

# Navigating the Pathways to College Success

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# Opportunities abound



# Learning outcomes

Upon completion of this presentation, students will be able to

1. Develop a plan for academic achievement
2. Identify and employ success strategies in the college application and admissions process
3. List resources for financial aid
4. Articulate a personal plan for success

How many learning outcomes were designed for this presentation?

a) 0

b) 3

c) 4

d) 5

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To develop a plan, you must first learn some facts.

Then, continue to learn more.

# Facts to Consider

- Number of colleges and universities in U.S. : 4,140
- Enrollment: 17,487,475
- Full-time: 61.7%
- Women: 57.4%

# More Facts

Degree	Number Awarded
Associate's	696,660
Bachelor's	1,439,264
Master's	574,618
Doctorate	52,631
Professional	87,289

<http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0908742.html>, 2005

# Most Popular Majors by Level

Bachelor's Degrees	Master's Degrees	Doctor's Degrees
Business	Education	Education
Social Sciences/History	Business	Engineering
Education		Health Sciences

<http://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=37>; 2005-2006 data

According 2005-2006 data, which of the following majors was in the top three across three collegiate degree levels?

- a) Business
- b) Education
- c) Technology
- d) Health Sciences

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- c) Technology
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# Ten Things Spell Check Will Not Catch

- Homonyms (for ex: there vs. their)
- Incorrectly divided compound words (internet vs. inter net)
- Incorrect pronouns (his vs. hers)
- Usage errors
- Missing words
- Wrong words (marital vs. martial)
- Wrong dates
- Misspelled names
- Incorrect verb tenses
- Repetition (watch cut and paste)

# Spell check will not correct



- a) Incorrect dates
- b) Homonyms
- c) Misspelled words
- d) A and B
- e) All of the above

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# Develop a plan for academic achievement

- Learn as much as you can about college
- Meet with your counselor (Take notes and follow through!)
- Talk to friends in college
- Visit colleges (virtually or in person)



# the college application and admissions process

- School selection
  - Aim for a list of 8-12 schools that are good matches for your goals
  - Visit campuses during optimal times (avoid finals week, holidays, spring break)
  - Find a student ambassador or representative from the institutions you desire to attend

# More strategies for success

- Academics
  - Take challenging courses consistent with your career goals and your interests
    - Know which classes you need to be accepted to your target school and target major
  - Remember that colleges require letters of reference from instructors
    - It is up to you to make a good impression
  - If you find yourself struggling in class, ask for help
  - Be proactive in your approach to studying
  - Consider enrolling in a summer program at a local college

# Other strategies for success

- Strategic positioning
  - What qualities do you possess that make you a great candidate for your target school?
  - Be able to describe strengths and weaknesses with balance and insight
  - Identify a theme or “wow” factor for your personal statement or interview
  - Maximize the time you spend doing extracurricular activities (make it count)

# Submitting your Application

- Be organized and do not procrastinate
- Make sure your application is complete (supplemental applications, transcripts, letters of reference)
- Submit online applications at least a few days prior to the deadline
  - Carefully review your application prior to sending!
- If you submit an application in hard copy, make a copy to keep for your records

