

College Application Meeting: Part 1

Mercy High School
Spring 2019

Let us take one day at a time,
merely making a resolve for
tomorrow – Catherine
McAuley

Goals for today

- ★ Exploring Colleges/creating that list
- ★ Essay introduction
- ★ Financial talk with your family
- ★ Resume
- ★ Resources in Schoology

Creating Your College List

Consider these questions (courtesy of Janet Stetson, Associate Director of Admissions at Bard College):

- ★ Have you really researched the schools (online and/or by visiting the campuses?)
- ★ Does the college have the courses/programs that you want to study?
- ★ What are your (and your family's) financial needs?
- ★ Are the colleges on your list a good match, considering your academic and social needs and interests?

How Many Colleges Should I Apply To?

- 5-7 (on average)
 - This range depends on the fit of the colleges in relation to the student's academic record and circumstances.
 - List should include a combination of Safety, Target, and Reach schools.

Target Schools

A “target” school is one that the student feels will fulfill her needs and desires and one that she could happily attend, even though it may not be her first choice college. The student should fit the general admissions criteria in both academic and social areas. A good rule of thumb is to have 2-4 Target schools under consideration.

Safety Schools

A college is considered a “safety” school when the applicant’s academic record far exceeds the admissions requirements for that school. Students may want to consider applying to both an academic and a financial Safety school.

Reach Schools

These schools are the most selective in their admissions practices and competition for the limited spaces in the freshmen class is intense. Students should have 1-2 schools in this category.

Elements of an Application

Counselor Responsibilities

- Transcripts
- Letters of Recommendation
- Secondary School Report

Teacher Responsibilities

- Letters of Recommendation
- Teacher Evaluation

Student Responsibilities

- Application
- Test Scores
- Essays
- Requests
 - Letters of Recommendation
 - School Report
 - Transcripts

Student Responsibilities

Student Responsibilities

- Application
- Essay
- Test Scores - **FALL**
- Requests - **FALL**
 - Letters of Recommendation
 - School Report
 - Transcripts

Different Application Types

★ **The Common Application**

★ **School-specific Applications**

- **Some colleges give students the option to complete either the Common Application or their own School-specific application.**

Note: The College's Admissions information page will tell the applicant what type(s) of applications are used. Students can also go the Common App's website to view a list of participating schools.

Essay

- ★ Some schools require one essay, some require multiple essays, and some do not require an essay at all.
- ★ If the essay is deemed “optional,” write one.
- ★ If an essay is not requested by the college, do not send one.

What is the purpose of your college application essay?

- ★ Essay has one job to do – gives the reader insight into who you are
- ★ What makes you unique? What makes you stand out?
- ★ Show your personality! Emphasis on YOU...

Who reads your college essay?

- ★ Not run through a computer to compute your viability as a candidate
- ★ Read by admissions officers, real life human beings
 - They are professionals, but that does not mean they require “fancy” word choice if that is not a part of who you are.
 - They read hundreds, potentially thousands, of essays. How will you stand out?

What does the reader already know about you?

- ★ Reader will already know the following:
 - GPA/Curriculum/Grade Trends/Test Scores
 - Extracurricular Involvement/Athletics/Work Experience/Community Service



What do you wish they knew about you?

- ★ There is no list of “good” essay topics
- ★ Choose to share something that is unique to you
- ★ Keep a focus on revealing one aspect of who you are, rather than regurgitating your resume
 - Personality traits, not accomplishments
 - Biggest mistake is writing what you think “they” want to hear

Research

- ★ Do research about yourself
 - What kind of person are you?
 - What are your strengths and weaknesses?
 - What are your best characteristics?
 - Ask your parents, friends, and teachers

Essay Instructions

- ★ This essay demonstrates your ability to write clearly and concisely on a selected topic and helps you distinguish yourself in your own voice.
- ★ What do you want the readers of your application to know about you apart from courses, grades and test scores?

Instructions Continued

- ★ Choose a topic that best helps you answer that question and write an essay of no more than 650 words, using a prompt to inspire and structure your response
- ★ Remember: 650 words is your limit, not your goal. Use the full range if you need it, but don't feel obligated to do so. (The application won't accept a response shorter than 250 words)

Important things to remember

- ★ You have all the tools to write this – don't work so hard
- ★ Don't shut down a topic, be curious
- ★ This is only a part of your application, not the only piece



Activity

- ★ Take out a sheet of paper & a writing utensil. Raise your hand if didn't bring one.
- ★ Turn to a blank page

Jot Down

- ★ What do you consider your best characteristics?
 - What would your friends say they like about you?
 - What makes you great?
- ★ And, how do you know this?
 - Look for patterns, think of stories/experiences
- ★ Jot down a quick story/brain trigger for each quality



ATTENTION—WHOOO-HOOO



meme-generator.net

Summer Work

- ★ June – Jump on Going Merry for Scholarships (financial talk with parents)
- ★ June - Register for NCAA (if necessary)
- ★ July – research your schools and track application requirements. Use the trackers in Schoology.
- ★ July- fine tune your resume on Naviance
- ★ July – apply for scholarships
- ★ August – start filling in Common App data if you apply to a Common App school

NCAA Eligibility

- ★ **If you are an athlete interested in playing a Division 1 or Division 2 sport at the college level, you must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center**
 - **Register at www.eligibilitycenter.org.**
 - **Request a transcript through the NCAA website.**
 - **For step-by-step instructions, see the NCAA [Registration Checklist](#).**

Resources in Schoology

- ★ Essay Tracker
- ★ College List Tracker
- ★ Common Application Tutorials

What happens after summer?

- ★ August - Student class meeting to go over the nuts and bolts of the process
- ★ September - Colleges begin visiting Mercy
- ★ September - Parent meeting
- ★ September - Student individual meeting with counselor
 - purpose to see where you are to make a plan

Questions?

Thank you for your participation today!

We hope you have a wonderful summer and we will see you back at Mercy in the Fall!!