

Highly Selective College Admissions

Jordan Kanarek
Director of Counseling



**COLLEGE
WISE**

Seminar Overview

- About Collegewise
- How difficult is it to get into these schools?
- Which colleges, exactly, are the most selective?
- Five qualities admitted students demonstrate
- Admissions Factors
 - The Academic Ranking
 - The Personal Ranking
- Collegewise and next steps

Collegewise



Largest private college counseling organization in the United States

Helped over 12,000 families gain admission into over 1000 different colleges and universities

Two things to keep in mind:

1. Great educations happen at lots of schools...

not just the prestigious ones

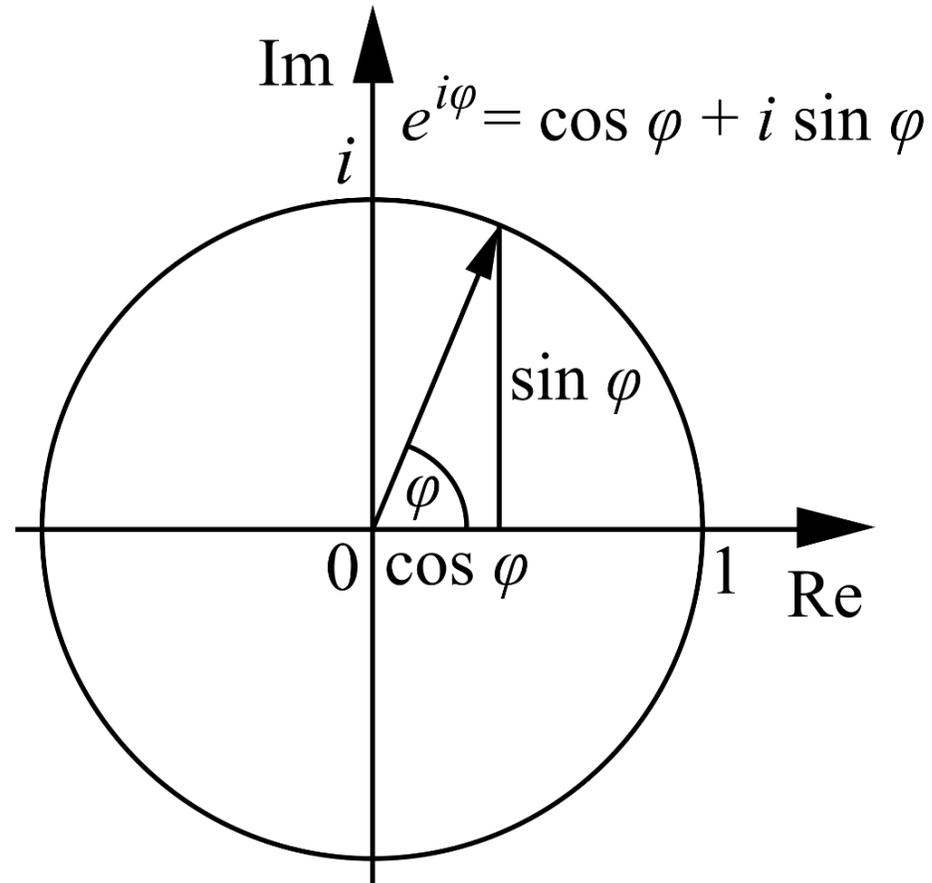
2. The truth about admissions isn't always pretty, but:

What you do in college will be much more important than whether or not the school is prestigious.

Highly Selective Colleges

- What is a highly selective college?
 - Defined as colleges that *accept fewer than 20%* of all applicants
 - One for which grades alone won't get you in
 - One where **no single student** has a "good chance" of admission

Is there a formula?



A day in the life of an admissions counselor...

- “This year’s admit rate will be 9%. For every student you admit, you need to let go of ten others.” – From an admission blog
- Special admit categories: Legacy, athletics, diversity
- International statistics are even lower:
 - Quotas for International students range from 7-12% of all admitted students



Therefore, international admission rates at HSCs are low, can be 3%

Admission Counselors are *NOT* Risk Takers



Two Realities

These schools
are reaches for
everybody.



