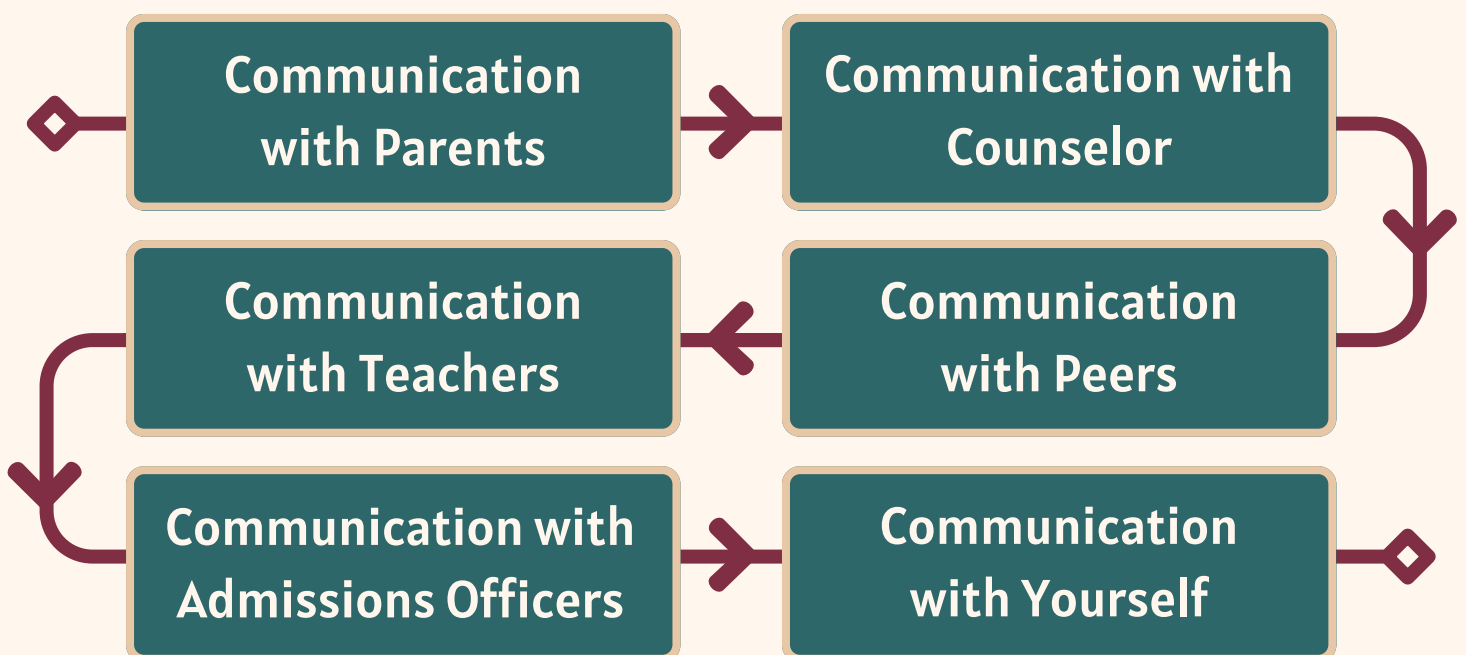


CRUCIAL COMMUNICATION for College Applications

How to use communication to help your college application process

Applying to college isn't a process of locking yourself in your room as you fill out forms and crunch out college essay after essay. It's a process that involves effective communication. In each step of your college applications, your ability to communicate effectively becomes the compass for navigating interactions with parents, counselors, teachers, colleges, peers, and yourself. In this guide, we'll delve into the intricacies of each interaction. Welcome to Crucial Communication for College Applications.



For more soft skills tips and resources, visit our website

[simplysoftskills.com](https://www.simplysoftskills.com)

Get in touch with our experts

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Communicate With Parents

The support, understanding, and help from parents all impact how efficiently you can manage your time and handle major application steps effectively to maximize the results.

Have open conversations with your parents about your passions, hobbies, and the courses you're most interested in. Get their input on your choice of major and potential colleges.

Talk about your college list and the factors you need to consider, such as major, location, college size, and financial aid options.

Work with your parents to arrange college tours. Plan the logistics of college visits and what you plan to get from those visits.

Keep your parents informed about school meetings, webinars, or other events related to college application information, so they are well-informed about the process and requirements.

Keep them informed about application deadlines and timelines and ask them to help you stay organized and on track during the overwhelming application journey.

