



College Options

Grenadier Scholars



Finding the Right College Fit



Things to Consider

- WHO YOU ARE
- MAJOR
- DISTANCE
- LOCATION
- SIZE
- EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
- OPPORTUNITIES
- PUBLIC vs PRIVATE
- TOP 20 VS STATE SCHOOL

Fit Items to Consider

- Academic Fit
- Reach
- Match
- Safety
- Financial Fit
- Social Fit
- Size
- Diversity
- Location
- Campus Life
- Degree Programs
- Learning Environment

Building Your List

- Attend college visits at your school
- Go to college fairs
- Talk your counselor, college and career specialist, teachers, family members
- Explore and Research
- Naviance
- College Board
- The school's website site
- Visit college campuses



Top Colleges and Universities



Top Colleges and Universities

The following colleges/universities are currently ranked within the top 20 according to the U.S. News & World Report. Rankings can change each year:

1. Princeton University
2. Harvard University
3. Columbia University
4. Massachusetts Institute of Technology (tied with #3)
5. Yale University (tied with #3)
6. Stanford University (tied with #6)
7. University of Chicago (tied with #6)
8. University of Pennsylvania (tied with #6)
9. Northwestern University
10. Duke University

Top 20 Colleges/Universities (Continued)

11. Johns Hopkins University
12. California Institute of Technology
13. Dartmouth College (tied with #12)
14. Brown University
15. University of Notre Dame
16. Vanderbilt University (tied with #15)
17. Cornell University
18. Rice University (tied with #17)
19. Washington University
20. University of California

Top Liberal Arts Colleges

The following schools are the Top Liberal Arts Colleges in the U.S. These rankings change year to year.

1. Williams College
2. Amherst College
(tied with #11)
3. Swarthmore College
(with #11)
4. Wellesley College (tied with #3)
5. Pomona College
(tied with #14)
6. Bowdoin College
(tied with #14)
7. Carleton College
8. Claremont McKenna College (tied with #7)
11. Colby College
12. Haverford College
13. Smith College (tied with #11)
14. Grinnell College
15. Hamilton College
16. Vassar College
17. Colgate University
18. Davidson College (tied with #17)

Trip to Boston Spring 2019

In March 2019, we took 14 students to Boston, Massachusetts to explore colleges and universities in the area.





Questbridge

<https://www.questbridge.org/>



What Is Questbridge?

- A college matching system to help high achieving students from low income backgrounds attend college
- Full financial need is matched (students pay little or nothing at all)
- Colleges partner with Questbridge because:
 - They help students understand that going to a top college is possible
 - They understand the challenges that high achieving, low-income students face during their application process
 - The Questbridge application presents a more holistic picture of students
 - The Questbridge Scholar Network and Alumni Association provide additional support and camaraderie for matriculated students

National College Match

- A college and scholarship application process that helps outstanding low-income high school seniors gain admission and full four-year scholarships to the nation's most selective colleges.
- Selected students gain admission and full four-year scholarships to our college partners
- Scholarship covers full cost of tuition, room and board, loan-free and requires no parental contribution
- Scholarship comes from the college partner

Questbridge College Partners

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

COLLEGE PARTNERS



EDUCATORS

SCHOLARS

ABOUT

Amherst College

Bowdoin College

Brown University

California Institute of
Technology

Carleton College

Colby College

Colorado College

Columbia University

Claremont McKenna College

Dartmouth College

Davidson College

Duke University

Emory University

Grinnell College

Haverford College

Macalester College

Massachusetts Institute of
Technology

Northwestern University

Oberlin College

Pomona College

Princeton University

Rice University

Scripps College

Stanford University

Swarthmore College

Tufts University

University of Chicago

University of Notre Dame

University of Pennsylvania

University of Southern
California

University of Virginia

Vanderbilt University

Vassar College

Washington and Lee University

Wellesley College

Wesleyan University

Williams College

Yale University

Advantages of Applying

- Full four year scholarship
 - If income situation changes, students still have guaranteed full scholarship
- Apply for free to college partners when applying through Questbridge regular decision
- Be considered by multiple college partners at once for early admission (if selected as a finalist and rank schools)

Advantages of Applying

- Multiple opportunities for admission
 - Students who become finalists and rank and are not matched, encouraged to apply through the Questbridge regular decision process.
 - If you don't match, it doesn't mean you were rejected from the school.
- The application is designed to highlight a student's unique story
- Opportunity to join Questbridge Scholars Network and Alumni Association Support network on campus

Why I Applied to Questbridge



Questbridge Candidate

- **Academic Achievement:**
 - Top 5% or 10% of their class.
 - Have received mostly A's grades in the most rigorous classes available.
 - Scored >1310 (Critical Reading +Math) on the SAT or >28 (Composite) on the ACT.
- **Financial Qualification:**
 - Household income less than \$65,000 a year, and often less for a typical family of four, with minimal assets.
 - Can be eligible for free or reduced-price lunch.
- **Personal Circumstances:**
 - Often in the first generation in their family to attend a four-year U.S. college.
 - Unusually high level of family responsibility (caring for siblings, part-time work to support family financially, etc.)
 - Extracurricular achievements, such as leadership or community activities.

Application Requirements

- A free, online National College Match application, including information on your academic and extracurricular accomplishments, financial background*, two essays, short answer questions
- Two letters of recommendation from teachers in core academic subjects
- A Secondary School Report from your high school counselor
- A School Profile (optional, but recommended)
- A high school transcript and additional transcripts (if applicable)
- Any standardized test score reports to-date. We accept SAT, ACT, Subject Tests, IB, or AP test scores. SAT and/or ACT test scores are highly recommended. Currently cannot record AICE scores.

Important Dates

- **Late Summer 2020- College Match Application Opens**

If you would to sign up to be notified with the application opens:

<https://apply.questbridge.org/register/hssmailinglistform>

UCF Top 10 Knights



Requirements

- Ranked in the top 10% of your senior class
- SAT score of 1090 (Evidence-based Reading and Writing + Math) OR an ACT score of 21
- Apply and submit all required documentation by Jan 15
- 4 credits of approved academic core math by the end of your senior year
- Admission is guaranteed to UCF, but term is not guaranteed. You will be admitted for one of the three academic terms: summer, fall, or spring.
- If you qualify and submitted everything by the Jan 15 deadline, you will be notified of your admission by March 1
- Website: <https://www.ucf.edu/admissions/undergraduate/top-ten-knights/>

Things to Focus On This Summer

- Make a personal and Professional Email Address
 - Colleges and universities cannot send emails to your OCPS student email
- Building your college list-- narrow your list to between 5-10 schools
 - Include reach schools and safety schools
- Preparing to take the SAT and/or ACT
 - If you are planning to apply to top colleges/universities, may need SAT subject tests
 - There are various SAT subject tests available
 - Some schools/majors have specific test requirements, others allow students to take tests in subject areas of their choice
- Gathering financial aid documents
 - For the 2021-2022 FAFSA, you will be required to provide 2019 parent tax information.
- Creating student and parent FSA IDs for FAFSA
 - <http://fsaid.ed.gov>



@ColonialGuidance

Questions?



**KEEP
CALM
AND
ASK
QUESTIONS**