

Fact versus Fiction in Admissions



Paul Kanarek
paulk@collegewise.com

Today You'll Learn

- The part that might be making you mental
- The mythology of college admissions
- A little bit about tests
- How to spend summers wisely and well
- A new definition of a great college

Here is what drives the current disconnect

School	Admit	Year
USC	70%	1995
U of Chicago	68%	1995
UCI	60%	1994
Wash U	56%	1995
UCSB	54%	1994
Northwestern	42%	1990
Penn	33%	1995
UCLA	30%	1994
Columbia	24%	1995
Yale	23%	1995
Berkeley	22%	1994
Stanford	22%	1990

Don't overthink the activities piece

- Family input matters
- What does the student do now, and does she enjoy it?
- Is there something he is interested in doing more of?
- Exploration is a desirable outcome

5 of the great myths

- It's so hard to get into college
- Highly competitive colleges are all about the numbers
- Standardized tests are hugely important
- If you ask for financial help, you'll be penalized in admissions
- The giant fib

College Admissions State of the Nation



- Colleges accepting <20% of applicants
- Colleges accepting 30-40% of applicants
- Colleges accepting at least half of applicants

Highly Selective College (HSCs) admissions rates are getting crazier...

Institution	Accept Rate 2008	Accept Rate 2018
Brown	13.3%	7.2%
Columbia	10%	5.5%
Cornell	20.4%	10.3%
Dartmouth	13.2%	8.7%
Harvard	7.1%	4.6%
Penn	13.8%	8.5%
Princeton	9.3%	5.5%
Stanford	9.5%	4.3%
Yale	8.3%	6.3%

Colleges and tests

- 1050+ are test optional
 - » Send them in only if you want to
 - » Bowdoin, Bucknell, Wake Forest, U of Chicago
- 1300+ use the tests
 - » No preference SAT vs ACT
 - » Power of the PSAT – rule of 70

Your testing timeline

There are several key components to consider

- The selectivity of your college list
- Your strategy around EA/ED use
- The classes you are taking in school
- Your natural ability with these exams
- Your extra-curricular activities

Info on tests (SAT/ACT)

I had promised you at the presentation that I'd put extra info into this section so you'll see slides on the promised timelines.

---Paul

What Do These Tests Have in Common?

- They are standardized tests
- They all have multiple choice components
- They are long AND the SAT/ACT/Subject Tests are on Saturday
- SAT/ACT/PSAT have math, reading, and grammar
- They are part of the college admissions process

The SAT and ACT certainly don't tell you how smart you are.

The Aggressive Timeline

- Pre-ACT in Fall of your Sophomore Year
- PSAT 10 in Spring of your Sophomore Year (or practice SAT)
- Test prep in summer between 10th and 11th grade years
- Test 1 in October of your Junior Year
- PSAT in October of your Junior Year
- Test 2 in Spring of your Junior Year
- Test 3 (if necessary) in July/August of your Senior Year
- Subject Tests sprinkled throughout as needed
- AP/IB taken per curriculum

The Normal Timeline

- PSAT in October of your Junior Year
- Practice ACT taken before December of your Junior Year
- Test Prep in Spring of your Junior Year
- Test 1 in Spring of your Junior Year
- Test 2 in July/August of your Senior Year
- Test 3 (if necessary) in October of your Senior Year
- Subject Tests sprinkled throughout if needed at all
- AP/IB taken per curriculum

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This next one is actually
true.....unfortunately

It's an advantage to apply early (rolling, ED, EA)

	Early Accept. Rate 2018	% of Class Filled by Early Apps 2007	% of Class Filled by Early Apps 2018 (est)
Columbia	16%	44%	33%
Dartmouth*	28%	35%	49%
Harvard	15%	unknown	46%
Penn*	19%	48%	53%
Princeton	15%	48%	48%
Yale	15%	unknown	40%

*** Early Decision**

Summer time – and the livin’ isn’t quite as easy

- 3rd semester
- Academic versus cultural versus experiential
- Pick substance over style
- Be wary of the psychological scam
- A resource for you:
<https://collegewise.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/2016-CollegewiseGuideToSummer.pdf>

Some hard won wisdom

- College admissions should be an exciting time for every family
- Find the right fit and encourage student ownership over process
- The two most dangerous words in college admissions
- Redefine the meaning of a great college

More info

Here are some Collegewise free resources:

<https://collegewise.com/free-stuff/>

This is my email address. If you'd like help/
advice around any of this, just let me know and
I'll connect you with someone

paulk@collegewise.com