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Admissions

What you won't hear anywhere else

FROM PREPMATTERS™ EDUCATIONAL COUNSELING & TEST PREP

Trinity College
and
Trinity University **

TEST YOURSELF

- 1) Which is located in the north and which in the south?
- 2) Which is older and which has more undergraduates?
- 3) Which is more urban and which is more suburban?
- 4) Which offers engineering?

ANSWERS

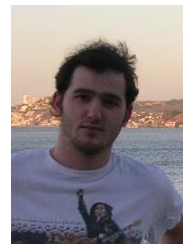
- 1) Trinity College is located in Connecticut while Trinity University is located in Texas.
- 2) Trinity (CT) has 2,250 students and was founded in 1823. Trinity (TX) has 2,500 students and was founded in 1869.
- 3) Trinity (TX) has 117 acres located in a residential neighborhood just outside San Antonio, Texas. Trinity (CT) has a 100-acre campus located in the City of Hartford.
- 4) Both offer accredited programs in engineering.

** Not to be confused with Trinity University in the District of Columbia.

What Students Say

Jake Goldberg, a graduate of St. Albans (2001) and the University of Virginia (2005), plans to add MBA, Class of 2009 to his resume. He remembers with fondness his days at St. Albans and realizes that he received a "great education" that prepared him well for UVA. UVA furthered his excellent education and added student diversity which, until arriving, Jake hadn't realized had been absent from his education. It was one of the many things he appreciated about UVA.

UVA, however, wasn't his initial choice for college. Many people thought he would be happiest at a college that mirrored his high school life, and they recommended the Ivies and small private colleges. Because he intended to major in engineering, however, he had to look beyond that small group of schools and so began looking at several large state universities. Eventually he realized that UVA had engineering and everything else he wanted. It was a great school and it was the right distance from home. Jake was happy at UVA -- happy with the university and happy with Charlottesville, which he calls "the perfect college town."



Jake's major was systems engineering, which he describes as a field of holistic problem-solving that uses traditional engineering techniques. He chose the field because it is broad based and he thinks it taught him how to think about life and problem solving. Its one downside was that he had little time for electives and he would have liked to have taken more. That's especially true now as he is moving away from the engineering field and headed toward an MBA.

The transition from engineering to business began right after college. His systems engineering major led to a staff position at a non-profit firm in New York City. While working there, he realized that his career interests go beyond information systems and that he wanted to enter a business program to pursue studies relating to non-profit organizations.

The decision to pursue an MBA, however, meant another admission process. After three years of working, he had to go back to studying, this time for the GMAT exam, and he had to fill out applications and write admissions essays. He's also had to think about what kind of school he wanted for his MBA, but he looks at the process now in different terms. When he applied to UVA, he thought solely in terms of the school and the four years he would spend there. He didn't think about what lay beyond his time at college. Now he's at a point in his life in which he is actively planning his future. He looked beyond the two years he would spend getting his MBA and let his goals for life after graduate school shape his decisions about the MBA program he would enter.

Sounds like a good approach, Jake. We wish you the best as you enter Columbia University to get your MBA.

Columbia University in New York City has about 25,000 students overall. Its number-crunching Graduate School of Business enrolls about 1,400 students.

TRAPS AND AMBUSHES

Anyone can fall behind. Maybe the semester is whizzing by too fast and you just can't keep up with all the new material. Maybe there was an important concept you didn't fully understand. Maybe you're unsure of the best way to tackle an important assignment. Whatever the issue, the result is a roadblock, and a common mistake is to be reluctant to seek the help that could get you past the problem.

A capable friend or study partner might fill the bill in some cases, but don't rule out seeking help from on-campus advising or tutoring resources. It may be the best way out of your logjam and to keep you on the path to academic success.



Auditions and Portfolios

Students who have a special talent in the visual or performing arts have special opportunities and requirements when it comes to college admission. Colleges want to see evidence of that talent before issuing an acceptance, and they do that through art portfolios and performance auditions.

Colleges that require or recommend an art portfolio will specify what they want it to include -- how many pieces in how many different types of media and whether they should be sent as photographs, slides or as original pieces. Similarly, performing arts departments set requirements for what is performed and whether they accept performance recordings or require a live audition.

Portfolios and auditions are extra work for the applicant, but they are also an extra way to be evaluated by colleges. That can be a real bonus for those who have real talent.

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AP Exams and Practice Tests

A good score on an Advanced Placement (AP) exam is a way to earn college credit while in high school. That can be a good deal, but remember that credit is earned not merely by taking the course, but by scoring appropriately on the AP exam. The exams themselves are a no-lose deal because scores don't affect your class grade and don't have to be sent to colleges if they fall short of expectations.

Good AP exam scores from the sophomore or junior year may be included in college applications but tend to be viewed as supplementary information by admission officials. Since not all applicants take AP exams, or even have access to them, colleges typically rely more on scores from the SAT, SAT subject tests and ACT because of the head-to-head comparisons that can be made. There is, however, at least one exception. Hamilton College's requirement for quantitative and English test scores can be satisfied with AP exam scores.

AP exams are created and produced by ETS (Educational Testing Service), the same folks that create and produce the PSAT and SAT. The three-hour tests are administered in May by the high schools that offer the AP courses. Each test is scored on a scale of one to five (1-5). Each college sets its own policy of what exam score is sufficient for awarding credit.

AP Exams are offered in a wide array of topics, and PrepMatters' tutors are available for these AP exams: Calculus AB/BC, Chemistry, English Literature and Language, Art History, Biology, US History, European History, World History, Physics A & B, Micro & Macro Economics, Statistics, Spanish, Latin, French, & Chinese Languages, and Environmental Science.

