

# SEATTLEU

## **The Parent Role in the College Search Process**

Andrea Frangi, Senior Associate Director of Admission

# Overview

- Myths and Urban Legends
- Parent and Supporter Role – How You Can Support the Process
  - Dos and Don'ts
- Behind the Curtain: How Admissions Review Applications
- Resources
- Final Thoughts

# Myths and Urban Legends

- **“*Most* universities only accept a small percentage of applicants.”**
  - Selective universities have an admit rate between 15%- 50%; semi-selective universities have an admit rate between 40% - 75%. It depends on many factors such as program demand, applicant pool size, geography, size, mission.
- **“Essays don’t really matter because GPA and test scores are so dominant in admissions decisions.”**
  - Don’t believe it. A poorly written, typo-filled essay can kill any application, and a beautiful piece can lift a student over another who looks similar on paper. Schools often review holistically, and consider essays, letters of recommendation, and demonstrated interest.

# Myths and Urban Legends

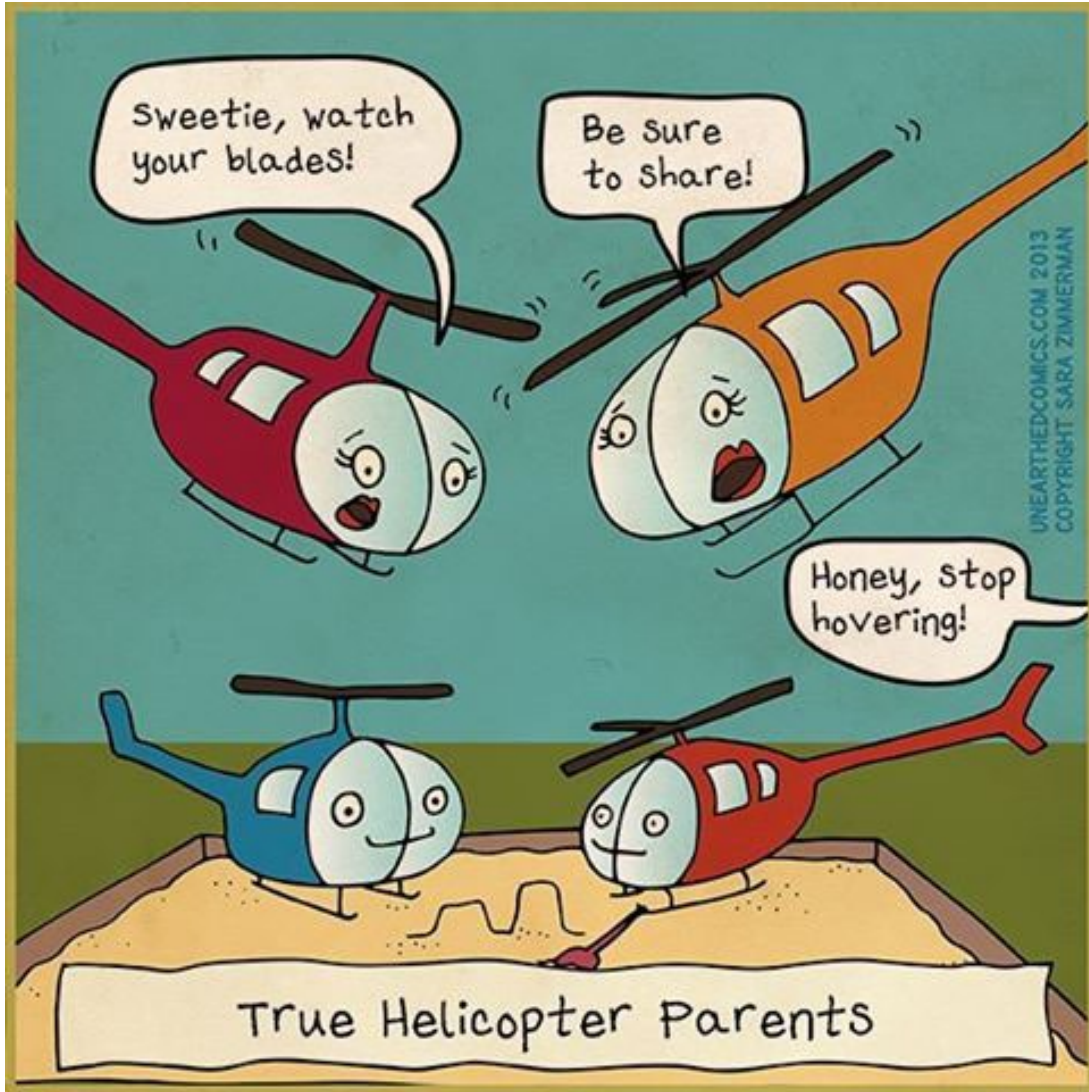
- **“Extensive extra-curricular activities are crucial to admissions.”**
  - Colleges are looking for a well-rounded “class” – not necessarily applicants. Better to have fewer activities that demonstrate passion and commitment than a long list of things a student has dabbled in.
- **“There’s one perfect school for me.”**
  - Explore the schools that are the right fit for your student’s academic, social and personal needs. There are many great schools where students can thrive.

