



## Profiles of Highly Competitive Applicants

What does a highly competitive student look like? Our years of experience in college counseling and top-tier admissions have given us some telling examples. Read on, then take our self-assessment on p.2!

### What the #1 Liberal Art College, Williams, Looks for in Candidates

<p>Admitted students have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Wide diversity of academic, artistic, and athletic interests</li> <li>● 10%: highly rated musicians, studio artists, thespians, dancers, and one Navy SEAL</li> <li>● 85%: extraordinary commitment to the needs of others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 41 “bridge builders”: longstanding commitment to racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, cultural, religious issues</li> <li>● 208 noted for “intellectual vitality”: academic depth/talent, promise as a “classroom catalyst” with significant impact in class discussions.</li> </ul>
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"Williams College Admits 1,159 Students for Class of 2019." Office of Communications, Williams College

### Highly Competitive Student Sample Profiles

Accepted to Princeton EA	Accepted to 4 top-10 private schools + UC Berkeley
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Competitive private school</li> <li>● Boy Scout leadership role and serious hiker</li> <li>● 2 years neuroscience research at prominent university lab -- became a true explorer and “philosopher of the sciences.”</li> <li>● Siemens semifinalist</li> <li>● Research grant from high school in social sciences</li> <li>● Essays dared to be different -- passion for scientific inquiry discussed from multiple perspectives (scientific, social scientific, literary) but also tackled sensitive psychological issues with great compassion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Highly ranked public high school</li> <li>● Passion for statistics demonstrated in activities and essays</li> <li>● Talented visual artist, branched out into social-political art (submitted art supplement)</li> <li>● Organized art show to raise funds for computers for Samoan school children</li> <li>● Passionate about food security -- 2 summer agricultural sciences research internships</li> <li>● Many activities displayed her love of discovery and initiative</li> </ul>

**Don't forget about the self-assessment on the second page....**

## Self-Assessment

In order to be highly competitive, you must separate yourself from your equally-qualified peers in some very specific ways. Which of the following are on your resume?

**I showcase boundless curiosity and intellectual vitality**

Strongly Disagree      1      2      3      4      5      Strongly Agree

**My activities demonstrate that I am an innovator**

Strongly Disagree      1      2      3      4      5      Strongly Agree

**My activities demonstrate that I catalyze change**

Strongly Disagree      1      2      3      4      5      Strongly Agree

**I demonstrate interests through results-driven, independently-driven ventures**

Strongly Disagree      1      2      3      4      5      Strongly Agree

**I serve as a “bridge builder” in my community**

Strongly Disagree      1      2      3      4      5      Strongly Agree

Use anything you feel weak on as a starting place to seek new activities and challenges that build your experience and demonstrate your commitment.

This is a shortened version of a document we provide to our students. Want more information or more personal help with college planning? Reach out for a free consultation worldwide!

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