

College Search and Process for Class of 2022

Finding the Right Fit

Admissions gets a lot of attention.

Put the focus on living there, getting the right education, opportunities for personal and career growth, reaching goals for future and GRADUATING.

For Parents

The transition from living at home to living on campus can be difficult for the most confident, friendly and capable of students.

Students need to own the process and feel confident in their decisions

For Parents

You know your child best and can guide them in the process of figuring out the best fit.

Set some basic parameters (how far away from home, do they need a state school tuition option etc).

Ask colleges how they help freshman get engaged on campus. Check retention rates and find out what resources there are for freshman.

What activities will the student get involved in?

What's a good College?

A college that you will want to stay all 4 years, will help you reach your goals and that you GRADUATE from.

Location and Environment that YOU want

Helps you reach YOUR goals

Will challenge and expand you

Affordable for you and your family

Academics/ programs that you want

Provides Internships/ research/ co-op opportunities to help you be in the career you want

Personal fit- what is right for one will not be right for all.

The Search

Career Research- figuring out what you want to do and working back to what education you need

College Research: making a list, plan for applying

Big Future (CollegeBoard)

Scoir (All school documents)

What to look for in a college

Location, Location, Location

- what geographic area? (regions, states etc)
- what type of community (rural, city, small town, suburb)?
- size of the school

College Setting

What do I want out of a college in location, size and setting?

Something that fits my personality?

Something that is totally different from what I've ever known?

Career Focused?

Broad based education focus?

A full community experience?

Diversity?

Major

- Field of Study
- What subjects are you most interested in?
- What major are you considering and are there others that you have considered?
- What skills/qualifications will you have?
- What is the outlook for employment?

Special Considerations

- Sports: Do you want to play intercollegiate or intramural sports?
- Hobbies: Are there clubs/groups that fit your interests?
- Religion: Would you like to go to a school that your religion will be part of the community?

Playing Sports- Div I and II

Division 1 and II- potential scholarships

GPA: must have a 2.3 (Div 1) or 2.2 (Div 2) GPA in NCAA approved core classes

Core Courses: Must have taken 16 core requirements in NCAA approved courses

SAT/ACT: use sliding scales to match test scores and GPAs to determine eligibility. The sliding scale balances your test score with your GPA. If you have a low test score, you need a higher GPA to be eligible. If you have a low GPA, you need a higher test score to be eligible.

Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center at eligibilitycenter.org

Have SAT scores sent to the eligibility center using code 9999

Playing Sports- Div III

Division III schools provide an integrated environment focusing on academic success while offering a competitive athletics environment.

While Division III schools do not offer athletics scholarships, 75 percent of Division III student-athletes receive some form of merit- or need-based financial aid.

If you are planning to attend a Division III school, you do not need to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center.

Division III schools set their own admissions standards.

The Big Questions- for the student

- Is this a place you want to LIVE for 2-4 (or more!) years???
- Will you be prepared for a career when you graduate?
- Is it the RIGHT FIT?

Big Question for Admissions

Can this student do the work? Will they
pass courses and GRADUATE?

Will this student fit in and want to stay
until GRADUATION?

College Business Model

Accept students who will be a good fit so they will STAY until the GRADUATE and pay tuition.

Giving a space to someone who can't do the work or won't stay means lost revenue.

Look good to younger students so they apply, get accepted and come pay tuition.

Looking good means good outcomes for current students.

Selectivity

- Match the numbers (GPA, Rank, SATs etc)

Safety school: *your numbers fit completely and you're even a bit on the high side of what they usually accept.*

Good Match (likely): *Your numbers fit pretty well- not always EXACTLY-*

Reach: *Your numbers either don't completely fit or it is such a competitive school that the numbers can't possibly tell the whole story.*

What Colleges Consider

What factors do colleges consider when looking at a student's full application?

Primary Factors

- Quality/Rigor of Academic Courses
- Academic Performance/ Grades
- Test Scores (SAT, SAT Subject Tests, AP[®], etc.)

*Colleges re-do the GPA on their terms- core courses, extra weight for rigor.

Grades and Course Work

Your high school academic record is the most important factor

- **Course selection:** Challenge yourself with a rigorous course load and high-level classes, including AP or honors courses.
- **Grades:** Every year counts, starting with freshman year. SENIOR YEAR COUNTS A LOT!
- **GPA trends:** Keep improving through every grade.
- **Class rank.**

Admissions Tests

- ACT (www.actstudent.org)
- SAT (www.collegeboard.org)
- Either one will be accepted as your required test scores.
- Test Optional- strategy

Fairtest.org- list score optional schools

SAT

April 14th, 2021 All Juniors at WHS

Redesigned SAT- March 2016

Scores: 400-1600

Reading/Writing: 200-800

Math: 200-800

Essay- Gone in June 2021! (But not in April...)

ACT

Scoring: 1-36 (Nat'l ave: 21)

Essay optional- short prompt

Math, reading, science and English sections

2hrs, 55 minutes without essay,

3 hrs, 35 minutes with essay

SAT Test Prep on Khan Academy

No practice: 60 Points

6-8 hours of Official SAT Prep: 90 points

20-22 hours: increase of 115 points.

