

July 27th 2020

Dear Running Start Students Class of 2021,

This is the second of many **Applying to a 4-Year College/University** newsletters! Through out this summer check your BC inbox for emails helping you prepare for applying to colleges and universities in the Fall of 2020, your senior year. Each newsletter will cover different topics and will always include **links to resources** for you to explore and use on your own.

**If you are not planning on attending a 4-year school after high school then please ignore these emails and feel free to reach out to an advisor with questions about your path after high school.*

CREATING A COLLEGE LIST + REACH, MATCH, LIKELY

Before you start applying to any 4-year schools it's a good idea to know exactly which schools you are going to apply to. Having a list can help you feel more prepared for the application process. Here I will outline how to create your final balanced college list and how to categorize schools as Match, Reach, or Likely/Safety. We want to help you to feel confident in your college list and your options when it comes time to making your final 4-year school decisions.

CREATING A COLLEGE LIST

Using your College Fit factors and your research, start creating a list of the schools that you want to apply to. For your final college list you will add more information beyond your college fit factors. This information will help you be prepared for your college application deadlines and know if the school is a reach, a match, or a likely/safety option for you.

Your college list you should include:

- **Graduation Rate**
- **Acceptance Rate**
- **When the Application Opens**
- **The Application Due Date**
- **Average Test Scores and GPA of admitted students**
- **A link to the Application**

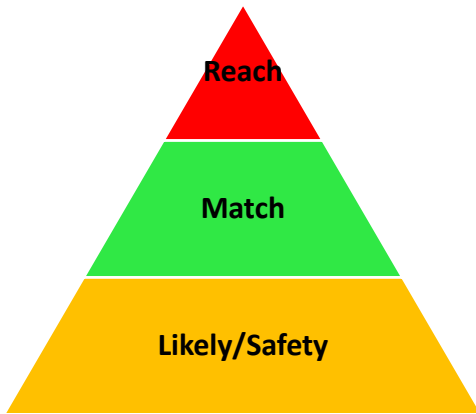
This list should be used with your college fit factors list to help you understand which schools are the best fit for you. I recommend you apply to at least 8 schools in order to have options to choose from. College applications take a lot of time and cost money.

REACH, MATCH, OR LIKELY

You want to have a balanced list of schools so that you have some that you are confident you will be accepted, and others that are a great fit for you but are more challenging to gain acceptance to. As you research schools to apply to it's important to categorize if the school is a reach, match, or likely school for you.

Last updated 8/3/2020 by Erica Walker

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Reach (1-2 schools) = When your GPA/Test Scores/Academic Rigor falls below the average reported for the school. A school with low acceptance rates. The school is a good financial choice for you and your family and it meets your College-Fit factors.

Match (2-3 schools) When your GPA/Test Scores/ Academic Rigor meets or is close to the average reported for the school. When the school is a good financial choice for you and your family and it meets your College-Fit factors.

Likely/Safety (2-3 schools) = When your GPA/Test Scores/Academic Rigor is much higher the average reported for the school; a school with

high acceptance rates. For example, Bellevue College would be a Likely/Safety school and is a great option if you are not admitted to your top choice schools or don't have any affordable choices.

No matter what category the school falls into for you, the schools on your list should all be schools you would be successful at (the schools should match your college-fit factors). You should have more Match and Likely/Safety schools on your list than Reach schools. This way you will have more options to choose from when it's time to decide which school to go to. **Options are important because you won't know until later in the Spring how much each school will really cost for you.** Therefore, having more than one option is important! Review the resources linked below to get a more detailed definitions of Match, Reach, and Likely/Safety.

Attached to this email is a worksheet you can use to create your college list and categorize each school. Below are some resources to read if you want more explanation around college fit, creating your list, and how to categorize the schools you choose.

Resources:

(Cappex.com) [How to Build Your College List at Home during COVID 19](#)

(Cappex.com) [What are Safety, Match, Reach Schools?](#)

(CollegeData.com) [Making Your First \(Serious\) College List](#)

(CollegeRaptor.com) [How To: Build Your College List](#)

(IvyWise.com) [Juniors: How to Build Your Balanced College List](#)

(Tufts University Blog post) [Your College Search Spreadsheet](#)

(Medium.com) [How to Identify your Safety, Match, and Reach Schools](#)

(University of Washington) [Preparing for College](#)

[Washington College Access Network: Applying to College](#)

If you have any questions about these topics please respond to this email!

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Next newsletter topic: How much will it cost for me? Net-Price Calculator Tool

Take care,

Erica Walker

Running Start Advisor, Center for High School Programs

[Click here to Schedule a RS Advising Appointment](#)

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SUMMER HOURS: Monday thru Thursday 7:30 AM – 5:00 PM, Friday 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

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Creating your College List + Match, Reach Likely Worksheet

Email I use on my college applications: _____ Password: _____

My GPA: _____ My SAT/ACT Score(s): _____

Who will I ask for Letters of Recommendation? _____

Example of how to use the template:

School	Application Deadline	GPA Average	Test Score Average	Acceptance Rate	Graduation Rate	Average Annual Total Cost	Reach, Match, Likely?	How to Apply
University of Washington – Seattle Campus	November 15 th 2020 Application opens Sept 1	3.72-3.95	ACT 27-33 SAT 1240-1440	48%	83% (within 8 years)	\$12,001	Match	https://admit.washington.edu/apply/refreshman/how-to-apply/
Bellevue College (Fall quarter admissions)	Priority: May 1 st Final: September	None	None	Open Admissions	40% (within 8 years)	\$7021	Likely	https://www.bellevuecollege.edu/admissions/

Reach = When your GPA/Test Scores/Academic Rigor falls below the average reported for the school; a school with low acceptance rates

Match = When your GPA/Test Scores/ Academic Rigor meets or is close to the average reported for the school

Likely = When your GPA/Test Scores/Academic Rigor is much higher the average reported for the school; a school with high acceptance rates

For the examples provided information was gathered from the schools' websites as well as <https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/>. Below are the definitions of some headings for the table above also from <https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/>.

Acceptance Rate: The share of first-time students who applied to this school that were accepted.

Graduation Rate: The graduation rate is the share of students who graduated within 8 years of entering this school for the first time.

Average Total Cost: The average annual net price that a student who receives federal financial aid pays to cover expenses (e.g. tuition, living expenses, etc.) to attend a school. Net price is the school's cost of attendance minus any grants and scholarships received. For public schools, this is only the average cost for in-state students



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School	Application Deadline	GPA Average	Test Score Average	Acceptance Rate	Graduation Rate	Average Annual Total Cost	Reach, Match, Likely?	How to Apply



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