

Getting into College: A Parent's Journey

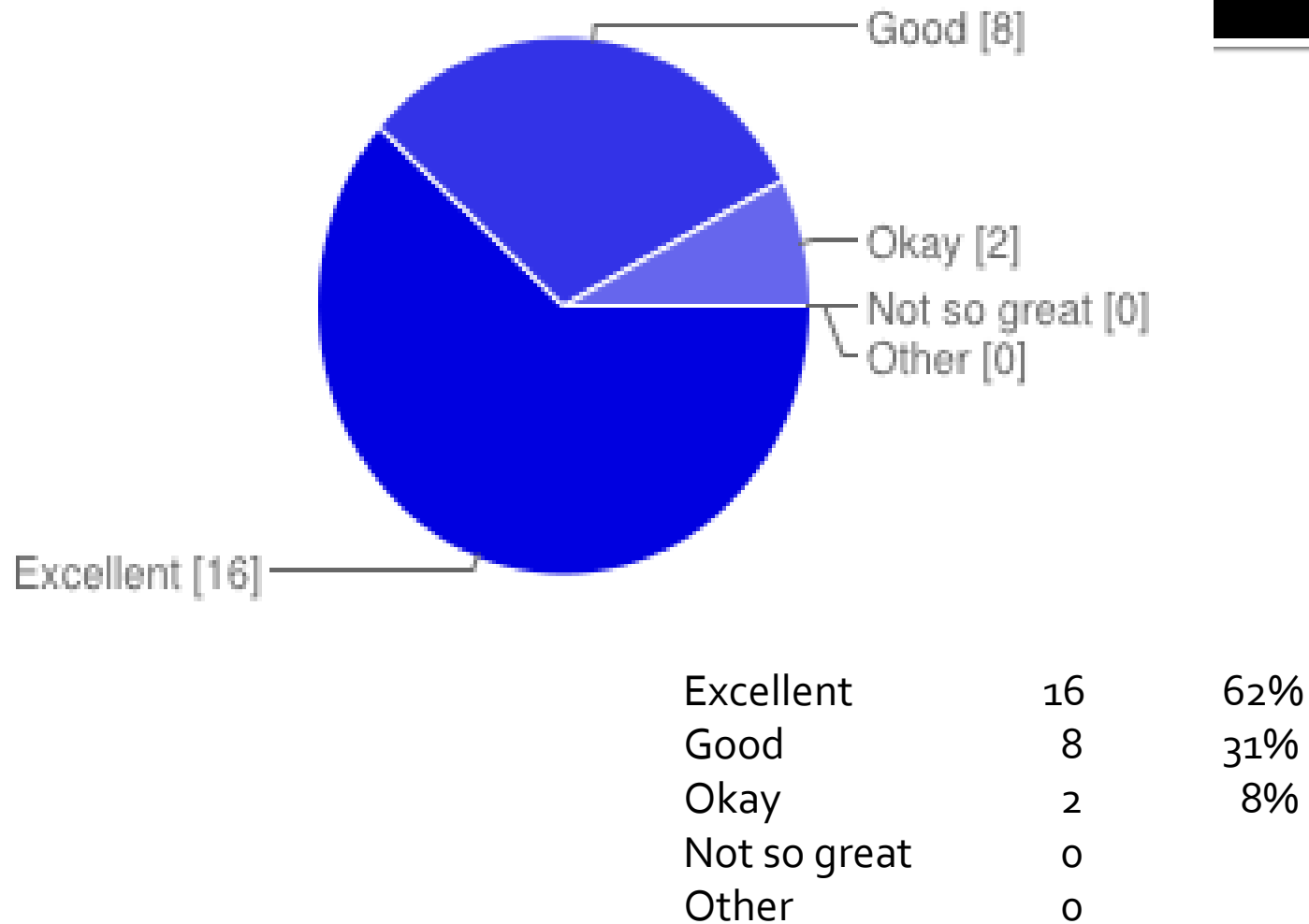


Annenberg Hall,
Harvard

Colleges Represented

Cal Poly SLO	1	
Carnegie Mellon University	1	
Dartmouth College / Amherst College	1	
Duke University	2	
Evergreen State College	1	
Harvard	3	
MIT	1	
Princeton	2	
Stanford	1	
The George Washington University	1	
Tufts University	1	
University of California, Berkeley	1	
University of Chicago	2	
University of Pennsylvania (Wharton)	1	
University of Pennsylvania	2	
University of Southern California	2	
University of Washington	4	

School Fit



From *Five Questions About College* survey by Karen Roper

For good & excellent fits— What helped you select your school?

Research (website, internet, print materials)	14	52%
Talked to students/professors	9	33%
Visited campus	12	44%
College Corps Advisor	2	7%
Private Counselor	1	4%
Interned at school	1	4%
Followed Significant Other	1	4%
Parents	1	4%

Things That Stood Out

- Owned their process.
- Passionate, motivation, hard-work, determination
- Effort; no one did it for them.
- They weren't afraid to ask for help.

University of Southern California

"It doesn't seem like colleges look for a long list of activities so much as they look for a few to which you're really committed. Definitely emphasize depth over quantity."

University of Southern California

"Essays are the one place where you actually get to insert your own personality into your application, so make sure to put a lot of time into them."

