

# COLLEGE MYTHS

and how to combat them!



## 1 In-state public schools are always the cheapest.

**FACT:** Depending on GPA and ACT/SAT scores, merit aid opportunities can actually make some out-of-state or private school options just as affordable as (or even LESS EXPENSIVE than) in-state, public colleges and universities. Do your homework. For instance, research college websites for out-of-state scholarship information. Don't limit your college search based on this myth.

## 2 If you don't get XYZ on your ACT/SAT, you won't get into a good school.

**FACT:** First, define "good school" not in terms of how highly selective it is, but by what YOU Need/Want/Don't Need/Don't Want in your ideal college experience. Then look for colleges that fit your "University of You." Find out what mid-range ACT is typical for admitted students by Googling "mid-range ACT/SAT (NAME OF COLLEGE)." Then you'll know what you're shooting for.

## 3 If I go to school out East, I'll have to take the SAT.

**FACT:** Back in the day, this used to be true. But over the past decade, this has changed. Now any college or university accepts EITHER the ACT or SAT scores. None requires BOTH. Some schools are even "test-optional." In that case, students often still submit test scores when those scores will help their chances for admission.

## 4 Colleges want well-rounded students.

**FACT:** This is just plain false. Colleges want well-rounded student BODIES. You do YOU. All too often, student involvement comes at the expense of academics, as well as sleep and serenity. Pursue activities you feel passionately about. Go deep, not broad. Don't feel pressured to "be involved in everything" for the sake of college applications.

## 5 I should wait until I apply to visit college campuses.

**FACT:** Visit early. Visit often. Start visiting college campuses long before you have a sense of where you might want to go to college or what you want to study. College campus visits are the single-best way to figure out what you like and don't like among various college options and get a feel for what "College" is all about. Your first visits can simply be the schools closest to you. Just go!

## 6 It doesn't really matter where I go to school, as long I get a degree.

**FACT:** Whether or not to go to college and where to go is the first major life decision you'll make as a young adult. It impacts the trajectory of your early adult life. Who you meet, what you experience, what you learn and who you become 4-5 years from now are all impacted by where you go to college. There are many great options, and no single magic choice, but your college choice matters greatly.

