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Providing opportunities

Midland University's Academic Resource Center nationally certified

NOAH JOHNSON Fremont Tribune

Midland University's Academic Resource Center was recently recognized as a nationally certified resource center by the College Reading and Learning Association, according to a university news release.

The resource center, located inside Luther Library, offers free academic services to students to help them become successful in the classroom. Those resources include a writing lab, quiz lab and learning lab along with other supplemental instruction offerings.

According to the May 28 news release, more than 800 students made academic

visits to the resource center during the 2021 spring semester.

More than 3,200 quizzes were administered through the quiz lab and more than 6,600 hours of studying were logged by Midland students during that same semester.

"Having the ARC certified sets us apart," Janet Lack, coordinator of the Academic Resource Center, said in the news release. "It signifies our consultants are going through extensive and ongoing training as part of the professional development process. We are providing outstanding services to current students, along with helping our consultants understand the process of professional development as they move forward in their careers."

During the upcoming fall semester, the reading center will offer virtual study table sessions for students at Midland University. Learning lab consultants will host some online study sessions to visit with students regarding study skills and habits.



COURTESY PHOTO

Students working in the Quiz Lab at the Academic Resource Center in the Luther Library.

"Being able to say our Academic Resource Center is nationally recognized is a powerful message to students and parents," Lack said. "When we have students and their families in for visits, I can assure them that Midland does a marvelous job

providing academic support. Not only do we offer these services, but we are continually investing in those services with training and student development."

Editor's Note: This story initially ran in a previous edition of the Tribune.

Midland University receives scholarship funds

Tribune staff

Midland University is among 30 Nebraska nonprofit colleges and universities that will share \$1.57 million in need-based scholarship funds awarded by EducationQuest Foundation.

The funds are designated for undergraduate students from Nebraska who demonstrate financial need. Each college selects students who will receive scholarships.

This marks the 23rd year that EducationQuest has awarded need-based scholarship funds to Nebraska colleges. Since the program began, EducationQuest has awarded over \$27 million providing 26,000 scholarships.

This marks the 23rd year that EducationQuest has awarded need-based scholarship funds to Nebraska colleges.

EducationQuest developed the scholarship program — and has continually increased the annual distribution amount — as part of its mission to improve access to higher education in Nebraska.

Colleges receiving funds are Bellevue University, Bryan College of Health Sciences, Central Community College, Chadron State College, CHI Health School of Radiologic Technology, Clarkson College, College of Saint Mary, Concordia University, Creighton University, Doane University, Hastings College, Little Priest Tribal College, Metropolitan Community College, Midland University, Mid-Plains Community College, Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture, Nebraska Indian Commu-

nity College, Nebraska Methodist College, Nebraska Wesleyan University, Northeast Community College, Peru State College, Southeast Community College, Union College, University of Nebraska Medical Center, University of Nebraska at Kearney,

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, University of Nebraska at Omaha, Wayne State College, Western Nebraska Community College, and York College.

Editor's Note: This story initially ran in a previous edition of the Tribune.



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Avoid these common

FINANCIAL AID MISTAKES

LEE SULMAN BIERER
Tribune News Service

Soaring student debt is a hot topic. The average debt of a senior graduating from college is nearly \$38,000. Student loan debt has reached an estimated \$1.56 trillion in the United States. That figure is even more frightening when you consider that many families are able to send their children to state universities and incur no debt at all, so for the average debt to be nearly \$38,000 means that there are thousands of students graduating with over \$100,000 in loan debt.

Yes, the financial aid forms can be intimidating, but here are a few tips to help you avoid the most common mistakes.

1. Not filling out the FAFSA

The FAFSA is the trigger to financial aid. It may not be surprising, but the single biggest mistake is not filling out the forms because you assume you won't receive any aid.

Scholarship Advisors (myscholarshipadvisors.com) conducted a survey among families with high school seniors and found that 53 percent of eligible families didn't bother applying for aid through the FAFSA. This can be a very costly mistake.

Many institutions, and especially private colleges and universities with the highest price tags, offer generous merit-based aid. These packages aren't based on financial need, but rather on talent and future potential for impact on the college campus. Many schools award these automatically based on GPA, rank in class, test scores, etc., while some schools require students to complete scholarship applications.

