



UNIVERSITY  
**PREP**

DISCOVER TOGETHER



# Class of 2021: Parent College Night

(Welcome, sophomore parents, too!)

Wednesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020

# Set An Intention!

## What Kind Of Family Do You Want To Be During the College Process?

in·ten·tion

[in-ten-shuhn]

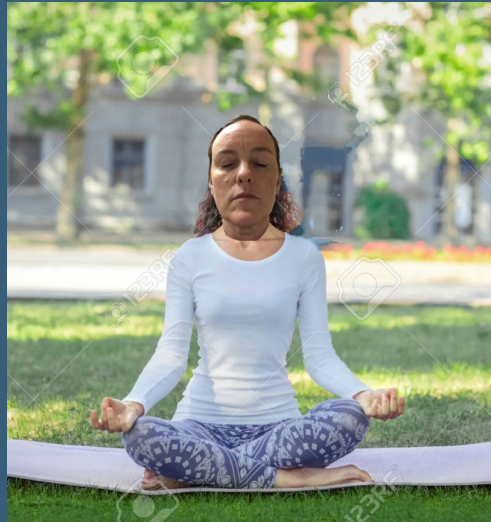
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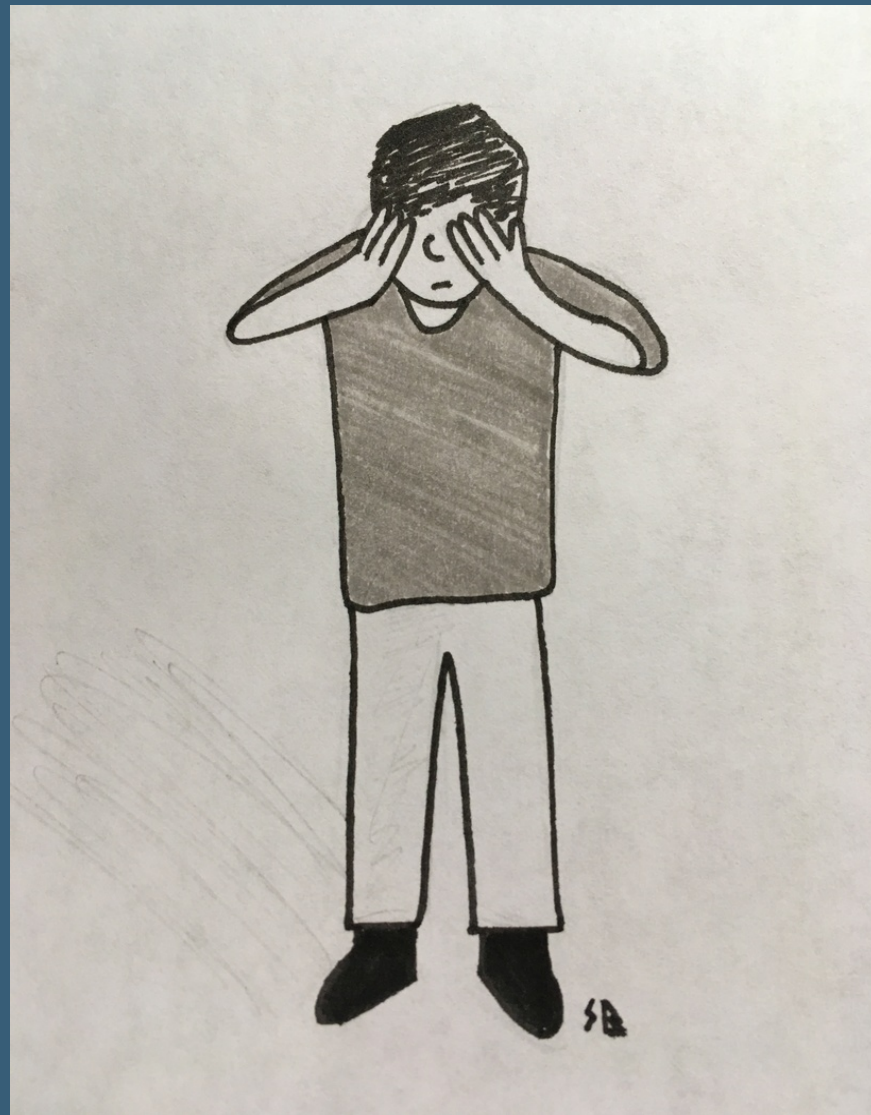
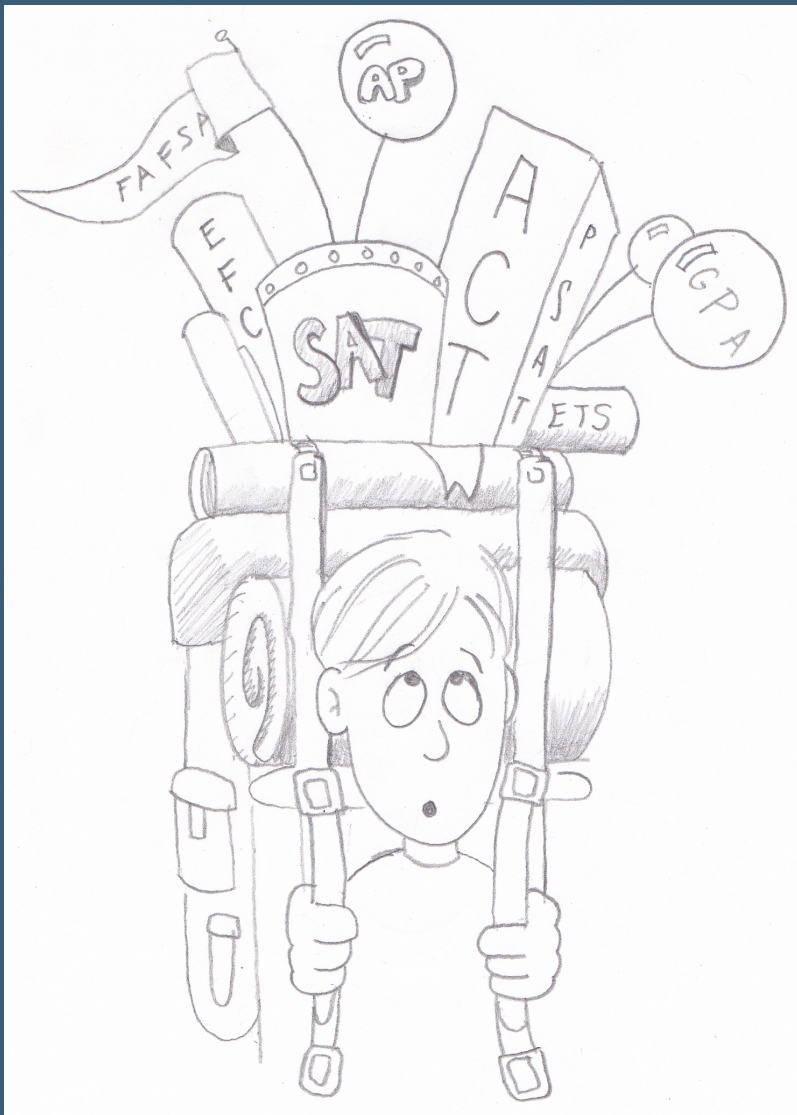
purpose or attitude toward the effect of one's actions or conduct

**Set Your Intention** for  
the College Process.  
Ooooooooooooo

“Our **intention**  
creates  
our **reality**.”

Wayne Dyer











# Reframing the Conversation About College

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- *What is one accomplishment from the last four years of which you are proud?*
- *What is one unchanging positive quality about your personality that you hold dear?*
- *What is one challenge—either big or small—that you have overcome in high school?*

# Be Nice To Your Family!

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PUMAS

UNIVERSITY PLACE

PUMAS

BLUE BIRD

WASHINGTON  
ALU8828  
EVERGREEN STATE

PUMABUS



# National Admissions Trends

## Trend #1: More Colleges and Universities are “test-optional”

U.S. News ranks more than 300 schools considered “top tier” that are ACT/SAT optional, including:

- American University
- Bates College
- Bowdoin College
- Brandeis University
- University of Chicago
- Colorado College
- George Washington University
- Pitzer College
- Smith College
- Union College
- Wake Forest University
- Wesleyan University
- Whitman College
- Worcester Polytechnic Institute



# Test Optional is up! But...

At many competitive schools, standardized tests remain an important part of the application process.

