

How to Use “30 Colleges, 30 Collegewise Guides to Getting In”



Greetings:

One of the many notions that’s ruining college admissions for a lot of students is that there is a magic formula for admission to a chosen college, that if you could somehow ascertain what a given college is “looking for,” you could provide them with just the right formula of grades, test scores and essays to get admitted.

The truth is that no such magic formula exists. We’re not in possession of top secret information that the colleges are keeping from you. But we have helped over 3,000 students get accepted to college and we’ve always been open about how we do it—pick appropriate schools that match you well, resist the urge to focus on only the famous schools, use the application and essays to help colleges get to know you, and most importantly, be yourself.

As you read our tips in “30 Colleges, 30 Collegewise Guides to Getting In,” you’ll notice that almost every piece of our advice is based on one or more of these principles. It’s not gamesmanship or trickery; it’s good advice that serves students well. And every admission officer we’ve ever met has agreed with us.

So remember that we’re not prescribing any one magic route to the college of your choice. Rather, we’re trying to show you how to use applications and essays to help admissions officers really get to know you. We want you to worry a little less and relax a little more.

We’re not affiliated with or endorsed by any of the colleges featured here, and we’re not claiming to speak for them; we’re just sharing our own advice. If what you read here contradicts anything you’ve been told, or if you’re just not sure what the best approach is for you personally, check with your high school counselor, just to make sure. We’re not out to hurt anybody’s chances of admission.

And if you’re an admissions officer at one of these schools we profile here and you’d like to share any comments or criticisms, please contact us at feedback@collegewise.com. I’d love to hear from you, and I’ll make sure that we reflect any suggestions that you make.

Best of luck, and enjoy your ride to college.

Cheers,

Kevin McMullin
President
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