

# COLLEGE BOUND

Independent Educational Consultants



## Jumpstart the College Process!



# Objectives



Following this program, you will better understand:

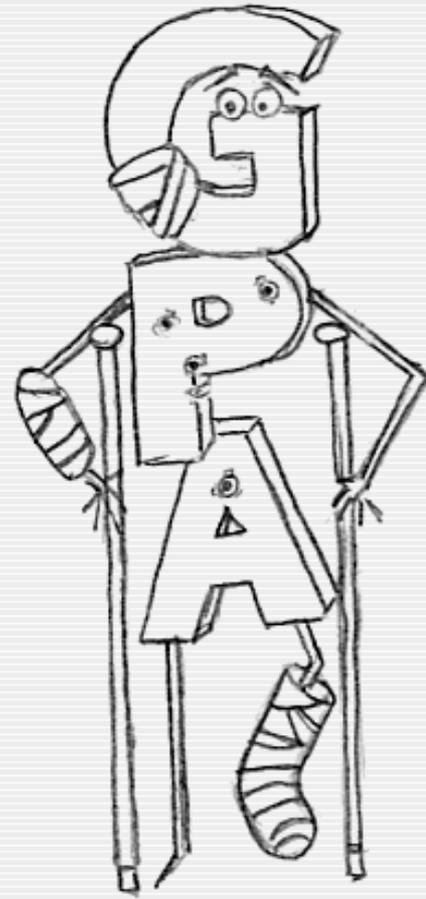
- Current admissions trends, the application process, and factors weighed in admissions decisions
- The top attributes and experiences colleges look for in high school students
- What you should be doing NOW to prepare

# Agenda



- The Great Sorting Game
- Current Admissions Trends
- Strengths/Experiences that Colleges Look for in Applicants
- Planning Calendar

# “The Great Sorting Game”



# Current Admissions Trends



- Enrollment management → yield
- Crafting a class → institutional priorities
- Rankings → numbers

# What Matters Most?



## Top 7 Strengths & Experiences That Colleges Look for in Applicants



# I. High School Curriculum

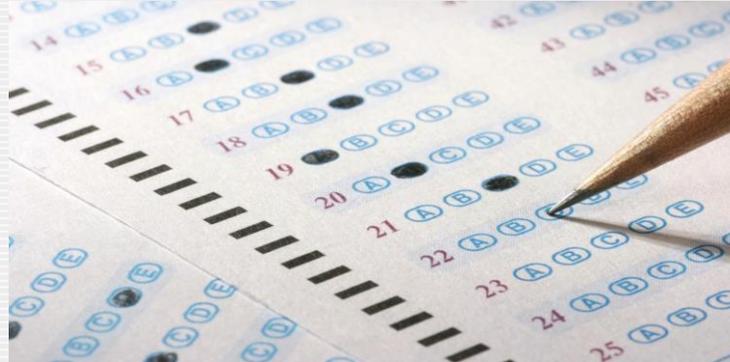


**A rigorous high school curriculum that challenges the student and may include AP or IB courses**

## **Reflection:**

1. Which courses are you taking next year?
2. Are those classes challenging and just as rigorous, if not more rigorous, than your current curriculum?

## II. Solid Scores on Standardized Tests



**Test scores (ACT, SAT) should be consistent with high school performance.**

## III. A Well-Written Essay



### **The essay should:**

- Provide insight into the student's unique personality, values, and goals
- Be thoughtful and highly personal
- Demonstrate careful and well-constructed thinking

## IV. Passionate Involvement



### What do colleges value?

- Passionate involvement in a few in-school or out-of-school activities.
- Commitment and depth are valued over minimal involvement in a large number of pursuits.

#### Reflection:

1. Where do you demonstrate the ability to take the initiative, serve as a role model, handle setbacks, and push through obstacles?
2. Are you a “spike” or a “circle” and does it matter?

# V. Diverse and Interesting Student Body



- Many colleges look for personal characteristics that will contribute to a diverse and interesting student body.
- Colleges seek to develop a freshman class that is diverse: geographically, culturally, ethnically, socio-economically, and politically.

## VI. Letters of Recommendation



Letters of recommendation should be from teachers and guidance counselors who can give evidence of:

**integrity, special skills,  
positive character traits, and  
an interest in learning**



## VII. Enthusiasm to Attend



### **Demonstrate enthusiasm by:**

- Visiting campus
- Attending college fairs, presentations, and high school information sessions
- Participating in an admissions interview, if offered
- Developing a strategic application plan

**AND...**

showing an interest in attending if offered admission!!!



# Thank You!



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