

Myths and Half Truths

- Very competitive schools are looking for well rounded students
- If you are a minority, you are will get in & you will get scholarships
- Millions of dollars of scholarship money goes unclaimed every year
- If a student gets lots of mail, phone calls, and emails from a school, they are being recruited
- Only Arizona Universities will accept dual enrollment credit
- WUE Schools give you their in-state tuition

“Everyone says”, or “I heard”... verify, verify, verify!

Selecting a School -Type, Size, Location, Majors

- Type of School, and Size. Public or Private
- Urban, Rural, Weather, **Transportation**
- **Majors** - over $\frac{1}{3}$ of students change majors at least once. STEM students were the most likely to switch. Natural Science majors were second highest group to change with students in Health related fields were least likely to change. Does a school have several majors you like?

Social Fit

A very large university is likely to have all kinds of students and students find their group via clubs and classes

Many smaller schools have a definite vibe. Often the Admissions Rep is an alum and reflects that vibe.

Greek Life? Sports? Recreation Facilities? Active Clubs?

Do students actually meet people in class? Class size, group projects, discussion based format..

Financial Fit

Merit Aid - Money offered student based on grades, test scores, and possibly other attributes (athletics, community service, band). These are usually automatic and through admissions. Highly Selective Schools rarely give Merit Aid.

Financial Aid - Loans, Grants, Work Study. This is based on family finances.

Private Scholarships - just under 4% of money available to help pay for a college education comes from private scholarships. The other 96% comes from the federal government in the form of grants and loans, and from the colleges themselves.

Net Price Calculators - each school has one on their website. Don't just look at the tuition cost and COA (Cost of Attendance). Run the calculator - you might be surprised.

\$12,713,467 offered to Arcadia Students 2018

Athletic Scholarships - \$911,562*

AZ In-State Univ. Merit Aid - \$4,309,689

Merit Aid from Private and OOS - \$6,962,101

WUE Discounts - 105,384

Full Rides - \$669,728 (Service Academies, Questbridge...)

Special Awards - \$292,362 (no application)
National Merit, Alumni Awards, Charros

ASU Programs - (NGSC & Trio) - \$64,000

This is a grand total for four years

Private Scholarships where a student completes application, submits essay, recommendations: \$68,450 This amount was won by a total of 27 students - averaging to just over \$2,500 per student.

\$20,000 of the total was 1 Charros Future Teacher Scholarship, and \$32,500 was from the Rotary Club of Scottsdale where we had 5 winners.

*some students received merit aid for D3 athletics

More \$\$\$\$\$\$\$

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) - Opens October 1st of each year. Completing the FAFSA can get you need based aid. It can also unlock scholarships, work study opportunities, and lower interest loans.

CSS Profile - through College Board, costs \$25 to complete and \$16 to send to each school. Schools using the CSS Profile are known to be generous.

Merit aid is more likely to be offered to a student whose stats are better than the schools incoming average student.

OOS Public Colleges are much less likely to offer merit aid. They save it for their own kids.

Academic Fit

- The Freshman Class Profile is on most college websites
- GPA posted - is it weighted? Is it reconfigured?
- Test Scores - Do they require subject tests?
- What else do you need to apply? Recommendations?
Essays? A Resume? Interview?
- What do they value in an applicant? Is their process data driven or holistic?
- Is the school a Reach, a Match, or a Safety?
- MAJORS and Programs - study abroad? Internships?

Some Real Reasons Why Students Might Select (or don't select) a School

Everyone looked stressed out. I don't want to look like that. - Stanford University

Everyone was top of their class and an overachiever like me. I am used to being number one and I could not stand the thought of being just average - Princeton

I based my decision on the brand of jeans people wore - University of Delaware

A close family friend made "the face" when I said it was on my short list. It immediately came off and I've always regretted it. - College of William and Mary

It was the only college I visited where people were talking to each other and not just looking at their phones. - Gonzaga University

Is the School Good...

For your student?

The Highly Selective College

#1 Question they ask themselves when considering a student for admission -

Can This Student Handle The Work?

