



# Admissions

*What you won't hear anywhere else*

PREPMATTERS™ EDUCATIONAL COUNSELING, TEST PREP & SUBJECT TUTORING

## Announcing PrepMatters' First Webinar:

Seven Things to Know about Score Choice,  
Testing, and College Admissions  
Wednesday, June 17th from 8:15 to 8:45 pm

Questions, questions, questions. At PrepMatters, we deal with test questions every day, but we know that you have many questions other than those likely to appear on an SAT or ACT. Perhaps you've been able to attend one of our information sessions and get answers to some of your questions about test prep and college admissions, but perhaps your schedule has prevented you from joining us. If that's the case, let us invite you to attend one from the comfort of your own home -- through our first 'webinar.'

A webinar is a web-based seminar. It's video and audio conferencing, and it's interactive. This means that you can join us from any computer anywhere in the world, and can also be a participant by typing and submitting your own questions. This thirty-minute session will be open to the public and will provide concise, targeted information on such issues as:

- Score Choice, no choice: what scores to send and when to send them.
- One test, two tests, all tests, no tests?
- How to best plan your testing calendar.
- Don't ask, don't tell: living in the shadow of a peer or sibling's score.

Ned Johnson, PrepMatters' president, will address these and other issues on the 17th and will then take questions from webinar viewers as time permits.

There is no charge for this webinar so we encourage you to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity. Participation only requires a one-time registration procedure through the PrepMatters web site ([www.prepmatters.com](http://www.prepmatters.com)).

We're excited about the expanded opportunity represented by the webinar, and you can look for notices of future webinar events. We'll also continue to host the in-person seminars. If you find those difficult to attend, however, you can think about joining us for our webinars. Feel free to invite a friend too, and in the meantime you can be thinking about that question you've been wanting to ask.

## Adding College Visits to Your Summer Travel

There's no better way to get a true feel for a college or university than to visit the campus, but traveling here and there is time-consuming and expensive. An efficient way to jump-start the process may be to piggyback college visits onto travel plans you have already made.

Although summer time on college campuses can be 'college lite,' with the regular students off campus, this can still be a helpful strategy if you are at the beginning of your college search and are still at the stage of figuring out if you want big or small, rural or urban and so forth. If you're at that first stage of the game, you are really shopping for style, and you can answer a lot of basic questions by visiting and comparing colleges and universities, even if those you visit aren't on your current list of possibilities. It's window shopping of a sort, and you might find that it can blend well into your travel plans.



To help you get into the swing of things, we've put together a few groupings that you'll see on the pages that follow. They represent only a small sampling for purposes of example. It will be up to you to find out what colleges are near where you'll be traveling and to select a couple that will serve your own purposes of comparison.

The main thing is to take advantage of what opportunities you have. Analyze what's important to you and learn how to look for those characteristics in the colleges you visit. It will make you a smarter shopper and put you in a better position to make the decisions you'll face as you travel further down the road.

## FROM THE MOUNTAINS

Those who love the outdoors should think about college in the Rocky Mountains. This is a place for outdoor enthusiasts of all kinds for every season.

Large (24,000 undergraduates) and in a modest-sized state, the University of Colorado at Boulder can afford to be hospitable to out-of-state applicants, and it doesn't disappoint. It has plenty of academic oomph for those who want it and plenty of spirit too.



A mere thirty miles away is the Mile High City of Denver, home to the University of Denver's 4,200 undergrads and to the acclaimed Korbel School of International Studies.

Seventy miles from Denver is Colorado Springs and Colorado College, which features the block system (a one-concentrated-class-at-a-time approach).

## TO THE OCEANS

The metropolis of Los Angeles, home to the Hollywood Hills and Universal Studios, is also home to the University of California at Los Angeles, the University of Southern California, Pepperdine, the Claremont Colleges and Occidental College, a small liberal arts institution of about 1,800 students, now famous because of the two years President Obama was enrolled there. California public institutions leave few seats for non-Californians, which makes it notoriously difficult for non-residents to gain admission.

