

Harvard Math: Reframing the College List




Presented By:

Ian Harkness, Malvern Preparatory School

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*Additional Credit to Steve Frappier - The Westminster Schools, Atlanta, GA (ACCIS 2017)



**THE BIGGEST MISTAKE WE SEE
STUDENTS AND PARENTS MAKE IS
APPROACHING COLLEGE
ADMISSIONS
AS A GAME OF
WINNERS OR LOSERS**



FACT #1

It has never
been **easier** to
get into college
than it is now.



FACT #2

It's never been
more **difficult** to
get into college
than it is now.

A close-up photograph of a workspace. On the left, a portion of a silver laptop is visible, showing its black keyboard with white lettering. To the right, a hand holds a black pen over an open, blank white notebook. The entire scene is set on a light-colored wooden desk with visible grain. A black rectangular box with white text is superimposed over the center of the image.

SO WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?



WHAT IS A SELECTIVE COLLEGE?

- A selective college is one that admits some students and rejects others



WHY ARE COLLEGES SELECTIVE?

- Many schools have the luxury of choosing a small class from a large group of quality applications

HARVARD MATH

Regular admit qty x %background x %gender x %non-FirstGen x %major = "people like you admitted"

WHY HARVARD?

The World of highly selective college admission has changed drastically in the last two decades (Admission Rates)

	<u>(2017)</u>	<u>(2007)</u>	<u>(1997)</u>
Harvard	5.2%	9.8%	12.3%
Princeton	7.3%	10.3%	12.1%
Penn	12.1	20.5%	33%
Stanford	4.6%	12.1%	15.5%
Duke	9.2%	23%	31%
Northeastern	29%	45%	50%+
Villanova	43%	43%	50%+

HARVARD MATH (CASE STUDY)

Regular admit qty x %background x %gender x %non-FirstGen x %major = "**people like you admitted**"

Early Action: [\(LINK - Harvard Crimson\)](#)

Applicants: 6,473

938 admitted

14.5% admit rate

Regular Decision: [LINK - Harvard Crimson](#)

Applicants: 33,033

Admitted: 1,118

3.4% admit rate

Total

Applicants: 39,506

2,056 admitted

5.2% admit rate

PEOPLE LIKE YOU ADMITTED

Regular admit qty x **%background** x %gender x %non-FirstGen x %major = "people like you admitted"

- **12.7%** Latinx (261 admits = 83 Early + 178 Regular)

*special attention paid to Puerto Rican, Mexican-American, and Other Latinx

- **22.2%** Asian and Asian-American (456 admits = 204 Early + 252 Regular)

*South Asian, East Asian, and other Asian combined

- **14.6%** African and African-American (300 admits = 118 Early + 182 Regular)

- **1.9%** Native American/Hawaiian (39 admits = 10 Early + 29 Regular)

- **11.4%** International = (234 admits) ***no ascertainable Early/Regular breakdown

- by subtraction, this leaves **37.2%** Caucasian/Other/Unreported = (766 admits)

EARLY ACTION

Applicants: 6,473

938 admitted

14.5% admit rate

45.6% of total admits

16% of the total applications

Key Information:

- 150-200 of these would be recruited athletes - received “likely letters” (meaning non-athlete admit rate 11-12%)
- Since 415 admits among domestic minorities are reported that means 523 admits for all other groups (International, Caucasian, Other, Unreported)
- Legacy students encouraged to apply early

REGULAR DECISION

Applicants: 33,033

Admitted: 1,118

3.4% admit rate

Key Information

- Since 641 admits among domestic minorities are reported that means 477 admits for all other groups (International, Caucasian, Other, Unreported)
- *The data seem to confirm the long-held hunch that Caucasian and international candidates who satisfy institutional needs (legacies, athletes) benefit from being in the Early round, compared to in Regular*

GENDER

Regular admit qty x %background x **%gender** x %non-FirstGen x %major = "people like you admitted"

Total Admitted Pool:

49.2% Women (450 Early + 562 Regular)

50.8% Men (488 Early + 556 regular)

FIRST GENERATION

Regular admit qty x %background x %gender x %non-FirstGen x %major = "people like you admitted"

Total Admitted Pool:

15.1% First-Generation = (2,056 x .151% = 310 total admitted)

Early Action - 8.7% of admits (82 admitted)

That means Regular Decision - 228 admits

Key Information:

- if 228 RD admits were FirstGen among 1,118 total RD admits, that means 20% of Regular Admits were FirstGen
- Opinion: serve legacies and other priorities in Early, then serve socioeconomic priorities in regular

ACADEMIC CONCENTRATION

Regular admit qty x %background x %gender x %non-FirstGen x %major = "people like you admitted"

Harvard's application still lists Concentration clusters as "A" through "H," which is why these data points are trackable:

Admitted pool by concentration:

- Humanities = 15.5% (319 admits)
- Social Sciences = 26.5% (545 admits)
- Computer Science & Engineering 19.3% (397 admits)

These fields were formerly separated in previous years, now public data is combined

- Therefore, it looks like 38.7% for "other concentrations" (mathematics, biological sciences, physical sciences, and undecided) (796 admits)

HYPOTHETICAL SITUATION

We have an upset parent of a perfect regular decision Chinese-American Male, non-FirstGen student, wishing to major in Engineering.

