Juniors Aiming
for College
Fall 2025

“

College is
a match to be made,
not a prize to be won.

Frank Sachs, Former President of National Association for College Admissions Counseling

TONIGHT'S AGENDA

- Announcements
- College Admissions
- Financial Fit



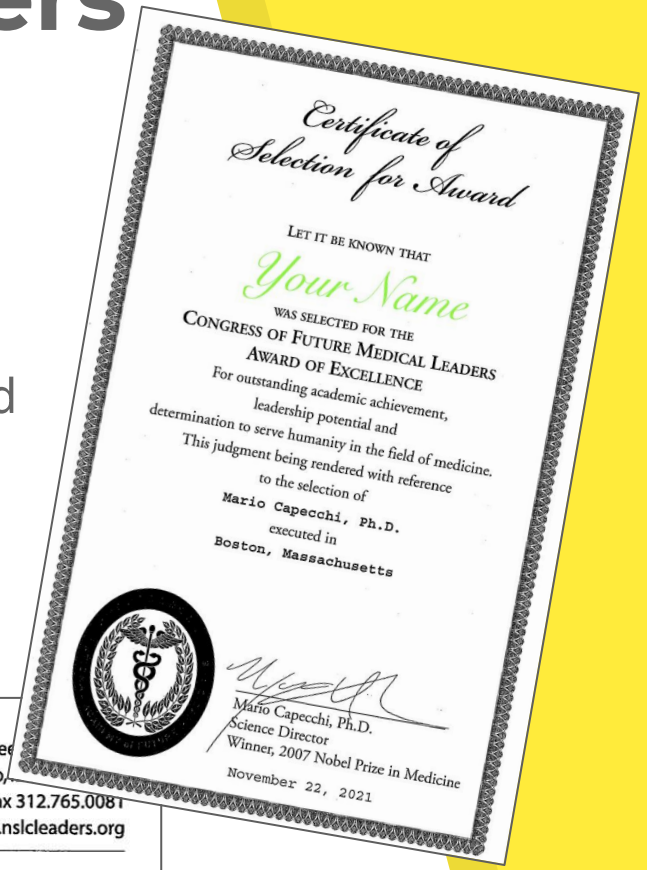
ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **HSBP Assignments:** part of the High School & Beyond Plan Graduation Requirement; covering in History class visits to Career Center. Pay attention to Canvas Reminders about the HSBP.
- **SAT/ACT:** scores **not** required for most colleges
  - Want to know more? See To Test or Not to Test?
  - If you decide to take, sign up directly: CollegeBoard.org for SAT, ACT.org for ACT

Beware of Sham Offers

- These are **not** selective and are **not** awards
- They are **advertisements**
- **Not** valuable for college admissions
- **Not** worth your $$
- Organizations regarded as **“pay to play”** and not respected

Be on alert for events & organizations that promise college financial secrets



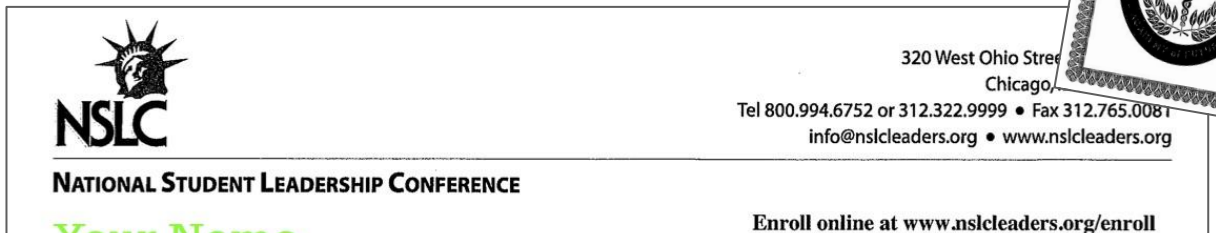
Certificate of Selection for Award

LET IT BE KNOWN THAT

Your Name

WAS SELECTED FOR THE
CONGRESS OF FUTURE MEDICAL LEADERS
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE
For outstanding academic achievement,
leadership potential and
determination to serve humanity in the field of medicine.
This judgment being rendered with reference
to the selection of
Mario Capecchi, Ph.D.
executed in
Boston, Massachusetts

Mario Capecchi, Ph.D.
Science Director
Winner, 2007 Nobel Prize in Medicine
November 22, 2021



