

The College Counseling Program Brzycki Group

You are invited to participate in Brzycki Group's *College Counseling Program*, designed to guide high school students and their parents through the often confusing and uncertain college selection process, in a direct and cost-effective manner.

A comprehensive education program, *The College Counseling Program* covers the full spectrum of issues and concerns of college-bound high-school students and their parents.

Some of the highlights are:

- Personal assessment of goals, dreams, and values using Brzycki Group's proprietary "Success Predictor"
- High school curriculum mapping to target high achievement
- High school extracurricular focus and accomplishment to develop an impressive high school career resume
- College search and selection to create the best match
- Application strategy formulation, including early action or early decision
- Application preparation, including essay writing, recommendations, portfolio preparation, and interviews
- Personal counseling upon college acceptances—making the final decision

We help families get the maximum return on their college investment, and young adults get the most out of their college experiences. Our students have gained admissions into top-tier colleges and universities throughout the nation. We have helped young people exceed their goals and get into the college of their dreams, succeeding from matriculation to graduation and beyond.

The College Counseling Program is taught with one-on-one meetings, a workbook, and phone calls and emails as needed. It offers different formats and lengths appropriate for all stages of the high school career, from freshman and sophomores, juniors, and seniors, through postgraduates. Parents are encouraged to participate in the entire college selection process, so as to better understand what their child is experiencing during this complex and emotionally intense process.

We work with students in the same way a coach works with his or her star players, empowering them to stretch to unprecedented levels of performance in order to win.

The College Counseling Program is a comprehensive program that helps adolescents grow into young adults through learning about their unique purpose in life, and about their special vision for what they want their life to be. We have discovered that all young men and women have a hidden vision for what they *really* want in life, but so often this vision remains repressed for many years, or even a lifetime. We work with adolescents and young adults to unlock the hidden vision and then support them in developing effective strategies to make their vision a reality.

High school academics and extra curricula activities in the optimum combination, along with our expert coaching, provide the right support at the right time in an adolescent's life journey.

Parents find *The College Counseling Program* helpful because it relieves them of the day-to-day management of the college admissions process and gives them relief knowing that their children are in the hands of professionals. Who couldn't benefit from a course that helps us to understand ourselves, to empower high academic achievement, to understand the best college matches, and to implement the most effective application strategy, and then renders independent advice and family agreement?

Achieving Maximum Return on Your College Investment

The *academic* counseling portion of our program coaches adolescents to understand that pursuing areas of study at the best level for them (such as Honors and Advanced Placement) is a strategy to follow in realizing their unique and special vision. It is a step along the way to reaching lifetime goals and dreams. Most adolescents do not understand the importance of high school academics as one way to help them achieve their dreams. In this portion of our program, we will also help adolescents understand the importance of developing interests that express their dreams in life by either expanding extracurricular activities or deepening them.

The *college* counseling portion of our program coaches young adults to understand that in pursuing a college program that best supports their vision, where and what is studied, can dramatically impact their effectiveness in achieving professional success consistent with their high standards of excellence.

With the high expense of today's college education, it is important for families to get *the most value* from their investment; in our view that investment begins during high school. *The College Counseling Program* is the best way to ensure that families are analyzing their investment options effectively. We answer the questions: "Upon what promise do you want your high school to deliver?" and, "Upon what promise do you want your college to deliver?"

With the unprecedented competition for entrance into the top tier colleges, developing a strong sense of self and direction in life ensures the right fit between the student and the college program – and a competitive advantage when presenting credentials to admissions committees. Further, with high school guidance counselors attempting to handle over 300 + students, it is not probable that your child's interests and future success will be a priority – in our program your child is our number one priority and we share this with the parents.

All of our work ensures that you are getting the most out of your investment. We like to think that the families with whom we work are insightful enough to know when to hire an investment counselor to evaluate investment options. When you consider that parents will be making a \$120,000.⁰⁰ or more investment into their child's future (this is just the undergraduate portion), parents need to know that they are maximizing the return on their significant investment.

