

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO TO PREPARE THEIR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT FOR COLLEGE

J. DARIUS GREENE,
PRESENTER

Robert Frost Middle School
Principal/Parent Breakfast
January 11, 2019

Topics of discussion

- Current state of higher education
- Admission criteria
- Year-by-Year steps
- Funding opportunities
- Tips for successful applicants and parents

How are you preparing for college?



Copyright © by j. darius greene. All rights reserved.

Current state of higher education

- Increasing competitive admission standards
- Tuition increases
- Options
 - Traditional
 - Four year colleges/universities
 - Community colleges (*free tuition in Maryland for families making under \$150K*)
 - Online campuses and courses
 - Specialized
 - Music Conservatories, Graphic /Interior Design, Fashion, Culinary Arts
- Attainable!!!

Admission Criteria – General factors

- Academic performance and potential for college success
- Standardized test scores (ACT or SAT)
- Potential to contribute to campus and community
- Letters of recommendation
- Specific criteria include:
 - ▣ SAT Subject Test
 - ▣ Admissions office/Alumni interview
 - ▣ Writing or drawing samples/portfolios

Admission Criteria – Sample list of all factors

High School Achievement

Grades in Academic Subjects

Progression of Performance

Rank in Class (actual or percentile)

Written Expression of Ideas (Essay)

Gender

SAT I or ACT Scores

Work Experience

Recognition of Special Achievements

Extenuating Circumstances

Socio-Economic Background

Geographic Origin

Breadth of Life Experiences

Extracurricular Activities

Special Talents or Skills

Community Involvement

Community Service

Demonstrated Leadership

Academic Endeavors Outside the Classroom

Quality of Coursework

Residency Status

Race

Ethnicity

Family Educational Background

Learning Differences

English as a Second Language/Language
Spoken at Home

University of Maryland, 2017 - www.admissions.umd.edu/requirements/AdmissionReviewFactors.php

Factors subject to change

Copyright © by j. darius greene. All rights reserved.

Admission Criteria – Sample profiles

- **University of North Carolina at Charlotte (www.uncc.edu)**
 - 12,766 applications
 - 9,437 admitted (73% admit rate)
 - 3.61 Average GPA (weighted)
 - 1137 Average SAT

- **University of Maryland (www.umd.edu)**
 - 33,568 applications
 - 15,856 (47.2% admit rate)

- **Duke University (www.duke.edu)**
 - 37,330 applications
 - 3,219 admitted (8.6% admit rate)
 - 1490-1560 Middle 50% on SAT

Factors/Profiles subject to change



Copyright © by j. darius greene. All rights reserved.

What to do Year-by-Year – Middle School

- Identify academic strengths and stress the need for challenging coursework
 - ▣ Example: foreign languages; develop strong writing, math and science foundation

- Enroll in university summer academic programs/camps
 - Enhance interest in academic discipline
 - Get a feel for the college environment

- Visit campuses for ‘community days’
 - Example: University of Maryland’s *Maryland Day* – April 27, 2019

What to do Year-by-Year – 9th Grade

- Begin taking rigorous curriculum (1-2 honors courses)
 - *Note: You and guidance counselors know what's best for your student to be successful*

- Join clubs/organizations to develop leadership skills

- Community service involvement

- General research of college/university websites

What to do Year-by-Year – 10th Grade

- Continue challenging curriculum – more college prep/honors classes
- Strengthen relationship with guidance counselors
- Narrow college search
 - Define ‘type’ and setting of college/university
 - Public vs. private; large vs. small; urban vs. non-urban campus
- Contact colleges/universities to request information
- Participate in academic summer camp(s) of desired major or schools of interest

What to do Year-by-Year – 11th Grade

- Meet with guidance counselor to discuss courses, grades and college application process
- Identify teacher(s) who will write strong recommendation letters
- Prepare and take SAT/ACT (in the spring)
- Visit colleges – open houses; meet with admission counselor
- Enroll in academic summer camps – possibly for college credit

Very important academic year!

What to do Year-by-Year – 12th Grade

- Continue in best available and most challenging courses
- Consider retaking SAT/ACT (or both)
- Meet with guidance counselors and teachers to define strengths to highlight in recommendation letters
- Meet all application deadlines (admissions and financial aid)
 - Early decision – binding; if admitted, must attend; very selective
 - Priority deadline – for best consideration for admission
 - Regular deadline – typically later admissions cycle
- Schedule personalized visit with faculty of colleges/universities

Funding Opportunities

- Start researching scholarships now
- Research university websites for specific funding opportunities
- Apply and meet deadlines for FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) for each institution
- Meet with financial aid counselors to develop financial plan

Successful applicants are R.E.A.D.Y.

- Researchers
 - Inquire and search colleges/universities of interest, funding sources, admissions criteria

- Engaging
 - Substantial connections with college reps and faculty, in their community and in activities
 - Tell their story and experiences in their application

- Achievers
 - Both in and out of the classroom
 - Globally aware, analytical, creative, and effective communicators

- Deadline oriented
 - Meet all admission and financial aid deadlines

- Yes-informed
 - After careful consideration, prepared to answer 'YES' to attend a college/university

Parents...

- Let the student lead the process
- Try (*really, really hard*) not to compare your student to others
- Provide support, encouragement and guidance
- Remember to relax...and celebrate all successes!



Questions?