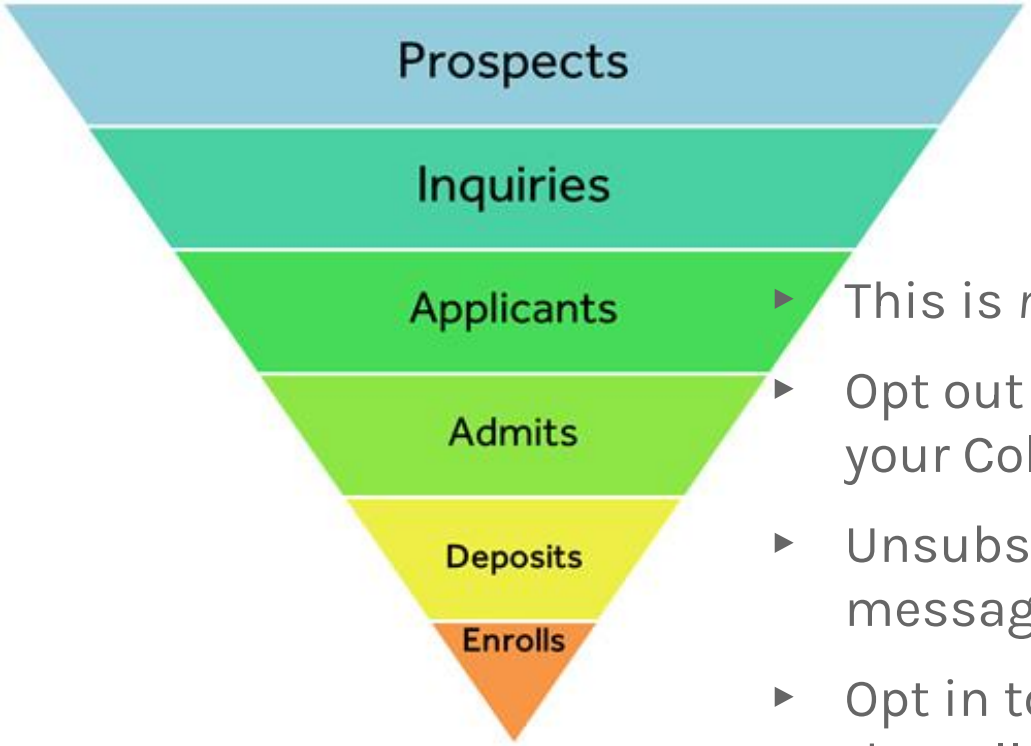
NSLC

320 West Ohio Stree
Chicago,
Tel 800.994.6752 or 312.322.9999 • Fax 312.765.0081
info@nslcleaders.org • www.nslcleaders.org

NATIONAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Enroll online at www.nslcleaders.org/enroll

Too much College Mail?



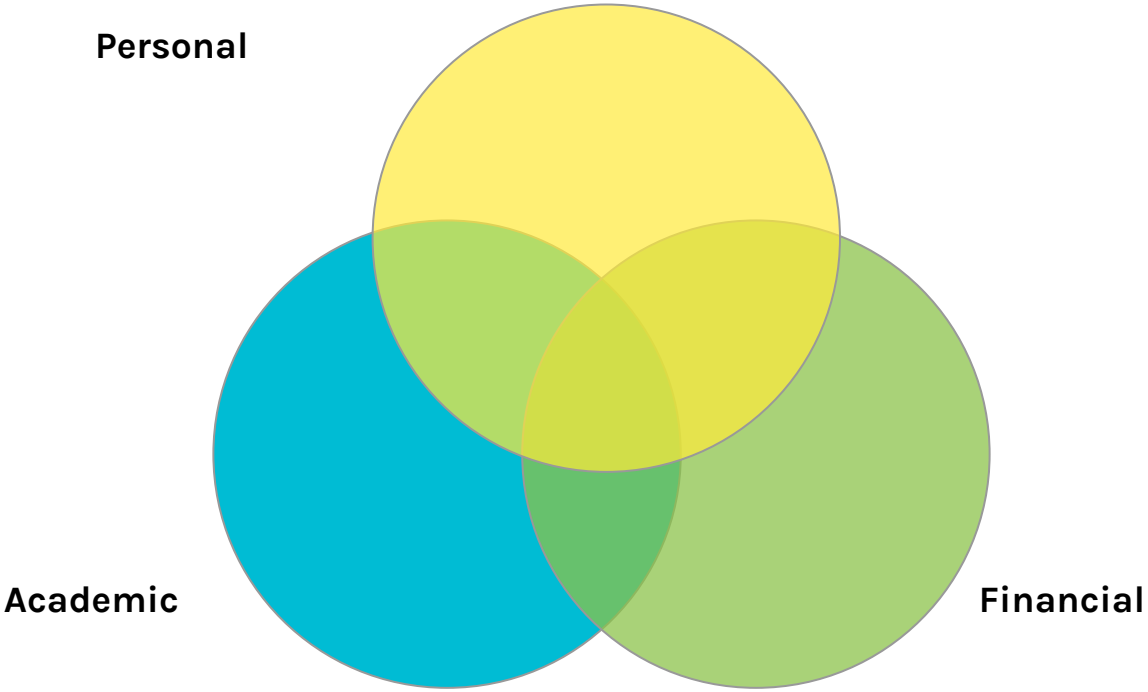
- This is *marketing*
- Opt out of *Student Search Service* in your College Board account
- Unsubscribe using links in messages
- Opt in to college communications on the college website

SCOIR Observer Accounts

- Students use for HSBP Completion/9.1 & 10.1 makeup assignments, career exploration, college research
- Seniors applying to college use as an essential part of their applications
- Parent/ Observer Accounts: invited 11/1, will continue to invite periodically through January. Student can also invite parent via their Profile
- Student access via Classlink

COLLEGE PROCESS AT SHOREWOOD

COLLEGE FIT



WHY FIT?
ENGAGEMENT
MATTERS MOST

A good "fit" is a college where a student will be engaged – in class and out – by what the college has to offer.

