

Subject: Information and help with college admissions for parents of teenagers

Members of the UChicago Community:

You (or someone you know) may have a child in high school and have questions and concerns about the impact of the current crisis on your child's future (at least in terms of going to college). The purpose of this note is to provide parents of high school age children important college admissions information, offer helpful advice about the college search process, and bring available (and free) resources to your attention.

Getting Started

Parents and mentors are a critical source of support for students during the college search and application process. Since nationwide shelter-in-place orders have taken effect, UChicago has rolled out a comprehensive collection of free and accessible digital resources to support students, parents, and educators throughout their college search journey:

- Students beginning their college search have access to a free roadmap, created by UChicago in partnership with The Coalition for College, describing (with some helpful hints) each stop of the journey to their future college home: https://collegeadmissions.uchicago.edu/files/documents/guide-college_0.pdf
- In the Navigating College Admissions podcast, UChicago admissions officers provide detailed instructions and advice for each and every step of the college application process: <https://collegeadmissions.uchicago.edu/at-a-click>
- Khan Academy and their Daily Homeroom YouTube broadcast are fantastic resources for students during this process. Jim Nondorf, Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid at University of Chicago recently joined Sal to discuss the current state of admissions and tips for students applying to selective schools: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-IPkEhZBWCw>
- The Coalition for College provides students with valuable tools to support them as they build their application. Their free, online college planning tools can be accessed here: <https://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/>

Many online and virtual resources are available for your college search and application process

The college search will look different for students this year. In the absence of in-person visits to campuses and face-to-face conversations, universities will be providing expanded tools and resources to better familiarize students with the unique qualities of their campuses. With the new on-line resources, students can learn even more about their possible college homes than was even possible in the past when on campus visits were the norm:

- You can learn a lot about a school through their videos. At UChicago, you can take a [virtual tour](#) of campus, hear from [first-generation college students](#), learn about UChicago's commitment to [free expression](#), explore some of the [extraordinary contributions](#) of our faculty and alumni, and get to know our campus community: <https://collegeadmissions.uchicago.edu/at-a-click>

- Information sessions are a critical resource to help students learn a great deal about a school and their admissions practices. UChicago hosts virtual information sessions Monday-Friday each week, where students can learn about UChicago, highly selective admissions, and the ins and outs of the college application process: <https://prospects.uchicago.edu/infotours/>
- Some schools will offer opportunities to sit in on an online class or other special sessions on careers, study abroad and more. At UChicago, we offer all of these options and more here: <https://collegeadmissions.uchicago.edu/visit>

You do not need to be concerned about testing, changes to remote learning, or grading policy changes at your child's school

- Admissions Deans are aware of all the changes that are taking place in the world. Hopefully this letter from UChicago's Dean of Admissions will address concerns and assure you that most institutions will be flexible and accommodating in these circumstances: <https://collegeadmissions.uchicago.edu/files/documents/letter-from-dean-admissions-uchicago.pdf>
- UChicago is a **test-optional** institution, meaning that you can choose whether or not to include standardized test scores as part of your application. We are just one of a growing number of schools embracing test-optional admissions policies—check [here](#) for a full list of participating schools!

We recognize that these uncertain times can create a lot of confusion! If you would like clarification or more information on anything you've read or heard, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at collegeadmissions@uchicago.edu. There is a lot of misinformation out there, so save yourself some time and worry by coming straight to the source (whether that's through our inbox or the inboxes of our fellow colleges and universities)! We would love to connect with you! I do hope that the information and links above were helpful to you and alleviates some of your college admissions stress (the current crisis creates more than enough stress – you do not need more).

Stay safe and be well!

Peter Wilson, AB '10, MBA '17
 Director of Undergraduate Admissions
 The University of Chicago

PS: If your child is looking for fun things to do, they can follow UChicago Admissions on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [Tumblr](#), and [Tiktok](#) for updates, campus pictures, memes, and more!