These increases were across all demographics.

Best Test Prep?

Test Prep Courses: average 10 pts Verbal, 20 for Math

Targeted Tutoring: more significant rise overall

Which to use?

Use of individualized data to focus on areas to improve?

Benefit of a scheduled time- do you need this?

Cost

**Perception of feeling prepared has significant impact*

SAT Subject Tests

No longer will exist by June of 2021

Scores Sent

When students take the SAT or ACT, they can have up to 4 score reports sent “free.”

Official Test Scores are sent directly to the college by the testing agency. Students must request and pay for this at time of application

Test Optional- may send to some and not others

Test Optional

Admissions

Merit

Nursing or other specific programs

To Submit or Not

Test Required- submit for consideration

Test Blind: won't even look at them

Test Optional

3.8 and 1520 on SATs

3.0 and 1100 on SATs

3.6 and 950 on SATs

2.8 and 1300 on SATs

Additional Factors Colleges Consider

- Positive recommendations from educators and mentors
- Personal statement and essay(s) demonstrating writing ability and self-expression
- A “demonstrated interest” that shows your enthusiasm for the colleges to which you’re applying
- Extracurricular activities, including participation in sports, performing/visual arts, volunteering, etc.
- Community involvement, part-time work or internship
- Interview (if applicable)

Recommendation Letters

Counselor Letter (This is what I write)

Whole student, whole high school career

What impact has this student had on the school and community

Any “red flags” or inconsistencies addressed, context within the school, classes etc.

Focus on what colleges want to know- positive!

What I use and need:

2-3 meetings junior year, 2-3 meetings senior year

Classroom time

Community

Information from parents, coaches, advisors and teachers who are not writing a letter.

Recommendation Letters

Teacher Letter(s) of Recommendation

Most colleges- 1 letter is sufficient

Highly Selective- 2 or possibly 3

Core Subject for the Primary Teacher letter

Full letter to the college from the teacher

Should know you well and able to speak about you as a student as well as personally.

What impact do you have in the classroom?

Activities

What do you do with your free time?

Devoting time to something you care about is preferred to a laundry list of activities

It's okay to try something and not like it

Commitment to what you do like

How have you had an impact on your school and/or community?

What do you enjoy? What responsibilities do you have?

Demonstrated Interest

Letting a college know you are a good fit

1 in 5 use this to make admissions decisions (typically the highly selective schools)

Questions on Application: Why do you want to come to THIS school?

Metrics: emails, website visits, campus visits, visits to high school

Who does this benefit??????

“Admissible”

Admissible: You meet all the requirements to be admitted. Your grades, courses, test scores fall into the schools target range.

Admitted?

At many schools, if you are admissible, you **WILL** be admitted.

At highly selective schools, some admissible students will be denied due to more qualified applicants than space.

When more applications are received than expected, past statistics may change.

Holistic Admissions

- The method that admissions uses to weigh each desired attribute of a student.
- Gives “points” to what students would bring to their college.
- Be more fair, more well-rounded students, good fit with their school
- Enrollment Strategies- this is where admissions gets crazy!

FIT to the College

- College admissions look for students who will fit into their school. They “build a class.” Personality, interests, geography, essay, grades, potential- all of it is to determine whether this student will **enroll, stay and graduate.**

Cost

- Tuition is like the price on a new car- doesn't tell the whole story!
- How much aid does the school give? Merit? Financial? Do they "GAP?"
- Estimate your family's **expected contribution (will be Student Aid Index)**
an EFC calculator is available at
www.collegeboard.com/payforcollege or www.finaid.org
- Net Price Calculator
- Apply to schools with Merit aid in mind
- Apply to a range. Don't avoid applying due to the "sticker price."
- January of Senior Year: many local scholarships will be made available.

No school is perfect. More than one will be great!

If you think of college as an adventure instead of an Eden, you'll be ahead of the game when deciding where to attend.

-Will Dix

Applications

Common App: single application used by over 900 colleges. CA goes “live” on August 1st.

Individual College Applications- similar information

Coalition Application: new 17-18, was becoming more widespread but still not as popular

Deadlines

Early Decision: Binding (if you are admitted, you pull all other applications)

Early Action: You find out a decision earlier

Regular Decision: deadline for fall apps

Rolling: apps will be considered as they arrive

Should I apply Early?

Do you want to go to that school?

Do you know enough to know if you want to go to that school?

Are you admissible?

Are your grades and test scores where you want them to be when reviewed?

Are there any advantages to applying early due to merit aid or housing?

It is not “easier” to get in during Early Decision or Action- You still have to qualify for admission.

