YOUR JOURNEY TO COLLEGE

Social Media Tips for Prospective College Student

While a review of social media sites or a Google search is not conducted by every admission officer for every applicant, the Admissions Office may choose to randomly use this screening option while reviewing your file. If there is something of concern in your essay or activity list or if you are a candidate for a scholarship, this search may be utilized as well. Online background searches are routine in the job search process, so it is prudent to assume a search may be conducted for high school students applying to colleges. That being said, it is fine to have a Facebook or Twitter account as long as you do not share information in this public forum that could be considered questionable. There is no such thing as privacy online and once something is posted, it remains in cyberspace forever.

Here are some suggestions:

The easiest way to decide if you should post something is to imagine your grandmother reading your account and to only post information that she would be proud of.

Spend time conducting an Internet search and following the links for your name to see what comes up. If there is information of concern, do what you can to have it removed. You can also create a free Google profile, which will be the first site that pops up when someone searches for your name. You can control the information on this site.

Tighten your privacy setting so that your information remains private and only available to trusted friends.

Do not share passwords for your accounts under any conditions.

If you have a passion for a cause and start a blog, make sure the content is appropriate.

Use an appropriate email address for all college correspondence.

Humor and sarcasm do not come across well online. Read the information you post before it is submitted to make sure the tone and content reflect your intention.

If you are upset about a situation, diffuse these feelings in a private manner. Use a means of venting your frustrations and feelings, but not in a public forum.