

**“Ken Krueger's College Planning Guide: Where Do I Start? How Do I Get There?”**

**A college planning guide for students and parents.**

Copyright .....	i
DEDICATION .....	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	ii
MISSION STATEMENT .....	xi
WHERE DO I START? HOW DO I GET THERE? .....	1
CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION .....	1
A. Welcome and Introduction .....	1
B. Personal Insights .....	2
C. College Planning and Information .....	6
D. Information about the following chapters .....	8
CHAPTER 2: WHERE DO I START? .....	14
A. Questions For Your Self-Evaluation .....	14
B. Your Needs and Wants in College .....	15
C. Where Should I Go? What is The Cost? .....	15
D. Academic Programs .....	16
E. Academic Atmosphere .....	19
F. Social Atmosphere – Student Body Composition .....	19
G. Sports Programs .....	20
H. Summer Programs and Your Resume .....	20
I. Be a Dedicated Volunteer .....	22
J. The Community College Option .....	23
CHAPTER 3: FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE PLANNING GUIDE .....	26
A. Freshman and Sophomore Years .....	26
a. Seven Steps to Complete During These Years .....	26
B. Junior Year .....	28
a. The Year To Dream .....	28
b. Standardized Tests .....	29
c. Conditional/Unconditional Acceptance – Arizona .....	29

d. NCAA Eligibility Registration .....	29
e. U.S. Service Academies .....	29
C. Senior Year.....	31
a. Fall Senior Year .....	31
b. Winter Senior Year .....	34
D. College Guidebooks And Online Resources.....	36

**CHAPTER 4: WHICH STANDARDIZED TESTS FOR COLLEGE ADMISSION SHOULD I TAKE? AND WHEN DO I TAKE THEM?.....39**

A. Testing Myths .....	39
B. Observations on the New SAT/ACT.....	40
C. Combine Your Best Test Scores .....	41
D. A Little History on the SAT/ACT.....	42
a. SAT & ACT Score Conversion Table .....	43
E. College Admissions Are Going Holistic .....	45
F. SAT Subject Tests .....	45
G. Life Stories from Former Students.....	46
H. What Comprises the “New” SAT/ACT? .....	50
I. Topics on the SAT .....	51
J. Where Will My SAT Scores Take Me? .....	55
K. What about the ACT? .....	57
L. SAT Essay vs. ACT Essay .....	58
M. Score Choice.....	60
N. When Should I Take The Tests?.....	61
a. A Timetable For The PSAT, SAT, ACT, And SAT Subject Tests.....	61
O. What is the PSAT/NMSQT?.....	61
P. Testing Irregularities and Score Cancellation.....	63
Q. How Do I, and Can I, Take Advantage of Learning Disability Extended Test Time Options? .....	66

**CHAPTER 5: WHEN AND HOW SHOULD I INTERVIEW AND VISIT COLLEGES? .....69**

A. The College Visit: My Personal Thoughts.....	69
B. Tips for the College Interview .....	69
C. Questions an Interviewer Might Ask .....	73
D. Questions to Ask An Admissions Counselor/Interviewer .....	75

E. Additional Questions for an Interviewer/Tour Guide .....	75
F. Questions for a Current Student .....	76
CHAPTER 6: WHAT DO COLLEGES LOOK FOR? .....	78
A. What We Know So Far About the College Process.....	78
B. Decathlon of Academic Criteria for Admission.....	78
C. What Is Important to Admissions Counselors?.....	80
D. Personal Qualities Are Important Factors.....	83
CHAPTER 7: HOW DO I APPLY? .....	85
A. What You Need To Do To Apply .....	85
B. Transcript Formalities .....	86
C. Electronic Applications .....	87
D. My Top Ten Tips for Filling Out Applications.....	88
E. The Common Application .....	90
F. Pros and Cons of Online College Search & Applications .....	96
G. Requesting Letters of Recommendation .....	98
H. Senior Questionnaires and Letters of Recommendation Forms for Teachers and Counselors.....	99
I. Resume-Writing Tips .....	99
CHAPTER 8: HOW DO I WRITE THE ESSAY AND PERSONAL STATEMENT?.....	104
A. How Important is the Essay? .....	104
B. What Colleges Look For in Your Essay.....	104
C. Writing Tips to Impress the Reader with “You” .....	106
D. What To Do and What To Avoid To Write that “Winning Essay” .....	107
E. Sample Essays: The Good, The Bad, and The ... ..	110
F. Self-Evaluating Your Essay.....	111
G. Sample SAT and ACT Essays .....	112
CHAPTER 9: WHAT DO COLLEGE ADMISSIONS DECISIONS REALLY MEAN?.....	119
A. What We Have Covered So Far.....	119
B. Differences Among Colleges in Admissions Decisions .....	119
C. Is there Logic In This Process of Admissions?.....	122
D. Examples of Who Gets In, Who Doesn’t, and Why .....	124

