

Bookmark These 10 Great Websites for College-Bound Teens

Use these sites to get tips, tools, and tactics that will help you find — and finance — the right school for you.

1. Peterson's (petersons.com):

Originally a well-respected college guidebook, Peterson's has migrated online with enough material to fill volumes, so it's an awesome place to begin your college search. You'll find basic data about hundreds of colleges and universities, including criteria for admissions, courses of study, and total costs. In addition, there are helpful articles on virtually every aspect of the admissions process.

2. College Board (collegeboard.com):

You'll need to create an account here so you can register for the SATs—and check your scores the minute they're posted. But this nonprofit organization of more than 5,700 member schools provides a wealth of other information as well. Its website is a great starting point to gather—and compare—basic data on colleges, including admission requirements, program offerings, and costs.

3. ACT (actstudent.org):

It's a good idea to take both the SAT and the ACT, since you will probably perform better on one than the other. Register for your

exam here, and then check your scores and send them on to your colleges of choice. (Tip: The College Board does a better job of providing comprehensive tips about applying to and enrolling in school than the ACT organization does, so don't spend much time with the college planning tools here.)

4. College Confidential (collegeconfidential.com):

This site bills itself as the "leading college-bound community on the web," and it's easy to see why. In addition to helpful articles on admissions and financial aid, it features lively discussion boards where parents, students, and admissions officers answer each other's questions, share tips, and offer support throughout the college process. Register and give yourself a "screen name" so you can join the conversation.

5. College Prowler (collegeprowler.com):

You'll get the lowdown on schools directly from students and recent grads. Learn about everything from acceptance rates to assessments of the campus drinking and dating scenes on more than 6,900 colleges listed. You'll also find colorful quotes from co-eds that give you a real-deal sense of the college environment. In addition, the site offers a tool to help you assess your chances of getting into the schools you're considering.

6. CollegeClickTV (collegeclicktv.com):

Watch videos of students, faculty, and staff talking about all kinds of topics—from nightlife to academic rigor, from the best pros to the scoop about playing sports on campus. They don't replace a visit to a campus, but the videos could help you narrow your list.

7. Common Application (commonapp.org):

Complete one main application and essay, and then submit them to any of the 415 "common app" schools. (Sounds fabulous, right?) You can also link to any supplementary application materials a school requires. (Tip: It's a good idea to check the link for each school you're considering, as their requirements vary.) Plus, teachers and guidance counselors can log on to submit your recommendations electronically.

8. Student Aid on the Web (studentaid.ed.gov):

The U.S. Department of Education's site gives helpful info on preparing and paying for your college education. Here you'll find easy links to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (or FAFSA), which you'll need to complete if you want help paying for college. You'll also find repayment calculators, a free scholarship

search, and tips on how and when to apply to school.

9. FastWeb (fastweb.com): If you're hoping for a scholarship, this is the place to hunt it down. After registering, you can custom-search a database of 1.5 million awards (worth more than \$3 billion) based on your individual qualifications and needs. FastWeb also supplies info on job and internship programs and has an active discussion board.

10. FinAid (finaid.com): This award-winning website may well be the most comprehensive resource on paying for higher education. You'll find nitty-gritty details about different types of loans, scholarships, grants, and even military programs. The site's FAQs cover anything you can think of: There's even a category called "miscellaneous and unusual" questions.

Sites for Parents

Sallie Mae's Education Investment Planner (salliemae.com/invest): Use this impressive interactive tool to figure out exactly how much you'll need for college, estimate costs, and determine how much to borrow.

LinkedIn (linkedin.com): You might already have an account; if not, it's free to register. Then you can join groups, such as "Parents of College-Bound Teens." Click the "Groups" button and then search the directory.

The College Solution (thecollegesolution.com): Veteran journalist Lynn O'Shaughnessy has written several books about affording college and finding the right fit. She gives great tips on a variety of college-related topics, and as a mother of two college students, she's sympathetic to the joys and challenges of searching for the right school.

day planner
the power of Newsday in an app

Newsday's Mobile App for iPhone® and iPad®
With the Newsday app for iPhone® and iPad®, you receive current weather conditions and complete forecasts for your town and all of Long Island.

Download today and be prepared.

Available on the App Store