2. Errors and omissions

It has been reported that more than 80 percent of submitted FAFSAs contain at least one error. One example is that money in a retirement account WON'T count against you, but money in a checking account WILL.

This difference can obviously have a huge impact on your final Expected Family Contribution (EFC). Also, make sure to fill in all the fields of the form. If a question doesn't apply to you, fill in with a "0" or "not applicable."

3. The FAFSA is a student form

Even though parents are typically filling out the form, the questions are directed to the students. Keep in mind that the CSS Profile, an additional financial aid form required by many private colleges and universities, is directed to the parents.

One of my favorite books that comes out each year is Princeton Review's "Paying for College: Everything you need to maximize Financial Aid and Afford College" by Kalman Chany, a nationally recognized college funding expert.

In the recently released 2021 edition, Chany reports that roughly 39 percent of high school graduates failed to complete the FAFSA in 2019.

Chany's advice applies the strategic planning techniques traditionally used by tax accountants in the world of financial aid. His recommendations take into account year-to-year changes in both the aid application forms and the formulas used to determine aid offers.

The edition even offers guidance on dealing with COVID-19 college funding issues.

Lee Shulman Bierer is an independent college adviser based in Charlotte, N.C. Visit her website College Admissions Strategies.



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Campus Visit Questions

Want to find the right fit for college? Visit the colleges that interest you, and ask LOTS of questions while you're there.

Ask the admissions representative:

1. What are admission requirements and deadlines?
2. What is the cost of tuition, fees, room & board, and books?
3. What are housing options? Will I be required to live on campus? Is there a wait list? Are meal plans required?
4. What is the average class size? Are classes taught by professors or graduate assistants?
5. I don't know what I plan to study yet; how easy is it to change majors?
6. What are "general education" requirements?
7. How easy is it to transfer credits from a community college?
8. Is there an honors program and how do you qualify?
9. Is there a campus career center? Are internships available? Job placement services?
10. Are there study-abroad opportunities?
11. What percentage of students return after their freshman year?
12. What percentage of students graduate and what is the average length of study?
13. How diverse is the student population?
14. What percentage of students are commuters?
15. What is the student vs. faculty ratio?
16. What kind of tutoring/support systems does the college have?

Note: If you have a disability, ask to meet with the school's disability services coordinator.

Questions about student safety:

1. Is there an on-campus health clinic? (Tip: Ask your insurance provider if the campus clinic is "in-network.")
2. Where do you refer students who have a serious medical issue?
3. How safe is the campus, and what security systems are in place?

Ask your student tour guide or a current student:

Student life:

1. Why did you select this school?
2. Are the professors accessible?
3. How easy or hard was it to get the classes you wanted?
4. How many hours a day or week do you study?
5. What kind of tutoring/support systems does the college have?

Ask the financial aid counselor:

1. What applications are required for scholarships and financial aid, and what are the deadlines?
2. Are academic and departmental scholarships available?
3. Will scholarships from other donors affect the amount of aid I receive from the college?
4. What types of payment plans does the college offer?
5. Can I get a refund if I have to drop a class or drop out suddenly?

Campus life:

1. What is the Greek system like?
2. Where have you lived on campus?
3. Can freshmen have cars on campus? What is the fee for parking on campus?
4. How easy is it to get around on campus? Can I walk anywhere I want to go? Is there a free campus shuttle?
5. What do students do on weekends? What did you do last weekend?
6. What are the big campus traditions? Do a lot of students go to athletic events?
7. What kinds of activities, intramural sports or clubs are popular on campus?
8. Is there a campus recreation center for students?
9. How is the food in the dining halls? What are the hours?

Life off campus:

1. How easy is it to get to places if you don't have a car? Are bikes a good option?
2. Is there a grocery store nearby?

Ask YOURSELF after your campus visit:

1. Was the campus a good size for me?
2. How were the residence halls? Too loud or too quiet? How large were the rooms? Was I comfortable with the level of security?
3. Is there enough to do on and off campus?

Additional questions for a visit to a community college:

1. Will I be required to take placement exams? If so, what are they?
2. What is the two-year graduation rate?
3. Tell me about your academic transfer program.
4. Do you have student housing? Is there a wait list?

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Warriors become leaders

Students take part in two-day, weekend leadership academy

NOAH JOHNSON Fremont Tribune

Several Midland University students developed their leadership qualities during the university's inaugural Warrior Leadership Academy on Sunday and Monday.

