



# COLLEGE BOUND

YOUR APPLICATION MENTOR<sup>SM</sup>

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## Steps to getting off the Wait List

1. **Write a letter** that shows the fit between you and the college. Use specific examples I was very impressed with the way UVA assigns students into groups for their undergraduate business degree. I was recently named captain of my soccer team because of the way I identified each of the players' strengths and weaknesses and developed a strategy for us to play more effectively as a team. As a result, we won the last 4 games. I will bring these skills to UVA if I am accepted.
2. **Keep senior year grades up.** Showing that you haven't slacked off will give you positive news to report.
3. **Update** your activity list, awards, etc. and send a copy to admissions.
4. **Visit** the admissions office. Come armed with a list of questions relevant to your interest in the school. (One of my clients did this and was accepted off the wait list a week later)
5. **Follow up** with your contact at the school every couple of weeks

## The Great News

All of our seniors were accepted to their first or second choice schools and many got substantial financial awards! Congratulations! You worked hard; you got your applications and essays done and submitted on time. It certainly paid off. Here are some of the schools to which students were accepted:

Cornell  
University of Pennsylvania  
The College of William and Mary  
Carnegie Mellon  
Muhlenberg  
University of Maryland (Honors)  
Rutgers (Honors)  
Tufts  
TCNJ  
University of Scranton  
University of Vermont  
UCLA  
Berkeley  
Vassar  
University of Michigan  
Penn State  
James Madison  
Johns Hopkins  
Villanova  
Boston College  
Boston University  
University of Florida  
Susquehanna  
Ursinus  
Parsons School of Design  
Northeastern  
University of Southern California  
NYU  
Quinnipiac  
Moravian

until you hear.  
Admissions people are human and the personal connection will help.

6. **Be prepared** to make your decision right away. You will likely get a call and have to decide within 24 hours.
7. **Stay positive.** Things always work out for a reason, so even if you don't get in, you all have an excellent alternative

## My Favorite College Resources

- *Fiske Guide to Colleges*
- *The Insider's Guide to Colleges.*  
Compiled by the *Yale Daily News*

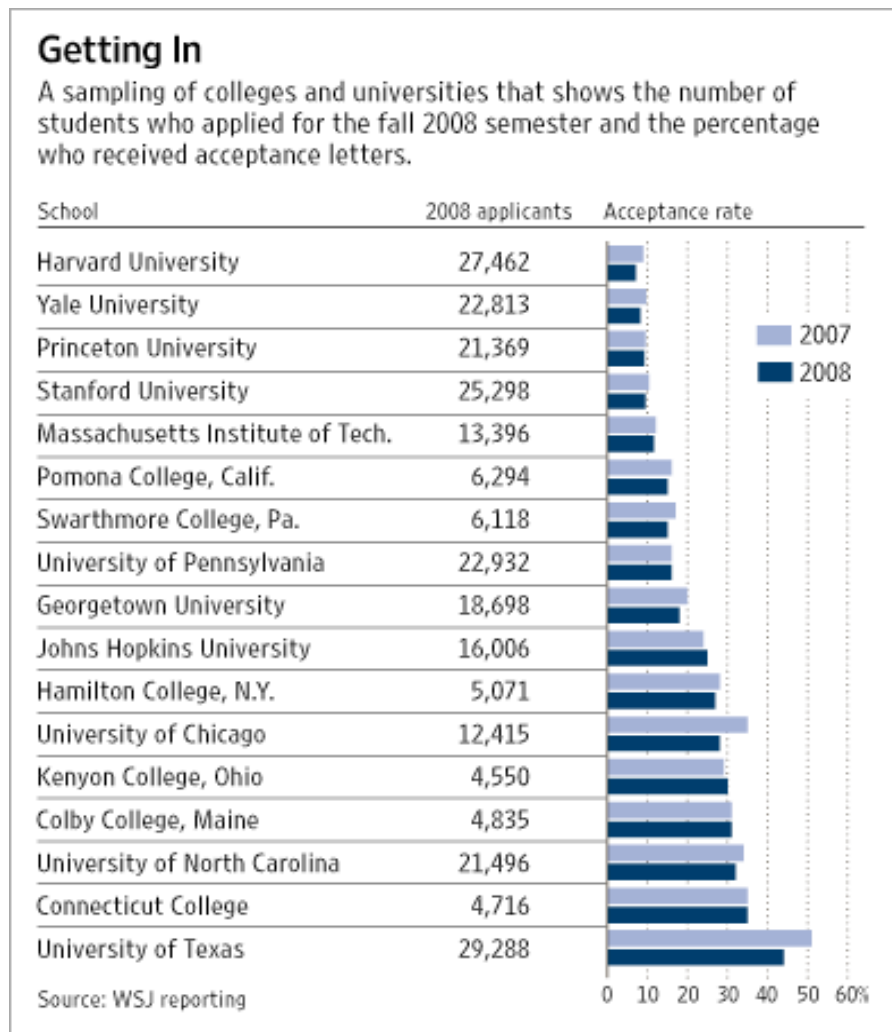
There are many more out there, but I think these two give a good picture of the personality of the school.

