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ABSTRACT

The guide for junior and senior students bound for college or other post-secondary school programs offers the possibility of a systematic study of the individual student and his resources. It is hoped that the choice of a college will be based on such an analysis. These topics are discussed: overview of college planning; analysis of self (ability, achievement, initiative and independence, motivation, and money); determining what is wanted in a college (selectivity, cost, location, size, community, curriculum, student body make-up, religious orientation, fraternities and sororities, experimental programs, living arrangements, and grading); college costs (sources of income and probable expenses); sending for and using college catalogues; major required admissions tests (PSAT/NMSQT, SAT, Achievement Tests); College Boards (when to apply for and take them); the college interview and visit (tips, suggestions, and common questions); and steps in searching for, deciding on a college, and making application. Each topic has questions and spaces for the student to fill in his own information for analysis. (SC)

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So you want to
Go To

COLLEGE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,
EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
EDUCATION

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A guide for juniors and seniors

PARKWAY PROGRAM
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

Dec 1 2015

The trend throughout the nation is toward a more rational approach to the matter of college entrance and other post-high school programs. There is a need for the school to help each student and his parents to make a wise choice of college. PARKWAY is attempting to do this in a number of ways. One way is to offer this guide so that students may make a systematic study of themselves and their resources. It is hoped that the final choice will be based upon that analysis.

We hope that you find this guide useful, and suggest you use it with your parents, your teachers, your tutorial leader and your college counselor.

Our special thank to the staff of the Alternative Schools Project, Radnor, PA., whose work we adapted for our Parkway students.

PARKWAY will continue to schedule visits to our school by admission and financial aid officers from many colleges and universities. During these visits students will have the chance to ask questions about the programs and life of the institutions in which they are interested.

"Hutch"

Robert C. Hutchins
Director

September 1973

1. AN OVERVIEW

If you are a junior now: there are only three things you really should be planning to do:

1. Take the PSAT's in October.
2. Take the SAT's in March or May.
3. Visit a few colleges to get a feel for what it's like.

If you are a senior now: you have a tighter schedule to follow. And its gets complicated - as you will see later - depending on the kind of admissions plan you want. But let's assume you want a regular plan. This is about how you ought to move:

About this time	Take this step	Check this lesson in this guide
September	Decide on whether or not you want to go to college next year	2
September	Decide on what you want in a college	3
September	Decide on how much you can afford	4
September	Make a preliminary search in the reference books	5
September	Send for catalogues	6
September or October	Register for SAT's	7,8,9
October or January	Register for Achievements	7,8
October - November	Visit 3 or 4 colleges	10
November or December	Take SAT's	7,8,9
December	Send in applications	11
January or March	Take Achievements	7,8

Excercise 1:

At this point, why not work up your own tentative calendar that you plan to follow. For each month listed below, indicate what steps you plan to take and then, as you take them, enter in the last column the date completed.

Month	Step Planned	Date Completed
September		
October		
November		
December		
January		
February		
March		
April		
May		

2. START WITH YOURSELF

The place to begin is with a systematic analysis of you and your resources. That means what you have - and it includes:

1. How much academic ability do you have? One of the critical requirements for college admissions is academic ability. One measure of your academic ability is the College Board Scholastic Aptitude Tests (SAT's) or the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Tests (PSAT's). More about those later. Meantime, ask yourself these questions: do you have a large vocabulary? do you have good reading ability? do you have good ability in understanding mathematical concepts? is it easy for you to learn new facts and ideas?

2. How much have you used your ability - what is your scholastic achievement? Since Parkway assigns no grades you should review all your evaluations and, for further clarification, confer seriously with those who taught you. Their assessment of you, coupled with your self-assessment will help to provide you with some objectivity. Another good measure of your scholastic achievement is the Achievement Test given by the College Board, explained in Chapter 8.

3. How much initiative and independence do you have? Many studies show that those students who fail the freshman year do so because they haven't learned how to handle freedom. College teachers don't check on your homework each day; they don't particularly care whether or not you have read the text; they don't supervise your study or try to make you learn their subject. And in college you usually have class only 3-4 hours a day, so you have lots of free time to manage. This all means that you will need initiative and independence. (It also means that attending a school like Parkway is a good way to get used to a college atmosphere.)

