



MGS EDUCATIONAL CONSULTING

Design your path to college

JUNE 2022



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COLLEGE IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

- Location: Pittsburgh, PA
- # of Undergrads: 18,256
- Acceptance Rate: 64%
- Student / Faculty Ratio: 14:1
- Returning Freshmen: 93%
- % Receiving Merit Aid: 8%

INTERESTING FACTS

- Excellent engineering, nursing, pre-med, and PT programs
- Known for philosophy and Slavic studies programs
- ROLLING ADMISSIONS (so apply early)!! (I love rolling!)
- Co-ops for engineering students
- Housing guaranteed for first years; good off-campus options
- Campus is next to a 460 acre park
- Coursework is intense but manageable
- 52% of students participate in research
- Career Center provides an excellent internship guarantee pgm
- Great public transportation makes exploring the city easy and fun
- Greek life is small on campus
- It's a large university made to feel small, and students really feel their PittPride!

KEY CONCEPT TO CONSIDER: COLLEGE FINANCIAL HEALTH

Many selective colleges posted record setting gains in their endowments this past year. Yet many other colleges are struggling to attract students, and, as a result, their financial health is shaky--sometimes very shaky. It is important to review the financial health of every college on your list. Here are two resources to help you do that:

<https://edmit.me/browse/>
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/schifrin/2021/02/22/college-financial-grades-2021-will-your-alma-mater-survive-covid/?sh=d6755ca49163>

IT'S JUNE! WHAT SHOULD JUNIORS BE DOING?

You're almost there! Spend time on your classes these last few weeks of school. I promise it will pay off!

Make sure that you've asked two teachers to write letters of recommendation. Please do not wait until the fall. Many teachers like to get this letter-writing completed during the summer months, and many will agree to write only a set number of letters. Ask teachers--ideally from your junior year and from your core classes (math, ELA, science, social studies, and language)--who can speak about you as a learner. But be sure to also give your teachers a resume or brag sheet so that they understand who you are outside of class.

Start doing some soul searching and reflection in preparation for the essays you'll be writing later in the summer and in the fall. What are some challenges you've faced and how have you overcome them? Who do you consider to be part of your community? Why do you want to study what you want to study? Being clear on who you are and what you want in college will make your applications authentic and meaningful.

FOR SENIORS: CONGRATULATIONS!

If you haven't already graduated, you probably will be soon! Congratulations! Here are a few things to remember during this pretty momentous time:

1. You made it through a pretty strange high school experience. Your 10th and 11th grade years were unlike ones we've ever seen. Many of you faced real challenges with remote learning; others were happy to be home, and returning to in-person learning this year was the challenge. In any case, there's little doubt that you've built some resilience skills that you'll be able to access as you face challenges in the future.
2. Don't fall into the trap of thinking that you really don't deserve to go the college where you're headed. I promise you that colleges will not admit students who they think will not be able to handle the work or who won't be able to thrive on campus. Yes, you will have to work hard, and yes, you will face challenges, but you do belong there. Believe it!
3. Take a moment to thank all of the people who supported you through this process: your parents, your teachers, your coaches, your friends. Write them a note and express your gratitude. You'll feel good after doing this, and they will especially appreciate hearing from you.

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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