

Common Sense Answers to Commonly Asked Questions

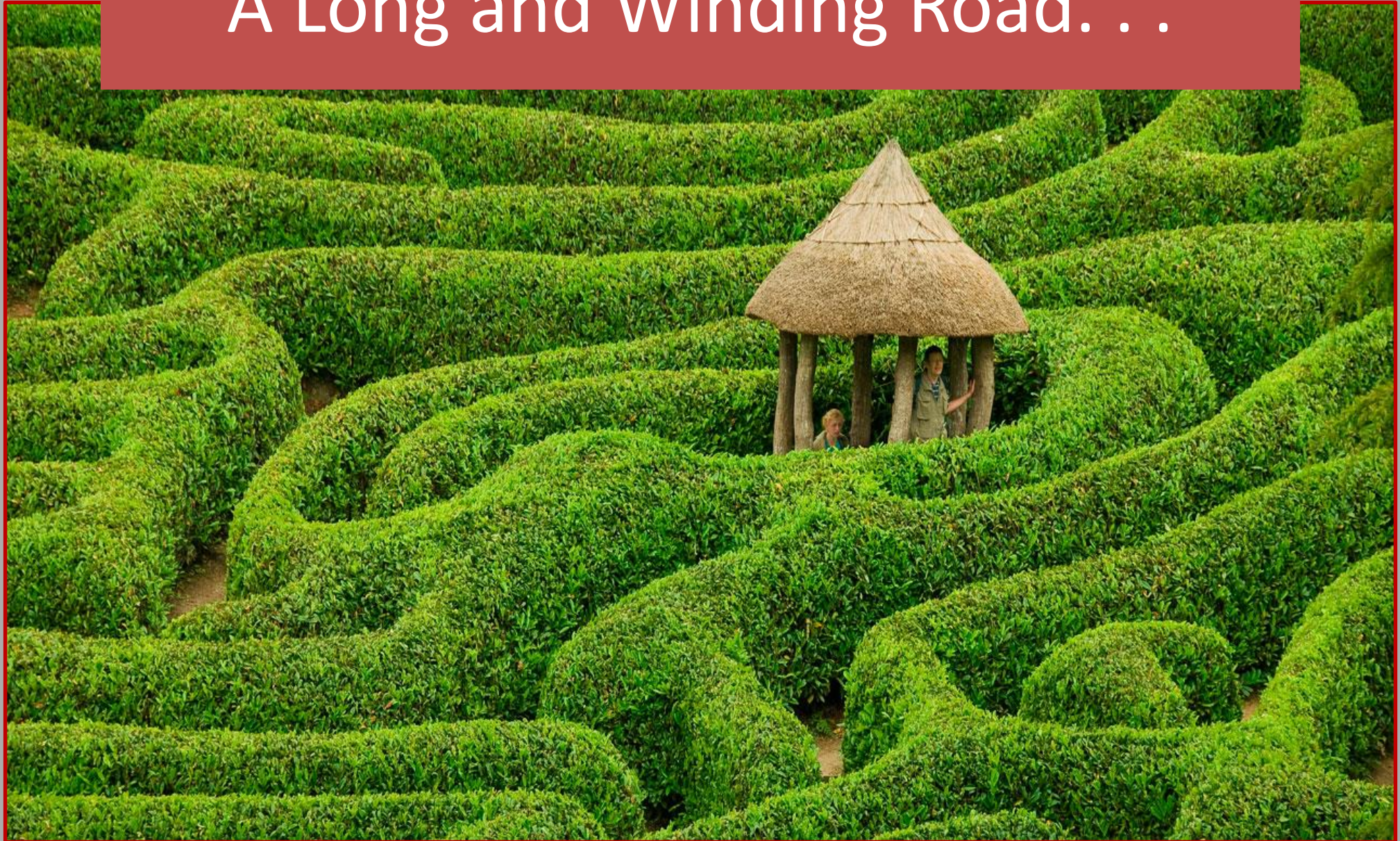
A College Counseling Session

with

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Common Sense College Counseling

A Long and Winding Road. . .