## Washington University in St. Louis

1480-1550	33-35
Middle 50% SAT Score	Middle 50% ACT Score

## Tulane University

Middle 50% Converted SAT
1410-1510
Middle 50% ACT
31-33

## Emory University

SAT Math (25th-75th percentile)	730-790
SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (25th-75th percentile)	690-760
ACT (25th-75th percentile)	32-35

## Northeastern University

33-35	1470-1550
ACT	Redesigned SAT*

## Tufts University

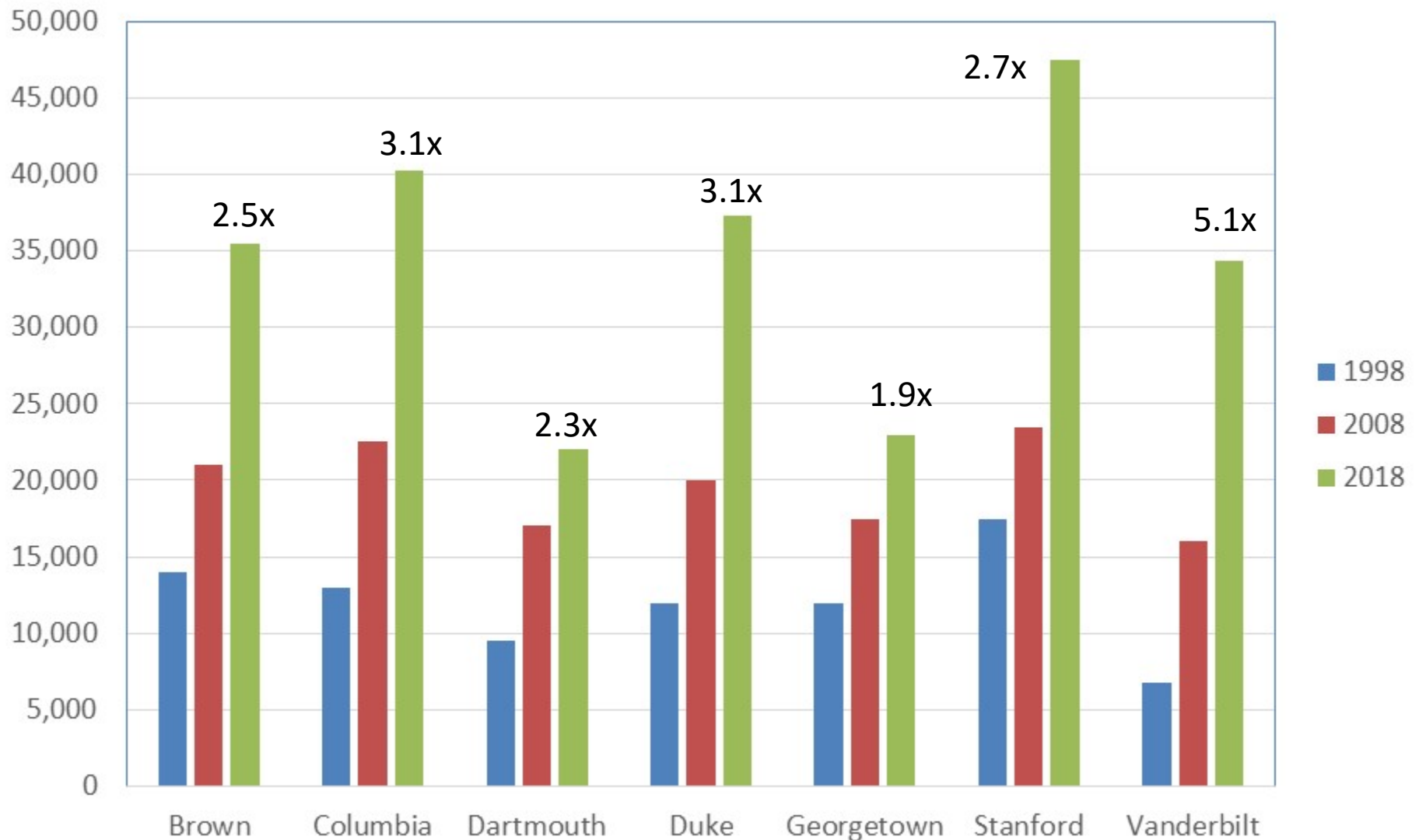
Mid 50% Range for SAT - ERW	700-760
Mid 50% Range for SAT - Math	730-790
Mid 50% Range for ACT	32-35
Mean ACT Composite	33.3

## Vanderbilt University

SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (EBRW)	710-760
SAT Math Middle 50%	750-800
ACT Middle 50%	33 - 35

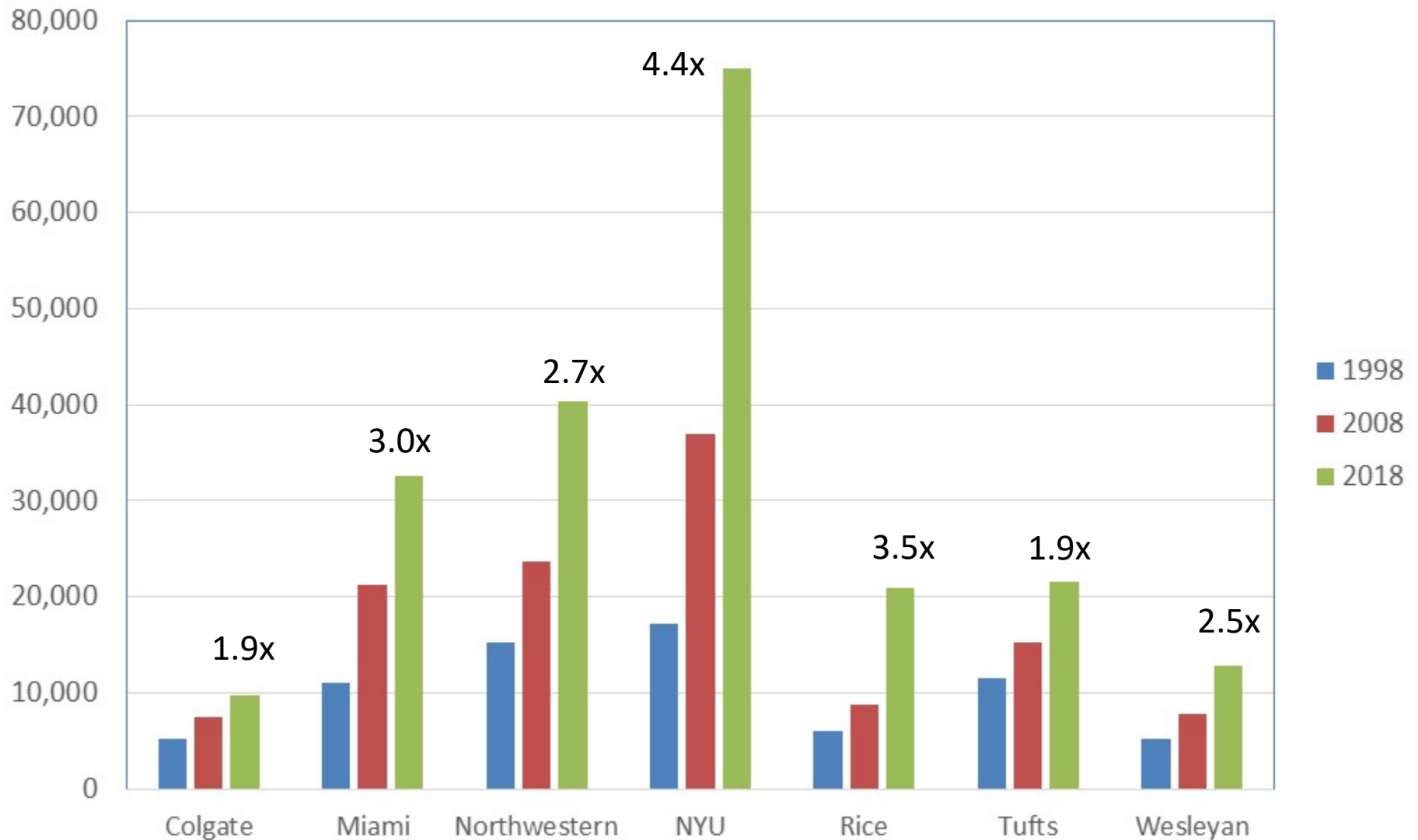
# Trend #2: Demographic shifts

While there are slightly fewer high school students, they are applying to more colleges –  
but very specific colleges

