



College Admissions: Understanding Today's System

September 2023





Colleges and Universities in the United States

Understanding the Options

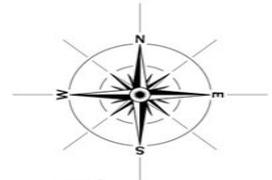


Structure and Spectrum: Understanding College Options

LARGEST UNIVERSITY BY ENROLLMENT IN EACH STATE



SOURCE: NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS



Public vs. Private

§Funded from taxes paid to local and state governments by residents of the state.

§Designed to educate residents of the state. (Often Called “Flag-Ship” or State Universities).

§Usually offer a wide variety of majors

§**Funded by tuition.**

§Students often come from all parts of the world.

§May be a bit more specialized; limited majors

Campus size is smaller;
emphasis on community



College Applications

How is an *Application* Reviewed?



College Admission Goals

Student body that is representative of the broadest range of experiences and backgrounds

Individual students who are a good fit

Academically

Community Member

Holistic and Contextual Admission Review

ACADEMIC FACTORS

Transcript

Test Scores

NON ACADEMIC & PERSONAL FACTORS

Application Essay & Short Answer

Letters of Recommendation

Extracurricular Activities & Talents



College Admissions

What Do College Counselors Wish
Students Knew?



Aspects Out of a Student's Control

Institutional needs and priorities

Number of applicants

Size of incoming class

Impacted/popular majors



What Can We Do Now?

What About Independent College
Counseling?



Supporting your student moving forward

Seek balance in academic schedule

Authenticity

Assess your actual needs

Expand your knowledge

Recommended Resources

Harker Parent Portal Resources

- [Academic Planning & College Counseling Guidance](#)
- [College Visit Guide](#)

Common Ground Videos (link on Harker Parent Portal Counseling Tile)

- [College Admissions in a Persistent Pandemic, Oct. '22](#)

Websites

- [Colleges' Websites](#): Online tours, information sessions, student panels, application workshops and more
- [Finaid.org](#)

Books

- [Who Gets In and Why: A Year Inside College Admissions](#) by Jeffrey Selingo
- [The Price You Pay for College: An Entirely New Road Map for the Biggest Financial Decision Your Family Will Ever Make](#) by Ron Leiber
- [Admission Matters: What Students and Parents Need to Know About Getting Into College](#) by Springer, Morgan, Griesemer, Reider
- [The Truth About College Admission: A Family Guide to Getting In and Staying Together](#) by Brennan Barnard and Rick Clark.

Podcasts

- [The Truth About College Admission](#) hosted by Brennan Barnard and Rick Clark
- [Admissions Beat](#) hosted by Lee Coffin