



University High School Counseling Department

FALL SENIOR PRESENTATION
INFORMATION FOR SENIORS, 2017

Good decisions are made by gathering good information and by being organized

- ▶ **Resources in folder-** college checklist, calendar, admission process, college questionnaire, transcript request, information for recommendations, financial aid, college and financial aid comparison sheets, resources
- ▶ **Covering Today in Presentation;**
- ▶ Self-assessment and reflection/college selection
- ▶ Planning calendar
- ▶ Admission folder
- ▶ Admissions terms and policies
- ▶ College visit and interview information
- ▶ U-High transcript and letter of rec request procedures
- ▶ Financial aid/scholarships
- ▶ NCAA

What's the secret to getting into college?

Dean of Admissions MIT

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Because the process of selecting a college is very personal, it begins with self-reflection

- ▶ Consider your goals, strengths, weaknesses, and reasons for going to college.
- ▶ When thinking about yourself, be realistic.
- ▶ You don't have to find all the answers to your questions, but you do need to consider questions about the future as you approach the process for applying for admission to college.

Make a list of what is important to you...

- ▶ Why do I want to go to college? What are my long term goals?
- ▶ Do I want a 2 or 4 year institution?
- ▶ Do I want to stay near home or am I prepared to visit my family only a few times per year?
- ▶ Am I interested in a certain area?
- ▶ Do I want to attend a large or small institution?
- ▶ Have my grade been good enough to be considered by a very selective school?
- ▶ Do I want a demanding academic environment?
- ▶ How important will cost be in my final choice?

Taking a look at the planning calendar

- ▶ September-November- Applications, College fairs, letters of recommendation, FAFSA
- ▶ December-January- Mid-year reports for Common App, notify institutions of schedule changes
- ▶ February-March- Scholarships,
- ▶ May- Final decision, AP testing

Parts of an Admission Folder

- ▶ Application- may or may not include essay
- ▶ Academic Record- GPA, course work
 - **we do not rank
- ▶ Test scores- ACT/SAT

“As a general rule, the larger the college, the greater the emphasis on pure statistics in determining admission” NACAC

- ▶ School Recommendation
- ▶ Teacher Recommendation

What's the most important part of the application?

Dean of Undergraduate Admissions Yale University

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Terms you need to know

- ▶ **Regular Decision**- Students submit an application by a specified date and receive a decision in a clearly stated period of time.
- ▶ **Rolling Admission**- Institutions review applications as they are submitted and render decisions throughout the admission cycle.
- ▶ **Early Action (EA)**- Students apply early and receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date.
- ▶ **Early Decision (ED)**- Students make a commitment to a first choice institution where, if admitted, they will definitely enroll.
- ▶ **Restrictive Early Action (REA)**- Students apply to an institution of preference and receive a decision early. They may be restricted from applying ED, EA, or REA to other institutions.

Admission Terms (continued)

- ▶ **Deferred Admission**- Opportunity for a student who has been admitted to delay or defer enrollment for a year or a semester. Students who defer an offer of admission may choose to work, travel, or pursue special programs.
- ▶ **Open Admission**- Offer admission to virtually all students who apply.
- ▶ **Waitlist**- An admission decision option utilized by institutions to protect against shortfalls in enrollment. By placing a student on a waitlist, an institution does not initially offer or deny admission, but extends to a candidate the possibility of admission in the future.

Visiting College Representatives at U-High

- ▶ College Recruiters Visiting U-High
 - ▶ Schedule posted In Counseling Center, throughout the building and on the website; also placed in daily announcements
 - ▶ Obtain a pass from Mrs. Whiting before the scheduled visit
 - ▶ Come prepared with questions
 - ▶ You are responsible for missed class material and assignments

Hints for a College Visit

- ▶ Make an appointment
- ▶ Take a tour and check out facilities, including dorms.
- ▶ Have a meal on campus
- ▶ Visit in-session
- ▶ Verify admission requirements
- ▶ Ask about financial aid, housing, and student life
- ▶ Meet with teachers or attend a class.
- ▶ Write a thank you note

**If you visit a college, but don't participate in a group information session or interview, it may be wise to let the admission office know that you saw the campus. Taking the time to see a college is one indication of your interest.

