



**MGS EDUCATIONAL CONSULTING**

Design your path to college

**COLLEGE ADMISSIONS NEWSLETTER**

**MAY 2023**

## **MY SENIORS HAVE LANDED!**

Super proud to announce that my seniors have landed, and they have landed well! Landing well means that they 1) figured out what they're looking for and then 2) researched colleges thoroughly to determine which ones would best meet their needs and wants. I'm proud of this process because my students end up with stronger applications, and they're more likely to thrive wherever they land. These seniors are headed to:

- Arizona State University (Barrett Honors College)
- Bennington College
- Case Western Reserve University
- Colgate University
- Lehigh University
- North Carolina State University
- Northeastern University
- SUNY New Paltz
- University of Michigan
- University of Southern California
- University of Tennessee--Knoxville
- University of Vermont
- Wesleyan University

## **I'M NOW CERTIFIED IN THE STRONG INTEREST INVENTORY**

I've struggled these past few years to find the right assessment tool that can help my students figure out what they might want to major in or what careers they might want to pursue. I've found it in the Strong Interest Inventory, the most researched and widely used interest inventory that helps people make educational and occupational choices. I just received my certification last week, so now I can provide this inventory to my students (and any others who are seeking assistance with what they may want to do with their lives). The results can be eye-opening; they're connected to the Department of Labor's Occupational Network, otherwise known as O\*Net, which provides great data on the future outlook of many professions.

## **WEBINAR ON COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TRENDS AND TAKEAWAYS:**

For parents of sophomores and juniors. Wednesday, May 10th at 7:30pm. Link to register: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMtdeCupzgtE9T46gU63RVb-iOdj3bzTFho>

## COLLEGE IN THE SPOTLIGHT: FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY

- Location: Fairfield, CT
- # of Undergrads: 4,600
- Acceptance Rate: 56%
- Student / Faculty Ratio: 12:1
- Returning Freshmen: 89%
- % Receiving Merit Aid: 85%

### INTERESTING FACTS:

- Jesuit university with strong nursing, business, and pre-med programs.
- Bucolic campus seven minutes away from the beach.
- Biz school has a data analytics lab, a gaming lab, and a trading floor simulation.
- Engineering program (ABET accredited) is growing. Has Engineering Without Borders pgm.
- Extensive core curriculum comprises 1/3 of courseload.
- 69% of students perform community service, mainly in Bridgeport.
- No Greek life, but parties abound.
- Housing is guaranteed all 4 years; new townhomes for upperclassmen are popular.
- Div 1 sports with brand new basketball arena.
- Most students are from the northeast, but other areas like Chicago and CA are growing.
- Working to increase diversity of student body and faculty.

## COLLEGE IN THE SPOTLIGHT: UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

- Location: Storrs, CT
- # of Undergrads: 24,076
- Acceptance Rate: 56%
- Student / Faculty Ratio: 16:1
- Returning Freshmen: 94%
- % Receiving Merit Aid: 38%

### INTERESTING FACTS:

- Has one of the highest retention and graduation rates among public universities.
- Only public university in New England with its own law school, med school, dental school, and social work school, and undergrads benefit from these resources.
- New 5 story engineering and science building. New recreation center.
- Real emphasis on environment and ecology, with a strong program in coastal studies.
- Engineering, business, pharmacy and honors students are required to do research.
- Two teams of finance majors run the \$1 million student-managed investment fund.
- Special programs in medicine and dentistry give you guaranteed admission to med or dental school.
- 65% live in university housing. 8 dining halls. Super safe campus.
- Active social life with Greek life (10-14% participate) and sports scene. Men's and women's basketball teams have won national Div 1 titles recently.

## THOUGHTS FOR JUNIORS...

We want our kids to be ready to handle the challenges of college. That means that we need to start loosening the reins and letting go **well before** our kids head off. Here is a checklist of things that kids should be able to do before college:

- Wake themselves up in the morning and put themselves to bed at a decent hour.
- Manage their workload without your assistance or your reminders. Provide them with a coach to give them the skills they need, if necessary, and see if you want wean them off as they develop more skills.
- Manage their screens and other distractions.
- Do their own laundry. That includes sorting, washing, folding, and putting it away.
- Make a few meals. Boil pasta. Make rice. Cook eggs.
- Make (and reschedule) their own appointments. That includes appointments with me!
- Talk with adults. In person, on the phone, or over Zoom. If they have a problem at school, they are the ones who should talk with the appropriate teachers/counselors to resolve the problem.
- Manage medications on their own. That includes taking their medication/s, noticing when they need refills, calling the pharmacy, and picking up prescriptions.
- Manage their stress. Do they need to get exercise? Do they need to do some yoga or meditate? Have they figured out what works best for them?
- Deal with their own transportation. Can they take the train/subway by themselves? Can they find rides for themselves when they need them? Can they fill the car with gas without being asked?

## THOUGHTS FOR SENIORS...

Now that you've decided where you're going to go to college, there are actually quite a few LOOSE ENDS to tie up in MAY:

- Decline any other offers of admission.
- Send thank you notes to anyone who wrote a letter of recommendation for you.
- Finish the year strong. Colleges will see your final transcript, so make sure your grades don't tank. There are stories every year of colleges rescinding offers for sudden low grades and/or problematic behavior. Make sure that doesn't happen to you!
- Ask your high school to submit your final transcript.
- Set up your campus email and then check it regularly.
- Check your college portal regularly.
- Make sure you understand the housing process. Submit whatever you need to submit.
- Join Instagram or other social media groups that pertain to your college. Getting to know a few kids over the summer can help ease the transition in the fall.
- Consider whether you will try to find your own roommates through social media or if you'll "go random." "Going random" typically is not random at all; colleges will have you submit a survey about your living habits (eg, study habits, bedtime, and neatness) and then they'll match you with other people who share your lifestyle. I personally recommend this process because you'll probably be compatible that with people who find on social media. And you're more likely to live with people who expand your horizons, which is one of the points of college!
- Make appointments for any doctors you need to see before you head off.
- Update your neuropsych evaluation, if that pertains to you.
- Think about creating a LinkedIn profile. It's never too soon!

**FOLLOW ME ON INSTAGRAM @designyourpathtocollege**

*I help students and their families navigate the college admissions process while decreasing confusion and stress. 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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