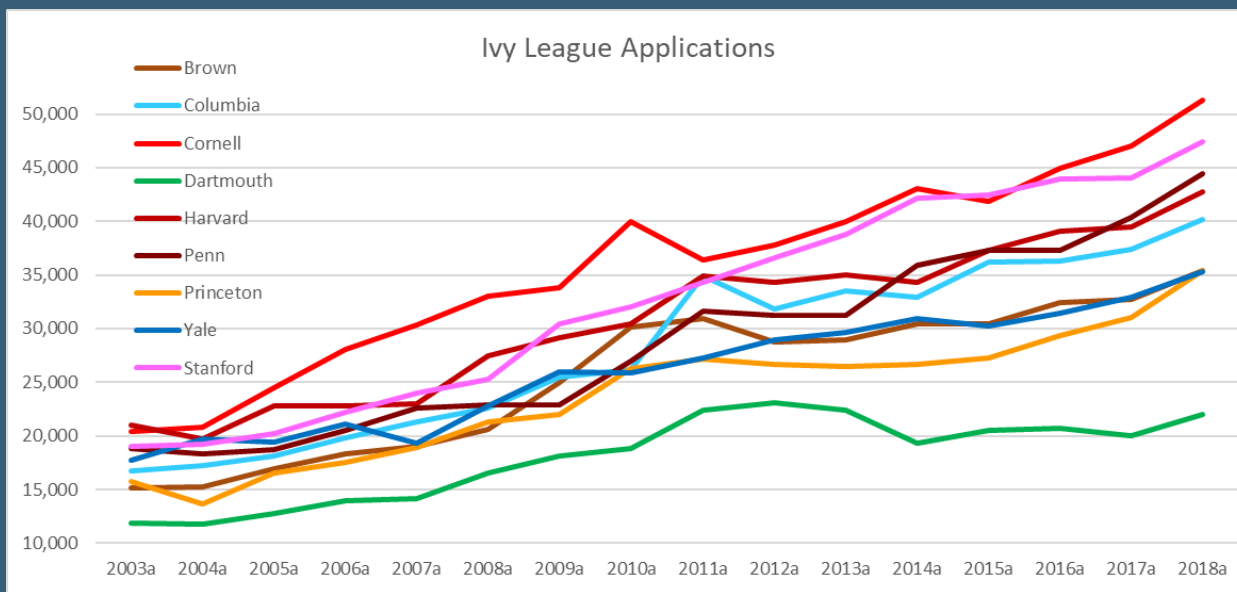
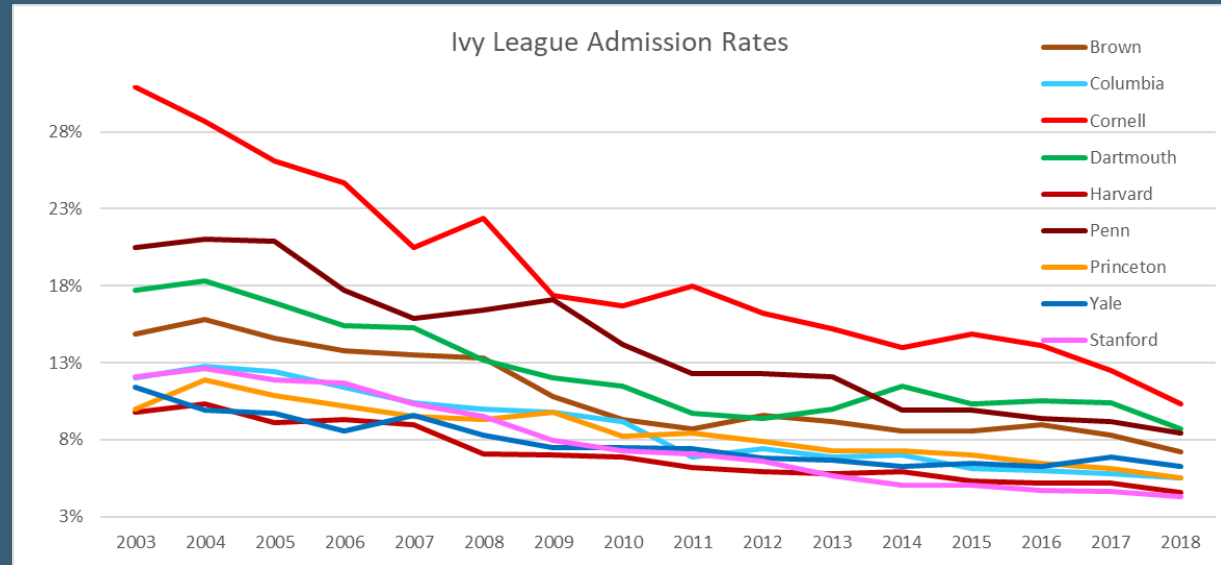




# A sampling of national application trends over time



# What's going on at the Ivy League +



# Trend #3: But not all schools are getting more applicants

Smaller, rural colleges are having budget shortfalls as demographics shift – we are starting to see some of these schools closing or merging

## Another Small College Closing

Mount Ida, after failed attempt at merger, will shut down. It is third college in 2018 to announce it will close.

4 COMMENTS

By Scott Jaschik // April 9, 2018

LOCAL // EDUCATION NEWS

## Marlboro College releases documents related to closure

Dec. 23, 2019 | Updated: Dec. 23, 2019 9:32 a.m.

## BU and Wheelock Reach Merger Agreement

BRIEF

## Former president sues shuttered Vermont college

## Oregon College Of Art And Craft To Close In Spring

by April Baer [Follow](#) OPB Feb. 7, 2019 4:17 p.m. | Updated: Feb. 11, 2019 11:54 a.m. | Portland, Ore.

## Hampshire Struggles to Stay Afloat

Hampshire College, the nearly 50-year-old experiment in self-directed education, facing "bruising financial realities," looks for

## College of New Rochelle Will Close

By Greg Toppo // March 6, 2019



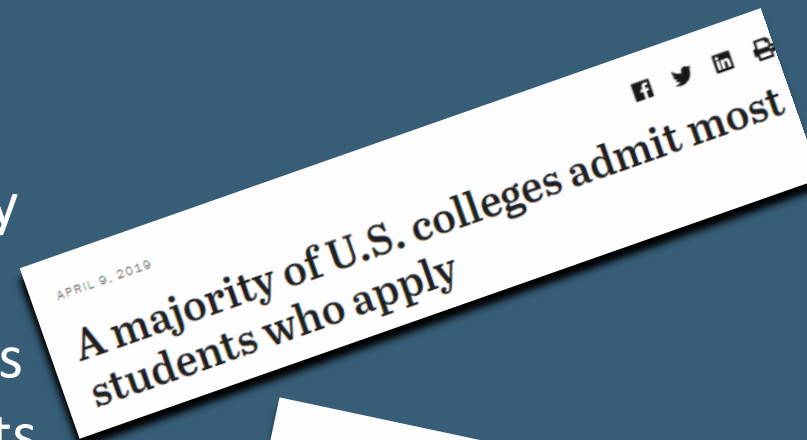
# Trend #4: most colleges still admit students!

**Myth:** it's impossible to get into college!

**Reality:**








- The average four-year, not-for-profit college/university admits the majority of its applicants
- For fall 2017, only 17 of 1,364 colleges admitted fewer than 10% of applicants
- These extremely competitive schools amounted to just 4.1% of overall student enrollment
- This data doesn't include community colleges, which are open admissions.

Data from Pew Research <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/04/09/a-majority-of-u-s-colleges-admit-most-students-who-apply/>



# Trend #5: The Early Show

ED. EA. RD. Huh?

Decision Plan	Submit application early	Receive admissions decision early	Binding (expected to enroll if admitted)	Can apply to other schools under this decision plan	Deadline to accept or decline offers of admission
Early Action					May 1
Early Decision					N/A (offer is automatically accepted)
Regular Decision	Optional				May 1

# The Early Bird Catches the Worm!



- Colleges that offer binding Early Decision (ED) report a steady increase in ED applicants (up 4-5%).
- Colleges that offer Early Action (EA) report a steady increase in EA applicants (up 9%)
- Early programs were most popular with those colleges with greater levels of competitiveness (lower admit rates).
- Among all colleges with ED, their regular admit rate was 50.7 percent, but the rate for ED was 62.3 percent.
- For colleges with EA, the overall admit rate was 64.1 percent and the rate for EA applicants was 73.6 percent.



# The Early Bird *really* does Catch the Worm

Washington University in St. Louis

**31,320**  
Applications



15% Overall Admit Rate  
42% Early Decision Admit Rate  
13% Regular Decision Admit Rate

St. Olaf College

**76%**

Early Decision Admit rate

**45%**

Regular Decision Admit rate

Duke University

**18.4%**

EARLY DECISION  
ACCEPTANCE RATE

**6.4%**

REGULAR DECISION  
ACCEPTANCE RATE

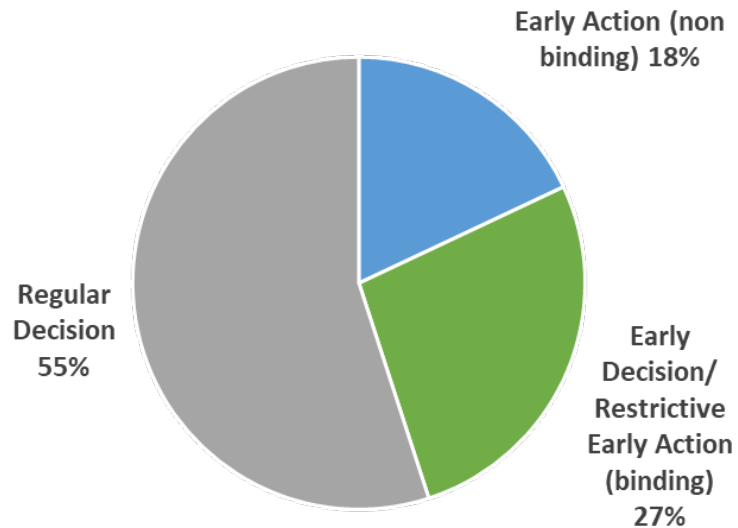
Dartmouth College

**Application Profile**

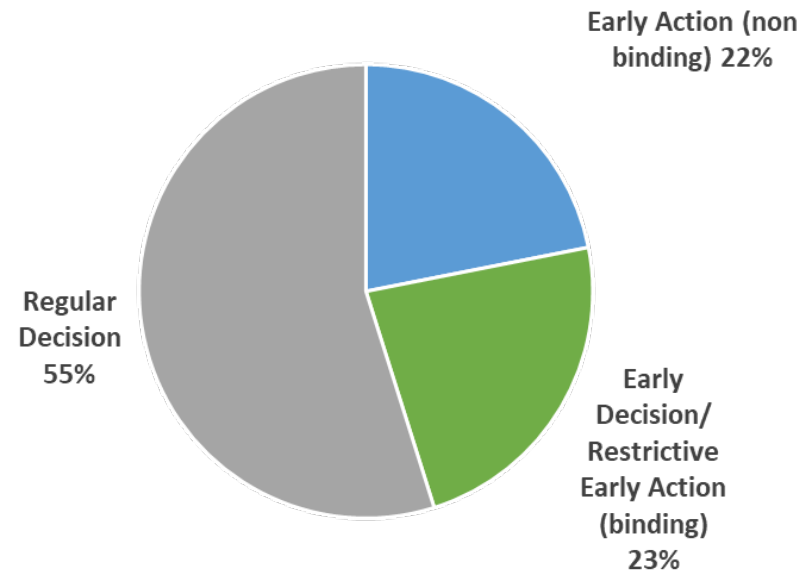
- Applications: 22,033
- Acceptances: 1,925
- Acceptance Rate: 8.7%
- Percent Enrolled Early Decision: 46%

