

## **COLLEGE ADMISSIONS NEWS**

Fallout from the FAFSA debacle will continue in July and August when colleges try to figure out how many of their accepted students will actually show up in the fall. According to NACAC, 20-30% of colleges are running short of their enrollment targets, which could turn into a real financial crisis for them. Already Emerson has stated that multiple factors, including the FAFSA rollout, have led to an enrollment decline, which will probably cause them to cut faculty positions. I expect that few colleges--except for the most selective--will be immune from having to make difficult decisions about their budgets next year.

Many remain concerned that the FAFSA won't be ready to open on October 1st. Two higher-ups from the College Board, though, have been hired to "enhance the FAFSA's technical and operational capabilities." Many in the industry are concerned about the College Board being involved since they own the competing CSS Profile and they're not exactly known for seamless launches. I just hope we don't have a repeat of this year; many colleges won't be able to withstand two back-to-back years of declining enrollment (on top of the already anticipated declining enrollment thanks to the demographic cliff headed our way). My seatbelt is still strapped on tightly!

### **TERM TO UNDERSTAND: ROLLING ADMISSIONS**

Rolling admissions is an application strategy where students submit applications during a window of time, typically starting August or September 1. The window will usually be open until colleges have filled their classes. And students will often hear back in 2-8 weeks.

I recommend that everyone apply to a college with rolling admissions. If you apply early in September and you're accepted, you will revel in the fact that you are indeed going to college!

Some schools that offer rolling admissions are:

- Indiana University
- University of Pittsburgh
- Louisiana State University
- Penn State University
- University of New Haven
- Clemson University
- Michigan State University
- Arizona State University

For a full list, go to: <https://blog.prepscholar.com/colleges-with-rolling-admissions>

## COLLEGE IN THE SPOTLIGHT: UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

- Location: Eugene, OR
- # of Undergrads: 19,970
- Acceptance Rate: 86%
- Student / Faculty Ratio: 19:1
- Returning Freshmen: 86%
- % Receiving Merit Aid: 23%

### INTERESTING FACTS:

- Notable for its fantastic track and field stadium--host of the most recent Olympic trials (which I was lucky enough to attend!)
- Notable for its focus on undergraduate education; strong programs in sciences, business, communications, and architecture; great opportunities for astronomy and marine biology
- Beautiful campus with new rec center, student union, and Center for Scientific Impact
- Strong orientation program + First-Year Interest Groups (FIGs) that help students develop close working relationships with faculty; each FIG consists of 20 first years taking three courses together around a common theme. Operates on the quarter system
- Only 54% are native Oregonians; first years are required to live on campus; amazing food
- Vibrant Greek life, but UO hosts many concerts, dances, films, and sporting events; no real pressure to party; the school revolves around sports; it rains A LOT!
- Eugene is known to be a great college town, and everyone is proud to be a Duck!

## COLLEGE IN THE SPOTLIGHT: OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

- Location: Corvallis, OR
- # of Undergrads: 30,000
- Acceptance Rate: 73%
- Student / Faculty Ratio: 18:1
- Returning Freshmen: 87%
- % Receiving Merit Aid: --

### INTERESTING FACTS:

- Located in the Willamette Valley in a great college town; beaches are less than an hour away and fantastic skiing is two hours away in the Cascades
- Great for sciences, engineering, forestry, biotech, and business; research and co-op opportunities abound; excellent programs in agriculture and marine biology
- Baccalaureate Core requirements include the "synthesis" requirement where upperclassmen take two interdisciplinary courses on global issues
- Operates on the quarter system like OU. Many opportunities for co-ops; local internships are harder to come by
- 69% from Oregon; more conservative than OU; first years are expected to live on campus
- School spirit runs high; many intramural and club sports opportunities
- Greek scene doesn't dominate campus, and numerous traditions include the All University Sing and the Fall Festival

# TIMELINE FOR RISING SENIORS...

Congratulations on getting through one of the most intense years of high school! I hope you are taking the time to catch up on sleep and Netflix!

I'd be remiss to not tell you that summertime is a key time to get a jumpstart on your college applications. Here is an ideal timeline for making real progress before school starts in August/September:

## **JULY:**

- Start filling out the easy components of the Common Application (eg, the Profile, Family, and Education parts). Anything you do on college-specific applications will NOT roll over when the Common App opens on August 1.
- Continue prepping for any final SATs/ACTs you'll be taking.
- Complete a solid draft of your Personal Statement. Tell a great story and then explain why it's meaningful to you. Colleges want to know who you are, so be authentic and specific!

## **AUGUST:**

- Complete the Activities List on the Common Application. Please don't write your statements directly on the Common App; doing them well requires a great deal of tinkering and editing (you only have 150 characters)! Don't just say what you've done; explain the impact you've had!
- Figure out what Supplemental Essays will be required (look at the Common Application for these) and begin writing them. Be specific about why your colleges will be a fit for you!

Trust me: the more you get done this summer, the less stressful your senior year will be!



## RIISING COLLEGE FIRST-YEARS: MAKING THE TRANSITION TO COLLEGE

Congratulations on your graduation from high school! I hope you are taking time to RELAX and rejuvenate! As you think about making the transition to college, make sure that you're thinking about a few key things:

- Check your college email and portal consistently. You don't want to miss anything!
- Understand and complete the class registration process. Shoot, if you can, for a variety of classes (one writing heavy, one quant, one for your possible major, one just for fun).
- If you need accommodations, call the Center for Disabilities and arrange for them.
- Sign a FERPA waiver (usually found on your college website) so that your parents can access your educational records.
- Sign a HIPAA waiver and obtain a medical power of attorney. With each of these documents, you name your parents as agents so that they can communicate with doctors on your behalf.
- If you see a therapist or psychiatrist, figure out if you can continue seeing them at college. Continuity of care can be important when you first arrive at college and experience some bumps! Different states have different regulations, so figuring this out can be tricky.
- Find the Health Center. It's good to know where it is before you need it. Locate the nearest Urgent Care, too, just in case (including one that's open 24 hours).
- Think about how you want to decorate your dorm room. You need WAY less than you think you need! Really!
- Figure out if you're waiving the college health insurance; submit your current health insurance info if you are.

**PLEASE FORWARD THIS NEWSLETTER TO OTHER FAMILIES WHO WOULD BENEFIT FROM MY APPROACH AND PERSPECTIVE!  
(They can subscribe on my website)**

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*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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