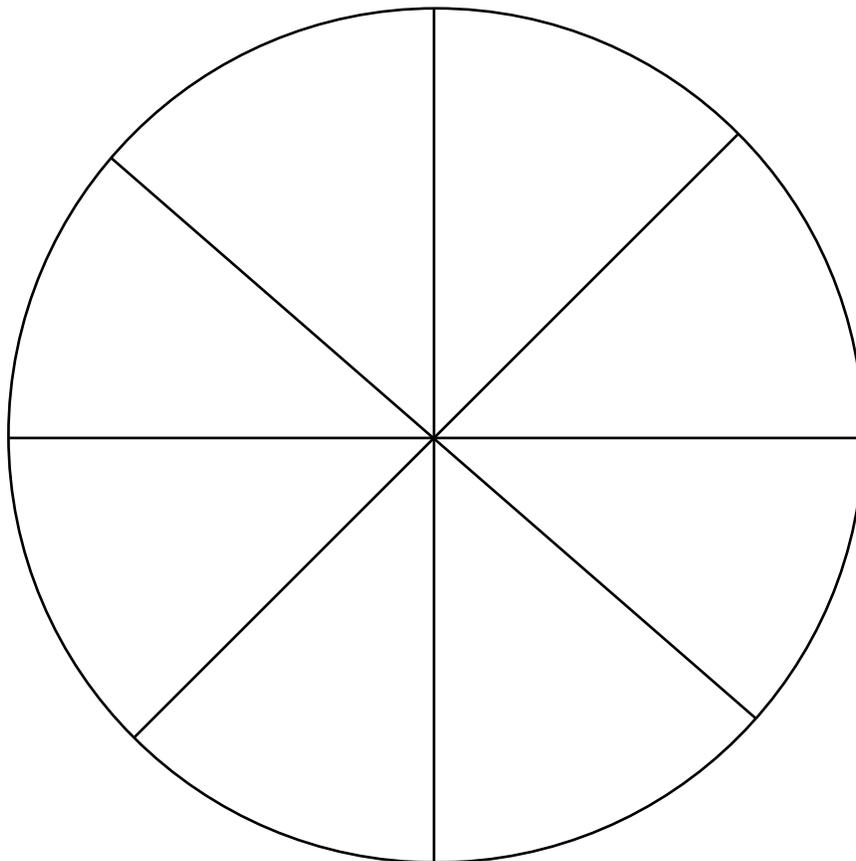


Your Pie Chart Analysis

The eight applicant categories can be approximately quantified in percentages that vary from one institution to another. One college may enroll 20 percent alumni children in its classes, and another only 15 percent. An Eastern college may enroll 75 percent of its students from east of the Mississippi; a southern college may enroll 50 percent of its students from below the Mason-Dixon Line. One college could have a student body that is 40 percent students of color, while another might enroll only 10 percent minority students.

These percentages provide you with a means for estimating the intensity of your competition for admission at different selective colleges—all of them, as you know now, determined to construct a diverse student body. You can use the classic pie chart at the beginning of this step as a graphic aid to add in the percentages of each category for the colleges you are considering. You can convert data from the first-year profiles issued by the colleges into individual pie charts in order. You can then locate your own place in those charts to understand how you compare with the competition. You will be able to see from the data or size of the pie slices where the competition is great and where it is moderate. Below is a blank pie chart to get you started on filling out an individual college's profile.

Your Individual College Pie Chart Analysis



List Your Competitive Advantages

With your pie charts spread out in front of you, you are ready to list the colleges and the pie slice or slices that give you an advantage at each. For instance, you could list them in this way:

Colleges

My Slice of the Pie

- | | |
|----------|--------------------------|
| 1. _____ | Computer Science Talent |
| 2. _____ | Legacy |
| 3. _____ | Athletics |
| 4. _____ | Geography |
| 5. _____ | Minority |
| 6. _____ | Foreign Languages |
| 7. _____ | Community Service Leader |

You may have several slices at some schools, or none at all that matter for one or two of the colleges. Next, you can qualify the college admissions situations at each as most likely, likely, and possible. Impossible situations you simply erase from your list!

You will get a genuine psychological lift from such strategic planning. Instead of worrying if you can get admitted to any good college, you will face the daunting task of applying with increasing assurance and thus will do a good job of writing essays and presenting yourself.

Colleges

My Slice of the Pie

- | | |
|----------|-------|
| 1. _____ | _____ |
| 2. _____ | _____ |
| 3. _____ | _____ |
| 4. _____ | _____ |
| 5. _____ | _____ |
| 6. _____ | _____ |
| 7. _____ | _____ |