Making a Unique Impact in the World

The College Counseling Program is designed for high-school aged students to begin to focus upon college selection in their freshman, sophomore, or junior years, and for their parents, who want to retain expert counsel and advice regarding this important decision. *The College Counseling Program* is a two-, three- or four-year educational program that adolescents actually

enjoy! Parents like the results of the program as they observe their children grow and develop consistent with their own destinies in life.

Some of the strongest parts of *The College Counseling Program* are that we help you to: (1.) know yourself; who you are – this is needed to be able to write your college applications effectively and then to interview well; (2.) understand the benefit of high academic achievement during high school; (3.) know what your college selection criteria are – this is needed to help guide you to know which college will support your interests, strengths, career planning, and vision for a great life; (4.) be in charge of designing your own future, beginning with managing the college application process, complete with scheduling your own testing dates and on-campus visitations.

Designed to Put You in Charge

The College Counseling Program is designed to produce results that are unique to each participant; therefore, it is delivered both in small family meetings and/or personalized one-on-one sessions. We understand the family's values, the student's abilities, learning styles, career goals, and life vision, and then we match these with the best academic courses and the best colleges.

The College Counseling Program takes place in a combination of: face-to-face meetings, email assignments, and IM communications. This is the technology and way of communicating most often preferred by young people today. We meet usually at least one time per grading period, and as needed. We review with you how to get the most from your current classes and what future classes to take. We call this developing a curriculum map of courses, which colleges like to see. We also discuss how to work with teachers throughout your high school career. We develop strategies for summer programs, development of interests and talents through extra curricula activities, and the development of your high school career resume. During your sophomore year, and again during the summer of your sophomore and junior years we will administer career profiling, and the college "Success Predictor" to be certain that you are on target with your plans for your high school academics and college selection options.

The Application Process

For many students, planning for college admission may be their first experience with an application and selection process. As advisors, we do not view our role as merely that of arming students with information; we acknowledge our responsibility as "coach" or "teacher" of skills that will help the student negotiate a process. Self-awareness, research, following directions, meeting deadlines, preparing high-quality documents, and making decisions are fundamental skills needed across a life span. We do not assume that these skills are well developed in adolescents or adults. Our comprehensive advising program includes sections targeting the development of all of these skills.

Secondary school students need to know that the college admission process is in itself a test and an opportunity to demonstrate their ability to communicate. A complete, on-time and articulate application sends a positive message to a college. Colleges are looking for indications that the student is organized, conscientious, self-directed and

purposeful.

The Application

Many colleges and universities have their own applications and methods of evaluation. Although many admissions applications have a similar format, the amount of information and the way in which it is to be presented will vary from college to college. Students who have not dealt with application forms before the college admission process are unlikely to understand the multiplicity attention to detail when it comes to filling out the forms.

Students need to take seriously the directions prefacing the application form. Supplementary information is often required of certain categories of students, such as transfer and international students, candidates for early decision or early action, and applicants for financial aid.

The heart of an application is usually the biographical data sheet or personal information form. This part of the application process holds at once the most fear and at the same time the most opportunity for self-understanding, therefore, we spend as much time and energy as the participant requires on this part of the process. The college is looking for a window into the mind, heart and soul of the person applying; how well the applicant knows him or her self, and communicates this understanding; possible career or professional plans; academic honors won in secondary school; extracurricular activities and achievements; and commitment to higher education.

The application should communicate: how well you describe yourself as a human being, your human qualities, the ones you like the best and least; what qualities would you like to see flourish; what are your intellectual strengths and weaknesses; what personal or academic experiences have been particularly significant or rewarding to you in your life; how strongly you emphasize your special or unique qualities, or purpose and direction in life.

Students are often baffled by questions to which there are no clear-cut right or wrong answers. We help students understand that the ambiguity of a question gives them room to interpret the question for themselves and to respond creatively and with personal flair. We help students learn to deal honestly and introspectively with essay questions.

Opportunities for students to practice thinking and writing about their values, experiences, relationships, and aspirations can be built into literature and language arts classes beginning in the freshman year of secondary school. Other group and individual activities that promote self-awareness and the expression of ideas and values should be a part every student's developmental process learned through Brzycki Group programs and courses.

Program Fees

For further information about our programs and fees, and to schedule an introductory session, please contact Henry and Elaine.

"If you can dream it, you can do it!"

- Walt Disney