

7 TOP COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TRENDS

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Where To Start

How College Admissions are Changing:

- Huge increase in applications
- Test optional universities
- Universities have larger online presence that offers students much more information about each school

What do colleges look for?

- Rigor of classes & grades
- Human aspect - Why are you unique? What can you offer to the university?
- Evaluated based on their grades, compared to other students in their class
- Student creates a narrative that follows classes and life outside the classroom
 - Ex: history, computers, travel. Summer online classes within interests. Reading- volunteered at local library. Computer enrichment classes. What makes them tick, what they're passionate about, and what they're bringing to the university

What if a child doesn't know what they want to do?

- IT IS OK!
- Ask: What do you like to do in your free time? Outside of the classroom? What really interests you?
- Glean out aspects & compose narrative around 1-3 things
- Hard for parents to do, so better for 3rd party adult who can make student feel comfortable/knows how to work with students

Acceptance Types

Early Decision

- Binding contract: If accepted, you HAVE to go there
- If this is THE place you want to go to.
- If you do your research and you know you want to go there, DO IT.
- Schools fill almost half of their classes with Early Decision applicants, meaning better stats for acceptance.

Early Action

- Not binding, just hear back sooner

Deferred/Waitlisted

- Don't get discouraged
- Follow up with an email (anything written goes in your file) and reiterate interest
- Update them with anything that has happened that adds to your application
- Revisit school, see if can meet with an admissions officer

Application Information

Standardized test scores

- Many schools are still test optional, but testing can help strengthen the application
- Take both ACT & SAT, then see how they do/which one they feel better about
- Hone in on one then test prep, take test 1-3 times
- If score falls into higher end of the average who go to that school, then submit the score (if it makes them look good)

AP Test Scores

- Decide whether to submit score if it makes you look good for the school (look at range of scores school typically receives)

Essays

- Gives the human insight component, opportunity to show yourself to applications
- Supplemental essays- asking WHY this college- can the student contribute to their campus?
- Additional information section - wonderful opportunity to explain any extenuating circumstances like learning disability, grade downturn to explain, remote learning is appropriate to put here if it was detrimental (grades or mental health)
- How to break up the summer to get all essays done?
 - Time management very important
 - Can usually tweak one school's supplemental essay for another school
 - Base it on 2-4 themes, then change to answer the question

Extracurriculars

- Share what the student is passionate about and will contribute to the campus
- What interests them?

How to frame their passion in light of their intended major

- Finding an intended major is only important when applying to specific schools
- Doesn't matter if it's not a specialty major what you put as the intended major
- Demonstrated interest: SUPER important
 - College visit
 - Signing up for email list
 - Alumni interview
 - Go to College Fairs and make a personal connection with the college rep. They are the people who review all applications! Introduce yourself, ask questions, get a business card and send a follow up thank you email

Juniors should be working this summer on their college research (develop and refine a list), resume, career exploration (passions, intended major, skills, ability, personality, interests) testing plan, college visits/interviews, essays, and applications.

