



AMREIN FINANCIAL



"Your College Funding & Retirement Specialists"

"Paying for College Strategies"

Investment Management • Financial Planning • Retirement Planning • Educational Funding

Things to Remember

- Visit Colleges while in Session
- Understand your Financial Aid Position
- Create a Calendar of School Deadlines
- Prepare and sign up for PSAT, SAT, ACT
- Focus on the Outcome of the Education



College Planning Calendar

Newborn to College Admission

Each Fall we publish our planning calendar to help you better understand the complexity of this process. It covers the entire college planning process from childhood to college admission. The information is organized into two sections academic and financial. Amrein Financials primary focus is in the financial area of the college decision. The academic areas are only general descriptions. Each high school will have their own detailed calendar and a process that you will need to follow.

There are several reasons for dividing the calendar into two sections. The first is very simple. The forms for each process are different and each has their own complexities. A second reason is expertise. With shrinking resources, high school college guidance counselors are overwhelmed with work. Just helping students and parents in the application and selection process is a major task. Trying to keep up with college funding and financial aid requires significant training. The final reason is individual

needs. Each child has different skills and goals. These should be identified to maximize their potential on the academic side. Due to the increased cost, a college education is now a major financial commitment. Investments, taxes, retire-

"Separating the academic fit and financing should help you during the process."

ment, cash flow, debt capacity and financial aid forms need to be understood to minimize the cost. Separating the academic fit and financing should help you during the process.

Understanding how the game is played may help your child get accepted into the college of their dreams. Knowing the rules in the financial aid process could possibly save you thousands of dollars.

(See College Planning p2)

Amrein Financial

- NAPFA member
- Certified College Planning Specialists
- Independent, Fee-only Advice
- Financial & Retirement Planning
- Chartered Financial Consultant
- Investment & Portfolio Management

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College Admission Priorities

In many of my presentations, I am asked about the admission and scholarship process. I also get a great deal of questions on high school course selection and preparation for college admission. All of these are somewhat related but I am not an expert in the admission process. Based on seminars and conversation with various college admission counselors listed below are the top ten priorities you should be considering for admission to college.

You should verify these by college since some schools may change the sequence of priorities due to number of applicants or their selection process. This is a good guide line to use during your child's preparation for admissions and acceptance to college. You

(See College Priorities p4)

College Planning (Cont.)

***** Going to the proper resource to get your answers is critical. *****

Grades Pre-School to Grade 8 (Age 0 – 14)

Academics	Financial Aid
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exposure your child to various subjects and activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin to save for higher education both for high school and college. Create a funding strategy.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish good reading and math skills in preparation for standardization tests. Develop good study habits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify current Expected Family Contribution to develop proper education funding strategy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin to identify subjects of strength and weakness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the various saving option to maximum your financial aid position
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find areas of interest where leadership can be developed and displayed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weigh retirement versus education savings and understand the impact on the financial aid position

Grades High School Freshman & Sophomore (Age 14 – 16)

Academics	Financial Aid
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refine multiple areas of interest for future college majors and career options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin identifying schools of interest and estimate cost of attendance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop Leadership Qualities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refine college saving plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare and Take standardized testing (PSAT) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For Sophomore Parents, the second semester is critical for finalizing financial aid positioning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish independent study habits and time management behavior 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand college financial commitment.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Join activities that will show commitment and leadership for college application 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May want to seek professional advice since this is a major family financial decision.

Grades High School Junior (Age 16 – 17)

Academics	Financial Aid
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Freshman and Sophomore items 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalize Financial Aid Position (First Semester, Current Tax Year)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take PSAT, SAT and ACT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin educating children on money concepts, credit and budgets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visit College Campus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain college financial commitment to children
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin working with High School College Guidance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Retirement contribution due to tax year issue and financial aid impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand High School College Process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Realize impact of "Kiddie Tax" rules
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (Summer) Write draft of College Admission Essays 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beware of Scholarship, Investment, and Insurance scams and products being sold as solutions.