# UPrep's Early Show

**Matriculation by Application Type  
2019**



**Matriculation by Application Type  
2015-2019**



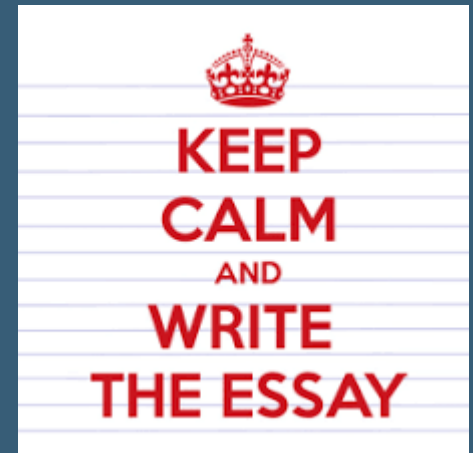
# Trend #6: Get ready to write. A lot.

Many of the colleges where UPrep students apply are requiring more essays.

You're on a voyage in the thirteenth century, sailing across the tempestuous seas. What if, suddenly, you fell off the edge of the Earth?

Joan of Arkansas. Queen Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Babe Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Mash up a historical figure with a new time period, environment, location, or occupation, and tell us their story.

Why do you want to attend \_\_\_\_\_ college?



# State of the Union: UPrep College Edition

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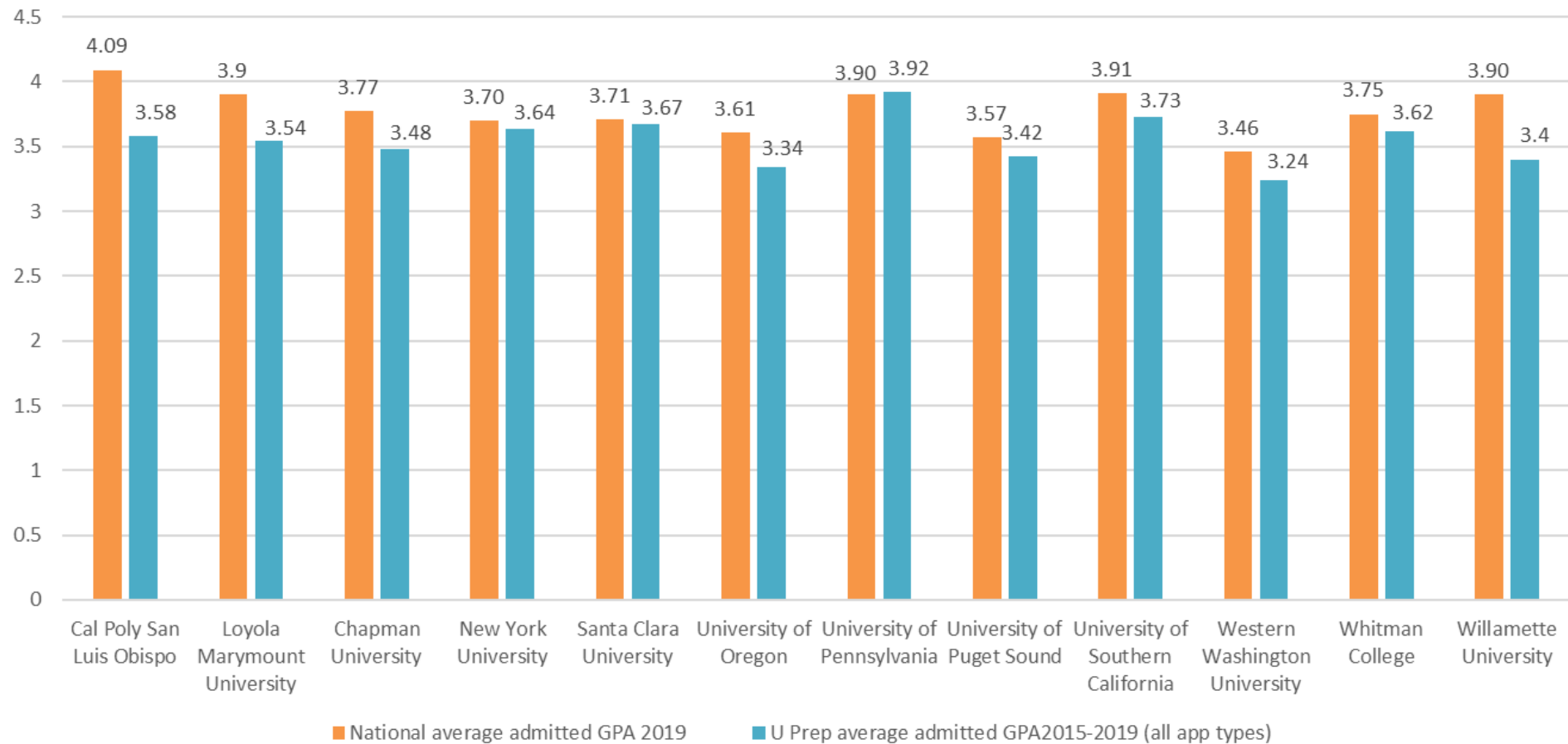
Now that we've talked about National Trends, what's happening at UPrep?

- Our students are accepted to college at a higher rate than national averages
- Our alumni visit often – they're happy!
- On average, students apply to 9 colleges
- We recommend applying to between 6-12 total schools
- Students should consider a handful of schools from each category: a few “likely,” “possible,” and “reach” schools
- We will communicate with each family individually to determine a plan for Early vs. Regular Decision



# Our students' grade point averages are understood in context

Average Admitted GPA, 2019



# So is the rigor of our curriculum, even (especially?) at UW

## University Prep

3.38: Average high school GPA for UPrep students entering UW over a 5-year period

