



MGS EDUCATIONAL CONSULTING

Design your path to college

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COLLEGE ADMISSIONS NEWS

- Fiske announced this week that they will no longer be publishing ACT and SAT scores. Acknowledging that fewer are taking and reporting test scores, "rather than publish inaccurate and misleading data, [Fiske has] decided to omit any reporting of score ranges for the foreseeable future."
- Rutgers announced that they will be requiring all of their students to be vaccinated in the fall of 2021. Hoping that other colleges will soon follow suit!
- The Common Application announced that 30 additional colleges have signed on to their application platform, including James Madison University and Colorado School of Mines.
- Clark University announced a new school centered on design and technology, based off of the excellent program at Becker College, which just announced its closing.

KEY TERM TO UNDERSTAND

DEMONSTRATED INTEREST:

Some colleges track the level of interest that students show towards them (the most selective ones typically do not). Many colleges want to know that if you're admitted, you'd actually attend. Some colleges, like Tulane, take this very seriously! Students can show demonstrated interest in a number of ways, including:

- Visiting campus (be sure to check in!)
- Attending sessions with college reps at school or at other events
- Attending virtual tours and fairs
- Navigating through their website
- Having an interview
- Emailing their college reps questions they may have (which cannot be found on the website!).
- Applying Early Action or Early Decision

COLLEGES IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

RICE

- Location: Houston, TX
- # of undergrads: 3,900
- Acceptance Rate: 8.7%
- Student / Faculty Ratio: 6:1
- Returning Freshmen: 96%

INTERESTING ACADEMIC PROGRAMS:

- Architecture is one of the best in the country
- Space physics program works closely with NASA

FUN FACTS:

- Rice just announced that they plan to increase undergrad enrollment by 20% by 2025!
- Residential college system; frats and sororities are forbidden; 40% come from Texas
- Long tradition of encouraging double and triple majors in seemingly opposite fields

LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY

- Location: Appleton, WI
- # of undergrads: 1,400
- Acceptance Rate: 62%
- Student / Faculty Ratio: 8:1
- Returning Freshmen: 91%

INTERESTING ACADEMIC PROGRAMS:

- Fantastic music conservatory, but you can also just major in Music and participate in ensembles
- Uncommon hands-on physics program

FUN FACTS:

- One of the [Colleges That Change Lives](#)
- Great Midwest Trivia Contest since 1965; longest running trivia contest in the nation
- Intramural broomball is a must to play and watch
- One of the best little known schools in the nation

IT'S APRIL. WHAT SHOULD JUNIORS BE DOING?

- Keep focusing on your **schoolwork!** Many teenagers are reporting struggles with motivation. Keep your eyes on the prize and remember that the work you do now will pay off!

- Start capturing your **extra-curricular activities** in a simple chart. There are probably things you did Freshman and Sophomore years that you've forgotten. If you keep a google chart handy (see the Resources page on my website for one), you can add activities as you remember them!

- Keep thinking about **what you're looking for** in a college. Try to picture yourself living on a college campus. Do you want to see a sea of unknown faces when you walk into a dining hall? Or do you want to see a sea of familiar faces? Do you want to be anonymous sometimes, or are you happy knowing just about everyone on campus? Keep thinking about factors that are super important to you!

- Keep building **relationships** with teachers who might be good to write letters of recommendation. If you can go back into school, try to do so. If you're still working remotely, be sure to turn your camera on and ask questions!

UNDERSTANDING MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES...

Incoming college students (and current ones too) are reporting high rates of **anxiety and depression**. Families should do their due diligence--even if they think their kids are doing just fine--to understand the mental health supports that colleges provide. Ron Lieber's excellent book, [The Price We Pay For College](#), suggests some of these questions:

- Is there an Active Minds chapter on campus? (Active Minds supports mental health and awareness on college campuses).
- What services does the counseling center provide?
- Is there crisis counseling available 24/7?
- Are there waiting lists to get appointments?
- Are there appointments available on weekends or during evenings?
- How often are students able to see therapists?
- Are there caps on the # of sessions you can have?
- What is the student-to-counselor ratio?
- What are the counseling center's outcomes?
- Are referrals to outside providers available?
- How is the campus reducing mental health stigma?
- Is the college part of the JED Foundation? (JED partners with colleges to strengthen their mental health and suicide prevention programs).

And remember: if your kid is struggling, PLEASE let the college they'll be attending know.