

Scholarship Opportunities  
Assistance & Research

# SOAR BEYOND

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The Ultimate College & Scholarship Program

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*Created By Elisa Turner*

Rising Above To Succeed

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# Introduction

The Ultimate College & Scholarship Program is a road map for college admissions success. With college admissions more competitive than ever, it's important to have a blueprint, a game plan, which will help you become more successful in the college admissions process.

Too many students pursue the college planning process without really understanding the college admissions criteria and how to create a winning game plan that will greatly increase their chances for acceptance into their dream college. Getting accepted to college really comes down to understanding the key factors that college admissions officers look for in a successful applicant.

Understanding these factors will not only greatly increase your chances for college acceptance, but can also earn you a lot of money.

The Ultimate College & Scholarship Program outlines the key areas that are important to focus on for college planning and admissions. This blueprint breaks down your college planning strategy into FIVE KEY PHASES Understanding and implementing these FIVE KEY PHASES is your ticket to a successful college planning game plan, and a greater chance to getting accepted to your dream college!

Are you ready to learn the Ultimate College & Scholarship Planning Blueprint? Let's get started!

SOAR Beyond

*Elisa Turner*

On the following pages are the five key areas that college admission officers look at when choosing whom to accept for their next entering class. What are the the crucial factors that make the difference of whether a college applicant will be successful or not? Let's find out!