3.33: Average UW GPA after the first year over a 5-year period

38: Total number of fall 2019 applicants

25: total number of fall 2019 admits

7: total number of students enrolled

## Overall 2019 UW Freshman Class

3.88-3.96: Middle 50% GPA

3.83: Average overall GPA

12,516: Washington applicants

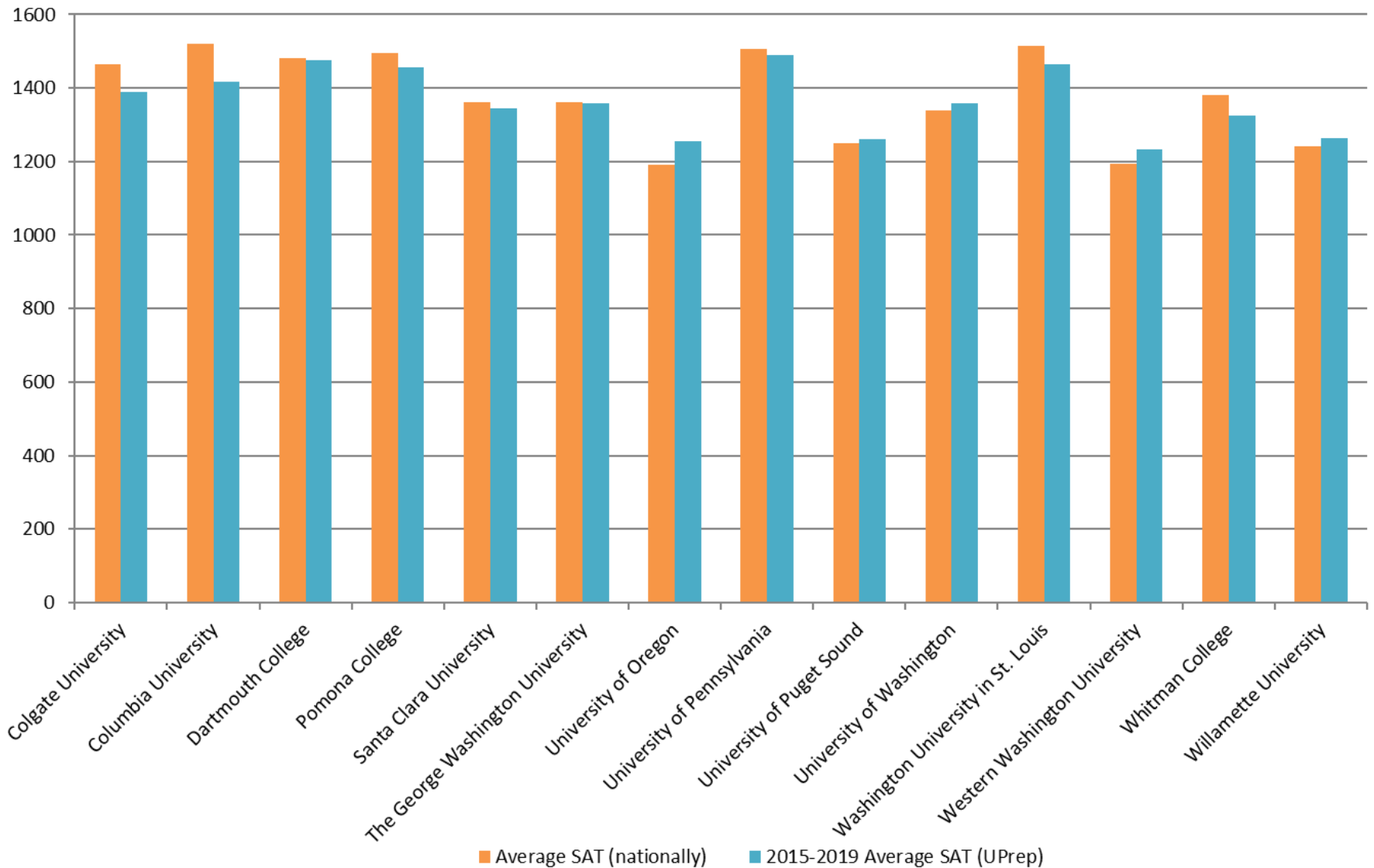
7,436: Washington admits

4,400: Anticipated enrollment of Washington students



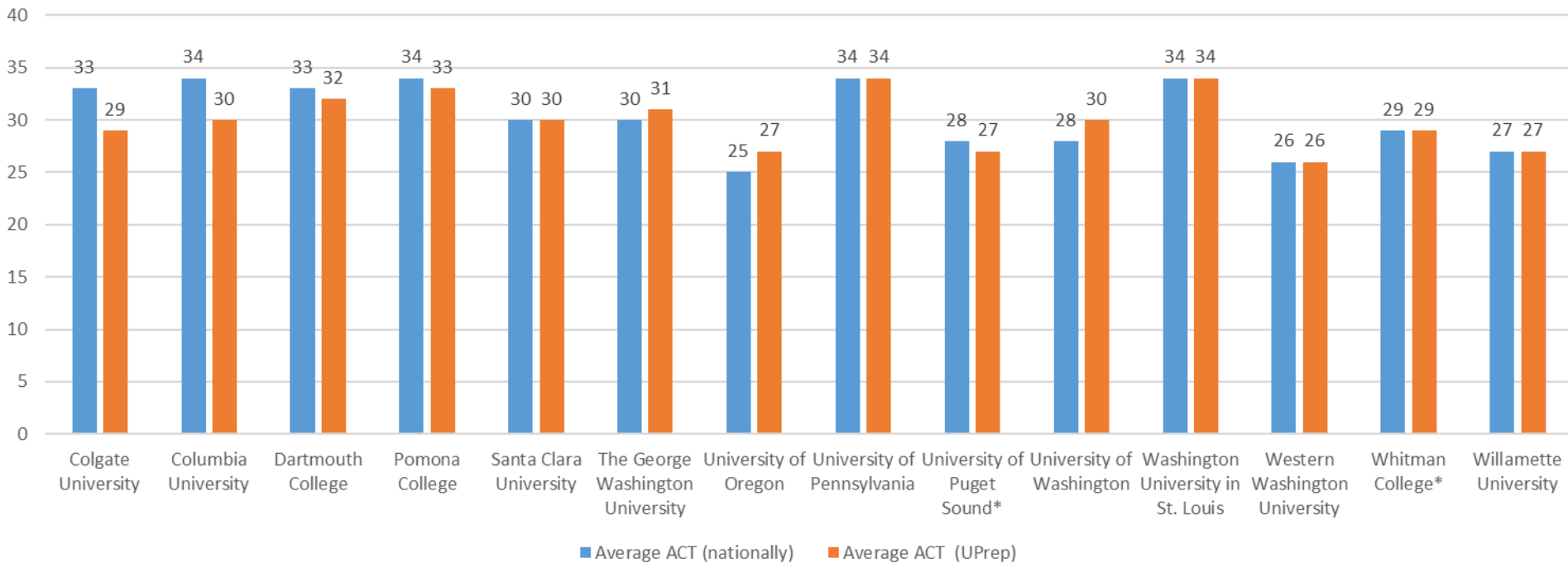
# ...but testing averages are fairly comparable

