



COLLEGE ADMISSIONS NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2024

## COLLEGE ADMISSIONS NEWS

I'm feeling like a broken record here: the FAFSA is still a mess. Some colleges (think privates) have been able to move forward with providing financial aid awards; others are still waiting on the Department of Education to release their data. Most colleges are still focused on incoming first-years and will not be releasing financial aid awards for upperclassmen until mid-June. Many colleges are terrified that families will back out once they fully understand their financial picture (this could be "summer melt" on steroids). Many waitlists are moving so that colleges can lock in students (giving them only a few days to decide). And many, many students who have tried for months to submit their FAFSAs are just giving up, thinking that higher ed just isn't for them. The result of this mess could be frightening: colleges may be closing or consolidating or cutting programs. Just this week came the announcement that Northeastern and Marymount Manhattan College, which has been dealing with declining enrollments and rising operating costs, will merge. And yesterday came the announcement that the University of the Arts is closing. I don't know about you, but I'm putting on my seatbelt!

### TERM TO UNDERSTAND: DEMONSTRATED INTEREST

Certain colleges care a great deal about the amount of interest that you show them (typically, highly selective colleges don't track interest because they don't need to). Some colleges simply won't admit students who don't show interest (hello, Tulane and Case Western); they want to know that the students they admit will actually attend. The primary way to show interest is to apply through Early Decision. But there are other ways too: visiting, interviewing, attending info sessions at your school or virtually, emailing your admissions rep, following them on social media. And don't forget to open emails they send and peruse the websites; believe it or not, many colleges track your activity online. Check the Common Data Set to see if your colleges consider interest and keep track of the interest you show!

## COLLEGE IN THE SPOTLIGHT: TRINITY COLLEGE

- Location: Hartford, CT
- # of Undergrads: 2,167
- Acceptance Rate: 36%
- Student / Faculty Ratio: 8:1
- Returning Freshmen: 90%
- % Receiving Merit Aid: <1%

### INTERESTING FACTS:

- Takes advantage of its urban setting by using Hartford as its classroom; Liberal Arts Action Lab allows students to work with community partners to propose solutions to city problems
- One of the few liberal arts colleges that offers accredited engineering; notable Human Rights Studies program
- Gothic-style buildings on 100 acre campus; new music center, art center, townhomes
- Distribution requirements include proficiency in math, writing, and foreign language. Known for interdisciplinary majors. 2/3 of students work with professors on research. Most classes are discussion based
- More than half seek internships in government, nonprofits or businesses in Hartford
- Seeking to diversify its student body; first years live near other students in their seminars
- Social life revolves around on-campus activity, but weekends are focused on Greek life
- 50% participate in club or intramural sports.

## COLLEGE IN THE SPOTLIGHT: TRINITY UNIVERSITY

- Location: San Antonio, TX
- # of Undergrads: 2,531
- Acceptance Rate: 28%
- Student / Faculty Ratio: 9:1
- Returning Freshmen: 92%
- % Receiving Merit Aid: 93%

### INTERESTING FACTS:

- Stimulating academic environment with a laid-back, collaborative Texas attitude
- Stellar faculty with smart, ambitious students
- Excellent education department with 5 year master in teaching degree
- Great pre-health advising program
- Excellent business, biology, and engineering programs
- Languages Across Curriculum features classes taught in foreign languages
- Small classes, great academic counseling, peer tutoring, and very accessible profs
- Great housing, great food; week-long New Student Orientation; Greek life doesn't dominate
- Tight knit community; students live on campus through junior year; 30% of seniors do
- Students give San Antonio a big thumbs up; year-round activities and fun road trips
- Happy students; I heard a ton of laughter and conversation when I visited!

## THOUGHTS FOR JUNIORS...

You're almost done with Junior year--probably the hardest year of high school! I know it's hard when Seniors are no longer at school or in your classes, but please spend time/effort on your classes these last few weeks of school. I promise it will pay off! A few more things to think about...

With grade inflation and our test optional world, it's looking like **letters of recommendation** are more important than ever. Why? Because they help colleges really understand who you are as a student and as a person. Make sure that you ask two teachers to write letters of recommendation before school lets out (don't just ask them if they can write one; ask them if they can write a great one!). Please do not wait until the fall; many teachers like to get this letter-writing completed during the summer months, and many will agree to write only a set number of letters. Ask teachers--ideally from your junior year and from your core classes (math, ELA, science, social studies, and language)--who can speak about you as a learner. And be sure to give your teachers a resume or brag sheet so that they fully understand who you are outside of class.

Start doing some soul searching and reflection in preparation for the essays you'll be writing later in the summer and in the fall. What are some challenges you've faced and how have you overcome them? Who do you consider to be part of your community? Why do you want to study what you want to study? Being clear on who you are and what you want in college will make your applications authentic and meaningful.

And if you haven't visited many colleges yet, there's still time. If you go during the summer, just know that campuses will feel very different from when students are there. But you still can get a sense of the neighboring town, the size of the campus, and the amount that colleges are investing on summertime improvements to the "physical plant." And if you plan to apply Early Decision, PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE be sure to visit! It's a huge decision not to be taken lightly!

## THOUGHTS FOR SENIORS...

If you haven't already graduated, you probably will be soon! Congratulations! Here are a few things to remember during this pretty momentous time:

- Take a moment to thank all of the people who supported you through this process: your parents, your teachers, your coaches, your friends. Especially the teachers who wrote you letters of recommendation! Write them a note and express your gratitude. You'll feel good after doing this, and they will appreciate hearing from you!
- Don't fall into the trap of thinking that you really don't deserve to go the college where you're headed. I promise you that **colleges will not admit students who they think will not be able to handle the work** or who won't be able to thrive on campus. Yes, you will have to work hard, and yes, you will face challenges, but you do belong there. Believe it, and face down the imposter syndrome!
- Begin managing your expectations for college. There is no one perfect place for anyone, so expect to be frustrated or disappointed by a few things. The key to a smooth transition is getting involved and engaged from day one!
- Be on the look out for a parent workshop in July on how best to help your kid transition to college!

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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!*



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