

Strategies for Applying to Highly Selective Colleges

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Purpose of this talk

- My goal to give you some guidance if you wish to explore admission to selective colleges.
- Applying to college is not complicated. However, you should know a few “tricks of the trade.”
- Some of this information will be useful later when you apply to your first job.
- Some families pay for expensive college “coaches”.
- I will summarize their advice, and much more, over the next hour.



“Highly Selective” Colleges?

- There are 2200 four year colleges in the US. 1100 are “competitive,” based on SAT scores and grades, according to Barron’s.
- 100 schools (category 1) are “**most competitive**”. These are similar to the top 50 US News Rankings for National Universities and Liberal Arts Colleges.
 - <http://economix.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/04/04/what-makes-a-college-selective-and-why-it-matters/>
 - <http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2013/04/04/business/economy/economix-selectivity-table.html>
- The next level: “**highly competitive**” (category 2, 2+) includes another 100 schools. After that is category 3 which includes 200 more schools.
- Most of my remarks relate to the 400 most competitive schools (out of 2200).

Examples:

- Selective Public Schools: University of Virginia (1), UCLA (1), UF (2+)
- Selective Private Schools: Harvard(1), Stanford(1), Amherst(2+) and Williams (1).



Selective or Highly Selective Colleges in Florida and in the Southeast US

Florida Schools	Southeastern Schools
University of Miami (1)	Duke (1)
New College (1)	Emory (1)
University of Florida (2+)	University of North Carolina (2+)
Rollins College (2)	Georgia Institute of Technology (1)
Florida State University (2)	University of Virginia (1)
University of South Florida/Tampa (3+)	Wake Forest University (1)
University of Central Florida (3)	Vanderbilt University (1)
Florida Institute of Technology (3)	Tulane University (2+)
University of North Florida(3)	University of Richmond (1)
Stetson College (3)	College of William and Mary (1)
	Washington and Lee University (1)



Why Consider a Highly Selective College?

I will give you four reasons:

- **Higher Lifetime Income:** Since the 1960's students who attend highly selective colleges can expect to earn more during their lifetimes than those attending less selective schools and **the difference is growing**. In 1982, the increase in lifetime earnings was 65% or \$1.2 million. For current graduates, the increase in lifetime earnings is estimated to be over \$3 million.
- **Lower Cost (for most students):** In most cases, the increase in tuition is returned in less than 3 years even in the absence of financial aid. For less affluent students, highly selective schools are often **cheaper** (and sometimes **free**) due to generous financial aid.

- » “The Return to Attending a Highly Selective College”, by Caroline Hoxby
- » “The Missing “One-Offs: The Hidden Supply of High Achieving Low Income Students, Caroline Hoxby and Chistopher Avery, 2013
- » <http://chronicle.com/blogs/innovations/why-students-want-to-go-to-harvard/28613>
- » <http://net.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/ffp0002.pdf>
- » <http://net.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/ffp0002s.pdf>



Are there non-economic reasons to attend Highly Selective Colleges?

