

MCNEAL SAMS COLLEGE CONSULTING NEWS AND NOTES

FINAL CHOICE CHECKLIST

There is more to finalizing your enrollment than letting the college know you will come. The most frequently required steps are listed below. For a complete list of typical tasks required between now and when you begin college, consult [this guide](#).

If you are having trouble making a final choice, your college consultant is here to help.

- Pay your enrollment deposit.
- Accept your financial offer, including scholarships and need-based aid.
- Register for housing including paying your housing deposit and select a roommate. It can be fun. Most schools have an online "roommate meet-up" resource. Register for an orientation program.



MARCH MADNESS: IT'S DECISION TIME!

What you have been waiting for is finally here! The last of your decisions will arrive by April 1st. We are as excited as you are!

Recently, we found a Rich Roll podcast episode featuring renown Harvard University professor, Dr. Ellen Langer. The episode addresses the connection between mindset and health. Yet, one quote resonated with us for you: (To watch the entire podcast, [click here](#).)

Rather than waste your time being stressed over making the right decision, make the decision right.

In other words, a thoughtful decision is important; but, remember, you have been thoughtful throughout the process. Any of the schools on your list have the elements you need and want to have a successful college experience.

SENIORITIS: DON'T CATCH IT!

"Um...do my grades from the second half of senior year really matter?"

They certainly do. Here's why.

Your admission to a college is, in virtually every case, dependent on continued academic and personal progress up until you arrive on campus. (Check your acceptance letters and you'll doubtless find some language to that effect.) Colleges review final transcripts carefully to be sure students are maintaining their level of achievement. A bunch of C's, a D, an F— these are warning signs, and they are taken very seriously. And if you're on a waitlist, poor grades won't help your case.

If your academic performance slips, you may be contacted by the college and asked to provide a written explanation for the downturn. If this happens, contact us immediately so we can assist with a letter that acknowledges the issue and describes the steps you will take going forward.

"What about 'personal progress'? What does that mean?" What it means is, don't get in trouble. Keep your social media presence absolutely spotless; don't lie, cheat, or steal; maintain the positive personal conduct that helped you get into the college in the first place. You've worked hard for years. You're almost at the high school finish line— don't slow down now.

CONTACT YOUR CONSULTANT: NAME@MCNEALSAMS.COM

CORNELIA MCNEAL
NELIE@

BARBARA SAMS
BARBARA@

JEANIE GRIMM
JEANIE@

ELIZABETH SCHNELL
ELIZABETH@

ANN MCCURTIES
ANN@

MCNEAL SAMS COLLEGE CONSULTING

NEWS AND NOTES

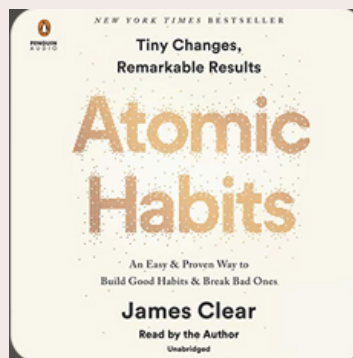
TALK AROUND TOWN

Some items we find interesting now:

Research Results: [Bates College and Gallup](#) have released a study pointing to the importance of considering purpose in work, ideally starting before entering college. Factors for satisfaction in careers are linked to experiences like internships, shadowing, and regular reflection on values and interests. Somethings to consider as you finalize your college choice.

Blog: In his [Admissions Blog](#), [Rick Clark](#) writes about psychological studies explaining why parents and students are tempted to use rankings to drive college preferences, and how this can short-circuit consideration of critical variables informing a good fit.

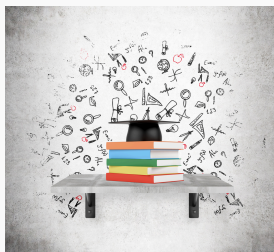
Book: [Atomic Habits](#), by James Clear outlines many ideas and practices applicable to managing a challenging task, like the writing of college essays or adapting to a college course workload.



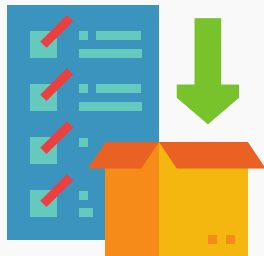
THE TRANSITION TO COLLEGE

McNeal Sams College Consulting is pleased to offer a series of complimentary, on demand webinars available to our clients. In the spring of 2023, we hosted a series of live webinars to prepare our clients for the transition to college. We recorded those webinars and are now making them available for you to view.

A brief description of each workshop is below. To access the videos and helpful guides and handouts for each session, [CLICK HERE](#).



MAKING THE TRANSITION TO THE COLLEGE CLASSROOM: This workshop will focus on making a successful transition to the college learning environment. What are the differences between high school and college in the classroom? Everything you need to know to feel ready to go on day one of class is covered.



PREPARING TO LIVE ON CAMPUS: Let's face it, the typical college residence hall room is small. This workshop shares tips and lists for what to pack and what not to pack for life on a college campus. It also discusses navigating relationships with roommates and the importance of maintaining your connections to home.



BEING HEALTH AND HAPPY AT COLLEGE: College is full of new opportunities and change. Sometimes all of that opportunity and change can get overwhelming. This workshop help you navigate the change so you are ready for the opportunity. Topics discussed include the importance of self-care, when to expect highs and lows, and how to access resources to help you.

