

The ABCs of College Admissions



Parent University Workshop
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Only 216 months 'til college.

Topics for Discussion

- ▶ What is happening in college admissions today?
- ▶ Why do I need to think about this now?
- ▶ Timelines
- ▶ College Testing
- ▶ Myths



College Admissions 2014

▶ Some statistics:

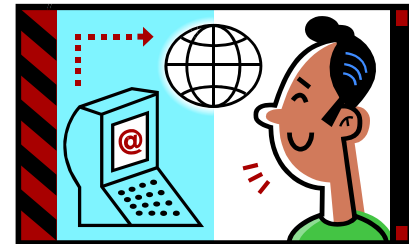
- The number of HS graduates peaked in 2009 at 3.3 million. Numbers are projected to decline through 2014–2015, and remain below 2009 levels through at least 2020–21.
- Although the number of graduates have declined, growth in the number of applications per student has continued to increase steadily.



Why/How are applications increasing?

◦ TECHNOLOGY

- Use of Internet and Social Media Tools in the recruitment process.
- Ease of applying



What does this mean?

- Average selectivity rate (% of students offered admission) is decreasing.
- This has created more difficulty for colleges to predict their “yield”.
- The ease of applying to multiple colleges creates disincentives for students to spend time evaluating the “fit” of their college options.*

Why Do I Need to Think About This?

- Skills that count in the process – learning starts now!
 - Interest and Goal development
 - Self-Advocacy
 - Focus on Writing Skills
- Demonstrated Interest is playing a bigger role
- Caution against “backward planning”
 - “My son will go to Harvard!”
- Let’s talk about **FIT**

Timeline

- PSAT: Grade 10 for some, Grade 11 for all
 - *Visit, Visit, Visit – Grades 10 and 11*
- SAT/ACT: Spring of Junior Year, plus Fall of Senior Year
 - *Visit, Visit, Visit – Grades 10 and 11*
- Applications: BY Thanksgiving of Senior Year
- Results: Throughout Fall and Winter
- Financial Aid Decisions: Spring
- Decision (Deposit) must be made by 5/1

College Testing

- ▶ PSAT
- ▶ SAT
- ▶ ACT
- ▶ Advanced Placement (AP)
 - www.collegeboard.com
 - www.actstudent.org



Myths

- Colleges only look at SAT and GPA
- SATs are better
- Volunteering is a must
- Parents can call and negotiate
- New Paltz and Geneseo are schools that anyone can get into
- Senior Year doesn't matter

Resources

- Interest Assessments

- Naviance (grades 6–12) Career Planner

- NY Career Zone www.nycareerzone.org

- Career Key www.careerkey.org

Resources

- College Exploration:

- www.pobschools.org

- Guidance sites

- Naviance

- www.collegeboard.com

- www.collegeconfidential.com

- www.youniversitytv.com

Resources

- Athletics
 - National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)
 - www.eligibilitycenter.org
- Financial Aid & Scholarships
 - FAFSA www.fafsa.ny.gov
 - www.finaid.org
 - www.fastweb.com

Questions?

