

EMORY



# **Emory University Undergraduate Admission Overview**

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Understanding the Holistic Review Process





## Agenda

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- Holistic Review
  - Understand how admission representatives review the various components of college applications



## Highly Selective Institutions

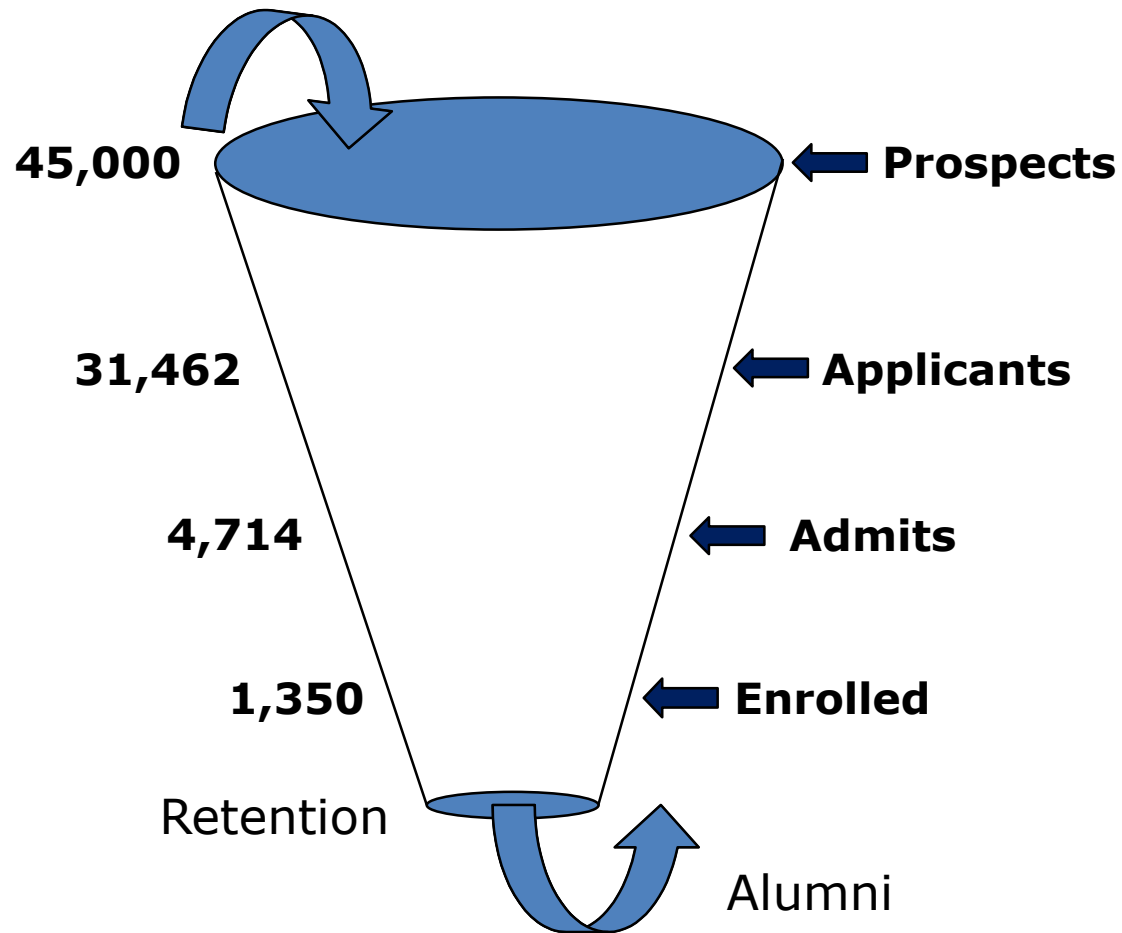
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- Out of nearly 4,000 colleges and universities in the US, about 80 of them are highly selective:
  - Institutions where 25% or less of the applicants are admitted
  - Institutions with a holistic approach to application review
  - Institutions with no magic formula for admission (no cut-off's or ceilings)



## Enrollment Funnel

- Sample first-year class: From Prospects to Alumni





## Holistic Application Review

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- How do you stand out among thousands of applicants?





## Curriculum Rigor

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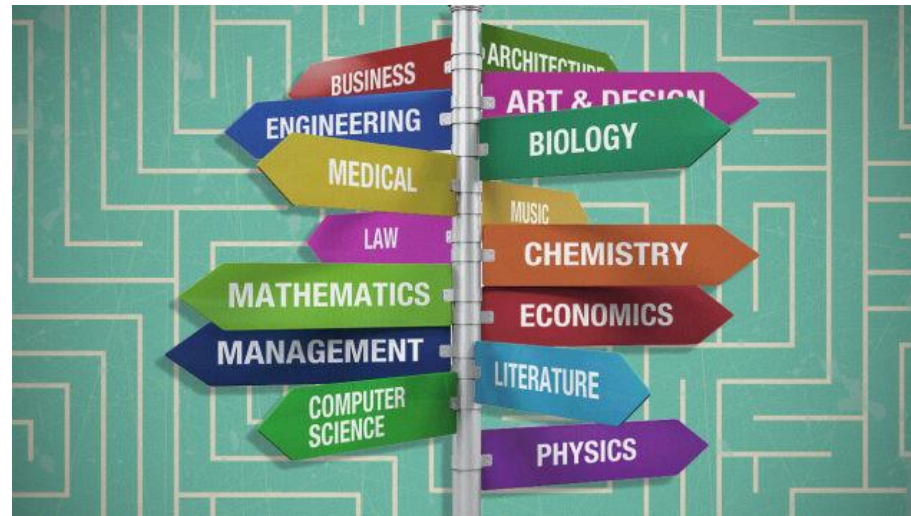
- What is an exceptionally strong academic program at your school?
- Does your school have a cap on the number of advanced classes you can take?
- Who should you talk to about enrolling in the most rigorous courses offered?