Overview

School Course Planning

Standardized Tests

Extracurricular Activities

Summer Plans

Choosing Colleges

Money

Applying to Colleges

School Course Planning

Myths and Questions

- How many years of World Language?
- More is always better.
- How many AP classes do I need to get into college?
- I have to max out all of the higher-level classes offered at my school.
- Colleges don't care about subjects outside my area of interest.



School Course Planning



LWSD Graduation Requirements

4 years English
3 years math
3 years science
2 years world language
3 years social studies/history
2 years fine arts (PPR)
1 year CTE
.5 years health
1.5 years PE

College Admission Requirements

4 years English
3-4 years math
3-4 years science
2-3 years world language
3 years social studies/history
1 consecutive year fine arts

School Course Planning



**The most rigorous
curriculum**

Available to you

That you can manage

Standardized Testing



Test Prep



*Practice
SAT/ACT*



I need to take the SAT and the ACT multiple times, right?
Everyone has to do at least 2 years of test prep
I shouldn't take the AP exam unless I'm sure I'll get a 4 or 5
Some colleges prefer the SAT to the ACT
What score do I need to get into college?

Standardized Testing Timeline

- PSAT fall of sophomore year
- PSAT/NMSQT fall of junior year
- SAT or ACT junior year (1-3 times MAX)
- AP tests spring immediately after taking class
- SAT subject tests spring of junior year (or right after class)*

*note – very few colleges require Subject Tests anymore!



Extracurriculars



I have to play a sport



I have to play a musical instrument

How many hours of volunteer work do I need to get into college?

