



**BE SMARTER
THAN YOUR
SOURCES**



Soar To College.com



THE 10 COLLEGE ADMISSION SECRETS NO ONE TALKS ABOUT

You've likely heard some of the most common pieces of advice about what your child should be doing to get into their dream college:

- ❖ "Enroll in every Honors and Advanced Placement (AP) course your school offers."
- ❖ "Join as many clubs and teams as you can, and try to be president or captain."
- ❖ "Take the SAT and ACT and see which one you do better on."
- ❖ "Do 200+ hours of community service."
- ❖ And so on.

Unfortunately, much of the conventional advice we hear about college admissions is wrong.

Worse yet, following this "bad advice" keeps thousands of great students out of their dream colleges each year—even students who feel they did "all the right things."

On the next page, I've listed the top 10 mistakes that keep students out of great colleges. Next to each mistake, I've listed the solutions no one likes to talk about to help your child stand out—and get in.

If you have any questions about the list or anything else related to college admissions, feel free to get in touch anytime. I respond to your call or email as soon as possible.



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Mistakes

1. Pursuing every extracurricular activity offered at your school and devoting a few hours per week to each one. Believing that quantity > quality.
2. Submitting “cold” applications without making any connections at your dream schools and hoping for the best.
3. Not going on college tours, even when some of your target schools are in your home town.
4. Taking the ACT/SAT without studying hard.
5. When actually studying for the ACT and SAT, you focus mostly on test content, but not test-taking strategies.
6. Developing “safety,” “target,” and “reach” schools without conducting thorough research.
7. Submitting cliché college admissions essays.
8. Treating every part of your college applications (e.g., admissions essays, extracurricular activities) separately.
9. Going into admissions interviews casually and without preparation.
10. Completing FAFSA and hoping that

Solutions

1. Go deep with 1-2 extracurricular activities while demonstrating community engagement. Quality > quantity.
2. Build connections with faculty and admissions staff to become an insider and boost your odds of getting in.
3. Go on college tours at every hometown and regional school on your list of colleges to demonstrate interest.
4. Study harder for the ACT/SAT than any other high school test.
5. Focus at least as much on test-taking strategies as on test content to maximize scores.
6. Conduct deep admissions statistics research to develop “safety,” “target,” and “reach” lists.
7. Work with an expert to craft unique and engaging admissions essays.
8. Make sure all sections of your applications fit together to tell a coherent story about you.
9. Practice presenting yourself as the perfect “fit” on interviews.
10. Apply to many private scholarships to reduce or eliminate college debt.