2018 vs 1997

	<u>2018</u>	<u>1997</u>
Yale	6.3%	20%
Penn	8.39%	33%
Washington U St. Louis	56%	16%
USC	100%	300%

Highly Selective Colleges Want To See

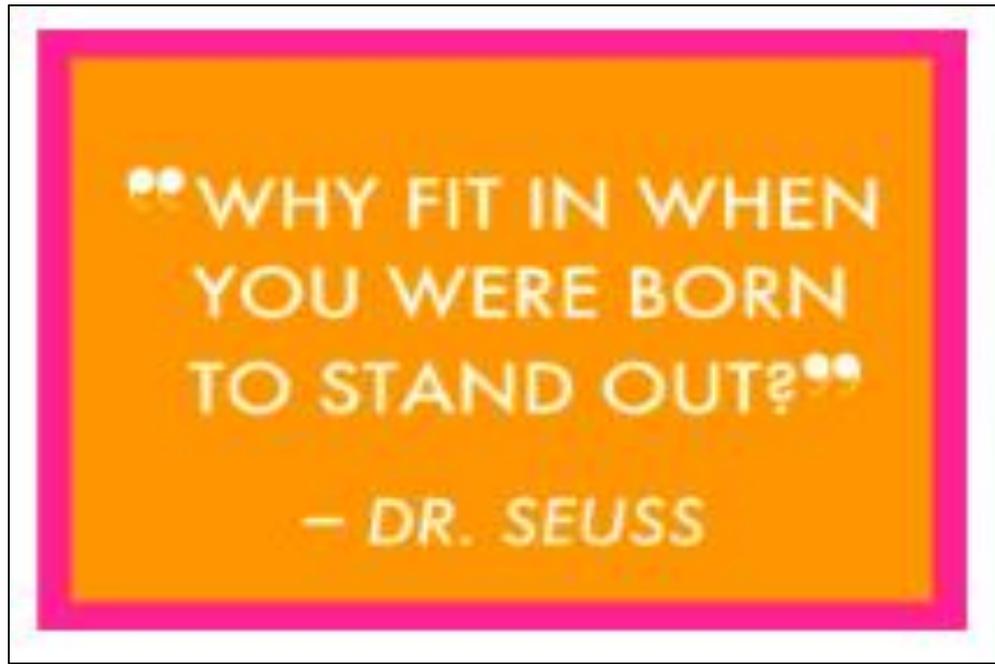
Students being their authentic self. Do not try to package yourself for a college. Admissions people see through that

Rigor of classes taken vs. available classes, extracurricular activities (include jobs)

Your essay should be free of errors - no excuses. Take your time and have several people read over it. This is your chance to stand out!

No HATE in your essay or interview! Panel of Harvard, Penn, Stanford, Georgetown, and Duke admissions people all agreed on this!

Your voice - your story. Admissions people read thousands of essays want you to shine through. Your essay will not get you in, but can help sway a decision.



Everyone applying is spectacular on paper - how do you stand out?

Ways to Stand Out

Have unusual interests or activities

Show you aren't just talk. What you do should reflect what you say.

Have something the school wants - You play the tuba in marching band. They need tuba players.

Know that students accepted one year may be quite different than other years

Have a Hook - development admit (\$), scholar/athlete, child of staff member, or you are a prestigious person.

College Admission Essays

- Essay should be perfect and free of any errors
- Essay should be written in your voice
- Don't repeat what you've already shared
- Don't try to impress the reader with an unrealistic vocabulary
- Show your critical thinking skills
- It should engage the reader
- It should be unique - a mundane subject is okay
- Know your audience!

There is No Magic Formula to Gain Admission

It seems the more selective the college, the less information is available regarding requirements or incoming student stats.

Students who apply Early Decision have a better chance, but if accepted, ED is binding. You have to pull all of your other applications.

The students with the very top GPA's aren't always the students getting into these schools. However, they are top notch students.

Take that class you *really* want to take even if it might affect your class ranking - especially if it coincides with your future field of study. Once you graduate, it doesn't matter - everyone starts over.

