

COLLEGE BOUND

Helpful tips for getting into college and the smartest ways to pay for it.

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Lights! Camera! Action! Complete College Planning Solutions Appears on TV



News 12 "It's Your Money"

Last month, Complete College Planning Solutions appeared on News 12 New Jersey's popular "It's Your Money" TV show with host Eric Landskroner.

The show aired several times over the weekend of May 8th. We heard from several clients who happened to be watching. Comments ranged from, "Great information!"... "Very impressive," and "You're a star" to "You could use a

haircut."

If you missed it, we posted it on the website. Take a peak at: <http://completecollegeplanningsolutions.com/pages-faqs/radio/>

I'm told the segment was 7 1/2 minutes long. It felt like 27 seconds. There are so many things happening at once, you barely have time to blink. I'm sure it's

highly organized because everything went off without a hitch. But I have to tell you, it feels close to pandemonium when you're in the middle of it.

Eric Landskroner has four people talking to him at once – including two voices in his earpiece. People are running around the set busily adjusting things and creating havoc. All of a sudden it abruptly stops and you hear, "... in 5... 4... 3... 2... 1..."

... And Eric calmly starts talking into the camera.

When you're watching at home and you see a TV anchor or host, it's tempting to think: what an easy job – anybody could do that. But when you're there in person, you realize what professionals they are and how good they are at handling conditions that would rattle most.

Some of the topics we covered were:

- The biggest mistakes New Jersey families make when saving for college
- Where parents drop the ball in their college planning (and how

Continued ...

Spotlight On Goucher College



Location: Baltimore, MD

Undergraduates: 1,447

Male/Female: 31/69

Entrance Difficulty: Moderately difficult

Acceptance Rate: 64% of 4,077 applicants

SAT Math Range: 510-620

SAT CR Range: 540-670

SAT Writing Range: 540-650

First-year students returning: 83%

Grad in 4 Years: 62%

Cost of Attendance: \$46,672

Avg. Percent of Need Met: 81%

Strongest Programs: Social Sciences,
Visual/Performing arts, Psychology,
English, Communications/Journalism

Fun Facts:

- Liberal arts college in a northern Baltimore suburb with a beautiful 287-acre campus
- In 2004, *Newsweek* called Goucher the college with the happiest students
- Requires all students to complete one study abroad experience and provides vouchers of \$1,200 to subsidize the cost
- One of the first colleges to encourage internships
- 83% of its students get grant aid averaging \$14,600
- If Goucher does not offer a course you desire, you may take the course at one of a dozen local colleges including Johns Hopkins without paying additional tuition
- Famous traditions include the annual Get Into Goucher Day - classes are cancelled for a carnival that has included rides, a mechanical bull, Jell-O wrestling, human foosball, psychic readings, and airbrushed tattoos. The evening ends with a giant concert.
- At the Winter Meltdown car smash right before final exams, students attack a car with sledgehammers and baseball bats for the ultimate stress relief.

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- that cost them thousands of dollars in financial aid)
- “Out of the box” ideas for obtaining tuition discounts
- How gender prejudices factor into the application process
- When to get started

All in all, we crammed a lot of information into a short time. Tune in and see the one question that Eric was “most curious” to have me answer. Here’s the link: <http://completecollegeplanningsolutions.com/pages-faqs/radio/>

ACT or SAT – Which College Test Should You Take?

Unfortunately, most students select either the SAT or the ACT without knowing the ins and outs of each test. If a student knew the idiosyncrasies of each test and pre-determined that they’d fare better taking one versus the other, I’d be all in favor of simply taking one.

But they don’t. In New Jersey, most students choose the SAT because that’s what most other kids take. And they ignore the ACT. But the fact is, each test favors a certain type of knowledge and a certain learning style. For example, science is not included on the SAT, but it is on the ACT. If you do well in science, it might benefit you to take the ACT. If you don’t know which test you’re likely to perform better on, you should take both to give yourself the best chance for admittance—especially since standardized scores still carry considerable weight.

Most colleges will take either result. After you take both tests, you can decide which scores to submit. One success strategy is to sit for the ACT and SAT in the spring of junior year. After seeing which one suits you best, take either the ACT or SAT preparation course and then retake that test next fall to try to boost your score.

Here’s a quick comparison of ACT vs. SAT:

	ACT	SAT
Test length	3 hrs, 25 min (including half-hour optional essay)	3 hrs, 49 min
Test sections	4 to 5 sections	10 sections
Math content	25% of total score Tests up to Trigonometry	33% of total score Tests up to Geometry and Algebra II
Science content	Tests science reasoning (analysis, problem solving)	Science not included
Essay	Last section (optional) 30 minutes – not included in total score	First section (required) 25 minutes – factored into total score
Scoring	4 scores of 1-36 per subject area Composite Score: 1-36	3 scores of 200-800 per section Total: 2400
Guessing Strategy	Always guess	Guess when you can eliminate answer choices

Student of the Month



Ian Welham

children ready for college, and whether her professional expertise was a boon or a bane. This month we'll cover Part I of the two-part interview.

Ian: How did your experience as a parent differ from your experience as admissions officer? What was it like being on the other side?

Monique: It's very humbling because as a professional you have some idea of what the process is like and you think you know it all. You think you have some control and then as a parent you realize that you don't have any control.

Ian: Right.

