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**How Many Colleges Should I Apply To?**

With hundreds of colleges to choose from across the country, it can be incredibly difficult for students to narrow down their choices. While you may have an idea of the college you’d most like to attend, it’s important not to put all of your hope into one application. By applying to a variety of colleges, you’ll increase your chances of finding the perfect fit for your future education. But how many colleges should you apply for? We’re here to help you pick the ideal number of colleges to complete applications for this year.

**What is the Average Number of Colleges That Students Apply For?**

You’ll find most students choose to apply for between seven and ten colleges. This number covers the schools at the top of your wish list, a few safety schools, and a few aspirational colleges. Your safety schools should be colleges that you have a very good chance of getting into, based on your current grades. Aspirational or reach colleges are ones that you feel you’ll struggle to get into but would be worth a shot based on the current statistics. While you don’t have to apply for ten colleges, you’ll find that it will give you the opportunity to cover a wide range of colleges and increase your chances of finding success during the application season.

**How to Select the Number of Colleges to Apply For**

The number of colleges you will apply for is dependent on the type of colleges you are looking at. If you are applying for selective and competitive colleges, you’ll want to consider applying for even more than ten colleges to ensure you have a choice of places to attend. The top colleges in the country have a very low acceptance rate, so if your ten applications only consist of these, you may be setting yourself up for failure. Each college is looking for something different in their applications each year, so by spreading your chances around between a variety of colleges, you’ll find the perfect fit for your college years.

For a whole host of reasons, many students today end up applying for fewer colleges than the average person. If you apply early decision and are selected, you won’t need to complete other applications. Another huge consideration is the fee involved in each application. While there is some support available to students, there’s generally a fee of around $75 per application, on top of receiving your reports for the SAT or ACT. When you start applying for seven to ten colleges, these fees quickly add up, and for many students, this just isn’t something that’s accessible to them.

College applications take a lot of time and effort, and crafting the perfect personal statement or essay is very time-consuming. If you are doing this for multiple colleges, you’ll want to ensure you have space in your schedule to create high-quality applications for each one. If you are struggling to find the time for this, you may be better off focusing on fewer colleges and giving each application your best shot. Finally, if you are looking for something very specific from your college application, you may find you are only willing to apply for a few. Whether that’s a certain course or elite sports facilities, this may limit your choices significantly.

There’s no right or wrong answer when it comes to how many colleges to apply for. By applying for a few safety schools as well as your top choices, you’ll increase your chances of success during the college application period this year.