4. How much motivation do you have? If you really want to go to college, the chances are that you will do better than if you only have a half-hearted inclination. Most people succeed in doing whatever is important to them.

5. How much money do you have? That's important because it will influence the kind of college you begin to think about. If you and your family are strapped financially, then it means you have to think of colleges that don't cost a fortune. (More about that later.)

So it's AIM FOR COLLEGE: Ability, Achievement
Initiative, Independence
Motivation, Money

Excercise 2A: Taking AIM

To get a reading on your readiness fill in this graph as honestly as you can.

I have...	Plenty	About enough	A bit on the low side	Unsure
Ability				
Achievement				
Initiative, Independence				
Motivation				
Money				

Exercise 2B:

For practice: many colleges ask you to write an essay on why you want a college education. To get some practice in doing this and to clear your head about the issue, write an essay and show it to a teacher who can help you evaluate it objectively.

3. DETERMINING WHAT YOU WANT IN A COLLEGE

Now that you have assessed your own resources (and maybe taken the College Boards), your next step is to think about the kinds of colleges which you want to apply to. Before thinking automatically about four-year schools, however, you should give consideration to:

Technical Institutes: two-year institutions which prepare you for specific careers such as medical secretary, lab technician, and computer programmer.

Community Colleges: two-year state-supported institutions which provide both a transfer program for those who want to go on to a four-year college and a terminal program for those who want training a special field.

Junior Colleges: private two-year institutions with both technical training and a liberal arts transfer program.

You should think about the type of college that would be best for you. And the YOU is important; what counts is finding a college where you can best achieve your potential. In general, these matters should be considered:

1. Academic Selectivity: how difficult is it to get into? Don't assume that the "toughest" school to get into is necessarily the best for you - and don't equate "selectivity" with quality. While there are various ways to measure selectivity, the one most often used is the average SAT score of the freshman class. In general we can categorize these as:

Most Competitive:	625 + SAT average
Highly Competitive:	575 - 625 SAT average
Very Competitive:	525 - 575 SAT average
Competitive:	475 - 525 SAT average
Less Competitive:	below 475 SAT average

2. Cost: Since cost is an important factor, you and your family should discuss what maximum annual cost you can afford for tuition, fees, room and board. These ranges are useful:

Under \$1000	2000 - 2500	3500 - 4000
1000 - 1500	2500 - 3000	4000 - 4500
1500 - 2000	3000 - 3500	Over 4500

3. Geographic Location: Decide on what part of the country you prefer.

4. Size of School: Do you want a huge university, a small school or something in between. Think of these ranges: under 1000; 1000 - 5000; 5000 - 10,000; over 10,000.

5. Size of Community: Do you prefer a village, a small town, a small city, a suburb, or a rural community?
6. Curriculum: Are you looking for a certain major or a general curriculum?
7. Student Body: Is the make-up of the student body co-ed, men or women?
8. Religious Orientation: Some colleges are church-related; some independent schools require chapel attendance or religious study.
9. Fraternities and Sororities: Determine whether their presence or absence is important to you.
10. Other Factors: Consider such things as the presence or absence of ROTC, the nature of the sports program, the type of school calendar.

Since you are a student attending an alternative high school, you should consider whether or not you wish to find a college that is also experimenting with such ideas as pass-fail courses, independent study, travel-study or work-study plans and so on. Perhaps we can be of service by discussing some of the changes and mentioning some typical institutions.

1. Experiments in living arrangements: includes co-ed dormitories and off-campus apartments. If this is important to you, check it out with the colleges you are considering, but don't ask about it too soon. Admissions officers might consider it a frivolous concern.
2. Elimination of specific subject requirements: For a long time colleges required students to take a certain number of courses in given areas; these were called "distribution requirements". Many colleges are now dropping such requirements; check the catalogue to see what subjects are required.
3. Modifications of grading systems: Numerous schools are offering "pass-fail" options in one or more subjects. Such changes are described in the catalogue.
4. Work-study programs: These enable the student to attend school for 3/5 of a year and work for 2/5 in some job related to his major field of study. Pennsylvania colleges offering work-study options in certain fields include Cheyney State, Drexel University, Lehigh University, Penn State, and St. Joseph's College.
5. Field, foreign and community studies: These enable students to acquire

credit away from the college or university campus.

