**Subject Line:** **How many college applications should you submit?**

Dear **[Student]**,

We recommend that you apply to 5-10 colleges. It’s important to remember that each application takes a lot of time. Between your classes, exams, extracurricular activities, and social events, applying to more than 10 schools could create unnecessary stress.

**Here are 4 factors to help you narrow down your college list:**

**1. Price of applications**. If you have a limited amount of money to spend on application fees, this may force you to cut down your list.

**2. Due dates of applications.** Gauge how much time you’ll have before deadlines, and fill out a reasonable number of college applications, eliminating those you cannot fit in.

**3. College fit.** If you’ve done your research and gone on a campus visit, you should have a pretty good idea of the environment and your likes and dislikes. Eliminate schools from your list that are a bad fit for you, whether it’s related to a program of study, atmosphere, etc.

**4. Likelihood of admission.** Another way to narrow it down is by applying to an equal number of reach, target, and safety schools. As you’re doing your research, make a point to document the academic profile of an average admitted student (average ACT scores, GPAs, class ranks, etc.). You can usually find this information online. Compare your academic profile to the college’s average student.

[Read the full article](http://www.act.org/content/act/en/students-and-parents/college-planning-articles/college-application-completion.html) for more information on deciding how many college applications to complete.

[Signature]