The two-day camp, led by 15 representatives from the U.S. Marine Corps, brought 25 Midland students involved in athletics and performing arts together with the goal of becoming stronger leaders for their respective teams and the Midland community.

The idea came when Sidney Hirsch, director of student development, and Lawrence Chatters, outgoing vice president for student affairs, talked about opportunities for students on campus to grow their leadership skills.

"Leadership is one of the core pillars of Warrior Skills," Hirsch said. "So, we talked to coaches and performing arts staff and told them that we wanted them to each choose a few students on their team or within their group that they felt like were leaders on their team and could really grow their leadership skills and bring the skills that they learned back to their team and promote them throughout their teams."

On Sunday, the students were split into four different squads and completed different exercises and activities together before holding a discussion together.

On Monday, the group completed a four-mile hike to Fremont Lakes State Recreation Area while wearing 40-pound backpacks provided by the Marine Corps.

"It was just a really cool thing to do as one big group for students," Hirsch said. "I know a lot of them had said it was their favorite part of the event just being able to do that together."

At the end of the day, a graduation ceremony was held to commemorate the students' accomplishments over the last two days.

"I think they really enjoyed being able to work with other teams," Hirsch said. "They don't get that opportunity very often and especially with COVID last year they really stayed within their bubbles to make sure that they could have an athletic season."

Hirsch said she hopes the connections students made over the course of the camp

help unify students and athletes from the various programs offered at the university.

"I'm hoping that it allows for more of a Midland team as a whole instead of all these individual teams that we have on campus," she said. "Just going to support each other's games and competitions and just be there for each other. I think that was one of their favorite things, being able to work with other teams."

In a news release, Chatters said the academy will help the university create a cohesive team on campus.

"During COVID-19, it was difficult to have teams working together because everyone had to remain in their own bubble," he said. "Now, we're asking them to mix in, see each other's struggles, and be beacons of light within the university population. These are budding leaders, and we want to give them the right tools to be leaders not only on their teams but across campus."

Hirsch said the students who participated in the camp overcame their own obstacles throughout the experience. Students entered the camp with a wide range of physical and endurance capabilities, Hirsch said.

Despite the differences in capabilities, students worked together to make sure their teammates weren't left behind during the different exercises and activities.

"It was just really cool to see them work together with people that are normally not on their team making sure that they would turn back for someone that maybe they didn't even really know before coming into this event," Hirsch said.

The event received positive feedback from the students who participated in it, according to Hirsch. She hopes to take that feedback and use it to develop the academy into an annual event for Midland students and athletes.

She added that the students who completed this summer's academy can now share their experiences with their teammates, which will hopefully bring more attention to the event in the years to come.

"I think just having them be able to share their experience now with their team helps us in the future," she said.

Editor's Note: This story initially ran in a previous edition of the Tribune.



COURTESY PHOTO

A group of Midland University students developed their leadership qualities during the university's inaugural Warrior Leadership Academy.

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LEE SHULMAN BIERER
Tribune News Service

College applications are out; let the careless errors begin.

A sloppy college application, while one of the easiest missteps to avoid, is probably among the most common mistake applicants make.

Here are pitfalls that you can easily prevent:

A silly email address

If your student created their email address in the second grade and it sounds something like “beachbum4life” or “cheerleadercutie,” it’s time for an update. Students can create an “acceptable” email account with Gmail in just a few minutes. Colleges communicate almost exclusively with students via email, and setting up a more professional account is an easy way to dodge a red flag.

Inappropriate material on social media

There is a lot of buzz in the college admissions community and among students and parents about the morality and the reality of college admissions professionals checking up on the Facebook and Twitter accounts of applicants. I tell students, “If you aren’t comfortable with your grandmother seeing/



College application mistakes to avoid

reading what you have out there in cyberspace, remove it during your college admissions process.” Vulgar language and inappropriate photos and posts (drinking, etc.) are obvious candidates for removal, but if you or your student thinks something is questionable, my advice is to “be safe and sanitize.”

Procrastination

Applications are due as early as mid-October

with the majority of regular decision deadlines hitting on or around Jan. 1. Why do as many as 50 percent of students wait until the last day, or even the last hour, to submit their applications?

