

A stack of several old, worn books with various colored spines (dark green, red, brown) is shown on the left side of the image. The background is dark with numerous out-of-focus, warm-toned bokeh lights in shades of yellow and orange, creating a soft, glowing effect.

College Admissions 201: Harvard, Berkeley or Bust

CUSD College Night

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The logo for Collegewise, featuring the word "Collegewise" in a blue, sans-serif font. The letter "C" is stylized with a white swoosh that loops around it from the bottom left.

What you'll learn

- The current odds
- Inside the Admissions Office
- How Selective Colleges Rank Students
- Go Early
- Three Tips

Highly Selective Colleges (HSCs) are getting crazier

	Accept Rate 2007	Accept Rate 2016	Total Apps 2007	Total Apps 2016
Brown	13.5%	8.6%	19,044	30,397
Columbia	10.4%	4.9%	21,343	36,250
Cornell	20.5%	13.3%	30,382	41,907
Dartmouth	15.3%	8.8%	14,176	20,504
Harvard	9.0%	3.2%	22,955	37,305
Penn	15.9%	7.9%	22,634	37,267
Princeton	9.5%	4.9%	18,942	27,290
Yale	9.6%	4.7%	19,323	30,237

A Highly Selective List

1. Amherst College
2. Brown University
3. California Institute of Technology
4. Claremont McKenna College
5. Columbia University
6. Cornell University
7. Dartmouth College
8. Duke University
9. Georgetown University
10. Harvard University
11. Harvey Mudd College
12. Johns Hopkins University
13. Massachusetts Institute of Technology
14. Northwestern University
15. Pomona College
16. Princeton University
17. Rice University
18. Stanford University
19. Swarthmore College
20. United States Air Force Academy
21. United States Coast Guard Academy
22. United States Military Academy
23. United States Naval Academy
24. University of Chicago
25. University of Virginia
26. University of Notre Dame
27. University of Pennsylvania
28. Williams College
29. Washington University - St. Louis
30. Yale University

Inside the Admissions Office

- The selection process
- The people in the room
- Two realities about highly selective college admissions

The Academic Ranking

- Course Rigor
- Academic Curiosity
- Class Rank
- Grades
- Test Scores (SAT/ACT, Subject Tests, AP Exams)

Personal Ranking

- Based on activities
- Highest Ranking
 - Played in Carnegie Hall, the Olympics
- High Ranking
 - Regional or statewide recognition
- Average Ranking
 - Eagle Scouts, student body presidents, editors of school newspaper

The Essays

- How essays are evaluated
- What most students do wrong
- Own your story and your voice
- Adults who love you are dangerous here

The Application

- Opportunity to make yourself likeable
- Let them get to know you!
- Pro tip: Use the activities section wisely

The Interview

- How important is the interview?
 - Least important component of the application
- Most important thing: have a good conversation
- We have a full seminar on the interview

Matchmaking matters

- Yield
- Brown vs Dartmouth vs Columbia
- Importance of short answers

It's an advantage to apply early (rolling, EA, ED)

	Early Accept. Rate 2007	Early Accept. Rate 2016	%of Class Filled by Early Apps 2007	% of Class Filled by Early Apps 2016
Brown	22.7%	20.0%	35.2%	38.0%
Columbia	24.5%	18.5%	44.0%	45.0%
Cornell	36.6%	27.2%	36.2%	41.3%
Dartmouth	29.6%	26.0%	35.2%	43.0%
Harvard	21.8%	16.5%	unknown	unknown
Penn	29.0%	23.9%	48.3%	54.4%
Princeton	25.5%	19.9%	48.0%	60% (est)
Yale	19.7%	16.0%	unknown	unknown

The various early programs

- Early Decision (ED)
- Early Action (EA)
- Single Action Early Action (REA)
- Rolling

Tips to Get You a Little Closer to These Colleges

- Be a high impact player inside and outside of the classroom
- Find what you love to learn, and learn more about it
- Do the things you find to be interesting

Final items

- The big lie
- The definition of a great college
- If you'd like a copy of this deck, please email me at paulk@collegewise.com