

Finding a College

Lee Binz, The HomeScholar
www.HomeHighSchoolHelp.com
"Helping parents homeschool high school"

Step One: Find a College to Visit

1. Go to a College Fairs

National college fairs

- [NACAC National College Fairs](#) by National Association for College Admission Counseling
- NACCAP North American Coalition for Christian Admissions Professionals National Christian College Fairs: [NACCAP Fair Locations](#) or [MyBluePrintStory](#)
- Local College Fairs: search the largest city and “college fair” and search for the name of your favorite college plus “college fair”

Specialty college fairs

- Performing and Visual Arts College Fair
- (HBCU) Historically Black College Recruitment Fairs
- Colleges That Change Lives Fairs & Information Sessions
- STEM College and Career Fairs

Bring your children, take a class, ask questions, and give them your address

2. How to attend a college fair

Bring children and be prepared

Take classes and grab resources

3. Search for colleges

- Search when testing: PSAT, ACT, and SAT
- Complete online searches
- [The College Board website](#)
- [U-CAN website](#)
- [Princeton Review Counselor-O-Matic](#)

Step Two: Compare College Statistics

1. Compare using information from college websites, promotional materials, and viewbooks
2. Compare using books and magazines
3. Compare statistics using large reference books

[Barron's Profiles of American Colleges](#)

[Peterson's Four-Year Colleges](#)

[Fiske Guide to Colleges 2020](#)

[College Handbook 2018 by The College Board](#)

[Best Colleges 2018 by U.S. News and World Report](#)

[U.S. News & World Report's Rankings are now online](#)

4. Notice which colleges are Reach, Fit, and Safety

Step Three: Visit Colleges in Person

1. Why and when to visit
2. What to do on the visit: meet with admissions, take a tour, sit in on a class, and eat the food
3. How to act: turn off cell phone, children have a warm smile, firm handshake. Take notes.
4. Use all your senses look, hear, taste, touch, smell, feel, and gut instinct
5. Send a thank you note

Step Four: Apply to College

- Application process is long and detailed with inflexible deadlines.
- 3 kinds of applications:
 1. College Application
 2. Common Application
 3. Coalition Application
- Application essays based on meaningful college visits
 1. Self-reflective and personal answers the question, “Who are you?”
 2. Technically perfect answers the question, “How well can you write?”
 3. Unique essay topics answers the question, “Why should we admit you?”
 4. Never repeat anything between essays
 5. Reduce, reuse, and recycle college application essays

Step Five: Choosing a College

- Track applications and scholarships
 - Compare college costs
 - National Candidate Reply Date is May 1st
 - Say NO to college admission
 - How much debt is acceptable
- Prepare teens to leave home
- [College Packing List](#)
- Teach independent living skills
- Teach college academic readiness

Resources

- Coordinating Coffee Break Book: [Finding a College: A Homeschooler's Guide to Finding a Perfect Fit](#)
- Coffee Break Book: [Beyond Academics: Preparation for College and for Life](#)
- College preparation: [The HomeScholar Guide to College Admission and Scholarships](#)
- Transcripts: [Setting the Records Straight: How to Craft Homeschool Transcripts](#)

Additional Reading

- [Three Steps to Finding a College](#)
- [The 9 Keys to a Successful Junior Year](#)
- [Conservative Christian Engineering Schools](#)
- [Conservative Catholic Colleges](#)
- [Reach, Fit, and Safety Colleges](#)
- [Three Kinds of College Applications: Coalition App, Common App, and College App](#)
- [One Common Application - One Uncommonly Challenging Struggle](#)
- [College Admission Essay Tip: Make Grandma Gasp, Not Blush!](#)
- [75 College Application Essay Prompts](#)
- [College Packing List](#)
- [The Perfect Launch Formula for Raising Happy Adults](#)