



MGS EDUCATIONAL CONSULTING

Design your path to college

JUNE 2021



WHAT'S INSIDE:

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS NEWS

KEY TERM TO UNDERSTAND

COLLEGES IN THE SPOTLIGHT

JUNIORS: WHAT YOU SHOULD BE DOING NOW?

THINKING ABOUT WHAT YOU LEARNED FROM COVID

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS NEWS

- In an effort to be more inclusive, the governor of Colorado signed legislation that will **bar legacy preferences** in admissions to public colleges and universities. Governor Polis noted that higher ed institutions are "moving toward being meritocracies" and that colleges should be looking at "who you are and what your potential is, not who your parents and grandparents are." It will be interesting to see if any other states follow suit.

- UC schools announced that they will not take SAT and ACT scores into account in admissions or scholarship decisions through 2025, as part of a settlement reached with students. This settlements will increase access to college for students across California.

- CA lawmakers are considering a plan to reduce the percentage of out-of-state students attending UC schools from 19% to 10%. The UC system is pushing back, though, claiming that this plan would impact their financial flexibility and reduce the benefits of a geographically diverse student body. Stay tuned!

KEY TERM TO UNDERSTAND:

COMMON DATA SET

The most useful resource on the internet that most parents and students don't know about is the Common Data Set (CDS). The Common Data Set is a compilation of standards and data points as defined by the US Department of Education, and most every college posts their Common Data Set data on their website, typically under their Institutional Research page.

The CDS covers a huge amount of data, such as:

- How many students apply and are accepted
- Test data and GPA data for enrolled students
- How many are invited to be on a waitlist and then accepted
- How important certain admissions criteria are
- How many receive need-based and merit aid
- Cost of attendance

The easiest way to find the CDS is to Google "Common Data Set + Bard" (or whichever college you're looking at). Enjoy the research!!

COLLEGES IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY

- Location: Williamsburg, VA
- # of Undergrads: 6,187
- Acceptance Rate: 37%
- Student / Faculty Ratio: 11:1
- Returning Freshmen: 95%
- % Receiving Merit Aid: 6%

INTERESTING ACADEMIC PROGRAMS:

- College Curriculum includes 2 first year seminars, liberal arts coursework, and a language requirement
- 70% participate in faculty-mentored research
- Seniors are required to complete a capstone project

FUN FACTS:

- Founded as a private college and went public in 1906
- 65% of undergrads are from VA; 3 US Presidents are alums
- Cherished traditions abound. Freshmen walk through the Wren Building during convocation and then walk through it in the other direction at graduation.

CLARK UNIVERSITY

- Location: Worcester, MA
- # of Undergrads: 2,263
- Acceptance Rate: 52.8%
- Student / Faculty Ratio: 10:1
- Returning Freshmen: 86%
- % Receiving Merit Aid: 80%

INTERESTING ACADEMIC PROGRAMS:

- Liberal Education and Effective Practice model combines liberal arts curriculum with intensive, hands-on experiences
- First Year Intensive classes are limited to 16 students
- Historically strong geography and psychology departments

FUN FACTS:

- Spree Day: classes are canceled and students enjoy live music, food trucks, and mechanical bulls!
- Elephant Thursday: prizes to anyone wearing gray

IT'S JUNE. WHAT SHOULD JUNIORS BE DOING?

- Finish out the year strong! You CAN DO IT! The effort you put in will pay off!

- Have you asked two teachers--who can talk about you as a learner--for letters of recommendation yet? Don't forget to provide them with a resume so that they have context about who you are outside of class.

- Start whittling down your **college list**. Keep pouring over "The Fiske Guide" and "The Colleges That Change Lives". Visit college websites. Look up the Common Data Set (CDS) for every college you're interested in. (See Key Term to Understand above for an explanation of the CDS). Make sure you run the Net Price Calculator for each college too so that you understand what it will cost you.

Nothing is more heartbreaking than hearing about a kid who got into a great fit school but can't attend because of finances.

- Once school is over, let yourself **RELAX**. It's been quite a year. Let yourself decompress and remember who you were prior to Covid times. (But start thinking about and working on your essay sooner than later!)

TAKE TIME TO THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU LEARNED DURING COVID

Rick Clark, the Dean of Admissions at Georgia Tech, recently wrote an important [blog](#) post, imo. In this post, he urges people not to "return to normal" or rush back to WHAT WAS. Instead, he encourages people to be very intentional about what to bring back. He poses these questions:

- What did you really miss?
- What did you not miss at all?
- What can't you wait to get back to?
- What do you hope will never return?
- What changes do you want to keep?
- What were some lessons learned?
- What were some Covid Silver Linings?

You didn't miss playing soccer? Find something else to do that makes you excited.

You missed having deep relationships with your teachers? Think about and look for colleges that prioritize and facilitate relationships with faculty.

You missed going to the gym every day? Figure out how you can build that into your daily life in college.

You get the picture. Taking the time to ponder and reflect will set us all up for success as we emerge from these stressful times.