



CAREERS IN ART & DESIGN

**Artistic and Design Careers
Beyond Expectation**

**Enhancing College Profiles
Through Research**

**Distinct Features of SU's
International Student Program**

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EXTRAORDINARY CAREERS IN ART AND DESIGN YOU NEVER KNEW EXISTED

Curious Bold and Ambitious Paths To Success in Art & Design

By Manisha AR
International Admissions Counselor
School of the Art Institute of Chicago



Manisha AR

A career in art and design is not linear. Success in the arts can look different for each artist. Examples of success can range from a famous artist associated with popular auction houses to launching successful fashion labels, a published author topping lists or turning into a definitive authority on a subject--- success in the arts just like career opportunities are abundant. As the world evolves and adapts to new changes, artists tend to be the most resilient and adaptable in these climates of uncertainty and shifts.

The wonderful (and sometimes overwhelming) thing about the arts is the many niches and choices available to artists, designers, researchers, thinkers and teachers. Artists are more likely to succeed when they approach their fields from an interdisciplinary perspective --- a notable aspect of art education at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Types of Art Trajectories

Careers in art can broadly be categorised into fine art, design, applied arts and research-based practices. Fine art is traditionally associated with creating something for aesthetic or intellectual purposes. This includes being a painter, sculptor, photographer, ceramicist, printmaker, lithographer, metalworker, etc. While a significant part of their career can hinge on showing and selling their work through galleries and museums, it doesn't limit them to that space.

Meanwhile, design is tied a lot more closely to mainstream culture than fine art since it often intersects with everyday life. Examples of careers in design include graphic designer, animator, set designer, costume designer, fashion designer, illustrator, comic designer, etc.

Applied arts on the other hand is about translating abstract ideas into tangible concepts using a combination of unconventional ideas to solve everyday problems. Careers in this field would include (but not limited to) architects, furniture designers, automotive designers, landscape architects, interior designers, urban designers or even toy designers.

This still doesn't cover the entire field. We still have those more inclined to research and niches in the field such as art educators, art therapists, curators, gallerists, historians, teachers, restoration experts, sound designers, etc. There is also a rapidly growing field such as Artificial Intelligence and its application in everyday life. This too intersects with art and design as it opens up numerous avenues for exploration through sound, new media, technology and research.

A Catch-22: Passion vs Employability

Art is all around us. Artists and designers are part of everything we encounter on a daily basis; from the packaging on food products, advertisements, transportation, and clothing to applications we use on our cell phones have been created or designed by someone. All the different careers mentioned above contribute to a better society aesthetically and functionally.

Parents are often deterred by the idea that becoming an artist can be tough because it's largely driven by 'passion' and intangible things like imagination and creativity.

The image of a struggling artist to pay his bills is a common trope associated with art graduates. This can be the result of a multitude of reasons including a lack of career guidance and adequate support both emotionally and financially. SAIC understands these common pitfalls and misconceptions. We often address these in classrooms through active discussions, workshops, and events so our students are equipped for the world outside. Academic advising and the Career and Professional Experience (CAPEX) at SAIC often work together to help students plan for life after college. A recent study showed that 96% of SAIC graduates were employed or in higher education within the first 6 months of graduation.

What next?

Being resilient and adaptable is a skill cultivated over time, just like art and design is a craft learned over time and with the right experience. Both of these require an environment that truly believes in the power of how art can change the world. Finding a passion or cultivating an interest in art is only the beginning of the journey. It's what happens next when students take the leap to invest time and resources in their skills that they learn how to truly succeed in art and design. If there is a particular area that you are passionate about then we at SAIC encourage you to be bold, stay ambitious, and curious so you can nurture it into a thriving career.

About the School of the Art Institute of Chicago

With world-renowned faculty, access to cutting-edge technology, incredible resources, and global internship opportunities, the possibilities of what you can study at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago are endless. It is accredited by several prestigious organizations like the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD) since 1944 (charter member), the Association of Independent Colleges of Art and Design (AICAD) since the association's founding in 1991 and the National Architectural Accrediting Board. It has also been named the most influential school in the United States. With over 40 areas of study, more than 20 undergraduate, and over 30 graduate programs, the options are endless. Notable alumni include influential contemporary artists and historians like Nick Cave, James Elkins, Claire Ashley, Candida Alvarez, Jeff Koons, Georgia O'Keefe, Grant Wood, Michelle Grabner, and Richard Hunt to name a few.

HOW CAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IMPROVE THEIR COLLEGE PROFILE WITH RESEARCH?

Cultivating Critical Thinking Through Independent Research

By
Anjali Raghbeer
Founder & Consultant
Writers Qi

DOCENT
RESEARCH



Anjali Raghbeer

In an era of artificial intelligence and robotics, where systems mimicking humans are becoming prevalent, what can future generations do to thrive and positively impact the world? Critical thinking and problem-solving are inherently humane skills that drive innovation and creative solutions to global challenges. All tests that students appear worldwide for admission in undergraduate or master's programs, be it SAT, ACT, IB, GRE, or GMAT, are designed to test their critical thinking and problem-solving abilities. Interestingly, these skills also apply to writing an independent research paper!

