

NEBRASKA HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR INSTITUTE

ANSWERING ALL THE COLLEGE
QUESTIONS: HOW TO GUIDE
STUDENTS & PARENTS

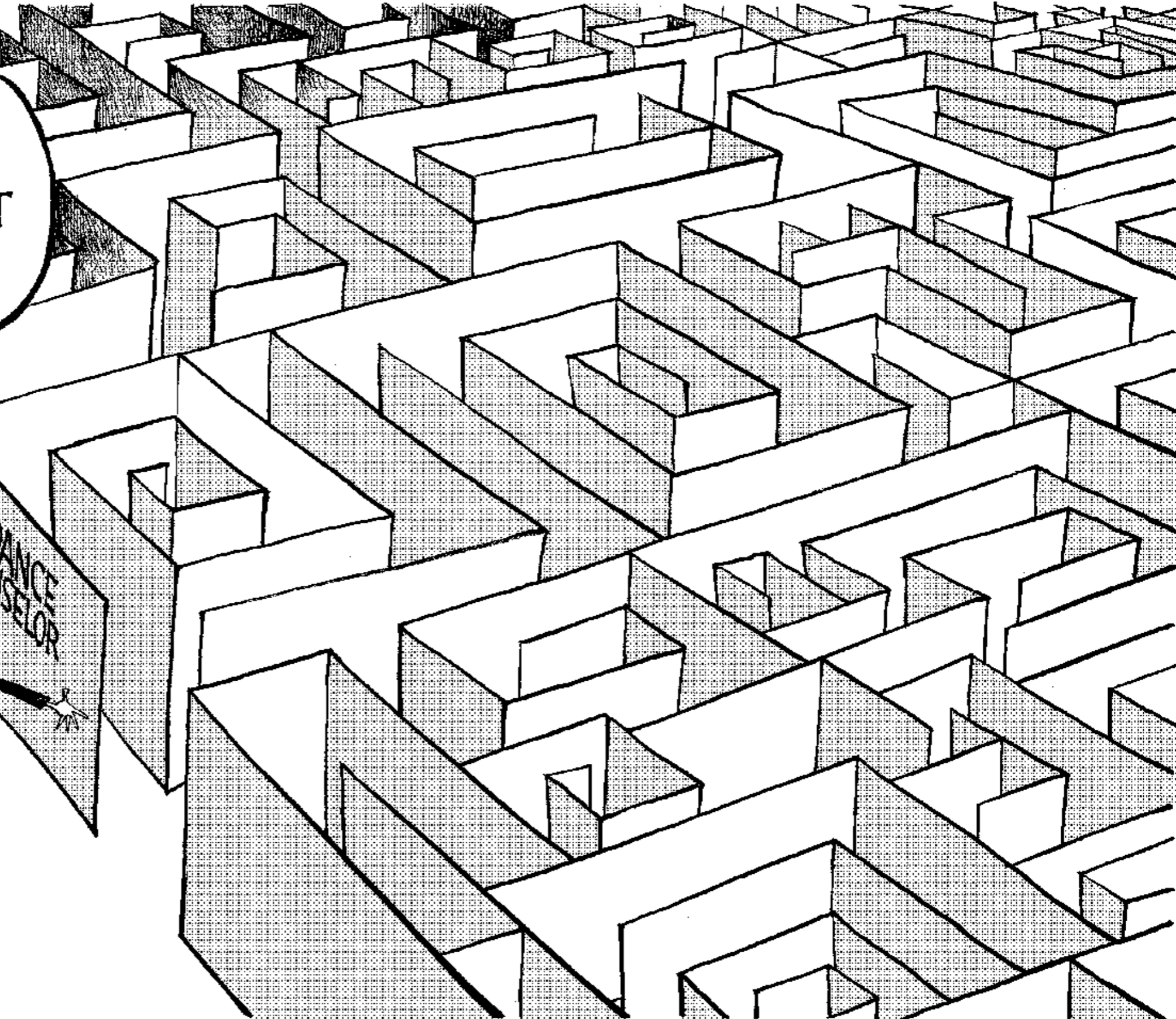
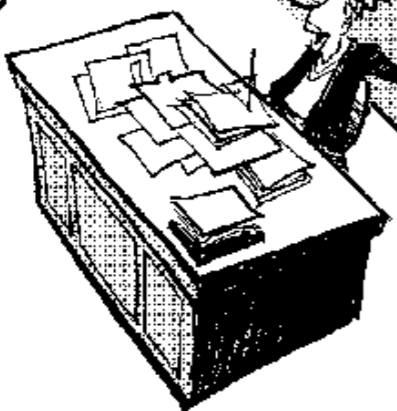
A green street sign with white text that reads "COLLEGE ST". The sign is rectangular with rounded corners and is mounted on a metal post. The background of the sign is a vibrant green, and the text is in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The sign is slightly tilted and is set against a blurred background of green foliage.

COLLEGE ST

VIMBERGSMAN CINCINNATI ENQUIRER 07007

HAVE YOU
STARTED
LOOKING AT
COLLEGES
YET?

