

Reporting Class Rank

Research

- Research – Sources
 - US News: *How U.S. News Calculated the 2014 Best Colleges Rankings*
 - <http://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/articles/2013/09/09/how-us-news-calculated-the-2014-best-colleges-rankings?page=2>
 - College Board: *Rank & College Admission*
 - <http://professionals.collegeboard.com/guidance/applications/rank?vgnextfmt=default>
 - College Board: *Admission Decisions: What Counts*
 - <http://professionals.collegeboard.com/guidance/applications/decisions>
 - Hanover Research: *The Changing Role of Class Rank in college Admissions*
 - <http://www.hanoverresearch.com/2013/02/the-changing-role-of-class-rank-in-college-admissions/>
 - National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC): *Annual Survey of Admissions Offices*
 - <http://www.nacacnet.org/research/PublicationsResources/Marketplace/research/Pages/StateofCollegeAdmission.aspx>
- High Schools in Competitive Market
 - Schools Not Reporting
 - Fairfax County, Virginia
 - Montgomery County, Maryland
 - Schools Reporting
 - Loudon County, Virginia
 - Manassas City, Virginia
 - Henrico County, Virginia
 - Virginia Beach City, Virginia
 - Charlottesville City, Virginia

- College Admission Offices Interviewed
 - Instate
 - James Madison University
 - University of Richmond
 - University of Virginia
 - Virginia Tech
 - Washington and Lee University
 - William and Mary College
 - Out of State
 - Clemson University
 - Cornell University
 - Lehigh University
 - Northwestern University
 - Princeton University
 - Stanford University
 - United States Military Academy, West Point

College Admissions

- Factors influencing admission decisions (College Board)
 - Courses taken
 - Grades received
 - Class rank
 - Standardized test scores
 - Personal statements and essays
 - Recommendations
 - Extracurricular activities
 - Interviews

School Community

- Parent Feeder Pattern Meetings
 - Albemarle High School
 - Monticello High School
 - Western Albemarle High School
- Students
 - Student County Council

Summary

- In the past two decades, class rank has become less important in college admissions. In its most recent survey of which factors are of considerable importance in admission decisions, college admissions offices reported to NASCA class rank has declined from 42 percent in 1993 to 19 percent in 2011. More than half of all high schools no longer report student rankings to colleges.
- Rigor is the most important factor in college admissions decisions. A student's grades in college-preparatory class compared to the high school's program of studies. Admission readers review each individual transcript looking for academic success in honors, dual enrollment, AP and IB courses.
- Transcripts with weighted GPAs differ across school districts. Due to the tremendous differences, many colleges and universities "reweight" transcripts using their own proprietary formula.
- SAT and ACT scores are important at many colleges. These scores provide schools to compare students from across the country.
- Colleges and universities, particularly the high selective schools are trying to take a more holistic view of applicants. They are placing an increased emphasis on applicants' extracurricular activities and elective courses. These are "value added" to the applications.
- Most schools that do not report individual rank, do report student GPA, class size, and the highest and lowest GPA in the class. Admission officers need a context to compare students from the same school.
- Admission officers monitor cohorts of students from specific schools as a way to predict potential success.
- There are other factors that influence admission decisions: legacies, special skill sets, diversity, geography (racial or ethnic background), politics
- ACPS will continue to report class rank for special circumstances: military academies, honors programs, scholarship opportunities and recognize honor graduates at the end of the senior year.