

IB Junior Parent College Information Night



Big Ideas

- There is no certainty in this process. Beware.
- College is better than high school: you will be happy. Chill out.
- No one can tell you what college is right for you.
- Choosing and Applying to College is like...



**LOVE AND
MARRIAGE**



Prologue: The Economics of College

- Tenure System
- Publish or Perish
- Graduate and Teaching Assistants
- Class size
- Research Universities versus Teaching Colleges

- ...the importance of connection to professors

-resources

Lists:

Rankings are helpful, but not really

- How do you evaluate a college?
 - Selectivity to get in?
 - Experience while there?
 - Success when they graduate?
- Newsweek-Reputation
- US News and World Reports- \$
- Princeton Review-Student Quality Survey
- New York Times-Median Mid Career Salary

Choosing By Major:

Nothing is for Certain

1. What do they want to be when they grow up?
2. How do they (you) know?
3. If they haven't had any classes in the major, how do they know they will like it?
4. Three-fourths of students graduate with a different major than their stated intention in their senior year in high school, two-thirds change again by their sophomore year in college

College Culture:

You Are The Group You Choose to Join

- You Will Be Where You Go To School
- Why Did Everybody Go To This College?
- Every College Is Unique
- What is the college's self-identity?
- Who are you? What do you want?

- *The most impact from a college might be from the other students that go there and the attitudes and expectations of the college community as a whole.*

- Examine the surveys in Princeton Reviews, Internet Creeping, Visits, Interviews, Connections,
- <http://www.collegeconfidential.com>

Advanced Standing Changes 2020

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://college.harvard.edu/academics/planning-your-degree/advanced-standing>. The page header includes the Harvard University logo and the text "HARVARD UNIVERSITY". Below this is the Harvard College logo and the text "HARVARD COLLEGE". A navigation menu is visible with links for "About", "Admissions", "Financial Aid", "Academics", and "Student". A search bar is also present. The main content area features a breadcrumb trail: "Home / Academics / Planning Your Degree /". The title of the page is "Advanced Standing". On the left side, there is a sidebar menu with the following items: "Fields of Study", "Planning Your Degree" (highlighted), "Graduation Requirements", "Advanced Standing", "Advising & Counseling", "Undergraduate Research", "Enrichment Programs", and "Academic Integrity". The main text area contains the following content:

Our new policy on Advanced Standing

Students who seek admission to Harvard College are advised that the current Advanced Standing program will change beginning in Fall 2020. Admitted students who enter the College as freshmen in Fall 2020 (the Class of 2024), and all subsequent classes, will not be eligible to receive Harvard College degree credit for pre-matriculation credentials earned in secondary school.

This means that Advanced Placement examinations, the International Baccalaureate diploma, and international credentials will no longer be recognized for Harvard College credit toward the degree beginning with the students who enter the College in Fall 2020. These examinations will continue to serve as valuable placement tools, and certain examinations may still fulfill the College's language requirement.

Costs:

College Costs *So Much More Than You Think* - But...

....May Be *The Most Important Money You Will Ever Spend*

- Talk! Parents to kids! They know NOTHING about \$\$\$
- Rising cost of college tuition (see Clark Howard)
- FAFSA, Student loans and Compound Interestclark howard
- What are you paying for?
- Sticker Price versus What You Actually Pay
- Return on investment: a life time
- what is value?
- Create a starting price point with your kids, early but after both of you do your research

VISIT! YOU **MUST** VISIT!

1. Official tours are sell jobs
2. Get into classrooms
3. Talk to students
4. Talk to professors
5. Stay on campus
6. Get off the Yellow Brick Road
7. Ask the hardest, ugliest questions



Get off the Yellow Brick Road! It does not lead to a “magical land of Oz”

Possible Misperceptions

- Local versus National Reputation
- The relationship of undergraduate preparation for graduate school admissions and elitism in education
- The relative appreciation value of automobiles versus a college education: the value of a HOPEmobile
- Weigh “the Dream” vs “the harsh reality of cost”

General Strategy:

This is Your First Time in Real Life

- Think like an admission officer
- What do colleges want?
- Individualize, individualize, individualize
- Avoid stereotypes and clichés
- *“What are you going to do for the college?”*
- *“Don't be shy: Sell Yourself!”*

Recommendations

- Ask for Recs early, formally, sincerely and politely
- their teachers do not HAVE to recommend them
- You parents should never contact a teacher about a recommendation
- Ask for an “*enthusiastic recommendation*”
- Waive your FERPA rights
- Ask yourself: what does the teacher have to write about my performance? Common App checklist
- They want a teacher to be able to use superlatives and make them *an individual*

College Essays:

Your Most Important Words

– Ehhh-vuh (Ever)

- Basically, a creative writing assignment
- Individuation, Reflection, Intrigue
- ...But don't be weird

One basic formula from a former IB teacher (not the only way)

1. Narrative hook
2. Reflection on narrative hook
3. Relation of reflection to the college to which you are writing

How IB Helps

- The more selective or smaller the school...
- ...the more IB tends to help. (not always true)
- Academic rigor, well-roundedness, reflection
- Unique experiences: EE/Reflective Project, CAS/Service, ToK/PPS, leadership & social growth through close cohort.
- Writing and speaking through the application process.
- Close relationships & advice from IB teachers.

Advice from the class of 2015

- Don't just visit, meet with admissions
- Use you free SAT score report
- Start looking for scholarships in the summer
- Compile a list of essay prompts in one document and begin writing your essay this summer. If the prompts are similar, re-use them.
- Do NOT procrastinate this!

Making a Decision: Good Luck on that, Buddy!

Remember: LOVE AND MARRIAGE

LOVE AND MARRIAGE

- Don't *fall in love* until....
- **first:** you get accepted
- **& second:** you are sure you can pay for it.
- Don't think about the best college- **there is no such thing!** Think about the BEST FIT for you!
- Ask them: What do they like or dislike about high school? how will that change or remain the same in college?

Last Thought: Stress

- **College is not a magic silver bullet:** *how they do at any college* is probably more important than getting into a particular college.
- Almost all students end up liking, identifying, and being satisfied with their college choice
- The earlier and more active you are in this process, the less stress you will experience and the more opportunities will you have.

Remember



LOVE AND MARRIAGE



Not a perfect world!

There is no perfect path (and no Yellow Brick Road)

Have a *family conversation* – discuss REALITIES vs Dreams

Questions