Two hours south of L.A. and a mere 20 miles from the Mexican border is the beautiful city of San Diego, famous for its spectacular zoo, aquarium and water attractions. If you're lucky enough to travel to that beautiful locale, you might check out the University of San Diego (a Catholic institution) and the University of California at San Diego.

## In The Great Lakes Region

The vacation attractions of the upper Midwest begin with Wisconsin Dells, which draws enthusiasts of both nature and water sports.

If you travel that far, you'll surely want to visit Madison, the state's capital and home of the University of Wisconsin and its 29,000 undergraduate "badgers." Wisconsin is known for its school spirit and its broad curriculum that encompasses just about every interest.

Just an hour south of Madison and sitting on the Wisconsin-Illinois border is Beloit College, a first-rate liberal arts college of 1,300 students. Its attraction to international students is perhaps due in part to its outstanding foreign language programs.

Only two hours farther southeast and just north of the Chicago city limits is Evanston, home of mid-sized Northwestern University with about 8,200 undergraduates. Northwestern is excellent academically across the board, but its most highly regarded school is the Medill School of Journalism.

A quick ride on the "L" will take you into the heart of the "windy city," a name attributed by some to the lake breezes but by others to its windy politicians. Either way, if you go to enjoy one of its outstanding museums or the Navy Pier, you might also check out the Hyde Park section of the south side where you'll find the University of Chicago, well known for its intellectual muscle, particularly in the sciences.

East of Lake Michigan and closer to Lake Erie is Ann Arbor and the University of Michigan, home to about 25,000 undergraduates. As robust academically as athletically, the Michigan Wolverines have plenty of spirit and earn plenty of respect.

Just south of Michigan is the great state of Ohio, where the midwest traveler will find Miami University of Ohio with over 15,000 undergrads in addition to a number of fine, small liberal arts colleges, namely Denison, Kenyon, Oberlin and the College of Wooster.

## In the Gateway City

Some 300 miles south of Chicago is the city of St. Louis, home of the unique Gateway Arch and of Forest Park, one of the largest urban parks in the world. It's also home to Washington University, an outstanding institution with an undergraduate enrollment of about 6,000.



## In the Big Apple

If your summer plans include a trip to the Statue of Liberty or the Empire State Building, you might think of adding a day or two to visit one or more of these:

With its main campus just off Washington Square in Greenwich Village, New York University is surrounded by exciting things for students to do, but it takes a certain discipline to close the door and hit the books. NYU's 18,500 undergraduates include students of business and art along with students of the traditional disciplines. They are an eclectic mix that reflects the city and its personality-- which is energetic, ambitious, and confident enough to take on the "big apple."



Columbia University is in Morningside Heights on the Upper West Side of Manhattan and boasts a student population as diverse as New York City itself. Its 6,300 undergraduates contend with a rigorous academic climate and an extensive core curriculum.

An official affiliate of Columbia is Barnard College, a women-only undergraduate institution of about 2,400 students. Barnard women have the advantages of a women-only institution and an open door to Columbia classes.

The Fashion Institute of Technology, located in Manhattan's Seventh Avenue fashion district, is a premier place of study for about 7,000 aspiring artists who are attracted to the world of fashion.

## The City of Brotherly Love

If you're in the mood to visit the home of the Continental Congress or the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, be sure to take a side trip to see one of Ben Franklin's most notable achievements: the historic University of Pennsylvania, located in downtown Philadelphia. Its 9,500 undergraduates study a variety of disciplines, none more celebrated than the curriculum offered by the Wharton School of Business.

Did you know that Newark, Delaware is closer to Philadelphia than to Rehoboth Beach? It's true, so on your way back down I-95, consider a side trip to see the University of Delaware. Its 16,000 undergraduates create a surprisingly large institution for our second-smallest state, which fosters a welcoming attitude toward out-of-state applicants.

