IT’S NOT A FAILURE IF YOU KEEP TRYING!

Working Through The College Access Process
“Shoot your shot... the worst isn’t missing the shot... it’s never taking the shot!”

— Maurice Mathis

- College Access Professional
- 14 years
- NC State University
- Sr. Director of TRIO Pre-College Programs
Welcome

Overview

You Are Not Alone

Strategic Planning, NOW

What Happens When You Don’t Get What You Wanted
We have to talk about it!

YOU ARE NOT ALONE
NEARLY HALF OF STUDENTS DON'T ATTEND THEIR FIRST CHOICE COLLEGE
PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS WHO SCORE A PERFECT ACT SCORE

0.334%
PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS SCORING ABOVE A 28 ON THE ACT

21

AVERAGE SCORE ON ACT
2%

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS WHO GET ABOVE A 1500 ON THE SAT

https://blog.prepscholar.com/on-the-sat-how-many-people-get-2200-2300-or-above-2400
1051

AVERAGE SAT SCORE

https://blog.prepscholar.com/what-is-the-average-sat-score
1

How many of you there are
You are not alone in this journey.

FEW people have the ‘perfect’ college access process.
STRATEGIC PLANNING, NOW
Strategic preparation is unique to YOU

It includes knowing:
- What you want out of college
- What you ‘bring to the table’
- The experiences you want
- The financial input you want to have
- ...etc.
“THE BEST WAY TO PREPARE FOR ‘FAILURE’ IS TO STRATEGICALLY PREPARE FOR SUCCESS BEFOREHAND”

-Maurice
BEST FIT COLLEGE

- Distance from Home
- Cost
- Admissions Criteria
- Academics
- Geographic Setting
- Size
- Atmosphere

Adapted from: https://mypathwaytocollege.com/best-fit-college/
SAFETY, TARGET, AND STRETCH SCHOOLS

- Strategic planning based on YOUR ACADEMIC STANDING
- "Living" document
- DOES NOT take subjective factors into consideration
- But it’s a good place to start

SAFETY, TARGET, AND STRETCH SCHOOLS

Effectively categorizing your college interests will help as you decide which schools to apply for. Remember, it costs to apply to college, so you want to make sure that you are paying application fees for those schools in which you have a solid chance in being accepted.

Using the categorial definitions and the grid below, research the colleges in which you are interested in and write them in the appropriate box. The information under "My Academic Standing" will help you when deciding which category to choose for each college.

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<th>My Academic Standing</th>
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ACT Scores

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<th>Score</th>
<th>Date Taken (month/year)</th>
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SAT Scores

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Safety School

These are the schools that you know you can get into. You meet all of the requirements. It’s come down to it, you wouldn’t mind going to this school. These are like your Optional C schools. Picture this: if all else fails, you’ll still have somewhere to go in the Fall.

Target School

These are the schools that you meet requirements for and you could really see yourself walking the campus. These are your top choices based off of your current academic standing. Take note that you may really want to go to a school, but if your grades and test scores aren’t at their required or preferred level, that school may have to go to the Stretch School category.

Stretch School

These are schools that you would like to go to, but you don’t quite meet the admissions requirements. However, you may not be that far off, or you may have other things to supplement your applications (recommendations, extra-curricular activities, community services, etc.). You don’t have to completely write these schools off, but they will be a bit of a stretch to get into.

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<th>My Target Schools</th>
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<th>My Stretch Schools</th>
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Adapted from https://www.fispe.com/college-search/articles/153-research-and-play-it-safe-schools-in-colleges
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DON’T GET WHAT YOU WANT
“What was important to you when you were 18?”

“What was important to you when you were 12?”
TWO THINGS THAT YOU DON’T HAVE “A LOT” OF CONTROL OVER

SUBJECTIVITY
- Application Reader
- Holistic Review
- What’s Important to You ≠ What’s Important to Them

RANDOMIZATION
- ACT
- SAT
- Application Reader
- Classes
- Opportunities
SO...
SO WHAT DO I DO?

- Realize that you put your BEST SELF forward
- If you didn’t, try again with that BEST SELF
- Sulk...then go on to Plan B (yes, always have a back up...and a back up to the back up)
THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO DO THIS
ACCOUNTANT

Florida A&M University
NC State University
Elon University

Ernst & Young
PwC
Sheffield Company

Wake Forest University
University of Illinois
Old Dominion University

Passed 1st Time
Passed 2nd Time
Passed 3rd Time

CPA EXAM

CAREER

INTERN

GRADUATE

UNDERGRAD
CONCENTRATE ON THE END GOAL
“I WANT TO...”
YOU CAN ONLY GET TO THAT END GOAL IF YOU PRESS THROUGH THE MIDDLE

UNFORTUNATELY, THE MIDDLE MAY CONSIST OF A COUPLE OF ‘NOS’
GRIT

INDIVIDUAL'S PERSEVERANCE OF EFFORT COMBINED WITH THE PASSION FOR A PARTICULAR LONG-TERM GOAL OR END STATE

RESILIENCY

AN ABILITY TO RECOVER FROM OR ADJUST EASILY TO ADVERSITY OR CHANGE
NIKE MINDSET

NO MATTER HOW MANY ‘YESSES’ OR ‘NOS’ YOU GET