EZ College Consulting

Dear Marissa,

This report is a part of our personalized consulting service for you. This report does not include any generic recommendations. In other words, it is prepared based on your needs regarding your applications to colleges in Florida. We prepared this report with respect to your educational background as well as your future educational plans. The main aim of the report is very simple. We would like to contribute to the brainstorming that you must undertake during this process, rather than only providing you with specific directions regarding application steps and procedures. This report will also contribute to the holistic approach that is essential to making the best decisions regarding college choices and applications. As an education consulting company, we provide and believe in personalized consulting through sessions that lead to better brainstorming and, accordingly, better decisions made by the student him/herself. In this report you will find several sections covering the topics of (1) transcript evaluations, (2) SAT scores and their evaluation, (3) extracurricular activity and its evaluation, (4) the schools that best match your profile, (5) scholarship opportunities, (6) technical application procedures and The Common Application platform, (7) time management, and (8) special talents (language and art skills, etc.)

I would like to start with your transcript evaluation, since your academic performance in high school (9th, 10th, 11th grades) will be considered first during the evaluation of your application by admissions offices. Your unweighted grade point average (GPA) is 3.95/4.0 and this is very impressive. However, admission offices will go scrutinize the details during your transcript evaluations. You have enrolled in several honors classes. You have also taken six Advanced Placement (AP) classes and this will lead you to an AP Capstone diploma. I assume you are also familiar with the value that the College Board assigns to this diploma. An AP Capstone diploma will also greatly impress the admissions officers. Furthermore, I see that you have taken or are currently taking a total of five dual enrollment classes at XXXXXX. I also assume that you know the overall philosophy of the dual enrollment programs. High schools have agreements with universities that allow qualified high school students to take specific college classes on or off of their campuses, especially during 11th and 12th grades. You have been one of those elite students. The dual enrollment classes will also set your college applications apart, since as college-level classes they are naturally more challenging than regular high school classes.

Let's continue with your SAT scores. You have taken the SAT two times. Your scores from the first attempt were 680 (Reading) and 740 (Math), and your second attempt scores were 670 (Reading) and 750 (Math). Many schools consider the superscores for the SATs, which are the highest scores from each subject. In other words, your 680 Reading score from the first exam and your 750 Math score from the second exam will be taken into consideration so that your total score effectively becomes 1430. This places you in the top 96th percentile nationally out of the 1.7 million students who took the SAT

this year. This is also very impressive. We will treat this score as the second most important criteria when we narrow down the best matching colleges for you at the end of this personalized report.

The third criterion of admissions is the extracurricular activities that you have completed during your high school years. This criterion has more subjectivity since there are a variety of activities in which students participate that can be considered extracurricular activities. First of all, I have to highlight that none of the universities require or specify extracurricular activity hours. However, they would like to see "well-rounded" students rather than individuals who are only academically successful. Always remember that universities are looking for developed leadership skills that have allowed you to become involved with your community in a meaningful way. You have listed four major extracurricular activities in the questionnaire and they are: (1) active membership in the Young Feminists & Allies Club (9th, 10th, 11th grades), with many activities completed at your high school; (2) membership in the Science Olympiad team (9th, 10th, 11th grades), with some success stories; (3) membership in student government at your school for two years (10th, 11th, grades); and (4) summer internships at a local hospital. You may also think of some other activities, since almost anything that you are actively and productively involved in can be considered an extracurricular activity. Here are some popular categories for extracurricular activities: (1) sports, (2) community service, (3) employment, (4) arts, (5) hobbies, and (6) academic activities such as math or science clubs or competitions, research, or writing.

Your extracurricular activities are very strong. I recommend focusing on two of those activities and highlighting them in your personal statement. The first of these is the Young Feminists & Allies Club and the activities that you were involved in through this club. Few high schools have such clubs, and I believe some of the activities that you organized will impress the admissions officers greatly. On the other hand, all admissions officers will be keen to hear about your participation on the Science Olympiad team. Even if you and your team received few medals in competition, being a member of such a team means a lot for college applications. It is the same thing for math and robotics Olympiads. Student government membership also indicates the development of leadership skills. It also shows that you were regularly and actively involved in activities (e.g., fund raising, lectures, trips, etc.). Those activities can also be highlighted briefly in your personal statement.

You would like to study computer engineering and you prefer universities in Florida as your first choices. Before listing those Florida schools, I would like to call your attention to some other schools outside of Florida which have some good scholarship opportunities. Your academic success and impressive extracurricular activities increase your chances of securing a place at top schools. Let me further explain. The highest ranked university in Florida is the University of Florida (UF). However, it is ranked 35 among the national universities by the U.S. News & World Report. A respected institution, U.S. News & World Report periodically publishes the Best Colleges Rankings

in the United States. Also, last year's average SAT score for students accepted to UF was 1347/1600. Your SAT score is far higher. If you think that the costs of out-of-state universities will be prohibitive, please read the subsequent section on scholarship opportunities carefully.

There are dozens of schools in the region that you have specified. However, I was able to narrow down the number of schools to seven for you based on your academic success (including extracurricular history) and the schools' rankings (best match). In this list there are two "safe", three "best match", and two "let's apply" schools for you. One of the most important reasons why I recommend applying to seven schools is to see the scholarship options that they will offer after your complete their applications. You will use the same documents for all schools anyway. There is no need to modify any information, especially in your personal statement. Lastly, I used U.S. News & World Report's Best College Rankings when I evaluated the schools to which you might apply.

