



Dear Parent and Student,

It is time to begin to plan for the summer. Colleges want to see students using their summer to learn, explore, and grow. As we may have discussed in the past, there is no magic combination of activities that will make one candidate more compelling than another. Your college application should tell a story about who you are, what you have achieved and where you see yourself in the future. Every summer needs to be productive, but colleges will focus on how you spent your time between junior and senior year. Like with all parts of the college application there are certainly some activities that may carry more weight than others. There are many types of opportunities in just about any area of interest you can imagine. Some types of experiences may be:

- Competitive Academic Programs/Institutes – competitive programs typically require at least an application, essay, and transcript. Some may require writing samples, research, recommendations, etc. If selected these programs can help elevate the students resume.
- Volunteer/Community Service – Mission trips, self-designed service projects, youth groups, etc. Volunteering your time in the summer is a great way to explore an area of interest, meet people and take on a leadership role. A self-designed service project with measured success can elevate the applicant resume.
- Travel – there are many students focused travel organizations that offer a wide variety of experiences. Some trips have a community service aspect built into the itinerary.
- Work Experience – a summer job can demonstrate responsibility, independence and maturity for the college applicant. Colleges typically like to see some work experience and they do not look down on your work at the tennis hut or snack bar at the local pool.
- Internships/Shadowing – an opportunity to shadow or intern in a field of interest is a great opportunity.

Please let us know what you plan to do this summer and if you are applying to a competitive academic program/institute we are happy to help with your application, resume and essays.

Thank you,

Lisa and GERALYN