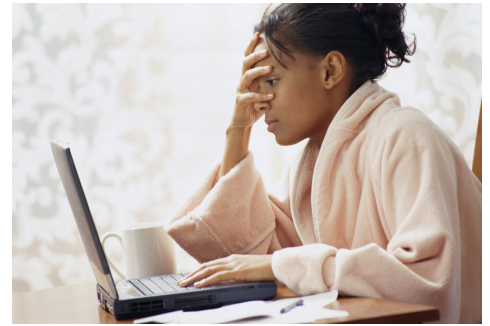
Grade High School- Senior (Age 17- 18)

Academics	Financial Aid
June – August College Campus Visits, Prepare Admission Essays, Identify references, SAT Preparation, Research College Information, Identify School's Strengths and Weakness	June – August Estimate Expected Family Contribution (EFC), Review Investments and Tax Position
September Reduce list to a manageable number (4 – 6 is optimal), Identify Early Admission and Acceptance Schools, Establish application and form deadline schedule for schools of interest, Teachers recommendations	September Identify School financial aid history, Establish possible scholarships and qualifications at schools of interest, Investigate private scholarships (** Do not pay for any scholarship searches**)
October Submit early admission application, Retake SAT or ACT Exams, Work with College Guidance for other items (Referrals, Transcripts), Application Essay	October CSS profile is available, Project year end taxes for EFC Calculation, Identify and Submit School Scholarship information
November Narrow list of school, Re-visit schools for second opinion, (It is better if the school is in session), Finalize all college applications	November Get organized for year end taxes. Complete CSS profile where applicable. Review financial aid deadlines.
December Submit all College Applications, Receive early acceptance decision, Verify applications are complete at each school of interest	December Complete an estimated tax return for financial aid position, Receive notification of some scholarship grants
January Verify Application Status and Mid-Year transcripts	January Submit Free Application for Student Financial Aid
February Revisit schools while in session and finalize priority schools	February Receive and verify Student Aid Report (SAR), Create realistic Cost of Attendance budget for schools
March Get prepared for a world wind of options	March Update SAR with Final Tax Return Data
April Acceptance Letter Received, Send Acceptance letter response	April Financial Aid Packages Received, Analyze educational out of pocket expenses, Possible Financial Aid Negotiation Letters
May Final Decision on School	May Initial Deposit Required, Analyze Financing Options
June - August Complete College Enrollment Forms, Prepare packing List	June - August Complete other financial aid forms, Financial payment method decided

College Priorities (Cont.)

may also want to use this list in your conversation with college admission counselors. It may help you better understand their admission policies and how you can improve your position.

1. **Strength of Student's Curriculum**
2. **Grades**
3. **Recommendations (Smaller Schools)/ Standardized Test Scores (Larger Schools)**
4. **Recommendations (Larger Schools)/ Standardized Test Scores (Smaller Schools)**
5. **Class Rank (High schools academic competitiveness is a factor)**
6. **Depth of Extra Curricular Activities (Commitment, Focus, Growth)**
7. **Essay (Personal, Topic about your experience)**
8. **Leadership & Initiative**
9. **Breath of Extra Curricular Activities (Number involved in, Too many could hurt)**
10. **Level of interest in the College (Some schools verify visits, interview, website visits, number of contact with the school)**



About Amrein Financial

Amrein Financial is an independent fee-only financial planning firm. We do not sell or receive any compensation from our recommendations. Fred Amrein is member of the National Association of Personal Financial Advisors (NAPFA). The NAPFA organization has some of the industry's most rigorous education and training requirements.

Fred Amrein is recognized as a national expert in educational funding. He has appeared on television and has been quoted in various national publications. Fred speaks to parent associations and other professional organizations regarding educational funding and other personal financial topics. He has developed unique funding strategies by pulling together the financial aid process, college saving plans and various tax incentives. Most of these strategies can not be discussed by college financial aid officers since legally they are not able to address investment and tax payment strategies. The goal is to lower a family's out of pocket cost of education using a variety of strategies.

Visit our website for additional free information on the education process and retirement planning. Sign up for our free newsletter and informational webcasts.

Along with our expertise in educational funding, Amrein Financial provides the following financial services on a fee only basis:

- ***Retirement & Financial Planning***
- ***Investment & Portfolio Management***
- ***Hourly Rate Financial Advice***



As an added incentive our money management clients get their college funding advice for free as part of our services.

Since we receive no compensation from our recommendation, you can feel comfortable about the advice you are receiving. We believe in full disclosure and are fiduciary advisers. Having the expertise in both retirement planning and educational funding allows us to bring these financial concerns together. Amrein Financial simplifies your financial life.