Wellesley College Admission Report

WELLESLEY, MASSACHUSETTS FALL 2014

Share practical tips (pg 3-4) from Wellesley College admission counselors with

sophomores and juniors beginning their college search

01. When thinking about cost, be bold!
02. Ask yourself questions.
03. Be yourself when you apply to colleges.
04. Make the most of a college visit.

Wellesley's first-year experience offers unique opportunities with a focus on intellectual exploration and engagement.

"The goal is for first-year students to see themselves as intellectually engaged women, not as B (or whatever grade) students."

— Jennifer C. Desjarlais, Dean of Admission and Financial Aid

Wellesley is, in a way, bracketing off the first semester. The College provides opportunities for first-year students to think in a different way, different from high school. This milestone year marks a particular moment in each student's intellectual and personal development that affords students opportunities and pleasures that are unique to the first year.

To recognize the significance of the first-year student transition to college, Wellesley proudly introduced a shadow-grading policy that will further enable first-year students to make a strong start in their intellectual journey at the College.

Shadow grading means that, for first-semester students, letter grades will not be recorded on their transcript and will not ever be released outside the College. Their work will be graded, and these grades will be shared with the students and advisers. Shadow grades will provide first-year students with the opportunity to learn about the standards for academic achievement at the College and to assess the quality of their work in relation to those standards.

We hope this will encourage students to use the first semester to explore new subjects and to learn more about how they can grow as a learner in college.

Students are "writing for the real world" in Calderwood Seminars in Public Writing.

Wellesley's new series of Calderwood Seminars in Public Writing enable seniors (and some juniors) to learn how to integrate what they have learned in their major and to "translate" and communicate complex arguments and professional jargon to a broad audience. It's different from the academic writing done in most courses and is central to success in life beyond college. As one student said, "I feel like Writing 125 [Wellesley's required First-Year Writing Course] was 'Writing for College' and this class was 'Writing 125 for Life.'"

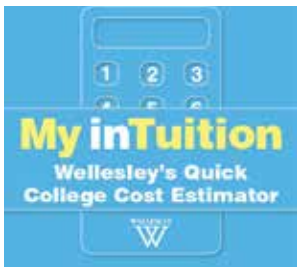
Recent topics in these writing-intensive seminars included: Biology in the News, Music in Public, Psychology in the Public Interest, Environmental Synthesis and Communication, and the *New York Review of Books* at Fifty. The seminars offer a unique opportunity to work collaboratively with fellow students in the writing and peer-editing process. Some students have gone on to publish their "public writing," including several in the Huffington Post. The Calderwood Seminars in Public Writing are named after Stanford Calderwood, a generous patron of the arts and benefactor of Wellesley College.

Did you know?

Many families pay less (often a great deal less) than the listed price of a college, even less than they would pay at a public or state institution.

Very quick, very easy for students:

My inTuition Quick College Cost Estimator



Over 20,000 students and parents used Wellesley's new cost estimator tool last year. Parents, students, and (nearly 700!) guidance counselors who responded to our follow-up research confirmed that it was easy, accurate, and helpful.

Try it yourself and see how easy it is. Then encourage your top female students to try it and find out how Wellesley might be their most affordable higher-education option.

www.wellesley.edu/costestimator

Wellesley College Class of 2018 Profile

Statistics as of 9-1-14

Demographics

Students of color		43%
African American/Black	6%	
Latina/Hispanic	6%	
Asian American/ Pacific Islander	24%	
Native American	<1%	
Biracial	7%	
Multiracial	<1%	
White/Caucasian		45%
International Citizen		11%
Unknown/Not Reported		<1%

Geographic Distribution

New England	22%
Pacific & Mountain	21%
South	18%
Mid-Atlantic	15%
Central	12%
International & Americans Abroad	12%

States Represented

44 states plus D.C.

States with more than 10 students

California	86	Illinois	15
Massachusetts	77	New Hampshire	14
New York	43	Pennsylvania	13
New Jersey	30	Georgia	13
Florida	23	No. Carolina	13
Minnesota	22	Michigan	11
Texas	18	Ohio	11
Connecticut	17		

Countries Represented

33 nations of high school

Argentina	Jordan
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Kenya
Brazil	Kuwait
Bulgaria	Lebanon
Canada	Mexico
China	Norway
Ethiopia	Pakistan
France	Republic of Korea
Germany	Saudi Arabia
Ghana	Singapore
Hong Kong	Switzerland
India	Taiwan
Indonesia	Turkey
Israel	United Kingdom
Italy	United States
Japan	Vietnam
	Zimbabwe

Secondary School Type

Public	63%
Private/Independent	36%
Parochial	1%
Home	<1%

Mean Test Scores

SAT-1 Reading	700
SAT-1 Writing	706
SAT-1 Math	690
ACT	31

For more statistics on applicant test scores go to www.wellesley.edu/admission/knowus