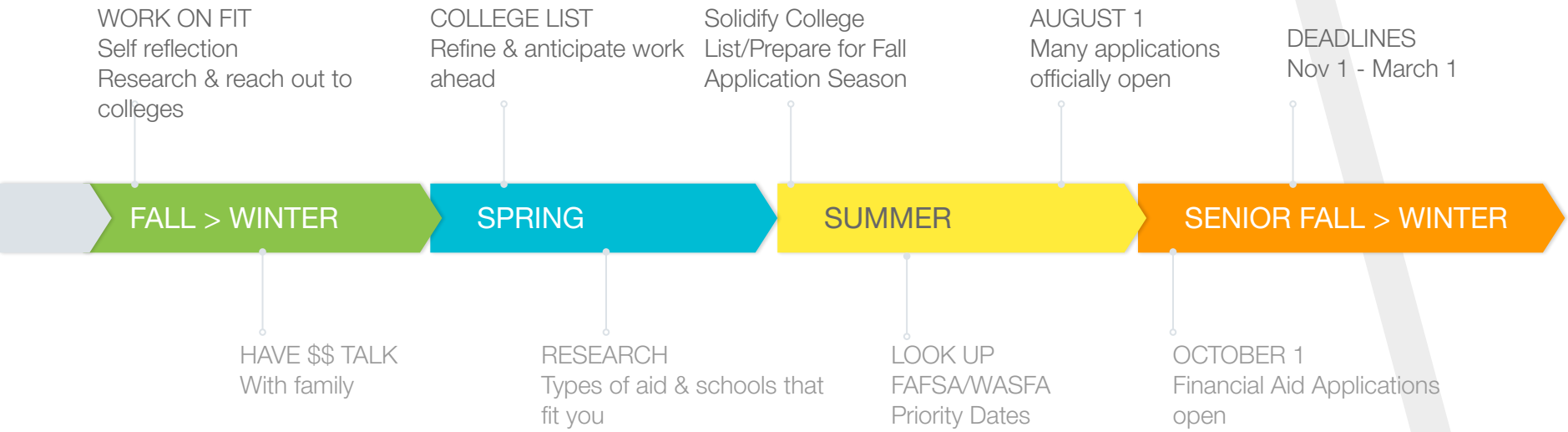
Fit Over Rankings, *Challenge Success* 2018

The Gallup-Purdue studies mentioned above show a strong connection between certain forms of engagement in college and future job satisfaction and well-being. They report six key college experiences that have an impact on how fulfilled employees feel at work and whether they are thriving in life after college:

1. **TAKING A COURSE** with a professor who makes learning exciting.
2. **WORKING WITH PROFESSORS** who care about students personally.
3. **FINDING A MENTOR** who encourages students to pursue personal goals.
4. **WORKING ON A PROJECT** across several semesters.
5. **PARTICIPATING IN AN INTERNSHIP** that applies classroom learning.
6. **BEING ACTIVE IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.**

(Gallup Inc., 2014)

TIMELINE FOR 4-YEAR COLLEGES



WHO DOES WHAT?

STUDENT

- Explore colleges
- Compile tentative list
- Attend workshop
- Research applications
- Work on applications
- Set up Scoir
- Finalize & submit

SHOREWOOD

- Provide tools & guidance for all stages
- Advise students through process
- Submit school documents according to student Scoir setup during application season

WHAT DOES SHOREWOOD PROVIDE?

WEBSITE/ TOOLS

College Fit page

College Applications page & section

Financial Aid page & section

Notices of upcoming events

COMMUNICATIONS

Time-appropriate guidance

Resources

FAQ/ Troubleshooting

Scholarship Opportunities

SW & Outside Events of interest

EVENTS

JAFC Series

College Essay Guidance

College Visits

FAFSA/WASFA Assistance

Essay Review

Application Help sessions

SCOIR

Search tools, management for school portion of student applications.

ESSENTIAL for applying

COLLEGE APP PACKET

Google folders w application & financial aid materials

DIRECT ASSISTANCE

Walk in or make appt w Mr Knepper/ Counselor

College App Peer Mentors

STUDENT PROCESS



COMMON MISTAKES STUDENTS MAKE



- Skip Reflection & Research
- Narrow too early
- Apply only to very competitive schools
- Apply only to familiar schools
- Choose colleges based on popularity/perceived prestige rather than fit
- Avoid the $$ aspect
- Don’t tune in to emails/ events

PUT POSITIVELY:

PLAN FOR OPTIONS, KEEP YOUR POWER, and BE AWARE

WAGAP
Washington Guaranteed Admission Program

QR to WAGAP

Students:

- Earn & maintain 3.0+ GPA
- Meet CADRs /College Academic Distribution Requirements

= *Eligibility* for Guaranteed Admission
Must still apply to the college!



OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE

READ EMAIL especially from College & Career/ Counselors. Messages most often sent via Student Square/ Parent Square

START EARLY

USE TOOLS provided or your own organization system

ATTEND events



Sound like too much?

SKILLS DEVELOPED DURING COLLEGE PREP ARE THE SAME SKILLS THAT LEAD TO COLLEGE SUCCESS

WHAT ABOUT PARENTS/ GUARDIANS?



Balance of tasks varies with each family, BUT

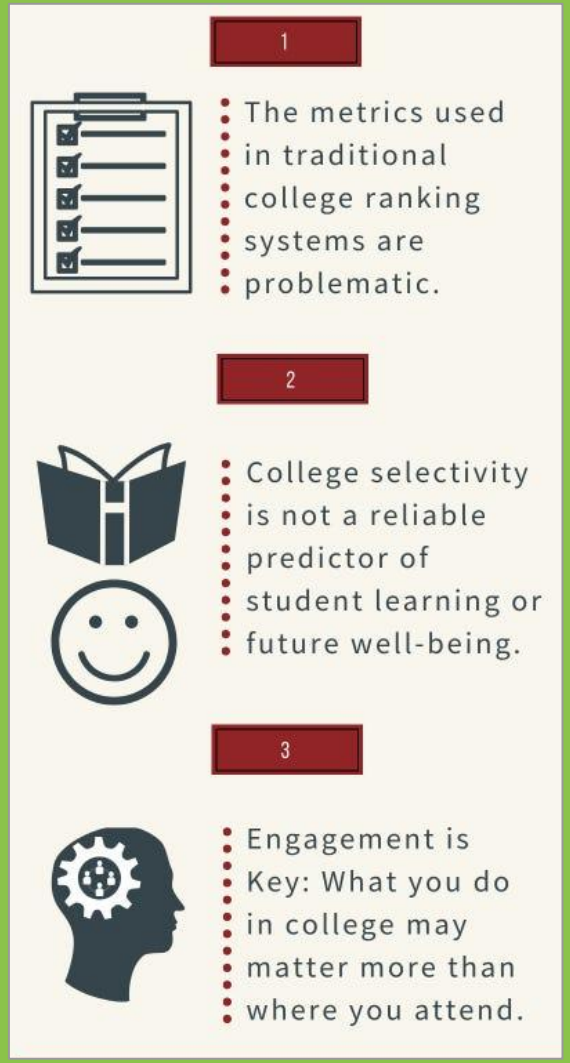
- Parent should not be the director. Ask “How can I help?”
- Every student must develop independence and adulting skills, even if there are missteps
- Colleges expect to communicate **with the student**
- The **student** is applying to college, not “we”
- In each application, student attests/ certifies that **“all information submitted . . . is my own work”** NOT the parent’s work
- If a student cannot handle the process, they are not ready for college