# Myths and Urban Legends

- **“The hardest part is getting in.”**
  - There is a disproportionate emphasis on the admissions process in the college search process. Re-center your focus on the college *years* and beyond.
- **“Colleges don’t care about senior year.”**
  - Not true. Colleges typically review final transcripts and can rescind offers based on poor senior-year performance.

# Myths and Urban Legends

- **“The destination is more important than the journey.”**
  - The college search and application process is a wonderful opportunity for self-reflection and self-analysis. It’s not often, in our teenage years, that we are asked to truly try to articulate who we are and what we value. This process can be a lovely journey of the self for your student.
- **“Where I go to school will determine my future. I *have* to get into a highly selective school/recognized name or I’m cooked.”**
  - There is a disproportionate emphasis put on name brand. If the most interesting thing about you, as an adult, is where you went to college then I think we can all agree you should maybe pick up a book, watch a documentary, go for a hike, find a hobby, etc.



Some say Generation X parents are:



But I think they are...





<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RXwntpa4l1A>

# The Parent Role

Coach: cheer and support  
*from the sidelines*



**You**

Executive Assistant  
(less manager,  
more organizer,  
planner and  
deadline enforcer)



# Parent: What **Not** to Do

- **Do not** write essays or make major corrections on applications.
- **Do not** force your own beliefs about college on your student. Show them you believe in their ability to make a good decision.
- **Do not** compare college acceptances, waitlist offers or denials to others and vice versa. Doing so often adds more stress.
- **Do not** take rejections personally.