6. Multi-campus programs: Sponsored by state university systems or consortiums of institutions, these make it possible for a student to register at one institution and take courses at several. Empire State College, for example, encourages students to utilize the resources of the entire State University of New York (SUNY) system. New Jersey is planning its own Thomas Edison College which will do the same thing. The best know consortium is the University Without Walls, an organization of 20 very different institutions which place a great deal of stress on independent study and encourage students to take courses at any of the cooperating institutions. Some of the active UWW programs include Antioch, Loretto Heights, New College, Bard, Goddard, University of Wisconsin at Green Bay, Hofstra, University of Minnesota and Stephens College.

7. Campus-free colleges: Two colleges are trying to get away entirely from the idea of a campus. The Campus-Free College (Box 161, Arlington, Mass. 02174) offers a network of 200 Program Advisors, professionals responsible for creating highly individualized programs for students. And the Friends World College has a unique program of world-wide travel, study, and volunteer service.

8. Credits without courses: If you think you are sufficiently competent in a college-level course, you can take the College Level Examination Program (CLEP), sponsored by the College Board. If you do well enough, most colleges will grant you credit for the course.

9. Colleges broadly experimental: Several schools have earned a reputation for being generally experimental, typically stressing a great deal of independent study and field work. Among the best known are Bard College, Goddard College, Antioch College, New College, Sarah Lawrence College, Hampshire College, and College of the Potomac.

A final reminder - "experimental" doesn't mean good or bad; the academic standards of the colleges mentioned vary significantly.

Exercise 3: A Profile of the College You Want

For each category listed below, indicate your tentative preferences. This chart will be useful to you later on when you start to make your tentative search.

Category	Your Preference
Academic Selectivity	
Cost	
Geographical Location	
Size of School	
Size of Community	
Curriculum	
Student Body	
Religious Orientation	
Fraternities, Sororities	
Other Factors	

4. COUNTING THE DOLLARS

Like everything else, college costs keep rising with, seemingly, no end in sight. So one important consideration of your early planning is to determine how much college would cost you and then see how much money you can find.

Keep in mind the following: that, despite the cost, a college education is a bargain since it will pay off in the long run with higher lifetime earning for you; the tuition you are charged really pays for only part of the cost of the college education. (Most colleges get somekind of state and federal aid, and many get further support from the contributions of alumni and businesses. Remember, too, that there is no hard and fast relationship between how much a college charges in tuition and how good it is. There are many large state-supported institutions which can provide a good education at lower tuition rates.

With those things in mind, you can set about to compute your college costs. To figure how much college will cost for a year, you must include several kinds of expenses:

Tuition and special fees, such as lab and student activity fees.
Room and board, if you don't live at home.
Travel to and from college (two round trips a year) - or commuting costs if you will live at home.
Books and equipment (about \$100 each term).
Miscellaneous expenses (laundry, transportation on campus, entertainment, and other incidentals - average \$400 yearly).

Where will you get the money?

1. From your parents? Even though many students don't like talking money matters over with parents, this is a time when candor is necessary. Find out how much your parents feel they can afford to contribute to your education.
2. From your own past and future earnings? You know how much you have earned so far, and you can probably rely on some kind of summer job between high school and college. But don't put too much reliance on part-time work at college during your freshman year; most colleges don't recommend work for freshmen, and college jobs are easier to get once you've been there for a year.
3. From the college itself? Most colleges have their own scholarship program. When you apply for admission, be sure to indicate whether or not you are interested in the possibility of financial aid. The amount of such aid is determined usually on the basis of financial need. Most colleges will expect your parents to complete the "Parents' Confidential Statement" of the College Scholarship Service. This service is offered by the

College Entrance Examination Board to help schools make objective and fair estimates of your financial need. If the college requires such a form, get a copy from your counselor. Your parents pay \$3.75 for the first copy sent to a college and \$2.25 for each additional copy. The statement should be filed at least one month before the deadline established by the college or scholarship agency.