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS MYTHS & TRUTHS

This section will be expanded in the posted version of the slideshow; please review later.

THREE RESEARCH-BASED INSIGHTS INTO COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

From [ChallengeSuccess.org](), [Fit Over Rankings: Why College Engagement Matters More Than Selectivity]()

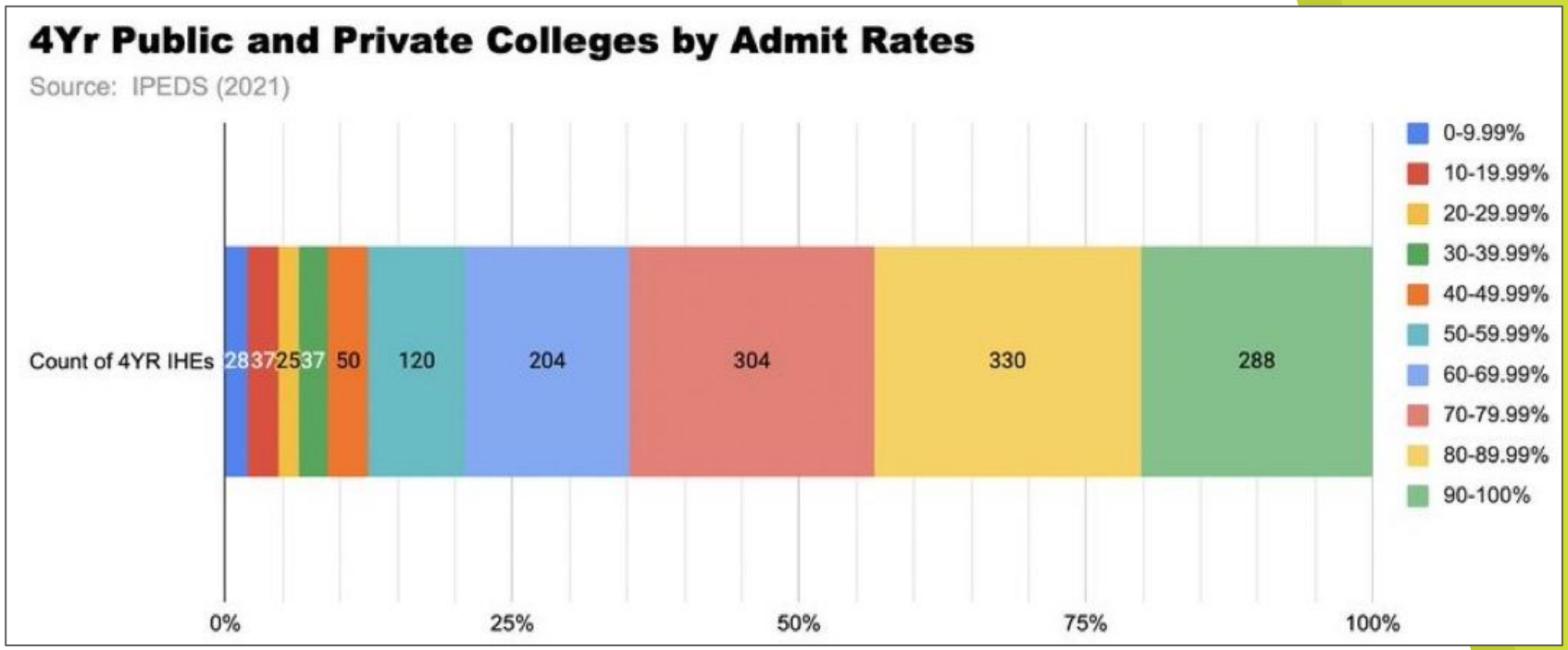


MYTH:
COLLEGE ADMISSION RATES ARE EXTREMELY COMPETITIVE

REALITY:
AVERAGE ADMIT RATE IS 73%

Source: NACAC Selectivity: Acceptance Rates at 4-Year Colleges, Fall 2023

87.5% of COLLEGES ADMIT MORE STUDENTS THAN THEY REJECT



James S. Murphy with 2021 IPEDS Data
1423 Four-Year Public & Nonprofit Private Colleges with over 50 undergraduates

