



# Planning for College Workshop

Dante Evans

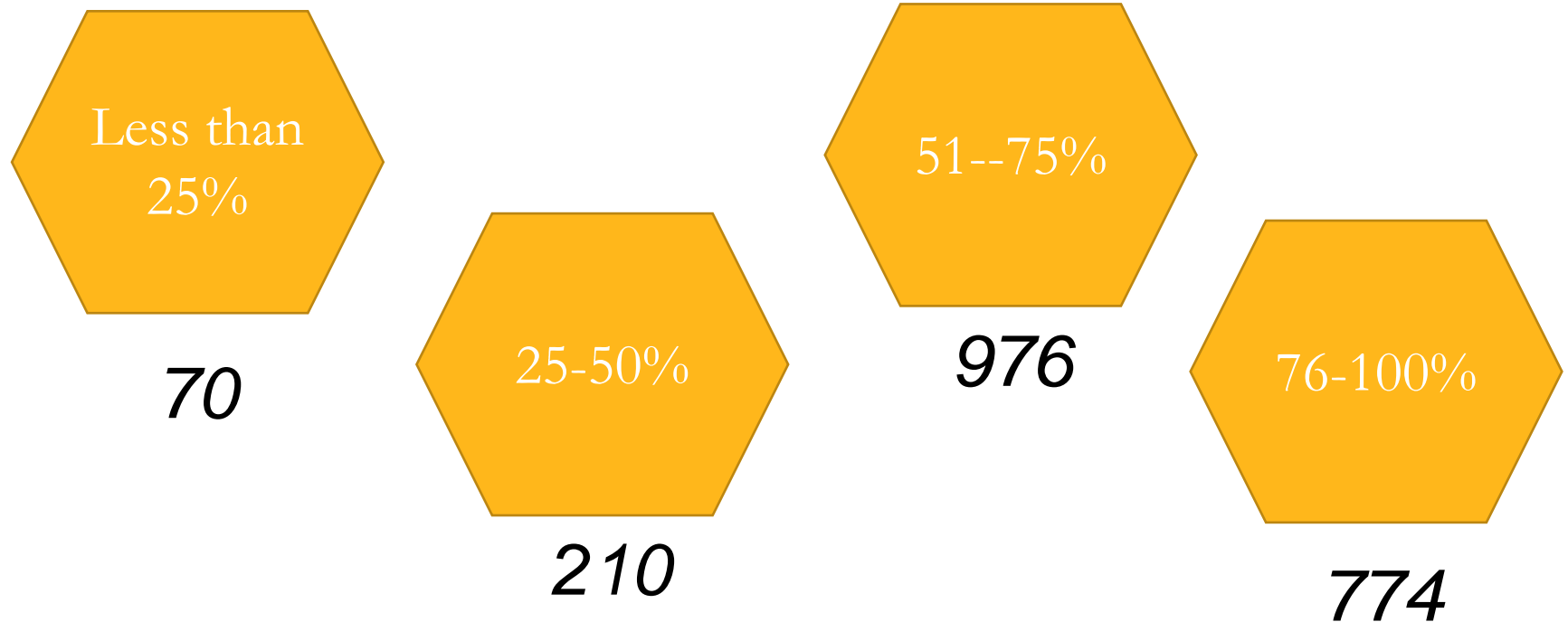
Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admissions

# “A Path for Everyone”

- 2- or 4-year
- Public or Private
- In-State or Out-of-State
- eSports, Business, nursing program
- Basketball or Football school
- My mother attended
- I like their Instagram
- Affordability



# How Many Are Admitted?



- 4-Year Colleges/Universities Only;
- U.S. Schools Only;
- Approximately 2,030 institutions.



What is the average  
acceptance rate to a 4-year  
institution?

73%

# Timing is Everything!

- It all begins in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade;
- Junior year – why is it important?
- What about my senior grades?
- Senior year: applying in the fall versus applying in the spring. What's the difference?



# DEFINITIONS OF ADMISSION OPTIONS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

## STUDENTS: WHICH COLLEGE ADMISSION PROCESS BEST *SUITS YOU?*

### Regular Decision

#### DEFINITION:

Students submit an application by a specified date and receive a decision in a clearly stated period of time.

#### COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

### Rolling Admission

#### DEFINITION:

Institutions review applications as they are submitted and render admission decisions throughout the admission cycle.

#### COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

### Early Action (EA)

#### DEFINITION:

Students apply early and receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date.

#### COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

### Early Decision (ED)

#### DEFINITION:

Students make a commitment to a first-choice institution where, if admitted they definitely will enroll and withdraw all other applications. The application deadline and decision deadline occur early.

#### COMMITMENT:

BINDING

### Restrictive Early Action (REA)

#### DEFINITION:

Students apply to an institution of preference and receive a decision early. They may be restricted from applying ED or EA or REA to other institutions. If offered enrollment, they have until May 1 to confirm.

#### COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Students are not restricted from applying to other institutions and have until May 1 to consider their options and confirm enrollment.

Students are responsible for determining and following restrictions.

For a copy of this flyer, please visit [www.nacacnet.org](http://www.nacacnet.org)

# But I am just a sophomore...

- Research testing (PSAT, PLAN, ACT, SAT, **FairTest.org**).
- Update your file of important documents and notes (resume, community service, awards, honors).
- Research Colleges/Universities and plan a visit – even if it is virtual!
- Watch virtual tours! See if College's will allow you to sit in on a virtual classroom experience.
- Find out about Honors, AP, IB courses offered at your high school.
- Continue extracurricular activities and investigate leadership opportunities.
- Continue to meet with your school/college counselor at least once a year.



“College is a match to be made, not a prize to be won.”

It is not about admission; it is about graduation and beyond.



# Dear Families...

“We are  
applying to...”

“We are  
majoring  
in...”

“We are  
writing our  
essay  
on...”

“Our list  
of  
colleges”

“We are  
visiting”

“When I  
signed into  
OUR  
application  
portal”

“We’ve  
decided  
the best  
college for  
US is...”



SIPRESS

*"We've been thinking a lot about what we want to do with your life."*

# How Do Colleges Make Admission Decisions?

# *“Focus on the whole pie, not just a slice!”*

	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

# Criteria Types

## Objective Criteria

- Academic course selection (9-12)
- Overall academic performance
- Senior course in progress
- Test Scores (ACT and/or SAT)
- Test-Optional
- Application volume at the schools to which you are applying

## Subjective Criteria

- Extracurricular activities
- Essay(s)
  - No such thing as **OPTIONAL**
- Recommendation letter(s)
- Interview
- Campus Visit

# Social Media?...

- "A 2023 study conducted by Kaplan found that 67% of admissions officers “believe that checking out applicants’ social media posts on apps like Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, TikTok, X, and Threads to learn more about them is “fair game” to help them make decisions about who gets in.” "

– Forbes *How Your Social Media Accounts Can Affect Your Ivy League Applications*, September 2024

# In Summary...

- No matter your skills, talents or abilities or interests – there are good colleges for you!
- “College is a match to be made not a prize to be won.”
- Most important year – junior year
- Do research and do it early
- Be honest (with yourself and others)
- Use school/college counseling office
- Visit (virtually as well!)



And remember...

...sometimes you  
just need to take  
a chance and  
know that  
anything is  
possible.







## The “BEST”...

“ . . . the “best” college is the one that will challenge you appropriately, open your eyes to new ways of thinking, and help you develop and broaden your talents as you take your place in the world ahead.”

- Willard Dix



**UNC GREENSBORO**

# Questions?

Dante Evans

[dmevans2@uncg.edu](mailto:dmevans2@uncg.edu)