



COLLEGE ADMISSIONS NEWSLETTER

MAY 2024

MY SENIORS HAVE LANDED!

Super proud to announce that my seniors have landed, and they have landed well! Landing well means that they 1) figured out what they're looking for and then 2) researched colleges thoroughly to determine which ones would best meet their needs and wants. I'm proud of this process because my students end up with stronger applications, and they're more likely to thrive wherever they land. These seniors are headed to:

- Binghamton University
- California Institute of Technology
- Case Western Reserve University (x2)
- Connecticut College
- Cornell University
- High Point University
- Loyola Marymount University
- Macalester College
- McGill University
- Morgan State University
- Northeastern University (x2)
- Oberlin College
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- University of California-Los Angeles
- University of New Hampshire
- University of Washington
- Virginia Tech

ADMISSIONS NEWS:

Starting next year, New York will require all high school graduates to fill out either the FAFSA or an opt-on form where students and parents indicate that they are aware of the aid that they could receive. This announcement is in response to the low levels of completion of the FAFSA this year. FAFSA completions in New York state were down 24% as of the end of March.

WEBINAR ON COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TRENDS AND TAKEAWAYS:

For parents of sophomores and juniors. Wednesday, May 22nd at 7:30pm. Please join me!

Here's the link to register:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcpceqsrTwpHtYzirnT1b_xVcKxfWF9-Del

COLLEGE IN THE SPOTLIGHT: UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

- Location: Durham, NH
- # of Undergrads: 11,387
- Acceptance Rate: 87%
- Student / Faculty Ratio: 17:1
- Returning Freshmen: 86%
- % Receiving Merit Aid: 68%

INTERESTING FACTS:

- Amazing location close to beaches and mountains; also close to Portsmouth and Boston
- Well known for science programs, especially their marine biology program
- The Isle of Shoals Marine Laboratory provides an offshore research setting
- 35% engage in research before they graduate; excellent research opportunities for first years (which is not all that common in large universities)
- Graduate students make up only 10% of total enrollment
- Tenured faculty teach all students, including freshmen (which is rare for a large research university)
- Out-of-staters make up 51% of student body
- Dining and campus safety both receive rave reviews
- Known for friendly, welcoming students

COLLEGE IN THE SPOTLIGHT: LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

- Location: Los Angeles, CA
- # of Undergrads: 7,336
- Acceptance Rate: 40%
- Student / Faculty Ratio: 10:1
- Returning Freshmen: 88%
- % Receiving Merit Aid: 76%

INTERESTING FACTS:

- Ideal setting on a bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean and Marina del Rey, a peaceful residential neighborhood, with great weather all year
- Fantastic programs in film, business, engineering, psychology, and communications
- Students in the School of Film and TV have access to great resources; the program has a strong international emphasis
- Professors take a real interest in knowing their students personally
- The LA locale means that students have access to an abundance of internships
- 37% are Catholic; one theology course is required (with many options to choose from)
- 70% participate in community service, volunteering more than 200,000 service hours each year
- Social life takes place on and off campus; Greek life influences the scene, but campus clubs host many events all year. Everyone looks forward to Fallapalooza, an outdoor music festival that kicks off the school year.

TERM TO UNDERSTAND: COMMON DATA SET

One of the most useful resources on the internet is the **Common Data Set (CDS)**. The Common Data Set is a compilation of standards and data points as defined by the US Department of Education, and most every college posts their Common Data Set data on their website, typically under their Institutional Research page.

The CDS covers a huge amount of data, such as:

- How many students apply and are accepted
- Test data and GPA data for enrolled students
- How many are invited to be on a waitlist and then accepted
- Importance of certain admissions criteria
- How many receive need-based and merit aid

The easiest way to find the CDS is to Google "Common Data Set + Bard" (or whichever college you're looking at). Enjoy the research!!

SENIORS: WHAT TO DO ABOUT WAITLISTS?

Like last year's admissions season, many seniors have been placed on waitlists, which means that they weren't accepted or denied and that their applications will be reconsidered if spots become available. Waitlists can lead to a mix of emotions in teenagers, including hopefulness, frustration, and anxiety.

Colleges and universities use waitlists to help them manage enrollment. As students turn down their offers of admission, spots will open up, and they will start reaching out to students with offers. You may have noticed or heard that many colleges are already taking students off of waitlists.

If you're offered a spot on a waitlist, you should do the following:

- Commit to the college where you think you're most likely to thrive. There is NO guarantee that you will come off of a waitlist, so please get excited about the college you're committing to! Find housing, find a roommate, participate in orientation.
- Check section C of the Common Data Set (google CDS + the college). Get a few year's worth of data to see how many students were offered the waitlist, how many accepted a place on the waitlist, and how many were eventually admitted. If it's a tiny percentage, then getting off the waitlist is highly unlikely; it's best that you move on.
- If you're interested in staying on a waitlist, showing continued interest is absolutely critical. Please think about doing the following:
 - Confirm your interest and write a short explanation of why that college is your top choice (please don't go beyond 250 words). Let them know if you've had any interactions with current students or alums.
 - Update the college with your AP/IB scores.
 - Update the college on any awards you've received or any achievements you've had since applying (academic, athletic, or activities-wise). Many high schools give out awards at graduation; let the colleges know!
 - Visit the college.

Being on a waitlist can feel like limbo. Being hopeful but also realistic will help you navigate this effectively!

MORE THOUGHTS FOR SENIORS...

Now that your college admissions season has wrapped up, there are actually quite a few LOOSE ENDS to tie up in MAY:

- Decline any other offers of admission.
- Send thank you notes to anyone who wrote a letter of recommendation for you.
- Finish the year strong. Colleges will see your final transcript, so make sure your grades don't tank. There are stories every year of colleges rescinding offers for sudden low grades and/or problematic behavior. Make sure that doesn't happen to you!
- Ask your high school to submit your final transcript.
- Set up your campus email and then check it regularly.
- Check your college portal regularly.
- Make sure you understand the housing process. Submit whatever you need to submit.
- Join Instagram or other social media groups that pertain to your college. Getting to know a few kids over the summer can help ease the transition in the fall.
- Consider whether you will try to find your own roommates through social media or if you'll "go random." "Going random" typically is not random at all; colleges will have you submit a survey about your living habits (eg, study habits, bedtime, and neatness) and then they'll match you with other people who share your lifestyle. I personally recommend this process because you'll probably be more compatible than with people you find on social media. And you're more likely to live with people who expand your horizons, which is one of the points of college! Check out this article:
https://www.nytimes.com/2024/04/18/opinion/roommates-college-strangers.html?unlocked_article_code=1.IU0.PkxJ.GJzrl_A9GGoA&smid=url-share
- Make appointments for any doctors you need to see before you head off.
- Update your neuropsych evaluation, if that pertains to you.
- Think about creating a LinkedIn profile. It's never too soon!

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

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!



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