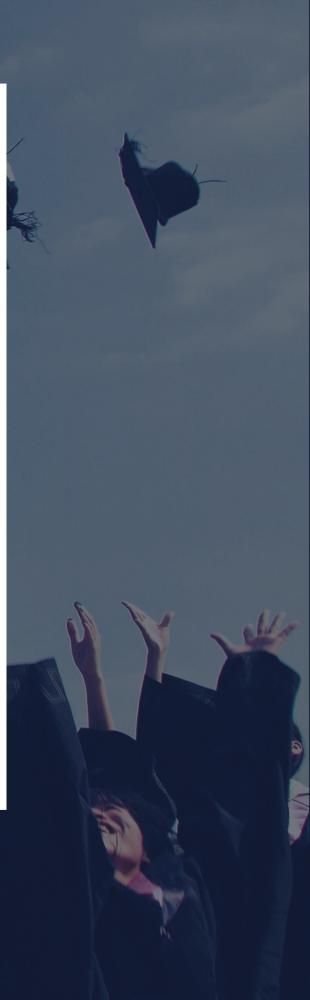
The seminars presented today were designed by parents for parents. As such, any content is at the discretion of the parent presenting, and does not necessarily reflect the opinions or policy of Fort Bend ISD. Please also be aware that we will be recording the presentation portion of this seminar. If 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 selfdiscovery 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.

- College Fit
- Benchmarks & Timeline
- •Holistic admissions

• Philosophy of a College List

# 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?







### 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.

### ACTIVITIES that support students in self-discovery



## 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
CO\$T	MAJORS/DE	GREES	FOOD	CAI

## HOUSING DIVERSITY PROGRAMS MPUS SIZE



## **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
  - <u>College Match Survey</u>

# 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

Fiske Guide (book)

Niche.com

CollegeExpress.com

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

  - Net Price Calculators (each college)
  - **Colleges That Change Lives (book)**

- CollegeConfidential.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

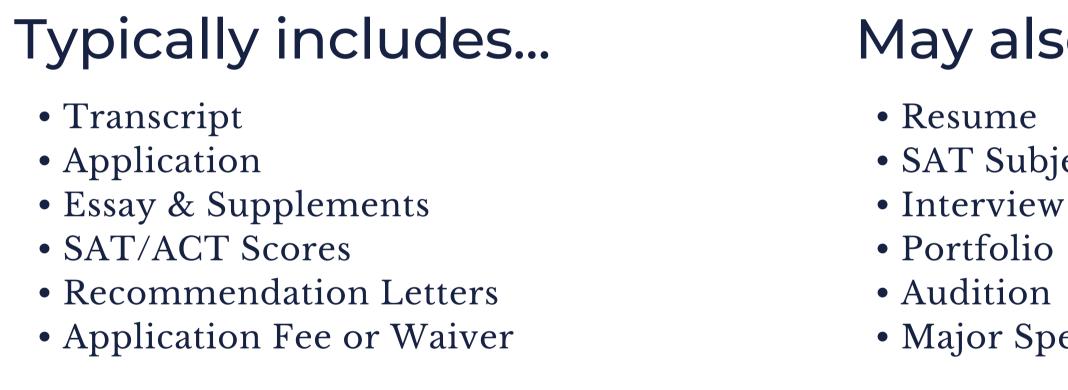
FINANCIAL MANAGE OPTIONS MORKLOAD

## REACH

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

### MAXIMIZE Opportunities

## **STRATEGY: A COMPLETED ADMISSION FILE** varies from college to college (and year to year)



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

## May also include...

- SAT Subject/IB/AP Scores
- Major Specific 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/inperson)

Create "long list" of 15-20 colleges

Develop SAT/ACT testing plan

Take ALL opportunities to learn more about colleges

Visit specific campuses on your list

Make a list of application requirements & deadlines or each school

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

### Spring 11th Grade

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



## 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



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