The Truth About College Admissions
Presented by BMC College & Career

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Let’s start with the REAL truth.

There are over 4000 degree granting schools in the United States - and 12 schools in the Florida State University System alone!
- Quantitative vs. Holistic review

- Process is not as “random” as some people think

- Selections are made based on institutional priorities and schools’ self interests.

- Schools are not always transparent about priorities.
MYTH #1

There is a secret formula for getting into college.
TRUTH #1

-To increase chances of getting into a particular college, students should:

-Work hard in classes beginning in 9th grade. Add rigor.

-Prepare for standardized tests

-Have a purposeful high school experience
If you don’t have a perfect GPA and test scores, you’ll never get accepted to a “good” school.
Colleges often recalculate GPAs.

Consider a college’s Freshman Profile to gauge how competitive a student is as an applicant.

The number of test optional schools is growing; this does not necessarily mean a “free pass” however.

Some scholarships require test scores- most notably, Bright Futures.
MYTH #3

Relying on lists of “BEST COLLEGES” is the way to determine whether a school is right for your student.
TRUTH #3

- College rankings, while a good place to start, can also be deceptive.

- Rankings can incentivize colleges to artificially inflate their profiles.

- Do your homework! Visit college websites, attend rep visits at BMC and tour campuses.

- Evaluate findings based on students’ needs and priorities!
MYTH #4

COLLEGES ARE LOOKING FOR WELL-ROUNDED STUDENTS
Colleges want to build diverse communities of learners.

Quality of involvement is more important than quantity.
Myth #5

The best time to visit a college is after a student has been admitted.
College visits are one of the best ways to truly get a feel for a school.

- Start local!

- Visit a variety of schools; don’t confine your tours to “reach” school only.

- Spend sufficient time on campus and in the surrounding area.

- Sophomore year is the ideal time to begin visits.
Myth #6

The more “reach” colleges that a student applies to, the more he increases his chances of getting accepted to one of them.
TRUTH #6

- It is imperative that a student’s college list have a balanced number of “likely”, “target” and “reach” schools. (Use Naviance to build a balanced list.)

- Be objective when evaluating your student’s academic record.

- The Common Data Set relays accurate and up to date admissions statistics.
Things to Remember

- Encourage your student to explore, research and visit.
- Selectivity does not equal best fit.
- Students should create a balanced list of colleges.
- Consult the Common Data Set or website for accurate stats.
- Your college journey starts in 9th grade. Grades matter!
- Begin with the end in mind.
QUESTIONS??

BMC College & Career Team

Jennifer Etscorn: etscornj@bishopmoore.org
Rosaly Lugaro: lugaror@bishopmoore.org
Gracie Mazanec: mazanecg@bishopmoore.org