High School Rank

(of those ranked)

Top Ten Percent	78%
Top Twenty Percent	95%
% of Enrolling Class Not Ranked	60%

Alumnae Relatives

Alumnae relatives include mothers, grandmothers, aunts, or sisters

Percent of Entering Class	12%

First Generation

Neither parent attended college

Percent of Entering Class	8%

Acceptance Information

by Entrance Plan

	APPLIED	ACCEPTED	% ACCEPTED	ENROLLED
Total	**4710**	**1418**	**30%**	**593**
Early Decision *	358	147	41%	141
Early Evaluation **	1686	713	42%	246
Regular Decision	2664	557	21%	197
Accelerated Candidates	2	1	50%	0
Deferred from Previous Year				9

* Of the 358 ED candidates, 121 were deferred, of whom 19 were admitted in April; 86 ED candidates were refused in December; 24% of the Class of 2018 were admitted Early Decision.

** Of the 713 EE applicants admitted, 173 were designated as Possible Admits and admitted in April.

% Receiving Financial Aid

60% of the Class of 2018 received a financial aid award: www.wellesley.edu/sfs

Class of 2018 Snapshot

4,710	applicants
1,418	admitted (30%)
593	enrolling (42%)
44	states represented (+ DC)
33	nations of high school
43%	students of color
60%	received a financial aid award

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To see if an admission officer is visiting your region this fall, go to https:/admission.wellesley.edu/secure/on_the_road

College counselors:

These tips are universal (not just for exploring Wellesley).
Tear off this page and share with a student— or photocopy it for many!

Wellesley's practical tips for beginning your college search

01.

When thinking about cost, be bold.

Yes. Be bold. Apply to colleges based not on your family income but on your achievements and your aspirations. Start (but don't end!) a conversation with your parents about cost.

Get an early estimate of your family's actual cost.
To help families plan for college costs, the government requires colleges to offer a Net Price Calculator on their websites. Wellesley also offers **My inTuition**, a quick college cost estimator. *See sidebar.* →
Most selective private liberal arts colleges (which may have a higher sticker price) offer financial aid to support families with demonstrated financial need.

Part of being bold is asking questions. Ask these questions of every college you're considering:

- **What percentage of its students receive financial aid?**
  Wellesley: 58%
- **What forms of aid does it provide?**
  Wellesley: scholarships—grant aid, Work-Study, some small loans.
- **What's the amount of the average annual financial aid package?**
  Wellesley: $41,000. The amount that is scholarship (or grant aid) —money that does not have to be repaid— is $39,000.
- **What's the average loan debt of the college's graduates?**
  Wellesley is committed to making an education affordable by keeping student loan levels low, so that student debt does not limit a student's choices upon graduation. Wellesley is widely recognized as one of the top 10 colleges in the country for students graduating with the least amount of debt. Students with the highest financial need will have $0 in packaged loans upon graduation (that is, including all four years). The maximum amount of packaged student loan debt for all four years is $15,200. Students typically have 10 years to pay off loans in manageable monthly payments.
- **Is the college's admission policy need-blind—in other words, does it admit students regardless of their financial need?**
  Wellesley's admission policy is need-blind. We admit students based on their skills, abilities, and promise—not on their financial situation.

02.

Ask yourself questions.

The first thing to do when you're thinking about the future is to think about who you are right now. What's important to you? What are your interests? What are your needs?

When you're thinking about which colleges might be a good fit for you, you can ask more specific questions:

- What courses have I loved? Why?
- What motivates me as a student? Intellectual engagement? Creative expression? Solving concrete problems? The approval of my teachers and family members? Discovering strange and unexpected things? Challenging convention?
- What experience—a class, a service project, a creative project—has been so important to me that I want to be able to expand on it?
- What motivates me as a human being? What makes me want to get out of bed in the morning? What one activity brings me the most pleasure in life? Who's someone I admire? Do I want a life like theirs?

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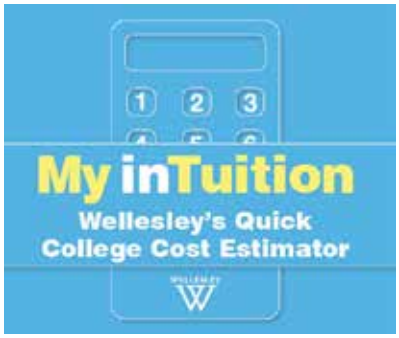
My inTuition

Wellesley's Quick College Cost Estimator

This innovative online tool provides families with a ***quick***, realistic estimate of what it will actually cost for their daughters to attend Wellesley. Use it at the beginning of your college search process, when you are first exploring your options.



www.wellesley.edu/costestimator

It asks only six simple financial questions.
The tool is easy to use; with no tax returns needed—far less complicated than the Net Price Calculator. By providing family income, home value, and savings, the tool will tell a family what it can expect to pay for their daughter's first year at Wellesley.