Every year, without fail, college computer servers get overloaded with applicants applying at the last minute and shut down. “Panic-stricken” is probably a mild term for the chaos this creates in

many households. You can imagine the conversation:

Student: “Help, it’s not letting me submit my application.”

Parent: “When is it due?”

Student: “By midnight tonight.”

Parent: “Why did you wait until the last minute?”

Avoid this experience at all costs, start the applications now, and plan to submit them at least one week prior to the deadline.

Misspellings

Spell-check is not a college applicant’s friend. Most applications are not enabled with spell-check, and that means that all your mistakes and careless errors are in full view. I recommend at least two rounds of proofing. Don’t use abbreviations unless you’re short on space. Be consistent with how you refer to organizations (i.e., your use of acronyms, uppercase and lowercase, etc.). One of the most common errors is that students forget to capitalize “i” — likely a carryover from texting. Proof, take a break of two or more days, reproof and then submit.

Lee Shulman Bierer is an independent college adviser based in Charlotte, N.C. Visit her website College Admissions Strategies.

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- 4

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A GUIDE FOR YOUR JOURNEY TO COLLEGE



EducationQuest.org

FALL

- ☐ Ask your counselor what courses you still need to take to meet college admission requirements.
- ☐ Take dual-credit courses to earn college credit – if available at your school.
- ☐ Get involved in extracurricular activities to increase your chances for scholarships and college admission.
- ☐ Attend a virtual Financial Aid Program to learn how to pay for college.
- ☐ Attend a virtual College Fair to meet with college representatives.
- ☐ Learn about careers that match your skills and interests.
- ☐ Research colleges that offer programs in your areas of interest.

VISIT [EducationQuest.org](https://www.educationquest.org) to:

- Sign up for *Countdown2College* monthly email tips.
- Create or update your *Activities Resume*.
- Find dates of virtual Financial Aid Programs and College Fairs.
- Set up a *ScholarshipQuest* profile to find Nebraska-based scholarships.
- Use *Reality Check* to match your future career with your desired lifestyle.
- Research colleges using *College Profiles*.

WINTER

- ☐ Prepare for the ACT. Ask your counselor about testprep options including actstudent.org.
- ☐ Focus on your career interests by taking a career assessment at your school.

SPRING

- ☐ Attend a virtual College Fair.
- ☐ Go on college visits (on campus or virtually) to experience campus life.
- ☐ Narrow your top college choices.
- ☐ Take the ACT test.
- ☐ Apply for a summer job, and create a budget to help you save for college.

SUMMER

- ☐ Retake the ACT and try to improve your score.
- ☐ Update your Activities Resume. Include awards, honors, volunteer work, and other activities.
- ☐ Job shadow to explore potential careers.
- ☐ Use ScholarshipQuest to research scholarships you can apply for your senior year.

SEE PAGE 12 FOR SENIOR GUIDE



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SENIORS...

A GUIDE FOR YOUR JOURNEY TO COLLEGE



FALL

- ☐ Take dual-credit courses to earn college credit – if available at your school.
- ☐ Visit your top college choices.
- ☐ Use ScholarshipQuest to look for scholarships.
- ☐ Attend a virtual College Fair to meet with college representatives.
- ☐ Attend a virtual Financial Aid Program to learn how to pay for college.
- ☐ Apply to your top colleges. If your school has an Apply2College event, you'll get help during the school day.
- ☐ Prepare for the FAFSA by creating an account at studentaid.gov (one for you and one for a parent).
- ☐ Complete the FAFSA at studentaid.gov – or via the myStudentAid app – on or after October 1 to apply for financial aid.
- ☐ Expect a Student Aid Report (SAR) indicating your FAFSA was processed.
- ☐ Retake the ACT and/or SAT.

VISIT [EducationQuest.org](https://www.educationquest.org) to:

- Sign up for *Countdown2College* email tips.
- Update your *Activities Resume*.
- Research colleges using *College Profiles*.
- Find free FAFSA tools.
- Find dates of virtual Financial Aid Programs and College Fairs.
- Find Nebraska-based scholarships via *ScholarshipQuest*.
- Use *Reality Check* to match your future career with your desired lifestyle.

WINTER

- ☐ Watch for acceptance letters from the colleges you applied to.
- ☐ Be prepared for verification. The college(s) may request documents to verify your FAFSA information.
- ☐ Expect financial aid award notifications from the college(s) you listed on your FAFSA.

