



MGS EDUCATIONAL CONSULTING

Design your path to college

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KEY ARTICLE FOR PARENTS TO READ:

Emergency physician Louis Profeta has made it his mission to talk with students about the dangers of being in college. In this article, he makes the case for parents to really evaluate how ready their kids are to go to college. Some questions to ask:

- How able are they to say no to impulses?
- Could they be left at home right now for awhile? Could they fend for themselves? Would they burn the house down?!

There is no doubt that the pandemic has deprived our seniors of a year to mature emotionally. We really need to ask ourselves if they're ready to head to college. There really is no rush.

https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/very-dangerous-place-child-college-louis-m-profeta-md/?fbclid=IwAR0vF2m-odpYUiKofd90MO6eD-zpaAKxnAbm7Z_wTBW62mczTZ7vzpDvpEU

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS NEWS

The University of California recently announced that testing for admissions decisions is OVER. DONE. The faculty determined that they could find no alternative exam that would avoid the biased results of standardized testing. And they found that high school grades are a better tool for predicting college performance.

Stanford University also recently announced that they will extend test optional admissions for 2022-2023.

This announcement was especially noteworthy because of Stanford's reputation. It also came early in the season and will force other universities to look at their test-optional plans more closely.

COLLEGES IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS

- Location: St. Louis, MO
- # of Undergrads: 7,073
- Acceptance Rate: 16%
- Student / Faculty Ratio: 7:1
- Returning Freshmen: 94%
- % Receiving Merit Aid: not known

INTERESTING FACTS:

- Friendly Midwestern research university; strength in bio and pre-med
- Beautiful campus borders Forest Park, the nation's largest urban park
- New engineering building finished in 2019
- Easy to get involved in significant research projects
- Collaborative environment sets it apart; not a weed out school
- Plenty of academic supports; down to earth, accessible profs
- 24 hour peer counseling service called Uncle Joe's
- 75% live on campus in nice residential colleges; freshmen and sophomores live together and enjoy Tempur-pedic mattresses
- Good food and campus safety
- Greek life is significant (40% of women)
- Div 3; recent cross-country and track national champions (women)

BARD COLLEGE

- Location: Annandale on Hudson, NY
- # of Undergrads: 1,793
- Acceptance Rate: 57%
- Student / Faculty Ratio: 9:1
- Returning Freshmen: 80%
- % Receiving Merit Aid: 8%

INTERESTING FACTS:

- A non-traditional liberal arts college that combines individuality with rigorous academics right by the Hudson
- Extensive distribution requirements including a three-week Language and Thinking class before school starts; a First Year Seminar; a three week Citizen Science workshop in January; Moderation (a performance and program of study review during Sophomore year); and a Senior Project
- Professors get rave reviews; students can design tutorials if they want more attention from their professors
- Stunning Fisher Center for Performing Arts designed by Gehry
- Can choose to apply through the Entrance Exam where you submit four 2,500 word essays (instead of the Common App)

WHAT SHOULD JUNIORS BE DOING NOW?

- Keep focusing on your classes and your grades. Many, many students struggled--academically and socially--with being back in school this past quarter. The increased rigor has been a challenge for many; calculus can be pretty hard if pre-calc was lighter than usual and didn't cover all the topics thoroughly. Keep at it; engage tutors if necessary. But don't shy away from the rigor. That rigor is what will help you succeed in college.
- As you do some fall college visits, start thinking about what are your MUST HAVES and your NICE TO HAVES. It's ok to not really know at this point. The more visits you do--even if it's just driving around the campus--the more likely you'll start realizing what you're looking for in a college. Just know that it's okay to change your mind. Some waffling is to be expected!

AND WHAT ABOUT SENIORS?!

December is an exciting and nerve-wracking month in college admissions. ED decisions will come out in mid-December (though I've heard of a few colleges who are planning to release decisions even earlier than expected). The buzz in high schools will reach a fevered-pitch, with some students thrilled with what they learn, some devastated, and some feeling guilty that they got in and their friends didn't. Way too much emotion for teenagers to handle if you ask me.

The key thing to remember is that all of this will work out. Trust me. It will. Some kids won't get in their top choice, but then they'll apply and get into a college that is much better suited to them. Remember that the key to a well-built college list is finding ten or so colleges with varying acceptance probabilities that you'd be happy to attend (yes, all of them!).

And remember these two key things:

- College decisions really say very little about who you are as a person. There are a multitude of reasons why students are accepted or denied, and we have NO IDEA WHAT THEY ARE. (Hello, institutional priorities).
- It matters less where you go than what you do when you're there. Experiences at lesser-known colleges can be far richer than at highly rejective colleges. Really!

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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