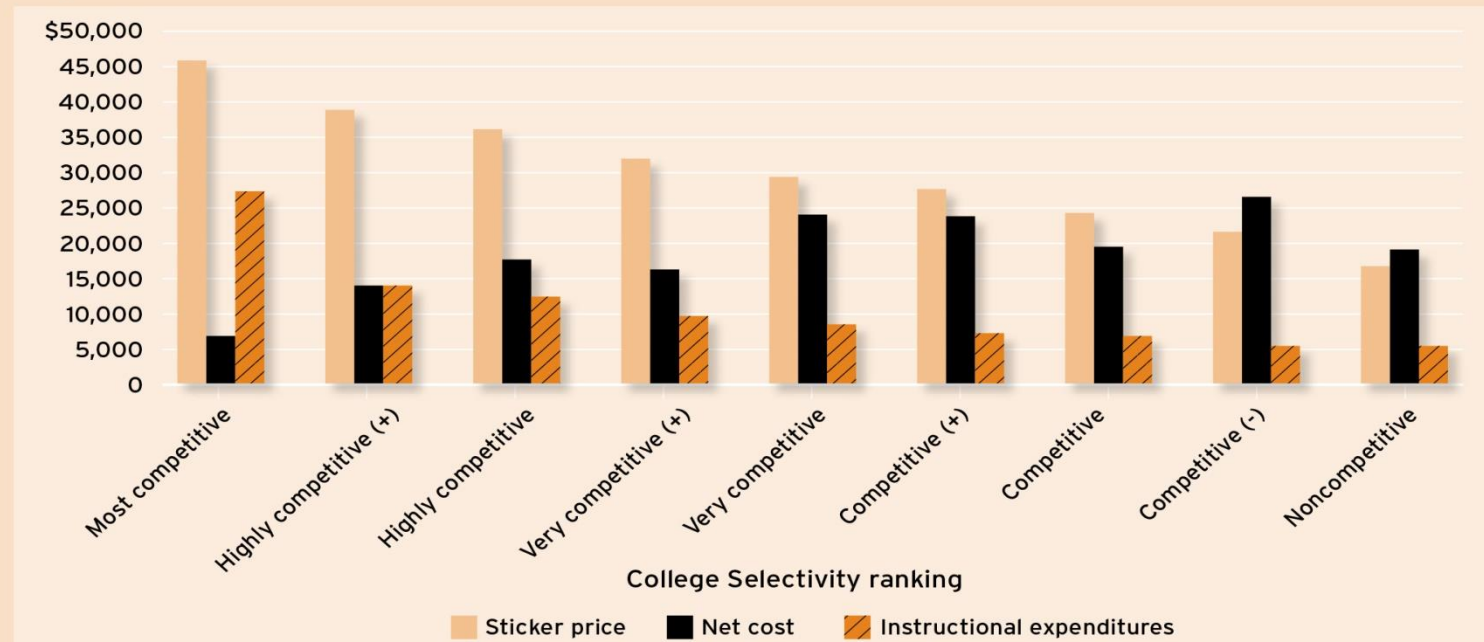
- **Broaden Your Life Experience**– Most highly selective schools design their classes around a concept of multi-level diversity (more on this later). You will be exposed to **new ideas** and **people with different cultures**. **You don't learn about new ideas and new people by avoiding them.**
- **Develop your skills** – Olympic athletes develop their skills by training with other Olympic athletes. Similarly, bright students develop their minds by pursuing their education with similarly talented intellectuals.



Highly Selective Colleges have a Higher Sticker Price but Lower Actual Cost for Low Income Families

A Better Deal (Figure 1)

For students from low-income families, attending a more-competitive college often costs much less than attending a less-competitive school.



NOTE: Sticker price and net cost include tuition, fees, and room and board. Net cost is calculated for students at the 20th percentile of family income.

SOURCES: Author's calculations from the Integrated Postsecondary Data System and college net-cost calculators for the 2009-10 school year. College selectivity is based on Barron's Profiles of American Colleges (2009).

Who attends Highly Selective Colleges?

- Only 34% of low income, high achieving high school applicants attend highly selective colleges as compared to 78% of high income, high achieving applicants. Why?
 - Both groups have **similar college graduation rates**
 - These colleges are **less expensive** for low income students
 - Research suggests that low income students **did not have access to the information** about these schools particularly outside the 15 major metropolitan areas. (College Boot Camp hopes to address this problem.)
 - <http://www.nber.org/papers/w18586>,
 - <http://www.thecrimson.com/article/2013/3/25/admissions-study-low-income/>,
 - http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/education/jan-june13/eliteschools_03-27.html
 - <http://www.npr.org/sections/money/2015/09/30/444446022/what-youll-actually-pay-at-1-550-colleges>



What other factors influence post graduate job prospects and income?