# 5 key Areas of the College & Scholarship Success

## 1

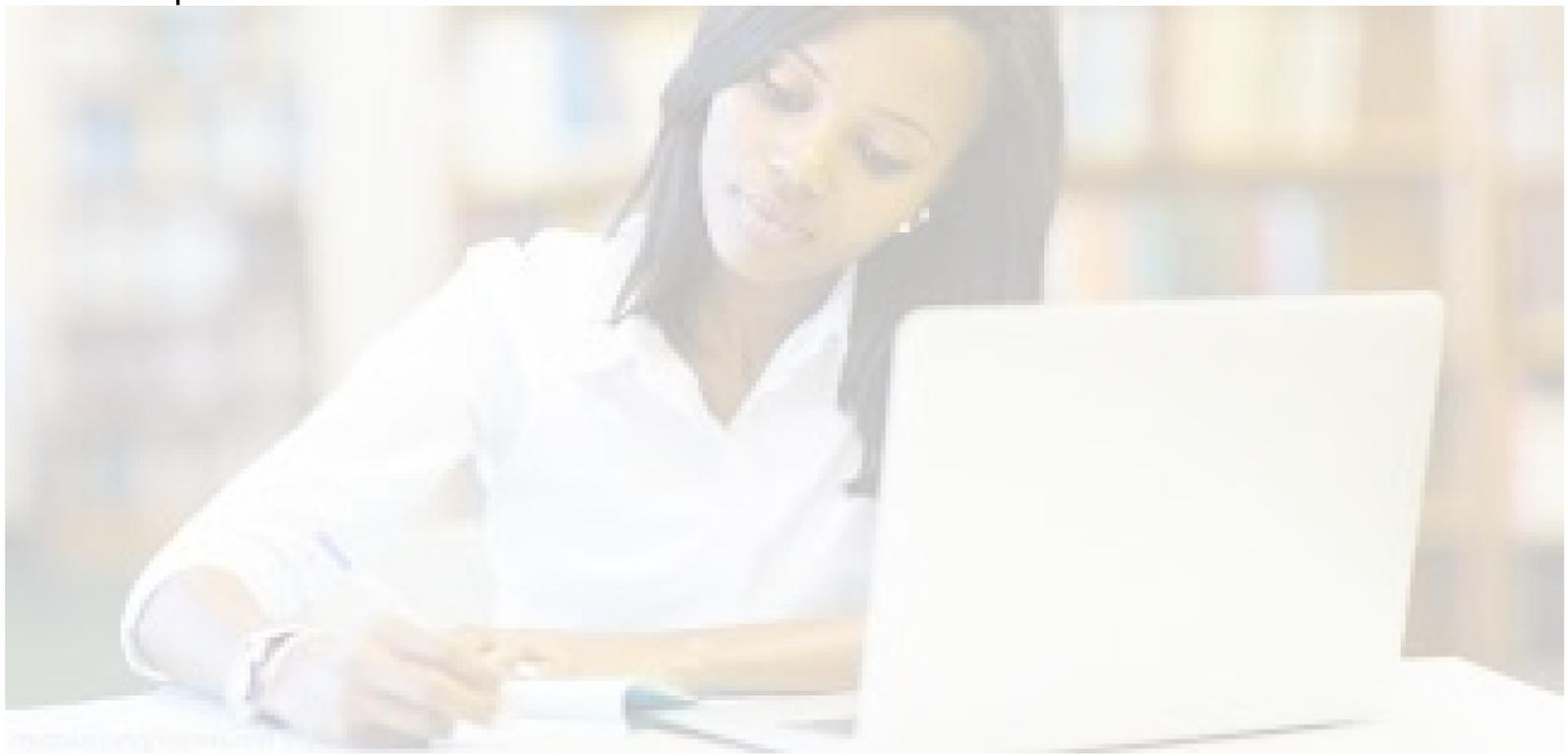
## STRONG ACADEMICS

**The first important factor** when applying to college is to have strong numbers. This means 1) having a high GPA, 2) taking a competitive course load, and 3) earning a solid SAT or ACT score. This area is the most important part of your college application.

According to a study conducted by the National Association for College Admission Counseling, "Grades in college preparatory courses and strength of curriculum are considered by colleges to be the top factors admissions officers look for in a successful applicant, followed closely by an applicant's SAT or ACT score, and then grades in the remaining courses."

What are the college preparatory courses? These are the core classes including: English, math, science, history, foreign language, and visual and performing arts. Your goal is to do as well as you can in these core classes. And if your goal is to get into a really competitive college, then you should take the strongest curriculum your school offers in each of these areas. Additionally, it's important to do well in the non-core classes because admissions officers look at these grades as well.

Now let's discuss the SAT and ACT in more depth. As we've stated, your SAT or ACT score plays an important role in your admissions decision. Obviously, the higher your score, the better. Most colleges will equally weigh the SAT and ACT, so make sure you choose the test that is right for you and the one that will get you the best possible score.