Two Realities

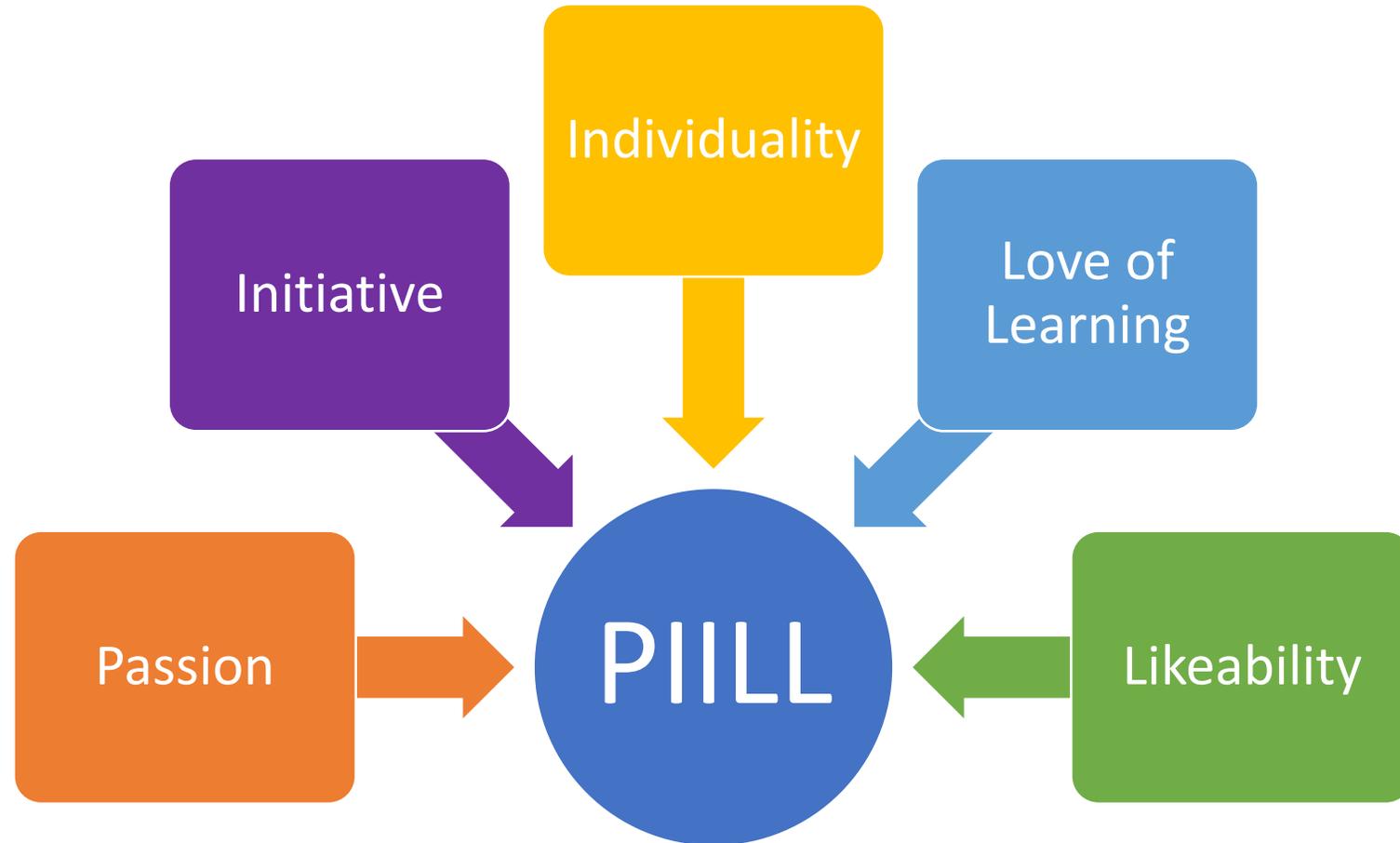


Grades and test scores don't get you into these schools.

They just keep you out.

It's important to be well rounded beyond just grades and test scores!

Five qualities admitted students demonstrate:



Five qualities admitted students demonstrate:

• 1. Passion

- Follow what you **actually** love
- Students with passion have the ability to make an impact on campus
- Example: Environmental club to recycling bins



Five qualities admitted students demonstrate:

• 2. Initiative

- “Is this student going to make things happen when she arrives on campus?”
- Initiative is **not** the same thing as leadership
- Don’t let your parents organize involvements for you!