The Importance of Independent Research

Admission criteria in top universities such as MIT, Stanford, the Ivy Leagues, and others in the US, highlight the importance of independent research and intellectual curiosity. Data provided by the Harvard Admissions Office reveals that students showcasing "significant scholarship or academic creativity" stand an eightfold higher chance of gaining acceptance into leading universities compared to individuals solely relying on flawless academic records. A strong research portfolio can showcase a student's dedication, intellectual capabilities, and ability to undertake independent projects. Top US universities follow a holistic admission criterion and look favourably upon students with research experience including consideration for scholarship opportunities. Programs like the Regents' and Chancellor's Scholarship at UC Berkeley or the Stamps Scholarship at various institutions often consider research accomplishments as part of their selection criteria.

The Benefits of Research Participation

There is no denying that research participation is an asset. Studies show that students with research experience earn better grades and are better equipped for graduate school or careers. The prestigious International Baccalaureate (IB) puts significant emphasis on independent research through various components of its curriculum framework. The idea is to develop transferable and lifelong skills and attributes such as critical thinking, international mindedness, creativity, agency, and resilience. Topics for research or extended essays can span from focused subject areas of interest to interdisciplinary topics covering sustainability and economics, artificial intelligence and gaming, politics and information technology, business and environmental science, history and climate, geopolitics and healthcare, or science and fashion. The aim is to inspire students to be curious and think out of the box.

Inspiring Students Through Research

As educationalists, it is our duty and responsibility to identify the potential strengths of students, challenge them, inspire them, and guide them in the right direction. Take the case of an extraordinarily talented student, Keshav Sharma, who has a deep passion for solving practical day-to-day challenges. His research project on the design and development of a walking stick adaptation to reduce elderly falls, was innovative, inspirational, and impactful. Identifying an opportunity for patenting, Keshav filed a provisional patent with the Intellectual Patent Office of Singapore. Rooting from an observation of his surroundings and a nudge for helping the community, this impactful endeavour got Keshav into Carnegie Mellon.

Boosting College Admissions with Research

Writing research papers is an excellent way to stand out and demonstrate intellectual curiosity and critical thinking. A research paper is a type of academic writing that provides an in-depth analysis of a topic based on empirical evidence, differing from other essays by its emphasis on statistical data and citations. A research publication can significantly elevate a student's portfolio and increase their chances to secure admissions in top colleges of the world. Writing a research paper involves understanding the assignment, choosing an appropriate topic, conducting preliminary research, formulating a thesis statement, gathering supporting evidence, drafting an outline, writing the paper, correctly citing sources, and thorough editing and proofreading. While there are several tools available online, doing everything alone can be rather daunting. However, the right mentorship can alleviate much of the stress.

Docent Research: From Idea to Publication

With a passion for curiosity, integrity, and excellence, Docent Research pairs students with international mentors who guide them in their research journey. Whether in science, technology, healthcare, sustainability, or other sectors, the goal is to contribute meaningfully to society. By engaging with industry leaders, academic circles, and governmental bodies, Docent Research creates a vibrant ecosystem for knowledge exchange and mutual growth, driving collective advancements and lasting impact. Their mentors help students navigate through their research journey seamlessly with step-by-step guidance on writing an academic research paper, including selecting a topic, creating an outline, gathering and citing sources, revising the paper, and final publication.

Your Gateway to Dream Schools

Docent Research is here to help anyone who seeks a simple yet curated process of being involved in a research project aligning with their interest and career prospects. Getting a research publication on your profile can be the gateway to your dream school.

RESEARCH MENTORSHIP PROGRAM



Tailored for high school students and graduates, our **nine-year** track record includes guiding over **85 research papers** to publication with a focus on academic excellence and innovation. Many of our students now attend **Ivy League universities**. We offer mentorship across **Humanities and Science** disciplines.

PROGRAMS OFFERED

DURATION

Docent Seeker Program

8 WEEKS

Docent Scholar Program

12 WEEKS

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BUSINESS

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100%



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MEDICINE

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POL

5 UNIQUE FEATURES OF THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SUCCESS PROGRAM AT SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

SU's Comprehensive Approach to Enhancing Academic Success and Global Diversity

By

Ling G. LeBeau, PhD

Director of International Student Success

Syracuse University



Ling G. LeBeau

Syracuse University (SU) has historically been committed to a diverse, equitable, and accessible learning environment for students from all over the world. Since its founding, SU has welcomed international students and scholars and benefited enormously from their intellectual diversity. SU prioritizes having international students on campus, making comprehensive and ongoing support services for international students essential. In 2019, SU's College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) and Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs (MAX) took a lead in the world to establish an innovative international student success program that focuses on student's academic and career achievement. Positive results from the program drew the attention of the Chronicle of Higher Education, top media service in American higher education.

