An Inside Perspective: How to Showcase Students Successfully
Agenda

- Application Review
  - ✔ First read
  - ✔ Committee review
- Quantitative Factors
  - ✔ What stands out on a transcript?
  - ✔ Red flags?
- Holistic Review
  - ✔ Qualitative review
Student Success

- Positive self-concept
- Realistic self-appraisal
- Understands how to navigate a system
- Preference for long-range goals
- Strong support person or system
- Leadership
- Community
- Nontraditional knowledge acquired

Sedlacek, W. E (2011)
What Matters?

demonstrated interest
extracurriculars
diversity
opportunity
grit
letters of recommendation

standardized tests
community service
passion
high school performance
personal statement
talent
rigor

EVERYTHING

SUNY OpInform 2019
“Decisions are not based solely on one aspect of your application. Rather, we review your essays, letters of recommendation, extracurricular involvements, and yes, those numbers like GPAs and standardized test scores... At the end of this process, our goal is to bring together a class of dynamic, diverse and academically engaged students.”

~Adapted from William and Mary
Information Provided by Counselor

- High School Transcript
- Letter of Recommendation
- School Profile
- Individual email/phone call
- Avoid form letters that simply replace name and pronouns.
- Bullets are ok to use.
- Provide additional insight instead of restating application details: work ethic, response to adversity, overcoming obstacles.
# Growth Mindset vs. Fixed Mindset

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I can learn anything I want to.</th>
<th>VS.</th>
<th>I’m either good at it, or I’m not.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>When I’m frustrated, I persevere.</td>
<td>VS.</td>
<td>When I’m frustrated, I give up.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I want to challenge myself.</td>
<td>VS.</td>
<td>I don’t like to be challenged.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tell me I try hard.</td>
<td>VS.</td>
<td>Tell me I’m smart.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My effort and attitude determine everything.</td>
<td>VS.</td>
<td>My abilities determine everything.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Counselors can speak to: effort, struggle, applying strategies, selecting difficult tasks, learning, improvement, and persistence in the face of setbacks.
Additional Tips for Letters of Recommendation

- Include student’s name and date of birth.
- Use letterhead to identify where it is from.
- Letters are very beneficial, especially for students on the “bubble.”
- Letters give additional insight to tie together the other pieces on the application.
Why Essays are Important

- An essay is the student’s personal introduction to the admissions committee.
- The essay is the student’s voice and opportunity to share who they are.
- An essay provides non-cognitive variables to relate to the student.
Essay Faux Pas

- The essay I wrote for English will get me in. I got an A+.
- Using the essay as an opportunity to provide an excuse for a poor grade.
- The essay is weird, off topic, not relatable.
- Submitting the wrong essay to the wrong school.
- Submitting an essay written by parents or the “internet.”
Advise Students to:

- Be original.
- Be creative.
- Be honest.
- Take a risk.
- Relate to the campus.
- Tell their stories. Qualities, character and personality should show.
- Proofread, edit, rewrite.
- Don’t save the essay for last.
Information Provided by Student

- Application
- Resume
- Essay
- SAT/ACT Scores
- Personal Statement
- Interview/Audition
- Demonstrated Interest (some campuses)
# Holistic Review for Transition Students

### SECTION A: Primary Review (to be completed by Advisors)

**Additional Comments and/or Justification for Decision**

I am concerned about Brianna’s senior year academic performance, as she had a 75 at the mid-year point, which is not typical for her. Her essay touches slightly on her academic performance, but it does not make a clear case for what exactly was impacted. She has a great SAT score. It seems like she would do well in Psych classes, but may struggle with some of the Gen Ed requirements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intended Major</th>
<th>Psychology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic Performance</td>
<td>82.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Average</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math Average</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science Average</td>
<td>80.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies Average</td>
<td>82.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Regents Exams**

| Regents Average        | 80.2                     |
| Lowest Regents Exam    | Chem                     |
| Lowest Regents Score   | 69                       |

**Recommendation:**

| Admission Decision     | Admit                    |
| Major                  | Psychology               |

### SECTION B: Secondary Review (to be completed by Leadership Team)

#### Additional Comments and/or Justification for Decision

**Regents Key**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regents Diploma</th>
<th>65+ on the following</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Comprehensive English</td>
<td>Any Math</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global History</td>
<td>US History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any Science</td>
<td>Language other than English</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advanced Regents Diploma</th>
<th>65+ on the following</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Comprehensive English</td>
<td>All 3 Math Exams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global History</td>
<td>US History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science (1 physical + 1 life science)</td>
<td>Language other than English</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**With Honors Designation is added to either Regents Diploma option for students with an average score of 90+ on all required exams.**

### Restrictive Majors


### Academic Performance

Simply calculate the average for each English, Math, Science, and Social Studies class that is completed during the student's academic career. Only calculate the average for grades 9, 10, 11, and 12.
| **Form User** |  |
| **Form Title** | Reader Review |
| **From Bin** | First Read |
| **Into Bin** | Second Read |
| **Form Submitted** | 01/03/2018 |
| **Number of Plus Factors** | 2 |
| **Plus Factor Comments** | STEM, 1st gen |
| **Academic Rigor** | 3 |
| **Academic Rigor Comments** | increasing in rigor Jr year |
| **Senior Schedule** | 4 |
| **Grade Trends** | upward |
| **Are you recommending for review of a second major change:** | No |
| **Recommended Decision** | Mid Year Grades (only if they do not have MYG) student earns 80s/90s in core subjects and overall from year to year. upward trend in grades Jr year when advanced curriculum was first introduced to her course load. shows potential. Recommending mygs, |
Sample Dashboard

What We See
Factors in the Admissions Process

- First Generation
- Geographic
- Athletics/Arts Contributions
- Major
- Academic Rigor
- Senior Schedule
- Grade Trends
- Non-Cognitive Factors
Non-Cognitive Factors

- **Self Efficacy**
  - Confidence in academic ability.
  - “I expect to do well in school so I will.”

- **Academic Engagement**
  - Work ethic and motivation.
  - “I always study and submit homework on time.”

- **Resiliency**
  - The student’s approach to stressful situations.
  - “I try to take care of problems immediately.”

- **Social Comfort**
  - The student’s comfort with social situations.
  - “I have the ability to make friends quickly.”

- **Campus Engagement**
  - The student’s willingness to become involved.
  - “I’m involved in many extracurricular activities.”

- **Educational Commitment**
  - The student’s commitment to college.
  - “A college education is important to me.”
Sedlacek’s Non-Cognitive Variables

- Positive Self Concept
- Realistic Self Appraisal
- Preference for Long-Term Goals
- Availability of a Strong Support Person
- Significant or Successful Leadership Experience
- Demonstrated Community Service
- Knowledge Acquired in a Field
Restricted Programs

- Restricted programs tend to be more quantitative-based
  - Nursing
  - Engineering
  - Sound Recording Technology
  - Accounting
  - Hard sciences

- Focused on student success
  - Admitting students who will be successful with current levels of support
  - Rigorous majors
Appeals

- Admissions Decisions
  - Second Major Choice
  - New Information
- Scholarship Decisions
- Financial Aid
- Housing
Thank You!

Questions and Discussion