

COLLEGE BOUND

YOUR APPLICATION MENTORSM

The Results

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This time of year is always fraught with excitement, nervousness, and ultimately relief as we get the phone calls and e-mails from seniors about where they have been accepted. We share in all of their joy, disappointment, and confusion as they come to make their final decisions.

Fortunately, there is more joy than disappointment, but this year there was also a lot of indecision as the financial impact of the decision weighed heavily and overshadowed the excitement of getting in. Below are the results of how the class of 2010 did and how the financial piece also played out.

We are pleased to say that overall there was excellent news and everyone has a school that is not only a great fit, but also financially viable.

The Results

This was an extremely competitive year for Ivies and other highly select colleges with record lows in acceptances, however overall students did extremely well and there were many pleasant surprises. The Washington Post outlines the acceptance rate at numerous schools in this link. [Accept Rates from Washington Post Article](#)

Below is a partial listing of schools to which CB Mentor students were accepted this year.

American University

Merit Aid

Who Qualifies and Why?

Many people assume that only straight A students with near perfect test scores qualify for merit aid, but that is not the case. This year, College Bound Mentor clients received anywhere from \$4,000 per year to \$25,000 per year, depending on the fit with the school. **The average award was \$12,500 per year.** All told, students received upwards of \$367,000 per year in merit scholarship or **\$1.4 Million*** over four years! That's impressive!

So how does one qualify for merit based aid? Unlike

Babson College
Binghamton University
Boston University
Brandeis University
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
The Catholic University of America
Cleveland Institute of Art
University of Connecticut
University of Delaware
DePaul University
Drew University
Drexel University
Duke University
Elon University
Emerson College
Gettysburg College
Goucher College
Hofstra University
Indiana University at Bloomington (Kelley School of Business)
Ithaca College
Johns Hopkins University
Johnson & Wales University
Lehigh University
Marist College
Maryland Institute College of Art
University of Maryland, College Park
Marywood University
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
University of Miami
University of Michigan (Ross School of Business)
Middlebury
New Jersey Institute of Technology (Albert Dorman Honors College)
The College of New Jersey
New York University
University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Northeastern University
Ontario College of Art & Design (OCAD)
Pennsylvania State University, University Park
University of Pittsburgh (University Honors College)
Pitzer College
Quinnipiac University
Ramapo College of New Jersey
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
University of Rhode Island
University of Richmond
Rider University
Roanoke College
University of Rochester
Rowan University
Rutgers

needs-based aid, merit is awarded based on the student's academic achievement, athletic, artistic, or performing arts talent, community service, standardized test scores, geographic diversity, minority status, and overall fit with the school.

In analyzing the students who got merit-aid at various schools, it seemed that students who had one or more of the following profiles did well:

1. Their SATs or ACTs either matched or were higher than then their grades and classes suggested. For example a student who had a 3.0-3.5 GPA, but scored 1350 or higher in the Math and Critical Reading.
2. Students who had exceptional leadership in addition to high test scores.
3. Students who had exceptional leadership and a special talent, e.g. athletics, performing or visual arts and had solid GPAs.
4. Students were underrepresented minorities.
5. Students who were an excellent fit for the school in terms of interests, personality, and geographic diversity.

A National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) survey of public and private institutions further corroborates how merit decisions are made. The take away from this for those who wish to receive merit aid in the future is to continue to work hard in school and or your extracurricular activities and study for the standardized tests, and develop a list of schools strategically based on your strengths and interests.

* This includes all money received from schools to which students will and will not attend.

Matriculating to Schools Only One Will Do!

Seniors will need to send in their deposit to schools by May 1st. I have met or discussed with many of you to help make the final decision. For those of you still deciding, it is helpful to come up with a list of questions that you still feel are unanswered. If they are academic in nature, e-mail the questions to professors in the department you are thinking of pursuing at each of the schools in contention. See what sort of response you get. This will give you and idea of how your relationship with professors may be next year. If they are social in nature, develop a list

Sacred Heart University (University College)
Sarah Lawrence College
ScScripps
State University of New York at Albany
College of Staten Island
Stevens Institute of Technology
Stonehill College
Stony Brook University
Susquehanna University
Swarthmore College
Syracuse University
The University of Texas, Austin (College of
Communication)
Tulane University
Union College
Ursinus College
Vassar College
University of Vermont
Wagner College
Washington University in St. Louis
Wilmington University
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

and send it to some current students. If the choice is purely financial, let the numbers speak.

While it is tempting to send in multiple deposits to keep your options open, you may only send a deposit to one school. If the two schools find out that you have double deposited they may both rescind your offer. If you deposit before May 1st, which I recommend for larger schools to guarantee housing, it is polite to let the other schools know of your decision, but it is not mandatory. The lack of deposit will speak for itself.

For those of you still on a waitlist, should you get accepted off the waitlist, it is perfectly acceptable to let the school to which you sent a deposit know you will not be coming. They are used to that and there will be no hard feelings.

Please let us know where you do end up going so we can stay in touch.

We are so proud of all of you seniors and we are looking forward to working with the classes of 2011-13.
Happy spring!

Warmly,

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