

Selective Admissions Post SCOTUS: Best Practices to Prepare Students For Success

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Introductions:

Justin Philip Clarke

- Founder, The Ivy In Color
- 1st Gen Low Income College Student
- Graduate of Northwestern University, '13 Political Science
- Over 12 years experience guiding students in the college admissions process
- Former Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admissions at Northwestern University
 - Owned Northeast & Mid Atlantic territory
 - Recruited, reviewed, and admitted roughly 10% of incoming class



Today's Agenda:

- The Current Landscape
- Finding Their Story
- Academic Guidance
- Test Prep
- Extracurricular Development
- The Wrap Up
- Q&A

The Current Landscape

Since the Supreme Court's 2023 decision declaring race conscious admissions unconstitutional, institutions struggle to effectively ensure that Black and Brown students are still equally supported & represented in the college admissions process.

- MIT: Black students dropped from roughly 15% to 5%
- Brown: Black students dropped from roughly 14% to 9%
- Columbia: Black students dropped from roughly 20% to 13%
- Vanderbilt: Black students dropped from roughly 12% to 6%

What do colleges say?

PERCENTAGE OF COLLEGES ATTRIBUTING DIFFERENT LEVELS OF IMPORTANCE TO FACTORS IN ADMISSION DECISIONS: FIRST-TIME FRESHMEN, FALL 2023

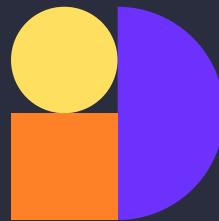
	N	Considerable Importance	Moderate Importance	Limited Importance	No Importance
High school grades in college prep courses	185	76.8	15.1	4.9	3.2
Total high school grades (all courses)	185	74.1	18.9	5.4	1.6
Strength of high school curriculum	185	63.8	22.7	10.3	3.2
Positive character attributes	184	28.3	37.5	18.5	15.8
Essay or writing sample	185	18.9	37.3	26.5	17.3
Student's interest in attending	185	15.7	27.6	25.4	31.4
Counselor recommendation	185	11.9	40.0	27.6	20.5
Teacher recommendation	185	10.8	40.5	28.1	20.5
Extracurricular activities	185	6.5	44.3	30.8	18.4
High school class rank	183	5.5	22.4	43.2	29.0
Admission test scores (ACT, SAT)	185	4.9	25.4	38.9	30.8
Portfolio	185	4.9	10.8	24.3	60.0
Interview	185	4.3	8.6	32.4	54.6
Work	185	2.2	30.8	40.0	27.0
State graduation exam scores	185	1.6	6.5	18.4	73.5
Subject test scores (AP, IB)	185	1.1	22.2	25.9	50.8

Finding Their Story



Start Early:

The earlier you start the better when it comes to establishing relationships & guidance with your students.



Find The Source:

Finding a student's natural passion through their hobbies, favorite classes, and interests is key.



Grow From There:

Once the source of their passion is identified the rest of the prep process becomes clear academically, extracurricularly, and towards the colleges on their list.

Academic Guidance



9th Grade Year:

- English 1
- Bio 1
- Alg 1 or Geometry
- Health or Wellness
- World Language
- Electives
 - Preferred Art Class (UCs)

11th Grade Year:

- English III
- U.S. History
- Pre Calc
- Physics
- World Language 3
- Electives
 - Aligned with major

10th Grade Year:

- English II
- World History
- Alg 2 or Geometry
- Health or Wellness
- Chemistry
- World Language 2
- Electives
 - Preferred Art Class (UCs)

12th Grade Year:

- English IV
- US Gov or Economics
- Calc
- Lab Based Science
 - Env Sci
- World Language 4
- Electives
 - Aligned with major



Test Prep

01.

Don't start before 10th grade

- HS courses align with test prep
- Builds up to ACT in HS during 11th grade
- Test Fatigue is a real thing

02.

Identify Resources

- College of Grad Students in Education Majors
- Homework Louisiana
- Louisiana Center for College Access (LCCA)

03.

Set Expectations & Goals

- Selective colleges are 50% & Below acceptance
- Unless test optional students need 1300 SAT/28ACT & Up
- More data is always better

04.

Focus the timeline

- Official testing from winter 11th grade through summer rising 12th grade
- Schedule 3-4 official test dates
 - Diminishing returns after

Extracurricular Development

Exploration:

- 9th Grade
- In and out of the classroom, what does this student love to do?
- What are the clubs, sports, non profits, etc that connect to this love?

Refining:

- 11th Grade
- How you can show leadership, awards, recognitions, etc?
- Captain, President, Founder, etc

Building Foundations:

- 10th Grade
- How can they increase their involvement in a few focused areas?
- The more, the better!

Telling The Story:

- How do you communicate this to colleges?
- Working on free writes and essay prompts.
- Start 2nd semester 11th grade





The Wrap UP:

- Start Early
 - Specific Programming
 - Specific outreach
 - Support their academic & grade level support
- Lean into what they love
 - The process shouldn't be painful
- Stay creative
 - Opportunity is everywhere
- Focus on the story
 - We're all moved by narrative

Questions?

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