On March 16, 2023, an extensive article, "[Where Cultural Understanding Is Key to Student Success](#)," was published by Karin Fischer, featuring SU's proactive approach to international student success. In February 2024, SU's international student success program was awarded a prestigious 2024 [Senator Paul Simon Spotlight Award for Campus Internationalization](#) by NAFSA: Association of International Educators. Named after the late U.S. Sen. Paul Simon of Illinois, the annual NAFSA Simon awards celebrate outstanding commitment and accomplishment in campus internationalization.

International Student Success Program: Conceptual Framework



SU's International Student Success Model presents a vision for student success by changing the narrative of international student support services and, most importantly, bridging the gap between academic advising and international education. It starts with answering the question of "why."

Why: The model collaboratively guides and empowers students within an inclusive environment to realize their potential and discover their purpose as they successfully transition into university life.

How: It adopts a proactive and holistic approach to bridge the gap between academic advising and international education. This effort connects the two professional fields and serves international students collaboratively and comprehensively.

What: Guided by the answers to why and how, five areas of initiatives address "what," as articulated below.

5 Unique Features

1. Pre-arrival Academic Coaching. To help new international students make a smooth academic transition, a non-credit asynchronous course is offered on Blackboard starting in May with three learning outcomes: 1) understanding academic expectations for college students at SU; 2) identifying essential SU personnel and resources for academic success; and 3) finding the paths to graduation and career. This course comprises learning modules and five assignments. In addition to the asynchronous course, onboarding academic training is provided once a week with various academic and career topics for 14 weeks, led by professors, academic and career advisors, and student leaders.

2. Peer Mentoring. The peer mentoring program aims to assist new international students in making successful academic adjustments and increasing their engagement and academic achievement. Each new international student is assigned a peer mentor in early May. The peer mentors are trained with materials and toolkits including program syllabi, facilitator guides, and other items before working with students. The peer mentor program is distinct in its extension of the advising as teaching philosophy. The program features a syllabus outlining weekly learning goals for mentors and mentees.

3. Advisor Training. To achieve international student academic success, mutual understanding and respect between advisors and students is essential. A series of training workshops and guidance materials are available to advisors. Topics include the correlation between English proficiency level and class selection, simplifying academic integrity, and international student employment regulations (CPT/OPT).

4. Academic Intervention. One of the most acute challenges for international students is navigating requirements from all directions. We have an Academic Success Compass, a guideline that helps international students develop learning strategies and refine mindsets and personal management skills during their four years of undergraduate study. Academic and career advisors can also utilize the Compass to ensure students stay on the right track during their academic and personal journeys. We host a weekly International Student Wednesday Forum to provide a safe and welcoming space for international students to meet, learn, and share. Forum topics are selected based on students' feedback and reflections from academic advisers' interactions. Specific academic guidance is offered to high achieving students, such as research seminars and career connections. For students in academic probation, one-on-one meetings are arranged between student and academic coach.

5. Communication. Productive, meaningful, and caring communication strengthens students' feelings regarding belonging on campus. We offer a weekly international student newsletter highlighting academic actions, scholarship opportunities, internships, and campus jobs. In addition, our social media groups on WeChat, WhatsApp, Instagram, and Facebook help create an international student community to exchange ideas and ask questions. A similar communication approach applies to international student parents, who are great partners in the school's work with their children.

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY



UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS



CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

CONSISTENTLY RANKED IN THE



10 STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

U.S. News & World Report

93%

OF RECENT GRADUATES are employed or enter graduate school, service programs or the military within six months of graduation (based on 2022 graduating class).

14.1 STUDENT TO FACULTY RATIO

- #1** Graduate School for Public Affairs
2024 U.S. News & World Report. The Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs is also home to undergraduate social sciences majors.
- #1** Best Photojournalism
2023 College Factual
- #1** Best Elementary Special Education
2023 College Factual
- #3** Best Music Management
2023 College Factual
- #4** Best Public Relations and Advertising
2023 College Factual
- #6** Best Design and Applied Arts
2023 College Factual
- #8** Best Information Science
2023 College Factual
- #10** Best Food and Nutrition
2023 College Factual
- #11** Best Entrepreneurial Studies
2023 College Factual
- #30** Most Innovative Schools
2023 U.S. News & World Report

Applying for Admission

Syracuse University uses the Common Application and Coalition Application, powered by Scoir. You'll apply directly to one of the University's schools and colleges or to a dual/combined program within two colleges.

Application Deadlines*

- > **Early Decision:** November 15
- > **Early Decision II:** January 5
- > **Regular Decision:** January 5
- > **Spring Admission (first-year or transfer):** November 15
- > **Transfer Admission (fall):** July 1

*These are the priority deadlines; however, applications will continue to be accepted on a space-available basis.