E. How To Increase Your Odds of Getting In .....	124
F. ZIP Codes and Special Talents Are Factors .....	125
G. Extra-Edge Advantages, Quotas, and Luck .....	126
H. Exploring Your Options.....	128
I. How Can You Help Your Chances of Getting In? .....	129
J. Early Action, Early Decisions, or Regular Action – Which Way Do I Go? .....	130
CHAPTER 10: HOW DO I DECIDE? .....	135
A. Students’ Rights and Responsibilities.....	135
B. Myths and Misconceptions About Admission/Selection .....	136
C. Search Your Soul – YOU Are In Control! .....	138
D. Compare Colleges Side-By-Side .....	138
E. Colleges Revisited, Questions to Ask, and Answers to Find .....	139
F. My Dad’s Advice: It Was Good Then; It Is Good Now .....	140
G. Work With Your Parents, But YOU Decide! .....	141
H. Acknowledging Acceptances: Thanks, But No Thanks.....	141
I. The Financial Aid Card – How Does It Fit In, and How Do I Play It? .....	142
J. The Best Values in Private and Public Colleges .....	142
K. You Got Accepted to that Prestigious College .....	146
CHAPTER 11: PLEASE HELP ME GET FINANCIAL AID!.....	149
A. An Introduction to Student Financial Aid.....	149
B. Affluent Students Can Find Advantage This Admissions Cycle .....	150
a. Eleven myths about financial aid: .....	152
b. The FAFSA Forms.....	154
c. The actual steps of the financial aid application process: .....	156
d. Some tips you might want to consider .....	162
C. Probably the #1 Question On Your Mind .....	166
D. Other Federal Web Sites, Sources, and State Aid.....	167
E. Financial Aid General Information .....	169
F. Financial Aid and Financial Aid Packages .....	169
G. The Two Basic Types: Gift Aid and Self-help Aid .....	170
H. Non-Need Based Aid: Merit Awards or Loans.....	171
I. Restricted and Unrestricted Scholarships .....	171

J. 50 Key Terms and Definitions .....	175
K. Let's Do the FAFSA .....	178
L. FAFSA Information.....	180
a. Documents To Have Ready .....	181
b. The documents I need are: .....	181
M. Eleven Student Aid Traps to Avoid .....	182
N. Filing Deadlines .....	185
a. State Student Financial Aid Deadlines.....	185
O. What's On Your Mind?.....	188
CHAPTER 12: PLEASE TELL ME MORE ABOUT FINANCIAL AID .....	189
A. What Am I Getting Into? .....	189
B. How Can I Afford College Now? .....	190
C. More of What's On Your Mind – Making Ends Meet.....	197
D. Scholarships and Grants.....	199
E. Sample Inquiry Letter from the NASFAA .....	201
F. Arizona-Specific Scholarship Opportunity Information .....	201
a. The Arizona Instrument of Measurement Standards (AIMS) Test .....	202
G. Minorities & Women Special Scholarships .....	203
H. Scholarship Search Services .....	204
I. Some Frequently Asked Questions and Answers.....	204
J. Why Should I Apply For Scholarships?.....	206
K. Scholarship Scams – They Really Are Out There .....	209
L. College Savings Programs.....	211
a. Prepaid Tuition.....	211
b. The 529 Savings Plan.....	211
M. Loan Programs .....	214
a. PLUS Loans .....	214
b. Federal Stafford Loans.....	215
c. Perkins Loans.....	216
d. Institutional Loans .....	217
e. Private Loans.....	217
N. The College Cost Reduction And Access Act (H.R. 2669).....	218
O. Financial Aid FAQ Sites .....	219

P. Filling Out the FAFSA or CSS Profile Web Site Assistance .....	219
Q. Understanding Your Financial Aid Package.....	220
R. Financial Aid Web Sites.....	220
S. Financial Aid for Students with Disabilities.....	221
T. Student Profile-Based Aid from FinAid.org .....	221
U. International Student Applications and Financial Aid.....	221
V. Study Abroad Information .....	222
CHAPTER 13: GUIDELINES AND TIPS FOR RECRUITED ATHLETES .....	223
A. Are You An Athlete? .....	223
a. Do You Have What It Takes? .....	223
b. My Story .....	223
c. How To Handle College Athletic Recruiting Pressure .....	224
d. The Burnout Syndrome.....	224
e. Successful Walk-Ons .....	226
B. NCAA Eligibility .....	226
a. How do I become eligible? .....	227
C. What An Athletic Scholarship Covers .....	231
D. The Real World of Athletic Scholarships .....	232
E. If Not Intercollegiate, Try Intramural.....	235
F. Sports-Related Professions .....	235
G. Getting An Athletic Scholarship.....	237
H. Steps To Help Get That Scholarship.....	237
I. Recruiting Rules and Regulations .....	238
J. Some Strict Rules .....	239
a. Contacts.....	240
b. Recruiting calendars.....	241
c. Evaluations .....	241
d. National Letter of Intent (NLI) .....	242
e. Official visits.....	242
f. Printed materials .....	243
K. Division II Rules Are Very Similar .....	243
L. Forms and Information for Elegibility .....	244
M. Additional Helpful Items.....	245

N. Terms You Need to Know .....	246
O. Some Final Thoughts .....	246
P. A Good Article on College Recruiting Tactics.....	248
CHAPTER 14: TIPS FOR PARENTS AND ADVICE FOR STUDENTS .....	258
A. How to Deal With Areas of Stress For Students and Parents .....	258
B. Tips for Parents .....	261
C. How to Deal With Wait Lists, Deferrals, and Rejections .....	264
a. Wait Lists .....	265
b. Rejection Letters .....	266
D. Senior Stress and Transitioning to College.....	268
E. Major Stress Times for Juniors and Seniors.....	270
F. Life Lessons.....	271
a. Set a goal.....	271
b. Don't be a "what iffer". Take a risk.....	272
c. Be yourself.....	273
d. Persevere.....	273
e. Believe in yourself.....	275
f. Be a friend.....	275
g. Balance.....	276
CHAPTER 15: GLOSSARY OF TERMS, RESOURCE BOOKS, GUIDE BOOKS, & INTERNET SITES .....	278
A. College Ranking Guides .....	278
B. College Guides .....	279
C. College Planning and Admissions Guides .....	280
D. Internet Sites .....	282
CHAPTER 16: APPENDIX / ADDENDA/ COLLEGE PROFILES.....	303
EPILOGUE.....	340
FINAL THOUGHTS .....	342
ABOUT THE AUTHORS .....	345