## Intended Majors/Areas of Study

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- Does choice of major matter?
- Why would schools be interested in a student's intended area of study?





## Personal Attributes/Special Talents

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- The admission committee's goal is to create a well-rounded class
- Attributes and talents include (but are not limited to):
  - Diversity of thought
  - Community impact-makers
  - Athletic achievements
  - Musical talent





## Application Plans

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- What are the admission plans you have to choose from?
- Why would you apply under Early Decision? What are the benefits – for the applicant and for the school? What are some of the possible downsides of making this choice?
- What should you do before signing an Early Decision contract?



## Supplemental Essays

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- Take advantage of every opportunity to express yourself and tell admission representatives your story!
- Optional essays should be written! Why not take a little bit of extra time to provide as much information as possible?





## Application Tips and Recommendations

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- In what way should you distinguish your “love” of a particular school? On the Common Application or on the School-Specific Supplemental Page?
- Think about fit when applying to colleges
  - Go beyond the college website
  - Attend high school visits, information sessions, and visit campus
- Do your research!



## Demonstrated Interest

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- What is demonstrated interest?
- Does it matter?
- Note: Some colleges may not track demonstrated interest, but can still tell a student's interest in their school through the depth of understanding illustrated through the supplemental essays



**TEXAS**  
The University of Texas at Austin



**Washington**  
University in St. Louis



**AMERICAN**  
**UNIVERSITY**  
WASHINGTON, D.C.



**Kenyon College**



## Summer Programs

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- Do summer pre-college programs make a difference in the application process?
  - Does it matter where you attend or simply that you attended one?
- What other kinds of summer programs or opportunities can you take advantage of?





## Personal Statement

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- What purpose does the personal statement have in the application?
- What makes a great essay?
- What message are you sending through your essay?
- Example of Personal Statements from last year's applicant pool who are current Emory students:
  - [Example 1](#)
  - [Example 2](#)
  - [Example 3](#)



## Legacy

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- What is a legacy student?
- Does this legacy status matter at every college?
- What if you aren't a legacy student?





## Supplemental Essays

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- Details matter!
- Write specific essays to the schools you are applying to



## Freshman Year Grades

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- Schools look at trends in grades!
- Some schools also recalculate GPAs





## Extracurricular Activities

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- Note: There is a difference between a student who is well-rounded and an incoming first-year class that is well rounded.
- You don't have to do everything; participate in the activities you truly care about!



## Disciplinary Violations

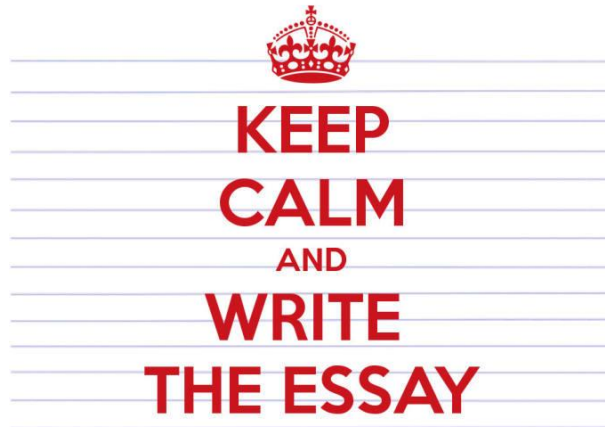
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- Should you acknowledge academic dishonesty in your application?
- Will you be automatically denied?
- Note: Students must disclose academic violations and state/federal law violations through the Common Application and provide an additional explanation.



## Personal Statement

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- If you decide to write about playing a sport, write about what you experienced/learned from playing the sport. Don't write about the actual game.
- Your personal statement is an opportunity for admission representatives to learn about you and your personality.



## Special Talents

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- Does being an athlete make a difference in the admission process?
- Like an athlete or musician, excelling in an area is viewed positively in the application process. Committing yourself to an activity shows dedication and passion.



## Senior-Year Grades

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- Strong performance in challenging coursework shows your academic promise as a college student.



## Geography

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- Does geographic residency matter?
- How many of you are friends with someone from South Dakota? Kazakhstan? Ecuador?
- Diversity comes in many different forms and we value the exchange of ideas and perspective!







## Senior-Year Grades

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- Admission representatives want to know that you are ready for the level of rigor at their colleges.
- Poor performance in a class may mean you are not dedicating as much time to your studies.



## Emory Courtesy Scholarship

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- The benefit amount you receive as a faculty or staff member is determined by, years of service and area of Emory you work for (Healthcare or University).
- You will need to contact your HR representative to determine your eligibility amount .
- Undergraduate Admission takes into consideration children of Faculty and Staff members in the review process.
- Legacy includes, Parents, Siblings, and Grandparents.
- The Courtesy Scholarship is the same for both Emory and Oxford College
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## Questions?

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Thank you for your engagement!