[www.princetonreview.com](http://www.princetonreview.com)

Will give you a quick snapshot of the majority of colleges.

## The Bad News

Competition was incredibly intense this year due to several factors. The number of high school graduates reached its peak, Harvard and Princeton eliminated early decision, and several colleges miscalculated their yields the previous year ending up with more students matriculating than anticipated. As a result, at least 1,500 top students who would have been out of the pool, were still in circulation and the colleges uncertain about yields ended up playing it conservatively and in some cases accepted fewer applicants and put more applicants on the wait list. For example, University of VA placed 3,000 students on its wait list.



## The Final Decision

May 1<sup>st</sup> is the day you need to make your final decision. For those of you content with your choices, now you can relax for the rest of your senior year. For those of you still deciding, go back to your original criteria that we wrote up when you began this process. See how much you've changed and see whether or not the schools

that you are deciding between meet your needs. Go for the best fit, not the "best name".

If it is a financial decision, you have to compare apples to apples and determine your return on investment. Can you achieve your goals at the school that is offering the most money? Will you be happy there? Can you see yourself there for the next 4 years? Have you gone back to the other schools and requested more money? The more you can use facts to present your case; the better off you will be in getting more money. There are not guarantees, but it's worth asking if money is the only obstacle in your way.

## **Minimizing Debt**

Paying back debt when you graduate may seem a long way off, however the goal is to minimize your debt before you start. The rule of thumb is to take on no more debt than 2/3 of your anticipated first year salary upon graduation. So if you anticipate making \$40,000 per year after graduation, the maximum debt you should incur for all four years is \$26,400. I have a program that will determine your debt payback, so call me if you'd like to run the numbers to help with your decision.

## **Juniors**

You are almost there! Spring is finally here, so enjoy the warm weather, but stay focused on finishing the year with a bang.

Now is the time, if you haven't already, to finalize your summer plans and activities for senior year. It is also a good time to visit colleges and get a sense of the schools that to which you would like to apply next year. The summer between junior and senior year is a critical time to focus on one of your passions and do something meaningful.

For those of you visiting colleges during spring break, let me know if you'd like to meet to debrief on your visits. This will also help fine tune your list of schools. I've downloaded most of your schools to my Workspace K12 site. You can add/or delete schools directly on the site. Here is the link <http://connection.naviance.com/fc/signin.php?hsid=cbound>. It's also on my website under Resources/For Clients Only.

## **Sophomores**

Think about what you want to accomplish by the end of your junior year. Do you want to challenge yourself academically? Do you want to pull up your grades? Do you want to take on a leadership position in one of your activities? Do you want to re-balance your activities and drop some that are not satisfying and focus on

others that are? It's helpful to spend some time now thinking about how you want to spend your energy next year because as I'm sure you've heard, junior year is intense and important. If you can think about what you want to accomplish going in, it will seem less overwhelming and you will reach your goals more easily.

You can also start visiting schools to get a flavor for what you like and dislike. I recommend you visit 2-3 schools that are close by including one large state school and one smaller liberal arts college. This will help for next year when we start developing your list.

## Upcoming Workshops

- ***Student Workshop: Owning the Application Process: Developing Your College List without Going Broke***  
Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm JCC in Scotch Plains

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