4. From local scholarship sources? Check to see if Parkway has set up a scholarship fund. In addition many fraternal, civic, labor union, and industrial companies and other organizations sponsor scholarship programs. A convenient source for such special scholarships is the pamphlet "Need A Lift?", published by the American Legion.

5. From the Pennsylvania state scholarship program? The state administers its own scholarship program through the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency, making support available to student with financial need. If you are interested in applying for a state scholarship, you should take the SAT's in March or April of your junior year, writing in "0490 - PHEAA" in item 11 of the registration form. You will then receive automatically scholarship applications. If you did not take the SAT's in your junior year and are interested in a state scholarship, you can get application forms from your counselor. They must be filed by January 31 of your senior year.

6. A loan from a local bank or other lending agency? The Student Loan Guaranty Program enables qualified students to secure long-term educational loans from banks and savings and loan companies; special benefits of the program include a liberal repayment period, and the payment by the federal government of your full interest costs if the adjusted family income is less than \$15,000 annually. You should apply directly to the lending institution at least 60 days before you will need the money.

7. A loan from the federal government? The National Defense Student Loan Program forgives part of the loan if you enter teaching. You should direct your inquiry to the college you are applying to.

There are plenty of sources for aid. But you and your family are expected to assume as much of the costs as you can. To see how you might do this, work on the exercise which follows.

Exercise 4: Counting Your Dollars for the First Year of College

A. Complete the chart below to compute your probable expenses.

CATEGORY	PROBABLE AMOUNT YOU WILL SPEND
Tuition and Fees	
Room and Board	
Travel or Commuting Costs	
Books and Equipment	
Miscellaneous	
TOTAL SECTION A	

B. Complete the chart below to determine your most likely sources of income.

CATEGORY	PROBABLE AMOUNT
From parents	
From own savings so far	
From own earning between now and college entrance date	
From other sources	
TOTAL SECTION B	

C. The deficit. How much will you be short? Subtract amount B from amount A and enter here:

Now indicate how you plan to make up the difference on the chart below.

CATEGORY	PROBABLE AMOUNT
Scholarship	
Loan	
TOTAL	

5. BEGINNING THE PRELIMINARY SEARCH

Once you have a pretty clear idea of the kind of college you are looking for, you are ready to begin a preliminary search for some possible schools to apply to. In general it is wise to try to find about twelve colleges that seem to meet your requirements.

There are three systematic ways to find these twelve colleges:

1. Check standard reference books that give you complete data about colleges. See your counselor for this information or check your local library.
2. Use the College Suggestor, a box of key-punch cards that function like a home-made computer. Check your local branch or main library.
3. Subscribe to a computerized college selection service. There are several of these search services which, for a fee, will give you a list of colleges that seem to meet your requirements. Your counselor has the facts about these services.

If you have trouble using any of these sources, go back and talk with your counselor. But if at all possible, do it on your own; you'll come with a better list of colleges, probably, and you'll be developing some independence.

Excercise 5: Your Tentative List

List below the twelve colleges that seem to meet your requirements and next to each write a brief thumbnail description that will help you remember their main characteristics.

COLLEGE	MAIN CHARACTERISTICS
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	
11.	
12.	

6. SENDING FOR AND USING COLLEGE CATALOGUES

Once you have these twelve colleges identified, you should check their catalogues. You can find college catalogues in public libraries and in Parkway unit counseling offices. Of course, you can send for your own.

In sending for your own catalogues and application blanks, send a post-card to the Dean of Admissions. (Be sure to check the right name and address of the college in one of the reference books.) Keep your message simple - something like this:

Gentlemen:

I am considering applying to your institution for admission in September, 197___. Will you please send me your current catalogue, application forms, and information about financial aid?

