Selective College Admission:
Five Important Tips

August 26, 2019
Sept 5, 2019
Webinar: Sept 6, 2019

- **A few important notes :**
- Our priority in the college counseling program at Minnetonka High School – helping the student to find the right fit!
- Our hope – to focus on **going** to a college that is a good match, not to focus on **getting in**.
- Every student is encouraged to follow this admission "mantra" --

"You apply for admission to a college because you would like to go there!"

- **Categories of selectivity - examples**
  - Most selective – acceptance rate below 15% (Harvard, Princeton, University of Chicago, Yale)
  - Highly selective – acceptance of 15-30% (Boston University, Carleton, Colgate, Emory, Georgetown)
  - Moderately selective – acceptance of 31-60% (Denison, Denver, Macalester, Providence, St. Olaf)
  - Selective – acceptance of 61-90% (Drake, Hamline, Iowa State, Marquette, Nebraska, St. Thomas)

- **Most selective**

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

- University of Chicago – freshman class of 1,805

Applicants	32,283
Admitted	2,345 (7%)
SAT mid-50th	R&W 730-790 M 750-800
ACT mid-50th	33-35
Top 10%	99%

- **Highly selective**

Carleton College

- Carleton College – freshman class of 529

Applicants	7,092
Admitted	1,407 (20%)
SAT mid-50th	R&W 650-750 M 680-780
ACT mid-50th	31-34
Top 10%	79%

- **Highly selective**

BOSTON UNIVERSITY

- Boston University – freshman class of 3,612

Applicants	64,481
Admitted	14,247 (22%)
SAT mid-50th	R&W 650-720 M 680-780
ACT mid-50th	30-33
Top 10%	65%

- **Moderately selective**

- University of Denver – freshman class of 1,477

Applicants	20,475
Admitted	11,563 (56%)
SAT mid-50th	R&W 590-680 M 580-680
ACT mid-50th	26-31
Top 10%	39%

- **Selective**

Drake UNIVERSITY

- Drake University – freshman class of 750

Applicants	6,886
Admitted	4,659 (68%)
SAT mid-50th	R&W 580-680 M 560-680
ACT mid-50th	24-30
Top 10%	38%

Early Decision and Regular Decision

SCHOOL	EARLY DECISION ACCEPTANCE RATE	REGULAR DECISION ACCEPTANCE RATE	PERCENT OF CLASS FILLED FROM EARLY DECISION	ED TO RD ACCEPTANCE RATIO
American University	81%	29%	45%	2.8
Amherst College	38%	12%	37%	3.3
Barnard College	30%	13%	49%	2.3
Bates College	45%	15%	64%	3.0
Bowdoin College	23%	9%	49%	2.7
Brown University	21%	6.2%	45%	3.4
Carleton College	27%	19%	43%	1.4
Claremont McKenna College	25%	7%	60%	3.4
Colby College	38%	11%	51%	3.4
Colorado College	27%	14%	58%	1.9
Dartmouth College	25%	7%	49%	3.7
Davidson College	46%	16%	65%	2.9
Duke University	22%	7%	50%	3.0

Common Data Set 2018-19

Early Decision and Regular Decision

SCHOOL	EARLY DECISION ACCEPTANCE RATE	REGULAR DECISION ACCEPTANCE RATE	PERCENT OF CLASS FILLED FROM EARLY DECISION	ED TO RD ACCEPTANCE RATIO
Grinnell College	58%	23%	44%	2.5
Hamilton College	42%	19%	51%	2.2
Kenyon College	70%	34%	43%	2.1
Lehigh University	60%	20%	56%	3.1
Middlebury College	47%	14%	64%	3.4
Northwestern University	27%	6%	56%	4.1
Pomona College	17%	6%	50%	2.6
Swarthmore College	26%	8%	55%	3.3
University of Pennsylvania	19%	6%	52%	2.9
Vanderbilt University	21%	8%	53%	2.5
Washington University in St. Louis	42%	13%	43%	3.1
Wesleyan University	38%	16%	51%	2.4
Williams College	35%	11%	48%	3.1

Common Data Set 2018-19

- **Naviance Student**

College Compare

College compare averages are for students from your high school that have been accepted to that particular college from **2014-2019.** Averages have a green checkmark when your number is higher and red "x" when your number is lower. Your PSAT score, if available, has been converted to the equivalent SAT score and compared to the average single SAT score of an accepted student. The column labeled "Acceptance" shows the number of students accepted out of the number of students that applied.

