



COLLEGE PLANNING



Good Education Advice Is Not Hard To Find

(NAPSA)—The college search process—which includes entrance exams, college applications and the financial aid search—can seem overwhelming at times. Fortunately, some advice from the experts can help.

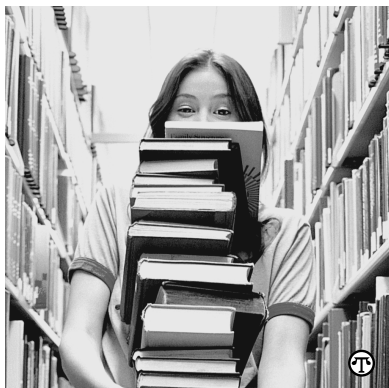
Here, experts from Thomson Peterson's offer answers to a few commonly asked questions.

Q: I am a high school sophomore and I am preparing for the ACT and SAT, but am not a strong test taker. Will this ruin my chances of getting into a good college?

A: At most colleges, test scores are just one factor in students' files. Admissions officers look at course selection, grades, recommendations and other evidence of college readiness. Test scores will be evaluated in the context of other factors, such as the student's background, academic preparedness and demonstrated interest in the school or academic program.

Q: My son is beginning the college search process. What advice do you have for a parent navigating through this stressful and confusing exercise?

A: Take a deep breath and get organized. There are resources available to help. For example, you can access My Peterson's at Petersons.com for a free, customized, online college planner complete with step-by-step advice for the entire college search and selection process. The site offers tools that allow you to manage and compare a list of potential colleges based on your specific profile



When it comes to the college application process, start early and do your homework.

and criteria. As a parent, you may want to delve into Thomson Peterson's free \$7.9 billion scholarship search with information gathered directly from public and private funding sources.

Q: How can I improve my chances of qualifying for a scholarship?

A: Focus on schools that you truly have an interest in—then go visit them. Many colleges factor in the number of visits and calls a family makes.

Also begin to build a scholarship portfolio. List all activities in and out of school, awards and project involvements. Schools are interested in a well-rounded student. Start early and “do your homework”—there are millions of dollars in scholarships out there waiting to be awarded.

For more information, visit Petersons.com.