



# MGS EDUCATIONAL CONSULTING

Design your path to college

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### COLLEGE ADMISSIONS NEWS:

January was a very big and busy month news-wise!

- The Common Application has announced that the prompts for the upcoming admissions cycle will stay the same. You can see them here: <https://www.commonapp.org/blog/2022-2023-common-app-essay-prompts>. It's a great idea to read through them and start thinking about whether there's a prompt that speaks to you. Doing a little brainstorming while in the shower over the next few weeks can be quite useful!
- The College Board has announced major changes to the SAT starting in 2024 (which affects current 9th graders):
  - It will be entirely digital.
  - It will be two hours long instead of 3 hours.
  - Reading selections will only be a paragraph long.

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### COLLEGE ADMISSIONS NEWS CONT'D:

- It will be adaptive, which means that questions will increase in difficulty as you progress.

There are many, many questions that will need to be revealed: how will these scores compare to earlier years' scores, how will high schools deal with the technology requirements, will kids be able to access practice exams? This news just confirms that testing is still in real flux.

- The Coalition App (which is a much less used alternative to the Common App) announced a partnership with SCOIR (which is a Naviance-like system that some high schools use) to streamline applications. The application process will be actually be integrated within SCOIR. College admissions is increasingly complicated and complex, so it will be interesting to see this evolve and watch how the Common App responds.

# COLLEGES IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

## CHAMPLAIN COLLEGE

- Location: Burlington, VT
- # of Undergrads: 2,325
- Acceptance Rate: 85.2%
- Student / Faculty Ratio: 14:1
- Returning Freshmen: 79%
- % Receiving Merit Aid: not known

### INTERESTING FACTS:

- Blends professional education with the liberal arts
- Major academic strength is game design
- Students jump in with their major immediately, which gives students 4 years of "professional" experience
- 75,000 square foot Center for Communications and Creative Media
- 56% participate in study abroad
- InSight career and personal finance program gets students ready for "after college"
- Most of the campus is comprised of "geeks and gamers"
- One dining hall supports local food and sustainable practices (no trays or paper plates)
- Most of social life is off-campus or at UVM; no Greek life
- No intercollegiate sports but plenty of intramurals

## UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

- Location: Burlington, VT
- # of Undergrads: 10,235
- Acceptance Rate: 71%
- Student / Faculty Ratio: 16:1
- Returning Freshmen: 85%
- % Receiving Merit Aid: 69%

### INTERESTING FACTS:

- Public school, but academics and research opportunities are akin to a private school
- Growing emphasis on hands-on learning
- New \$104M STEM complex
- All students take general ed courses in quantitative reasoning, sustainability, and diversity
- Most popular majors: business admin, psychology, environmental studies, and nursing
- Premed, prevet, nursing students take advantage of med school
- Attracts a mix of partiers and scholars; small Greek life
- Students are outdoorsy, accepting and curious
- Required to live on campus for first 2 years

## I'M A JUNIOR AND I'M STARTING TO FEEL STRESSED!

Hearing about seniors receiving acceptances, denials, and lots and lots of deferrals can definitely cause a lot of stress--especially knowing that it'll be your turn to go through this process next year.

Rest assured that most seniors will be just fine. They will land at the place that is right for them. They may even realize that being denied or deferred from some colleges was actually a blessing.

The key to this whole process is to figure out which colleges make sense for YOU. Not for your friend. Not for your mom or grandma. If you can make a balanced list of 10-12 colleges--some that are super highly likely that you'll get into and some that are less likely--and you'd be happy to attend each and every one, you will drastically reduce the stress.

And remember this KEY POINT: there are about 50-100 colleges that are highly rejective or pretty darn rejective, but there are hundreds and hundreds of other fine colleges and universities that are actively looking for students! Put a few of those on your list!

## A FEW THOUGHTS FOR SENIORS

The number of Early Action deferrals / postponements that have come out in the past few days across the country makes my head hurt! Can you say yield protection?! Colleges simply aren't willing to provide acceptances if there is a risk that students will not come. Many are also a little gun-shy after overenrolling this past year. So the question is what to do when you get a deferral. Here are my recommendations:

- Look very carefully at the messaging from the college. Follow their directions carefully. They may want you to complete a few more essays (or they may just want you to answer a few questions in bullet form). They may accept more letters of recommendation.
- The point is to give them more and useful information that can bolster your case and explain why YOU are a great fit.
- The point is not to inundate them with more information. If they say not to send in another letter of rec, do not send one! If they say not to send in a letter, do not send one!
- Admissions officers are tired by now. Use your judgement to decide what to send in.

Many of these deferrals have little rhyme or reason to us outsiders. Please do not waste your time trying to figure out why Person A got in but Person B did not. We will never know. Remember, colleges need to meet their institutional priorities which change each year and which we are not privy to!

*I help students and their families navigate the college admissions process. I empower students to figure out who they are and where they belong, and I provide structure, insight, and enthusiasm as they apply to colleges that are the best fit academically, socially, and financially.*

*Contact me for a 30 minute complimentary session to learn more!*



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