

# Getting into college no longer a numbers game

## Will the college of your choice choose you?

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Sending your kids to college has never been more difficult or more expensive, and outstanding grades no longer guarantee acceptance. With competition at an all-time high, students are facing the toughest admissions committees in history, and parents are being strangled by soaring tuition costs and a financial aid system designed to eliminate all but the most knowledgeable and persistent applicants.

America's unsung higher education *crisis* affects families from all walks of life. Most parents are not skilled in college admissions, and the vast majority braving the financial aid process without professional help fall victim to a system plagued with complication and confusion. Misinformation from so-called reliable sources is rampant making an impossible situation that much worse!

Yet, despite these obstacles and contrary to what most college or college-bound families believe, paying for college is *not* the main concern! Getting *accepted* to college is your number one priority. All the financial aid in the world is useless *without* that coveted admission ticket!

To ensure a student's education at the college of their choice, planning must begin early – no later than the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. This may seem premature, but starting any later could be higher education suicide. Even if the student is *qualified*, they must be made *acceptable* to all the schools. Planning, patience and persistence take time, but most importantly, the student must be motivated to succeed.

Every year there are far more qualified applicants than all of our colleges and universities have room for. In 2007, Harvard rejected 80% of all valedictorians who applied, and Duke rejected 90% - for one valid reason - sameness. They all had straight A's, the highest ACT and SAT scores, club participation galore, sports, etc., etc., etc. All they had were high numbers, but no burning desire to attend. The list goes on and on, but in most cases, the majority of rejected students were *qualified* applicants!

In order to throw an application in the waste basket, the schools look for any reason whatsoever to reject. Qualified applicants are deemed *unacceptable* for even the slightest error.

For example, a student with a 3.5 GPA, 1875 SAT, 28 ACT and 200 community service hours would be *unacceptable* to Harvard, but *qualified* at the University of Miami or Ohio State – yet not necessarily *acceptable* to either school. There is a world of difference between *qualified* and *acceptable*, and knowing the difference makes the difference.

The days when college admissions were simply a numbers game are long gone. Knowing how to present a student significantly increases their chances of being accepted to the college of their choice. This all-important edge becomes an integral part in today's highly competitive and unsympathetic college admissions process.

For over 35 years, noted financial advisor, Reecy Aresty, has helped thousands of high school and college families to obtain the American Dream; a superior education at a cost far less than they ever dreamed possible. He is the author of the highly acclaimed admissions and financial aid manual, *How To Pay For College Without Going Broke*. For further information on admissions and financial aid, please visit: [www.paylessforcollege.com](http://www.paylessforcollege.com).