Your application is evaluated based on:

- > Academic performance and standardized test scores (if applicable)*
- > Personal essay
- > Recommendations
- > Audition or portfolio (for select programs)

*SAT/ACT scores are not required for students applying for Fall 2024 or Spring 2025 admission.

For more information, visit syracuse.edu/admissions/apply.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM UCL'S INAUGURAL INDIA SUMMER SCHOOL

A Close Look at UCL's Collaborative Efforts with The British School New Delhi

By
Arvind Vepa
Liaison and Recruitment Manager
UCL



Arvind Vepa

The inaugural UCL India Summer School – exclusively for Grade 11 pre-university students – took place 10-14 June 2024 at the campus of The British School New Delhi. UCL ran its summer school on a not-for-profit basis, meaning we prioritised small group teaching and individual contact time with our students. We are very grateful to our local partner, The British School New Delhi, for sharing this values-driven approach.

Selection Process and Academic Excellence

A very large number of applications were received from more than 40 different high-performing schools across all corners of India. Sixty students were ultimately selected for the highly competitive academic programme, which required an average Grade 10 board exam score of over 90% (or the IB/GCSE equivalent).

Distinguished Faculty and Commitment to Education

Seven of UCL's London-based professors flew out to Delhi to deliver the teaching. They were joined by UCL's Vice Provost for Research and Innovation and Vice President for External Engagement, demonstrating UCL's high level of commitment and interest in India as an education partner.

Immersive Learning Environment

The summer school seminars were capped at just 10 students, taught by senior professors and world-leading researchers, creating ample opportunity to demonstrate our research-led teaching model. This was a unique opportunity for the students as well as an immersive experience for UCL faculty.

Pathways for Global Problem-Solving

Our 2024 pathways were:

- Climate Change and Cities of the Future
- Medical Sciences and Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- Game Theory for Management, Business, and Law
- Public Policy for Science, Engineering and Technology
- Psychology and the Human Brain
- Creative and Cultural Industries

Our six pathways were all interdisciplinary and shaped by a problem-solving approach to learning. For example, students on the medical sciences pathway learned about the technical application of AI in advancing treatment but were also required to engage with vital ethical considerations about the risks and rewards of AI, and the responsibilities of doctors and medical practitioners in this rapidly evolving space. Students working on the problem of climate change recognised that disciplines as diverse as engineering, computer science, economics, psychology, and political science would all be required in order to understand the needs and priorities of different stakeholders.

Holistic Pedagogical Approach

This approach to pedagogy means that - whilst retaining a focus on core foundational knowledge - students do not simply learn via standardised, single-discipline channels but engage in multi-disciplinary inquiry to meet a specific goal. UCL believes that this is the best approach to equipping our young people with the flexibility and ingenuity to meet the challenges of the future.

Insights into Student Life

Students also enjoyed an interactive lecture series on 'Disagreeing Well in Higher Education', in which they were introduced to a range of conceptual debates and practical questions around not simply what we learn, but how we learn. They also benefited from workshops on the UCAS application process, how to plan for study and student life in the UK, and employment opportunities after graduation, which included a guest lecture from the director of the British Council, New Delhi.

Creative Showcase

Moreover, the week was a tremendously fun and joyful affair. The end-of-session presentations and valedictory 'high tea' saw students produce a remarkable array of creative outputs including short films, plays, sketches, exhibitions, even poetry to showcase the learning that had taken place in the classroom.

UCL Professors' Perspective

UCL professors were unanimous that a week spent in the company of these brilliant young Indian students was a reinvigorating and inspirational experience.

India's Bright Future

We are confident that the future of India is tremendously bright, and we look forward to bringing a similar summer school offering to India in 2025.

TAKEAWAYS FROM MY RECENT VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES

A Tour of America's Prestigious Universities

By

Devesh Lathi

Senior Vice President Business Development

The Next Genius Scholarship Program



Devesh Lathi

An Exhilarating Journey

I recently returned from an exhilarating trip to the US, where I had the fantastic opportunity to meet with admissions teams from some of the leading colleges in the United States. Joining me on this adventure were my dynamic colleagues: Revathi Shivakumar, the rapidly rising star of South Mumbai's IEC scene, and Neeraj Mandhana, the visionary founder of the Next Genius Scholarship Program, NM Squad, AIIEC, and Aiiyo Newsletter (the one you're reading right now!). Together, we embarked on a memorable journey, covering 800 miles by car and taking 8 flights over 15 days, visiting 12 of the top colleges in the US.

Texas Christian University

Our adventure kicked off in the heart of Texas at Texas Christian University (TCU). We were warmly welcomed with true Texan hospitality, a Texas-sized greeting! At TCU, we were captivated by the inspiring Professor Kelly Slaughter, who leads the Business Information System program at the Neeley School of Business. Professor Weis from the Electrical Engineering Department left a lasting impression with his heartfelt admiration for his Indian students. His dedication to their success was palpable, and his personal stories about the achievements of Next Genius scholars were incredibly touching. Speaking to Harmann, a Next Genius Scholar at TCU and a student of Professor Weis, I heard firsthand how impactful Professor Weis had been: "Prof. Weis is my everything. All that I am is because of him."

