

## **Fall 2012 Admissions 100: Getting In: What the Experts Say**

*an interview with Gael Casner, Michele Hernandez, Wendy Kahn, Carolyn P. Mulligan, and Janet Rosier*

A knowledgeable college consultant can help high school students find good school matches, assist in getting admitted, and offer critical advice students and parents may not be able to find elsewhere, such as these insider tips from consultants throughout the States.

### **What can I do to improve my chances of getting accepted into my dream school?**

**Janet Rosier, [Janet Rosier's Educational Resources, Inc.](#), Woodbridge, Connecticut (Graduate Certificate in College Counseling, Unigo Expert Network member, author of “Next Stop College” blog, professional member of IECA and NACAC\*):**

First, you need to be a good fit for your dream school: to have the grades, rigor of curriculum, and test scores that fit the college's accepted student profile, meaning the SAT, GPA, and other statistics about the students the college admitted the previous year (you can find this along with admissions information on many college websites). Beyond that, go the extra mile and show the school how interested you are in attending. Many colleges and universities are looking for “demonstrated interest”; they are more likely to offer admission to someone who is more likely to say yes to their offer. To demonstrate interest, contact the college to request information, tour the school, accept or ask for an interview, and if the local admissions representative comes to your high school, introduce yourself and let him/her know this college is your first choice. After you apply, if you have additional academic news to share, use it as an opportunity to voice that their school remains your first choice.

If this is indeed your dream school—the one you would go to no matter where else you would be accepted and you do not need to compare Financial Aid offers—then you may want to give serious consideration to applying Early Decision—a binding, contractual agreement that obligates you to attend the school if accepted. At many colleges Early Decision can increase your chance of admission, and at a few colleges the acceptance rate is double that of Regular Decision. For those who need to compare financial aid offers or are not comfortable applying Early Decision, some colleges offer non-binding Early Action (where you apply early, hear back from the college early, but still have until May 1 to make your decision).

### **How can I be sure that the college I choose is the right one? Is there a way to ensure that the school will be a good fit, both academically and socially?**

**Janet Rosier:** Explore the college online. Does it offer a core curriculum, majors, minors, double majors in your areas of interest? Does it provide research opportunities and assistance in finding internships? Search for clubs and organizations such as Hillel. Focus on the criteria

meaningful to you. Also, look at [Unigo](#), where current students talk about their college, to see if what they say appeals to you.

When you visit the school, attend the campus information session and take the tour. Try to arrange an overnight stay with a student to get a better feel for the campus community.

### **How can I tell if a campus is welcoming to Jewish students?**

**Janet Rosier:** Explore the college website. If there is a [Hillel](#) or a Jewish student organization, contact the directors and ask how welcoming the campus is. If possible, use the college's [Facebook](#) page to connect with current Jewish students and get their takes on the atmosphere. If a synagogue is in the area, ask the local rabbi for his/her opinion of the town, college, and students.

### **How can I have a say in choosing my roommate?**

**Janet Rosier:** Schools handle roommate selection in a variety of ways, so ask each school about its policy. Some colleges do not give freshmen any say, assigning roommates randomly. Others offer students a chance to choose a roommate during spring orientation, which works out nicely if you connect with another student. Still others direct students to fill out an online survey that matches them up according to lifestyles; in such cases, to increase the likelihood of a better match, be honest in your self-assessment and in what you want in a roommate.