Average Admitted SAT score, 2019



# ...but testing averages are fairly comparable

Average Admitted ACT score, 2019

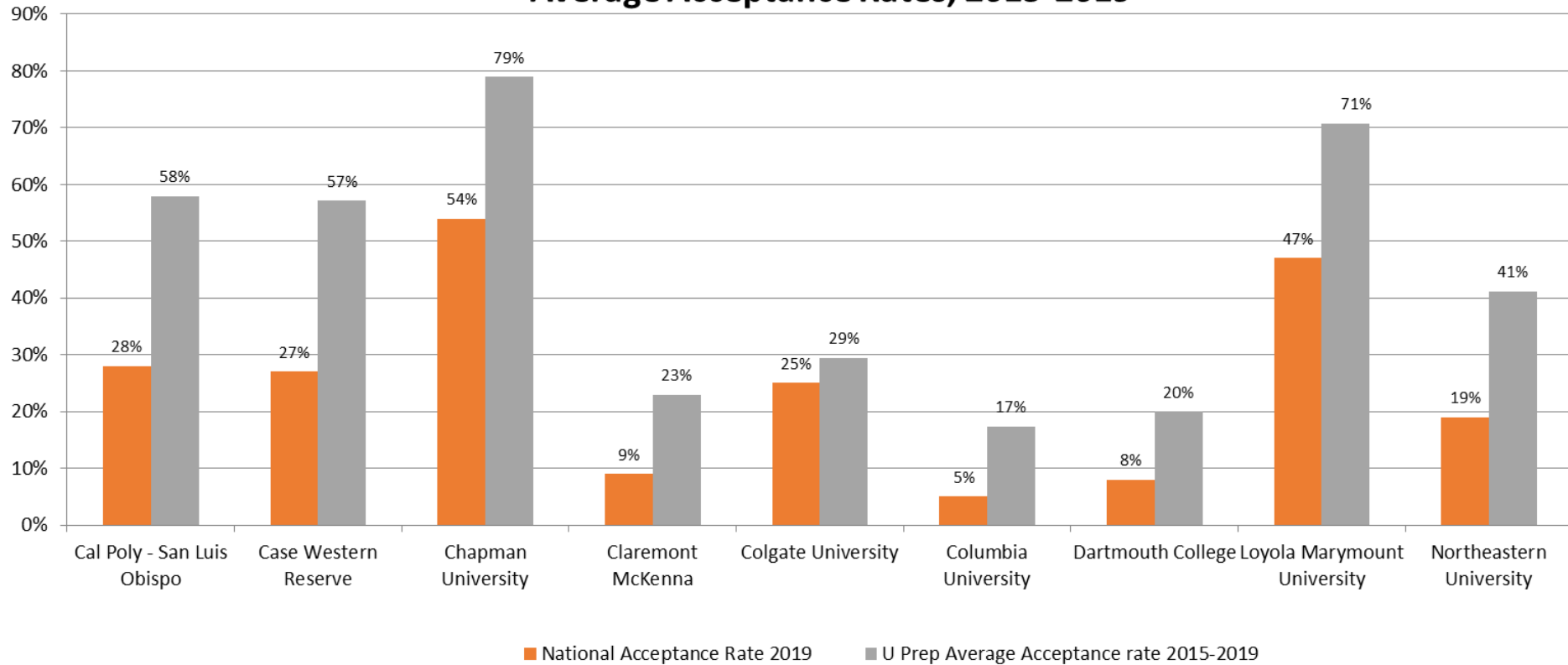






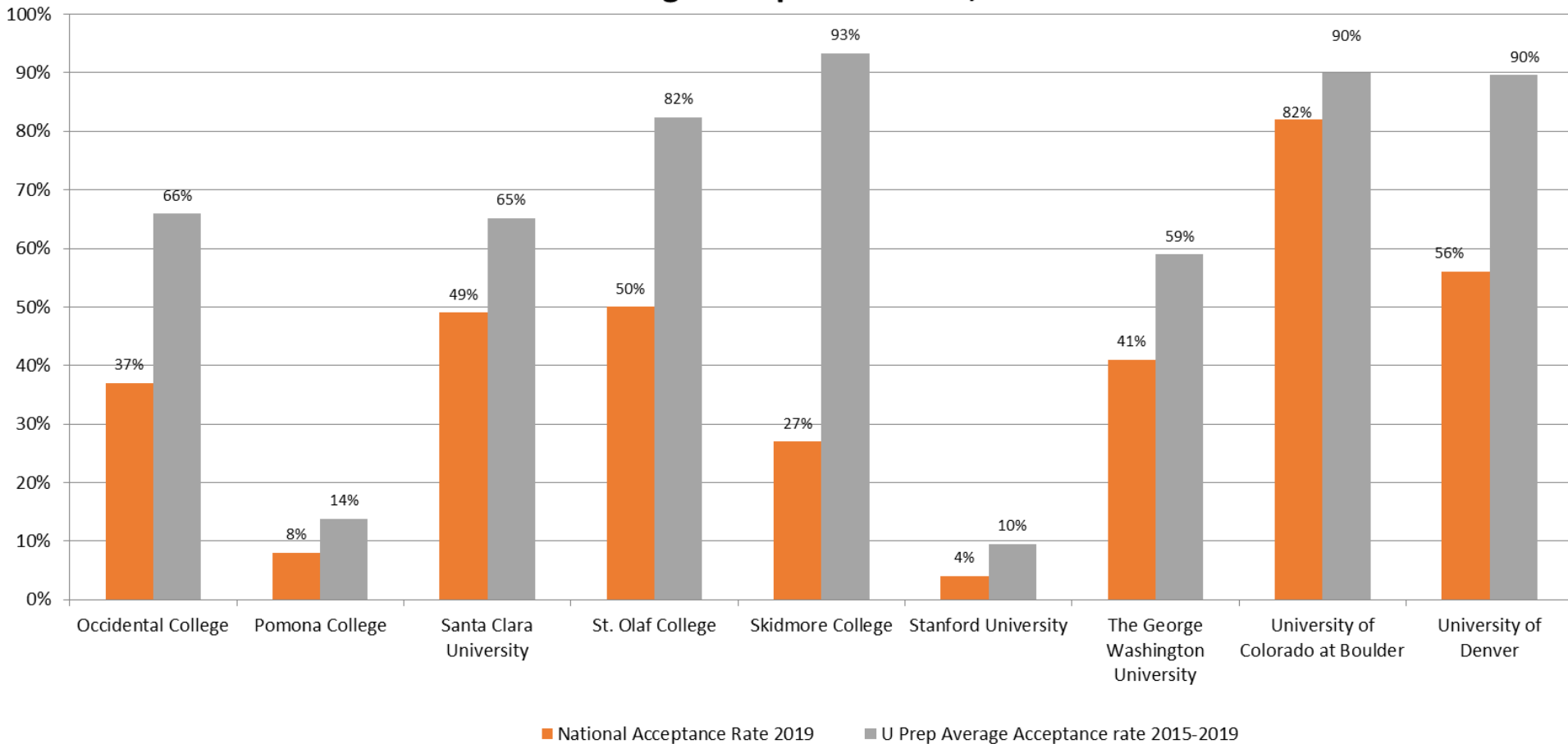
# Our acceptance rates are usually higher – PART I

**Average Acceptance Rates, 2015-2019**



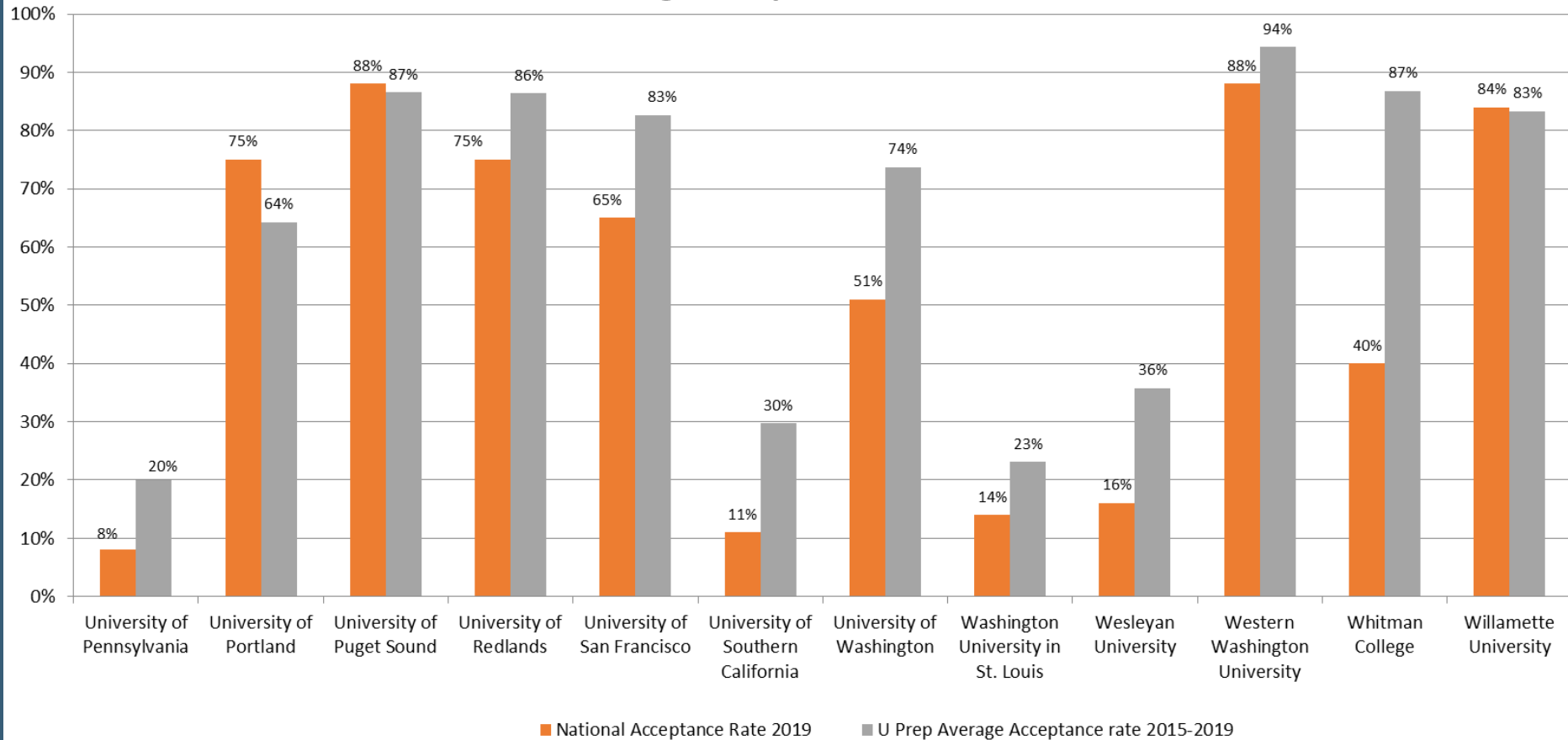
# Our acceptance rates are usually higher – PART II

**Average Acceptance Rates, 2015-2019**



# Our acceptance rates are usually higher – PART III

**Average Acceptance Rates, 2015-2019**







# Rolling out to students soon: College Kickstart

- Enriched admissions data
- Personalized Insights
- Better aligned expectations



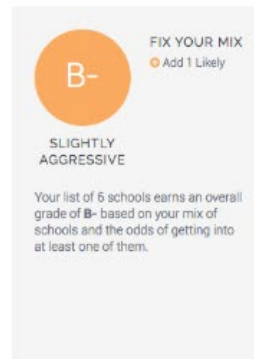
## Here's a snapshot of our findings

Given a list of schools each student has in mind and their academic credentials, we'll make it easy to:

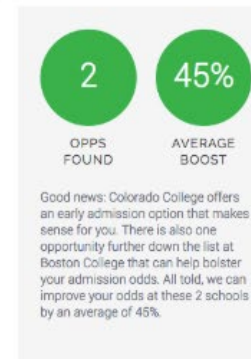
- Ensure the list is balanced and set up for success
- Capitalize on early admission opportunities
- Minimize wasted effort along the way
- Track key application requirements
- Consider affordability as part of the plan

Better yet, plans are automatically updated each time the student's list of schools or academic profile change.

