THE COLLEGE SELECTION JOURNEY
Katie Gomulkiewicz
“The question is: who are YOU?”
AGENDA

• Dispel fears

• Walk through the major milestones in the college process

• Q & A
COLLEGE
COLLEGE
YOU ARE **NOT** DEFINED BY YOUR COLLEGE CHOICE
IT IS HARD TO GET INTO COLLEGE
College Acceptance Rate Trends

1998
- Lehigh University: 52% of 8,384 applicants
- University of Connecticut: 73% of 10,405 applicants
- Harvard University: 12% of 16,819 applicants

2005
- Lehigh University: 41% of 10,501 applicants
- University of Connecticut: 51% of 18,363 applicants
- Harvard University: 11% of 19,009 applicants

2013
- Lehigh University: 31% of 12,589 applicants
- University of Connecticut: 45% of 29,996 applicants
- Harvard University: 5.8% of 34,295 applicants

**Most percentages rounded to the nearest percent. The years listed refer to the year in which the applications were received. Statistics obtained from university databases.**
IT IS HARD TO GET INTO COLLEGE

THERE ARE SO MANY COLLEGE CHOICES
PERFECT
STEP ONE

Ideal for Grades 8-10
RESOURCES: BOOKS

- Colleges that Change Lives (Loren Pope)
- Fiske’s Guide to College (Edward Fiske)
- Where You Go is Not Who You’ll Be (Frank Bruni)
- The Hidden Ivies (Howard Green)
RESOURCES: THE INTERNET

• College Board Website
• Specific College Websites
• Naviance
  • Get your login from Mrs. Carhart
HI, WE ARE RESOURCES
STEP 2

Ideal for Grades 8-10
What do you need AND want in a college?
FOCUS ON YOURSELF
STEP 3

Ideal for Grades 9-11
CREATE A COLLEGE LIST

Dream Schools

If getting in and paying for college weren’t issues, where would you want to attend? A dream school is a college where your academic credentials fall in the lower end, or even below, the school’s average range for the cohort of students accepted the previous year. Dream schools might be long shots, but they should still be possible. Don’t let the sticker price of a financial reach school scare you off! Financial need, academic strength, and a college’s desire to have you on campus can all influence your financial aid award and make the cost of attendance more manageable.

Target Schools

A target school is one where your academic credentials (grades, SAT or ACT scores, and class rank) fall well within the school’s average range for the most recently accepted class. There are no guarantees, but it’s not unreasonable to expect to be accepted to several of your target schools.

Safety Schools

A safety school is one where your academic credentials exceed the school’s range for the average first-year student. You should be reasonably certain that you will be admitted to your safety schools. Like your dream and target schools, these should also be colleges you’d be happy to attend. In addition to admissions criteria, it’s a good idea to think about financial aid when creating your list of safety schools—make sure there is at least one school that you know your family can afford on that list.

Adapted from Princeton Review
STEP 4

Ideal for Grades 10-11
STEP 5

Grade 12
APPLY!
STEP 6

Grade 12
Celebrate Acceptances
Brush Off Rejection
STEP 7

Grade 12
ONE FINAL TRUTH...
THERE IS NO SECRET TO UNLOCKING COLLEGE SUCCESS
PROS & CONS RESOURCE


STAR METHOD RESOURCE