Maintain a balance in your communication with your parents regarding their involvement in the application process. Clearly communicate your needs and preferences to ensure they respect your autonomy during the process.

Communicate With Counselor

Your high school counselor plays a key role throughout the college application process, as they offer you invaluable guidance, address concerns or uncertainties, and help you achieve your educational goals.

Engage with your counselor all through your high school years. Let them witness your academic and personal growth over time, so they not only know you well but also provide you with tailored support and advice during the college application.

Discuss your interests, academic strengths, and career aspirations with your counselor to help narrow down a list of colleges that align well with your passions and goals.

Inquire about resources for standardized test preparation and seek advice on study tips, materials and registering for test dates.

Discuss your extracurricular activities to seek advice on how to showcase your activities and achievements in the application form.

Consult with your counselor about other important aspects of the college application, such as determining the most suitable teacher recommenders, interpreting institutional data on Naviance, and filling out FAFSA or the CSS Profile.

Follow up with your counselor after each meeting to confirm next steps and express appreciation for their guidance and help.

Communicate With Teachers

Communication with teachers is crucial for requesting recommendation letters that offer teachers' perspective on your academic performance, work ethic, and potential to succeed in college.

Build good relationship with teachers even before you need anything from them. Participate actively in class, ask questions, show respect, etc.

Choose teachers who can highlight unique aspects of your strengths and academic abilities relevant to your college applications. Colleges usually expect you to select teachers who have taught core subjects in your junior or senior years.

Make your recommendation request early, preferably before the end of your junior year. Be mindful of the teachers' potential quotas of recommendations they will write.

Approach teachers in person after class or visit their office to request a recommendation letter. You can also send an email to schedule a brief meeting to discuss your request.

Complete any questionnaires or forms required by the teacher to help them know more about your strengths, personality, passions, college list, intended major, etc.

Write personalized thank-you notes to express gratitude for their time and efforts they put into writing the recommendation letters.

Communicate With Peers

Your high school friends who are also applying for college can be great sources of information and support. Creating a supportive network can significantly enhance your application experience.

Chat with your peers about basic college application requirements, such application deadline, standardized test score submission policies, additional materials, etc.

Share helpful resources, such as articles, guides, or websites related to college applications.

Offer each other feedback on essays, resumes, or application materials, if comfortable. Point out strengths as well as areas for improvement.

Respect the privacy and boundaries of your peers. Do not pressure others to share more than they are comfortable with regarding their college application materials and process.

Avoid revealing too much about specifics of your college application, so you won't be regretful about oversharing your personal information.

Celebrate each other's achievements and milestones throughout the application process. Offer emotional support and comfort when they face setbacks, self-doubts, or rejections.

Communicate With Admissions Officers

Communicating with admissions officers not only provides you with deeper insights into the institution's culture, academic programs, and admission requirements but also establishes a positive rapport that may potentially enhance your application.

Attend college fairs and visit the tables of colleges you're interested in. Pick up brochures and flyers and prepare some thoughtful questions to ask.

When admissions officers visit your high school, engage with them—express your interest in the college, and ask relevant questions. Be genuine and authentic.

Visit the college campus to get a firsthand experience of the school and community. Attend campus tours, information sessions, or admissions events to interact with admissions officers and learn more about the college.

Attend Virtual Events such as webinars and information sessions hosted by colleges; participate actively in these events, ask questions, and engage with admissions officers.

Email admissions officers if you have specific questions with answers that are not readily available on the college website. Be sure to be formal, polite, and concise in your communication, as they are quite busy.

After receiving helpful responses from admissions officers, take the time to send thank-you notes to express your appreciation.

Communicate With Yourself

College application can be intense and time-consuming, keeping you busy all day around. But don't forget to take a moment to communicate with yourself for self-reflection, self-assessment, and self-care.

Reflect on your extracurricular activities, achievements, and services. Think about how these experiences have shaped you and how they align with your aspirations.

Ask yourself about your real needs and passion when making your college decision. Don't let the peer pressure or societal expectations dominate your decision.

Compile an application checklist, to-do list, and any pertinent information, from major components like supplement essay topics to minor details like college webinars you've attended. Maintain organization and clarity.

Don't ignore your concerns, whether it is essay content, activity list, portfolio building, or any other aspects of application. Seek guidance from others such as school counselors and college admission officers.

Practice self-care and manage stress by setting aside time for relaxation, hobbies, entertainment, and physical activities that you enjoy doing.

Celebrate each milestone of the application and each small or big win during the process. Believe in yourself and trust your ability to get through it.