GUIDANCE
COUNSELOR

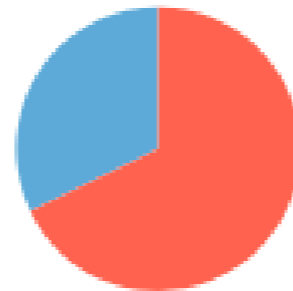




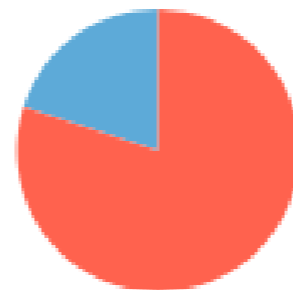
Many College Options

3,300

There are **2,278 four-year** colleges and **1,022 two-year** colleges in the US (degree-granting, nonprofit).



Four-year colleges **accepted two-thirds of freshman** applicants, on average.



80% of freshmen attend four-year colleges that **accept at least half** of applicants.

ACADEMIC RECORD

APPLICATION

ADMISSION TEST SCORES

ADMISSIONS FOLDER

**STUDENT ACTIVITIES
&
CO-CURRICULAR EMPLOYMENT**

**RECOMENDATIONS
-TEACHER
-COUNSELOR**

“College is a match to be made, not a prize to be won.”

–FRANK SACKS



WHY AM I GOING TO SCHOOL? VS WHAT IS THE BEST SCHOOL?

- The myth of fit
- Guideposts
- Find your “blank”

WHAT BEST PREDICTS COLLEGE SUCCESS?

- Myth: It's better to get good grades than take a challenging curriculum.
- Grades vs Challenging Curriculum
- Something else?

WHAT DO COLLEGES LOOK FOR?

- Holistic read vs Data read
- What personal qualities stand out? How has student contributed to school/community? Has student shown special talent in any field such as math, science, art, athletics.

Data read: Numbers of Honors/AP courses, gpa, class rank, ACT/SAT scores.

2015 STATE OF COLLEGE ADMISSION

TABLE 7: PERCENTAGE OF COLLEGES ATTRIBUTING DIFFERENT LEVELS OF IMPORTANCE TO FACTORS IN ADMISSION DECISIONS: FIRST-TIME FRESHMEN

Factor	N	Considerable Importance	Moderate Importance	Limited Importance	No Importance
Grades in College Prep Courses	231	79.2%	13.0%	6.9%	0.9%
Grades in All Courses	229	60.3	31.0	8.7	—
Strength of Curriculum	231	60.2	26.8	10.0	3.0
Admission Test Scores (SAT, ACT)	228	55.7	32.5	7.9	3.9
Essay or Writing Sample	231	22.1	39.0	21.6	17.3
Counselor Recommendation	231	17.3	42.4	27.3	13.0
Student's Demonstrated Interest	231	16.9	33.3	26.8	22.9
Teacher Recommendation	230	15.2	43.5	27.8	13.5
Class Rank	228	14.0	37.7	32.0	16.2
Subject Test Scores (AP, IB)	227	7.0	35.2	32.6	25.1
Portfolio	229	6.6	10.0	30.6	52.8
Extracurricular Activities	231	5.6	43.3	34.6	16.5
SAT II Scores	226	5.3	8.4	23.0	63.3
Interview	229	3.5	23.1	28.4	45.0
State Graduation Exam Scores	228	3.5	11.0	25.4	60.1
Work	230	0.9	21.3	44.8	33.0

— = No institutions in category.

SOURCE: NACAC Admission Trends Survey, 2014.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD COUNSELOR LETTER VS A TEACHER LETTER OR IS THERE A DIFFERENCE?

Teacher: Put the lens on the learner! How the student makes an impact in the classroom, on their peers and react to challenges within the classroom. Main focus is on academics

Counselor: Summarize the **WHOLE** student! Describe what stands out about student. Has student taken advantage of challenging curriculum? How has this student contributed to the school/community. Describe how student demonstrates strong character/maturity.

SHOULD I APPLY EARLY DECISION OR WAIT FOR REGULAR?

- Rolling Admissions
- Traditional Admissions
- Early Decision - BINDING
- Early Action

HOW DO I HELP MY STUDENT ATHLETES?

- NCAA & NAIA

CAMPUS VISITS

- Nothing replaces the value of a campus visit.
- Do your local one first.
- Find your “blank”



FINANCIAL AIDE

2 Types

- Merit based
- Need base

2 Sources

- The college you attend
- “Outside” sources



MYTHS & REALITIES

- “My high school will get me in to college.”
- “Test Scores are more important than my GPA & Class Rank, and these are the only things colleges care about.”
- “If I ace the ACTs or SATs I can get in anywhere.”
- “To find the right college, one must first decide on a major and a career.”

MYTHS & REALITIES

- “Big colleges have so much more to offer.” OR “Small colleges offer the most personal education.”
- “Unless I’m in a big city, I’ll be bored.”
- “I need to apply to 10 or more colleges to assure I get into one.”
- “The more prestigious a college is, the better the education will be.”
- “Even if I get financial aid, I will still have large loans to repay when I graduate.”

QUESTIONS?