



Getting In: A College Coach Conversation Thursday at 1 PM Pacific

April 20th 2017: Does Applying to More Highly Selective Schools Increase the Odds of Acceptance: Office Hours, Perils of Gaming the System: Understanding Loan Options

Every year we read a handful of stories about students who are accepted to all eight Ivies and a few other highly selective schools AND hear about students who apply to all of the Ivies and get into none. Regardless of the fact that the latter is much more prevalent than the former, families seem to come away with the idea that applying to more of these selective schools will somehow increase the odds of acceptance. We're going to look at the statistics behind that assumption. In Office Hours, we'll explore another common—but highly flawed—strategy: attempting to game the system to gain an adv

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Featured Guests



Tara Piantanida-Kelly

Tara Piantanida-Kelly comes to College Coach with more than 20 years of experience working in college financial aid offices. She worked her way up from an entry-level financial aid counselor position before accepting her first director of financial aid position at Menlo College. From there, she launched a successful financial aid consulting business, Financial Aid Solutions. From 1995 until 2005, Tara consulted at more than 20 colleges and universities in the San Francisco Bay Area. Since then, she has continued her career as the director of financial aid at Northwest College, the associate director of financial aid at Rochester Institute of Technology, and as a financial aid training sp

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Julia Jones

Julia Jones has been working with adolescents and college admissions for most of her career. She was involved in virtually all aspects of the admissions process at Brandeis University, including overseeing the creation and production of admissions publications and recruitment materials and serving as director of the Brandeis Alumni Admissions Council, a 1000-member network of alumni recruiters and interviewers. During her tenure at Brandeis, Julia also was a member of the New England Association of College Admission Counseling (NEACAC) and served on the planning committees for three NEACAC annual conferences. More recently, she continued to work with high school students and their famili

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Emily Toffelmire

I came to College Coach after working for many years in college admissions and high school counseling. Counseling was a career that interested me because, at the low-performing public high school I attended, college guidance was almost non-existent. The inequality of access I saw firsthand inspired me to earn my Master's of Education and work in public schools. I also spent time at an overseas school in Thailand guiding students through the application process for universities around the world. I later transitioned to admissions at USC, where I began as an assistant director, recruiting and reading thousands of freshman and transfer applications. I later moved on to the USC Dornsife Colleg

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