

Cumberland Valley High School

College Panel

March 20, 2019

Below is a synopsis of the information presented at the College Admission Panel

Penn State University (State Affiliated University)

- Twentieth in the country of public universities; Over 180 majors
- Automatically review application for scholarship potential
 - Honors programs offer scholarships
- Application process
 - Grades account for two-thirds of application; SAT or ACT 1/3
 - Optional essay, list of activities
 - Tell a story if there is a story to be told
 - Criteria depends on campus and major
 - No letters of recommendation accepted or required with exception of Honors College
- Pay attention to challenging senior schedule
- Seeing more gap years and using it for service work or travel which is very beneficial
- Early action – 11/1
 - Guaranteed decision by December
 - Lower standards
- Priority 11/30
 - Guaranteed decision by Jan 30
 - Lower standards
- Trend in majors-NASA; Business; Engineering; Forensics
 - Research university so many are STEM
 - 60% undecided
- Doesn't really use rank
- Do not compare students within the same school; use school profile to determine rigor

Shippensburg (State University)

- Five new engineering programs
- Some automatic scholarship based on grades/ SAT scores
 - Honors programs offer scholarships / separate application, it is like PSU
- Sliding scale
 - More weight on GPA than SAT
 - 3.0
 - 1030-1050
 - Academic success program – bridge program – summer
- Request two years of language in high school but not required
- Letters of recommendation not required but will view and can enhance application if student is on the bubble for acceptance.
- Social media – Career Center takes note of social media posts
- Rolling

- Encourage applying early
- Criteria doesn't change but some programs do fill up
- Education, Business, Communication, popular majors but many others
- Agreements w/multiple med schools (affiliations)

Gettysburg (Private College)

- Application Process
 - Grades
 - Holistic approach
 - Transcript
 - Extracurricular
 - Essays
 - Demonstrated interests; visiting; emails
 - Test optional
 - Require 1 counselor rec, 1 teacher rec (will accept 2)
- World Language Requirements
 - Three to four years of language in high school
 - Recognize Spanish 3 in 9th grade as Spanish 3
- Social Media – career center takes note of social media
- Early Decision
 - Profile doesn't change but volume of competition changes
- 60% study abroad
 - Importance in market place on thinking of the global world
- Campus visit
 - Eat in dining hall
 - See/talk to students in dining hall
 - Go to career center
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Lebanon Valley College (Private College)

- Tiered scholarships; based on SAT & GPA's;
- Looking for how they can admit student
 - Grades
 - Course rigor
 - Test optional except for a few majors
 - Holistic approach
 - Students who will enhance campus with experiences and involvement
- World Language
 - Look at high school courses only
- Letters of recommendation are optional – will read them if submitted
- Essay – something that they cannot see through the application or transcript
- Rank factors very little
- Do not have the ability to check all social media but if something is brought to their attention, they will take it into account
- Importance of 12th schedule
 - Still challenge
- Seeing more health care majors – added PT
- Disciplines that provide skills that translate to workforce

General Information – All Admission Panel Members

Seventy percent (70%) of college freshman change their majors (across the country)

Adults change their careers five-six times (national average)

No preference SAT/ACT

- Shippensburg will super score
- PSU takes best set of scores
- LVC will super score
- Gettysburg – best set of scores

Senior schedule is important and consideration for admission.

Internships do not override grades, but can be good experiences and could be useful for essays

More schools across the country are doing away with class rank

Final advice:

- Lebanon Valley – journal the college search process so you can see differences; similarities
- Shippensburg – Visit the college!
- Gettysburg – Visit – Work hard senior year but try to enjoy your last year at high school!
- Penn State – Visit! Do you see yourself on the campus?