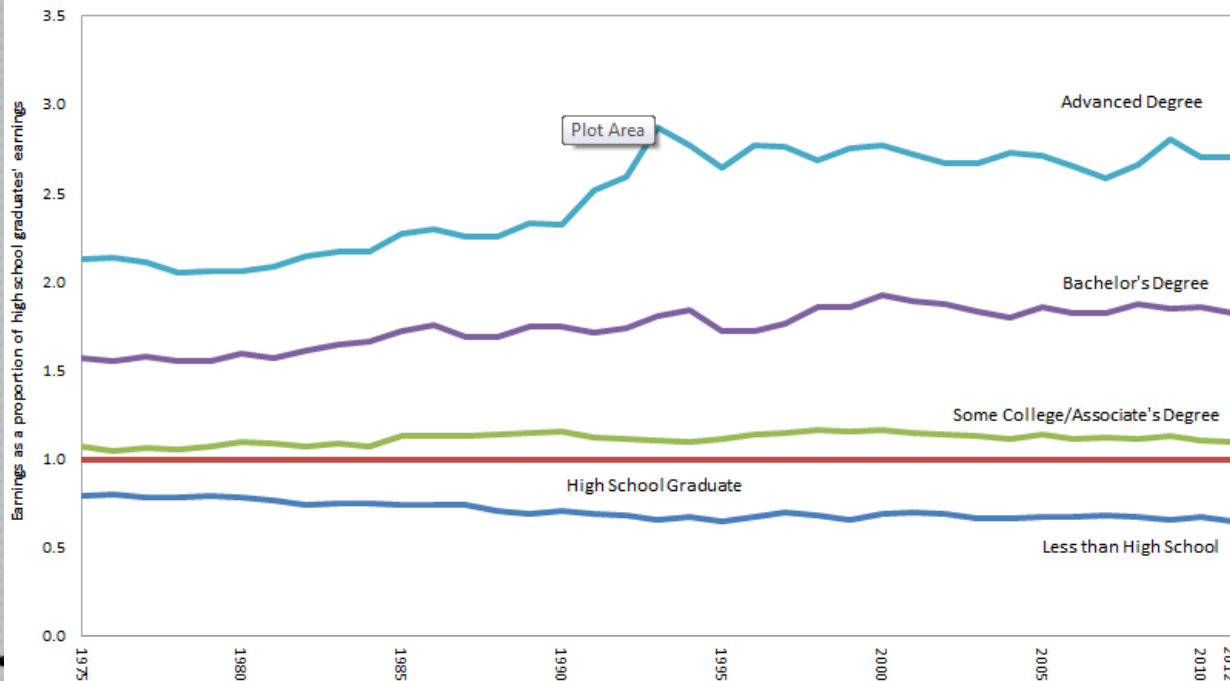
- Undergraduate majors with highest post graduate income: **Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)**.
- However, business majors can also earn higher incomes.
- As well, humanities or social science majors demonstrate good communication skills which are useful in business. However, they can (and should) improve their job prospects by taking classes in business, economics, computer science, management and communications.



Annual Median Household Income by Educational Attainment

US Census Bureau

Figure 10: Average Earnings of Full-Time, Year-Round Workers as a Proportion of the Average Earnings of High School Graduates by Educational Attainment: 1975 - 2012



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 1975-2002 March Current Population Survey, 2003-2013 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey.



Synthetic Work-Life Earnings by Educational Attainment

Educational attainment	Synthetic work-life earnings
None to 8th grade.	936,000
9th to 12th grade.	1,099,000
High school graduate.	1,371,000
Some college.	1,632,000
Associate's degree .	1,813,000
Bachelor's degree.	2,422,000
Master's degree.	2,834,000
Professional degree.	4,159,000
Doctorate degree.	3,525,000

Do you have to go to college to achieve a good income?

Absolutely not!

- The median income for plumbers, electricians and mechanics (to name a few) is identical to that of people with a bachelor's degree. (Executive chefs can do even better.)
- These jobs are not going overseas, will always be in demand and will not become obsolete.
- You should only go to college if you genuinely desire higher education and not because of “social expectation”.
- The worst thing you can do is go to college, ***because it was expected of you***, drop out with massive student loan debt, and then think about a career that you really would enjoy.



What advice do we have for students prior to senior year of high school?

