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KEY RESOURCE:

LOAN SIMULATOR

One of the most useful resources out there for families who are navigating the college admissions process is the **Loan Simulator** through the US Department of Education.

Please go to: <https://studentaid.gov/loan-simulator/>

Essentially, you can calculate your loan payments and then choose a repayment plan that makes most sense for you.

You're able to see how you can reduce your monthly payments (which may increase the total amount you end up paying), and you can see how to pay your loans off faster. You can see the impact of suspending payments and consolidating your loans.

Parents who are thinking about taking out Parent PLUS loans can use this tool as well. You can quickly see how staggering the cost of these loans can be for many families.

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS NEWS

Many college endowments have swelled recently, thanks to the soaring stock market and venture-capital returns. WashU's endowment, for example, reported a 65% return, their biggest gain ever. Duke's endowment gained 56%. Many experts see this boom as highly unusual, and some worry that start-up valuations could collapse, which would cause these universities to give back these returns. Regardless, this news should remind all of us to review the financial health of colleges that make the final list. Here's how:

- Check out this article:

<https://www.edmit.me/en/resources/how-to-assess-the-financial-health-of-a-college-or-university>

- And go to this website:

<https://tuitiontracker.org/fitness/>

COLLEGES IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

RHODES COLLEGE

- Location: Memphis, TN
- # of Undergrads: 1,790
- Acceptance Rate: 51%
- Student / Faculty Ratio: 10:1
- Returning Freshmen: 87%
- % Receiving Merit Aid: 89%

INTERESTING FACTS:

- A College That Changes Lives
- Super strong honor system
- Especially strong in natural and social sciences, with state-of-the-art labs and equipment
- Average class size is 13 students!
- Partnership with St. Jude Children's Hospital provides summer and school year research opportunities
- 80% of students involved in community service
- Social life is centered around Greek life
- Plenty of bars and clubs with live music in Memphis, a city with a lot to offer and a lot of need
- Gothic architecture draws comparisons to Hogwarts
- As a student says, "Passion runs this place"

EMERSON COLLEGE

- Location: Boston, MA
- # of Undergrads: 3,827
- Acceptance Rate: 40.6%
- Student / Faculty Ratio: 14:1
- Returning Freshmen: 89%
- % Receiving Merit Aid: not known

INTERESTING FACTS:

- In the heart of Boston's Theater District
- Specializes in communications and the arts (22 majors) and has topnotch performance and production facilities
- Professors are working directors, producers, actors, editors, and writers
- Students take courses in 3 areas: Foundations, Perspectives, and Global Diversity
- Students can design their own interdisciplinary major
- Students are passionate and career focused
- Extremely LGBTQ+ friendly
- Most live on campus for first two years

COMMON APPLICATION TIPS!

- Towards the right side of the Common App's dashboard you'll find a button called "Application Requirements." Click on it, and you'll get a handy spreadsheet of application deadlines and requirements for all the colleges you're applying to.
- Complete the Common App tab first. This is where you'll answer basic questions about you and your parents, and you'll enter information about your high school and your courses. You'll also enter your activities (work on these in a separate document and then copy them into the Common App) and upload your personal essay (again, work on that in a separate document and then copy&paste).
- You get to specify the teacher/s who are writing Letters of Recommendation for you for each college you're applying to (in other words, you can vary the teachers according to the college).

COMMON APPLICATION TIPS, CONTINUED!

- You also get to specify whether you are submitting test scores for each college you're applying to. You may decide to apply test optional to a few colleges, depending on your scores and the college selectivity.
- Optional essays really aren't optional! Take the opportunity to tell these colleges something more about yourself!
- You will submit each college application separately. When you click on Review and Submit, you'll be able to save your application as a pdf, and then you can print it out (if you so desire) and proof it. Do not bypass this step!
- The Common App gets inundated around big deadlines and could crash. Nothing is worse than clicking "submit" and then watching that little disc spin and spin and spin. Do yourself the favor of submitting a few days (or how about a few weeks?!) before the deadline.

I help students and their families navigate the college admissions process. I empower students to figure out who they are and where they belong, and I provide structure, insight, and enthusiasm as they apply to colleges that are the best fit academically, socially, and financially.

Contact me for a 30 minute complimentary session to learn more!



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