We can't assume every concentration admits this proportionally, but let's say they do. We apply the mathematical filters that the article provides:

Regular admit quantity x %background x %gender x %non-FirstGen x %major = **"people like you admitted"**

1,118 admits x 22.2% x 50.8% x 80% x 19.3% = "Nationwide, about 19 young men like your son were admitted in regular decision"

*****and that 19 number includes additional attention that might be paid to *public vs. independent school background, sub-fields of engineering*, and competition versus *RD-round legacies and recruited athletes*.



HOW ARE STUDENTS CHOOSING THEIR SCHOOLS?



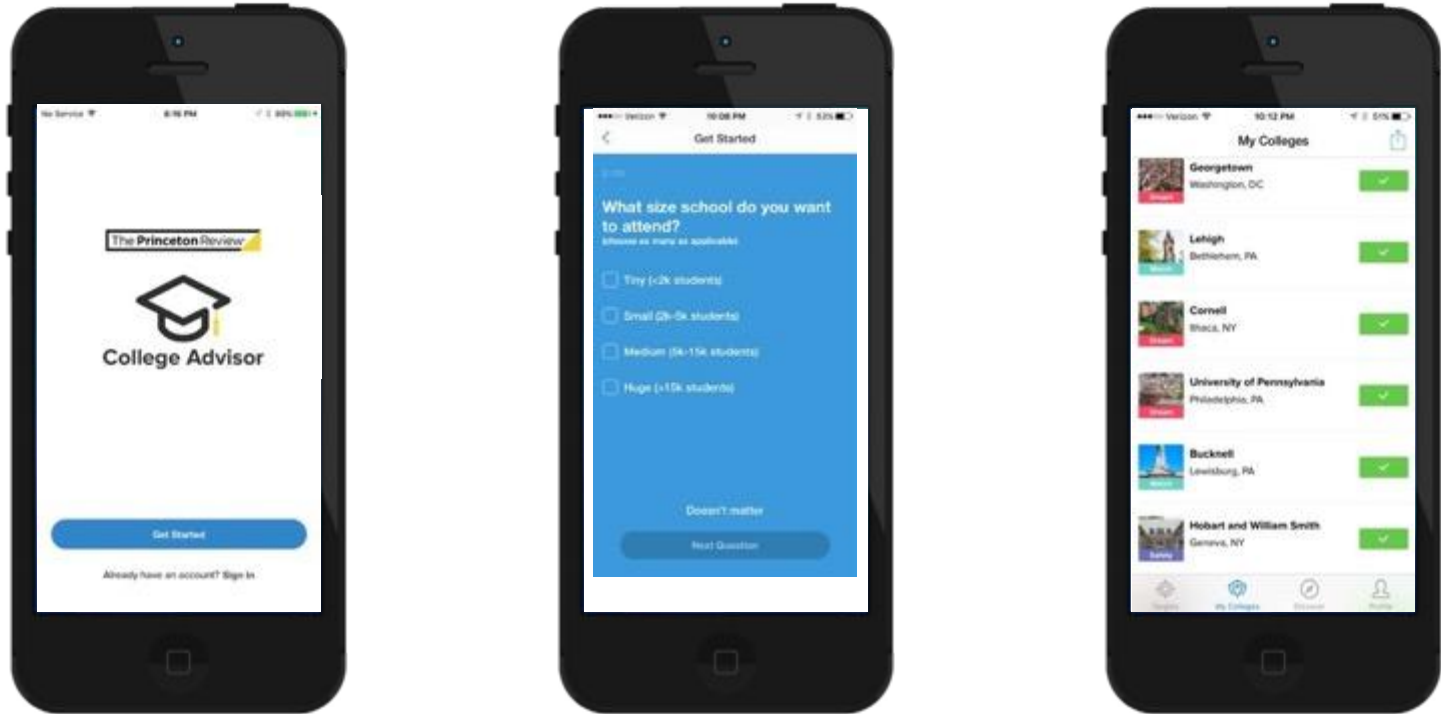
**THE #1 GOAL
OF COLLEGE BOUND
STUDENTS TODAY
IS TO FIND A
SCHOOL THAT WILL
TRULY BE THE
BEST FIT FOR THEM**



WE RECOMMEND STUDENTS APPLY TO 8-10 SCHOOLS

- 3-4 Dream Schools
- 3-4 Match Schools
- 3-4 Likely Schools

TOOLS TO HELP IDENTIFY BEST FIT SCHOOLS



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