College Interview

- ▶ Be prompt
- ▶ Be neat; appropriate dress in an easy way to make a good impression
- ▶ Be well prepared; read the college's catalog or visit its website prior to your interview and prepare questions based on what you read. Examples include:
 - What % of students come back after freshman year?
 - Could you give me some details about a program or major?
 - What makes a program or major a good one?
 - What social options are available?
 - What campus issues are students talking about this year?
 - Do most students stay on campus on the weekends?

How would you answer the following questions?

- ▶ What are your goals?
- ▶ How does this college fit in with your interests and talents?
- ▶ What majors are interested in and why?
- ▶ What are you passionate about?
- ▶ What extracurricular activities are important to you?
- ▶ What types of books do you enjoy reading?

-Answer questions to the best of your ability. Don't be afraid to admit if you don't know something

-Be ready to volunteer information- know your test scores, grades, course load

-Be yourself; don't pretend to be something or someone you are not

-Don't be concerned if your interviewer is someone other than the dean or director of admission

-Relax

-Write a thank you note to your interviewer and tour guide

Requesting transcripts and recommendations

Transcripts

- ▶ Request each copy of your transcript through Mrs. Whiting in the Counseling Center using the transcript request form. Parent signature is required if you are not 18. You are allowed 5 free copies, after that you are charged \$2.00 per copy.
- ▶ Copy of our school profile will be mailed with each transcript.
- ▶ Please allow **48 hours** to process your transcript request.

Recommendations

- ▶ Transcript request form also has a box to indicate if a recommendation is needed from your School Counselor.
- ▶ Please attach the required form and a copy of the Information for Recommendation sheet.
- ▶ Please allow a **minimum of 2 weeks** to process your recommendation request.

Using the Common Application- nearly 700 colleges use the Common App.

- ▶ Step 1: Create your account
- ▶ Step 2: Add schools to your list
- ▶ Step 3: Understand your school's specific requirements. No two schools will have the exact same requirements. Your application will vary for each school on your list. Check out the requirements grid and download the requirement tracker worksheet. This will show you the school's requirements specifically.
<http://www.commonapp.org/whats-appening/application-updates/common-application-requirements-grid>
- ▶ Step 4: Gather your general application information: What you will need for every application, copy of high school transcript, list of extra-curricular activities (both inside and outside of school), test scores and dates of your college entrance exams, parent/legal guardian information.

Scholarships

- ▶ Posted on U-High counseling website
- ▶ Put on daily announcements- local scholarships
- ▶ National scholarship searches- Career Cruising, Fast Web, findaid.org, US Dept. of Ed., scholarships.com
- ▶ U-High scholarships- posted in the spring
- ▶ Institutional scholarships- specific to school in which you are applying to
- ▶ Most will need 2 letters of recommendation

Types of Financial Aid

- ▶ Grants- Funds issues by federal or state government or the college itself. Does not need to be repaid.
- ▶ Loans- Funds that must be repaid.
- ▶ Scholarships- Based on achievement or talent, and does not need to be repaid.
- ▶ Work-Study- Need-based where students work on campus
- ▶ Financial Aid night for seniors and families will cover the FAFSA in detail (put on by ISU) **October 11th @ 6pm in library**

NCAA

- ▶ Just a reminder for students athletes that plan to play Division I or Division II athletics in college- please plan to meet with your counselor in the next week if you have not already done so.

“Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.” *Malcolm X*

- ▶ Questions
- ▶ Thank you for coming!

Campus Visit and Interview

- ▶ Campus Visit Procedure
 - ▶ Make An Appointment With The Admission Office
 - ▶ Pre-Arrange The Absence In The Attendance Office By Obtaining A College Visitation Form From Mrs. Witte
 - ▶ After The Visit, Have Representative Sign The College Visitation Form
 - ▶ Return The Signed Visitation Form to Mrs. Witte
 - ▶ You May Use Three Days Per Year (Any Additional Days Must Be Petitioned In Writing To Mr. Wilder)