

Choosing Your Team

Getting into college is a team effort. You are the captain of your application team, but you will need to surround yourself with individuals who can help make your college application shine. Like any good team, you need members with different skills. Your team should include:

Counselors/Advisors/Mentors

They should bring: College information. Counselors are great sources of information and can open your eyes to college possibilities. Don't be afraid to pick their brains about potential schools and if you might be a good fit. Nobody knows more about this subject than your counselor.

Family Members

They should bring: Support and guidance. The best thing your family can do is help you complete your application, make sure you hit deadlines, and offer the encouragement you need. They should be collaborators in your college decision and support the choice that you make.

They should avoid: Running your college search. The right school for another family member (parent, sibling, cousin, etc.) may not be the right place for you. Family members should not attend your interview or write your essays. They may want to help, but they should stick to a behind the scenes role.

Friends

They should bring: Support. Applying to college can be stressful. Lean on your friends for support, understanding, and stress relief because they're probably going through the same process. They can help you check applications and essays for errors, or just be there for a coffee run when you get bleary-eyed from writing your essay. Be cautious of turning too much of your search over to friends.