Tech and Liberal Arts in Boston

From the warmth of Texas, we traveled to the academic hubs of Boston, visiting Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) and College of the Holy Cross. WPI is a paradise for tech enthusiasts and aspiring engineers, a place where learning through projects is the norm. If building robots and automating systems excites you, WPI might be your dream school. Holy Cross, on the other hand, excels in liberal arts, offering fantastic programs in Psychology, Economics, and beyond.

Exploring Bates, Dartmouth, and Bowdoin

Our road trip continued north through the picturesque landscapes of New Hampshire and Vermont to Maine. At Bates College, we encountered two of their fun traditions: the mock shaadi, a playful event where seniors "marry off," and the Polar Bear Plunge, where brave students dive into a freezing lake every winter. En route to Bates, we also visited Dartmouth and Bowdoin, both institutions with extraordinary academic programs and vibrant student bodies.

Syracuse University Innovations

Next, I flew to Syracuse University, where I witnessed the ingenuity of students engineering a racing car and innovating new products under the Invent @ SU program. This prestigious program awards cash prizes to the top three teams presenting the best and most investable products. I also explored the Newhouse School, renowned for its media and journalism programs that lead to high-paying jobs and internships at top-tier companies. Other highlights included their popular Sports Management program and the rigorous but highly esteemed Architecture program, humorously dubbed "archi-torture."

Grinnell and Cornell Colleges

From Syracuse, I flew to Chicago and then drove 500 kilometers west to visit Grinnell College. There, Jon Edwards gave me a tour of the campus, his personal music studio, and the largest tractors I've ever seen! Grinnell is celebrated for its Economics program, among others. I also visited Cornell College, where Professor Tabak shared insights into their unique block plan, allowing students to immerse themselves in one subject for three weeks before moving on to the next.

Augustana College

After Cornell, I visited Augustana College, where I had the pleasure of meeting the fantastic Indian professor Mamata, who teaches a unique major called Business Intelligence. Their Dean of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Dr. Gauri Pitale, is doing exceptional work in growing the diversity at Augustana. This was evident by the vibrant Indian and Nepali community on campus.

Knox and Beloit Colleges

Driving back east towards Chicago, I visited two more exceptional Next Genius colleges: Knox and Beloit. Meeting the thriving Next Genius scholars on these campuses was a joy. Saumyaa, a recent graduate from Beloit, is heading to Yale for fully-funded research in politics. At Knox, scholars enthusiastically shared their experiences and how the college is preparing them for success.

Why the US Attracts Indian Students

The US remains a top destination for Indian students due to its world-class education, abundant research opportunities, and rich multicultural environment. Indian students contribute immensely to American campuses, gaining invaluable skills and experiences that prepare them for global leadership roles. My visit reaffirmed that the US offers a safe, diverse, and supportive environment, enriched by unique college traditions and a vibrant sports culture. This fosters both academic and personal growth, helping students thrive.

As our world becomes more interconnected, the education and experiences of Indian students in the US will shape a bright, collaborative future for both nations. Understanding these dynamics is crucial for educators guiding students in their educational and career choices. The robust US-India relationship, strengthened by educational exchanges, promises a bright future for students seeking to expand their horizons and achieve their academic and professional goals.

THE ART OF BALANCING TEST PREP WITH ACADEMICS

Effectively managing test preparation alongside school academics.

By
Srinjay Ray
Director
Tutela Education Pvt Ltd.



Srinjay Ray

Surfing the tumultuous waters of standardized tests and academics is a high-stakes balancing act. According to the American Psychological Association, 45% of teens feel stressed during exam season. Picture yourself on a tightrope, juggling flaming torches of coursework and test prep materials. The pressure mounts and stress becomes a constant companion for many students. However, effective strategies exist amidst this chaos to survive and thrive during this challenging period.

Optimizing Time and Priorities

At the core of this journey is the art of time management. The Pomodoro Technique allows individuals to carve out dedicated intervals for various subjects and exams. Time Management is essential for students planning to study abroad and preparing for standardized tests, where balancing ongoing schoolwork with focused test preparation becomes all the more important. However, effective time management alone cannot guarantee success. Prioritization emerges as a crucial factor in the overall process of creating a standout college application. The Eisenhower Matrix is a tool that categorizes tasks based on their urgency and importance. Prioritization is understanding what is most important at any given time and concentrating efforts accordingly, ensuring success in the most critical areas. For instance, the SAT or ACT is just a month away, so focusing intensely on test preparation over other co-curricular activities or long-term projects is crucial for that juncture as it directly impacts exam performance.

