



Beware the “Shoo-in” Mentality

The general consensus is that for those embarking on the road to admissions, whether you are looking at an Ivy League institution, a state university or a small private school, if you assume your teen is a shoo-in, take heed. It is a fact that most selective schools are out of reach even for the best students. Thousands of students across the country with top notch SAT/ACT scores, perfect GPAs and super varsity sports achievements were rejected from their first choice colleges in 2009. Even the old fallback of being a “legacy” applicant, did not come with guarantees.

The Ivy League admissions officials had to turn away outstanding students whom they would have easily accepted two years ago. The crunch trickled down to other top tier colleges, big state universities and small elite private schools. Newspapers reported that community colleges became flooded with applicants using them as safety schools or for the interim while waiting to be accepted at a top choice school. While one part of the problem is the record setting number of applications, the other part is that the number of freshman openings has not adjusted to meet the newly saturated applicant pool, especially in already competitive schools. That leaves many high achieving students without a seat at their first choice college.

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