

Seminar for College Bound Kids and Their Parents
Zoroastrian Association of Houston
ZAH Community Center
November 7, 2015



Questions that I will answer today

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- What will I need to apply for college?
- What are the criteria for my choosing a college?
- How many colleges should I apply to?
- How important are Advanced Placement courses in the admissions process?
- How do I pick a major? What if I do not know what I want to do?
- What if I want to study the humanities? .. & the social sciences? ... & the biological sciences? .. & engineering?
- How important are extracurricular activities in a college application?
- What should I be doing in the summer?
- When should I take the SAT? How many times is enough?
- What should I do when I visit colleges?
- When should I start applying? ... early admission? ... early decision?
- Paying for college?
- How do I prepare the ZAH Legacy Award application?

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LECTURE 1 – Preparing for College

Farrokh Mistree [farrokh.mistree@OU.edu]

Major Resources on the Web

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For SAT, AP, College Planning, College Search

<http://www.collegeboard.org/>

<http://www.collegeboard.org/>

All you need to know about SAT and AP

College Planning: Get Started, Find Colleges, Explore Colleges, Pay for College, Get In, Make a Plan

College Search: Type of school, Location, Campus and Housing, Majors and Learning Environment, Sports and Activities, Applying, Academic Credit, Paying, Support Services, Diversity

For financial aid

<http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/index.jsp>

<http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/index.jsp>

Prepare for College, Get Money for College, Repay Your Loans, MyFSA (Neat Wizard)

FAFSA

<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>

<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>

Question

With so much information available why this talk?

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Frame of Reference for Talk

This talk is from the perspective of ONE parent who is an educator.

Farrokhisms - strongly held beliefs that others disagree with.

Choice - get opinions of others and then choose what is best for your family and child.

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Outline
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- Preparing for College
- Preparing Your College Application
- Preparing Financially
- First Year at College
- Role of Parents
- Advice to Students
- What Admission Officers Look For
- Paying for College
- People Willing to Help

Supplementary Material

- 2.ZAH_WhereShouldTheyGo
- 3.ZAH_CollegeDetails
- 4.ZAH_CollegeTips
- 5.ZAH_Finances
- 6.FEZANA_Scholarships

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Preparing for College ...
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- What will you need to apply for college? Resume, essays, SAT I and II, letters of recommendation, transcript.
- What are the criteria for choosing a college? Distance from home, private/public, size, variety of programs, reputation, focus, cost, student-faculty ratio, etc. Do you go to a college because all your friends go there? Organize information:
 - Name of institution
 - Web address
 - Contact information: address and telephone number
 - When are tours given?
 - Type: Public or Private
 - National rank as per US News and World Report
 - Deadline by which application must be received
 - Deadline by which financial aid application must be received
 - Early action or early decision
 - Common application? Yes? No?
 - Cost: Tuition / Fees / Living / Books / Travel
 - Application fee
 - Comprehensive or specialized?
 - Student / faculty ratio ...
 - Living arrangements ...
 - Size ... number of students? ... number of students in first year a class? ... etc.
 - Setting: Urban? College town? Rural?
 - Should you visit?
 - Post visit information ...

See spread sheet:

3.ZAH_CollegeDetails

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- Visit colleges. Complete Excel spread sheet.
- AP courses.
- Extracurricular activities, leadership, coming to know your teachers.
- Reflect: What am I good at? What do I see myself doing 10, 15, 20 years from now? What does an engineer, scientist, person in the arts, etc. do?
- PSAT in tenth grade is very, very important. Go to coaching classes. Study for it. This is the entry way to the National Merit Scholarship Program.
- SAT - study for it. Go to coaching classes. Take them a number of times for practice.

- Common application.
- Selecting a set of colleges to apply: Some combination of Dream Schools, Good Schools and Backup Schools.
- Which program? Undecided?
- Early Action - Deadline typically October 31. Institution sends decision by early December. You have until late April to decide.
- Early Decision - Deadline typically October 31. Institution sends decision by early December. You MUST accept the YES decision (if the financial package is OK) and withdraw all other applications.

- Admission is needs blind. After you have been admitted the institution will put together a financial package based on your parent's income, profile, etc. You have to fill in a form called FAFSA.
- Finances should not inhibit you from applying to Dream Schools.

More on **Slides 14 through 19**.

- This is the most important year. There is very strong correlation between how a student performs in the first year and at the time of graduation. Studies and health **MUST** be primary. All else is secondary.
- Live on campus or at home?
- Course load?
- Difficulties in class work? Seek help immediately. Drop a class if you are not doing well.
- Visiting professors: Office hours?
- Fraternity / Sorority?
- On campus work?
- Ball games, etc.?
- How to study: Attend class. Take notes. Review notes. Read the assignment. Read the text. Identify the problem. Outline the response. Revise. Then answer the question. Review and revise if necessary.
- Group study ... when is it beneficial?
- Computer and printer.

