



Creating Your College List

JEAN WHALEN

DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE AND CAREER COUNSELING

PINE-RICHLAND HIGH SCHOOL

Welcome

Pop Quiz:

What college/university received the most applications for 2021 - 2022?

UCLA: 168,000 applicants 10.7% acceptance rate

What college/university received the most applications from PRHS seniors?

Penn State: 137 applications

Source: c2educate, Naviance

<https://www.c2educate.com/2021-college-admissions-season/>

<https://student.naviance.com/pinerichland>

Where Do I Start?

Self-Reflection – Identify Your Path

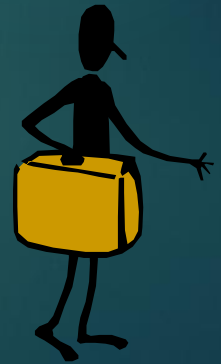
- ▶ What are your goals?
 - ▶ Specific Career?
 - ▶ Undecided?
- ▶ What are your interests?
 - ▶ Theater?
 - ▶ Clubs?
- ▶ Personality?
- ▶ Academics?
- ▶ Learning style?
- ▶ Values?
- ▶ Consider using assessments



Creating Your List

Location

- ▶ Talk to your parents
- ▶ Distance from home
 - ▶ Extra costs
- ▶ Climate: Hot? Cold? Temperate?
- ▶ Urban? Suburban? Rural?
- ▶ How do you decide?
 - ▶ Visit, visit, visit
 - ▶ Take pictures, make notes
 - ▶ Ask tour guide



Creating Your List

Size: Schools come in all shapes and sizes

- ▶ Under 1,000 to over 40,000
 - ▶ Private liberal arts colleges-usually smallest
 - ▶ Environment is quiet, reflective
 - ▶ Public research institutions-usually largest
 - ▶ Environment is busy
- ▶ Size can affect learning style
 - ▶ Smaller classrooms
 - ▶ Access to professors



Creating Your List

Competitiveness: What is the learning environment?

- ▶ What percentage of students are accepted?
 - ▶ UCLA: 10.7%
 - ▶ Penn State: 54%
 - ▶ Look in [Naviance](#): Penn State: 67% (5 year data)
- ▶ What is the typical grade point average?
 - ▶ Test scores?
 - ▶ Class rank?
- ▶ If accepted, can I keep up?
- ▶ What are the college expectations?



Creating Your List

Academic Programs

- ▶ Is the program accredited? Job outlook?
- ▶ What colleges offer my major?
- ▶ Am I interested in more than one field of study?
- ▶ How do they help undecided students?
- ▶ Career Center
 - ▶ Job placement
 - ▶ Internship opportunities?
- ▶ Co-op?



Creating Your List

Athletics: Do you have talent?

- ▶ Do you want to play competitively in college?
- ▶ All Division I and Division II prospective student athletes must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center at www.eligibilitycenter.org
- ▶ Club or intramural?



Creating Your List

Cost: College tuition/room/board vary

- ▶ Important to discuss **before** applying
- ▶ Talk to your parents about money
- ▶ Attend Financial Aid Night (Virtual)
 - ▶ October 5, 2022, 7:00 PM
 - ▶ PHEAA offers FAFSA completion events
- ▶ Apply for scholarships
 - ▶ [FastWeb](#) and/or [GoingMerry](#)
- ▶ Meet financial aid deadline dates
- ▶ How much is too much?



Creating Your List

Do you need special support services?

- ▶ Learning disabilities?
- ▶ Health issues?
- ▶ Physical/emotional disabilities?
- ▶ Dietary needs?
- ▶ Academic support programs vary
 - ▶ Fees?



Creating Your List



Cultural/Social Environment

- ▶ Campus personality
 - ▶ Politically active?
 - ▶ School spirit?
 - ▶ Community service?
- ▶ Clubs
- ▶ Male/female ratio
- ▶ Diversity
- ▶ Honor code?



Creating Your List

- ▶ Remember the **Big 3!**
 - ▶ Academic fit
 - ▶ Social fit
 - ▶ Financial fit
- ▶ Use Guidebooks
 - ▶ Fiske Guide to Colleges
 - ▶ College Board - College Handbook
 - ▶ The Insider's Guide to the Colleges
 - ▶ The College Finder
 - ▶ Colleges That Change Lives



Creating Your List

- ▶ Take virtual/in-person tours
- ▶ Attend open houses
- ▶ Meet with college representatives visiting your high school
- ▶ Use social media
- ▶ Follow a college blog – UVA, Georgia Tech
- ▶ Use search engines
 - ▶ Big Future: www.bigfuture.org
 - ▶ Naviance: <https://student.naviance.com/pinerichland>
 - ▶ Niche: <https://www.niche.com/>
 - ▶ Google
 - ▶ College Navigator:
<http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>



A Good Fit

- ▶ Meets your important criteria
 - ▶ Major, location, cost, interests and needs
- ▶ 8-10 schools
 - ▶ Reach – 1-2
 - ▶ Realistic - 4-6
 - ▶ Safety - 1-2
- ▶ Avoid picking just “name brands”
- ▶ Research graduation requirements
 - ▶ World language?
 - ▶ Capstone?



Final Thoughts

- ▶ Don't confuse selectivity with quality or fit
- ▶ Listen to your gut/intuition
- ▶ Be honest with yourself/parents
- ▶ Applying to college is not a sport
- ▶ Use your voice in your applications
- ▶ Counselors advise not decide!
- ▶ Avoid senioritis!
- ▶ Enjoy this great adventure!



Q & A

