The College Admissions Process

Timothy L. Fields, Associate Dean
Emory Undergraduate Admission
Overview

- Different types of colleges and universities and the differences between them
- What to consider when choosing a college or university
- Factors that influence college decisions
- Advice for students when preparing to Apply to College
- Questions
Admission is an Art not a Science

\[ m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1} \]
Different types of colleges and universities

- **A university** is an institution of higher education and research, which grants academic degrees in a variety of subjects. A university provides both undergraduate education and postgraduate education.
  - University of Georgia - Georgia State University – Georgia Tech

- A **community college**, sometimes called a county college, junior college, technical college, or a city college, is an educational institution providing higher education and lower-level tertiary education, granting certificates, diplomas, and associate’s degrees.
  - Georgia Perimeter College - Atlanta Metropolitan College

- **Liberal arts colleges** are primarily colleges with an emphasis upon undergraduate study in the liberal arts. A liberal arts education is defined as a "college or university curriculum aimed at imparting general knowledge and developing general intellectual capacities, in contrast to a professional, vocational, or technical curriculum."
  - Emory College - Agnes Scott College – Berry College

- A **vocational school** provides vocational education and is also referred to as a trade school or career college. They are operated for the express purpose of giving students the skills needed to perform a certain job or jobs.
  - Atlanta Technical College - Gwinnett Technical College

- **Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)** were established before 1964 with the principal mission of educating African Americans and have long played a vital role in the U. S. educational system.
  - Morehouse – Spelman-Clark Atlanta
Factors to Consider
When Applying to College

- Major and minors offered
- What does the school specialize in?
- Diversity
- Physical location of school
- Retention rates
- Support services in place
- Scholarships/Financial aid programs
- Campus climate
- Social setting
What Drives Admission Decisions?
Curriculum!!! Curriculum!!! Curriculum!!!

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
AP Courses- English, Calculus, Languages, Science, History, and Micro/Macro Economics courses

Perceived “easy” AP’s: Art History, Psychology and Statistics

I.B Programs – Being Enrolled in the diploma program completing higher level courses through “Theory of Knowledge”

Advanced/Honors Courses- Classes beyond the traditional college prep track

College Courses - Core Courses (Math, Science, Languages, and English)
Other Factors that Influence the Decision

Remember: None of these factors are more important than the Curriculum!!!!

- Test Scores (SAT/ACT)
  - AP Test Scores
  - IB Test Scores
  - SAT Subject Test
- Class Rank
- Extracurricular Activities
  - Leadership Roles
  - Community Service
  - Commitment
- Essays
- Demonstrated Interest
- Region
- Socioeconomic Status
- Gender
- Letters of Recommendation
Advice for Students Preparing to Apply to College

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

- **Test Early** - Take the SAT or ACT during the beginning of Junior year
- Take the most challenging courses offered (Math, Sciences, English, and 3 years of Languages)
- Avoid B’s and C’s
- Volunteer for leadership positions and be committed to extracurricular activities
- Request to be on potential school’s mailing list; visit campus if possible
- Develop relationships with teachers and counselors for personalized (not generic) letters of recommendation
- Tell story in essays (the application is not a place to be shy)
- Learn about the school; don’t simply apply based on name
- Don’t let money be a deterrent
- Apply *early*
- Meet all deadlines and follow up with the schools
Pieces of the Puzzle
Contact Information

- Timothy Fields
  - TLField@emory.edu
QUESTIONS?