Emory University
Undergraduate Admission Overview

Understanding the Holistic Review Process
Agenda

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

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

- Sample first-year class: From Prospects to Alumni

45,000

31,462

4,714

1,350

Retention

Prospects

Applicants

Admits

Enrolled

Alumni
Holistic Application Review

• How do you stand out among thousands of applicants?
Curriculum Rigor

• 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

- Does choice of major matter?
- Why would schools be interested in a student’s intended area of study?
Personal Attributes/Special Talents

• The admission committee’s goal is to create a well-rounded class

• Attributes and talents include (but are not limited to):
  o Diversity of thought
  o Community impact-makers
  o Athletic achievements
  o Musical talent
Application Plans

• 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

• 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

• 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
  o Go beyond the college website
  o Attend high school visits, information sessions, and visit campus

• Do your research!
Demonstrated Interest

• 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.
Summer Programs

• Do summer pre-college programs make a difference in the application process?
  o 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?
Extracurricular Activities

• Why is not participating in any extracurricular activities a detriment to the student?

• What does it say about a student’s character?
Personal Statement

• 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:
  o Example 1
  o Example 2
  o Example 3
Legacy

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

• Details matter!

• Write specific essays to the schools you are applying to
Freshman Year Grades

• Schools look at trends in grades!
• Some schools also recalculate GPAs
Extracurricular Activities

• 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

• 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

- 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

• 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

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

- 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

- 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

- 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.
Questions?

Thank you for your engagement!