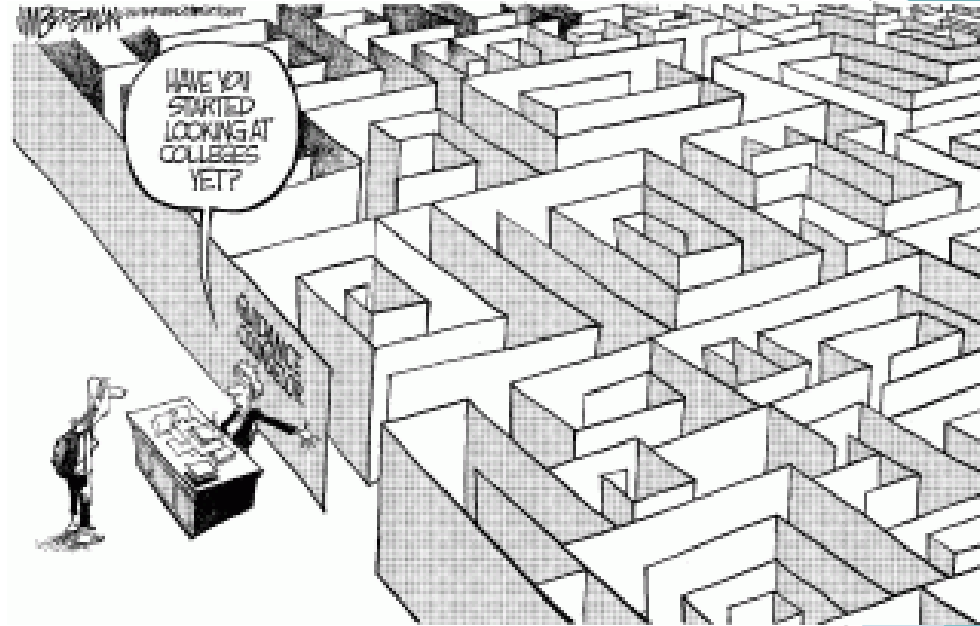


Approaching the College Admissions Process

Tamara Lapman, Associate Director of Admission
University of Miami

**In a
process
seen as
insanity...**



Finding some clarity...

- ▶ Self-reflect
- ▶ Research
- ▶ Visit/connect virtually
- ▶ Refine
- ▶ Apply!



Self-Reflect

- ▶ Do you want to be close to home or farther away?
- ▶ Would you prefer to be in a big city, middle of nowhere, or somewhere in between?
- ▶ Do you learn best in small classes or are you comfortable in a larger environment?
- ▶ Do you know what you plan to study? (If not, that's absolutely fine!)
- ▶ Are there particular elements of a university that are important to you (i.e. athletic team, religious affiliation, affinity group)?
- ▶ Etc...



Research, Research, Research

- ▶ Bigfuture.collegeboard.org
- ▶ University websites
 - ▶ Join their contact lists via the Admissions section
- ▶ University social media channels

The screenshot shows the BigFuture website header with the CollegeBoard logo and navigation links: Get Started, Find Colleges, Explore Careers, Pay for College, and Get In. Below the header is a green banner with the text: "There are more than 2,000 colleges in the United States. Find the right college for you." Two search boxes are present: one for filtering by location, major, and more, and another for looking up a college by name.

CollegeBoard BigFuture

Sign In Search

Get Started Find Colleges Explore Careers Pay for College Get In

There are more than 2,000 colleges in the United States.
Find the right college for you.

Filter by location, major, and more. Search for colleges

Already have a school in mind? Look up a college by name

Visit/Connect Virtually

- ▶ Attend information sessions/open houses (many offered virtually now)
- ▶ Virtual campus tours
- ▶ Connect with the admission officer for your region

YOU | VISIT

YOUR COLLEGE SEARCH STARTS HERE.
EXPLORE OVER 600 COLLEGES WITHOUT EVER LEAVING HOME.

Colleges Search

It's never been easier to check out so many schools in one place. Browse around or use the search to pick a destination. When you find somewhere you like, connect directly with the school from within the tour. Did we mention it's FREE?



Advice for Virtual Engagement

- ▶ Consider unique opportunities to connect with each university
- ▶ Go beyond attendance and be an active, engaged participant
- ▶ Virtual engagement measures fit both ways
- ▶ How might your engagement be evaluated by institutions?
- ▶ Consider additional follow up, if appropriate

Refine and Find your “Match”

