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Please also be aware that we will be recording the presentation portion of this seminar. If you would like to remain anonymous, feel free to turn off your camera and change your name during the presentation portion. The Q&A and/ or discussion portion will not be recorded.



HOLISTIC ADMISSIONS AND THE COLLEGE SEARCH

AND FINDING YOUR "FIT"

Jigisha Doshi
Bright Futures Consulting, LLC

HELLO!



Jigisha Doshi
Parent of 2 GT children
PACE President
College Counselor



College planning is our thing.

Bright Futures consultants have the experience and qualifications to mentor and guide students towards their college goals. We are proud members of HECA, IECA NACAC, TACAC – adhering to their high standards of ethics.

www.brightfuturesllc.com

OUR PROCESS



Know Yourself

No two individuals are alike. That's why we start with self-discovery and affirmation and the Birkman Assessment.



Make a Plan

Students work with their Bright Futures counselor to design a post-secondary plan and specific goals tailored to their unique strengths, interests, and needs.



Follow the Plan

Students put their plan into action with the guidance of their Bright Futures counselor.



TODAY'S AGENDA

FIRST, BREATHE.

- Philosophy of a College List
- College Fit
- Benchmarks & Timeline
- Holistic admissions

PHILOSOPHY OF A COLLEGE LIST

FIT FIRST

What goals do you have for college? What values are important to you? What types of social and academic environments do you **thrive** in?

ADMISSIBILITY

Look at the data. What are your chances for admission and funding? Is your college list **balanced** with likely, target, and reach schools?

STRATEGY

What does the total workload look like in terms of time and effort? What does each application require? How does undergrad fit into a longer term plan?

HOLISTIC ADMISSIONS CRITERIA FIND YOURSELF FIRST

(or at least start the journey)

- What motivates you?
- What type of learning environment do you like?
- What strengths do you want to build on?
- What experiences do you want to have?
- What spark do your parents or loved ones see in you?





ACTIVITIES

that support
students in
self-discovery

Internship or Job

Gain first-hand workplace experience and a better idea of careers that appeal to you. Set goals and identify specific projects where you can measure your impact.

Passion Project

Inspired to take action or intrigued by a specific topic? Dive in and take initiative to organize, create, learn, or lead. You are not limited to traditional "school activities", think outside the box!

Summer Programs

Enroll in a college's summer enrichment program to "try out" academic majors, build confidence and experience a taste of college life.



WORDS TO LIVE BY

"Self-awareness is the KEY to finding colleges (and a life) where you'll be happy and successful."

Dr. Beth Dennard, Owner & Founder

FIND YOUR FIT FACTORS

Absolute or Flexible Criteria to Begin your Search



LOCATION

**STUDENT
LIFE**

VALUES

HOUSING

DIVERSITY

CO\$T

MAJORS/DEGREES

FOOD

CAMPUS SIZE

PROGRAMS



OVERWHELMED?

Start here.

- Visit 2 local colleges- one large, one smaller
 - What did you like/not like?
- Print out a list of majors
 - Cross out ones you don't like, circle the ones that interest you, and google the ones you've never heard of!
- Determine your budget early on
 - FAFSA
- Cool Tools
 - Corsava
 - College Match Survey

IS THIS REALLY COLLEGE LIST CRITERIA?

The school is selective, therefore a great fit for me.

My neighbor went there and liked it.

I have a lot of friends going to this school.

Parents only want me to apply.

The school is "top ranked" by US News



COLLEGE RESEARCH

THE COLLEGE'S WEBSITE

VIRTUAL OR IN PERSON VISITS

YOUTUBE & SOCIAL MEDIA

CONNECT WITH ADMISSIONS, ALUM, OR PROFESSOR

YOUR COLLEGE COUNSELOR!

WHAT ABOUT US NEWS OR FORBES RANKINGS?



COOL TOOLS

to help you research colleges

There are SO MANY. Here are just a few of our favs.

Fiske Guide (book)

Net Price Calculators (each college)

Colleges That Change Lives (book)

Niche.com

CollegeConfidential.com

CollegeExpress.com

Naviance (through Lamar)

Big Future (College Board)

Map of Colleges- NCES

TRUE OR FALSE

1. US News & World Report knows the schools where I will thrive.
2. It's okay to have schools on my list I wouldn't ever actually attend.
3. Small class sizes are only offered at smaller colleges.
4. There is no way to know the estimated cost of a college before applying.
5. Getting a summer job is a great tool for self-discovery.
6. College research begins with knowing my major.
7. It annoys professors, students, or admission counselors when high school students reach out and ask questions about the college.
8. Adding a college to my list probably won't require much more work.



BALANCED COLLEGE LIST

6-10 of your most preferred, best fit colleges with varying degrees of selectivity based on *your* academic profile

LIKELY

2-3 colleges with admission data showing that your academic profile is **above** their admitted student average.

TARGET

2-4 colleges with admission data showing that your academic profile is **within range** of past admitted students

REACH

1-3 colleges with admission data showing that your academic profile is **slightly lower** than their admitted student average.

**FINANCIAL
OPTIONS**

**MANAGE
WORKLOAD**

**MAXIMIZE
OPPORTUNITIES**

STRATEGY: A COMPLETED ADMISSION FILE

varies from college to college (and year to year)

Typically includes...

- Transcript
- Application
- Essay & Supplements
- SAT/ACT Scores
- Recommendation Letters
- Application Fee or Waiver

May also include...

- Resume
- SAT Subject/IB/AP Scores
- Interview
- Portfolio
- Audition
- Major Specific Requirements

Check DIRECTLY with the college for the most updated list of application requirements.

BENCHMARKS & TIMELINE

to create a thoughtfully balanced college list

9th Grade

Choose classes that match your interests

Explore activities

Notice your learning style

10th Grade

Explore interests through activities in and outside of school

Build relationships

Visit & research colleges

Get involved and dig deeper into interests

Establish your college budget

Fall 11th Grade

Establish goals for college

Develop criteria for college list

Attend college meetings or college fairs (virtual/in-person)

Create "long list" of 15-20 colleges

Develop SAT/ACT testing plan

Spring 11th Grade

Take ALL opportunities to learn more about colleges

Visit specific campuses on your list

Make a list of application requirements & deadlines or each school

Narrow down to a "short list" of 8-12 colleges

Summer/Fall 12th Grade

Determine admission likelihood from your GPA, rank, and possibly SAT/ACT

Finalize college list

Create an application strategy

Disclaimer: Every student is unique! One-size doesn't fit all.



WORDS TO LIVE BY

"It takes courage to grow up and become who you really are."

E. E. Cummings

THANK YOU !



Jigisha Doshi
Parent of 2 GT children
&
College Counselor



Jigisha Doshi
321-356-5638
jigidoshi@hotmail.com
www.brightfuturesllc.com