John Jones
111 Star Street
Philadelphia, PA 191__

Once you get the catalogue and with other standard reference sources on hand, you can now find out in detail if this is a college to which you should apply. Here are some of the questions you should seek answers to:

1. Admissions Requirements: When should applications be in? Are there any special course requirements? What tests are required and when do they want you to take them? Are there any nonacademic factors in admission?
2. Academic Selectivity: What is the average freshman SAT score? What was the average rank in class of their freshman? What percentage of applicants did they accept?
3. Academic Environment: How many National Merit Scholars were enrolled? What percentage of the freshman class graduate four years later? What percentage of students goes on to full-time graduate study? What special programs are offered? What doctoral degrees were conferred?
4. Faculty: What percentage of the faculty holds the doctorate? What is the average faculty salary? Where did the faculty get their doctorates? What is the faculty-student ratio? (In general a ratio of 1-10 is considered good.)
5. Facilities: What is the size of the library? (If the college has fewer than 200 books per undergraduate, it is probably not adequate.) Are there good facilities in your area of interest?
6. Depth in Your Major: How many courses are offered in your major field of interest? How large is the faculty in your major area? What part will you

play in building your course of study?

7. General Curriculum: Are you required to take certain subjects? Are there special curricular offerings available?

8. Costs and Financial Aid: What are the total costs? What scholarships, jobs, and loans are available?

9. Campus Life: How many students live on campus? How many come from out of state? How many leave campus on weekends? What social and cultural activities are provided?

After you have received and read your catalogues, do Exercise 6 on the following page.

Exercise 6: The Four Best -- Your Early Appraisals

On the basis of your catalogue reading and reference book checking, list below the four colleges you are now most seriously considering, and for each, indicate why are you thinking of applying there.

NAME OF COLLEGE	REASONS FOR BEING INTERESTED
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	

7. THOSE TESTS YOU TAKE

We mentioned earlier that the College Board SAT's and Achievement tests help you get some idea of your academic resources. Let's clarify this. There are three major tests you should know about:

1. The PSAT/NMSQT: This crazy combination of initials stands for the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. The test takes two hours, costs about \$3.00 to take, and is designed for two different purposes.

- a. It is a practice test for the SAT's and gives you a reading on your basic abilities.
- b. It is used as a screening device to identify those individuals who might qualify for a National Merit Scholarship.

Given each year only in October, this test should be taken by all students who want to practice for the SAT's and/or who think they have a chance for the Merit Scholarships. These scores are reported in two digits, such as 35, 46, 56. Here are some average scores you can check your own against:

Boys - ALL junior boys verbal - 35
 mathematical - 39
 Junior boys who later went to college
 verbal - 42
 mathematical - 47
Girls - ALL junior girls verbal - 36
 mathematical - 36
 Junior girls who later went to college
 verbal - 43
 mathematical - 43

To predict a senior SAT score from a junior PSAT score, in general you can proceed as follows: add 2 to your PSAT score and then affix a zero. So a PSAT junior score of 42 means that your senior SAT score would probably be around 440.

You can't improve your PSAT score by practicing or cramming - not even by attending Parkway. And your PSAT scores are NOT used by colleges for admission purposes. So relax!

2. The SAT: The Scholastic Aptitude Test is the most important test for admission purposes. It measures your basic college abilities - your ability to handle words and mathematical concepts. Here are some average SAT scores for seniors:

Boys - ALL seniors verbal - 390
 mathematical - 422

Seniors going to college
verbal - 457
mathematical - 506
Girls - ALL seniors verbal - 393
mathematical - 382
Seniors going to college
verbal - 458
mathematical - 462

Since the SAT's are measuring basic abilities, you can't practice for them - and your scores are not affected by the kind of school you've attended or the subjects you've studied. You may take the SAT's twice, if you choose, and the higher set of scores will be accepted.

3. The Achievement Tests: These tests are designed to measure your knowledge of a specific subject and your ability to solve problems in that subject. The Achievement Tests last only an hour each and can be taken in these fields: English, Composition, English Literature, Mathematics Level I, Mathematics Level II, American History, European History, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and all the major foreign languages.

Since the Achievement Tests are related to a specific subject matter, systematic study of that subject would probably improve your scores. Achievement tests are usually used by a college not to decide on admissions, but to help them place you at the appropriate level in a given subject. Colleges vary as to how many and which Achievement tests they require, so be sure to check the catalogues or one of the standard reference sources.

In addition to these three major tests, there are other tests of less importance that you might have heard about:

1. The Advanced Placement Examinations: These are given in several subject areas to those students who want to qualify for advanced placement and/or credit in that subject. They are very difficult examinations, roughly equivalent to freshman college examinations in that subject.
2. The American College Testing Program (ACT): This is roughly comparable to the College Boards, required by several mid-western colleges as an alternative to college boards.

