


# XAVIER UNIVERSITY



5,200 undergraduates  
90 majors, including nursing, finance,  
biomedical sciences, sport marketing  
NCAA Division 1: Big East  
98% placement within 6 months  
86% accepted into medical school



# Xavier fun fact!



**98 percent**  
of the Class of 2021  
was employed,  
in graduate school  
or volunteering  
within six months of  
graduation.

# Xavier fun fact!



We are the first school in North America with a  
**PIZZA ATM!**



# We can't wait to welcome you!

[www.xavier.edu/visit](http://www.xavier.edu/visit)



# The College Search for Parents and Families

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HOW TO STAY CALM, COOL AND COLLECTED AS YOUR BABY GETS READY TO LEAVE YOU, MAYBE FOREVER, AND YOU HONESTLY HOPE THEY MAKE GOOD CHOICES AND DON'T COME BACK TO LIVE IN YOUR BASEMENT.

# The College Search for Seniors

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I'M EXCITED BUT I'M NERVOUS AND I HAVE A MILLION QUESTIONS BUT ALL I CAN THINK ABOUT IS WRITING MY ESSAY AND TRYING TO COME UP WITH AN ANSWER TO "WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO MAJOR IN?"

# One step at a time

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THE NEXT FEW MONTHS IN COLLEGE ADMISSION LAND

# Get organized!

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Create a “college central” space for mail

Create a calendar (Google, dry erase) for deadlines

Keep a notebook or electronic file with your contacts with each school

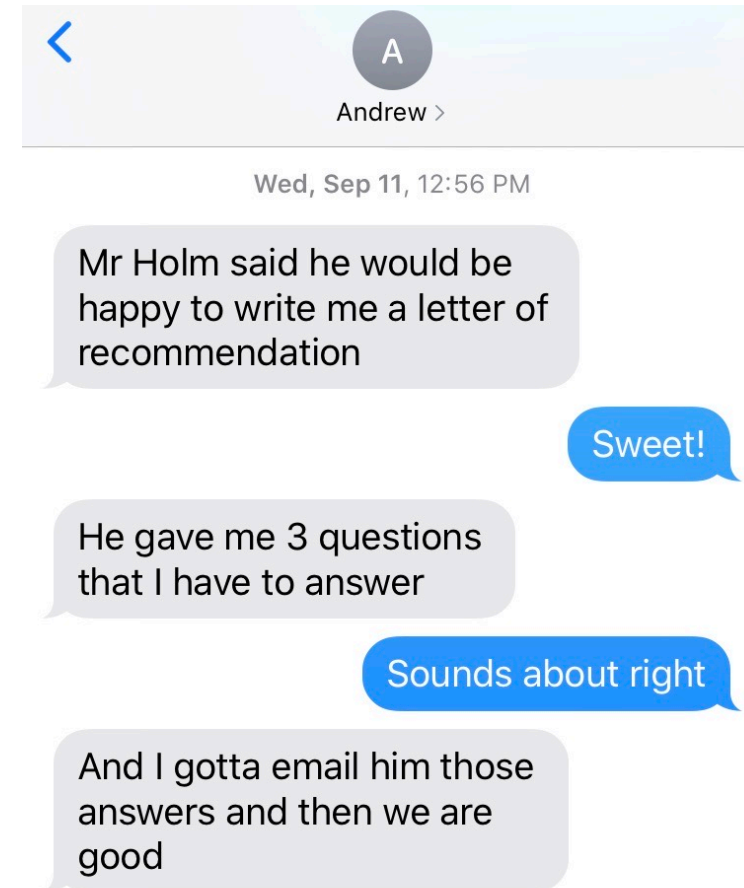
Super linear? You might want a spreadsheet.



# Schedule “COLLEGE TIME” weekly

## Rules for “College Time”

1. No phones or other devices unless you are actively researching schools or scheduling visits.
2. Length of meeting will vary depending on the time of year.
3. Set actionable goals/tasks for the week.
4. Students can ask parents anything during the week.
5. Parents cannot ask (nag) during the week UNLESS the items in #3 are not completed. Then, let the haranguing commence for the next week!



**BEWARE OF THE  
“I HEARD THAT”s**

# Your friendly neighborhood admission counselor

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Find your admission counselor on Naviance or the school's website.

You'll see our friendly faces on Zoom, at your school and even at the local coffee shop.

Help us help you.





# Busting the Myths

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REMEMBER THE “I HEARD” STATEMENT? HERE’S WHAT REALLY GOES ON IN THE ADMISSION OFFICE

**MYTH:**

**There is some robot  
sending me all of those  
emails**

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NOT QUITE...

