**The Application Process**

As the field of Speech Language Pathology garners more and more interest by prospective students, the competition of getting in to the right programs gets tighter.

Make sure you have an advantage by considering important points!

1. While deciding where to apply, create a list of priorities that are important to you individually in a graduate program. Do you need the flexibility of being able to move to a different city (you may move to an out-of-town *kollel*, or your husband’s job may require a move)? Is it important for you to be available at home at a specific hour? If so, online programs may be the best option! Is it a priority to finish graduate school at the soonest time possible? If so, attending classes at a local college will make more sense.

With this in mind you can begin creating a list of graduate programs that match your plan.

Be sure to give yourself room to move around in case you don’t get in to your 1st choice.:(

1. The best way to get the real deal on the college program is by speaking to present or past students in that program. The program’s website can only offer up to a certain amount of information.
2. Beginning the application-Print out the list of requirements and highlight all due dates!

Some programs have specific deadlines while others work with rolling admissions-first come first serve basis.

Begin early! With time to spare for little things that may come up.  Be aware of all legal holidays in between that will not count as a regular day (in regards to mailing, or calling the college office).

1. Contacting the application office-email addresses are available, but the most efficient way to get a quick response is by calling the office. They are very friendly and helpful!
2. At this point most colleges have moved past paper application, so all applications and essays can be downloaded straight, avoiding the stress of extra days needed for mail service. HOWEVER, many previous transcripts and reference letters will need to be mailed! Take care of that first to avoid costly overnighting fees and lots of extra stress.

\* A word to the wise- be sure to ask Professors for reference letters right away! By application season they get booked up pretty quickly. You don’t want to be left behind!

1. Be careful to write down the same contact information on all applications so you don’t get confused. Make sure it matches your name on previous college transcripts. Otherwise you’ll need to provide a “change of name” official letter.
2. Be nitpicky when writing essays. YES the word count rule is legit! You want to give off a conscientious impression.
3. Send you essays to some family and friends to get advice from all different minds. Try to use similar ideas in all your essays to create 1 amazing essay, as opposed to 3 half-baked ones.
4. When listing extracurricular jobs and volunteer activity, make sure to include all chessed jobs, bnos/JEP, and all those programs that we join in high school and seminary without even realizing how helpful they will be! They look great on an application!
5. Stay calm, check *theraschmooze*, and keep Davening to ensure that you get into the best graduate school possible for you!! You’ll do great!!

More Later...

I. Schnitzler is a freelance writer from sunny Miami.  She comes from a long line of speech therapists and claims that it "runs in her blood".  In her spare time she enjoys shopping in Bloomys, jogging on Turnberry, and schnitzel sandwiches of course. After doing a lot of research on college applications and going through the process herself, she decided to share it with the world! And help people all over! She looks forward to answering any questions on the topic and can be reached through *theraschmooze*.