Example: TED Talks!

Five qualities admitted students demonstrate:



- **3. Individuality**
 - Be comfortable with who you are and what you stand for
 - It's ok to be different!
 - Example: Flight simulation! Aquafarming!

Five qualities admitted students demonstrate:

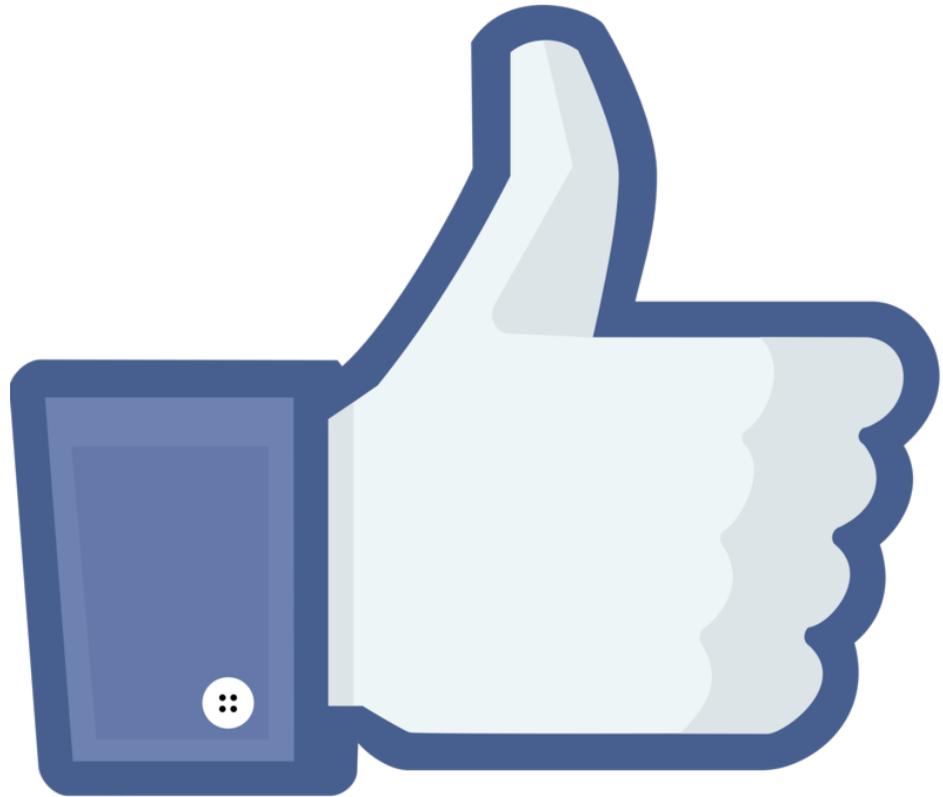
- 4. Love of Learning

- Don't be a grade grubber-dropping everything in your life to make perfect grades.



- Colleges love students who **actually** enjoy learning new things- and take initiative to learn them!

Five qualities admitted students demonstrate:



• 5. Likeability/Fit

- Just be yourself
- Work hard doing things you love, present yourself honestly, and be confident enough to know that you'll be ok no matter where you go to college

How do Highly Selective Colleges decide who gets in?

- 1. The academic ranking
- 2. The personal ranking

Successful students show their PILL through both the academic and personal parts of the application.

What do colleges look at?

ACADEMIC

Grades

Strength of curriculum

Test Scores (SAT/ACT)

