



MGS EDUCATIONAL CONSULTING

Design your path to college

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THE YEAR IN REVIEW:

MGSed Consulting is proud to report that they have logged **65 pro-bono** hours this year, working with three 1st generation students in Yonkers and NYC. Equity and access is a hallmark and commitment of our practice. We couldn't be prouder of these students; we can't wait to see where they land, and we look forward to offering them support as they transition to college.

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS NEWS

First the UCs. Then Stanford. And now Harvard announced that they will be test optional until at least 2026. That means that today's 8th graders will not need to submit scores once they're old enough to apply for admission. This announcement caused ripples through higher ed circles because it's Harvard and it's the Ivy League. Stay tuned as more colleges and universities make their announcements in the coming months.

Trends we're noticing re: test optional:

- Students who apply test-optional are being accepted just fine. Many, many colleges have indicated that grades and class rigor are key indicators of college success and that test scores simply corroborate those indicators. Many have figured out how to evaluate applications without test scores and won't be going back.
- Students who are focused on STEM or engineering may want to submit test scores. Colleges seem to like looking at math scores especially for these programs/majors.
- A small handful of colleges, even if they claim to be test-optional, have indicated that they want test scores. They include Penn, Purdue, Georgetown, and Yale.
- Students who would rather focus on creative, extracurricular pursuits than on test prep can follow that instinct without much risk. Students with test anxiety or mental health concerns can also benefit from spending their time elsewhere.
- Fairtest.org has the latest list of colleges who are test-optional.
- Students can choose which colleges to submit scores to, and I can help you figure that out!

COLLEGES IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

COLGATE UNIVERSITY

- Location: Hamilton, NY
- # of Undergrads: 3,023
- Acceptance Rate: 27.5%
- Student / Faculty Ratio: 9:1
- Returning Freshmen: 94%
- % Receiving Merit Aid: 0%

INTERESTING FACTS:

- Academically rigorous without a competitive air
- Emphasizes interdisciplinary study; all freshmen take an interdisciplinary seminar capped at 18 students; instructors double as academic advisors until students declare their majors as sophomores
- 5 interdisciplinary environmental majors
- Two-thirds of students study abroad, including faculty-led "study groups", as well as "extended-study" travel programs that are 2-3 week extensions of regular classes
- 83% participate in undergraduate research
- 92% live on campus in residential communities called Commons
- Greek life is predominate; students are known to party hard
- Every Friday the 13th is Colgate Day (Colgate was started by 13 founders with 13 prayers and 13 dollars)

COLLEGE OF WOOSTER

- Location: Wooster, OH
- # of Undergrads: 1,921
- Acceptance Rate: 65%
- Student / Faculty Ratio: 11:1
- Returning Freshmen: 87%
- % Receiving Merit Aid: 93%

INTERESTING FACTS:

- A College That Changes Lives; celebrates hard work
- One hour away from Cleveland on 240 acres near a quaint town
- Recognized for research-based liberal arts curriculum with one-on-one attention from faculty
- Independent study (IS) required of all seniors; IS completion day includes a parade and each student receives a Tootsie roll!
- Awards \$100,000 each year for student research and travel
- Socially conscious campus with focus on social justice; quite diverse (17% international)
- Highly collaborative with strong emphasis on mentorship
- Students live on campus all 4 years; quirky and friendly culture
- Greek life available but only 10% participate

WHAT SHOULD JUNIORS BE DOING NOW?

It's time for juniors to really start figuring out what they are looking for in a college. The best way to do this is to visit college campuses. If you have a February break, try to visit ~3 colleges. (Cross your fingers that campuses will be open to visitors given Omicron).

For example, you could head to Philly and visit a number of colleges around there (ie, Penn, Drexel, Temple, Haverford, Swarthmore, Bryn Mawr, Ursinus). Or you could go to Chicago and visit UChicago, Northwestern, UWisconsin-Madison, DePaul, Loyola. Or you could visit Boston and hit Northeastern, Tufts, Brandeis, Emerson.

Making a college list without being on a few varied college campuses (large/small, liberal arts/research university) is very, very difficult. Just remember that this work is fluid. It's okay if you change your mind over the next few months. You're developing, and your interests may change. It's all good, and it's actually what we want to happen!

AND WHAT ABOUT SENIORS?!

We are almost at the bitter end of the admissions cycle for seniors. Final deadlines for regular admission or Early Decision II are upon us. If you still have applications to complete, keep at it. A few well put-together applications can pay off in spades!

Some colleges with Early Action plans will announce in January, but mostly you'll be waiting until the end of March to hear back from all of your colleges. Try to put it out of your mind until then and enjoy senior year (please let Omicron die down quickly and please no more variants!). Carry on with your school work since colleges will all want final transcripts once school is over. If you've applied to the UCs, remember that they may rescind offers of admission if transcripts show final grades lower than Cs.

And finally, make sure that you behave yourself during the rest of senior year. Off-color social media posts or shenanigans that results in suspensions can cause colleges to rescind offers. Keeping senioritis at bay is important!

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!



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