

# Aiming for College

Melanie Young

[www.raisingrealmen.com](http://www.raisingrealmen.com)

## **I. Taking the First Steps**

Dreams and Reality

Honesty

Research

ECs/Recs

## **II. Getting Started**

Testing, Fee Waivers, and the Xiggi Method

Ask the College!

Resist Temptation

Safety First!

Matching it Up

## **III. Making College Visits**

Interviewing – Yours and Theirs

Considering the Culture

Knowing the Christian Community

## **IV. Assembling Your Application**

Alternatives

Transcripts & More

Essay Savvy

Recs and Resumes

The “Guidance Counselor” letter

App Fees

## **V. Navigating the Financial Aid Maze**

FAFSA & PROFILE

Verification

No Loan Policies

Learn early – year before app

## **VI. Getting to the Finish Line**

Scholarship Weekends

Accepted Student Weekends

Their Day

Your Day

# Great Resources

## For Researching Colleges

*Choosing the Right College 2010-2011: The Whole Truth about America's Top Schools* by John Zmirak, Editor, Intercollegiate Studies Institute. Invaluable.

*College Confidential* – THE forum for discussion and information about applying to selective colleges; beware of skewed values ☺ but great information - <http://talk.collegeconfidential.com/>

The College Board – a good college search engine <http://collegeboard.com>

## For Testing

ACT <http://actstudent.org>

SAT <http://collegeboard.com>

AP <http://apcentral.collegeboard.com>

Fee Waivers <http://professionals.collegeboard.com/testing/waivers/guidelines/sat>  
<http://www.act.org/aap/pdf/feewaiver.pdf>

## For Getting the Paperwork Done

The Common Application “Common App”  
<https://www.commonapp.org/CommonApp/default.aspx>

HSLDA’s Homeschooling High School – Transcript examples and lots of help  
<http://hslida.org/highschool>

## For Applying for ANY Aid – Financial or Merit

FinAid – Website with lots of wisdom about applying for financial aid and calculators so you can try different scenarios - <http://www.finaid.org/>

FAFSA – Federal financial aid application - <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>

PROFILE – College Board’s financial aid application used by private colleges -  
<https://profileonline.collegeboard.com/index.jsp>

EFC - Expected Family Contribution (according to FAFSA or PROFILE)

COA – Cost of Attendance (tuition, fees, room, board, books, travel)

COA-EFC=NEED

### **What do they mean when they say...**

- Meets 100% of need means they provide financial aid (scholarships, grants and loans) in the amount of COA-EFC (that they figure).
- No loan policy means their financial aid packages include no loans, only grants that do not need repaying. This is a good thing!
- Meets 65% (for example) of need means they offer aid (scholarships, grants and loans) on average to meet 65% of COA-EFC.

### **For Interpreting that Alphabet Soup**

CC – College Confidential or Community College

ECs – Extracurricular Activities

Recs – Recommendations are very important, especially for homeschoolers

GPA – Grade Point Average

SAT and ACT – College Admissions Tests

Stats – The numbers, your SAT or ACT scores and GPA

AP – Advanced Placement courses or tests; must do Course Audit to say AP on transcript

Essays – The most important and time consuming part

May the Lord bless your child's transition to college!

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I'd love to hear from you!

Check out our new book:

***Raising Real Men: Surviving, Teaching and Appreciating Boys***

[www.RaisingRealMen.com](http://www.RaisingRealMen.com)