



MGS EDUCATIONAL CONSULTING



Design your path to college

NOVEMBER 2021



WHAT'S INSIDE:

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS NEWS

KEY RESOURCE: APPLICATION
REQUIREMENTS

COLLEGES IN THE SPOTLIGHT

WHAT SHOULD JUNIORS BE DOING?
AND WHAT ABOUT SENIORS?!

KEY RESOURCE:

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS ON THE COMMON APP

One of my ALL TIME FAVORITE resources can be found on the Common App. They provide a handy-dandy chart that shows all application deadlines and requirements (ie, how many teacher recommendations are required). You can access this chart on the Dashboard tab; you'll see a button to the right that says "Application Requirements." When you click on it, a new window will open up with the chart.

You can look at all colleges in the Common App system (and you can search for a particular college), or you can look at just My Colleges. The Common App feels pretty clunky this year, but this chart is incredibly helpful!

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS NEWS

- Denison University recently announced that they would no longer take into consideration the equity of homes when looking at financial aid. This is a huge win for the middle class, which is currently being squeezed by high tuition bills. My hope is that other colleges follow suit!

- Charles Munger, billionaire partner of Warren Buffet, has chipped in over \$200 billion towards a dorm at UC Santa Barbara. This new dorm would house 4,500 students in single, windowless rooms (the theory is that windowless rooms would encourage kids to congregate more in common areas). He has indicated that he will pull the donation if any changes are made to the plans. This news is a great reminder that we all need to pay attention to how our college students are housed, with consideration given to possible impacts on mental health.

COLLEGES IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

WHITMAN COLLEGE

- Location: Walla Walla, WA
- # of Undergrads: 1,288
- Acceptance Rate: 54%
- Student / Faculty Ratio: 9:1
- Returning Freshmen: 92%
- % Receiving Merit Aid: 70%

INTERESTING FACTS:

- A College That Changes Lives in rural Pacific Northwest
- Solid liberal arts + supportive atmosphere + outdoorsy feel with a real sense of purpose; library and wellness center are open 24/7
- General Studies program for first years (analytical reading / writing)
- Senior thesis with oral defense required
- 2/3 of classes have < 20 students
- Collective, collaborative environment
- 45% study abroad
- 40% in Greek life
- 70% get involved in community service in Walla Walla
- White water rafting and rock climbing are popular on weekends
- 70% play intramurals

UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON

- Location: Dayton, OH
- # of Undergrads: 8,300
- Acceptance Rate: 81%
- Student / Faculty Ratio: 15:1
- Returning Freshmen: 91%
- % Receiving Merit Aid: not known

INTERESTING FACTS:

- Medium sized school with a larger feel
- Strong programs in health sciences, entrepreneurship, education, mechanical engineering
- Substantial investment in student housing, science lab
- Capstone experience during senior year
- 40% of classes < 20 students
- Excellent career center
- Focus on building community; 30 student groups dedicated to service
- 72% live on campus
- Student neighborhood near campus serves as a safe, inclusive social center

WHAT SHOULD JUNIORS BE DOING NOW?

- Focus on your classes. Remember that grades are the most important factor in college admissions. It is recognized across the country that many teenagers are struggling with motivation right now; getting back in school has been taxing academically and socially. So, do the best you can to keep on plugging away, but take care of yourself too.
- The fall of junior year is a great time to visit colleges. The focus right now should be on getting a sense of what size and location makes most sense. So, I recommend that you visit a mix of colleges (they don't need to be ones that you'd apply to): urban/suburban/rural; huge/large/medium/small; public/private. It is VERY DIFFICULT to figure out what colleges are right for you without this context.
- Test optional continues to be very real. While there are a few highly rejectives that really do want to see test scores (ie, UPenn and Georgetown), the vast majority of colleges use a holistic approach to admissions and look at many, many factors. Test scores have always tracked grades, so many colleges are able to admit students just fine without them (if CalTech can, most of them can). So, the biggest questions you should ponder are: how much time/money do you want to dedicate to test prep? Is it better to dedicate test prep time to other things?

AND WHAT ABOUT SENIORS?!

- Some of you have or are about to submit early applications. CONGRATULATIONS! It's been a huge lift, and you have done a great job explaining why you're college material! Take the time to celebrate and give yourself a few days to relax!
- Once you've had a few days of respite, put your efforts towards completing other outstanding applications. If you've applied Early Decision, please do not rest on your laurels. Put together applications for the remaining colleges on your (balanced) list. Waiting to finish them during winter break is NO FUN! And remember that if you are not admitted early, there are many, many colleges out there that now offer EDII. By January, you might have greater clarity on which college fits best with you, so it might make sense to use this option.
- If you have not submitted any application yet, IT IS OK! All in good time! Just keep plugging away. Be forewarned that the Common App has its quirks, and please don't wait til the last minute to submit. Things happen: Common App glitches, strep throat, power outages, coyotes (that's an inside joke in my town!).

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!