Junior Year:

- Review SAT/ACT/AP/IB and language requirements of a tentative list of schools. (For example, some schools require subject tests, some don't.)
- Take your first SAT/ACT in the spring of your Junior Year. Why?
 - Allows for a retake if your performance was affected by illness or family/personal crisis.
 - Allows you to apply early action, early decision or rolling admission to access much better acceptance rates.
 - Allows you to gauge your level of competitiveness and create a tentative list of colleges.
- Review your college list with your parents and guidance counselors and divide the schools into three categories: “**Dream**”, “**Reach**” and “**Backup**”.



Common Application

- The Common Application (822 schools)- requires colleges to use both **objective** and **subjective** criteria. There are no “objective only” schools excluding many public universities.
- New edition: Essay prompts are the same for 2018-2019.
- They have schools from 50 states as well as 20 foreign countries.
- Florida: There are currently 7 public and 18 private schools, but NOT the University of Florida.



COALITION for ACCESS, AFFORDABILITY, and SUCCESS

- www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org
- The goal is to reduce stress and increase access for all students. Students graduate with little to no debt. They promise more access for low income students.
- More than 140 top public and private colleges. High graduation rates are required.
- You create a free account early in high school and receive a “Locker” to keep school projects, research schools, write your essay, apply.
 - Application fee waivers can be sought through this system
 - High school teachers and guidance counselors can transmit transcripts and letters of recommendation through the system.
 - Mentors can critique high school projects.
- Some schools including UF (+2), **require** students to use the Coalition site. Others use **both** the Coalition site and the Common Application.



“Most Selective” Public Universities (outside Florida)

- Examples: UVA (1), UNC (+2), Michigan (1), UCLA (1), UC Berkley (1), College of William and Mary (1)
- Be aware, Out-of-State Public Universities, generally, are:
 - More **difficult** to gain admission for out of state applicants.
 - **more expensive** than for in-state students. **Tuition** is often triple, and close to that of private schools
 - May have **less institutional** (as opposed to federal) **financial aid** available since they use out-of-state students to fund their programs.
- That said, these are excellent schools. If you have a family connection, if you are attracted to a specific academic program or a school’s location, by all means apply!



Financial Aid

FAFSA

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid – Your parents absolutely **must** fill this out! Some money is awarded on a first come, first served basis starting Oct 1 until it “runs out”. Do not procrastinate!
- Financial Aid calculators on school websites can help.
- FAFASA4caster is a quick tool to estimate financial aid.
- It takes about 30 minutes and it is free of charge.
- New smartphone app: “myStudentAid” allows you to apply on your smartphone. (...why?)



Search and compete for college scholarship money

- **Scholly**
 - App which hooks you up with scholarship opportunities as diverse as “Dr. Pepper Tuition Giveaway”, “Ayn Rand Essay Competition”, “Zombie Apocalypse Scholarship” and many corporate scholarships. Often you will submit an essay to compete for this money. Some students have applied for dozens of these opportunities.
- Also: **College Board Scholarship Search, Fastweb, Cappex, Chegg, Niche, Scholarship Monkey, Scholarships.com**
- Strongly recommended: I know a student from Eastside who garnered \$184K in scholarships between Johns Hopkins and these sites for a total “free ride”. It is worth a few Saturdays.



Free college for gifted students

- **Questbridge.org**

- QuestBridge is a program for “high-achieving low-income students.” Full tuition, room, board. No parental contribution. 40 top tier schools. Early deadline. Optional match. Family income < \$65K. Most will consider applications from undocumented applicants.
- 70% of finalists are the first to attend college in their families
- Targets the top 10% of class. Average unweighted GPA 3.90.
- SAT 1310 -1450 ACT 28-32 (middle 50%)
- 2018: 16,248 applicants, 6,507 finalists. Median family income = \$35,000.