## In the Northeast Corner

Popular vacation spots during the hot summer months can be found in the cool northeast.

The University of Vermont is located in the town of Burlington, situated on the shores of Lake Champlain, between the Green and the Adirondack mountain ranges. This is a mid-sized university, but it's big enough to have an engineering school. It's a university for those who love the outdoors -- summer or winter.

Be sure to take your passport on this trip if you have a taste for something a little different because only two hours away by car is the cosmopolitan, French-speaking city of Montreal, where McGill University is located. Whatever your area of interest, you'll probably find it among McGill's 300 programs of study and shared by many of its 34,000 students.

## In and Around Beantown

Summer is a great time to enjoy Boston -- to breathe in its history, to enjoy a Boston Pops concert, and to see the splendid Esplanade, three miles of pathways and attractions along the Charles River.

Not far from the Esplanade, and in the heart of the city, is the urban-styled campus of Boston University, home to nearly 33,000 students and with academic departments in just about every discipline imaginable.

While in the area, try heading north to Tufts University in Medford. Its 9,600 students divide equally between undergrad and grad students. Some of those fortunate grad students attend the prestigious Fletcher Graduate School of International Affairs.

Just nine miles west of Boston is Waltham, home to Brandeis University. Self-described as a "non-sectarian Jewish-sponsored college," it offers a first-rate liberal arts education to its 3,200 undergraduates.



Then consider continuing your excursion by visiting Cambridge, home to two of our premier universities -- Harvard (with about 6,000 undergrads) and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (with about 4,700 undergraduates).

Others to visit include: Boston College, Emerson, Northeastern, Holy Cross, Wellesley, and Wheaton. In the center of Massachusetts: Amherst, Babson, Clark, Hampshire, Mt. Holyoke, Smith, UMass-Amherst, and Williams.

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## Don't Overlook What Our Region Has to Offer

The many fine institutions in our region present a great opportunity for comparison shopping right in our own backyard. We don't have space to highlight all of them, but here is a quick look at a few of the most popular.

American University is a mid-sized institution of 6,000 undergraduates with a somewhat urban-styled campus located in a suburban area of D.C. Its most acclaimed areas of study are found in its School of International Service and School of Public Affairs.



Georgetown University is a mid-sized university with 6,800 undergraduate students. The effect of its urban location is softened by its posh Georgetown locale. In a curious mixture, it is known nationally for its rigorous academics and its Hoya basketball. Many don't realize that it is a Catholic institution and are surprised that its Jesuit traditions are still evident. Georgetown's academic powerhouse is its School of Foreign Service.

Been to Foggy Bottom recently? The George Washington University is a large urban university, home to 9,500 undergraduates. University buildings and young faces are evident on every nearby street, contributing to a robust, even brash vibe. Like its D.C. counterparts, G.W. has well-respected programs in international affairs and public policy, but it also offers just about everything else, including education, engineering, law, and medicine.

A mere drive around the beltway will take you to the University of Maryland's flagship campus, located in suburban College Park. It's the giant in our region with a total enrollment of over 35,000 students. Everything is big at Maryland – its enrollment, number of activities, many of its freshman classes and, oh yes, its Atlantic Coast Conference spirit and reputation. Its biggest reputation is enjoyed by the well-regarded Smith Business School.

Also within easy reach of our area are these: Goucher, Johns Hopkins, St. John's, Towson, the US Naval Academy (on the Maryland side of the Potomac) and George Mason, Hollins, James Madison, Virginia Tech, University of Richmond, University of Virginia, Washington and Lee, and William and Mary (on the Virginia side).

So, wherever your summer plans take you, think about incorporating college visits into your vacation schedule. It's an easy way to gain perspective on college style, and that is great preparation for the decisions you will soon face.

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### NEXT ISSUE:

WE'LL BE TAKING OUR ANNUAL

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HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

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