



Planning for College Workshop

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College Admissions is Like?



“A Path 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 Admitted?



- 4-Year Colleges/Universities Only;
- U.S. Schools Only;
- Approximately 2,030 institutions.

Timing is Everything!

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



Non-Restrictive Application Plans

Regular Decision

Submit an application by a specified deadline and receive a decision by a designated date

Non-Binding!

Rolling Admission

Submit when ready. Schools review application as they "roll-in". They make admission decisions throughout the admissions cycle

Non-Binding!

Early Action(EA)

Apply early and receive a decision well in advance of the school's regular response date

Non-Binding!

Restrictive Application Plans

Restrictive Early

Apply to a school and receive a decision early. You may be a restricted from applying ED, EA, or REA to other schools. If offered, you have until May 1 to confirm

Non-Binding!

Early Decision

Make a commitment to a first-choice school where, if admitted, you will definitely enroll. The application decision deadline occur early.

Binding!

You are not restricted from applying to other institutions and have until May 1 to consider your options and confirm enrollment.

You are responsible for following all restrictions

But I am just a sophomore...

- Research testing (PSAT, PLAN, ACT, SAT, **FairTest.org**).
- Update your file of important documents and notes (resume, community service, awards, honors).
- Research Colleges/Universities and plan a visit – even if it is virtual!
- Watch virtual tours! See if College's will allow you to sit in on a virtual classroom experience.
- Find out about Honors, AP, IB courses offered at your high school.
- Continue extracurricular activities and investigate leadership opportunities.
- Continue to meet with your school/college counselor at least once a year.



“College is a match to be made, not a prize to be won.”

It is not about admission; it is about graduation and beyond.

Dear Families...

“We are applying to...”

“We are majoring in...”

“We are writing our essay on...”

“Our list of colleges”

“We are visiting”

“When I signed into OUR application portal”

“We’ve decided the best college for US is...”



SIPRESS

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

How Do Colleges Make Admission Decisions?

“Focus on the whole pie, not just a slice!”

- The 3 main parts:
 - Courses
 - Grades in your courses
 - Strength of curriculum
- Many schools have gone, and will stay, test-optional, so what does that mean?
 - The WHOLE application matters;
 - What other factors can/should be considered?
- SAT II subject tests no longer exist;
- Write, proofread, rewrite, have someone else proofread your Essay!
- Demonstrated Interest;
- The weight of every admission factor depends on the individual institution.

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.

Criteria Types

Objective Criteria

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

Subjective Criteria

- Extracurricular activities
- Essay(s)
 - No such thing as **OPTIONAL**
- Recommendation letter(s)
- Interview
- Campus Visit



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An Admission Simulation

- 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.

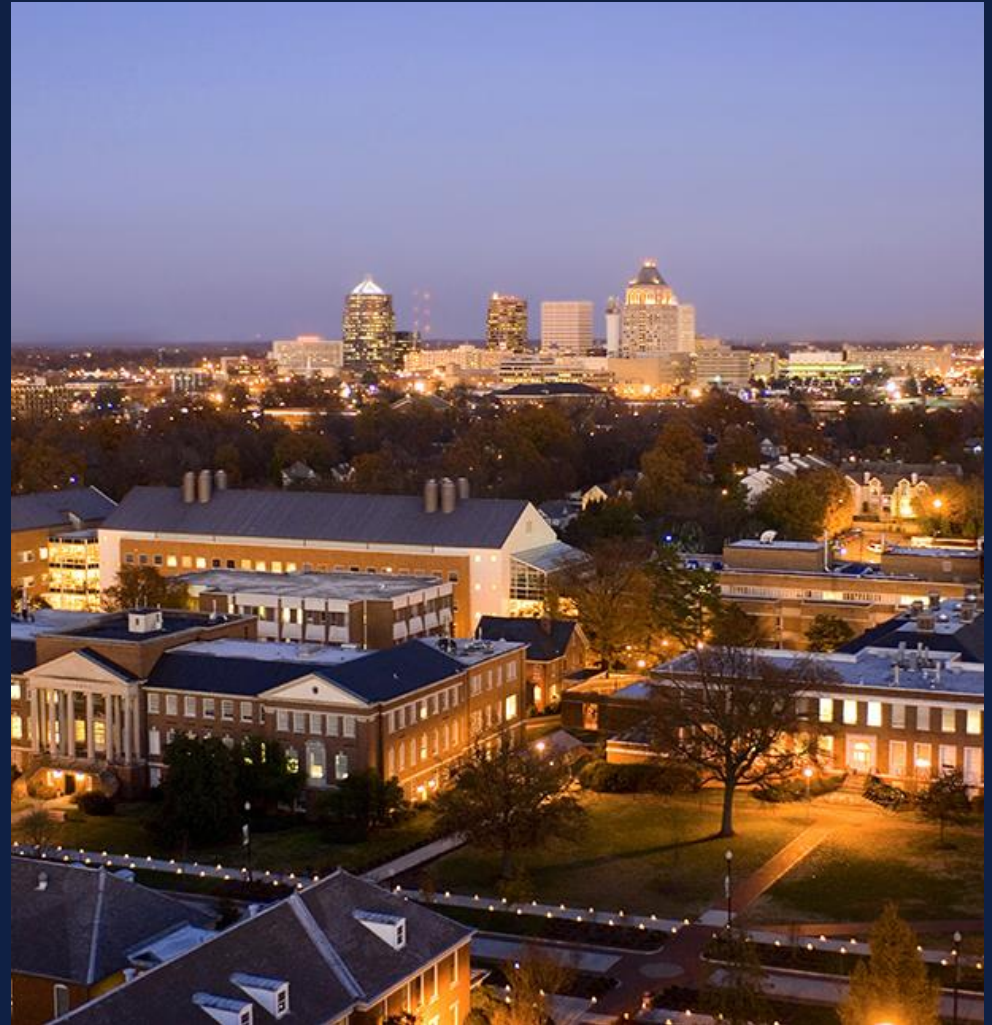
- If you decided not to take a core course as a senior and instead received an early release from school, move down **two** spaces.
- If you are an Eagle Scout, Gold Award winner or participated in extracurricular activities (athletics, drama, music), move up **one** space.

- 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.

In 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 school/college counseling office
- Visit



And remember...

...sometimes you
just need to take
your 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



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Questions?

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