EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

HFSV Bridge to STEM | 2026

ONEDEGREEHOTTER.COM



ALEJANDRA ACOSTA

CEO & FOUNDER

I founded One Degree Hotter to help people confidently navigate the college application process.

I've been a college advisor, admissions reader, and higher education expert for a decade.

Now my mission is to help you achieve your dreams.

ACTIVITY: COLLEGE PREFERENCES

1

HOW TO APPLY TO COLLEGE 101





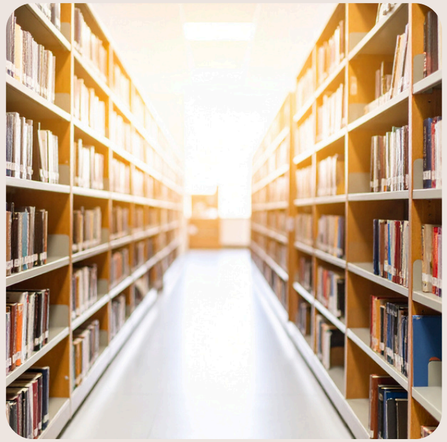
2

DEVELOPING A SOLID COLLEGE LIST

3

MAKING YOUR ACTION PLAN





4

TIPS FOR THE JOURNEY

1 How to Apply to College 101



GENERAL REQUIREMENTS



- Application
- Essay
- Transcripts
- Letters of Recommendation

TIMELINE



- Fall- Apply
- Winter- Financial Aid
- Spring- Decisions
- Summer- Enroll/Bridge programs
- Fall- Start School

**Can vary

APPLICATION ESSAYS



- An opportunity to showcase your values who you are as a person.
- Some schools require essays.
- Time consuming!



2 Developing a College List



The best college is the college that is best for

YOU

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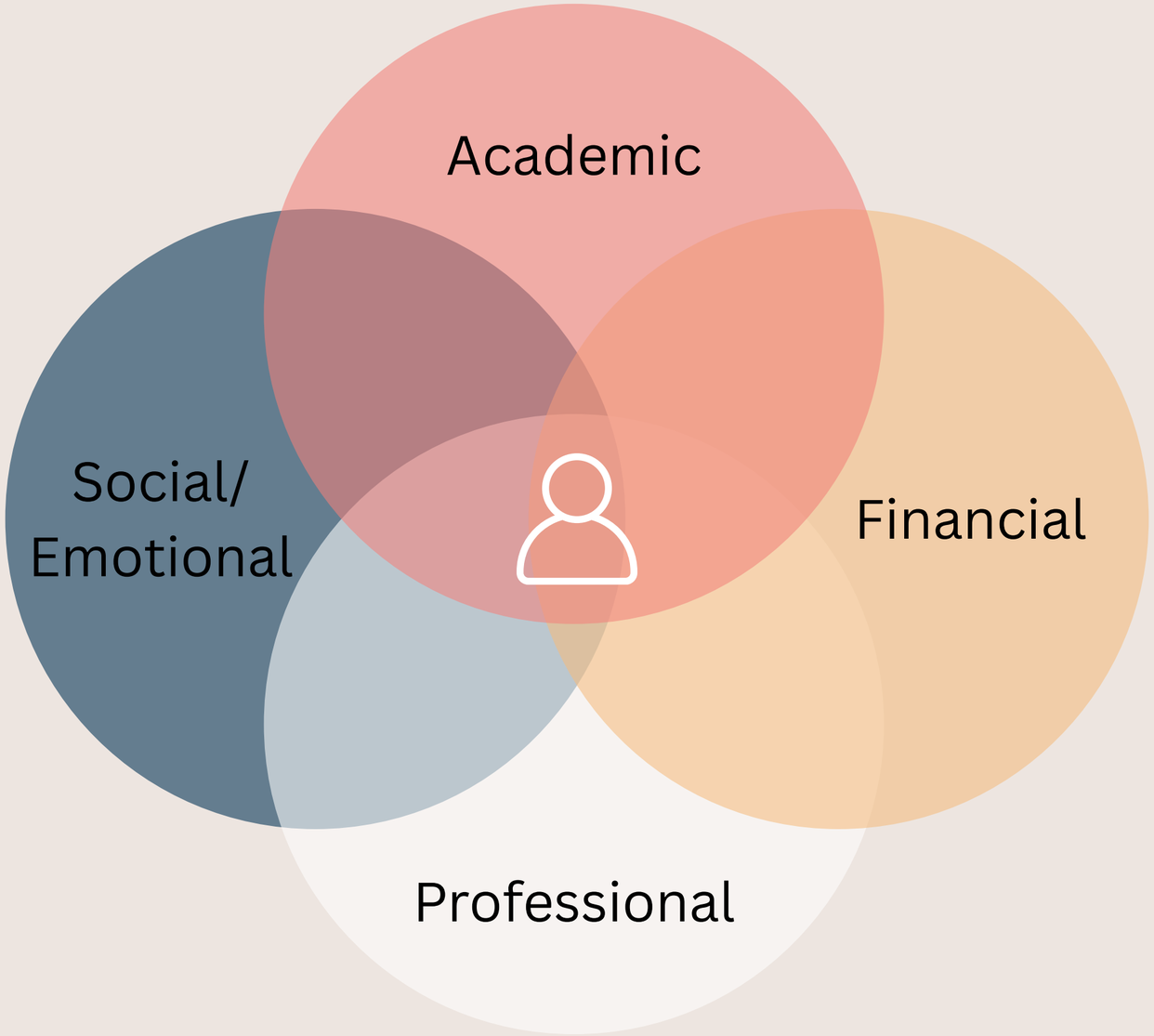
A FRAMEWORK FOR COLLEGE DECISIONS