# You probably get emails like this:



Hi Andrew,

My name is Georgia Fosse, and I am a Junior at Xavier University. **The [people at Xavier](#) supported me while I was going through my college search, and I want to do the same for you.** Here are some tips I found most useful. Hopefully they can help you!

- Start now. **It is never too soon to be dreaming** and searching for your best college fit.
  - Think about **where you want to go**, even if it's not where your friends are looking. Trust me, **I found best friends at Xavier and you will in college, too.**
  - Be open to new possibilities.** This is a great time in life to try something new, and you never know what could come from looking into a new city or different major.
- I love it at Xavier, and I could never imagine myself anywhere else. **Come [visit Xavier](#) - I think you'll quickly see how it could be a great fit for you, too.**

All for one!

Georgia Fosse  
Xavier Class of 2024

Unsubscribe from [Xavier University](#)



# **It's application season!**

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**A PEEK BEHIND THE CURTAIN**

# The myth of the admission process

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## THE PERCEPTION



## THE REALITY



# ~~Highly Selective~~



# Highly Rejective

- Everyone is awesome.
- Less of a way to predict who is admitted and who is not.
- Schools can “shape” the class
- Admit rates of 15% or less.
- (There are 39 schools that fit into this category.)



# The other 90% of schools:

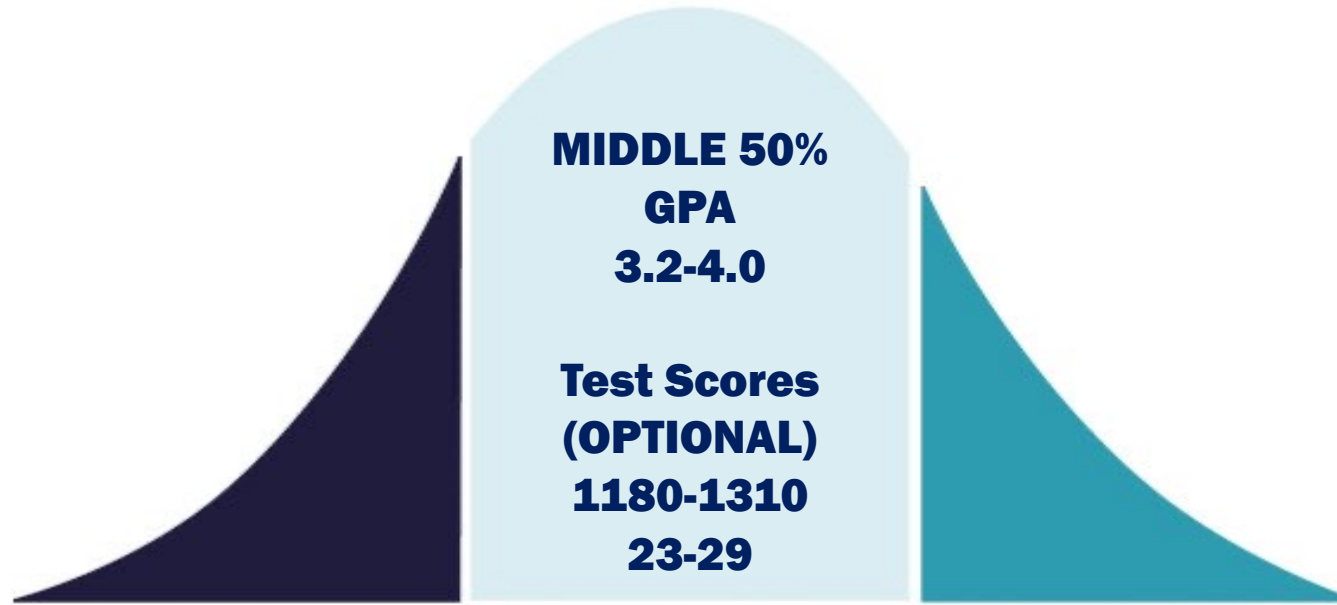
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The average acceptance rate across the country for four year colleges in Fall 2019 was

66.7 percent.

# Finding your academic fit

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- Holistic review: a definition
- What are you looking for academically?
- Bottom line: we want you to succeed at our institution!

