

APPLICATION REVIEW/SELECTIVE COLLEGES

MINNETONKA HS

SEPTEMBER 10TH

1

WILL I GET INTO COLLEGE? YES. BUT I AM NOT SURE WHICH ONE

- Remember, of the around 4,000 accredited 2 and 4 year colleges and universities in the country, most of them have admission rates between 80% and 100%.
- At other regional colleges and university, the admission rate is favorable: St Olaf is 60%, Creighton is 65%, U of M 75%, U of North Dakota 80%
- Most people do not get stressed over admission at these schools, it is the others.
- Yale 5%, MIT 5%, Brown 6%, Cornell 10%, Amherst 12%, Georgetown 13%, UNC 19%,
- With numbers like that, we use the term “selective admission”. Schools are just not turning away inadmissible applicants, but selecting a class from a pool of qualified, in most cases very qualified applicants.

2

WHAT GOES INTO AN APPLICATION

- High school transcript
- Resume
- References and Recommendations
- Essays
- Test scores...maybe
- Other considerations (portfolios, interviews, athletics, etc)

3

SO WHAT ARE COLLEGES LOOKING FOR?

- Good high school students
- Students that are open to growth
- Students that colleges can be proud of
- Students that are looking forward – not backward
- Students who want to learn from their peers not just the teachers
- Students who will appreciate the college experience
- Students that knew about the schools they are applying to

4

TRANSCRIPT REVIEW THE SCHOOL – THE COURSES – THE GRADES

- Are major courses covered? For four years? What are the student's strengths and weaknesses? How does the senior year look?
- Were there inconsistencies? How did the student recover?
- The school's profile. Class sizes, honors/AP available? What is the percentage of college bound graduates? Once I can identify the strength of a school - how can I identify the relative strength of a candidate?
- Has a student taken advanced courses? What is the student's GPA/grades?

5

SUBJECTIVE FACTORS

- Resume – How have you engaged with you school and local community? Have you committed your time and energy to teams, or clubs, or activities? Have you sought out leadership? How have you demonstrated creativity? What about passions for causes – how about affinity groups supporting cultures and traditions? What have you committed to ? Have you put yourself out there? What about service, work or home responsibilities? Where is the generosity of spirit? How have you made the most of your high school experience?
- Recommendations – How have you won the respect of your teachers and peers? What is the story behind the grades on the transcript? How do you compare to others teacher has met and recommended to college in the past? What is your reputation among the community?

6

IMPORTANCE OF COLLEGE ESSAYS

- The exercise of writing a personal statement
- Telling the students' story
- Everyone has a different take
- Showing how a student fits a school
- Mistakes? Overthinking. Telling someone else's story. Not being authentic. Being too vulnerable. Not taking it seriously.

7

ESSAYS I READ TODAY 2/26/25

- My budding stand up comedy career
- Fishing usually doesn't end up with fish
- The misunderstood life of the door-to-door canvasser before an election
- The joy of being an older sister to a brother with special needs
- Getting my pilot's license.
- Being lefthanded
- The essence of being a middle child
- How to scoop the perfect ice cream cone
- My battle with Crohn's disease
- Tricks I use not to sleep in church.
- Being the new kid at school - again

8

TEST SCORES – ACT AND SAT

Colleges where testing is required

Test optional?

Test Blind?

How and why are these tests still important anyway?

At BC? In the applicant pool: # of test submitters < non-submitters

In the admitted group: # of test submitters > non-submitters

In enrolled group: # of test submitters = non-submitters

9

TO APPLY EARLY DECISION OR NOT

- Early decision admit rates can be much higher regular decision admit rates
- Early decision outcomes dictate the overall strategy of your application plan
- Early decision is early – and falling "in love" can take time
- While colleges will award financial aid fairly, for families where costs and financial assistance will be the a very important factor; at best Early Decision is very stressful. At worst, it just isn't the best way to navigate the process.
- Early decision is binding – student, counselor and parent sign off. Colleges expect follow through from everyone.
- While colleges vary, expect anywhere from 35%-65% of the incoming class to be gathered from the Early Decision process.

10

ARE THERE ADVANTAGES TO BEING AT THIS SCHOOL?

- Excellent academic reputation
- Tons of opportunities: academic and extracurricular
- Leadership – lots of competition so it stands out
- High level of engagement and school spirit
- Competitive but not unreasonable or distracting
- Wicked good college counselor

11

QUESTIONS....

12