

A decorative horizontal line consisting of two wavy, overlapping bands. The top band is dark blue and the bottom band is green.

Finding Your Best Fit School

Before we begin

- You may want to get a pen and paper to take notes on the content that will be covered in this presentation.
- Please note any questions that you may have and text **313 451 3288** with those questions during and after this presentation.
- This webinar will along with several others will be made available at <https://www.detroitcan.org/seniors>

About me

- My name is Christina Johnson and I am from Detroit, MI.
- I attended Detroit School of Arts High School.
- I then went to college and earned two bachelor's degrees. One in Anthropology and the other Black History.
- I am currently working as a College Adviser for the Detroit Regional Chamber.
- I have acquired two year's experience as a College Adviser in Lansing, MI working with Lansing Public Schools students.

In this presentation we will...



- Learn the difference between *Match*, *Reach*, and *Safety* school
- Strategies to implement as you apply to colleges and decide where to continue your education
- Become informed on the factors that college admissions offices use to admit students
- Look at some tools that you can use to find the right college for you

Match, Reach, and Safety

- *Match school*- an academic institution that will meet you where you are academically. You will encounter a rigorous academic environment and do well.
- *Reach school*- an institution that will push you to rise to a high caliber of academic standards. You will have to be more committed and passionate than you have been before to be successful
- *Safety school*- the academic institution that you were able to easily be admitted to. You will be challenged here academically and will have to stay focused to do well

Strategizing to find you match school

- Use this checklist or formula to find the best fit school for you:

**Academics + Environment + Needs/Interests =
Best School for YOU**

- Research school admissions standards
- Start applying to colleges early

College Admissions Standards

- Every college or university has a set amount of standards that they use when evaluating student applications and thus deciding who gets admitted, deferred, or denied.
- Let's look at some college admission standards
- <https://wmich.edu/admissions/freshmen/criteria>
- <https://bulletins.wayne.edu/undergraduate/general-information/admission/>
- <https://admissions.msu.edu/apply/freshman/before-you-apply/admission-standards.aspx>

Match and Fit Resources

- Let's look at the Match Magician which will help us choose the best fit school
- Let's take a look at the SAT worksheet
- Let's look at the Collegeboard Resources for comparing colleges and finding your Match school
<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/compare-colleges>

Chris's High School Student Profile

- Chris
- GPA: 3.9
- ACT score: 21
- Interests: Anthropology and Black History
- Desired experience: I want to go to a university that is not too far from home (Detroit, MI). I want a school that is academically rigorous and has a large student population. I want to get lost among the people and the city but also be able to meet new people and make friends. I have to have a study abroad experience too.

Chris's Match, Reach, and Safety

- Match: Wayne State University
- Reach: University of Michigan Ann Arbor
- Safety: University of Detroit Mercy

Affordability

- Some schools are more affordable than others.
- Money does play a factor in which school thousands of students choose to attend every year.
- Be sure that when you receive your financial aid award letters consider which college is the better deal financially for you.
- The school that is willing to alleviate the most costs of attendance tends to be the most supportive in a multitude of other ways for their students

Review Time!

- Match, Reach, and Safety is a way to narrow down which schools to apply to and ultimately will help you in choosing which college to attend.
- *Academics + Environment + Interests = Best Fit School* for you
- Be aware of college admissions standards for every school that you apply to.
- Use the Match Magician and SAT/GPA worksheet as a resource
- Affordability is a major factor to consider when choosing which college to attend
- Look at your own student profile and use it as a basis for figuring out which schools are right for you

Questions from students:

- I have lost track of how many schools I have applied to and now I'm confused about everything. What should I do?
- My grades and test scores are not that good. How can I find a good college to go to?
- I used the Match Magician and found that I have so many college options. How do I narrow things down?

Don't forget!

- Text **313 451 3288** with questions about the content covered today.
- Schedule an advising appointment so that you can benefit from 1-1 college advising with experienced College Advisers.
<https://calendly.com/detroitcan/studentadvising>
- Visit www.detroitcan.org/seniors to review this webinar on your own. Check out our other webinars on the college going process including FAFSA 101, College Rep Checklist, and more!

Thank you for joining us today!

