

# MCNEAL SAMS COLLEGE CONSULTING NEWS AND NOTES

## APPEALING A FINANCIAL AID AWARD

If you are the recipient of aid, whether need-based or merit, at a college, and denied aid at another, or if you have received different amounts of aid offers from multiple colleges, you might consider writing what is called an appeal letter. Start by learning how to submit such a letter. You will find this information in your portal, on the college website, or by calling the admissions or financial aid office.

Then, compose your letter. The strongest reasons for awarding more money include: change of family financial circumstances, misreported data (you realize you forgot to include something significant in your FAFSA or CSS), or a better offer from a similar college (here "similar" means comparable in selectivity or acceptance rate). Colleges are unlikely to meet a package from a school that has twice its own acceptance rate. It can't hurt to ask, but we want you to enter this process with realistic expectations.

We are here to help. Please let us know if we can be of assistance.

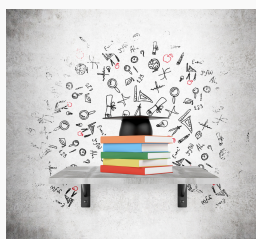
## APRIL: THE FINISH LINE IS IN SIGHT

We want to offer a heartfelt CONGRATULATIONS to each and every one of you. Your hard work has come to fruition. It has been our honor and pleasure working with each of you.

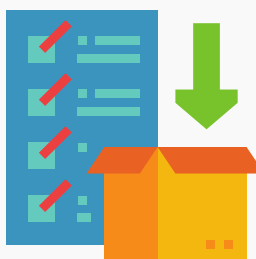
Before you begin packing your bags for college, we know you may still have a lot of decisions to make. We are still here to help. Just let us know if you want some.

## COLLEGE AROUND THE CORNER WEBINARS

McNeal Sams College Consulting is pleased to offer a series of complimentary webinars from April to May. We have three webinars that will help prepare you and your parents for what to expect when you enter college next fall. You must register in advance. [Use this link to register.](#)



**TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 6:30 PM CST "ACADEMIC LIFE":** 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? We will cover everything you need to know to feel ready to go on day one of class.



**TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 6:30 PM CST: LIVING ON A COLLEGE CAMPUS":** Let's face it, the typical college residence hall room is small. This workshop will share tips and lists for what to pack and what not to pack for life on a college campus. We will also discuss navigating relationships with roommates and the importance of maintaining your connections to home.



**TUESDAY, MAY 16, 6:30 PM "BEING WELL: TAKING CARE OF YOURSELF AT COLLEGE":** College is full of new opportunities and change. Sometimes all of that opportunity and change can get overwhelming. This workshop will help you know how to navigate the change so you are ready for the opportunity. Topics discussed will include the importance of self-care, when to expect highs and lows, and how to access resources to help you.

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# MCNEAL SAMS COLLEGE CONSULTING

# NEWS AND NOTES

## TALK AROUND TOWN

Some items we find interesting::

Article: [Top Ten College Transition Tips](#), by Brennan Brown

Podcast: [Tiny Leaps, Big Changes: How to Overcome Procrastination](#)  
(Episode 149)



Reading Recommendation: Any of the books (or all of them) on [The 12 Best Books for College Students to Read in 2023](#).

## BALANCING A WAITLIST DECISION

In a year when the size of applicant pools continues to skyrocket, being placed on a waitlist is a common event. And it's a frustrating one! You have spent months waiting for decisions, and being on a waitlist only seems to prolong the process.

In this situation, you need to have a foot in two places simultaneously. The first place is choosing from the options available to you now. This is where most of your attention should be focused because these are definites. Accept an offer; pay close attention to housing and orientation materials; think about a possible roommate. Again, this is a choice that is already on the table, so it's your safest bet and deserves most of your energy.

If the college where you were waitlisted accepts a letter of continued interest, by all means work with your MSCC counselor on one. It's equally important, if not moreso, to maintain your grades. Some waitlists will not be resolved until the middle of summer, and you want to be able to present the best possible credentials if a space opens for you.

As always, we are here to review your options and act as a sounding board as you make these important decisions!

## KINDNESS CORNER: EXPRESSING GRATITUDE

Do you know how much people appreciate a heartfelt, handwritten thank you note? SO MUCH. This is the time to write a note to the people who wrote your recommendation letters: your counselor, your teacher(s), and, where applicable, your outside recommender(s). Even if you wrote when they agreed to support you, you should thank them now and update them on the college of your choice. This can be brief! Please find an example here:

*Dear ...,*

*Thank you for writing my college recommendation letter! I'm thrilled to share that I've decided to attend (name your college here) in the fall. I can't wait to be a (what are students there called? Put it here or simply write, "a this college student.") I'm sure your support made a difference in my application, so thank you. And, thank you for being such a great teacher/counselor/coach to me. I appreciate you!*