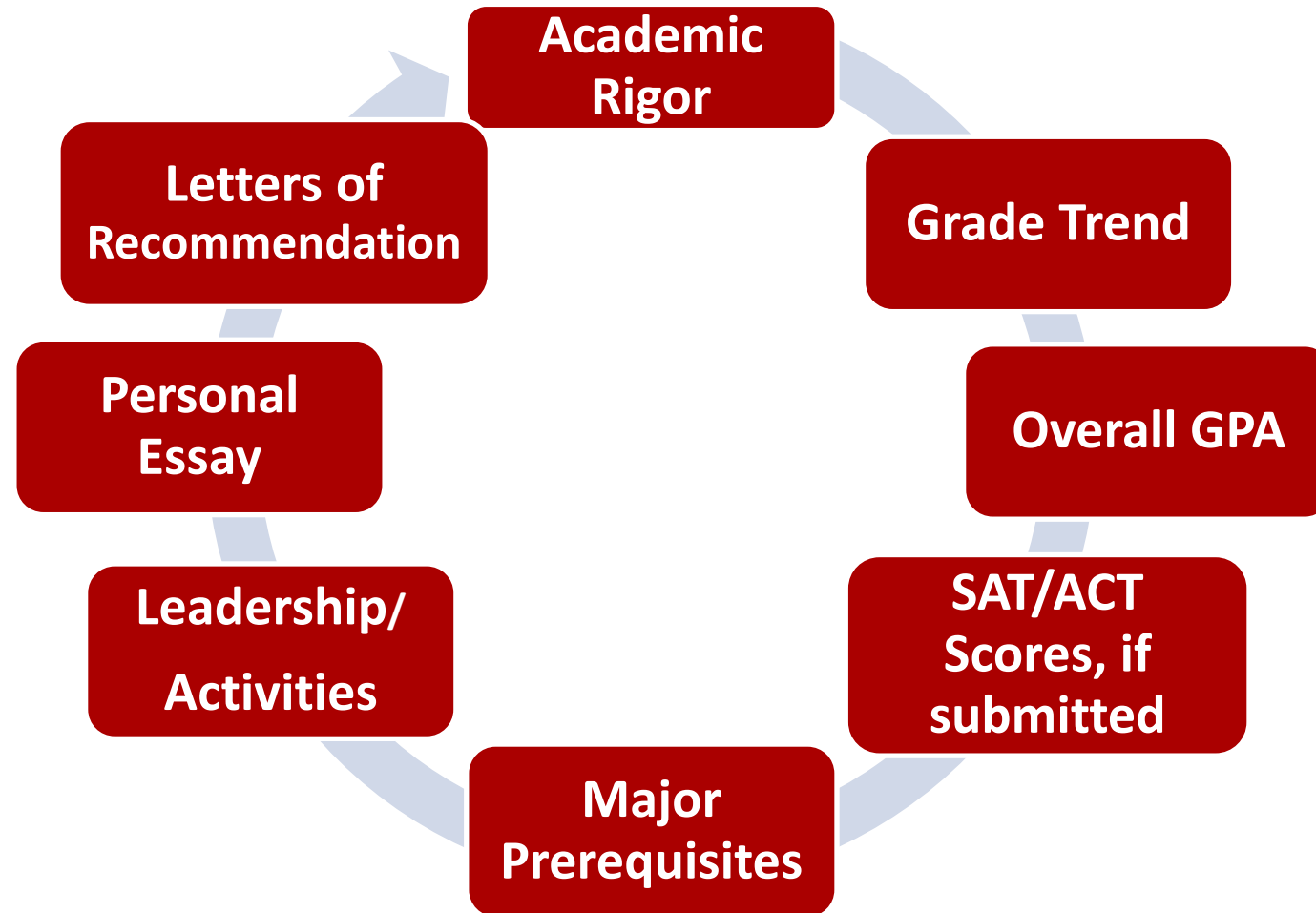


# Parent: What to Do

- Remain positive and be a calming influence.
- Keep conversation open. Ask Questions. Listen.
- Focus on finding the right fit.
- Discuss affordability. Address any limits with your student.
- Facilitate visiting college campuses and/or virtual tours.
- Self-assess. Am I appropriately or overly involved?



