



Beverly Hills High School College Center

How to Build a Well-Balanced College List

How do I know what is realistic?

- **What does a well-balanced college list mean?**
 - 2-3 “definite” schools
 - Schools that you are higher than the average academic profile admitted and are less-selective (example: accept over 70% -100% of its applicants)
 - 2-3 “target” schools
 - Schools that you fit within the academic profile average (GPA, SAT/ACT ranges) and accept for example 30-60% of its applicants.
 - 2-3 “reach” schools
 - Schools that have a higher academic profile average and/or accept less than 25% of its applicants
 - *Tip: You can search a school and look at its **Freshman Admission Profile** to get the most current data for acceptance rates, GPA’s, program information, etc.*
- **What resources can I use to determine how realistic it is to get into a school?**
 - **Naviance Scattergrams** - “colleges” tab - “college research” - Scattergrams. See data from BHHS alumni and compare their test scores/GPA to whether they were admitted or not (data is anonymous)
 - www.cappex.com: You can create a free account, input variables such as test scores, GPA, extra-curricular activities, awards, etc. and use their **Scattergram** and the **What are my chances calculator**
 - **Naviance Compare Me** - “colleges” tab - “college research” - “compare me”. Add colleges and click “compare me.” It will show your GPA/test scores and how you match up with the averages of the college.
- **Remember**
 - There are THOUSANDS of colleges. Attend a **college rep visit** to hear more about a school that may be a good fit for you.
 - Do your research. Go directly to the college’s website and find data from the source.
 - Don’t only apply to “reach” schools and throw in some “definite” schools you’ll never want to attend.
 - EVERY college on your list should be a fit and get you excited
 - A school that matches your needs (programs, majors, etc.)
 - A school that matches your wants (environment, clubs, sports, activities, social scene)
 - A school that matches your abilities (academically you are set up for success!)

The college admission process varies from school to school and by program. Please understand this is a helpful guide, reach out to colleges, ask for information and do your research.

Please ensure to add/update your “colleges I’m applying to” list in Naviance throughout the semester.