MYTH:
COLLEGES
EXPECT NEAR
PERFECTION

REALITY:
MOST COLLEGES
RELY ON *HOLISTIC*
ADMISSIONS AND
VALUE GROWTH

REALITY: MOST COLLEGES MAKE DECISIONS BASED ON A VARIETY OF FACTORS

Here, common factors are listed in average order of importance

Source: [NACAC Factors in Admission Decisions](), Fall 2023

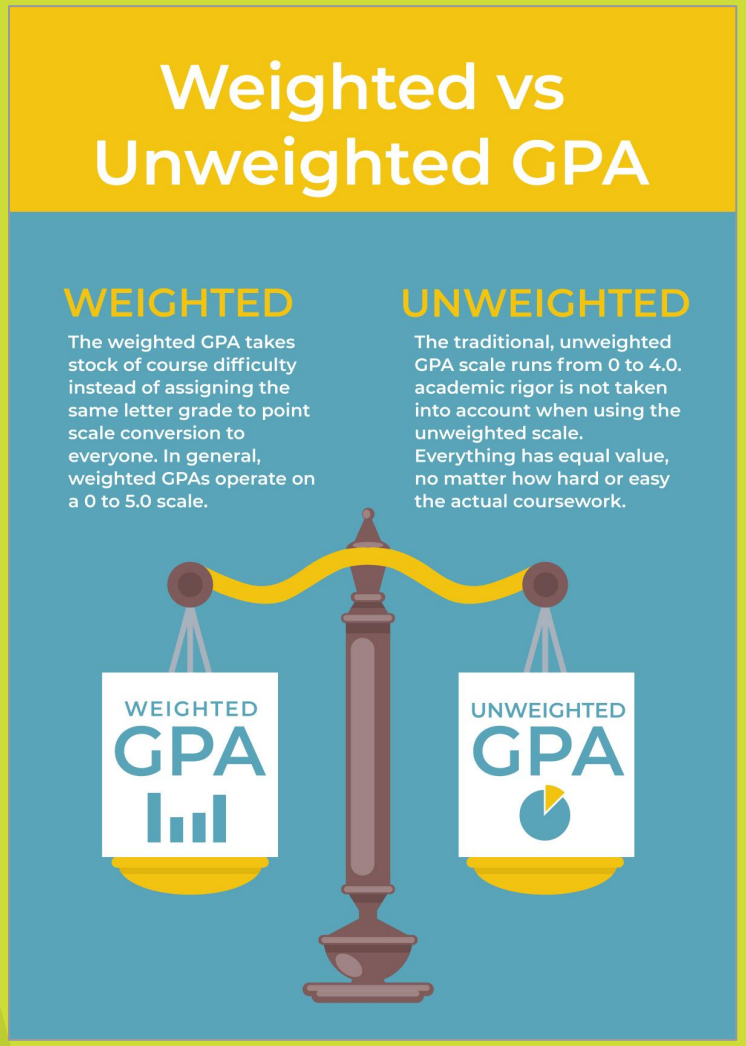
PERCENTAGE OF COLLEGES ATTRIBUTING DIFFERENT LEVELS OF IMPORTANCE TO FACTORS IN ADMISSION DECISIONS: FIRST-TIME FRESHMEN, FALL 2023

	N	Considerable Importance	Moderate Importance	Limited Importance	No Importance
High school grades in college prep courses	185	76.8	15.1	4.9	3.2
Total high school grades (all courses)	185	74.1	18.9	5.4	1.6
Strength of high school curriculum	185	63.8	22.7	10.3	3.2
Positive character attributes	184	28.3	37.5	18.5	15.8
Essay or writing sample	185	18.9	37.3	26.5	17.3
Student's interest in attending	185	15.7	27.6	25.4	31.4
Counselor recommendation	185	11.9	40.0	27.6	20.5
Teacher recommendation	185	10.8	40.5	28.1	20.5
Extracurricular activities	185	6.5	44.3	30.8	18.4
High school class rank	183	5.5	22.4	43.2	29.0
Admission test scores (ACT, SAT)	185	4.9	25.4	38.9	30.8
Portfolio	185	4.9	10.8	24.3	60.0
Interview	185	4.3	8.6	32.4	54.6

SIDE NOTE ON GPA:

UNWEIGHTED GPA Will not be an issue

- All WA public high schools have unweighted GPAs
- Students indicate type of GPA when they apply
- Colleges recalculate different types of GPAs to a common scale



MYTH:
COLLEGE RANKINGS ARE A GOOD PLACE TO START

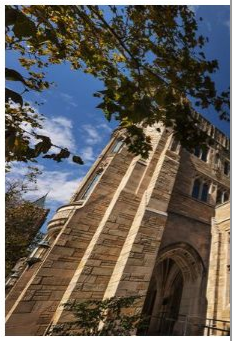
RANKINGS CAN BE GAMED AND ARE NOT INDICATORS OF QUALITY

Most articles hyperlinked; click image to read

Law Schools Reject 'U.S. News' Rankings

Berkeley, Columbia, Georgetown and Stanford join movement started by Harvard and Yale.
U.S. News vows to continue ranking law schools.

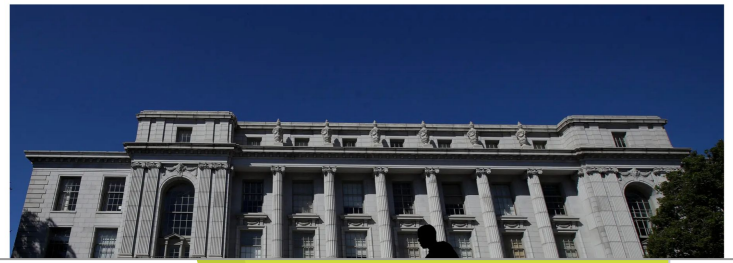
By Scott Jaschik · Published November 21, 2022



(Yale Law School)

Are the U.S. News College Rankings Finally Going to Die?