If you don't get in, know that you are not alone, and are in very good company!



4 Years of English

4 Years of Math with an **Advanced Math for which Algebra II is a prerequisite**

2 Years of Social Studies

3 Years of Lab Science

2 Years of same Foreign Language

1 Year of Fine Arts or Career and Technical Education Credit (CTE)

3.0 or higher in the Sweet 16

No more than 2 deficiencies. Two cannot be in the same subject or the combination of two can not be in math and science.

“...But I know a kid who got in and had a 2.8 GPA!”

Arizona students will be considered for admission at our in-state public universities if:

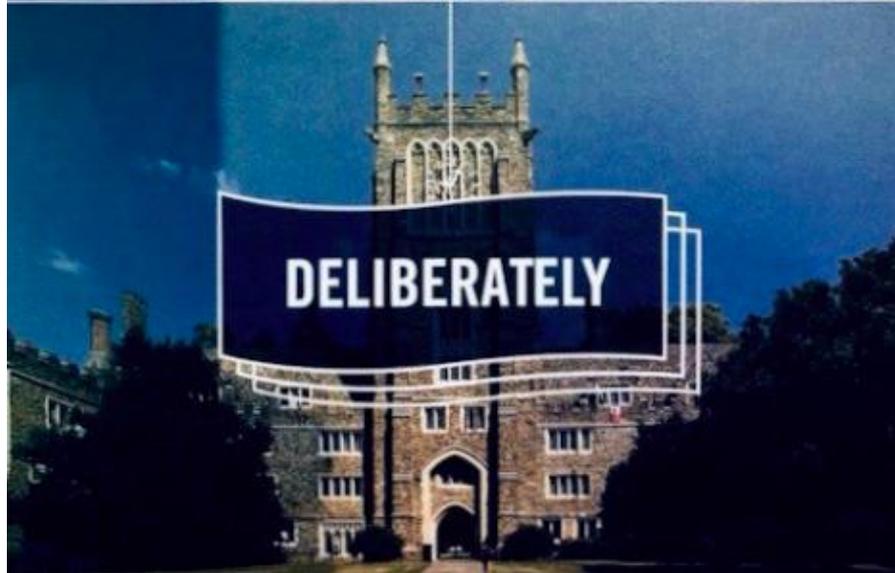
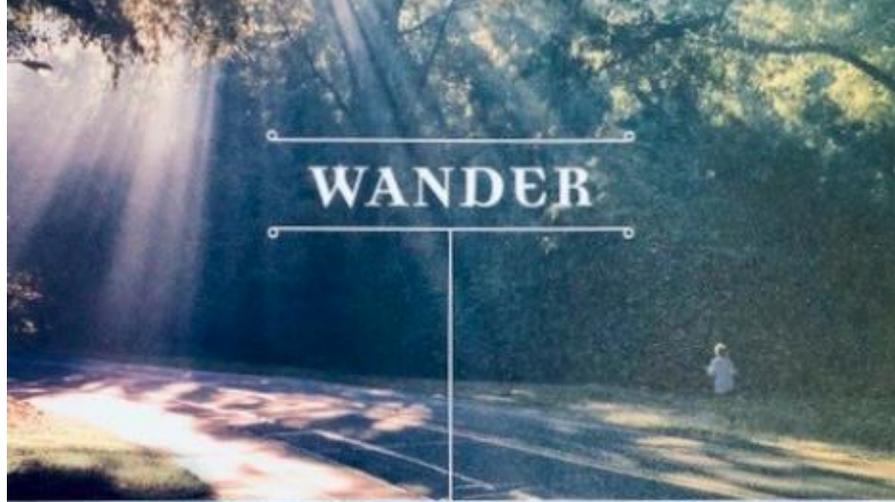
- Graduating in the top 25% of Class or
- Has an ACT Score of at least 22 or
- Has a SAT Score of at least 1120

(In 2018, our in-state Universities cracked down on admission standards.)

Freshmen Aren't Too Young to be Thinking About College

“The best goal for college-bound students throughout high school is to choose a course load that will challenge them, but not crush them, beginning freshman year.”

