



MGS EDUCATIONAL CONSULTING

Design your path to college

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COLLEGE ADMISSIONS NEWS

– Congratulations to all Seniors who have decided where they're headed next year! Now, DON'T LOOK BACK!

Buy your swag, tell all of the other colleges on your list that you're not coming, put in for housing and roommates, and picture yourself on campus! The more that EVERYONE is invested in their first year on campus, the happier everyone will be!

– It's always good to know that around May 1, NACAC (National Association for College Admission Counseling) releases a list of colleges that still have openings for students. Students who are unhappy with their college choices can still apply to these colleges through the Common App. You may be surprised at what's still available! <https://www.nacacnet.org/news--publications/Research/openings/>

– Last month, Rutgers announced that they will be requiring all of their students to be vaccinated in the fall of 2021. Now, over 180 colleges have announced that they will require their students to be vaccinated!

KEY TERM TO UNDERSTAND

PARENT PLUS LOAN

I hear many parents say "We'll just figure it out" when it comes to paying for college. Parent PLUS Loans are certainly available to parents with good credit, but parents should be careful that they don't saddle themselves with debt when they should be saving for retirement! Because the limit is the college's cost of attendance (minus any financial aid), it's easy to take out more loans than are really needed.

A great resource to understand the repayment of Parent PLUS Loans (and any student loans) is the Loan Simulator through the US Department of Education: <https://studentaid.gov/loan-simulator/>. After you enter your income and loan amount, you will see various repayment plans and the actual amount you will spend over time. Proceed with caution! Read the fine print! Seek out colleges that offer merit aid!

COLLEGES IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

COLORADO COLLEGE

- Location: Colorado Springs, CO
- # of Undergrads: 2,084
- Acceptance Rate: 13%
- Student / Faculty Ratio: 10:1
- Returning Freshmen: 96%
- % Receiving Merit Aid: 8%

INTERESTING ACADEMIC PROGRAMS:

- The Block Plan: one course at a time for 3 1/2 weeks. 4 1/2 days rest between courses. Allows for great focus, but a huge amount of material is crammed in.
- Block schedule allows for unique times and places (ie, astronomy at midnight, or coral bio in Bermuda)
- Faculty teach at least 25 off-campus blocks (domestic or international)

FUN FACTS:

- Only seniors can live off campus
- Monthly Full Moon Cruisers: bike downtown and party!

DENISON UNIVERSITY

- Location: Granville, OH
- # of Undergrads: 2,263
- Acceptance Rate: 29.4%
- Student / Faculty Ratio: 9:1
- Returning Freshmen: 89%
- % Receiving Merit Aid: 93%

INTERESTING ACADEMIC PROGRAMS:

- "Power and Justice" graduation requirement
- Has a culture of "sustained dialogue" where the administration and faculty listen to their students
- A real focus on teaching; faculty actually watch each other teach

FUN FACTS:

- Among top 20 liberal arts colleges for Fulbright scholars
- One of the Colleges That Change Lives
- Notable alumni: Steve Carrell, Jennifer Garner, Michael Eisner

IT'S MAY. WHAT SHOULD JUNIORS BE DOING?

- Sorry to be a broken record, but don't let up on your **schoolwork**! Spring fever is upon us, but so are AP tests! It's been a rough year, but the end is in sight! Your hardwork will pay off, I promise!

- Put together a **resume** and present it to the teachers who will be writing letters of recommendation. It's a great way for them to have some context for you as a student. A sample resume can be found under Resources on my website.

- Start throwing together a **college list** based off of the factors that are important to you. It's like your first draft of an essay. Read "The Fiske Guide" and "The Colleges That Change Lives" and put some schools on paper (or on a spreadsheet, which is my preference). You'll edit it down and adjust it over the next few months! This is where it starts getting fun!!

WHAT MAKES FOR A HAPPY AND HEALTHY COLLEGE CAMPUS?

We talked last month about how to assess the mental health supports on college campuses. Just as important is assessing what colleges do to keep their students happy and healthy on a day-to-day basis. Things to think about:

- What structures do they have in place to create community? Do they have outdoor trips (or something similar) before orientation where students bond over shared adventures? Are there frequent campus-wide events, such as dances and concerts and movies, that bring students together? How easy is it to join clubs (at many colleges these days, students have to apply in order to participate)?

- Are there places on campus that inspire students to learn and play? Is there a beautiful library where students want to hole up and work? Is there a large quad where students like to play frisbee or sit out on blankets and chat (and maybe study)?

- How are basic needs taken care of? Are there vegan/vegetarian/gluten-free options at the dining hall? Are dorms set up to facilitate community (at least in non-Covid times)? How accessible are professors? How well does the administration listen to students?