

Distance Counseling Works

Isn't it true that when admission officers evaluate student applications they really don't know the students applying to their universities? Other than an interview that some colleges offer, acceptance decisions are based on transcripts and recommendations, but more importantly, a written document that is generally submitted online, the college application.

In order for students to portray themselves in the best light, their GPA's, test scores, resumes, essays and recommendations must paint the best possible picture. College Connections works with students and families nationally and internationally. We have counselors based in various cities in the U.S. and do see students face to face when possible. However, the demand for college admissions guidance is so widespread that to accommodate more students, distance counseling is necessary.

Our college experts guide students through their admissions process on the telephone, through email, via fax and use Skype. Online learning and education is successful and growing rapidly. Students are at ease with the distance format. Between personal web pages, social media, texts and emails, online communication is a comfort zone for most people and many students prefer communicating online.

Electronic communication is the way:

- Most university applications continue to go paperless within the next few years
- Online college applications, passwords, pin numbers, and secret questions to login are standard.
- Numerous professors post assignments, readings, lectures and syllabi online
- Colleges send out admission decisions online and high schools are using programs where students receive online reports
- Face to face college counseling meetings are generally conducted in front of a computer.

It is likely that college applications will become even more distinct in the coming years. Video uploads are now a recent addition to college applications and some colleges conduct interviews via Skype. Our college consultants guide our students to present applications that are unique, simultaneously exploring creative possibilities in photo uploads, displaying computer graphic skills, musical backgrounds and links to personal pages.

Many of our high school, transfer and graduate students have such busy schedules, that they prefer connecting with their College Connections counselor online rather than face to face. Amid homework, jobs, athletic activities and other extracurriculars, students generally like communicating with their questions and input online.

By the time our students submit their college applications, our counselors have a strong feeling for who they are having worked with them to extract their strengths. If our college counselors can get a clear, honest and accurate picture of our students from their college applications without face to face meetings, then it is likely that admissions officers will as well.