SPRING

- ☐ Compare financial aid award notifications to see which college offers the best award package.
- ☐ Continue to apply for scholarships. Many have spring deadlines.
- ☐ Make your final college decision and notify the other schools.
- ☐ Submit your housing deposit before the deadline.

SUMMER

- ☐ Attend new-student orientation at your college.
- ☐ Apply for student loans, if needed. Your college will tell you how to apply.
- ☐ Coordinate dorm purchases with your roommate.

Don't be a stealth applicant

LEE SHULMAN BIERER
Tribune News Services

"Stealth applicant" is the term colleges and universities use for a student whose first communication with a school is an admissions application.

Essentially, these students haven't shown any interest in the school via webinars, virtual tours, visits (when it was possible), etc. An increase in these out-of-the-blue applicants has thrown off schools' ability to accurately predict the number of applications they will receive and has caused some schools to adjust their traditional admissions practices.

The ease of pointing and clicking on the Common Application to add more colleges to your application list has increased the number of stealth applicants at schools across the country. Think about it: If you were an admissions dean and had two students whose stats were similar, you'd select the one who had demonstrated more interest because there seemed to be a greater likelihood that they would choose to attend

your school.

Colleges often purposely track students' interest to help predict the number of applications the admissions office will receive. Every box that gets checked helps colleges gauge students' "demonstrated interest," which the school uses as a predictor of how many students, if admitted, will actually enroll.

The percentage of students who accept a school's admissions offer — referred to as a yield ratio — is a critical measurement for admissions offices deciding on the number of acceptance offers they should send out and how they should apportion their available grants, student loans and other limited financial aid funds.

As more students apply without warning, schools' yield ratios are becoming less predictable. An increase in stealth applicants makes it difficult for admissions officers to discern a student's real interest in the school, which is typically measured by the extent of a student's contact with the school. Internet conveniences allow stu-

dents to apply to more schools with little additional effort.

Here are some suggestions of ways to demonstrate interest:

- Follow each of your colleges on social media.

- Respond to their emails if given the opportunity.

- Visit the college if possible. It shows you've invested the time to visit the campus. While there, take the tour, arrange to sit in on a class, if possible, and talk with students. If you're interested in majoring in a specific department, arrange to meet with a professor or students in that department and ask questions.

- If you can't get to the school, arrange to visit with the college admissions staff at a local or national college fair. You can check out national college fairs at the National Association for College Admissions Counseling website, www.nacacnet.org.

- Identify the Regional Admissions Officer at each college on your list. This is the person responsible for applications from

your state. Get to know this person through email and phone conversations. Ask this person to help you decide if the school is a good fit for you.

- Let the college know if it is your first choice.

- Attend a prospective student day.

- Participate in online chats.

- Watch online videos and take virtual tours.

- Email well thought out questions and spend time on the college's website on a regular basis. Colleges keep track of how often you contact them and visit the site.

- Make sure that when you respond to the "Why this college?" essay prompt that you answer thoughtfully and with specifics.

Once you've sent in your application, check back with the admissions office to make sure they have everything they need and that your application is complete.

Lee Shulman Bierer is an independent college adviser based in Charlotte, N.C. Visit her website CollegeAdmissionsStrategies.com.

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Why is college admission getting more competitive?

LEE SHULMAN BIERER
Tribune News Service

Right now, the angst among high school seniors and their parents is palpable. Almost every parent I speak with says something like, “It wasn’t this stressful when I applied to college. Why is it so much more competitive now?”

There’s no denying that many of us parents wouldn’t be accepted at our own alma maters if we were applying today. Standardized test scores have inched up and acceptance rates have dropped. Why is it so much more difficult to be admitted?

The stats demonstrate just how much more competitive the world of college admissions has become. Stanford rejected almost 96 percent of its applicants, and a large percentage of them had perfect SAT or ACT scores. It’s obviously not enough to be a strong student with great test scores. Those objective characteristics will get you considered, but it is the softer, more subjective items that end up sealing the deal.

Think about it: There is a valedictorian and a salutatorian at every high school in the country. There’s also a newspaper editor and a student government president at every school, and then think about the



EMILY SHULLAW ILLUSTRATION, LEE ENTERPRISES

number of soccer players, cheerleaders, Beta Club members and National Honor Society inductees. It’s difficult for students to set themselves apart.