Florida Bright Futures

- **Florida Academic Scholars**
 - 1290 SAT/29 ACT, GPA 3.5, service hours: 100
 - Covers 100% tuition and some fees. \$3,190 per term (fall 2018 and spring 2019) and includes 15 hours of 100% tuition (and applicable fees) plus \$300 per semester.
 - Total annual cost for UF with room and board = \$21,210
 - Total annual cost for UF with Bright Futures FAS = \$14,230... savings **\$6980** per year
- **Florida Medallion Scholars**
 - 1170 SAT/26 ACT, GPA 3.0, service hours: 75
 - Covers 75% tuition and some fees.
 - Total annual cost for UF with room and board = \$21,210
 - Total annual cost for UF with Bright Futures FMS = \$14,425...savings **\$4785** per year
- **Note: These are only (very rough) estimates!**



Financial Aid Strategy

- Don't be afraid to apply and see what they offer in financial assistance, if you are accepted.
- Many highly selective schools make their admissions decisions in a “need blind” manner.
- What about students from more affluent families? There are many more “merit scholarships” today. Highly Selective Schools are using these to attract high achieving students in competition with other schools.



Application Fees

- Range: \$30 to \$90 per application, averaging \$43.
- Many schools will waive application fees for applicants with more modest family incomes.
- Many excellent schools, over 300, have no application fees.
 - Examples: Bryn Mawr(1), Carleton(1), Case Western Reserve(1), Grinnell(2), Mount Holyoke(1), Oberlin(1), US Naval and Military Academies(1), Wellesley(1), Colby(1), Smith(1), Denison(1), Reed(1), Tulane(2+)
- Expensive Schools: Stanford (1) \$90, BU(2+) \$80, Columbia (1) \$85, Duke(1) \$85, Dartmouth (1) \$80. UNC (2+) \$80, Emory(1) \$75, Harvard (1) \$75, University of Miami(1) \$70, NC State \$85.
- UF(2+) \$30 (+ \$5), FSU(2) \$30 are a relative bargain.



What drives admissions decisions at highly selective schools?

- Top tier schools believe that the best educational experience for all students comes from admitting a diverse, multitalented student body.
- These schools are willing to pay for this diversity through generous financial aid programs.
 - Example: 70% of Harvard students receive financial aid. 20% attend for free including any student with a family income less than \$65K. **No student has any debt on graduation.** Implication: Harvard is more affordable than a state school for 90% of families who receive aid. All other top schools have generous financial aid packages, as well.



Multilevel Diversity?

- Geographic **diversity** – It may be “easier” to get into Harvard from Montana than from Massachusetts.
- Racial/Ethnic/Socioeconomic **diversity**.
- Academic **diversity**. Schools need students interested in math, science, psychology, philosophy, language and literature.
- Non-academic **diversity**. Sports, drama, music, etc.



Sports, Performing Arts

- Note: If you are a good student and play sports well at the varsity level (or you perform in music or drama), and you believe that you can compete at the collegiate level, contact (or have your coach contact) the school of your choice early.
- Be ready to provide video.



Legacy

- Most highly selective schools give extra consideration to legacy applicants. Therefore, look at schools attended by parents, siblings, aunts, uncles, even grandparents for help in admission.
- These schools have promoted **social diversity** for more than 50 years. As a result, their **alumni are ethnically and racially diverse.**
- Because of loyalty engendered in legacy programs, alumni tend to contribute heavily to financial aid programs which, in turn, allows many more low income students to attend. **“Pay it forward.”**
- How much does legacy consideration help?
 - “You have to make it to the fence on your own, but once there, we’ll help you get over.” – Yale Admissions Director



Types of Admission

- Regular Action (RA)
 - Application deadlines vary but usually due on January 1, admissions decisions by April 1
 - Acceptance of admission by May 1.



Types of Admission

- Early Decision (ED)
 - This means that if you are accepted, you commit to attend.
 - Usually, you complete your application by Nov 1 and get a decision by Dec 15. You may apply to only one ED school.
 - If you are fortunate enough to be accepted to an ED school, you should withdraw your application from all other schools. This will enhance the chance of a fellow classmate to gain acceptance. Also, if another school holds a spot for you they may have to take someone off the waiting list which creates a cascade of acceptances and potential loss of deposits.
 - EXCEPTION: You are waiting to hear about financial aid.