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DEVELOPING A COLLEGE LIST



- At least one school of each category:
  - Safety
  - Target
  - Reach
- Rule of thumb: 6-12 schools

SAFETY, TARGET, & REACH



Safety:

Schools for which you **surpass** eligibility requirements and aceptance averages.

SAFETY, TARGET, & REACH



Target:

Schools for which you **meet** eligibility requirements and aceptance averages.

SAFETY, TARGET, & REACH



Reach:

Schools for which you are **below** eligibility requirements and aceptance averages.

HOW TO DETERMINE YOUR CHANCES



- Example: 3.5 GPA

- Safety: CSU Monterey Bay, Stanislaus State
- Target: SJSU, USF
- Reach: UCLA, USC

LET'S REFINE OUR COLLEGE LIST!

GUIDELINES

Identify at least 1 school in each category (Safety, Target, Reach) using your GPA.

COMPARE YOUR PRIORITIES TO YOUR COLLEGE LIST

3 Making Your Action Plan

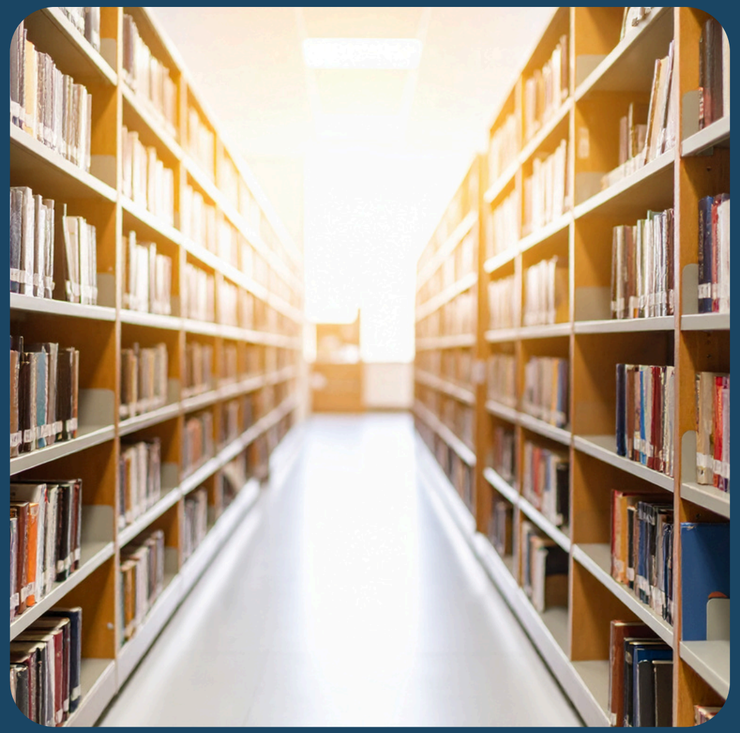


