



COLLEGE ADMISSIONS NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2024



IN THE NEWS:

- SUNY Free Week: you'll be able to apply to up to five SUNY schools with no application fee from **October 21 – November 3**.
- California just announced a ban of legacy admissions at private universities, including USC and Stanford. This policy will go into effect fall of 2025.

KEY CONCEPT: FAFSA AND CSS PROFILE

The FAFSA, the application for federal financial aid, typically opens on October 1st, but it is slated to open around December 1st this year. Hopefully it will actually work this time so that unnecessary stress around financial aid is minimized. Last year, some colleges started using their own forms to capture families' financial data; there's a chance that they will do something similar again this year. Senior parents: please check the websites of your colleges to see if that is an option. And note that you will still be required to fill out the FAFSA once it opens.

The CSS Profile, which is the institutional financial aid form that many private colleges and universities require in addition to the FAFSA, opens today. Senior parents: please check this website to see if your colleges require it:

<https://profile.collegeboard.org/profile/ppi/participatingInstitutions.aspx>

COLLEGE IN THE SPOTLIGHT: UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

- Location: Rochester, NY
- # of Undergrads: 6,767
- Acceptance Rate: 36%
- Student / Faculty Ratio: 17:1
- Returning Freshmen: 93%
- % Receiving Merit Aid: 46%

INTERESTING FACTS:

- Walkable campus along the Genesee River with a tunnel system used in the winter!
- "Build Your Own" curriculum allows students to explore across disciplines; no gen ed reqs
- Robust opportunities for research (77% participate); great for pre-med; collaborative atmosphere
- Known for music, engineering, business; 50% of engineering students double major or minor in music; Institute of Optics awards 50% of all US optics degrees
- Combined Degree Programs guarantee admission to graduate medicine, public health, engineering, and education schools for exceptional students
- Take Five program offers a tuition-free 5th year that allows students to explore interests outside their major
- Unofficial tradition has students eat a "garbage plate" from a local dive before graduating
- 80% live on campus all four years; social life happens on campus; small Greek life presence
- Admit to overall college, not by major

COLLEGE IN THE SPOTLIGHT: ROCHESTER INST OF TECHNOLOGY

- Location: Rochester, NY
- # of Undergrads: 14,000
- Acceptance Rate: 71%
- Student / Faculty Ratio: 15:1
- Returning Freshmen: 88%
- % Receiving Merit Aid: 88%

INTERESTING FACTS:

- Suburban, modern campus with tunnel system too!
- Focused on career-oriented and technology-based academics; known for mechanical and electrical engineering, CS, imaging science, and game design
- Excellent programs through the College of Art and Design give this engineering school an artsy vibe
- Demanding yet has a relaxed feel; focused on undergraduates
- Has an extensive co-op program; many juniors and seniors take 1-2 terms away from campus
- Gen ed program gives students real flexibility
- Majors in 200 fields; 80 minors
- Leader in providing access and support to deaf students
- Quirky students; 49% live on campus; only 4% go Greek; always something to do on campus through 300 student orgs; only 2% go abroad
- Admits by major

THOUGHTS FOR SENIORS:

Most seniors I know are hard at work on their college applications. Many have realized just how tough the fall of senior year can be; academics have ramped up, and they're often busy leading extra-curriculars or sports teams. And many regret not getting more done over the summer (take note, Juniors!); But, if they **work slowly and steadily**--instead of waiting last minute to write supplemental essays--they **still have time** to put together solid applications.

Students should let their guidance counselors know if they plan to apply Early Decision or Early Action. Most schools and counselors have deadlines around this; please be considerate of their time!

THOUGHTS FOR JUNIORS:

Juniors and their parents should do their best to get on several college campuses this fall. Visiting when college students are on campus is best; it's very hard to get a sense of the vibe of colleges when they're not. Don't worry yet about visiting colleges that you might apply to. Instead, focus on visiting a mix of sizes (from huge to small) and locations (from urban to rural). Without making these visits, it is VERY HARD for students to figure out what they are looking for in a college. And when you're visiting, be sure to drive around the perimeter of the campus, and listen for laughter (a sign that kids are happy and interacting with each other!). AND ask whether anyone can join clubs (at far too many colleges, there is an application process to join clubs, and it can be quite competitive).

**PLEASE FORWARD THIS NEWSLETTER TO OTHER FAMILIES WHO WOULD
BENEFIT FROM MY APPROACH AND PERSPECTIVE!
(They can subscribe on my website)**

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I help students and their families navigate the college admissions process while decreasing confusion and stress. 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!



Design your path to college

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