

10 points you should know from the College Panel

Did you miss the College Admissions Panel on Sept. 8? Don't fear: Panelists offered these highlights.

- 10. Take a deep breath (or several).** Senior year is exciting, full of decisions about life after graduation. It can also be stressful, with application deadlines, financial aid forms and (oh, yeah!) classes. College admissions reps understand this and want to work with you; check out their websites, learn their processes, and communicate with them. You'll make it through.
- 9. The place to be is in N.C.** With 16 state-supported universities, 36 independent colleges, and 58 community colleges, historically black colleges and universities, small, private women's colleges, the largest public campuses -- students have lots to choose from.
 - 8. You're more than your GPA.** Colleges want to see the impact you can make in their community. Volunteer work, interests and hobbies, commitments you make: All of these distinguish you from others whose grade-point average is near yours.
 - 7. Visit, visit, visit.** With so many colleges in the Triangle within a drive of your house, there's little reason for you to not get a taste of what college life is like. There's nothing quite like being on campus to help you decide if you fit there.
 - 6. There's a school for you.** Even if your dream school denies your application or puts you on a waitlist, another school out there wants you for its freshman class. Don't pin all your hopes on one school; keep an open mind.
 - 5. Do your homework.** Research the schools you're interested in; make sure their programs, locales and focuses match your own interests. You want to feel at home -- after all, you plan to be there for the next four years.
 - 4. There's no "one-size-fits-all" plan.** What may be the perfect fit for your classmates may not be for you. Figure out what drives you and use that to look at schools that meet those criteria.
 - 3. It's all about context.** Schools are looking at what you did with the possibilities you had at Enloe as well as the circumstances of your life. You're more than a number but you have to provide the schools the information that helps them see that. Essays help you do this!
 - 2. There is no "Enloe quota."** Every school was clear about this, but UNC-CH was especially forceful. The only numeric requirement they have is a class that is 82% N.C. residents. They do not have a set number of Enloe students, Wake County students, etc.
 - 1. Just be you.** Colleges and admissions officers can tell when a parent has provided more than a proofreading of their student's essay. Just be yourself (within the realm of tact and common sense ... using bathroom imagery in a college essay shows neither). If you have any doubts, ask someone you trust -- a parent, a counselor, a teacher.