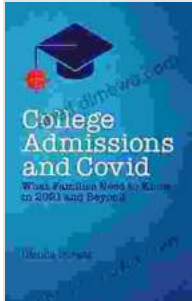


College Admissions and COVID: A Comprehensive Guide for Parents and Students



College Admissions and Covid: What Families Need to Know in 2024 and Beyond by Glenda Durano

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

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The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on every aspect of our lives, and college admissions is no exception. The virus has forced colleges and universities to make major changes to their admissions processes, and it has created new challenges for students and parents alike.

This comprehensive guide will provide you with everything you need to know about the changes that have been made to college admissions, the challenges that remain, and the strategies that can help you succeed in the college admissions process during these unprecedented times.

Changes to College Admissions

The following are some of the most significant changes that have been made to college admissions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic:

- **Standardized testing:** Many colleges and universities have made standardized testing optional or test-blind for the 2021-2022 admissions cycle. This means that you will not be required to submit SAT or ACT scores as part of your application.
- **College essays:** The college essay is still an important part of the college admissions process, but the prompts have been revised to reflect the challenges that students have faced during the pandemic. For example, the Common App essay prompts for the 2021-2022 admissions cycle include:
 1. Some students have faced challenges, setbacks, or unexpected obstacles in their lives. If you have faced challenges in your life, describe one that has had a significant impact on you and explain how you have overcome it.
 2. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all of our lives in different ways. Tell us how you have been affected by the pandemic, and what you have learned from the experience.
 3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted you to do so? What was the outcome?
 4. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does this topic or concept captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
 5. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that you're working on, or one that you're still

brainstorming.

- **Financial aid:** The pandemic has caused financial hardship for many families. As a result, colleges and universities have increased their financial aid budgets and made it easier for students to apply for financial aid.
- **College counseling:** College counseling is more important than ever during the pandemic. College counselors can help you navigate the changes to the college admissions process and develop a strategy that will help you succeed.

Challenges of College Admissions During the Pandemic

In addition to the changes that have been made to college admissions, the pandemic has also created new challenges for students and parents.

These challenges include:

- **Virtual learning:** Many students have been forced to take classes virtually during the pandemic. This can make it difficult to stay engaged in learning and to get the support you need from teachers and classmates.
- **Mental health:** The pandemic has taken a toll on the mental health of many students. Anxiety, depression, and stress are all common problems during this time. It is important to seek help if you are struggling with your mental health.
- **Financial hardship:** The pandemic has caused financial hardship for many families. This can make it difficult to afford college tuition and fees.
- **Uncertainty:** The future is uncertain during the pandemic. It is difficult to know what the college admissions process will look like in the years

to come.

Strategies for Success in College Admissions During the Pandemic

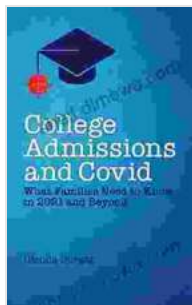
Despite the challenges, it is still possible to succeed in the college admissions process during the pandemic. Here are a few strategies that can help you:

- **Be flexible:** The college admissions process is constantly changing during the pandemic. Be prepared to adjust your plans as needed.
- **Stay organized:** Keep track of all deadlines and requirements. Use a calendar or planner to stay on top of your tasks.
- **Get help:** Don't be afraid to ask for help from your parents, teachers, counselors, or other trusted adults.
- **Take care of yourself:** Make sure to take care of your mental and physical health. Eat healthy, get enough sleep, and exercise regularly.
- **Be positive:** It is easy to get discouraged during the pandemic, but it is important to stay positive. Remember that you are not alone and that you can succeed.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on college admissions. However, it is still possible to succeed in the college admissions process during these unprecedented times. By following the strategies outlined in this guide, you can increase your chances of getting into the college of your choice.

Remember, you are not alone. There are many resources available to help you through the college admissions process. Don't be afraid to ask for help.

With hard work and dedication, you can achieve your college dreams.



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