Engaging with Study Materials

The manner in which one engages with study materials plays a pivotal role in information retention and comprehension. Studies show that students who use active study techniques are 25% more likely to retain information, making their study sessions more effective. Active learning techniques, such as summarizing, questioning, and self-testing, offer an antidote to passive reading and rote memorization. By immersing oneself in the subject matter, students forge deeper connections, transforming study sessions into fertile grounds for intellectual growth. This approach is particularly beneficial for mastering the varied content of AP exams, which often require a deep understanding of complex subjects.

Balancing Rest and Wellbeing

In this academic journey, it is essential to recognize the value of rest. As a taut rope risks snapping under constant strain, so does the mind falter without respite. Scheduled breaks are vital for allowing weary brains to recharge and rejuvenate. Short, frequent breaks can improve student productivity by up to 20%. Through this mindful approach to study, students safeguard against burnout, preserving their cognitive abilities for sustained academic performance. Equally indispensable to academic progress is cultivating a healthy lifestyle. Like a well-tuned instrument, the brain thrives on proper nourishment, adequate sleep, and regular exercise. By prioritizing self-care, students fortify their cognitive resilience, enhancing focus, memory, and overall academic performance. Students who get eight hours of sleep perform 15% better in their exams.

The Impact of Technology

In the digital age, technology emerges as a powerful ally in the student's academic journey. 70% of students report that digital tools help them manage their study time more effectively. These tools can remind them of upcoming deadlines, provide study resources, and even help them connect with peers for collaborative learning.

The Importance of SMART Goals

At the heart of this journey lies the importance of setting realistic and achievable goals. By adopting the SMART criteria—Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound—students can chart a clear path to success. Students who regularly review their study plans are 40% more likely to stay organized and less stressed. Setting specific goals, such as achieving a particular score on practice tests or completing a set number of weekly study sessions, helps maintain focus and motivation.

Achieving Balance in Academics and Life

Students must remember that success is not merely the destination but the journey itself. Balancing test prep with academics can be challenging, but it's achievable with the right approach. Remember, balance is critical. With careful planning, flexibility, and focus on your well-being, students can successfully manage their test prep, academics, and co-curriculars, paving the way for a bright future.

Test Prep with TUTELA®

Because Standardized Tests Needs Customized Prep

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01 Customized and Personalized Classes

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05 Intensive Testing and Review Cycle

06 Monthly Performance Report

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average score improvement in

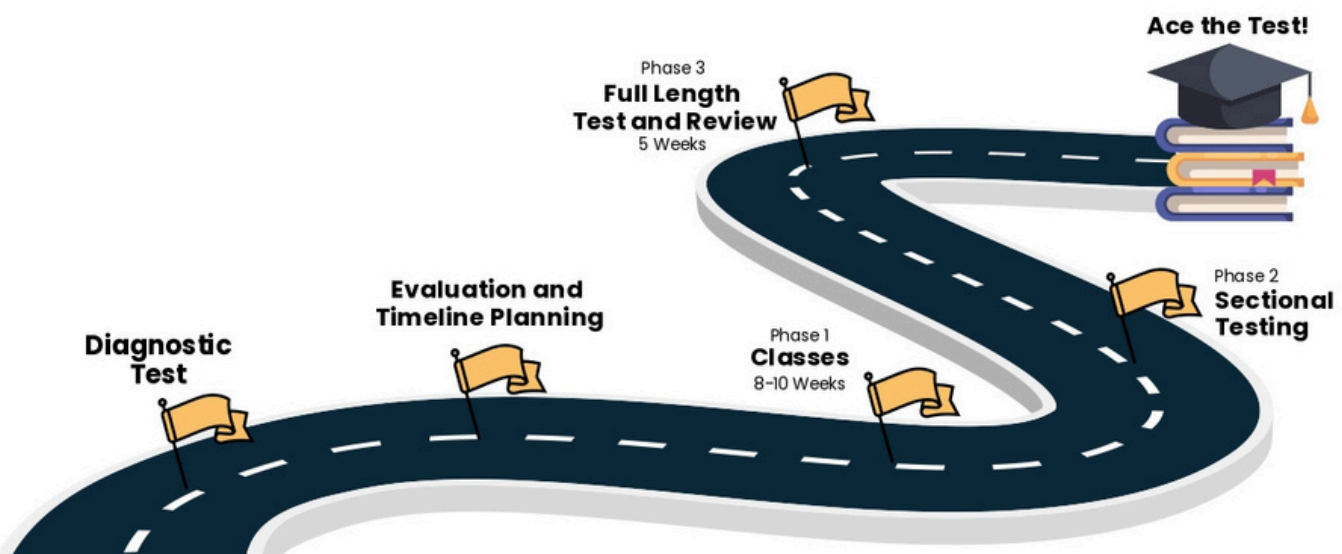
SAT

9 points
average score improvement in

ACT

70%
of students scored 5/5 in

APs



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7 DON'TS OF DEMONSTRATED INTEREST