College	GPA	Single SAT 1600	Single SAT 2400	Combined SAT 1600	Combined SAT 2400	PSAT to SAT 1600	ACT	IB	Acceptance
YOU - Sam Skipper	3.25	0	1710	1140	1710	0	25	0	-
Creighton Univ	3.57 ✖	1265 ✖	1930 ✖	1266 ✖	1930 ✖	1265 ✖	28 ✖	6 ✖	53/54
Indiana U Bloomington	3.73 ✖	1282 ✖	1774 ✖	1204 ✖	1777 ✖	1282 ✖	29 ✖	7 ✖	135/144
Iowa State U	3.35 ✖	1267 ✖	1751 ✖	1225 ✖	1754 ✖	1267 ✖	26 ✖	6 ✖	446/490
U of Iowa	3.55 ✖	1349 ✖	1710	1266 ✖	1715 ✖	1349 ✖	27 ✖	7 ✖	195/214
U of Minnesota Twin Cities	3.91 ✖	1391 ✖	1966 ✖	1361 ✖	1975 ✖	1391 ✖	30 ✖	8 ✖	942/1384
U of Missouri Columbia	3.33 ✖	1115 ✖	1666 ✔	1120 ✔	1666 ✔	1115 ✖	26 ✖	5 ✖	114/124

- **A few national statistics (reality check!)**
- Enrollment in US colleges and universities

Total undergraduate	16,769,025
Total graduate	3,017,995
Public 4-year institutions	8,856,035
Public 2-year institutions	5,706,678
Private 4-year institutions	4,074,762
For-profit, 4-year institutions	914,454

Almanac Issue, August 2019 Chronicle of Higher Education

- **Enrollment at Minnesota colleges and universities**

Total undergraduate	297,523
Total graduate	115,443
Public 4-year institutions	132,119
Public 2-year institutions	117,266
Private 4-year institutions	70,563
For-profit 4-year institutions	92,658

Almanac Issue, August 2019 Chronicle of Higher Education

- **Other key data items**:
- 6-year graduation rate (in USA) at 4-year institutions 60.8%
- 6-year graduation rate in Minnesota 65.1%
- Percent of first-year students who attend college within their home state 80%
- Percent of students who applied to five or fewer colleges/universities 63.9%
- Percent of students who are attending their first or second choice college 83%

- **Resources for research on selective colleges**
- https://student.naviance.com/minnetonka
- Fiske Guide to Colleges
- Princeton Review: The Best 385 Colleges
- Barron's Guide to the Most Competitive Colleges
- The Insider's Guide to the Colleges
- https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org
- https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator

- **Fiske Guide – "the top rated guide to the Best Colleges" (about 300 schools)**

- 34   up to 15% acceptance rate
- 69   from 15 to 30% acceptance rate
- 102   from 31 to 60% acceptance rate
- 99   from 61 to 99% acceptance rate

- **Five Important Tips for Selective Admission**

1. Students/parents need to be on "the same page" for college cost, affordability, and financial plans

2. Take an appropriately challenging course of study, with as much rigor as possible

3. Visit the campus – a great measure of demonstrated interest

4. Be nice to the admissions representative who comes to MHS (get their business card and send them an email!)

5. Take special care with the "why us?" essay, or the "what would you add to the Class of 2024?" essay

SMOOTHSAILING

Bonus round: Five More Important Tips

6. Beat the application deadline by a few weeks, or more – if it's due on January 1, send in your application on Dec. 1
7. Pick teachers who know you well for your recommendations – and talk to them early on!
8. Expand your college list to include both "competitive" options and "likely" options. Be realistic with your list!
9. Examine closely the early decision/early action options – this could determine the outcome of your admission!
10. Spend as much time thinking about "going" to a college as you spend thinking about "getting in" to a college.

- **Final thoughts**
- The goal of the college admission office is to enroll a well-rounded class – a community of individuals who add a unique talent or characteristic to the class. The operative question in selective and highly selective admissions is: **"What will this student add to our college?"**
- Make your case – why is this college a good match for you? Spend time on doing the application well.

![S M O O T H S A I L I N G nautical flag banner]

- In America, people succeed because of the quality of their character, not the fame of their college.

- Know that <u>what you do</u> in college is a better predictor of future success and happiness than <u>where you go</u> to college. (from the Education Conservancy.)

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