



IN THE NEWS:

- The University of Michigan has added a new undergrad robotics program in order to help meet demand for roboticists. Located in the School of Engineering, this program will focus on all varieties of robotics—including underwater, wheeled, legged, flying and medical robots.
- The UCs will finally allow Computer Science to be counted towards the science requirement (it used to be considered an elective).
- UCLA is the first UC to guarantee housing for all four years. This fall they will open a 17 story high-rise, which will add over 3,000 beds.

KEY CONCEPT TO UNDERSTAND:

MERIT AID

Merit aid is a real option for families who will not qualify for need-based aid. Depending on the college, merit aid can be awarded to top students or it can be used to entice students to attend. Highly selective colleges typically do not offer merit aid because they don't need to (students are knocking on their doors), but many other selective schools offer significant amounts of merit aid. Google the Common Data Set and a particular college to figure out what merit aid is offered; here's the formula for you data wonks: $H2An / (H2a - H2c)$.

- Location: Carlisle, PA
- # of Undergrads: 1,837
- Acceptance Rate: 52%
- Student / Faculty Ratio: 9:1
- Returning Freshmen: 82%
- % Receiving Merit Aid: 46%

INTERESTING FACTS:

- Leader in sustainability education; achieved carbon neutrality in 2020
- Required classes in multidisciplinary and cross cultural studies, such as global diversity
- 85% of seniors complete capstone projects
- Known for workshop approach to science education, its deep and varied foreign language programs, and its environmental science program
- Faculty-directed study abroad programs in 18 centers around the world.

RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES VERSUS LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGES:

Many students don't fully understand the difference between research universities and liberal arts colleges. The greatest difference is that professors at research universities are typically focused on research instead of on teaching (thus the phrase "publish or perish"). Often, graduate students teach in place of professors, and many classes are large and lecture-style. Often, students live off-campus for at least half of their time at college.

Students who want to get to know their professors and experience the spirit of a large university while having access to smaller communities of students often find that honors colleges and special programs, such as the Residential College at the University of Michigan, meet their needs. Research opportunities abound at these universities, but be sure to check whether undergrads have access; at some universities, graduate students have first dibs at research opportunities.

On the other hand, professors at liberal arts colleges typically are fully dedicated to teaching and make a concerted effort to build relationships with their students. Because most liberal arts colleges are focused solely on undergrads, there are no graduate students around to teach classes. And most of the time, students end up living on campus. Please don't think that liberal arts colleges don't offer research opportunities.

Many offer robust and sometimes personalized opportunities that are solely for undergrads, and many are committed to growing research opportunities as demand continues to rise.

WHAT JUNIORS SHOULD BE DOING:

Taking some time to relax and clear your head now that school is done is important. Hang out with your friends, head out to the beach, pick up a book. (Seriously! Some colleges and some interviewers ask what books you've read recently).

Once you've relaxed, take some time to plan out your summer. If you can get these five things done before school starts, you will be sitting pretty come September:

- Finalize your wise, balanced list of 10-12 colleges
- Finish your activities list for the Common Application
- Finalize your personal statement
- Map out what supplements you'll have to write (you can see these on the Common Application as of August 1st)
- Fill out the rest of the general Common Application.

GOOD LUCK AND ENJOY! And please let me know if I can help you through this process!



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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