Strategic Engagement with College Admission Offices

By
Christopher Segur
Senior Assistant Director of International Admission
College of the Holy Cross



Christopher Segur

U.S. colleges and universities all operate differently when it comes to factoring demonstrated interest into their admission decisions. Although many don't track demonstrated interest, others do and they have very particular reasons for this. Every school has the desire to lower its acceptance rate and become more competitive in the higher ed arena. Admission offices don't want to admit more students than needed to make a class. They want to admit students they expect to yield, which is why demonstrated interest matters. That means opening emails, signing up for (or submitting) an interview, doing a virtual tour, or watching an on-demand webinar can matter. Students must understand how to engage meaningfully with admission offices because it could play a role in whether they are accepted or rejected. What follows are seven don'ts, but, more importantly, seven dos regarding demonstrated interest.

1. Email Etiquette and Timing

Be mindful about the volume of emails sent to the admission office, and always contact the appropriate staff member if possible. Avoid sending an overwhelming number of emails. September to March is an incredibly busy time for many reps, so responses to emails may be delayed due to seasonal recruitment travel and app reading demands. During this hectic period, reps likely don't have the ability to spend two to three hours a day on emails. Spend a minute visiting the admission staff page, and chances are the email of the appropriate contact can be found as well. If the contact info can't be located, then email the general admission account. Remember that we always want to hear from and help you, but we can answer more emails when we have fewer emails to answer!

2. Professionalism in Communication

Be intentional and respectful when emailing your admission counselor. Don't make a poor impression.. Spending five minutes on a school's website may be all that is needed to find answers to many admission-related questions. Consider whether the answers to any questions can be readily found online. If a school's website is less than user friendly, use a search engine to find the desired information. Instead of emailing to ask about application requirements, Google the school's name and "application requirements for international students." Admission offices recognize the importance of transparency during the college search and application process, so there may be a frequently asked questions page or specific pages dedicated to application requirements, financial aid, virtual interviews, etc. When emailing, use appropriate language and always address the recipient.

3. Student-Driven Interaction

It's not demonstrated interest if a parent, guardian, or counselor emails the admission office on behalf of a prospective student. Legit interest comes from the students themselves. They should be the ones sending the emails and corresponding with the admission office. This also means that parents should not send emails pretending to be their children - it can be incredibly obvious when this is happening, and it could even cast doubt over the integrity of the application and materials. Let the students send the emails themselves. The application process is a learning experience (a life experience!) and going off to college means stepping into adulthood, becoming independent, and developing a sense of accountability. After all, would parents or a college counselor email a professor on behalf of a student?

4. Consistent Engagement Throughout

Be engaged with schools throughout the application process. Don't wait until it's potentially too late. Again, colleges want to admit students who they can realistically yield. That means don't wait until after the application deadline has passed or until it's almost time for admission decisions to be released. It's better to send a few emails throughout the application process than to have no email correspondence, and it's also better to sign up for a webinar and miss it than to have no history of engagement. No engagement or late engagement means a school could question the overall level of interest. The review committee might deem an applicant admissible, but no engagement or late engagement could have members leaning towards a waitlist decision.

5. Utilizing Optional Application Components

Don't overlook the importance of application materials that may be noted as "optional." Demonstrating interest means submitting certain materials even if they aren't required. To provide context, this does not include the decision to apply test optional. Rather the "optional" items referred to are supplemental essays/questions, (virtual) interviews, or anything else unique to a school's application process. There is a clear purpose to having these items because they can impact a school's decision to admit a student. Supplemental essays can offer students the chance to share more about unique personal experiences that qualify them for admission. Interviews offer the chance to self-advocate and share more than what can simply be learned about in an application. It also lets the admission office put a name and a face to an application. Finding the time to write a 250- or 500-word essay and do an interview signifies a heightened level of interest in a school.

6. Participation Beyond Sending Emails

Demonstrated interest means reading emails, not just sending them! It's widely known that colleges and universities can see whether or not a student is opening their emails. Students should open all of the emails from the schools that they're applying to. It's perfectly fine to skip or delete the occasional email, but mass deleting emails is not recommended. When a school can see that the majority of emails are skipped, that tells a school that the student has little to no interest in attending. Have students create an email account specifically for the college search and application process. Many students recommend not using their high school email addresses because they may miss important emails from both their teachers, counselors, and colleges.

7. Balancing Interest with Academic Achievement

Don't expect demonstrated interest to compensate for poor academics. When it comes down to it, any offer of admission must be earned. No volume of emails, phone calls, or virtual events attended can make up for academics.