I have to start my own company/non-profit



If I don't get a great internship, I'll never get into college

Extracurriculars



School-based

Outside

Work/Volunteer

Summer

Have fun, Stay busy, Try new things

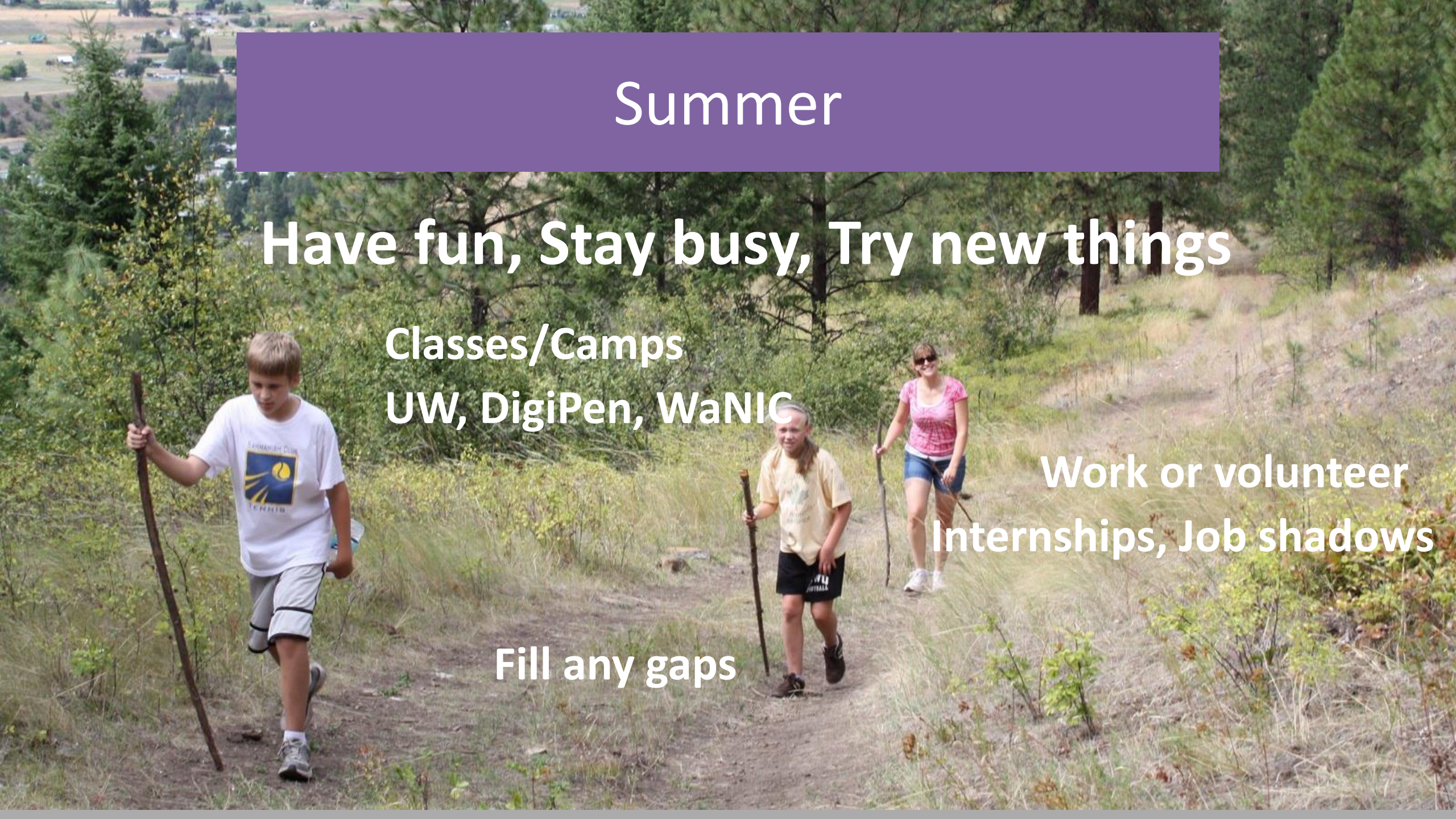
Classes/Camps

UW, DigiPen, WaNIC

Work or volunteer

Internships, Job shadows

Fill any gaps



Choosing Colleges

If I don't go to a top 50 college, I will be
a failure

If I've never heard of the college, it's no
good

“Liberal Arts” means “no money”

I can't afford a private college

I can't afford to go out of state

Explore Colleges



Virtual Visits

- Collegeboard.org
- College Navigator
(nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator)
- YouTube
- Many colleges have “virtual tours” on their websites!

Vacation Visits

- Big, small, urban, rural, public, private
- Start with any schools
- Spring break visits
- Summer tours



Narrow it Down

Type of School

- Urban/suburban/rural
- Large (15,000+), medium (4000-15000), small (under 4000)
- Liberal Arts College, Specialty School (engineering, arts, language), Research Institution
- Majors/minors, research, class size
- Activities & Extracurricular Opportunities

Over 2500 4-year Colleges!

Location

Where in the world are YOU going to go??



Other Considerations

Public or Private?

Public – Institutions that are funded by the state

University of Washington

University of Michigan

University of California (Berkeley, UCLA)

Private – Self-funded institutions

Seattle U

Princeton

Gonzaga

Duke

Stanford

USC

Aren't public schools always cheaper????



Money

Paying

EFC = Expected Family Contribution

Use the emulator on the
College Board site to determine
your family's EFC

NPC = Net Price Calculator

Found on every college's website

Look also at average time to graduation!

EFC Calculator

Welcome — Status — Formula — Family Info — Student Info — Finances — Results — Help

Student Status

These questions determine the student's status — whether the student applying for aid is "dependent" or "independent." If at least one answer is "Yes," then the student is considered "independent" for financial aid consideration.

Financial aid eligibility is, in part, determined by a student's dependency status. Independent students are treated differently from students who are dependent on their parents. Federal programs do not require parental data from independent students, therefore independent students are not asked for parent data as part of this calculator. Some schools and programs in awarding their institutional funds, however, require parental information even if the student is considered independent based on the criteria below.

Dependent vs. Independent

Was the student born BEFORE January 1, 1992?

Is the student an orphan or a ward of the court, or is the student an emancipated minor?

When the student was the student's parents' foster care, or was the student's parents'...

GONZAGA UNIVERSITY this is where PROMISE BEGINS

GU Home About Gonzaga Academics Admissions Athletics Campus Resources Student Development

Net Price Calculator

The Financial Aid Estimator provides an early approximation of what a freshman could expect to pay at Gonzaga University. This is not an official application for financial aid. To be considered for financial aid please complete the Free Application For Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

This estimate is not intended for graduate, transfer, readmitted, international or returning students.

Step 1: Please provide the requested information. Your responses will be used to calculate an estimated amount that students like you paid - after grant aid and scholarships but before student loans - to attend this institution in a given year.

Financial aid: Do you plan to apply for financial aid?
☒ Yes ☐ No

Age: How old are you?

