Internet's Role in College Admission

I’m sure you’ve heard that some schools check out their applicants online, and I’ve heard from admissions offices that that is true. Not every school looks at the students applying, but a lot of schools would tell you they have. What do you do to make sure they don’t see anything they might not like? Be careful who you friend and increase your privacy settings! Take caution when you’re posting online. This will not only help you with the schools who do look at your profiles, but also future potential bosses might look you up online. You don’t want your professors to see that status or photo you posted. It sounds like a stretch, but people get fired, people get denied. You can never be too careful when it comes to your privacy online! And don’t get me wrong, I’m a huge fan of my social networking, but I toned it down when I applied to college. I’m not saying delete your account or that they’ll definitely see that photo from 2009 you posted, but just think about your connections online.

Don’t be afraid to use the internet to your advantage, though! Maybe you’re a soccer all-star and you’re hoping to make the college team. You could leave a soccer picture or two public. Same for academics, maybe you have a photo of NHS induction night that you might leave public. Your online networking is really just another portfolio, waiting to be looked at!

ATTENTION SENIORS! HAVE YOU:
☐Printed & Practiced Applications? Learned if applying online is possible?
☐Learned about applying online if possible?
☐Learned your Social Security Number (SSN)?
☐Requested and included Fee Waivers?
☐Attended a F.A. Workshop at your school?
☐Completed your Brag Sheets?
☐Continued searching for colleges?
☐Continued visiting college?
☐Sent Applications by Thanksgiving? Christmas?
☐Made FAFSA Pins for you AND your parents?
~If you have ANY Questions, DO NOT hesitate to contact the UB office. Lynn, Elyse, or Cindy would LOVE to help you!

Kris Kelley
UB Work Study Student

The theme for these months is APPLICATIONS so fill them out, and let us know when you hear back!
We all have our fingers crossed for you!

Rico with some acceptance materials from Thomas! Congratulations, Rico!
So Seniors, are you looking for scholarships yet??

Fastweb.com is a FANTASTIC resource that could be helpful to all of you! They have great scholarships (national, regional, some local) on their website with links to guide you toward the scholarship money. Not only that, but they also give scholarships away to users. I would highly recommend making an account, if you don’t already have one.

Here are some sample sites they suggest you look at for sources of aid

- Fastweb.com (Search Scholarships)
- Collegesavingsplan.org
- Americorps.gov
- Cityyear.org
- Profileonline.collegeboard.com
  (This is the CSS Financial Aid PROFILE!)
- Direct.ed.gov (Direct Loans)
- StudentLoans.gov (Student Loans)

Maybe those aren’t the most exciting right now but they can really help you get a good idea of financial aid. They also can teach you how to spot scams, like having to pay a fee (you shouldn’t have to pay for scholarship applications!), money-back offers or guarantees, banking information required, or anything that says it ‘provides exclusive information’.

Included is a paper from Fastweb.com, and I think you should really think about joining the site. You simply sign-up, fill out your profile as completely as possible (to help Fastweb give you personalized scholarship matches), and watch the scholarship matches arrive! (Don’t forget your guidance counselor, office will help you find some great scholarships (look local!) as well!)

CONCLUSION:

I’m not just saying this because these Fastweb materials are here, but because I used Fastweb in high school. I didn’t get any scholarships directly from my Fastweb, but I filled them out. I treated them more like practice for the local scholarships. That’s completely fine to do, but it’s risky to rely on those local ones alone. You could just as easily fill them out and be chosen as the recipient of some awesome scholarships!

So make sure to see that scholarships are RENEWABLE, so you can keep receiving the money after your first year of college!