Types of Admission

- Early Decision II (EDII)
 - This also means that if you are accepted, you commit to attend just like Early Decision I. The difference with ED I is timing.
 - Usually, you complete your application by Jan 1 and get a decision by mid February. You may apply to only one ED II school.
 - This option was created to allow students who were not accepted in the first early decision round to try for their next most favorite school.
 - About 60-70 schools now offer this option
 - Downside: If your top choice school deferred you until regular decision, you are now potentially out of the running for that school.



Types of Admission

- Early Action (EA)
 - This means that you get an early acceptance decision but are not bound to attend. You can defer your answer until May 1 to see what other schools decide.
 - Usually, there is a Nov 1 deadline and Dec 15 decision.
 - “Restrictive Early Action.” usually allows you to apply other EA programs but not ED. Harvard (1) allows you to apply public but not other private schools during the EA round. The rules vary from one school to the next. Be careful to review them carefully.
 - If you are accepted and you decide to attend, withdraw your applications from all other schools for the same reasons expressed earlier, unless you are waiting to hear about financial aid.



Types of Admissions

- Rolling Admissions (Rolling)
 - This means that you can get a decision within 4-8 weeks of application completion. It is usually (but not always) nonbinding.
 - Some schools combine “Rolling” with “ED”, e.g. Wake Forest (1). This is a binding decision.
 - Over 1300 schools offer some form of rolling admissions.



Should you apply EA or ED?

- For some schools, EA or ED admission is easier. It is difficult to simply compare acceptance rates since the applicant pools differ. However,
 - Dartmouth (1) accepted 8.5% regular and 28% early
 - University of Pennsylvania(1) accepted 7% regular and 22% early
 - Emory (1) accepted 21% regular and 27% early
 - University of Miami(1) accepted 24% regular and 64% early
- Many schools can secure good students by accepting them EA or ED. To obtain these students, I believe they are willing to lower the bar a bit.
- As colleges fill up their classes, they can get a bit more “picky” about late applications and it can become more difficult to get in. Don’t procrastinate!



Why don't more students apply ED or EA?

- **Lack of information** – This is a particular problem in students with lower socioeconomic backgrounds.
- **Procrastination**
- **Hesitancy to commit** to a particular school
- **Financial Aid** –
 - It is generally accepted that ED and EA schools will let you out of your obligation to attend if the financial offer is not adequate.
 - That said, no school will squeeze applicants who have shown loyalty by applying early.
 - Also, if you show them that the other schools have been far more generous, they may enhance their offer to keep you.



Suggested Strategy

If you are a good student, with academic criteria in the upper part of the middle 50% for your top choice school, and you have a strong application in the other areas we discuss, consider applying ED, EA or Rolling Admission.



The Application

- Three Main Parts (plus one)
 - Academics
 - Extracurriculars
 - Personal
 - The “uniqueness” factor



Academics

- Every admissions officer will tell you that the school transcript (not the GPA *per se*) is the most important part of the application.
 - **Colleges get official school reports and maintain their own databases.** They know how hard individual courses are at specific high schools.
 - **It is important to score well in challenging courses.** Getting an “A” in “basket weaving” does not help you and may signal the admissions committee that you are not willing to challenge yourself.
 - That said, **be careful not to overload your schedule** with so many challenging courses that your academic performance suffers. This is especially true during first semester of Senior year. Admissions committees want to see that you have maintained or improved your grades.



Academics

- Class rank is a “threshold “ phenomenon. Being “5th” in your class is not better than being “10th” in your class.
- Highly selective schools will consider a top 20% performance at a challenging school (like Eastside) as equivalent to a top 10% rank at a less challenging program.
- Many highly selective colleges recalculate the GPA using their own criteria and weighting.



A Common Myth

- *“I am valedictorian of my class and I have a 1600 on the SAT. Therefore, I should be accepted everywhere!”*
 - The reality is that Harvard has more valedictorian applications each year than spots in the freshman class. Yet, most students who are accepted are not valedictorians.
 - Also, they accept less than half of those applicants with 1600 SAT scores.
 - Conclusion: There is a lot more to college acceptance, at highly selective schools, than GPA and SAT.



