




HOW COLLEGE DECISIONS ARE MADE

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The College Profile

- Admission types
 - *Open Enrollment*
 - *Competitive*
 - *Highly Selective*
- Learn the acceptance profile
 - *Average GPA, SAT, ACT*
 - *States/Regions*
 - *Majors offered*
 - *Deadlines*
 - *Expanding or new programs*

Your Application Game Plan

- Action Item - Start a work sheet that includes:
 - *Acceptance rate, average SAT/ACT, high school class rank, decision type, deadlines, tuition/cost of attendance*
- Game Plan - Using your work sheet put schools in following categories and apply to approx. 3 schools in each category
 - *3 Easy*
 - *3 Target*
 - *3 Reach*

Types of Application Review

- Holistic vs. formula
- Who Reads your file
 - *By region, HS, alpha, major*
 - *By admission counselor or committee*
- How many readers per app?
- Straight Admission vs. Rolling Admission
- Early Decision vs. Early Action vs. Regular Decision

What is Considered in an Application?

- Curriculum
- GPA
- SAT/ACT
- Application
- Recommendation Letters
- Essay/Personal Statement
- Activity Resume/Work Resume
- Demonstrated Interest/Level of Interest
- Portfolio/video/examples of work

Curriculum

- School student attends (School Profile)
- Class rigor (AP/IB/Honors)
- Where student falls with peers
- Course load

Have you taken advantage of academic opportunities offered to you?

GPA

- Weighted vs. Unweighted
- GPA trends
- GPA tells/supports your story

How will your GPA be used by schools that you apply to?

Test Scores

- SAT/ACT - Is one preferred?
- Super Scoring
- Writing Section Included?
- Scores consistent with high school performance?
- Test Optional Schools
- SAT II Subject Tests

How should I report my test scores to schools?

Application

- Gender
- Ethnicity
- Citizenship
- Demographic information
- Family information - Education history
- Disciplinary issues (if applicable)
- Short Answer

Did I use every space of the application appropriately?

Essay/ Personal Statement

- Set yourself apart
- Demonstrate careful and well-constructed writing
- A strong college essay provides insight into the student's unique personality, values, and goals
- The application essay should be thoughtful and highly personal.
- Discuss an idea or special interest
- Why do you want to come here or what do you hope to accomplish?
- Sometimes more than 1 essay

When stories from my life do I have to tell?

Recommendation Letters

- How many are required?
- Inside information about applicant's academic ability
- Inside information as member of school and community
- Evidence of integrity, special skills, and positive character traits

Who would you ask to write a recommendation for you?

Resume

- Dedication
- Demonstration of Leadership
- Part-time job
- Internship(s)
- Community Service
- Going above and beyond in any area

What activities am I most passionate about?

Other Attributes or Awards

- Do not overlook anything special that makes you stand out from the rest of the applicants.
- Include honors, awards, evidence of unusual talent or experience, or anything else that makes you unique.
- Define local and not widely known awards

What awards/recognitions should I share on my application? How do I diversify myself?

Interview

- If offered... take it!
 - *“Optional” means encouraged*
- Visit Campus
- Meet your admission counselor
- Introduce yourself
 - *Multiple touchpoints*

Am I ready for a 30 minute interview for admission?

Action Item for Juniors/Rising Seniors

- Finish strong in Junior year
- Take challenging Senior Curriculum
- Start working on your essay(s)
- Know your grade trends, strengths and weaknesses
- It's your application, follow up and make sure it's complete
- Communicate with your college counselor/admissions counselors
- Know your Resume
- Be prepared to talk about your “brag points”
- Have 3-5 intelligent, researched questions ready to ask at any time

Additional Advice

- Create a professional email just for college communication
- Don't be afraid to call or email
 - *Better to know than not know!*
- Search the website thoroughly
- Know your deadlines
 - *Early Action, Early Decision, Regular Decision, Rolling Admissions*
- Be patient
- Enjoy your senior year!

Questions?