

Admissions and Financial Aid Red Routes

These are the user goals that show up consistently in our research. None of them should be ignored, but we've put the ones we consider critical in bold. What's a red route? Learn about them at <https://insidenewcity.com/make-admissions-cost-financial-aid-accessible-and-easy>

1 Exploring possible colleges and building the initial list	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ How big is the school?✓ Are there people like me? Will I fit in?✓ How will my previous academic work help me? Such as AP credits, transfer credits?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ How likely is it that I could get in here? What are the range of GPAs, test scores? What is the acceptance rate? Has anyone from my HS gone here?✓ Are there people like me? Will I fit in?
2 Financing my education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ How much will everything potentially cost? What's the range for a student like me?✓ Compare tuition between multiple schools on my list.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ How realistic is it that I could afford to go here? What kind of financial support do most students get? Are there many scholarships available?
3 Meeting people from a college, inquiring, investigating	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ I have a question about something related to admissions or academics. Who should I contact?✓ Will you be visiting my high school, or any college fairs close to me?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ I want to contact someone from admissions that I met during an event.
4 Visiting campus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Sign up for a campus visit / tour.✓ What should we expect during our visit? What will the day be like?✓ Contact my tour guide with follow up questions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Figure out what else we want to see and do while we're visiting.✓ Figure out where to park, getting a parking pass, navigating the campus.
5 Deciding where to apply and applying	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Compare total cost of attendance between the schools I want to apply to.✓ How can I get help with any of this?✓ What are the deadlines I need to know about? <i>These can vary depending on the program or school, with special requirements for certain programs like honors or arts.</i>✓ Is there any benefit from applying earlier? <i>For some schools it could affect your chances of acceptance or of receiving financial aid.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ How much does it cost to apply? Is there any way to have the fee waived?✓ What do I have to have ready when I do my application? (i.e. transcripts, references, essays)✓ Create an account on the application portal.✓ Fill out the application, which may require multiple sessions.✓ What is the status of my application? When should I expect to hear if I'm admitted?
6 Applying for financial aid and scholarships	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Understanding the FAFSA✓ When does the FAFSA have to be done?✓ When will I hear if I qualify for financial aid? Especially if I've been admitted, but haven't received my financial aid offer yet.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Where are the best places to search for scholarships?✓ Are there any scholarships specific to my major?✓ How can I get help with any of this?
7 Comparing offers and making a decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Access the Admitted Students portal.✓ Compare offers and total cost of attendance between my top choice schools.✓ Verify affordability against financial aid offer. Is this really in our budget?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Look for on-campus employment opportunities that would offset costs (or if I've qualified for work study).✓ Make deposit.✓ Accept financial aid offer and student loans.
8 Preparing to start (this stuff can get very transactional - don't take students for granted!)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Set up my student account, email.✓ Find checklist of stuff I need to do before school starts.✓ Plan for and attend orientation.✓ Attend preparatory events for my degree program.✓ Housing contracts and meal plan selections.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Connect with my roommate.✓ Register for classes.✓ Pay tuition (which may mean helping my parents figure out how to pay tuition).✓ Plan for move-in, when to show up, where to park, how to get our stuff from vehicle to housing.

Can NewCity help your organization enhance your enrollment experience?

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