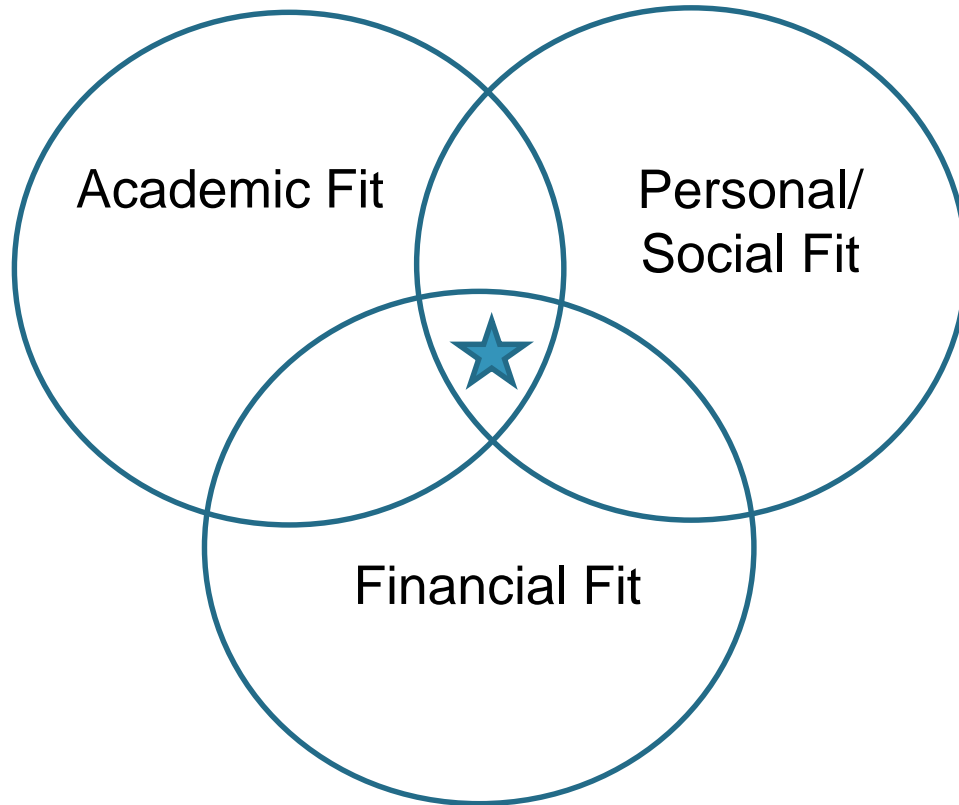
Finding your ideal university is a two way street: You need to understand the university, and they need to understand you.

- ▶ Are you a good match for the institution?
 - ▶ Academic preparedness
 - ▶ Personal qualities & extracurricular involvement
 - ▶ Ability to grow
- ▶ Is the institution a good match for you?
 - ▶ Location, size, population, cost
 - ▶ Programs & activities of interest



**BEST
FIT**

A balanced college list to apply to...



Academic Fit

- ▶ Do they have the major(s)/program(s) you're interested in
- ▶ Where does your profile place you in terms of admissibility?
 - ▶ “Likely” schools - student's academic profile is significantly stronger than the middle 50% of students typically admitted
 - ▶ “Target” schools - student's academic profile is similar to the middle 50%
 - ▶ “Reach” schools - student's academic profile is not as strong as the middle 50%

Personal/Social Fit

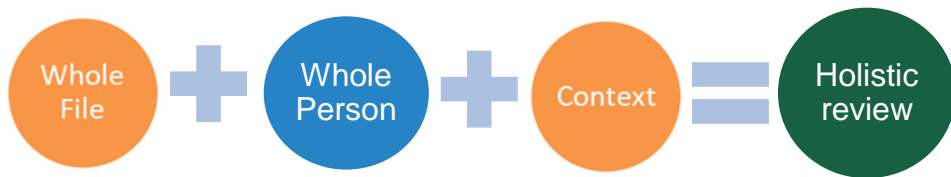
- ▶ Size, type, location
- ▶ Campus culture
- ▶ Activities, athletics, Greek life, residential experience, etc.
- ▶ Use social media channels to learn about campus life/student experiences

Financial Fit

- ▶ Published cost of attendance is not the whole story
- ▶ Availability of need-based aid and/or merit-based scholarships
- ▶ Use net price calculators (collegecost.ed.gov/net-price or on university websites)
- ▶ Applying for need-based aid - FAFSA/CSS Profile
 - ▶ Be mindful of deadlines!

How colleges evaluate applicants

A holistic review can be thought of as a three-part equation:



Reading the whole application: We will look at transcripts and test scores, but we will also read the extracurricular section, letters of recommendation, and essays.

Understanding the applicant as a whole: Through the letters, extracurriculars, and essays, we will understand how the student will contribute to our community.

It's all about context: We review your application within the context of your school and experiences. We consider the circumstances and/or educational opportunities that have been available to you.

A holistic process allows us to see the best parts of who you are.

- ▶ An applicant's candidacy is evaluated on the basis of all the information provided in the application and within the context of that year's applicant pool.
 - ▶ High school transcript - quantitative and qualitative elements
 - ▶ Extracurricular activities - quality over quantity
 - ▶ Essay(s) - authentic voice
 - ▶ Letters of recommendation - context, context, context
 - ▶ Test scores? Test optional? Test blind?
 - ▶ Context of the pool - look at previous year's admitted student profile

Questions?

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