Carnegie Mellon University

"...I had insane enthusiasm for coming here. I bombarded them with email addendums.

That enthusiasm, as well as grades and activities got me in."

Harvard

"My grades prevented me from being immediately discarded, but I think ultimately the main things that got me through the admissions process were teacher recommendations and college essays."

Duke University

"I connected really well with the interviewer. I don't know how much weight was given to her comments, but making a positive impression on the interviewer could not have hurt."

MIT

"While your grades are important, depth of extracurricular activities and evidence that you're not just an encyclopedia or test-taking machine are equally important. Admissions wants to see that applicants are human!"

University of Washington

"The UW sometimes gets a bad rep among students and parents in the PRISM program....

However, the UW has so many amazing opportunities to offer, for a fraction of the price, that if you take advantage of them you are getting one of the best deals in education in the country."

U Penn

"...grades and test scores are a must up until a certain point. At that threshold, whatever it may be, you have to be able to differentiate yourself..."

Harvard

"Make sure, of course, that the teacher is willing to write a good recommendation letter and that the teacher has specific examples or anecdotes about the student in mind (maybe remind the teacher about this)."

Example College Requirements (Harvard)*

Years of High School Classes

A note from the college:
 Secondary school record most important; character, creative ability in some discipline or activity, leadership, liveliness of mind, demonstrated stamina and ability to carry out demanding college program, and strong sense of social responsibility important.

ARE YOU ON TRACK?		HIGH SCHOOL COURSE WORK REQUIREMENTS				
<p>How many years of these high school classes have you completed – or do you expect to complete?</p> <p>Enter and save your info to compare yourself to this or any college.</p>		Years	1	2	3	4
		Computer Science	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
English	<input type="text"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Foreign Language	<input type="text"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
History	<input type="text"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Math	<input type="text"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Science	<input type="text"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Science - Lab	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Social Studies	<input type="text"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Visual/Performing Arts	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Academic Electives	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Computer Science English Foreign Language History Math Science Science - Lab Social Studies Visual/Performing Arts Academic Electives

No Requirements Reported Required Recommended

*From College Board Website

Bellevue Schools Graduation Requirements

SUBJECT	CREDITS	SEMESTERS REQUIRED	Harvard Recommendations (Semesters)
ENGLISH	4.0	8	8
MATHEMATICS	3.0	6	8
HEALTH	0.5	1	
SOCIAL STUDIES*	3.5	7	6
HISTORY			4
SCIENCE			8
LABORATORY SCIENCE	2.0	4	
OCCUPATIONAL ED.	1.0	2	
PHYSICAL ED.	2.0	4	
FINE, VISUAL OR PERF. ARTS	1.0	2	
FOREIGN LANGUAGE			8

Washington State Social Studies Requirements

State requirements for social studies include:

- 1 semester United States history.
- 1 semester American government.
- 2 semesters contemporary world history, geography, and problems.

In addition, the equivalent of 1 semester in Washington State history and government must be met in grades 7-12.

Parents' Responsibilities

--beginning of high school

- From the beginning of high school, make sure you child knows the parameters.
 - Financial Situation
 - What (generally) it takes to get into college
 - What the priorities are

Parent's Responsibilities

--During the college app process

- Listen to your child –They own this.
- Don't micro-manage the process.
- Offer help and support.
- Establish deadlines, and check in.
- Don't make it more stressful than it is already
- Don't “package” your child.

Tufts

"I applied to a lot of very similar schools and got rejected or waitlisted at nearly all of them.... I lettered in [a sport] all four years of high school, was captain for two years. Participated in a youth service organization for all four years, as well as [other] extracurricular activities.... My essays were probably a weak point."

SAT scores: 720, 800, 690

Students Responsibilities

-- from the start of high school

- You have four years to build a resume
- Find (or at least narrow the choices on) your passions
- Establish a reputation with counselor, teachers and others
- Establish excellent study habits/a solid transcript
- Learn what you will be evaluated on by teachers and others.

Beyond grades, what do colleges consider?

- Rigor of coursework
- Initiative/motivation
- Self-discipline
- Ability to overcome hardship
- Intellectual curiosity
- Leadership
- Community service
- Creativity
- Special talent (music, dance etc.)

Teachers Evaluations

- How long have you known the student and in what context?
- What are the first words that come to your mind
- to describe this student?
- In what grade level(s) was the student enrolled when you taught him/her
- List the courses in which you have taught this student, including the level of course difficulty.

Teacher's Evaluation Rating Levels

- No Basis
- Below Average
- Average
- Good (above average)
- Very good (well above average)
- Excellent (top 10%)
- Outstanding (top 5%)
- One of the top few I've encountered (top 1%)

Teacher's Evaluation Criteria

- Academic achievement
- Intellectual promise
- Quality of writing
- Creative, original thought
- Productive class discussion
- Respect accorded by faculty
- Disciplined work habits
- Maturity
- Motivation
- Leadership
- Integrity
- Reaction to setbacks
- Concern for others
- Initiative, independence
- OVERALL

Teacher's Evaluation

Please write whatever you think is important about this student, including a description of academic and personal characteristics, as demonstrated in your classroom. We welcome information that will help us to differentiate this student from others.

What should you look for in a college?

- A good fit academically (test scores)
- Majors/ programs
- Admission requirements
- Size
- Location
- Campus climate/values
- Available activities