rolling & Regular Admissions, and Spring Term Enrollment
- Development of a specific plan of action to meet deadlines
- Tips on filling out the Common Application & individual college applications
- Assistance with prioritizing and managing applications and deadlines

## **Phase Four: Resumes and Letters of Recommendation**

- Brag sheet design and development
- Resume assistance and updating
- Letters of Recommendation
  - Input on how and from whom to get the best letters of recommendation
  - Appropriate methods to identify and emphasize "defining moments" to recommender
  - Timing, follow through and eventual submission

## **Phase Five: The Application Essays**

- Essays Assistance
  - Brainstorming ideas to develop the "unique" voice
  - Writing & editing sessions which aim to avoid trite topics, reveal life themes, and break through
  - Assistance with addressing nontraditional educational paths to high school graduation such as multiple transfers, wilderness programs, residential programs, etc.

## **Phase Six: Review and Submission of Applications**

- Application Submission
  - Application components (including essays & brag sheets) readied for maximum impact
  - Thorough review of all applications prior to submission
  - Providing and Tracking supporting documentation (such as transcripts)
  - Supervised submission of all applications

## **Phase Seven: Making the Final Selection**

- College Selection Advisement
  - In-depth college selection advising based on acceptances
  - Final comparison of academic programs
  - Emotional, student life, student support fit evaluations
  - Financial considerations

### **Optional Phases: Add-ons Depending upon Student and Family Needs**

- Campus Visitation Preparation
  - Assistance planning visits
  - Logistical Assistance and Appointment-setting
  - Visitation tips & questions to ask
  - Creation and review of Ratings sheets
- Interview Preparation
  - Mock interviews, using actual college interview questions
  - Development of a specific question list for each college to ask the interviewer
  - Feedback of practice interviews to improve techniques and raise comfort and confidence