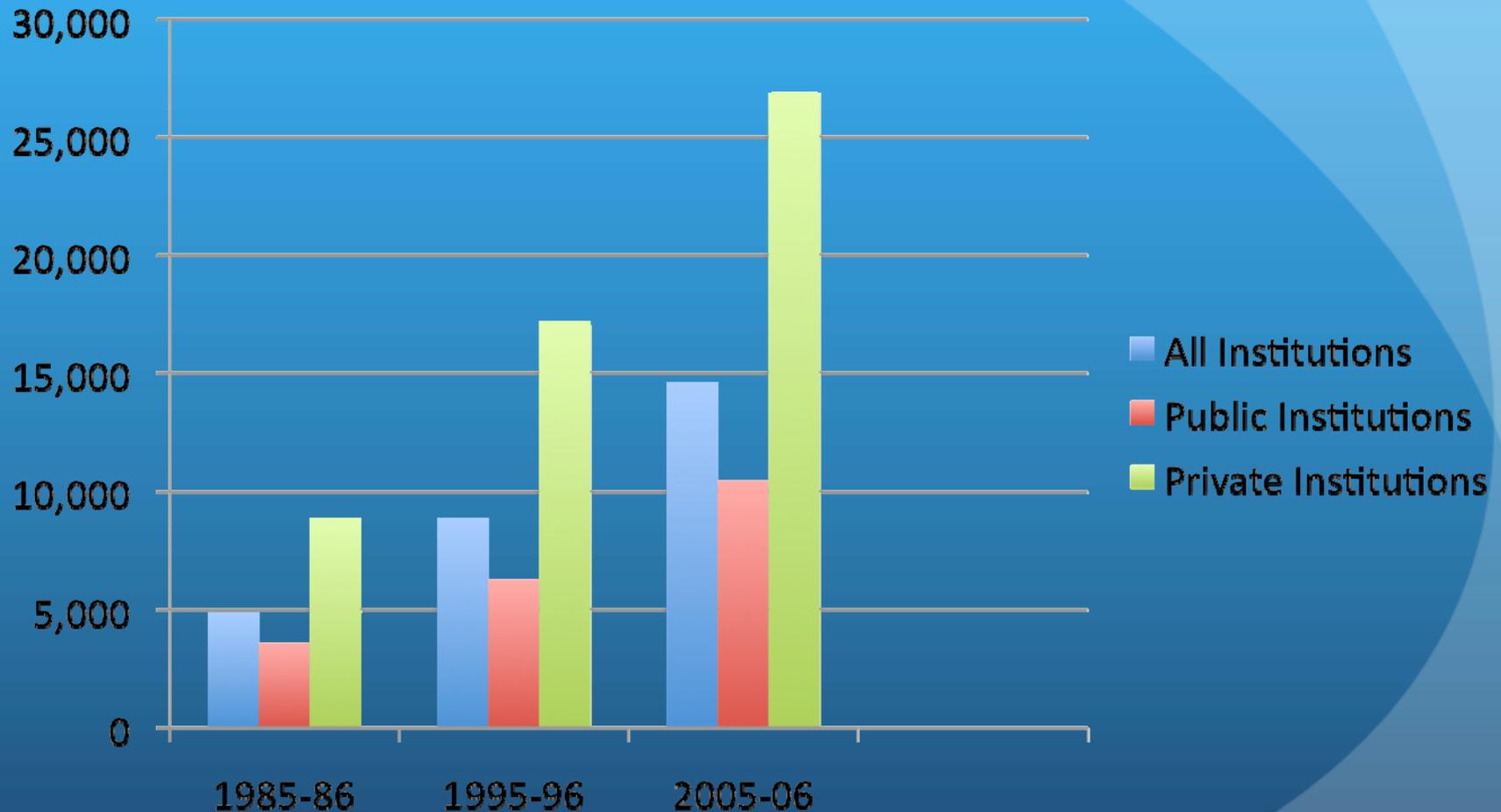
# Other tips

- Be professional in every interaction with every person at the target institution
- Meet deadlines and be on time for meetings
- Be proactive (follow up)
- Anticipate questions and comments about your application
- Improve your writing skills
- Get a counselor or friend to help you practice your interview
- Keep accurate records

# Resources for Financial Aid



# Cost of College Trends



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. (2007). *Digest of Education Statistics, 2006 (NCES 2007-017), Chapter 3.*

# Eligibility for Financial Aid

$$\text{COA} - \text{EFC} = \text{Financial Need}$$

COA: Cost of Attending

EFC: Expected Family Contribution

# List resources for financial aid

- Free Application Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Deadlines:
  - 2008-2009 Web applications due by June 30, 2009 (midnight Central Daylight Time)
  - 2009-2010 Web applications due by June 30, 2010 (midnight Central Daylight Time)
- *Note: State deadlines are often earlier than federal guidelines*

# State Guidelines

- Alaska— April 15
- California— March 2

# What are the deadlines for state aid for Alaska? For California?

- Alaska deadline is April 15
- California deadline is March 2

<http://www.fafsa.com/Forms/Ajax/FAFSA/fafsa-state-deadlines.aspx>

# Necessary Documents for Financial Aid Applications

- Social Security card and driver's license
- W-2 Forms or other records of earned-income (and your spouse's, if you are married) federal income tax return
- Parent's federal income tax return (unless you are filing as independent)
- Records of other untaxed income you received, including welfare benefits, social security benefits, veteran's benefits, and military or clergy allowances
- Current bank statements and records of stocks, bonds, and other investments  
Your business or farm records, if applicable
- Alien registration card (if you are not a U.S. citizen)

# Financial Aid Tips

- Educate yourself about financial aid
- Research your options
- Start with Uncle Sam (FAFSA)
- Apply early
- Apply for everything

# Financial Aid Resources

- [http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/student\\_guide/index.html](http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/student_guide/index.html)
- <http://www.estudentloan.com/>
- <http://www.finaid.org/>
- <http://www.scholarships.com/>
- [http://www.nslds.ed.gov/nslds\\_SA/](http://www.nslds.ed.gov/nslds_SA/)

Note: Always check with your financial aid advisor prior to applying.

# Articulate a personal plan for success

- Talk to your family and friends about your plans for college
- Be able to discuss your plans with your counselor, but be willing to take advice
- It may be helpful to write out your plan prior to discussions
- Your plans may change, but you should always have at least one!
- Remember, talking about your plans is not the same as carrying them out.

# Conclusions

1. Develop a plan for academic achievement
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Questions?



# Thank you!

