Our Approach

Many high schools lack a tradition of sending their students to selective colleges with high graduation rates. As a result, thousands of top high school seniors each year have trouble understanding the college application process. To give these seniors the extra push they need to make an informed decision about where to attend, ApplyTogether matches them up with a mentor, and provides the pair with a website that guides them through the application process together.

Applicant/Mentor Conversations

Throughout the admissions process, applicants and mentors participate in 15 conversations with each other. These conversations cover the same basic topics for all applicant/mentor pairs, including how to think about the admissions process, where to apply, how to write college essays, how to apply for financial aid, how to ask for recommendations, and how to obtain application fee-waivers. Mentors also check in with applicants' parents to update them on their children's progress, and answer questions they may have about the college application process.

Tutorials

In addition to conversations with their mentors, applicants are required to read written tutorials on aspects of the college application process. These tutorials increase the effectiveness of applicant/mentor conversations, and provide students with a continual reference point for answering questions they may have.

Researching Schools

ApplyTogether's website provides a tool for college research—statistics and links for the 75 colleges with the highest graduation rates in the country. This approach is consistent with our goal of steering students to schools from which they have the highest probability of graduating. Applicants and mentors can sort schools by name, state, specialized programs, or ranking. Once applicants find a school in which they are interested, they add it to their list, and use our tracking application to make sure they complete all parts of the application.

Tracking Tasks

Our website also provides a task list, which provides applicants with day-to-day reminders of the tasks they must complete to submit their applications on time, and reminders about the scheduling of the next applicant/mentor conversation.