8. WHEN DO YOU TAKE COLLEGE BOARDS - AND WHEN DO YOU APPLY?

In order to clarify the best time for you to take college board examinations, it is necessary to explain certain terms that sound somewhat confusing:

Early Admission: Under this plan a few selected students are admitted to the college at the end of their junior year; they receive their high school diplomas at the end of their freshman year in college.

Early Decision: Some colleges offer students the opportunity of getting action on their admission application early in their senior year. There are two types of Early Decision plans: the single choice plan and the first choice plan. In the single choice plan, you make no applications to other colleges until your Early Decision college has notified you; in the first choice plan, you may apply to others but you name your Early Decision college as your first choice and agree to withdraw all other applications if that college accepts you.

Candidates' Reply Date Agreement: This is an agreement by participating colleges that they will not require a candidate to notify them of his/her decision to attend before May 1. In this way, a candidate gets all his/her acceptances before he has to make a choice.

Rolling Admissions: This means that the college gives a decision as soon as possible after the application has been received and does not specify a deadline.

The following chart shows when you should take College Boards and get applications in.

ADMISSION TIMETABLE

If you want you should	Early Admission	Early Decision	Rolling Admissions	Standard Admissions
Take PSAT's	October, Junior year	October, Junior year	October, Junior year	October Junior year
Take SAT's	December, Junior year	March, Junior year	November, Senior year	December, Senior year
Take Achievements	March, Junior year	May, Junior year	March, Senior year	March, Senior year
Mail Applications	December, Junior year	September, Senior year	November, Senior year	December, Senior year
Hear from the college	April, Junior year	October, Senior year	December, Senior year	April Senior year

9. REGISTERING FOR COLLEGE BOARDS

First, get your application forms from your counselor. In completing your forms for the SAT's and Achievement Tests, there are some special facts and terms you should know.

The "Test Center" is the place where you take the test. Your counselor will provide you with locations.

The "High School You Attend" is the PARKWAY PROGRAM, with the following unit code numbers:

ALPHA 393-428

GAMMA 393-431

BETA 393-429

DELTA 393-432

Listing Parkway as the school you attend means that we will receive a copy of your scores.

You can have your scores sent automatically to three colleges by listing their code numbers in the space marked "Recipients of Reports". If you want your scores sent to more than three colleges, you have to complete a separate "Transcript Request Form", available from your counselor.

You also need your Social Security Number to complete your registration blank.

At the time you register for college boards, you will also be asked to complete a Student Descriptive Questionnaire. The SDQ is used for certain research studies; it is used also to give the colleges you are applying to more information about you. And, if you give your approval, the College Board will also forward this information about you to other colleges or scholarship sponsors who might be looking for students like you. You do NOT have to return the SDQ in order to be able to take your college boards.

Approximately six weeks after you take your tests, your scores and SDQ information (if you supplied it) will be sent to the colleges you have specified, to our office, and to you.

For this year's test calendar including date, name of test, closing date, penalty, and fees, see your counselor.

Excercise 7,8,9:

List below the tests you plan to take, when you plan to take them, and, when your test results come back, enter those in the appropriate spaces.

TEST	DATE PLANNED	SCORES
PSAT		
SAT		
ACHIEVEMENTS		

10. THE COLLEGE INTERVIEW AND VISIT

Wherever possible, be sure you have visited the colleges you are seriously considering. (Most admissions officers prefer that you visit after you have applied, although you may want to visit to decide if you want to apply.)

If at all possible, write to the admissions office in advance, requesting an appointment to visit. You can always drop in unannounced and make an unofficial visit, but a scheduled visit will make a better impression.

Here are a few suggestions to make your visit successful:

1. Try to go when classes are in session - and try to visit a few classes.
2. Don't try to see more than two colleges in one day, even if they are close to each other.
3. Take along one of our Parkway brochures. Think of yourself as an ambassador of good will for us.
4. Use good sense about your personal appearance.
5. If your parents go along with you, be sure they stay in the background during the interview. (Most admissions people get annoyed with pushy parents.)
6. Be prepared for the interview with the admissions officer. These are some common questions you might be asked:

What is Parkway?
Why did you go to it?
Why did you select this college?
What do you think I should know about you?
What is your favorite school subject?
What have you read lately that you enjoyed?
What questions would you like to ask?
What extra-curricular activities do you participate in?
What do you expect to get out of college?
Is this college your first choice?
What other colleges have you applied to?