Role of Parents ...

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- This is about your child and NOT you.
- State clearly your expectations vis a vis education.
- Encourage and keep track of events.
- Provide an opportunity to your child to explore. Invite people over to talk to the child. Take the child to work.
- Do not be bound by what the school counselor says. Let the counselor know what you want for your child.
- Help child through encouragement, showing interest, asking questions, posing questions for reflection - make this a family affair. Take them to see landmarks and museums as part of the visiting college program.
- Work with your child to identify the role that you and your child agree your role should be. Example, during a campus visit - what does your child NOT want you to say / do?
- Keep in regular touch with the counselor and teacher. Ensure that you let them know that you value education.
- Prepare and give to the counselor / teacher your assessment of your child's strengths and personality. Write in short sentences that the counselor / teacher can use in his/her letter. Be sure to include examples to support your statements.

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Advice to Students ...

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- Communicate with your parents daily.
- Fall and Spring Breaks? Go home. Rest and relax. Do not plan trips with friends.
- What if your first choice college does not come through?
- How do you deal with a Wait List? (You have a 1 in 5 chance of gaining admission.)
- Purchase and use the SAT Study Guide and the Barron's / Patterson's Guides for Colleges.
- There are several resources on the web - use them.
- Contact professors willing to help ... see **Slides 16 through 19.**

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What Admission Officers Look For ...

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From US News and World Report, August 30, 2004, Page 72.

Factors in Admission Decision of "considerable importance"

Grades in college prep classes	78%
Standardized admission tests	61%
Grades in all courses	54%
Class rank	33%
Essay or writing sample	23%
Teacher recommendations	18%
Counselor recommendation	17%
Interview	7%
Student's demonstrated interest	7%

Paying for College?

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1 Understand your costs

- Cost of Attendance (COA): Direct costs (tuition, fees, room and board) + indirect costs (living expenses, transportation)

2 Determine your financial eligibility

- Complete and submit the FAFSA <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>. Should be completed as soon after January 1 of your senior year as possible.
- CSS/Financial Aid Profile. <https://profileonline.collegeboard.com/index.jsp>

3 Calculate your financial need

- EFC - how much your family is expected to contribute each year for your college education as determined by FAFSA
- Financial Need = COA - EFC per year

4 Discover ways to pay

- Free \$. 529 and College Savings Plans. Grants. Scholarships.
- Work-study. Money earned by working
- Loans. Federal and private. Must be paid back
- Grants. Federal Pell Grants. Academic Competitiveness Grant. National SMART Grant. Etc.
- Scholarships. Merit based - academic performance, talent / skill, community service, leadership, religious affiliation, parent affiliation with work, club, or activity
- Federal work-study. Arranged through school. Minimum wage. Limited hours.
- Federal loans. Perkins loan. Stafford loan. Graduate PLUS loan. Parent PLUS loan.
- Private loans. Cosigner required. Interest rates and loan amounts impacted by credit rating.

Any More Questions?

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People willing to help ...

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People willing to help ... contd.

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People willing to help ...

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Professor Farrokh Mistree's design experience spans mechanical, aeronautical, structural, and industrial engineering. His teaching experience spans courses in engineering design, naval architecture, solid mechanics, operations research and computer science. The key research question he is investigating is *what are the principles underlying rapid and robust concept exploration when the analysis models are incomplete and possibly inaccurate?* His current *education focus* is on creating and implementing, in partnership with industry, a curriculum for educating Strategic Engineers - those who have developed the competencies to create value through the realization of complex engineered systems for changing markets in a collaborative, globally distributed environment. It is in this context that he enjoys experimenting with ways in which design can be learned and taught.

Professor Mistree has co-authored two text-books, one research monograph, over 450 technical publications. Farrokh was recognized for his research and teaching in 1999 and 2011 respectively: ASME Design Automation Committee's 1999 Design Automation Award and 2011 ASME Ruth and Joel Spira Outstanding Educator Award. He is the recipient of two (1998 and 2003) ASME DAC Distinguished Service Awards. In 2012 he was recognized as a Distinguished Alumnus of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur and received the Life Time Achievement Award from the International Society of Agile Manufacturing. He is a Fellow of ASME, an Associate Fellow of the AIAA, a Member of ASEE and the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers.

And what does Farrokh Mistree want to do in the future? Farrokh's *passion* is to have fun in providing an opportunity for highly motivated and talented people to learn how to define and achieve their dreams.

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