G U I D E L I N E S

Check off the following for 1 college in each category:

- Application deadline
- Essay requirements
- Letters of Recommendation

4 Tips for the Journey



TIPS FOR APPLYING TO COLLEGE



- It’s largely project management
- It’s a marathon not a sprint
- It will probably take longer than you think.
- Have a support system- counselors, programs, etc.

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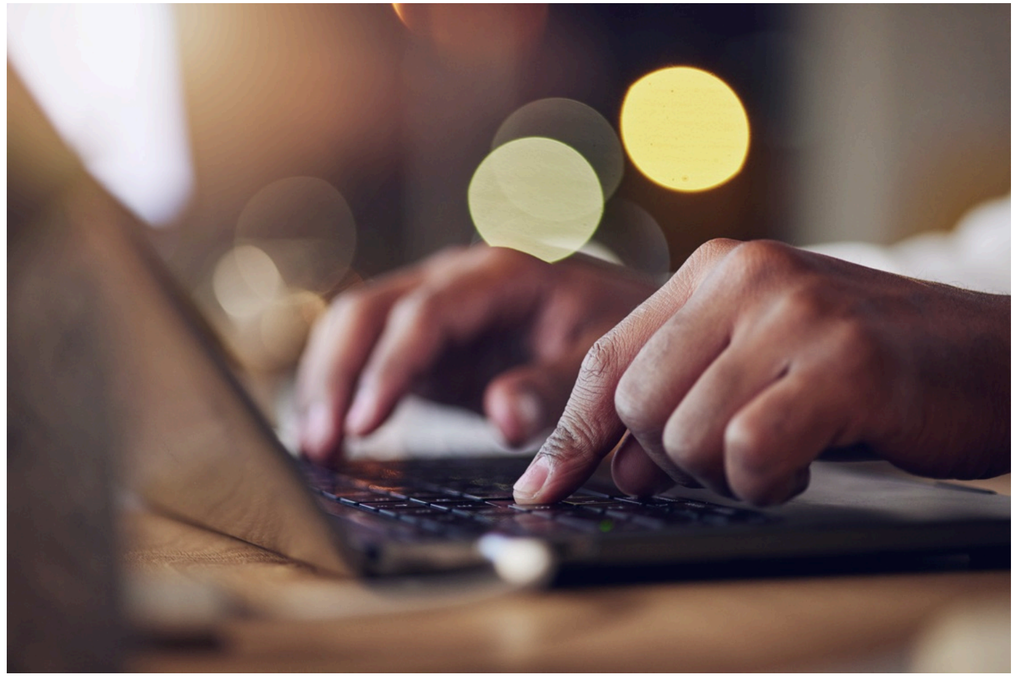
TOOLS & RESOURCES



- Kollegio.ai
- Niche
- Big Future
- Transferology
- College Scorecard
- College Navigator
- ASSIST

WANT MORE HELP?



I offer college advising and essay writing support to help you meet your goals.

Let’s work together to help you get one degree hotter!

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ONE DEGREE HOTTER COLLEGE ADVISING



THANK YOU!

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