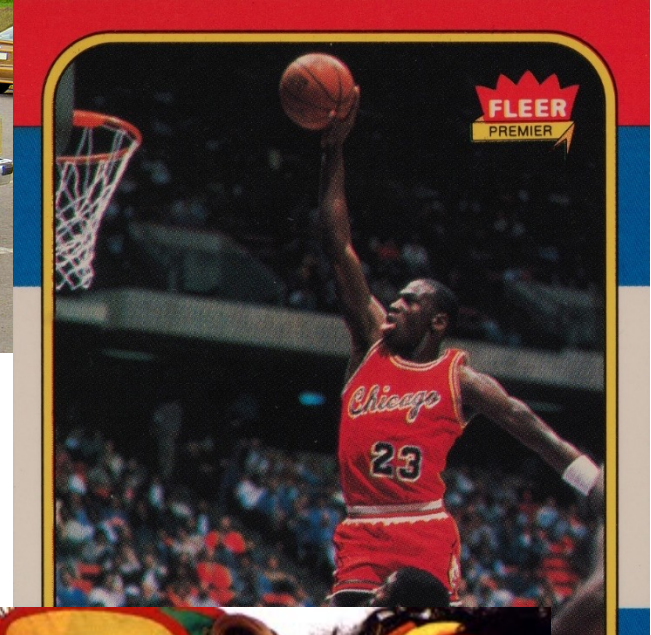
**Myth:**

**Does OPTIONAL really  
mean OPTIONAL?**

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Picture It:  
Suburbia,  
mid-1980s.



# In a generation...

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## FROM 1985-SPRING 2020

Increased emphasis on testing

Test prep companies spring up

Sitting for multiple administrations

Illinois switches from ACT to SAT

Test-optional is seen as the outlier

## THE GREAT COVID-19 PIVOT!

Tests were postponed or cancelled

Colleges responded by removing tests from admission consideration

“How could something “so important” just go away overnight?”

**MORE THAN 1400** schools in the US are **TEST OPTIONAL** for Fall 2023 admission

Higher Education Fair Admissions Act makes all IL public universities test-optional.

# The Transcript

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- GPA
- Courses taken and grade trends.
- How did you take advantage of the curriculum you were offered?
- Are there specific course requirements for the major?

# How do you fit socially?

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Be unapologetically passionate about your interests.

What are your non-negotiables?

How will this school get you where you want to go?



# List of Activities

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- There are no activities that count more than others
- It's not a contest to see how many things you've done; do what you love.
- Don't forget about work or family responsibilities
- Some schools don't even LOOK at activities as part of the process.
- It's OK to be "well lopsided."



# Letters of Recommendation

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- Can give further insight into the student
- Not just what you've done, but who you are.
- Usually accompanied by a school profile
- Help us to see the student in the parameters of that particular institution
- In other words, *a third party endorsement*

*Want to be really nice? Write a thank you note!*

# Essays and Personal Statements

This past year, I read about 1800 applications.

Over the course of my career, I've read more than **35,000** essays.



## Ask Yourself

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**“What do I want the reader to know about me that will not be apparent from the rest of the application?”**



# The Common Application

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1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
4. Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

# Additional Information

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These questions on Common App are **ABSOLUTELY OPTIONAL**.

Community disruptions such as COVID-19 and natural disasters can have deep and long-lasting impacts. If you need it, this space is yours to describe those impacts. Colleges care about the effects on your health and well-being, safety, family circumstances, future plans, and education, including access to reliable technology and quiet study spaces. For more information, check out our COVID-19 FAQ. Do you wish to share anything on this topic?

Do you wish to provide details of circumstances or qualifications not reflected in the application?

# **MYTH:** **There is one PERFECT school for you**

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**HOW WILL I KNOW WHEN I FIND IT?**

# Nothing is perfect... but it might come close

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- Why are you excited about this school in the first place?
- Can you see yourself as part of the community?
- Is this a **PERFECT** place? Or a **FANTASTIC MATCH** for your abilities, personality and goals?





# Now You Wait.

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# Keep In Mind

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- We admit far more students than we can enroll
- It's OK to tell a school you've moved on.
- Only apply to schools in which you are truly interested!



# The money question

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You will not get a financial aid package until you are admitted, so what can you do now?

- Scholarship Searches
  - [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
  - [www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com)
  - [www.goingmerry.com](http://www.goingmerry.com)
  - [www.dosomething.org](http://www.dosomething.org)
- Talk to your school counselor and find your Julie
- Net Price Calculators



Quick  
Mythbusting  
Comparison!

3.6 GPA  
1290 SAT  
EFC=10,000

	Private	Out of State Public	In State Public
Cost of Attendance	55,770	43,186	32,814
Merit Award			
Institutional Aid			
State Aid			
Federal Grant			
Federal Loan			
Work-Study Eligibility			
Total Aid Awarded to Student			
Out Of Pocket			

# Take it from me:

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If I only hear from mom or dad, chances are that student will have a much more difficult transition to college.

Best course of action: CC all interested parties on emails.

I can spot a parent-written essay from a mile away.

Tell your student about the realities of the money piece at the beginning of the process, not the end.

Students: Don't be afraid to hit "submit."





# A quick moment of Zen

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HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

# How did this happen?

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# From one mom to another...

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**Today you are you.  
That is truer than true.  
There is no one alive  
who is Youer than You!**

**–Dr. Seuss**

# Questions?

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