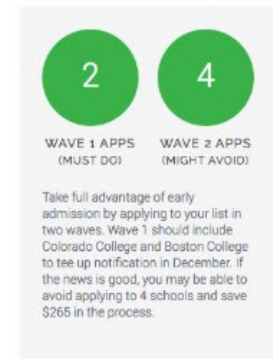
### List Check



### Early Admission



### Action Plan



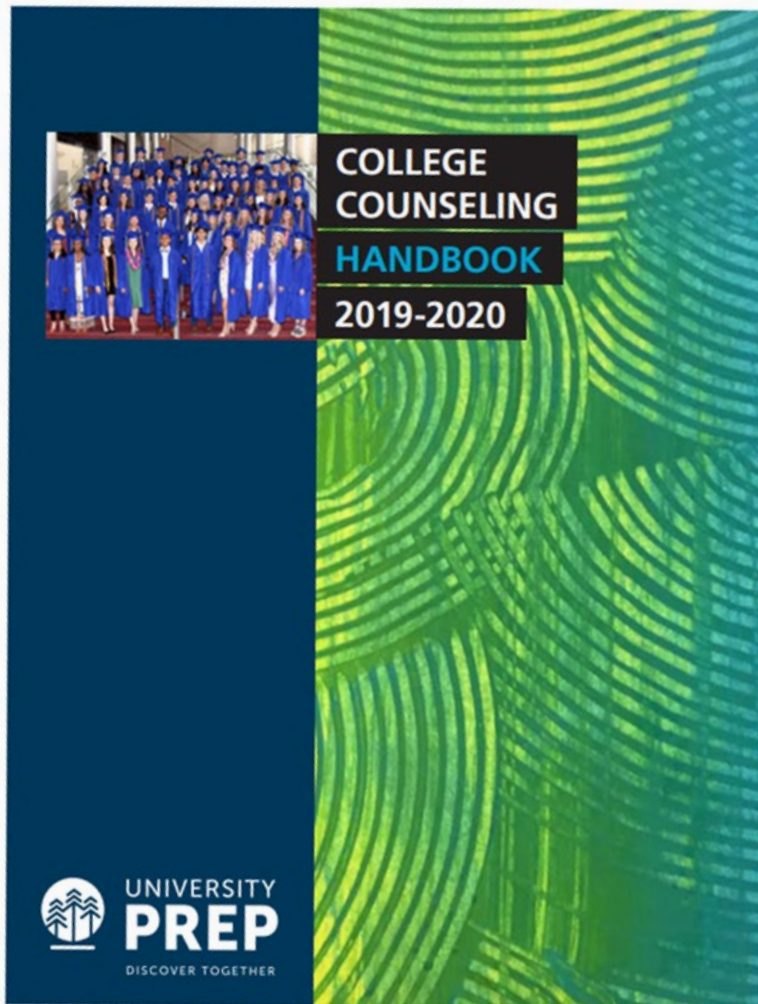
# College Visits

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- Visit colleges anytime UPrep is not in session
  - Most colleges have a special visit section to their website which includes recommended lodging.
- Explore local colleges – they are worth the visit even if you don't apply
- Pages 8-10 of the College Handbook address how to make the most of your college visit
- Take photos and notes (or a smartphone interview on a bench!)
- Schedule tours in advance online
- Talk to us afterwards or before – we want to hear your impressions, too!



# Handbook: Significant Pages



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Front Cover Art: Hand-Made Book Cover: Ruth L., Grade 9



# Another Plug For the College Counseling Website and SCOIR!

The screenshot shows the 'College Counseling - University of Prep' website. The left sidebar contains a navigation menu with the following items: Middle School, Upper School, College Counseling (highlighted in orange), College Placement, College Web Links, For College Reps, Naviance, SCOIR (indicated by a red arrow), Integrated Learning, Technology, Makerspace, Library, Daily Schedule, Intensives, and Social Emotional Learning. The main content area is titled 'COLLEGE COUNSELING' and features a quote from a parent, a paragraph about the office's role, and a section titled 'Our Results' which lists student achievements. On the right, there is a video titled 'College Counseling at UPrep' with a play button, a section titled '5 TIPS FOR HELPING TEENS WITH THEIR COLLEGE SEARCH' (indicated by a red arrow), a 'Helpful Handouts' list including 'College Admissions FAQ', 'College Admission Landscape at UPrep', 'College Process Overview and Timeline', 'College Handbook 2019-2020', 'Gap Years & Spring Admission', 'Summer Opportunities Handout', and 'AP Registration', and a 'Presentations' section (indicated by a red arrow).

College Counseling - University of Prep

universityprep.org/academics/college-counseling

## Middle School

## Upper School

## College Counseling

### College Placement

### College Web Links

### For College Reps

### Naviance

### SCOIR

### Integrated Learning

### Technology

### Makerspace

### Library

### Daily Schedule

### Intensives

### Social Emotional Learning

## COLLEGE COUNSELING

"When I visited my daughter at college, I saw a young woman able to handle whatever comes her way, who knows where to turn for support, and how to move forward. Thank you, UPrep." *Parent of a recent UPrep alumna*

Helping students reach the next stage of their development – adulthood – is at the core of every interaction in UPrep's College Counseling Office. What many describe as the busiest office on campus is frequented by juniors and seniors seeking individual college counseling, parents looking for resources to assist their students in the college planning process, and young alumni excitedly reconnecting with the college counseling staff.

The bottom line is that the College Counseling Office expertly demystifies the college process for our students and their families while simultaneously ensuring that they fare extremely well in their search and selection process. College information nights for juniors and seniors, more than 200 visits from college admissions officers from around the country and the world, and expert administration of standardized tests simply add to the many services the office provides.

### Our Results

The results of our students' college admissions results speak volumes about who we are as a school:

- Over the past 5 years, our students have matriculated at 130 different colleges in 33 states and 5 foreign countries. At the 40 colleges that generated the most applications (6 or more UPrep applicants), our Pumas acceptance rate was 60% whereas the overall national acceptance rate was 44%.
- Our diverse student body finds collegiate homes at a robust range of institutions, from Stanford to Syracuse, and from the University of Chicago to the University of Washington.
- Although we celebrate our students' college outcomes, what we rejoice in the most is the lives of distinction our Pumas lead post-college. In employment ranging from medicine to the legal field and from education to global affairs, our alumni are forces for good and excellence in their chosen professions.

## College Counseling at UPrep

Learn more about our program:

### 5 TIPS FOR HELPING TEENS WITH THEIR COLLEGE SEARCH

## Helpful Handouts:

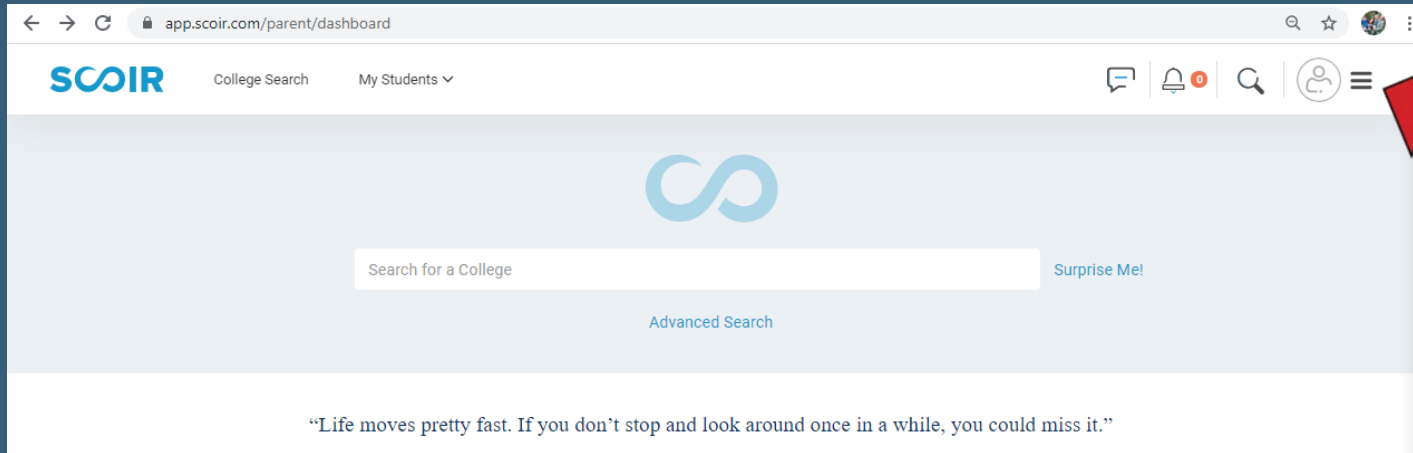
- College Admissions FAQ
- College Admission Landscape at UPrep
- College Process Overview and Timeline
- College Handbook 2019-2020
- Gap Years & Spring Admission
- Summer Opportunities Handout
- AP Registration

