

College Planning and Admissions Seminar

Michal Rusak

The college admission is a rigorous process. It demands a serious planning ahead of time.

This planning involves factors like:

- Identifying the student interests and career objectives
- Planning student academics accordingly
- Participating in meaningful extracurricular and volunteering activities
- Choosing a realistic college list

Each student is unique and needs to have a specific plan that fits his or her needs. **Even after an intensive planning and hard work, admission to any college is not guaranteed. The college admissions process is very unpredictable and doesn't have a clear set of rules!**

This seminar will give a general overview on the college admissions process. It will include a discussion on the ranking system of the US universities, figures about admission in selective schools, and the importance of planning ahead in order to pave the way to getting admitted to top-ranked schools. I will also give a brief overview of the financial aid process.

About the Speaker

Michal Rusak is a lawyer by her profession and received a law degree from Tel-Aviv University in Israel. She was an attorney at a law firm in Haifa, Israel.

Ms. Rusak has taught language and culture at the Emma Willard School in Troy, New York, the Bet Shraga Hebrew Academy of the Capital District in Albany, New York, and Congregation Berith Sholom in Troy, New York. She has served as a private teacher and College Admissions advisor. She has also consulted the New York State Department of Education, and the Board of Regents.

Ms. Rusak has been deeply involved in her three children's education. Over the past fifteen years, she educated herself about the college admissions process by reading numerous books and endless papers on the topic. Over the years, she has also built personal connections at the universities. She was personally involved in the college planning and admission of her three children during which she gained deep expertise, useful strategies, connections, and a deep understanding of the system. All her children got admitted to top-ranked universities.

Her son graduated from the Engineering College at Cornell University and attends the graduate school at Stanford in Computer Science. Her middle daughter graduated from Columbia University, majoring in psychology. Her youngest daughter Gili is currently a freshman at Stanford University and is studying Computer Science, Mathematics, and Entrepreneurship. Her children got accepted to top schools and Ivy League Universities including Princeton, MIT, Stanford, Cornell, Columbia, UC Berkeley, and UCLA.

In her free time, Michal tutors and volunteers in many organizations. Among other organizations, Michal is an avid volunteer at the Albany Area Math Circle. She organized teams to go to the PUMaC Competition at Princeton University and the Harvard-MIT Math Tournament at MIT/Harvard University.

Michal is married to Zvi, who is a professor of Aeronautical Engineering at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute with a deep knowledge in engineering and mathematics.

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