7. If you are given an official tour, be sure to spend some time just browsing around on your own, talking to students and getting the feel of the place.
8. Be sure to find out if they have any preferences about the grading system our school uses.
9. Please report to your counselor your reactions to your visit to the school and the final results of your efforts (whether or not you were accepted.)

Excercise 10: Reacting To Your Visit

After you have returned from one of your college visits, use the space below to write a brief description of your visit and your reaction to the college.

11. APPLYING TO THE COLLEGES

Now you are ready to make applications to the colleges. How many should you apply to? Most experts suggest this range:

- If you think your chances are pretty good, apply to 3 -4.
- If you think your chances are average, apply to 5 - 6.
- If you think your chances are poor, apply to 7 - 8.

In selecting the colleges you wish to apply to, be sure you choose one or two "safety" selections, where your chances are reasonably good that you will be selected.

Complete your application form carefully, answering every question that is asked of you. In completing the rest of your admission forms consider:

1. Recommendations: Choose Parkway staff who know you well.
2. The Official Transcript: Ask your counselor to have your transcript completed. We will include your record from any previous school you attended and a brochure explaining Parkway.

One important note about grades: some institutions require letter grades. If this is so for the schools(s) you're applying to, confer with your counselor.

Finally, you should know about one other important way of finding a college that wants you. There are four major non-profit college admissions clearinghouses which all work about the same way: you pay one basic fee (usually \$20 or \$25), fill out one basic form, send it in to the clearinghouse - and then wait for the good news. The clearinghouse sends a resume of your record to hundreds of colleges that have registered with them. Then those colleges that are interested in you get in touch with you directly. Thus, one form might generate as many as 75 invitations to attend. Some local high school students have had good success with the College Admissions Center, 1601 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19103. Ask your counselor for further information.

**The Parkway Program
The School District
of Philadelphia**

Official Transcript

**Accredited by the State of Pennsylvania
Middle States Association Commission**

work completed through June 1973

name John J. Smith sex Male date of birth Feb. 2, 1957

address 1003 School Road, Philadelphia, PA parent or guardian Frank/Barbara Smith

date entered September, 1970 other secondary schools Olney High School

*was graduated
May 1974
Withdraw*

June 1973

date	course or activity title	credit	date	course or activity title	credit
6/69	ENGLISH: English I - Olney H.S.	1.0	6/69	MATHEMATICS: Algebra I - Olney H.S.	1.0
6/70	English II - Olney H.S.	1.0	6/70	Geometry - Olney H.S.	1.0
12/70	Literature and Film	.3	3/72	Math Review	.2
3/71	Survey of American Humor	.2	6/73	SAT Math Prep	$\frac{.1}{2.3}$
6/71	Creative Writing	.3			
	Shakespeare	.3			
12/71	Vocaulary Building	.2	6/70	SCIENCE: Biology - Olney H.S.	1.0
3/72	Afro-American Poetry	.3	12/70	Chemistry-A	.3
12/72	What is a Newspaper?	.4	3/71	Chemistry-B	.3
3/73	SAT English Prep	.1	6/71	Chemistry-C	.4
6/73	Modern American Drama	.2	12/71	Green in the City	.2
		$\frac{.2}{4.3}$	6/72	Working with the Weatherman	$\frac{.3}{2.5}$

Credit is earned at the rate of one unit for a course of study of 120 hours. No grades are assigned, and courses are credit/no-credit. Thus, students are not ranked. For a complete explanation, please note the enclosed fact sheet.

