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College Research Essay

Selecting a college is a process you have to be diligent in as you are slowly building your future within your own hands. Through sufficient research and having an understanding of the colleges you are looking into, you will be able to push off some of the stress of selecting a college. Looking into numerous colleges will add variety to your perspective of what you would want to pursue and what college would best suit the career path you are looking to follow. I am interested in Penn State University, York College and HACC for my research essay as each of these colleges offer programs that I have an interest in and would help me pursue my future career. In each of these colleges, I am researching their medical programs, physician assistant programs and basic information on tuition and state testing scores.

Penn State University is a university that is structured through research, teaching, study, and public service. This university is held up to high standards which are apparent through their tuition fees and state testing scores. On-campus tuition is typical \$17,900 and out of state is roughly \$32,382. Penn State University has SAT scores for reading ranging between 560 to 630 and math scores between 560 and 670. Students are typically B+ students and hold a GPA of 3.59 (Penn State).

This university offers a Hershey premedical program under the name of Penn State Jefferson which is a seven-year commitment that includes three undergraduate years followed by four years at Sidney Kimmel Medical program at Thomas Jefferson College. Students who are accepted into this competitive program will receive a B.S degree within their first year. Students who are enrolled in this specific medical program are required to take two semesters of chemistry and two semesters of organic chemistry, two semesters of calculus, three semesters of physics, one semester of biology and it is encouraged to take biology electives. This program requires 45 credits with courses in arts, humanities, social science, health, writing, and public speaking. It is typical for students to achieve the requirements within their first year. This student makes an effort to prepare students for the MCAT and offers minors to those enrolled. During their third year, they are offered to study in foreign countries such as New Zealand, China, and Italy. This program takes pride in making students maintain an average 3.5 GPA in all classes and meet a score of 504 on the MCAT (Smith).

Penn State University also offers a 24 month, 101 credits physician assistant program that is highly selective and competitive. This program takes 30 students each year, in which these students go through extensive tests and are held to high standards to be considered and accepted. The physician assistant program is a full-time graduate program that requires a lot of dedication as it is so time-consuming that students are recommended to not uphold a job while enrolled. To get your application for this program even considered you have to meet the strict

requirements on grades, GPA, SAT scores, professional standing, successful passages of experience and final evaluation, as well as having satisfaction with the financial obligations.

The second college I looked at was Towson University. Towson is a university located in Towson, Maryland. This college has developed into a university with eight colleges and over 20,000 students who attend. This university is held to extremely high standards as it is the sixth-best ranked university in Maryland. On-campus tuition typically is \$9,408 and out of state is roughly \$21,000. Towson students are typically B+ students who obtain an average GPA of 3.61. This university's SAT scores are 490 to 580 for both reading and math (Towson University).

Towson offers a pre-med program in which students will be evaluated in their overall college work, required work, chemistry courses and math, and physics courses. If students meet these required standards, they will graduate with a B.S before continuing onto pharmacy school. To graduate from this program successfully you must be involved with the other aspects offered and maintain good status for your grades. Students are expected to be involved in volunteer work, offered ceremonies, guest speaker presentations, shadowing doctors or employment.

This university offers a physician assistant's program which is based around studies. This program is 26 months long which ensures students will obtain 98 credits once graduated. Towson's physician assistants program has a 95% passing rate. To stay enrolled in this program you must maintain good grades, manage your time and also achieve ARC-PA. Towson's program takes pride in enhancing the student's lives

in and out of the school setting as well as having a diverse program (Physician Assistant).

The final college I decided to research was York college which is a private, full-time four-year college in York Pennsylvania. This school offers over 51 bachelorette majors. York college has a 61% acceptance and graduation rate. Typical tuition for this college is from \$18,700 to \$22,000. Students typically have a GPA of 3.4 and SAT scores are anywhere from 970 to 1600 (*York College SAT Scores and GPA*).

York College offers a pre-med program that is highly selective of who they accept into their program. To be considered you must have an SAT score over 1370, and a GPA of 3.5 (Bannister, Rebecca). It is expected you have an outstanding secondary school record and gain a strong letter of recommendation. To be granted, you must be selected by the York College committee for health professionals and hold your pre-graduate certificate. Students of this program are expected to take 2 classes of biology, 2 classes of organic chemistry, 2 classes of general chemistry, 2 mathematics and 2 classes of physics by the end of sophomore year (Bannister).

Another program York College offers is a physician's assistant program which is also highly competitive. They intend to add compassionate, highly competent and culturally aware students into their program. To be considered you must submit an application, personal statement, previous health work experience, written essay, and interview. You must also hold 61 credits before admission and have a 2.9 and above in

all classes. This program is very selective and only wants the best students who take their future careers seriously and with passion (Applying).

Through my extensive research of multiple colleges and the programs that they offer, I have kept my mind open to all the paths available. All of the colleges have reasonable SAT scores and tuition as well as good medical programs. Out of the three colleges I have researched I believe Penn State University best suits my future goals because of how individualistic their approach to education is. Penn State offers many programs that would be beneficial to the medical career I decide to pursue. I believe that York College would be the college that would least fit my education needs as they lack structure.

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