



MGS EDUCATIONAL CONSULTING

Design your path to college

SEPTEMBER 2021



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KEY TERM TO UNDERSTAND:

INSTITUTIONAL PRIORITIES

Each year, every college and university determines various goals--geographic, demographic, curricular, or extra-curricular--that drive admissions decisions. For example, large state schools may determine that they need to admit more out-of-staters. A liberal arts school may be losing oboe and viola players in the college orchestra and need to replace those musicians. A college may have a new data science major and is keen on recruiting students who have expressed interest or shown experience in data science.

We are not privy, unfortunately, to what these institutional priorities are, and what may be important to one college one year could drastically vary the following year.

Institutional priorities can make a real difference with which qualified applicants are accepted and which ones aren't.

When you hear about one kid getting into a particular college and another one that doesn't, please remember that institutional priorities could be at play. If you'd like to understand more, I highly recommend Jeff Selingo's book [Who Gets In and Why](#).

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS NEWS

There is a housing shortage currently on many college campuses. Fewer students are taking gap years, study abroad programs have been cancelled, and some seniors are opting for another year of college. As a result, many colleges have offered students incentives to live off-campus. It's important that we keep this challenge top of mind as colleges attempt to get back to "normal" and as we figure out the best-fit colleges for our kids. How colleges handle this issue can really give us a sense of how they treat and value their students.

COLLEGES IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

- Location: New London, CT
- # of Undergrads: 1,689
- Acceptance Rate: 38%
- Student / Faculty Ratio: 9:1
- Returning Freshmen: 88%
- % Receiving Merit Aid: 77%

INTERESTING FACTS:

- Move from women's co-ed makes it a progressive campus
- Honor code provides freedom and builds trust
- Beautiful campus overlooking Thames River and LI Sound
- Integrative senior project
- Rigorous coursework with very accessible professors
- Superb dance and drama departments
- 1/2 of juniors study abroad
- No Greek life makes for an inclusive community
- Mascot: Camel!

BELOIT COLLEGE

- Location: Beloit, WI
- # of Undergrads: 917
- Acceptance Rate: 58%
- Student / Faculty Ratio: 11:1
- Returning Freshmen: 90%
- % Receiving Merit Aid: **98%** (wow!)

INTERESTING FACTS:

- A College That Changes Lives
- Well regarded dance, theater, creative writing, and economics programs
- Dedicated professors who learn with their students
- Meaningful collaboration on academics
- Experiential learning and global diversity requirements
- Liberal, iconoclastic student body
- Low-key party scene with all social life staying on campus

IT'S SEPTEMBER. WHAT SHOULD OUR NEW SENIORS BE DOING?

Sleeping! If there were one thing I could grant each senior I know, it would be the gift of sleep. Pediatricians recommend 9 hours a night, but how many teens are going to get to sleep by 10pm?! Completing college applications equates to another 1-2 classes, and many of our seniors are already taking a rigorous load! The first thing that goes out the window (at least in my household) is sleep. Sleep, though, as we all know, is critical for being able to do solid, efficient work and to manage stress and anxiety.

Working on college apps slowly and steadily one day each week, such as on Sundays, can be helpful. Waiting to the last minute to complete college apps too often doesn't work well, and the affiliated stress and exhaustion could go through the roof!

Make a plan to fill out the Common App, fine tune the personal statement, finalize that activities list, and write those supplemental essays.

The Common App is known to glitch out near big deadlines, so be sure to submit apps a week or two before the deadlines!

WANT SUPPORT WITH COLLEGE APPLICATIONS?

I have a few more openings for juniors who are interested in finding their best-fit colleges. We'll have fun as we home in on what they're looking for, and we'll manage the stress as best we can. Ideally, I like to get the whole process going in October.

I limit my number of slots so that I'm able to give each of my students the attention they deserve, and so that I can continue working with a few students from nearby community-based organizations that ensure access to higher ed.

Please check out my website for more information: www.mgsed.com/services. I'm more than happy to talk with you about what services I provide.

I'm also proud to say that I have just completed the Independent Educational Consultant certificate program through the University of California at Irvine. The resources and network that I now have access to are astounding and have greatly enriched my practice.