To be fair, the college admissions panic is really only among the country’s most elite schools; we’re talking about just 50-100 schools when there are 4,000 or so colleges and universities across the country. Nationally, the acceptance rate for undergraduates is 70 percent.

Among the top tier of public and private liberal arts institutions, applications have

increased by one-third or more during the last five years. Yet the available spaces have remained constant.

Here are two of the major reasons for the increased competitiveness in college admissions:

1. There are more students, and many of these students are applying to more schools. Many of today’s college applicants are part of what’s referred to as the “Echo Boom” — kids of Baby Boomers and beyond.

There are just more kids out there. Four years ago, there were 2.5 million high school graduates. This year, according to the Department of Education, there will be 3.6 million graduates. Thirty years ago, half of high school graduates applied to college. Today, due in large part to our increasingly global economy, almost two-thirds of high school graduates are applying to college.

Many students are trying to hedge their bets and are applying to more colleges. In 1975, only 3.2 percent of students applied to seven or more colleges. In 2006, that number was 17.4 percent. And in 2019, many college-bound students decided to hedge their bets and apply to as many schools as possible to secure sufficient offers of admission. In 2015, the Washington

Post reported that seniors at a New Jersey high school applied to, on average, 45 colleges each, with one student applying to as many as 70 schools. That’s crazy, and no guidance counselor would support it, but some families are willing to pay all those application fees to “find out.”

Using the Common Application makes applying to colleges even easier: www.commonapp.org. It’s one application used by 800-plus colleges across the country. It includes a single essay, it’s filled out online, and students check off the colleges to which they want to send their application. Beware: There are often supplemental essays for many colleges as well. With a keystroke and a credit card, students can spontaneously apply to more and more colleges. And they do.

Let’s end with an encouraging statistic: What percentage of students get into their first-choice school? It’s not 25 percent, not 40 percent. More than 75 percent find that they have many choices, including their first-choice school. Now that’s good news.

Lee Shulman Bierer is an independent college adviser based in Charlotte, N.C. Visit her website CollegeAdmissionsStrategies.com.

Why the ‘Why this school?’ essay is so important

LEE SHULMAN BIERER
Tribune News Service

Why is the “Why this college?” essay so important? Admissions officers care why students put their college on their list, and many colleges incorporate the “why” question into their applications.

While most students find themselves having to write a variety of essays for different colleges, the typical student will focus almost exclusively on the Common Application essay or a college’s personal statement. Frequently, they think they’re done with their application, they go to hit “submit” and find out that the college wants them to write another essay explaining why they want to attend.

These are usually the worst essays imaginable. Students don’t know how to distinguish themselves and consequently end up writing about football, Greek life and the weather. The University of North Carolina at Wilmington got so tired of students saying they wanted to come to Wilmington for the sunny climate that a few years ago, their prompt was: “Tell us why you want to come to UNC Wilmington, besides the beach!”

I suggest that students imagine themselves on the other side of the admissions desk. If you were a director of admissions at a college and were choosing which students



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to accept and which to deny, what would you want to read about in a “Why this college?” essay? Once you are looking at the prompt from their perspective, it’s easy to see why droning on and on about the sense of spirit in the stadium won’t set you apart.

Colleges want students who want to be there for the academics. Students need to demonstrate that they’ve done their homework on the college website. How does this specific college differ from others on your list? Are its multidisciplinary majors appealing? Are there study-abroad

opportunities that you can’t resist? Is its commitment to an honor code something that speaks to you? Has one of its professors just written a fascinating book and you can’t wait to take the class?

What are some things that colleges don’t want to read about?

Students often fall prey to regurgitating college facts and trivia that they read in guidebooks or heard on campus tours. Don’t tell colleges what they already know about themselves, such as the number of books in their libraries or the fact that the dining halls are open 24 hours a day. Admissions officers don’t like it when students suggest that they can make a lot of money after graduation because the school did well in some college ranking, or that with an undergraduate degree from this school, they’ll be able to get into a top-notch graduate school.

Make sure your final “Why this college?” essay isn’t one that you can multipurpose and use for other colleges. Personalize it and be specific about identifying why each college is a good fit for you. It’s very easy for a college to determine which students have put in the effort on this essay.

Lee Shulman Bierer is an independent college adviser based in Charlotte, N.C. Visit her website CollegeAdmissionsStrategies.com.

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