PrepMatters also now offers AP practice tests -- a great way to determine your test-readiness and identify what review work is still needed.

College Cousins

Warm, sunny and south are the first things usually noticed about the University of Miami and Tulane University. Both are located in cities that know how to have fun but are able to maintain academic quality. They are similar educationally and socially although Tulane has been forced to undergo post-Katrina change on all fronts.

For Tulane, the fall semester of 2005 was all but lost and damages exceeded \$200 million. University officials not only made plans to restore the damage to its campus but to retool its educational structure. The “new” Tulane has reorganized schools, a slightly reduced number of majors, a core curriculum, a public service requirement, required on-campus housing for freshmen and sophomores, and a single undergraduate college that combines Tulane and Newcomb, Tulane’s former college for women. All classes now are taught only by full-time faculty. Tulane lost some faculty and students, but those who come are committed and positive.

Miami has weathered many tropical storms but retains a tropical-style beauty. While Tulane is only marginally interested in sports, University of Miami students love their sports and revel in the national success of their “Canes.” Academic requirements vary depending on the college, and Miami has eight of them: Architecture, Arts & Sciences, Business, Communication, Education, Engineering, Music and Nursing. Most classes are taught by professors, and students in the top 10 percent of the entering class are invited into the Honors Program.

Both of these universities are private and have hefty price tags which lead to a reputation of all students being well-heeled, but that’s not the full story. Miami’s diversity (of 44 percent non-white) and Tulane’s post-Katrina legacy and commitment to public service create a more balanced campus atmosphere.

Miami and Tulane

	University of Miami for Fall 2008	Tulane University for Fall 2008
Number of Applications	22,000	33,000
Number Accepted	7,800 - 8,800	8,250
Percent Accepted	35-40%	25%
Number in Freshman Class	2,000	1,324
Undergrad Enrollment	9,500	5,100
% Men and Women	45% to 55%	46.5% to 53.5%
In State to Out of State	52% to 48%	20% to 80%
% in Fraternities and Sororities	10%	33%
Middle 50% SAT (Admitted Freshmen)		
Critical Reading & Math	1280 - 1340 *	1210 - 1380
Middle 50% ACT	28 - 31 *	27 - 31
GPA	4.2 (weighted) *	3.5 (unweighted)

* 2007 figures; 2008 N/A



Parents’ Role in Tutoring

A good tutoring relationship has three members: student, tutor, and parent. Working together gives everyone the best chance at success. And when those team members get it right, that student heads into her college career with just the support, scores, and experience she needs to be a success at anything she wants to try.

When it comes to the SAT, the best thing a parent can do is to get informed. There’s a lot of misinformation out there, and that often leads to unnecessary anxiety and bad preparation. The SAT has changed quite a bit just in the last few years, which means that what was true when you took the test, or even when your older child took the test, may not be true anymore. A little bit of research can make a big difference, so check out College Board’s website, talk to a guidance counselor, or sit down with your child’s prep materials. Sure, you’re not the one taking the test, but your quiet research sends your child the message that this test is important, and that you’re on her side.

As an added bonus, as you learn more about the test, you’ll feel calmer and more confident. Rather than adding to the ambient anxiety in the house, you’ll be passing on the assurance that with the right information and the right tools, there’s nothing to fear. Your calmness and informed support is the best gift you can offer your child during this stressful time in her life.

You can be sure that your child knows this test is important. She’s getting pressure from her teachers, from her peers, from her guidance counselor, and perhaps more detrimentally, from herself. The best thing you can offer is your confidence in her ability to succeed.

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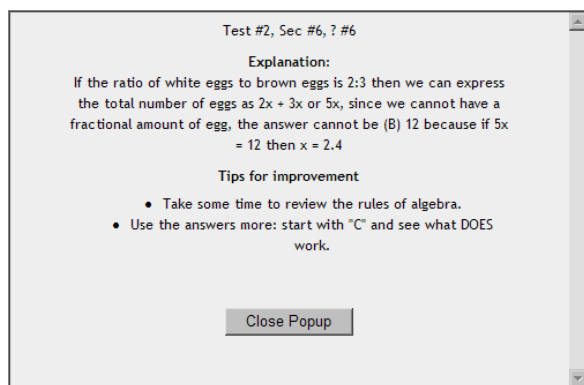
Online Study Guide

One of the most exciting additions to PrepMatters in recent years is our online study guide. It is the most comprehensive compilation of original test questions and explanatory answers that years of experience could pull together, and in the most student-friendly format our experts could devise. When we began this project, we hoped for some supplementary materials for students to access at home, with perhaps a few features for customizing test prep for individual students, but even we were amazed at the product that resulted when we really put our heads together.

The best way to experience our online study guide is to, well, go ahead and experience it. Here are a few highlights, however, to get you started. First, your tutor can create sets of questions or even full-length tests formulated specifically to test you in those areas you most need. For instance, if you have trouble with a couple of the math tricks you've covered in your tutoring sessions, your tutor can build a math section with questions hand-picked for not just subject matter, format, and difficulty, but also methodology of solving. If there are a few grammar rules that fool you every time, you can concentrate on just those.

Perhaps the best features of this study guide are the exhaustive explanations provided for each and every question. Why bother taking practice tests if you don't know why you missed questions? The explanations also give you tips on how you could have solved that problem better, or faster. As a bonus, you can access hints for each question while you're working on that section, just to help you get started.

The amazing features of this study guide can't be explained in this small space—you've really got to try it out yourself. With literally thousands of questions to explore, it could take you a while. It's just one more way that PrepMatters is working hard to make your testing experience as painless and as successful as possible.



Detailed explanations increase understanding.

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and University of Chicago

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