Living arrangement: Where do you plan to live while attending this institution?
☒ On-campus (in a residence hall, dormitory, or on-campus apartment)
☐ Living on my own or with a roommate
☐ Living with my parents or other family members

Residency:
☐ I am a resident of Washington State
☐ I am a resident of California or Hawaii
☐ I am neither a resident of Washington State nor California or Hawaii

GU Home | Campus Resources | Offices and Services A-Z | Student Financial Services | Financial Aid | Forms & Resources

Applying to College



The image shows a close-up of a 'UNIVERSITY APPLICATION' form. The title 'UNIVERSITY APPLICATION' is printed in large, bold, black capital letters at the top. Below the title, the form is divided into sections. The first section is labeled 'Personal Information' and contains fields for 'Name', 'Address', 'City', 'State', and 'Zip'. A black pen is resting diagonally across the 'City' and 'State' fields. Below this section is a section labeled 'Standardized Tests' which lists various tests: 'College Test (MAT)', 'Second Examination (GRE)', 'Management Admission Test (GMAT)', 'Nursing Admission Test (NCAT)', 'Lawyer Test (LSAT)', 'Medical Test (DAT)', 'Engineering Test (EAT)', and 'Nursing Admission Test (PCAT)'. The form is white with black text and lines.

- I have to apply to at least 30 colleges
- The application process is really complicated
- Grades and test scores are the only important parts of the application

Applying to College

Start during junior year

Create a “big list” – up to 30 schools

Narrow it down to 6-12

1-2 “likely” schools

2-5 “possible” schools

2-5 “reach” schools

Determine which application(s) you’ll need to complete

The screenshot displays a college application portal. At the top, there are navigation tabs: Dashboard, My Colleges, Common App, College Search, and Financial Aid Resources. The 'My Colleges' tab is active, showing a list of colleges on the left and detailed information for Boston University on the right.

My Colleges List:

- Boston University -
- Chapman University +
- Duke University +
- Georgia Institute of Technology +
- Gonzaga University +
- Harvard University +
- Linfield College +
- Loyola Marymount University +
- Northwestern University +
- Pomona College +
- Rensselaer +

Boston University Details:

Contact Info

Phone: (617) 353-2300
Fax: 617-353-9695
Email: admissions@bu.edu
233 Bay State Rd
Boston, MA 02215
USA

[View College Website](#) | [Virtual Tour](#)
[College Navigator \(Department of Education\)](#)

Application Deadlines

September	January
First Year Early Decision - 11/01/2017 Regular Decision - 01/02/2018 Early Decision II - 01/02/2018 Early Admission (juniors only) - 01/02/2018	First Year Regular Decision - 11/01/2017

Application Information

Application Fees :
First Year Domestic Fee- \$80
First Year International Fee- \$80

Standardized Test Policy:
[Always Required](#)
SAT w/o Essay or ACT w/o Essay

Courses & Grades:
Not Used

Recommendations:
School Report Required

Instructions and Help

What timezone will display on my application submission?
Submission for all applications is recorded in Eastern Time. That is the submission time visible to ... [+]
[\[more\]](#)

Where are the application requirements for a specific school listed?
Click on the name of the school in the My Colleges tab to view the requirements for that school. ... [+]
[\[more\]](#)

Deadline Information
The application deadline is at 11:59 PM of the stated deadline da ... [+]
[\[more\]](#)

Can schools see the My Colleges list?
A school cannot view any other schools on your My

Types of Applications

- Common App
- Coalition App
- School-specific app
- System-specific app

THE COMMON
APPLICATION

UNIVERSITY
OF
CALIFORNIA



T H E C O A L I T I O N

Application Materials

Resume

Name of Candidate
Their home address
Phone number, preferably a mobile

Skills

- number one
- number two
- number three

DATA – personal info, grades, test scores

ACTIVITIES – resume or activities list

ESSAYS – general & school-specific

SCHOOL INFORMATION – provided by counselor

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION



RECOMMENDED

COMMON SENSE

COLLEGE COUNSELING

For a copy of this presentation, please go to
<http://www.lwptsa.net/>

Anne Holmdahl
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UCLA Certificate in College Counseling with distinction