# 5 key Areas of the College & Scholarship Success

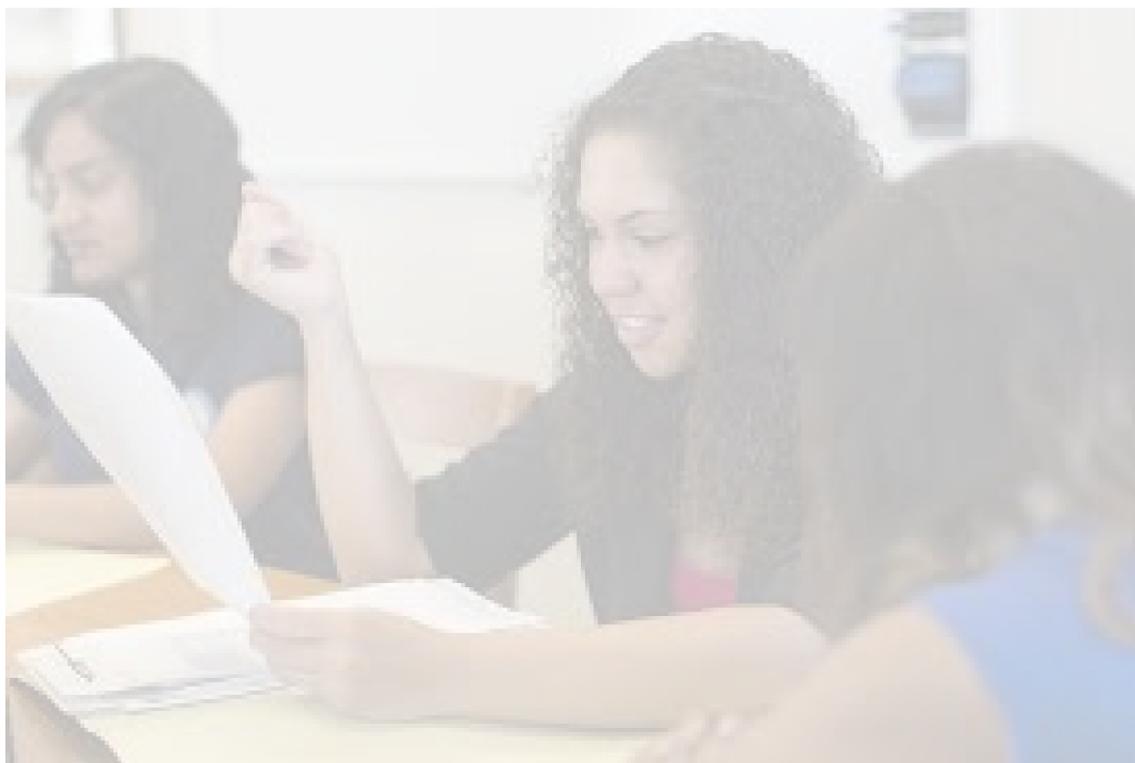
## 2

## STRONG ADMISSIONS ESSAY

In addition to performing well in your courses, and on the SAT or ACT, **the second important factor** when applying for college is the admissions essay. The admissions essay is your opportunity to go beyond the numbers and share with the admissions committee more about who you are including your interests, passions, and experiences.

Now, there are many different types of admissions essays that you may be required to write. What is important to consider when writing your essay is to really understand each college you are applying to and how you believe you would fit in. More importantly, it's about showing the admissions committee how you can add value to the student body. This is your opportunity to share meaningful experiences, stories, challenges, and triumphs that have shaped who you are, and made you the person you are today.

Remember, the college essay is your opportunity to give a **"voice"** to your application—so make it count!



# 5 key Areas of the College & Scholarship Success

## 3

### DEMONSTRATE INTEREST

**.The third important factor** for being successful in the college admissions process is to show a “demonstrated interest” in the colleges you are applying to. Colleges want to know that you, as an applicant, understand what their college is about, and more importantly, that you understand how you would fit into their student body. Remember, colleges are not just accepting students into their entering class--they are accepting future alumni who will be a great representation for their college.

So how do you show a “demonstrated interest” in a college? You need to show in your application that you really understand important factors of the college including its mission statement, core beliefs and values, history and overall vision. Other important steps you can take to show a demonstrated interest is visiting the college, attending an information session, and talking to current students, alumni, and admission officers.

In summary, it's important that you understand each college you are applying to and that you show how you can be a valuable asset to the student body.



## 5 key Areas of the College & Scholarship Success

### 4

## STRONG COUNSELOR AND TEACHER RECOMMENDATIONS

**The fourth important factor** when applying to college is to have strong **counselor** and **teacher recommendations**.

Let's first discuss the **counselor recommendation**. This recommendation is a report that is sent to each college that includes such factors as your GPA, class ranking or %, and the strength of your curriculum taken. Additional factors in the report may include leadership, motivation, ability to contribute, and a written evaluation. Therefore, it's important that you establish a positive relationship with your counselor so they know who you are and what your passions and interests are. Your counselor can then root for you more and give you a stronger evaluation when you apply to college.

Let's now turn to **teacher recommendations**. Teacher recommendations are another important factor in the admissions process. Many colleges will require one or two letters of recommendation, and some colleges will accept even more, depending on the program you apply to. It's important to understand that most of your letters of recommendation will need to come from teachers in your core classes—so make sure you do well in these classes, and that you make an extra effort to stand out. These teacher letters of recommendation carry a good amount of weight, so take them seriously.



