



PLANNING FOR COLLEGE WORKSHOP

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COLLEGE ADMISSIONS IS LIKE?



“A COLLEGE FOR EVERYONE”

- 2 or 4 year
- Public or Private
- In-State or Out-of-State
- eSports, equestrian, nursing program
- My mother attended
- I like their Instagram
- Affordability



▶ HOW MANY ARE ACCEPTED?

**Under
25%**

**Between
50% and
75%**

**Between
25% and
50%**

**Over
75%**

TIMING IS EVERYTHING...

- It all begins in the 9th grade
- Senior year: applying in the fall versus applying in the spring
- What about my senior grades?
- Junior year – why is it so important?



BUT I AM JUST A SOPHOMORE...

- Prepare for standardized testing (PSAT, PLAN, ACT, SAT).
- Update your file of important documents and notes (resume, community service, awards, honors).
- Research Colleges/Universities and plan a visit.
- Find out about Honors, AP, IB courses offered at your high school.
- Continue extracurricular activities.
- Continue participation in academic enrichment programs, summer workshops, and camps with specialty focuses such as music, arts, and science.
- Continue to meet with your school counselor at least once a year

**“COLLEGE IS A
MATCH TO BE MADE
NOT A PRIZE TO BE
WON.”**

It is not about admissions, it is about graduation.

▶ PARENTAL ROLE

“We are applying”

“We are majoring in...”

“When I signed in to our Common App Account”

“We’ve decided that the best College for us is...”

“We are visiting”

“We are writing our essay...”

“Our list of Colleges”



SIPRESS

"We've been thinking a lot about what we want to do with your life."

**HOW DO COLLEGES
MAKE ADMISSION
DECISIONS?**



Factor	N	Considerable Importance	Moderate Importance	Limited Importance	No Importance
Grades in All Courses	220	74.5	15.0	5.5	5.0
Grades in College Prep Courses	220	73.2	16.8	5.9	4.1
Strength of Curriculum	219	62.1	21.9	8.7	7.3
Admission Test Scores (SAT, ACT)	221	45.7	37.1	12.2	5.0
Essay or Writing Sample	220	23.2	33.2	24.1	19.5
Student's Demonstrated Interest	218	16.1	23.9	28.0	32.1
Counselor Recommendation	218	15.1	40.4	26.6	17.9
Teacher Recommendation	219	14.2	40.2	26.5	19.2
Class Rank	220	9.1	29.1	34.1	27.7
Extracurricular Activities	219	6.4	42.9	32.0	18.7
Portfolio	219	6.4	11.9	26.9	54.8
Subject Test Scores (AP, IB)	219	5.5	18.3	35.2	41.1
Interview	219	5.5	16.4	28.3	49.8
Work	217	4.1	28.6	36.9	30.4
State Graduation Exam Scores	218	2.3	8.7	18.8	70.2
SAT II Scores	216	1.9	5.6	14.8	77.8

SOURCE: NACAC Admission Trends Survey, 2018–19.

▶ OBJECTIVE VS SUBJECTIVE CRITERIA

OBJECTIVE CRITERIA

- Academic course selection (9-12)
- Overall performance
- Senior course in progress
- Test Scores (ACT and/or SAT)
- Application volume at the schools to which you are applying

SUBJECTIVE CRITERIA

- Extracurricular activities
- Essay(s)
- Recommendation letter(s)
- Interview
- Campus Visit

AN ADMISSIONS SIMULATION

Presented by
Randolph-Macon College
Office of Admissions

- If you have taken an exceptionally strong academic program (AP, IB, honors, dual enrollment, etc.), move up **four** spaces.
- If your grades increasingly improved over the course of your high school years, move up **two** spaces.
- If you direct the choir at your church, move up **one** space.

- If your SAT score is in the top 10% of the college's accepted pool, move up **three** spaces.
- Because you did not give enough time to your teachers/counselors, your letters of recommendation arrived in the admission office after the application deadline, move down **five** spaces.
- You applied to several schools but forgot to change the name in each essay when you applied, move down **four** spaces.

- If you had a positive interview while visiting campus, move up **one** space.
- Your SAT score is in the middle 50% range of the college's accepted pool, move up **two** spaces.
- If you did not write the optional essay, move down **five** spaces.

- If you decided not to take a core course as a senior and instead received an early release from school, move down **two** spaces.
- If you are an Eagle Scout, Gold Award winner or participated in extracurricular activities (athletics, drama, music), move up **one** space.

- If you got a “D” in an academic course at the end of your junior year, move down **three** spaces.
- If you wrote a letter to the college admission officer and explained the extenuating circumstances surrounding a grade of “D”, move up **one** space.
- You have participated in community service activities since 8th grade, move up **one** space.

- You dropped a course in your senior year without telling your colleges, move down **three** spaces.
- If you missed the application deadline, **move down 25 spaces.**
- If you plagiarized an American history paper and got caught, **sit down**, you're out of the competition entirely.

SUMMARY

- No matter your skills, talents or abilities or interests – there are good colleges for you!
- “College is a match to be made not a prize to be won.”
- Most important year – junior year
- Do research and do it early
- Be honest (with yourself and others)
- Use guidance/college counseling office
- Visit



...and remember,
sometimes you may
just need to take a
lucky shot!



THE “BEST” ...

“ . . . the “best” college is the one that will challenge you appropriately, open your eyes to new ways of thinking, and help you develop and broaden your talents as you take your place in the world ahead.”

- Willard Dix



QUESTIONS?