Prepare for the SAT or ACT

- **Private tutors** are very expensive and can cost **\$2000-\$4000** and up.
- **Test prep services** (Kaplan or Princeton Review) can add 100 points to your combined score. Expect to pay **\$1000**. Tip: \$100 online coupons.
- **Test Prep Books** can duplicate the “practice” boost of the prep services, without spending the money. **\$25-\$50** at local bookstores. **Amazon** has used test prep books with prices less than **\$10**.
- **Free SAT prep on line:** <http://www.majortests.com/sat/>, <http://www.proprofs.com/sat/>, <https://www.khanacademy.org/sat>
- **Retaking the SAT/ACT** - Retaking the SAT may also add up to 50 points to each score. Most schools will let you combine SAT/ACT sections to get the **best composite score**. Cost: **\$55**. Were you sick during the test? Did you have a family emergency? If so, retake the test. This means you should schedule the first attempt early enough for a retake.



Extracurricular/Community Service

- You must do ***something*** other than class work to be considered at a highly selective school (unless you have a good reason like family obligations/health issues).
- It is better to do 2 or 3 things with commitment, passion and creativity than to do 20 things superficially.
- Sports, drama and music are very important and make your application stand out.
- Community Service – a must!



Extracurricular/Community Service

- Highlight (don't hide) factors which may have affected your ability to perform or engage in activities. Did you overcome obstacles? These can explain a lack of extracurricular activities or a dip in GPA.
 - Did you have:
 - financial problems requiring you to work?
 - childcare responsibilities?
 - family or personal illness or disability?
 - divorce, death of a parent?



Personal Message

Convey to the admissions committees who you are as a person:

- **Teacher recommendations** – can be very helpful, however...
 - It is difficult to write dozens of unique, personalized letters.
 - Their value depends on the teacher and how well they know you.
- **Interviews** – can be helpful, however...
 - The interview value depends on the interviewer.
 - Usually these are the student's first interviews so poor preparation usually means poor performance. => PREPARE!
 - Most schools don't request or require them.



Personal Message

- **Personal Essay** – generally 300-400 words (max 550)
 - **This is the most important part of the application after the transcript.** It is also the least understood.
 - You are “speaking” directly to the admissions committee.
Who are you? What makes you tick?
 - If you are light on extracurriculars due to illness or family obligations, this is one way to express that (although not the only way).
 - Read “On Writing the College Application Essay – Secrets of a Former Ivy League Admissions Officer, the Key to Acceptance at the College of Your Choice,” by Harry Bauld.



Personal Essay

- Admissions officers read hundreds of these. Most essays are **dry** and **boring**. Try to be creative, entertaining, different.
- **Spelling and grammar** must be **perfect!**
- **Tone:**
 - **Avoid grandiosity** – You are **NOT** the most spectacular student these schools have ever seen.
 - “Mature and introspective” is okay
 - “Somewhat cheesy but tasteful” is okay
 - Mildly jocular is okay but avoid a silly tone.
 - Be PC! - “I think smokers are disgusting,” won’t go over well if the admissions officer happens to smoke (or if her father died of lung cancer.)
- Try to have a **“hook”** so that the officer will remember your essay.



Personal Essay – Topic Selection

- Don't write about these (“On Writing the College Application Essay...”, by Harry Bauld):
 - **The trip** – “I had to adjust to a whole new way of life.”
 - **My favorite things** - puppy dogs, freedom, and Mrs. Field's cookies
 - **Miss America** – “I think World Peace is the most important issue facing us today”
 - **The Jock** - “Through wrestling I have learned to set goals and to work with people.”
 - **The autobiography** “Hello, my name is ...”
 - **Tales of my success** “But, finally, when I crossed the finish line...”
 - **Pet Death** – “As I watched Buttons' life ebb away, I came to value...”
- More bad topic ideas:
 - “My late grandfather was the most important person in my life” – your grandfather is not applying
 - “I was inspired by my summer helping poor people in Guatemala” - rich kid takes a summer vacation.