9th Grade is the ideal time to Wander Deliberately! Try various clubs, take lessons outside of school, and attempt to discover what it is you enjoy, regardless of what anyone else is doing!



Freshman/Sophomore year is a great time to start exploring future opportunities. Parents should talk to their kids about:

Why they think college is important

Their experiences in selecting a college - the good and the bad

Finances - how much money college costs and what is affordable for your family.

Have them start a list. Pull up the website of a college they like and show them the average incoming freshman GPA. How does their GPA stack up?

When near a college, stop and walk around the campus. Try to get a feel for what your child likes and dislikes.

Talk about potential majors. What classes does your student enjoy?
Start folder and keep track of volunteer activity and anything student does.

Sophomores

Start building a really long college list. Enter it in Naviance. Why do you like these schools? Do you see a common thread?

Visit colleges when you can - even if it's just walking around the campus. Get a feel for the different types. Go to College Fairs!

Take the PSAT. Use the College Board site check out schools and know that some will start sending you information.

Attend College visits at Arcadia if it is a school on your list - especially if it's a highly selective school.

Contact schools you like and get on their mailing list. Attend College Fairs!

Juniors

Attend College Fairs!

Narrow down your list. Visit schools when you can.

Prepare for the SAT and ACT. All SUSD Juniors will take the ACT 2nd semester.

Use Khan Academy via the College Board to practice for the SAT & use ACT Academy on ACT site

Attend college visits unless it says Seniors Only. NAU, UA, and ASU usually come in the spring just to talk to juniors.

Rock it out academically! The grades you earn through your Junior year get you in. The grades you earn Senior year keep you in!

Start thinking about Teacher Recommendations!

Juniors

Run the Net Price Calculators for each school on your list for a cost estimate. Each college will have a NPC on their website.

Look at each school to see what their policies are for accepting AP credit and Dual Enrollment Credit.

Check out their Merit Aid Scholarships. Do you qualify?

Make sure you have taken all of the classes needed for admissions.

Make sure your college lists has Safety schools that you actually like!

If thinking about a GAP year, start exploring programs and opportunities. Do schools on your list have you apply next year and defer admission?

Considering starting at a Community College? Some have specific programs!

Seniors

Applications - Common App essay prompts are released months before the Common App is open. Start working on your essays!

Ask teachers/counselors/employers for recommendations. You should have at least one from a teacher.

Stay on schedule with application deadlines! Most are in the autumn.

Retake any admission tests early in school year.

If applying to any of our in-state universities, do it sooner than later.

Attend Arcadia College visits!

Start looking for private scholarships. Pull scholarship portfolio together.

Visiting the College and Career Center

My first priority are the students. I'm available during lunch and after school for them.

I do meet with parents, but ask that you set up an appointment. Please have your student attend our meeting. I want to know your student & have them involved.

Certain times of year are extremely busy for me (September, October, April and May), so please keep that in mind when trying to schedule an appointment.

Dual Enrollment questions about classes should first go to the teacher or CC.

It's better to reach me via email than phone. I turn off the very loud ringer when people are there, but can usually respond to a quick email during a college visit.

Upcoming Events

College Visits are posted on Naviance and calendar. Naviance is most current.

I use Remind to send out notifications to phones - text @arcadiacc to 81010

September 26th, University of Arizona will be here hosting an application workshop for Seniors in the library.

September 28th, our ASU Rep. will be in the College and Career Center holding office hours 1st & 2nd period. Walk-in, first come first served. Parents are welcome. After the Homecoming Assembly, ASU will have a presentation in Mt. Olympus followed by an application workshop for seniors.

Upcoming Events

On September 24 -, Michelle Hollins, Director of Recruitment from Barrett will be here. Students should sign up soon as space is limited. Priority is given to seniors.

October 21, Greater Phoenix College Fair, Phoenix Convention Center 11-3pm

October 21, Scottsdale College Fair, Scottsdale Stadium 4:30-6pm

November 1, Arizona College Consortium College Fair in Arcadia Auditorium
Lobby during lunch

College visits galore!!!