Monique: You have to pause and remember that you are working within someone else's process and that you need to understand it but also abide by it and respect it and that some of the assumptions that you make may not be valid assumptions.

Ian: What kind of schools did your kids apply to, or was it Michigan all the way?

Monique: They did not apply to University of Michigan actually, both of them wanted to live away from home.

Ian: How many schools did they apply to?

Monique: Well my son applied to five public and private institutions. He gained admission at all of these schools and thought he was going to go out of state and then in kind of the ninth hour, he chose to go to Michigan State, our archrival within the State of Michigan.

Ian: And what about your daughter?

Monique: Our daughter wanted a school that offered strong programs in health science and education because she wasn't quite certain what she wanted to study. She also was interested in playing soccer at the college level. She ended up at Xavier University in Cincinnati.

Ian: Great, and what were they most nervous about when they were going through the process?

Monique: I think the biggest challenge that they faced was the demand on their time to manage the senior year, the academic demands, taking exams for college entrance, filling out the long applications for college, and then trying to enjoy their senior year socially.

Ian: So did you find yourself getting really involved as the expert or was it really a team

effort?

Monique: I gave advice. I tried not to get overly involved and it would've been easy for me to do that because my business is admissions. But I thought it was important that my children learn how to embrace this process themselves.

Ian: That's wise.

Monique: Yes, it, it's very important because the admission officers can tell if the applicant has really not driven this process. They can tell if some of the statements that are made sound as though they come from someone who is 40 or 50 years old, not an 18-year-old.

Ian: Did your children's friends and their parents try to seek your help in any way?

Monique: Some did, and I did make some suggestions to some of my children's friends about what they might want to consider putting in a statement.

Ian: Right, and did they listen to that advice?

Monique: I think my children's friends listened more than my kids did, to be honest with you.

Ian: Well, your kids are typical kids then.

Monique: That's right. They don't want to listen to their parents.

Ian: As you went through the process with the kids, what were the biggest surprises for you?

Monique: My children are five years apart. And in five short years, the competition was much greater for my daughter than it was for my son. The volume of applicants increased substantially.

Ian: Yes.

Monique: We found even in state that it was more competitive because there were more students from the State of Michigan applying to in-state schools.

Ian: Any other surprises?

Monique: I did have to set a timeline for them, and that's probably no different than what any parent would do. But I was probably a little more vigilant about it because of my inside knowledge that those who apply late sometimes don't get the benefit of the doubt.

Ian: I understand.

Monique: The admitting officers tend to look at those who apply early thinking that you're committed to that institution. It gives them a little more time to look at your file and decide if they need more information from you, to get back to you in a timely manner so that you can respond as quickly as possible.

News You Can Use

Congratulations to the Class of 2010

Despite intense competition including a record number of applications, Complete College Planning Solutions students did quite well indeed—not only getting accepted into top colleges, but getting impressive amounts of financial aid. You can see some of the schools and financial aid award letters at: <http://completecollegeplanningsolutions.com/pages-faqs/pages-case-studies/> We're very proud of all our students!

Thank You For Your Referrals

Our success is built on referrals and word-of-mouth. I would like to thank everyone who is kind enough to recommend our program to their friends. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Please call us at 908-857-4200 to let us know when you have referred a client to us so we can recognize you and send a special thank-you gift!

How CCPS Can Help With College

Most people believe that the families who receive the most financial aid are the ones with the greatest need. Fairly or unfairly, this is not necessarily the case. The most financial aid goes to the families who understand the aid process best. If you will let us, we'll show you how to:

- find the "best fit" school for your child
- maximize financial aid for your child, so they don't graduate burdened with debt
- lower your out-of-pocket EFC costs by \$5,000 to \$25,000+ per academic year
- take away the stress associated with sending your child to college

Contact Alesia to arrange your free diagnostic evaluation. Call (908) 857-4200.

"A graduation ceremony is an event where the commencement speaker tells thousands of students dressed in identical caps and gowns that 'individuality' is the key to success."

Robert Orben

Next month – Part II



Ask the Professor

Q: How important are interviews today? I see some schools don't even offer them anymore.

A: True, there are a few schools that don't allow interviews, but whenever you can, you should interview. It gives you a chance to stand out from the crowd and gives the admissions department a way to get to know you on a personal level. 3 questions to be prepared for: Why do you think you'll be a good fit here?... Have you read any good books lately?... And you'll almost always be asked if you yourself have any questions. Don't ask a question whose answer can easily be found on the college's website. Try: How does your college differ from _____ [name of competitor school]?

Did You Know?



✓ *The United States once had the highest graduation rate of any nation. Now it stands 10th.*

(source: Newsweek 3/1/10)

✓ *Less than 50% of students will graduation from the college they enter as a freshman*

College Match Game



President Obama earned his undergraduate degree from which of the following colleges?

- A.) Georgetown
- B.) Harvard
- C.) Columbia
- D.) Dartmouth

Answer: C.) He originally attended Occidental College in Los Angeles before transferring to Columbia and earning a BA in Political Science in 1983.



Upcoming FREE workshops

June 29 – 7:30 pm Edison Library

July 14 – 7:30 pm Dunellen Library

July 28 – 7:30 pm Berkeley Heights

There are 2 ways to reserve a seat:

Online: www.myacfa.com

Call: 1-908-857-4200



"I JUST NEED SOME CHANGE. PLEASE CHANGE THIS FIFTY INTO A HUNDRED."

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