It demonstrates that Wellesley is affordable to qualified students.
Wellesley is invested in enrolling talented young women with a diversity of backgrounds and experiences, regardless of their financial situation. This tool demonstrates that a top private college is within reach for any qualified student. In fact, it might be the most affordable option.

Student feedback:
"My inTuition was quick and efficient. It clearly laid out the factors that contribute to determining a student's deserved amount of financial aid."

"It was short and sweet and easy to use. The cost estimate I received was similar to another college's net price calculator cost, so I think it was accurate too."

How could that happen?

And you can start talking to people who know you well (guidance counselors, teachers, friends, family). You can go to college fairs. You can go to presentations by college representative visiting your high school. You can look through college guidebooks, in print and online.

These are all potentially helpful resources, but none of them are definitive. In the end, the person who knows the most about you is you.

03.
Be yourself when you apply to colleges.

Colleges want the real you, not some artificially designed you who is valedictorian of everything, including other valedictorians.

Do colleges (especially highly selective colleges) expect you to challenge yourself academically, explore your talents, be active in your community, and be engaged in the construction of an interesting life? Yes. But all that really means is that your high school profile should reflect who you are right now; it should be driven by your interests, your passions, your instincts.

"When I read a student's application, I ask myself: Who is she? What makes her interesting? Is she curious or adventurous? Does she seek out challenge? Is she willing to take risks? Will she be an active participant in our community? What will she bring to our community? What's her story?" In short: Be the person you want to be. That's the person a college will want. That's the person the world needs.—*Anna Young, Associate Director of Admission*

"Help your teachers and guidance counselors craft their letters of recommendation. For each school you're considering, provide them with a few sentences about why you're applying, what you hope to study, and why your current classroom performance makes you stand out. Don't rely just on your 'brag sheet.' You will list your extracurriculars and awards in another part of the application; these letters should focus on your success in the classroom." *—Lucy Pelham, Assistant Director of Admission*

"We're trying to make a good match, so show us who you really are and not who you think we want you to be. Do things that make you happy, and then tell us why they put a big smile on your face!" *—Lauren Dennis, Associate Director of Admission*

04.
Make the most of a college visit.

If possible, start planning before spring vacation of your junior year. Get your parents on board.

Try to visit two colleges during spring vacation, two or three by August, and another two or three by September. This is especially helpful if you play a fall sport, participate in a major activity like a play, or have weekend commitments. You don't want to create a logistical nightmare in the fall. And because senior grades are particularly important, you don't want to shortchange yourself by being overcommitted.

Do your homework.
Before you visit a college, research it online; visit its website; read materials it has sent; talk to friends about it; read admission office blogs. Browse course catalogs to see if it offers courses or majors that excite you.

Tour a maximum of two schools in a day.
Allow at least three hours for a tour and information session; add more time if you want to do more on campus, like have lunch. It often takes longer than you expect to find a school, a parking area, and the admission office.

Ask your tour guide the questions that really matter to you.
A few examples:

- Is it cool to be smart here?
- Tell me about two great professors you've had. Do they know who you are?
- What class has blown your mind?
- What do students do for fun?
- What's your favorite campus-wide event?
- What's the most active club on campus?
- What matters most to students: personal enlightenment, money, family, social change—something else?
- What issues do students get riled up about?
- How did you make your best friends here?
- What do you wish you'd know about the college before you came here?
- Tell me about an alumna/alumnus you wish you could be.

Think of the college as a community.
Is it a community you can contribute to? One that welcomes new ideas, new people? Is it, in the end, a community you want to belong to?

Explore campus on your own.

- Look at bulletin boards or other places where students post signs (trees, lampposts, chalked sidewalks). Is there a lot going on? The way students share information can tell you about the character of the student body and the spirit of the campus.
- Pick up the college newspaper. Look at it later. How's the writing? What topics do students write about?
- Eat where the students eat, on or off campus. Consider the atmosphere and the quality of the food.
- Attend a class. Arrange well in advance with the admission office.
- Attend a game or practice if you want to play a sport. Arrange in advance to talk with the coach.

Write down your impressions—preferably during or immediately after a visit.
If you're touring several colleges, it's easy to mix up details. Pictures can help too.

Get feedback.
What did your family members think? They may have noticed details that you missed. (By the way, visiting a campus with friends can be a bit of a distraction; it tends to be harder to focus on issues of specific interest to you.)

Visiting Wellesley
We'd love to meet you. For information about campus tours, information sessions, class visits, lunch visits, or overnight visits, call the Admission Office (781-283-2270) or visit our website: **wellesley.edu/admission**.

WELLESLEY COLLEGE

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