# How Admissions Review Applications



# Standardized Testing

## Test Optional

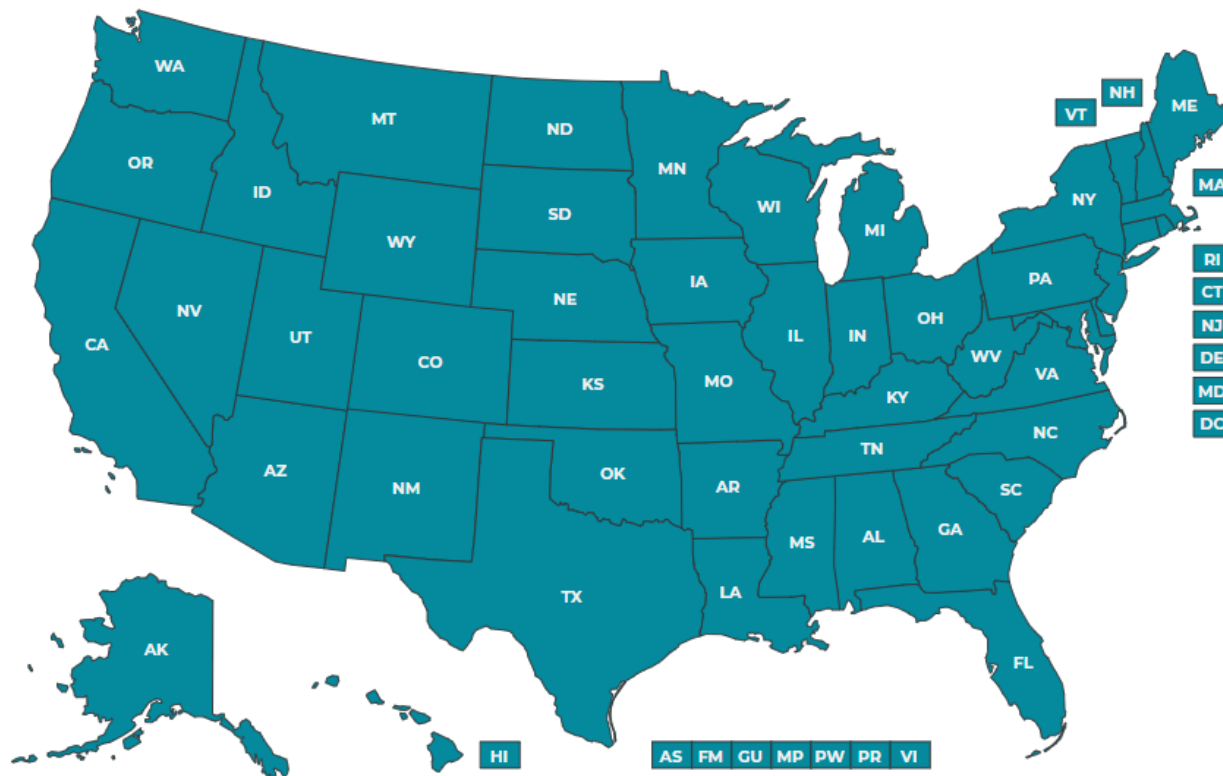
- A student can choose if they want to submit standardized test scores as part of the admission process.

## Test Free

- Regardless of whether or not you submit testing it will *not* be taken into consideration as part of your admission decision. The application reviewer cannot see your test scores even if you have self-reported or submitted them.



## Find Your Admissions Counselor



Personalized education is a hallmark of a Seattle University education, and we want that connection to start in the Admissions process.

Click your state or territory to learn more about your Admissions Counselor, then contact us so we can learn a little more about you!

Transfer students can find their [Admissions Counselor contact information here](#).

Not in the US? [Find your Admissions Counselor here](#).

## Transfer Student? Not in the US?

Transfer students and international students can click below to connect with their admissions counselors.

# Parent and Family Engagement

## Resources for Parents

- Monthly 'Family Connection' newsletter
- Facebook Group
- Parent Council
- Parent and Family Engagement Webinars
- Connect: [parents@seattleu.edu](mailto:parents@seattleu.edu)

## Recommended Reading

- **Almost Grown: Launching Your Child from High School to College** by Patricia Pasick
- **Parents' Guide to College Life: 181 Straight Answers** by Robin Raskin
- **Emptying the Nest: Launching Your Young Adult Toward Success and Self-Reliance** by Brad Sachs
- **Navigating the First College Year: A Guide For Parents** by Richard H. Mullendore and Cathie Hatch

# Final Thoughts

- Keep things in proper perspective.
- Trust your student to lead the way (with nudges in the right direction).
- Ask questions...*and listen to the answers.*
- Use your resources for guidance.



# Contact Information

Andrea Frangi  
Senior Associate Director  
Seattle University  
[frangia@seattleu.edu](mailto:frangia@seattleu.edu)