Nov. 22, 2022



An Investigation of the Facts Behind Columbia's U.S. News Ranking

NEW: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Michael Thaddeus
Professor of Mathematics
mt324@columbia.edu
thaddeus@michaelthaddeus.org
February 2022, revised March 2022

Rankings create powerful incentives to manipulate data and distort institutional behavior for the sole or primary purpose of inflating one's score. Because the rankings depend heavily on unaudited, self-reported data, there is no way to ensure either the accuracy of the information or the reliability of the resulting rankings. — Colin Diver

Reed Magazine

ARTS & HUMANITIES SCIENCES SOCIAL SCIENCES COMMUNITY IN THE MEDIA LATEST NEWS MORE

LETTERS FROM THE EDITOR

Students Find Glaring Discrepancy in US News Rankings

Study reveals the steep penalty that the rankings giant imposes on Reed.

By Chris Lydgate '90 | July 24, 2019

For years, I've written about the h
Reed and other rebel colleges who
of Reed students has come up with

Their conclusion? If USN faithfully
would be ranked at #38, rather tha
the college down a whopping 52 ru
form.

The Reed team—consisting of Bail
and Wenxin Du '20—dug into the USN system for a term paper in a
stat
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THE RANKINGS

BUSINESS

Your College Isn't as Great as You Think

By Jordan Weissmann

EDUCATION

Why the U.S. News College Rankings Are Subject to Cheating and How to Fix Them

Here's how the Washington Monthly's annual college guide avoids those pitfalls.

by **Paul Glastris** and **Robert Kelchen**
October 13, 2022



MYTH:
STUDENTS MUST KNOW THEIR INTENDED MAJOR/CAREER

REALITY:
THERE ARE *SOME* DIRECT TO MAJOR PROGRAMS BUT MOST STUDENTS CHANGE THEIR ORIGINAL PLAN

Some Majors at *Some* Colleges are Direct Entry

Meaning you have to apply to the major when you apply to the school



There are three types of majors at the UW — open, minimum requirements and capacity-constrained. Your admission to a major at the UW depends on the major you are interested in and your application type.

Types of majors

Open majors

These majors are open to you when you're admitted to the UW or anytime thereafter.

Majors with minimum requirements

These majors have additional admission requirements. Once you're a UW student and meet the minimum requirements, you can be admitted without further screening.

Capacity-constrained majors

Capacity-constrained majors have additional requirements and selective screening, which may include an additional application process. Completing the minimum UW admission requirements does not guarantee admission to capacity-constrained majors. With the exception of computer science and engineering, you can apply to these majors once you are a UW student.

MOST students change majors while in college

College of Letters and Science

- Bachelor of Arts in American Studies
- Bachelor of Arts in Asian Studies
- Bachelor of Science in Anthropology
- Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences (Department of Ecology)
  - Biology Teaching Option
  - Conservation Biology and Ecology Option
  - Fish and Wildlife Ecology and Management Option
  - Organismal Biology Option
- Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and Biochemistry
  - Biochemistry Option
  - Biochemistry Option: Pre-Med Track
  - Chemistry (Professional) Option
  - Teaching Option
- Bachelor of Science in Earth Sciences
  - Geography Option
  - Geology Option
  - GIS/Planning Option
  - Paleontology Option
  - Snow Science Option
- Bachelor of Science in Economics
- Bachelor of Arts in English
  - Writing Option
  - Teaching Option
  - Literature Option
- Bachelor of Arts in History
  - History Option
  - History Teaching Option
  - Science, Environment, Technology and Society Option (SETS)
- Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies
  - Environmental Studies Option
  - Global and Multicultural Option
  - Quaternity Option
  - Global Studies Minor
  - Global Studies Health Minor
  - Sustainability Minor
- Bachelor of Science in Mathematics
  - Applied Mathematics Option
  - Mathematics Option
  - Mathematics Teaching Option
  - Statistics Option
- Bachelor of Arts in Modern Languages and Literatures
  - French K-12 Teaching Option
  - French and Francophone Studies Option
  - German K-12 Teaching Option

College of Agriculture

- Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Business
  - Agribusiness Management Concentration
  - Farm and Ranch Management Concentration
- Bachelor of Science in Agricultural and Technology Education
  - Agricultural Education Broadfield Teaching Option
  - Agricultural Communication, Leadership, and Extension Option
  - Technology Education Broadfield (5-12)
  - Industrial Technology
- Bachelor of Science in Animal Science
  - Equine Science Option
  - Livestock Management and Industry Option
  - Science Option
- Bachelor of Science in Environmental Horticulture
  - Environmental Horticulture Science Option
  - Landscape Design Option
- Bachelor of Science in Environmental Sciences
  - Environmental Biology Option
  - Environmental Science Option
  - Geospatial and Environmental Analysis Option
  - Land Rehabilitation Option
  - Soil and Water Sciences Option
- Bachelor of Science in Financial Engineering
- Bachelor of Science in Microbiology
  - Microbiology Pre-Veterinary Track
- Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources and Rangeland Ecology
  - Rangeland Ecology and Management Option
  - Wildlife Habitat Ecology and Management Option
- Bachelor of Science in Plant Science
  - Crop Science Option
  - Plant Biology Option
  - Plant Biotechnology
- Bachelor of Science in Ranching Systems
- Bachelor of Science in Sustainable Food & Bioenergy Systems
  - Agroecology Option
  - Sustainable Crop Production Option
  - Sustainable Livestock Production Option
- Pre-veterinary Medicine Program
  - Non-degree program