HAVERFORD COLLEGE: AN NM SQUAD REVIEW

A Comprehensive Overview of Campus Life,
Career Opportunities, and More

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HAVERFORD COLLEGE



Ravisha
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Located northwest of Philadelphia, Haverford College is easily accessible by train or car, boasting a 400-acre campus with academic buildings, dorms, nature trails, an arboretum, and sports fields. The humid continental climate brings cold winters and mild summers, with rainfall year-round. Despite its suburban setting, Haverford fosters a close-knit community, often referred to as the "Haverbubble," where students tend to stay within campus boundaries. The closest major airport is Philadelphia International Airport, just a 20-30 minute journey from Haverford, offering various routes to India via London, Doha, Germany, or Paris.

Admissions

In 2023, Haverford College received 6,391 applications, admitting 825 students, equating to a 12.90% acceptance rate, with 373 enrolled students, including 42 from Pennsylvania, 272 domestic non-residents, and 57 international students. Among its 1,300-1,400 students, approximately 15% are international, primarily Chinese, with only 4 Indian students in the class of 2024, representing 5% of the campus population, fostering diverse interactions. International students encounter intense competition for scholarships because of the limited availability of aid. Despite Haverford meeting 100% of the demonstrated financial need for all admitted students, it mandates the completion of the CSS Profile for need-based financial aid applications.

Academics

Haverford College operates on a rigorous semester system, renowned for its Mathematics program ranking #15 nationally. Collaboration is encouraged among students, particularly in Mathematics and Physics, while Biology and Chemistry students benefit from access to numerous on-campus labs crucial for pre-medical studies. The college requires undergraduates to complete 32 credits, spanning Humanities, Social Sciences, and STEM fields, with a mandatory thesis requirement fostering valuable skills for graduate school and beyond.

Haverford provides a diverse array of majors, with top choices including Chemistry, Political Science and Government, Economics, Information Science, Mathematics, Biology, Psychology, English, Physics, and Anthropology. Conversely, less popular options encompass Foods, Nutrition, and Wellness Studies, Archaeology, Art History, Cognitive Science, Creative Writing, Foreign Languages and Literatures, Italian Language and Literature, Russian and Eastern European Languages and Literature, Women's Studies, and Research and Experimental Psychology. Notably, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, and Biology are among the most competitive majors to secure admission.

Amidst academic pursuits, Haverford maintains flexibility, allowing students to declare majors by the end of their sophomore year, though technical majors may present challenges, especially within less flexible departments like Biology. Upholding academic integrity, Haverford values an Honor Code reflected in unsupervised exams and take-home tests, enforced by the Honor Council to prepare students for integrity-focused environments like graduate school. The college's liberal alcohol policy promotes responsible on-campus consumption, with students expected to adhere to social Honor Code guidelines. With its commitment to personalized learning and strong student-professor interactions, Haverford boasts small class sizes.

Culture

Haverford fosters a collaborative community where every individual's uniqueness is valued, reflecting the Quaker tradition. The small campus promotes quick friendships and a welcoming atmosphere. With over 145 student organizations, Haverford offers diverse engagement opportunities in academics, culture, and research, facilitating unity and impact. Haverford's 23 varsity teams, including the sole US cricket team, excel in NCAA Division III, providing athletic opportunities for all genders. While not a party school, Haverford hosts weekend events within its permissive alcohol policy, balancing social life with academic focus.

Haverford College's communal dining center and libraries like Magill, Marian E. Koshland, and Music Library create popular hangout spots. Students also frequent The Coop café and Ripplewood Whiskey & Craft bar for food and drinks. Annual traditions like Pinwheel Day at Haverford celebrate spring with vibrant pinwheels on Founders Green, while Haverfest offers students a day of music, activities, and food before the academic year ends. Haverford College ensures campus safety with 24/7 patrolling and comprehensive services, including assistance for students in distress or emergencies, responding to various situations like fire alarms, medical issues, and maintenance, with a focus on student well-being. First-year students reside in various Residence Halls, fostering a strong campus community with 98% of students living on campus.

Career

Haverford has the Center for Career and Professional Advising. It organizes career fairs and offers the Whitehead Internship Program, targeting internships with alumni and partners. The Center for Peace and Global Citizenship (CPGC) provides internships, fellowships, courses, speakers, and financial support for community-engaged learning, fostering global citizenship. Further, Haverford uses Handshake for job searches. International students may face preference challenges in sectors like Tech, Consulting, and Finance but still secure positions in top companies due to the strong alumni network. Yet, the college aims to attract more top companies despite its small size.

Pros & Cons

According to a former student, Haverford College features approachable professors, proximate to Philadelphia for varied experiences. Supported by a strong alumni network, students receive ample assistance. The college emphasizes research, critical thinking, and skill development, preparing students for graduate school and beyond. Collaboration with Bryn Mawr enhances resources and funding opportunities.

A former student shared that the close-knit community fosters strong connections but can feel claustrophobic. The Career Advising Center struggles with recruitment, especially for international students. Computer Science is less popular due to its underdevelopment. Vegetarian students face limited dining options.

100% of Each Admitted Student's
Demonstrated Financial Need Met



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