The first school (let's apply) for you will be Columbia University in New York, NY. It is ranked 3 in National Universities and it is an Ivy League university. Last year's average SAT of accepted students was 1515/1600. I know you have a low chance of acceptance; however, I recommended that you add it to your list. B.S. in Computer Engineering.
https://compeng.columbia.edu/compeng-undergraduate
Tuition: $53,000

The second (let's apply) school that I recommend for you is the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. It is ranked 8 in National Universities and it is also an Ivy League university. Last year's average SAT of accepted students was 1490/1600. Again, I know you have a low chance of acceptance, but I still recommend that you add it to your list. B.S. in Computer Engineering.
https://catalog.upenn.edu/undergraduate/programs/computer-engineering-bse/
Tuition: $50,000

The third (best match) school that I chose for you is Brown University, Providence, RI. It is the third Ivy League university I picked for you. It is ranked 14 in National Universities. Last year's average SAT scores of accepted students was 1468/1600. Check the web page for its computer engineering program.
https://www.brown.edu/academics/engineering/computer-engineering
Tuition: $50,000

The fourth (best match) school that I chose for you is the University of Florida, Gainesville, FL. It is close to home. It is ranked 35 in National Universities. Last year's average SAT scores of accepted students was 1318/1600. Check the web page for interesting major options. https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/colleges-schools/UGENG/CPE_BSCO/
Tuition: In-state $6,382, Out-of-state $28,659

The fifth (best match) school that I chose for you is Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA. It is relatively close to Florida. Tied with the University of Florida, it is ranked 35 in National Universities. It is also ranked 1st among universities in Florida. Last year's average SAT scores of accepted students was 1295/1600. Check the web page. https://www.gatech.edu/academics/degrees/bachelors/computer-engineering-bs
Tuition: In-state $12,204, Out-of-state $32,396

The sixth (safe) university will be the University of Miami, Miami, FL. It is ranked 70 in National Universities. It is also ranked 2nd among universities in Florida. Last year's average SAT scores of accepted students was 1260/1600. Check the web page for the computer-engineering program.
http://undergrad1.its.fsu.edu/academic_guide/guide-display.php?program=engineering-computer
Tuition: $50,200

The seventh (safe) and the last university that I would recommend is Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL. It is ranked 53 in National Universities. It is also ranked 3rd among universities in Florida. Last year's average SAT scores of accepted students was 1260/1600. Check the web page for the computer-engineering program.
http://bulletin.miami.edu/undergraduate-academic-programs/engineering/electrical-computer-engineering/computer-engineering-bscpe-computer-engineering-option/
Tuition: In-state $6,507, Out-of-state $21,673

There are also many locally and regionally ranked universities very close to your home including University of North Florida (FL), Florida International University (FL) and Central Florida University (FL). However, the schools that I picked for you definitely offer better educations.

I would like to stress the importance of time management. We are in June and you still have time to prepare your documents and apply to these schools. However, I should note that all of the above-mentioned schools also accept applications through "early action" and "early decision" options. The due date for such applications is November 1st. In short, many universities accept their students very early and the acceptance rates for those early applicants become very high. Students also have more of a chance to get better scholarships through those types of admissions. Early action applications are non-binding applications. However, early decision applications are binding, and if you prefer this option and if the school accepts your application, you should go there. You have to decide carefully. On the other hand, all of the schools that I chose for you also have regular admission deadlines, mostly in January. You should start preparing the documents for those schools now. I am very sure that you can complete your applications before November 1st.

Although different application platforms exist, I recommend that you use "The Common Application" platform when you are applying to the above-mentioned universities. This

platform makes things very simple. It has a very user-friendly functionality. You will submit almost all documentation (personal statement, reference letters, etc.) through this system. It is free to use; however, there will be an application fee for each of these universities. More than 700 academic institutions accept applications through The Common Application platform (https://www.commonapp.org).

I know that your priority is schools in Florida since you will have the advantage of being eligible for in-state tuition rates. I know that the tuitions of out-of-state schools can seem very intimidating. However, there are financial assistance programs in place to address tuition issues, especially at the top universities I have recommended. Each university has its own policy regarding scholarships. Although they have different algorithms to calculate and distribute financial assistance among students, each one of these schools awards millions of dollars in aid every year. I am very sure that the schools that I picked for you will give you full or partial scholarships. In other words, do not be scared by the sticker prices of those schools. Without a complete application, you never know what the final cost of a school will be. I have worked with students with similar academic backgrounds, and based on my experience I can say that you will be awarded scholarships of between 50% and 100% of the cost of tuition from those schools.

I would also like to call your attention to the Bright Future Program for Florida residents, which is a scholarship program with different tiers. You are eligible for the Florida Academic Scholars (FAS) Award since your current GPA is over 3.5 and your SAT score is over 1290. This would cover all costs at the University of Florida and Florida State University. Some colleges will match scholarship opportunities, especially private institutions in and out of Florida.

Lastly, do not forget to complete your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Many students are eligible for some form of financial aid. Students who are not eligible for need-based aid may still be eligible for an unsubsidized Stafford Loan regardless of income or circumstances. Amounts can change yearly. The maximum Federal Pell Grant award is $6,095 for the 2018–19 award year (July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019) and $6,195 for the 2019–20 award year (July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020; https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa).

Here are your next steps:

- Start your application through The Common Application. Choose the schools to which you wish to apply and pay the application fees. It is a very user-friendly application portal. https://apply.commonapp.org/login
- Start preparing your personal statement. It should be approximately 650 words (we also offer a personal statement assistance service).
- Ask your English and Math teachers for recommendation letters. Once they have agreed to write letters, you will assign (invite) them through The Common Application (most schools require two letters).

- Talk to your school counselor about adding your transcripts (which is also done through The Common Application).
- Sign in to your College Board account and send your SAT scores to the selected universities (https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/scores/sending-scores#login).

Good luck.
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