College of Education, Health and Human Development

- Bachelor of Science in Community Health
- Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education Preschool-Age Three (P-3)
- Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education K-8
  - Early Childhood Education Option
  - Mathematics Option
  - Science Education Option
  - Special Education Option
- Bachelor of Science in Food and Nutrition
  - Dietetics Option
  - Nutrition Science Option
- Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education
  - General Science Broadfield Option
  - Social Studies Broadfield Option
  - (Departmental Teaching Options)
- Bachelor of Science in Health Enhancement K-12 (Health and Physical Education)
- Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management
  - Food Enterprise
  - Lodging and Facilities
  - Restaurant Management: Farm to Table
- Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Family Science
  - Child Development
  - Family and Consumer Sciences Education Option
  - Human Development and Family Science Option
- Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology
  - Exercise Science Option
  - Health and Fitness Option
- Bachelor of Science in Sustainable Food & Bioenergy Systems
  - Sustainable Food Systems Option
- Certificate of Gerontology

Exploration now can help, but there's no way to know all of the possibilities

Colleges want you to explore *there*

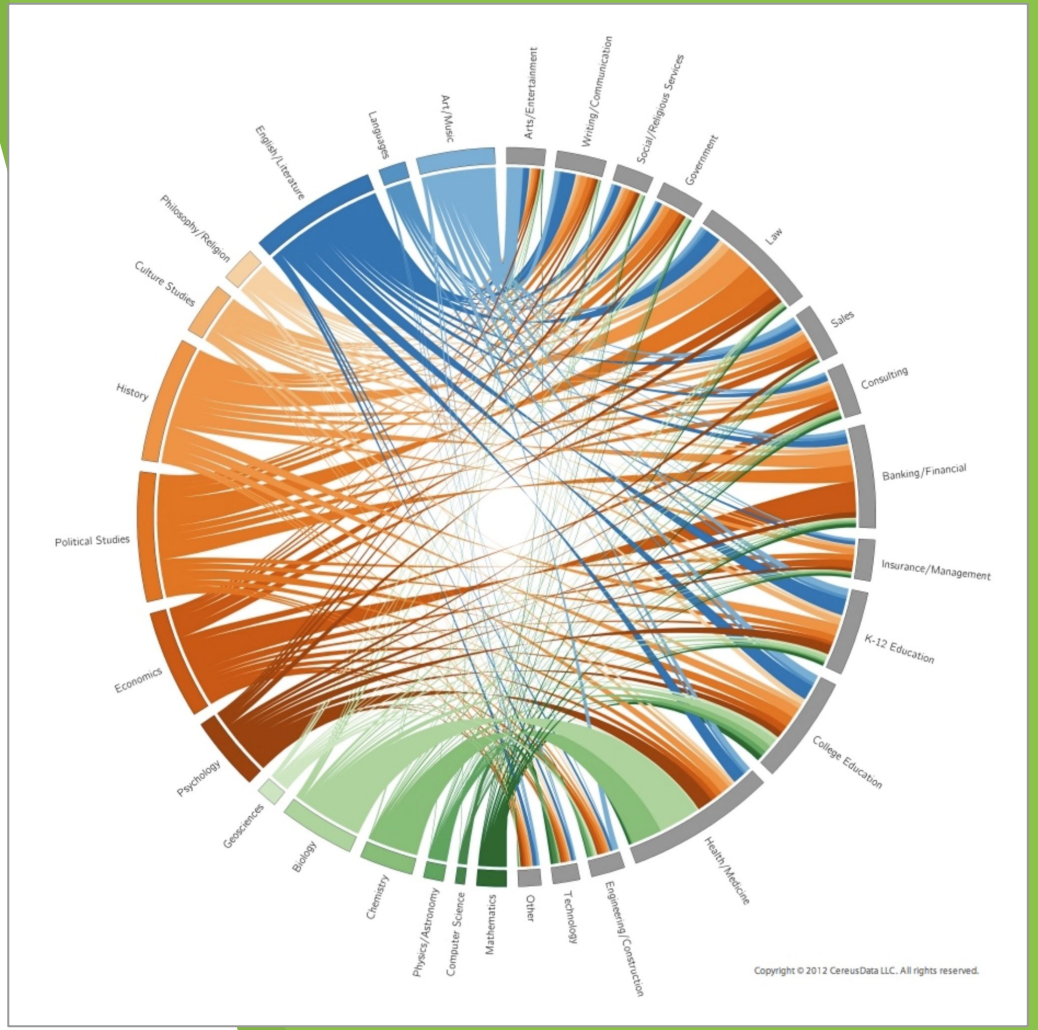
Shown: about 20% of the majors available at Montana State

FOR MOST CAREERS, YOU DO NOT NEED A NARROWLY DEFINED MAJOR

Data based on graduates of Williams College: shows major on left side of circle and career sector entered on right side.