PERSONAL

Essays

Activities/Extracurriculars

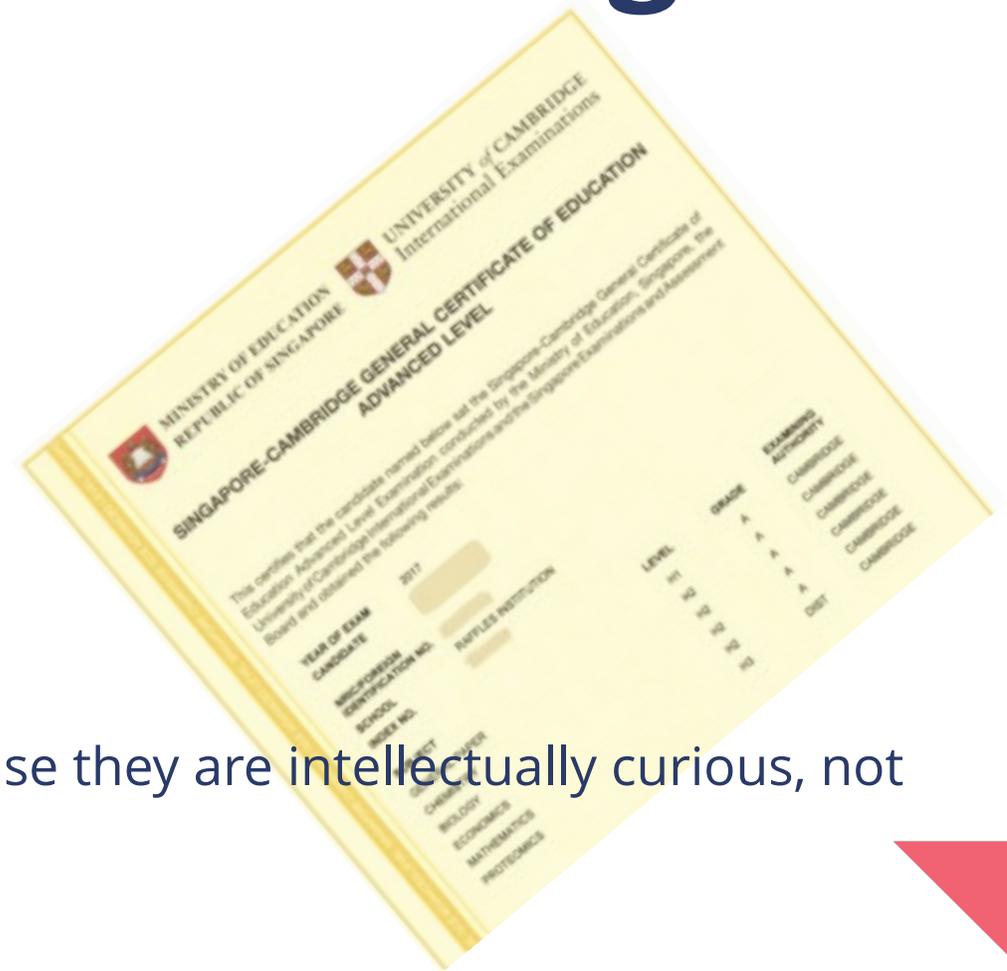
The Academic Ranking

- What are the parts?

1. Course Selection
2. Class Rank
3. Grades
4. Test Scores

- The highest achievers

- Differentiate themselves with PIILL
- Ex: Take courses outside of school because they are intellectually curious, not because it “looks good”



The Personal Ranking

1. Activities
2. Essays
3. Matchmaking



The Personal Ranking

1. Activities

- Don't follow the crowd
- Make an impact



The Personal Ranking



2. Essays

- Don't write a McEssay
- Don't try to impress
- Be yourself

The Personal Ranking

4. Matchmaking or “Fit”

- Yield
 - Percentage of admitted students who accept their offer
- Fit becomes crucial
 - Why do universities ask the questions they ask



Personal and Academic

Letters of Recommendation

Can tell about you as an academic, but also about your character as a community member



The Collegewise Strategy

Our belief: College admissions should be an *exciting* time for every family

Our approach: Work with students to find the right fit schools -
and encouraging *student ownership* over the process

- How we deliver:
 - Individual counseling sessions with one of our talented counselors
 - Advice via our blog, newsletter, and seminars
 - Resources on our website including books, videos, and guidelines

How can Collegewise help?

Get free resources (like our Summer Planning Guide!) at
www.collegewise.com

Ready to get started and learn more about our programs? Schedule time now with Cortney, our Program Advisor, to learn more:

[617-917-9966](tel:617-917-9966), or cortney@collegewise.com.



**COLLEGE
WISE**

COLLEGE WISE

jordank@collegewise.com

www.collegewise.com