test record

name of test	date	score	% level	norm
PSAT/NMSQT	3/72	V 40 M 46		
SAT	11/72	V 420 M 450		

date June 25, 1973

signature Bob Lane
title College Counselor



**The Parkway Program
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Official Transcript

page John J. Smith

-2

name

date	course or activity title	credit	date	course or activity title	credit
6/69	SOCIAL STUDIES: World Cultures and Gov't - Olney History of Philadelphia Municipal Affairs Working with a Councilman The Women's Movement in America Appalachia	1.0	6/69	FOREIGN LANGUAGES: French I - Olney H.S. French II - Olney H.S.	1.0
12/70		.3	6/70		2.0
3/72		.3	6/69	ELECTIVES: Art - Olney H.S. Music - Olney H.S. Art - Olney H.S. Music - Olney H.S. Typing - Olney H.S.	.4
6/72		.4	6/70		.2
12/72	.2		.4		
3/73	Introduction to Psychology Peer Group Counseling The Mid-East Crisis	.3			.2
6/73		.3	12/70	Tutorial	1.0
		<u>.3</u>	3/71	Tutorial	.3
		3.3	6/71	Tutorial	.1
12/70	PHYSICAL EDUCATION: Yoga I. Field Hockey Horseback Riding Horseback Riding Horseback Riding	.2			.2
3/72		.1			
12/72		.2			
3/73		.2			
6/73		<u>.2</u>			2.8
		.9			
6/69	HEALTH EDUCATION: Health - Olney H.S. Health - Olney H.S. Human Sexuality	.2			
6/70		.2			
6/72		.2			
		<u>.6</u>			
				TOTAL CREDITS EARNED	18.7

12. STAYING IN ONCE YOU ARE ACCEPTED

Some times it's easier to get into college than it is to stay in. In fact, the freshman failure rate at many colleges is so high that it's frightening.

There are no easy answers, and any advice given so impersonally so far away from the time you actually confront those problems probably won't have much impact. But let's close this handbook by sharing some suggestions about how you can stay in once you've gotten in.

1. Discipline yourself: This is the most basic rule. In the past you probably have gotten used to a great deal of supervision from teachers and parents. At college you will find people expect you to supervise yourself. You will succeed if you can discipline yourself to study when you don't feel like it, to read a book that you find dull, and to get an early start on your term papers when the deadline is far away.
2. Take a reasonable load the first year: Don't take too many courses and don't work too many hours at a part-time job.
3. Budget your time: Most students have serious problems during that first year in college because they think they have a lot of time on their hands. That is deceptive. Although you will probably be spending only about 16-20 hours a week in class, most professors expect you to spend two hours of studying for each class hour. That adds up to a 48-hour week, at least. You can cope with this by making a weekly schedule for yourself, being sure you log in enough study time - and then force yourself to stick to it.
4. Get a quick start and keep up the pressure: Too many students put off the hard work until holiday time. If you can keep on top of your studies every week, then you can face that last-minute rush of having to take exams and write papers all in the same week.
5. Keep your social and academic life in balance: If you want to succeed academically, you will probably have to limit your social activities. If social success is more important, then modify your schedule accordingly.
6. Call for help: All colleges have counseling services. If you think you're in trouble, get some expert help before it's too late.

APPENDIX I

SHUFFLING THE PAPERS IN THE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS GAME:
A SPECIAL WORD TO STUDENTS

Despite our instinctive distaste for paperwork, it is essential that each of us does a responsible and thorough job in processing the papers necessary for college admission.

YOU bear chief responsibility for seeing to it that admission papers are processed. While Parkway's staff will do all it can to help, your major tasks are:

1. Complete accurately your part of the application forms: If you need help with the phrasing of an answer, consult your counselor.
2. If the college asks for teacher recommendations, contact the teacher directly and give him/her the appropriate forms, if these have been provided. Colleges usually want these mailed directly to their admissions office so that the teacher can feel he is writing in confidence. You should provide the teacher with a stamped, addressed envelope and should be sure that your name appears on the recommendation blank.
3. Make sure you Parkway records are in good shape: This means being sure that all evaluations have been recorded and any achievements or activities noted in your file.
4. Check with the counselor: Let him/her know which college(s) you are applying to and discuss your college admissions program.
5. Have the counselor complete the part of the transcript called "Student Description Summary" or "Personality Record".
6. Bring to the counselor all the forms which Parkway is expected to complete: Be sure that all forms are accompanied with stamped, addressed envelopes and that you have enclosed the proper fees.