Deadlines Guideline

Early Decision: Nov 1- Dec 15th

Some have ED2: Jan 1

Early Action: Nov 1- Dec 15

Regular Decision- Jan 1- March 15

Real Numbers

Of the 1,364 four-year colleges and universities:

17 admitted fewer than 10%

29 schools admitted between 10% and 20% of applicants

More than half admitted 66% or more of applicants

Statistics

Retention and Graduation and Outcomes Sample Schools

Private : 8% admitted (3.7+)

98% retention to soph year

95% graduation in 6 years

94% employed or in graduate program outcome

Public : 84% admitted (3.0+)

86% retention

76% graduate

96% outcome

Private: 74% admitted (3.0+)

83% retention

75% graduation

97% outcomes

Statistics

Private: 69% admitted (2.8+)

86% retention

69% graduate

98% outcomes

Public: 69% accepted (2.3+)

68% retention

44% graduate

No data

Public: 49% admitted (3.6+)

93% retention

81% graduation

88% outcome

Application Process

In the fall, we will go over details about applications, essays, sending transcripts, letters of recommendation and test scores (English Class visits)

Students do essays in English class

**Summer seminars, meetings and workshops*

Application Process

Scoir: WHS sends Transcripts, Letters of Recommendation, Current Courses and associated reports electronically

Students send: Application, Essay, Fee

Testing Agency: Student requests SAT/ACT scores to be send to colleges

What to do NOW?

Drive through campuses when near them.

Take a tour

Make a list of “must haves” on campus

Identify potential careers and the possible majors and vice versa.

Check out retention rates, graduation rates and career outcomes.

Test Practice

Meet with me! :)

Virtual Visits

College Reps will visit with us virtually during Advisory Block (9:25- 9:55am) and the Office Hours at the end of the day (1:25-2:25PM)

Schedules will be sent via email and will be on the SCOIR calendar

If you are interested in a school, highly recommend doing the virtual visit.

Timeline

- Present-June: Meet with your school counselor to go over credits and individual planning. Also meet with the College Counselor!
- April 14:: School Day SAT-
- May- November: Teacher Recommendations Requested, Green Sheets handed out
- Visit colleges! Start online but will shift!
- Research: Scoir, Big Future, Petersen's, Books
- Prepping: Test Prep, planning for Senior Year Schedule
- August: WHS mails WHS College Process Outline student and parent questionnaires

Timeline

- August- December: Take the SATs again or take the ACT, Saturdays, Sign up not through school
- August- October: Meet with College Counselor- as often as needed!
- September- October: English 12 teachers work on Essays in class
- November-March: APPLY! Ideally, 4-8 colleges of a range of selectivity and cost. But, you should want to go to ALL of them
- October-January: Financial Aid Process Begins
- February- April: Time to consider your options and decide
- May 1st, 2022: Commit to a college

Scoir

www.scoir.com

College search, transcript, SAT scores, history of past applicants from WHS, YouScience Aptitude

Include stats on retention, graduation, financial aid

Calendar of Virtual Visits and zoom links

Program we use to send documents when students apply this fall.

All students have an account

Trends

Early Action

More Students changing minds

Higher Application #s

More Deferrals

Demonstrated interest

Less college age students nationally

Push back about the Insanity

Federal changes

WHO does this benefit??

My Philosophy

Give parents and students the information and tools needed to find the right fit for each individual for post secondary school, including all facets of search, applying and financial aid.

It's about finding the right fit for YOU!

Keeping the stress down- information, education statistics, encouragement and reality- whatever I can do to make this an exciting time.

Admissions is only the beginning. The real goal is going to a school that is such a good fit that you stay until you graduate and have the skills to begin your career.

Resources

Big Future (CollegeBoard)

NHHEAF (NH Higher Ed Assistance Foundation)

<https://www.nhheaf.org/pdfs/athleticbooklet.pdf>

College XPress (fun lists and rankings)

<https://www.collegedata.com>

<https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

<https://www.petersons.com/college-search.asp>

X

Articles

Projection of jobs with Most Growth:

<https://www.bls.gov/emp/tables/occupations-most-job-growth.htm>

Does it matter where you go to college?

<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2018/12/does-it-matter-where-you-go-college/577816/>

Articles

What you need to be successful in 2020

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/ellevate/2018/08/06/the-skills-you-need-to-succeed-in-2020/#1b7c470c288a>

SAT scores aren't the only factor:

<https://www.npr.org/2019/03/13/703266174/colleges-use-more-than-sat-scores-when-deciding-which-students-to-admit>

Liberal Arts Education Value:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/willarddix/2016/11/16/a-liberal-arts-degree-is-more-important-than-ever/#7a36f08b339f>

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/answer-sheet/wp/2017/12/20/the-surprising-thing-google-learned-about-its-employees-and-what-it-means-for-todays-students/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.feed6d955db2

More Articles!

Rate of Return on College Degrees: (scoll to second story

https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/20/education/learning/bulletin-board.html?utm_source=Email+Master&utm_campaign=9d0ae0a90c-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_02_28_03_00_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_cdf658a9c8-9d0ae0a90c-225079771#interactive-headline

Retention Rates:

<https://www.usnews.com/best-colleges/rankings/national-universities/freshmen-least-most-likely-return>

Rate of Return on Investment <https://cew.georgetown.edu/cew-reports/collegeroi/>

Thank you!

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