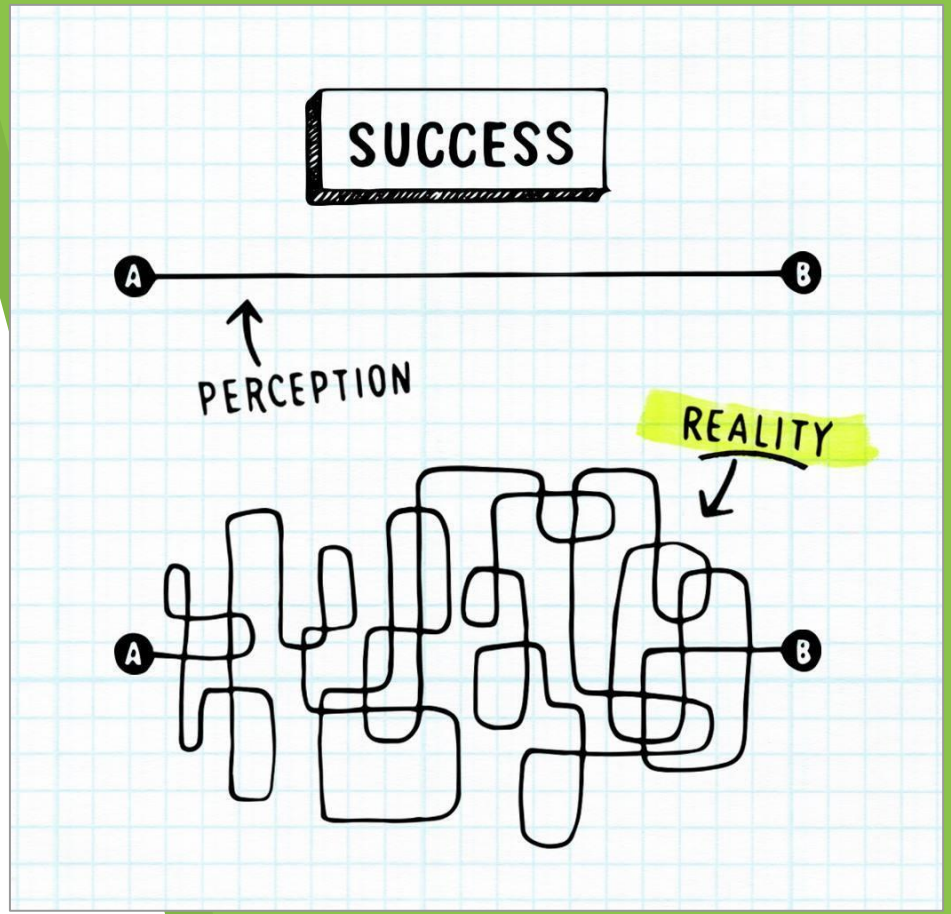
Note the mixed colors (majors) in each industry on the right.

Use the tool yourself on Williams' [Visualizing Majors and Careers](#).



OVERSIMPLIFIED, BUT YOU GET THE IDEA

- We imagine that progress is linear but experiences and knowledge influence next steps.
- Students *should* be open to possibilities in college
- College will offer exposure to a large variety of academic fields & possibilities



WHAT SHOULD YOU BE DOING NOW?

USE & CUSTOMIZE THESE TIMELINES





2 YEAR COLLEGE & OPTIONS

Apprenticeships, Career Training, Associate programs

4 YEAR COLLEGE

Bachelor Degree Programs

TIMELINE FOR 4-YEAR COLLEGES

WORK ON FIT
Self reflection
Research & reach out to colleges

COMPILE COLLEGE LIST
Refine & anticipate work ahead

FALL > WINTER

SPRING

HAVE $$ TALK
With family

RESEARCH
Types of aid & schools that fit you

AIMING FOR COLLEGE ATHLETICS?

Register for:

[NCAA Eligibility Center]

[NAIA Eligibility Center]









Pictured: Ellie Shoop, Whitworth; Jake Fredrickson, Occidental; Eileen Beres, RPI; Stefan Mueller, Dominican of CA

ACT on what you can control

You cannot control how colleges make decisions, set their policies, or who else applies, but you **can** control:

- When you start the process
- Scope of your reflection & research
- What you prioritize in your search
- How you do in your classes
- Which activities you pursue & what you do with your time
- Which colleges are on your application list
- Your application: essay, descriptions, approach



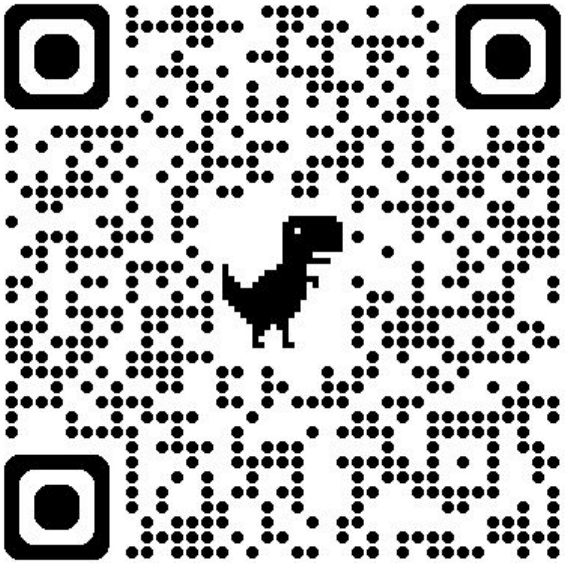
Recommended: Focus on What you Can Control *Georgia Tech Admissions Blog* and pretty much all other posts on the blog

RESOURCES for COLLEGE ADMISSION

- Who Gets in and Why (book) by Jeffrey Selingo
- Where You Go Is Not Who You'll Be (book) by Frank Bruni
- College Essay Guy / Ethan Sawyer on Twitter, blog, podcasts: many free resources
- Sara Harberson on Instagram & Facebook: several free resources & IG Live/ FB Live talks
- PayingforCollege101.com Paying for College Facebook group: addresses topics beyond $$
- The College Solution/ Lynn O'Shaughnessy: blog, book, articles
- College Guidance Network Library of videos & resources

COLLEGE ADMISSION STATISTICS & RESEARCH

- **State of College Admission Reports** by NACAC/ National Association of College Admission Counselors
  - SOCA Factors in Admission Decisions Fact Sheet 2023
  - SOCA Factors in Admission Decisions Powerpoint 2023
  - SOCA Selectivity Fact Sheet 2023
  - SOCA Selectivity Powerpoint 2023
- Education Data Initiative College Enrollment Statistics
- Higher Ed Data Stories analysis & data visualization by Jon Boeckenstedt



QUESTIONS?

CONTACT
Zechariah Knepper, College & Career Specialist zechariah.knepper@ssd412.org

or
Your student's counselor: assignments and contact info on Counseling Department page

or REFER TO PAGES ON
shorewood.ssd412.org/programs-services/college-career