

**St. Louis Graduates Professional Development Institute:
Match & Fit: Institutional Selectivity and Admissions Considerations**
Friday, September 11, 2020

Presenter: Trent Ball, St. Louis Graduates and Southeast Missouri State University

Defining Match and Fit

- Match: Selecting a college based on what is best for the student financially, programmatically, activity-wise, and in terms of institutional structure.
- Fit: Selecting a college based on campus culture, the student's feeling of connectedness, and whether the student can visualize themselves attending the college.

Test-Optional Colleges: Considerations for Match and Fit

- Test-optional status affects ADMISSION, but not necessarily ACCESS.
- Schools choosing to go test-optional this year for admissions are still requiring the ACT/SAT for scholarships and special programs; the test isn't truly "optional" for all students.
- Students applying to test-optional schools should identify support services at each college such as tutoring centers, counseling programs, supplemental instruction, advising programs, and TRIO programs.
- Students who have not yet taken the ACT (but plan to) should not wait until their test date to apply for colleges and scholarship opportunities; they should submit their application and follow up with test scores when available. Scholarship providers may be more flexible this year due the circumstances.
- Test-optional status may be temporary or permanent depending on enrollment trends.

Supporting Students with Virtual College Selection

- If available, live virtual visits and info sessions are ideal so that students can ask questions; advisors should coach families on questions to ask.
- Build digital literacy and virtual college research skills in younger students, not just seniors.
- Students should look for opportunities to engage with current students at colleges of interest to help assess fit.
- Identify contact people at colleges where many of your students attend.
- Maintain connections with your alumni to support them in a post-pandemic world; remember that students are choosing a college for (potentially) 4 years, not just next year.

Considerations for Adult Learners

- When advising adult learners, assist them with identifying support services that meet their needs, especially in a virtual context.
- Colleges are trending toward providing more services for nontraditional students such as daycare/aftercare and evening advising.

Racial Bias in the Selection Process

- Intentional vs. negligent bias (not about something done TO students as much as something NOT DONE FOR students).
- Acknowledge that it exists and expose students to a broad scope of opportunities; pay attention to which postsecondary opportunities are being presented to which students.
- As an advocate, call out bias when you see it.
- Assess college marketing/recruitment – diversity vs. equity.

Final Considerations

- Make sure families know they are part of the decision-making process!
- Use alumni (current college students) as a resource to help seniors assist fit.

CHAT NOTES

10:03:51 From Ashley June Moore : PDI Meeting Agreements:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jvH-](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jvH-GM0Avt4bYeYZMhPv25WmafVyfv46RRejzFMMHsY/edit?usp=sharing)

[GM0Avt4bYeYZMhPv25WmafVyfv46RRejzFMMHsY/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jvH-GM0Avt4bYeYZMhPv25WmafVyfv46RRejzFMMHsY/edit?usp=sharing)

10:05:55 From Ashley June Moore : 2020-21 PDI Workshops:

<https://stlouisgraduates.org/2020/07/16/professional-development-institute-2020-21/>

10:20:15 From Tamara Harris : Many students are having to push back their test dates due to cancellations, no open spots, etc. How does that affect the timeline for scholarship decisions?

10:23:40 From Ashley June Moore : <https://advisingcorps.org/our-work/virtual-advising-guide/>

10:24:35 From Pattonville HS Michelle Luraschi : Beginning Sunday, this is a great way to virtually visit and connect with colleges and career organizations in 45 minute, live FREE sessions: <https://www.moacac.org/show-me-my-future-student-registration>

10:30:27 From Keri Gilbert to Ashley June Moore(Privately) : Question for Trent: Do you see institutions moving towards providing more robust services to "nontraditional" students such as on campus day care, after hours advising, etc.?

10:30:32 From Derrick Small Jr. : If institutions are going to remain test-optional, how do you feel the conversation around college entrance exams will shift going forward?

10:38:29 From Andrew Smith : Is there any policies/legislation on the state and/or federal level that we should be paying attention that affects our work?

10:47:28 From Keri Gilbert to Ashley June Moore(Privately) : Question for Trent: What are your thoughts on merit aid versus need-based aid? With a move to test optional, I'm seeing a lot of ideas swirling around moving dollars from merit to need. As Kaitlyn mentioned, the Missouri budget has been squeezing higher ed for a while, and I'm concerned Access MO will get hit next.

10:52:10 From Keri Gilbert : YES!

10:59:19 From Ashley June Moore : KIPP Senior Decisions Tracker:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Inwee2SMrT2IGQBAAz3jrk7hwB412itpULLUKYgTVSI/edit?usp=sharing>

10:59:29 From Ashley June Moore : Degrees with Less Debt premiere:
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dwld-episode-2-a-is-for-affordability-twitter-chat-tickets-119961483025?utm_source=eventbrite&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=post_publish&utm_content=shortLinkNewEmail

11:00:23 From Amber Mitchell : Better

11:00:27 From Alayzha Jordan : Informed

11:00:27 From Marvin Bullard : Inspired!

11:00:28 From Alexis Johnson : Excited

11:00:29 From Angela Neff : Equipped!

11:00:29 From Mikayla Cowen : uplifted

11:00:30 From Susan Lutz @SLU : Empowered

11:00:31 From Blake Beck, MCAC/Bayless : Informed

11:00:32 From Megan Kirk : Confirmed

11:00:35 From raven mcneil : Excited!

11:00:35 From Pattonville HS Michelle Luraschi : Better, thanks!

11:00:40 From Britni STLCC : Inspired! Happy FriYAY!

11:00:42 From Derrick Small Jr. : Informed

11:00:43 From Rashad Young _SLU : Thank you!

11:00:43 From Kingsley Tony-Egbuniwe-Hazelwood East : Better!

11:00:44 From Janell Kim (WashU CAC, University City HS) : thank you!!

11:00:45 From raven mcneil : Thanks TRENT!!!!

11:00:47 From Kimberly Warren : learned a lot

11:00:48 From Andrew Smith : Have a great weekend!

11:00:50 From Kacheena Lucas : Thank you!!

11:00:52 From Tamara Harris : Thanks!!