# 5 key Areas of the College & Scholarship Success

# 5

## INVOLVEMENT IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

**The fifth important factor** when applying to college is your involvement in extracurricular activities. You don't need to get involved in a lot of extracurricular activities. Just pick two or three that really interest you. It's more important that you get a deeper involvement in the activities you are passionate about, that you take on leadership roles, and that you make a strong contribution.

Examples of extracurricular activities include student government, sports, clubs and organizations, and volunteer opportunities. Remember, it's not about the quantity of extracurricular activities you join—it's about the quality and the depth of involvement in the few passionate activities you do get involved in.



# 5 key Areas of the College & Scholarship Success

## THE WRAP UP

Applying to college can be an exciting time in your life. But you have to remember there are important, strategic steps you need to take so that you can be as competitive as possible in the college admissions process.

Remember, follow these simple guidelines for success in the college admissions process.

1. Always earn the best grades you can while taking the strongest curriculum your school offers. Also, score as high as possible on the SAT or ACT.
2. Bring a voice to your application through your admissions essays.
3. Make sure you understand the colleges you are applying to and how you would be a great fit.
4. Get to know both your counselor and teachers well so that they can be a positive reference.
5. Get involved with a small number of extracurricular activities that you are passionate about, and contribute as much as you can.

We hope you enjoyed The Ultimate College & Scholarship Program Planning Blueprint!

If you want even more great resources to help in the college planning and admissions process, go to [www.SoarToCollege.com](http://www.SoarToCollege.com) where we post regular updates on strategies, tips and success stories to help you develop YOUR college planning game plan!



# 5 key Areas of the College & Scholarship Success

## SMART LEARNING

We are dedicated to helping students and families through the competitive college planning and admissions process. We offer many additional resources to help you become more successful in your college planning and admissions journey:

We provide **FREE** insights, strategies, and tips that give a lot of great information on different college planning and admissions topics. Visit us and learn more at [www.SoarToCollege.com](http://www.SoarToCollege.com)

Look out for our Ultimate College Planning Tips, a monthly coaching newsletters & programs that will give you up-to-date, strategic, and important information to make you as competitive, and successful, in the college planning and admissions process.

We hosts a series of College & Beyond workshops dedicated to helping students and families through the competitive college & scholarship planning and admissions process. The workshops cover different topics of the college planning process and we also bring in diverse expert speakers to give you the best information on college planning and scholarship topics from how to get an edge in the college admissions process to how to pay for the continually rising cost of tuition, and much more!

Visit [www.SoarToCollege.com](http://www.SoarToCollege.com) or subscribe to our newsletter.



# 5 key Areas of the College & Scholarship Success

## ABOUT ELISA

Elisa Turner is dedicated to helping students and parents navigate the college and financial planning process. With admissions more competitive than ever, we will help students develop a game plan that will maximize college admissions success!



Elisa Turner began home-schooling in 1996 and graduated her two children from a non-traditional home-school program. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology Human Services. She has also taught students formerly from private and public-school environments showing increased growth in their academic potential. After years of experience teaching high school, she began assisting with the college and scholarship process. She's the President of SOAR: Scholarships Opportunities Assistance and Research Consulting business and works with families across the Georgia area and across the country virtually.

I helped my own son and daughter win over \$500,000 in college scholarships and now I share my expertise with other parents and their students. I truly have “been there, done that” in regards to helping parents and students navigate the scholarship process. My overall goal is helping students in finding college scholarships, writing unique and compelling scholarship essays, creating amazing scholarship application packets and more. Teaching parents to help their own students win thousands of scholarship dollars.

Elisa Turner has been building her credentials and experience for the last 10 years judging for scholarship competitions, coaching students who win prestigious full scholarships across the country and guiding hundreds of students through the college search, admission and financial aid process.

She has a unique interest to create, inspire, motivate, and empower students for educational success