Letters of Recommendation and Supporting Materials

- Be respectful of your teachers and guidance counselors. Don't wait until right before the due date to request letters or transcripts. You are not the only student applying!
- Don't inundate the admissions committees with supporting materials and don't expect to get anything back. (Never send originals.) Provide only what they ask for: usually video for sports, audio or video for music or jpeg for art.



The Interview

- Some interviews are “contentious”, some are “friendly”
- Preparation (check many online sites for college interview prep)
 - Research the school!!! Make specific references to programs or faculty. Explain why their program would be a good fit for you.
 - Why do you want to attend? Reputation/location is not enough.
 - Talk about specifics. Sell yourself but don’t brag.
 - Bring a resume.
 - Dress appropriately unless you are coming right from a sports practice – then politely “apologize”.



The Interview

- Anticipate Questions:
 - Background: birthplace, primary language, occupation of parents, family situation, legacy, siblings, obstacles overcome.
 - Academic interests, predicted area of concentration, career goals
 - Extracurricular activity, community service
 - Current Events
 - Recent books read
 - Love of learning, intellectual curiosity and originality



How are you unique?

- Highly Selective Schools usually have admissions officers talk about student applications around a table.
- Some “objective only” schools make decisions by using a computer program to create an “index” for admission. Admission is based on the index “cutoff”.
- After all of the grades, extracurriculars, and essays, the question asked is, “Okay, this applicant is clearly a great student and a well rounded, amicable person. Now, why should we accept him or her?”



How are you unique?

Did you:

- Start a business or organization?
- Write a book or play, create a work of art?
- Develop a new idea or invent something?
- Distinguish yourself in sports or the arts?



The “Kiss(es) of Death” in College Applications

- **The wrong school!** If a college asks, “Why do you want to come to our school?”, and you accidentally mention another school in the response, you will be summarily rejected at Princeton (1), Vanderbilt (1) and others. **Proof Read!!!**
- **Give them (only) what they ask for.** If a school asks for 2 recommendation letters and you submit 23, you will be summarily rejected. If they ask for teacher letters don’t submit a letter from “Coach Smith” or “Minister Jones”. **Follow directions!**
- **No Stalking!** Do **NOT** call the admissions office twice a week to check on your application. A local student was rejected at Yale (1) for this very reason.
- **Be aware of your on line presence.** In 2017, ten students accepted to Harvard had their admissions rescinded when it was learned that they subsequently formed a Facebook group mocking sexual assault, the Holocaust, the deaths of children, and insulting minority groups. Even if they apologize for and retract their heinous comments, this incident will follow them for the rest of their careers.



Write a Resume

- Bring a resume to the interview and send it to the schools
- A resume provides a quick summary for the admissions officer.
- You will keep and update this resume for the rest of your career.
- All private high schools help their students write resumes. Why should those students have an advantage in this area?
- All college career offices help their students write resumes.
- Your resume should be **concise**. Most high school students and college students need only **one page**. **If your resume exceeds one page, chop it down.** It is a **SUMMARY!**



Summary – Admission to a Highly Selective College

- Apply to Selective or Highly Selective colleges to:
 - Increase lifetime earnings
 - Lower educational costs for most families
 - Experience diversity in people and ideas
 - Develop your talents, secure a better job.
- Obtain a four year degree instead of a two year degree!
- Consider Early Decision, Early Action or Rolling Admission.
- Start the process early – avoid a last minute rush.
- Request letters of recommendation and transcripts early.
- Give admissions committees exactly (and only) what they ask for.
- Parents: Fill out the FAFSA in October!
- Scrub your social media



Summary – Admission to a Highly Selective College

- Address the three main areas of the application:
Academics, Extracurricular Activities and Personal Statement
 - Identify a uniqueness factor
 - Prepare a resume
 - Prepare for the interview
 - Perfect your essays in spelling, grammar, subject and tone