## Presentations:

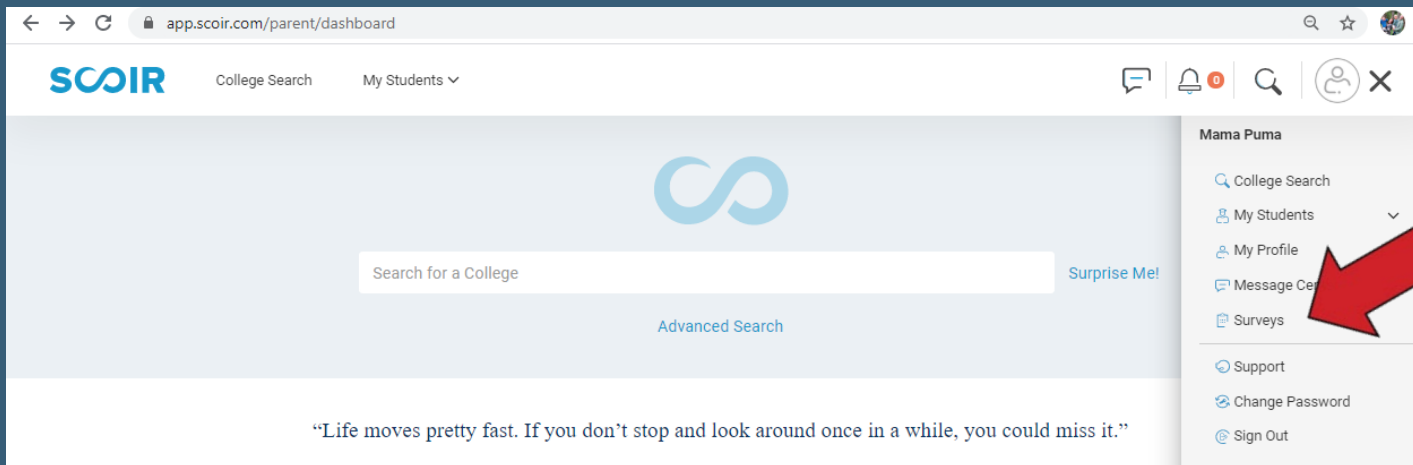
# Parents: Your Homework

## Complete the Parent Questionnaire in SCOIR

Step 1



Step 2



# Gap Year and Summer Opportunities



**Date:** Thursday, February 13, 2020

**Location:** Roosevelt High School

**Event Time:** 6:00 – 8:30 pm

**To Register:** [eventbrite.com/e/usa-gap-year-fair-2020-seattle-wa-registration-79791676051](https://eventbrite.com/e/usa-gap-year-fair-2020-seattle-wa-registration-79791676051)

<http://www.universityprep.org/academics/college-counseling>

## Helpful Handouts:

- College Admissions FAQ
- College Admission Landscape at UPrep
- College Process Overview and Timeline
- College Handbook 2019-2020
- Gap Years & Spring Admission
- Summer Opportunities Handout
- AP Registration

## Presentations:

- Sophomore Parent Coffee Fall 2019
- Junior Parent/Student College Night Presentation Fall 2019
- Junior Parent College Night Winter 2019
- Senior Parent College Night Fall 2019
- Senior College Transition Program Spring 2019

# KEY DATES: Case Studies

## Tuesday, April 21-Wednesday, April 22

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Joint Program with Bush, SAAS, Northwest and UPrep

Families can choose ONE night to attend, but choose from either location!

The Bush School: Tuesday, 4/21

U Prep: Wednesday, 4/22

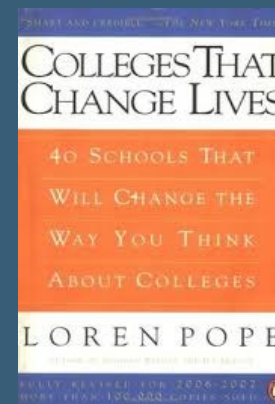
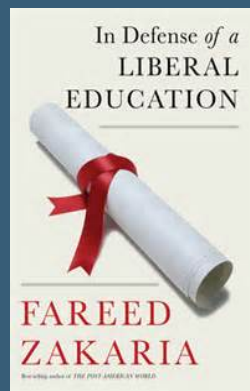
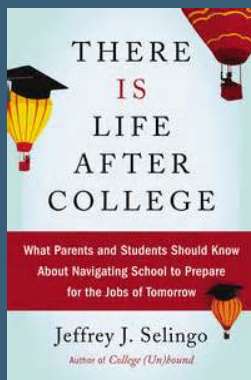
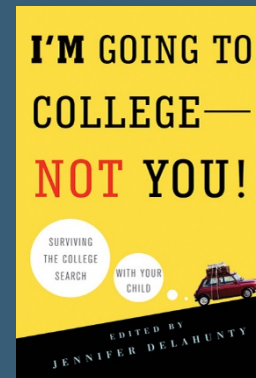
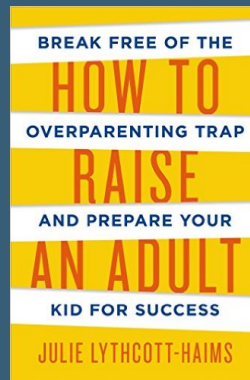
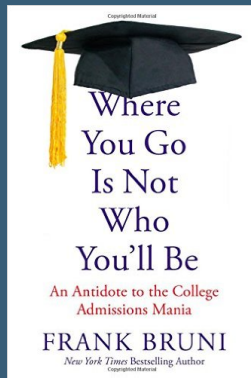
# Other College Counseling Programming

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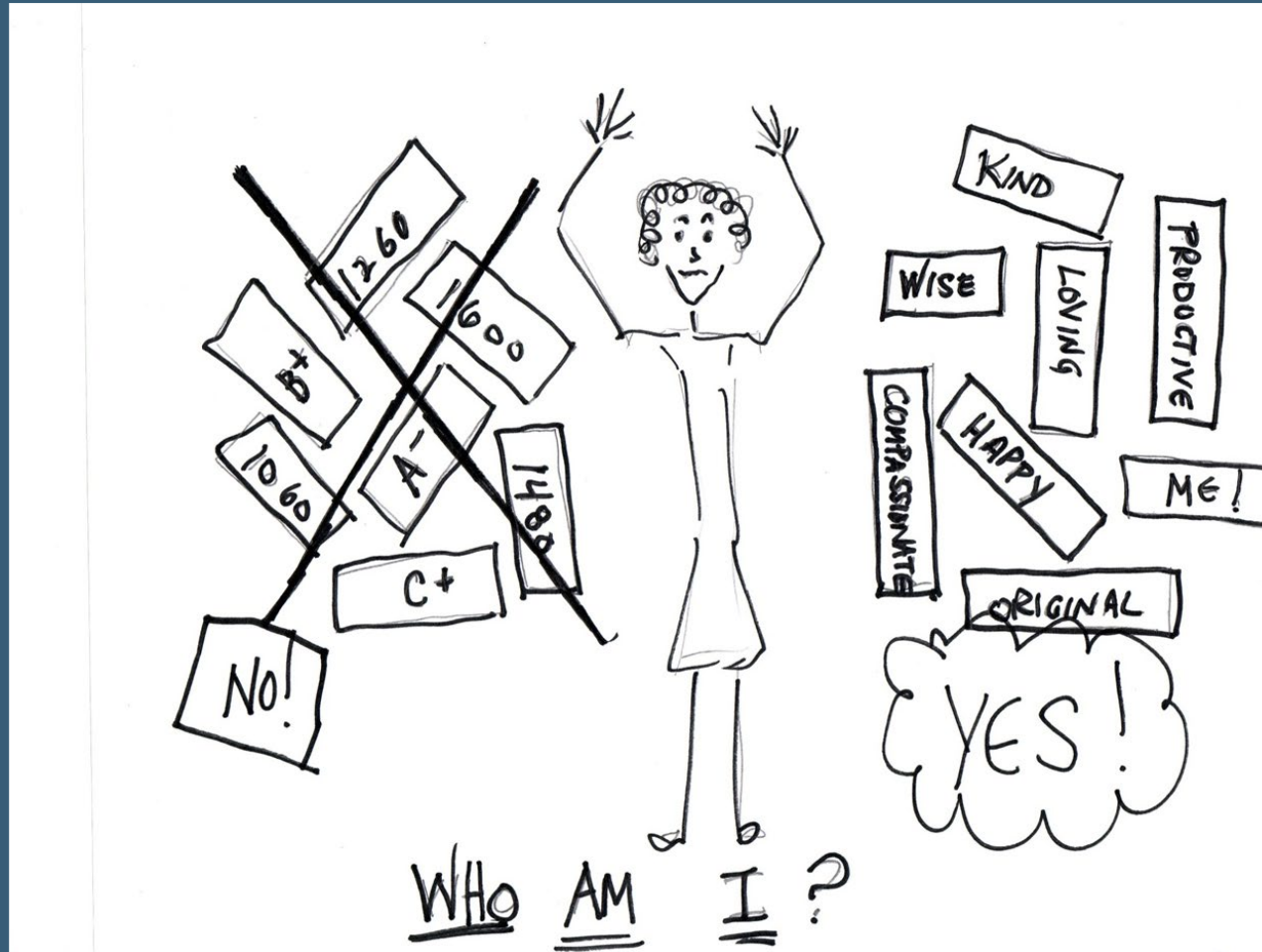
- June Essay Workshop:  
Thursday, June 18  
10 am – 2pm
- August Interviewing & Essay Workshop:  
Date TBD  
10 am – 2pm
- Several fall Application “Bootcamps”  
September & October, TBD
- As many individual and family meetings as you deem necessary



# College Process Bookshelf



# Don't Lose Sight Of Who Your Student Is







# Tonight's Special Guests



**Becca Larson**

**West Coast Regional  
Director of Admissions  
Muhlenberg College, PA**



**Chris Gruber, Dean of  
Admission & Financial Aid  
Davidson College, NC**



**Joanna May  
Associate Dean &  
Director of  
Undergraduate  
Admissions  
Columbia University,  
NY**

# A Fireside Chat!

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Paul, please light the fire by clicking on this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NiqM3IVirkw>