



MGS EDUCATIONAL CONSULTING

Design your path to college

MARCH 2022



WHAT'S INSIDE:

COMMON APPLICATION TRENDS

KEY TERM TO UNDERSTAND

COLLEGES IN THE SPOTLIGHT

I'M A JUNIOR. WHAT SHOULD I BE DOING NOW?

A FEW THOUGHTS FOR SENIORS

COMMON APPLICATION TRENDS

The Common App has released some early trends they've seen from the current 2021-2022 season. Here are the highlights:

- Applications were up 20.8% from 2019-2020.
- First generation applicants were up 21%, and apps from underrepresented minorities were up 17% from 2019-2020.
- Applications from the northeast and mid-Atlantic were down.
- 48% submitted test scores in 2021-2022, compared to 76% in 2019-2020.
- Only 5% of colleges required test scores.
- 56% of applications came from the highest income zipcodes. Only 6% of apps come from the lowest.

KEY TERM TO UNDERSTAND:

ESTIMATED FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION (EFC)

The Estimated Financial Contribution is the number that colleges use to determine who receives financial aid. Your EFC is calculated when you fill out the FAFSA with a formula that considers your family's taxed and untaxed income, assets, and benefits (such as unemployment or Social Security).

I HIGHLY recommend that all families go to the College Board website (<https://npc.collegeboard.org/app/efc/start>) and calculate their EFC. It is paramount that families understand what they can afford well before students start applying to colleges. It's truly tragic when a student is accepted to a college that they can't afford to attend.

COLLEGES IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

BRYN MAWR COLLEGE

- Location: Bryn Mawr, PA
- # of Undergrads: 1,297
- Acceptance Rate: 38%
- Student / Faculty Ratio: 8:1
- Returning Freshmen: 87%
- % Receiving Merit Aid: 43%

INTERESTING FACTS

- All womens college that's a 20 minute train ride away from Philly
- Diverse, intellectual, community-oriented, politically minded student body
- Campus has a strict honor code with long-standing traditions, yet students are highly individualistic and fiercely independent
- Gen ed requirements include critical thinking seminar, quantitative work, foreign language, and PE (including passing a swimming test)
- Growth and Structure of Cities major is unique and interdisciplinary
- Students can take classes (and major/minor) at nearby Haverford or at Swarthmore or Penn
- Quality of teaching is incredibly high, and professors are truly accessible
- 92% live on campus in Hogwarts-like dorms.

HVERFORD COLLEGE

- Location: Haverford, PA
- # of Undergrads: 1,298
- Acceptance Rate: 18%
- Student / Faculty Ratio: 9:1
- Returning Freshmen: 88%
- % Receiving Merit Aid: 0%

INTERESTING FACTS:

- Overarching honor code derived from its Quaker heritage drives campus culture; students schedule their own exams, take unproctored tests, and police underage drinking; students share values of trust and respect
- Sizeable workload, but atmosphere is supportive
- Free shuttle connects campus with Bryn Mawr, and students share classes, a newspaper, radio station, and clubs and sports
- Small classes with structures for constant advising
- 40% of professors live on campus
- Freshman housing is considered best anywhere
- Social life is campus based; party scene is "chill" and pressure-free.

I'M A JUNIOR. WHAT SHOULD I BE DOING NOW?

- Hopefully you are spending some time thinking about what YOU are looking for in a college. Remember that the ultimate goal of your research is finding 10-12 colleges that you would be happy to go to (and it should be highly likely that you'd get into a third of them).
- Remember how important your grades and classes are. The hard work you put in this semester will pay off.
- Think about the classes you will take senior year. Senior year is not the year to slack off. Colleges want to see that you are taking increasingly rigorous classes so that you're prepared for the challenges in college. Selective colleges are looking for students to take four years of all 5 core classes: English, math, social studies, science, and foreign language. If you are looking to apply to STEM majors, your course load should reflect that interest. Engineering majors should try to take the highest level of math their school offers, and they should be taking chemistry and physics. The key is to take the most rigorous schedule that YOU CAN HANDLE. Getting low Bs or Cs in AP classes isn't the way to go. Remember, too, that applying to college is like taking another 1-2 classes.
- And don't forget about extra-curriculars which can show who you are as a person. Don't underestimate the role they can play in distinguishing you from other students with similar grades and scores.

A FEW THOUGHTS FOR SENIORS

This month will be a busy and intense one, with many colleges releasing their decisions. As you hear from the colleges you applied to, take time to remember what you were looking for as you made your college lists. Create a spreadsheet where you can compare certain factors that are important to you (eg, how collaborative it is, opportunities for research or internships, your financial awards). The more deliberate you can be with your decision making, the more informed your decision will be.

Take advantage, if you can, of admitted student days that will come up in April. Narrowing down your choices and attending admitted student days at a small handful of colleges can give you important information, namely about the other students who were accepted. Can you see yourself being friends with who you meet? What is the college's vibe like when you're on campus?

If you're waitlisted, I strongly suggest heading to the Common Data Set first (google it with the college name). You can look at the past few years to see how many students were put on a waitlist and how many were eventually admitted. Note any trends. If only a few dozen have gotten in off waitlists, it's probably best to move on and select another college. If you accept a waitlist, be sure to place a deposit at your current top choice. And remember, it feels great to be wanted! Spending too much time hoping and waiting for a pie in the sky keeps you from delving into what could be great options for you!

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!



www.mgsed.com | marisa@mgsed.com

914-217-9984