

Don't Listen to the Hype!

Hype: The college admissions process is difficult and complex

Truth: Are you kidding? Biology, chemistry, algebra, literature are complex – and you've mastered those. You are perfectly capable of filling out a college application!

Hype: I need a private counselor to help me get into a good college

Truth: Counselors don't get students into colleges. Your own academic, artistic, athletic, community hard work and dedication get you into college

Hype: I need a resume full of extracurricular activities to get into a good college

Truth: College admissions officials prefer threads of consistent dedication to a few activities in which a student is truly interested, rather than a smorgasbord of unrelated clubs, sports, service, and community activities.

Hype: I need a SAT 2200 or ACT 32 and above a 4.0 GPA to get into a good college

Truth: Are you convinced that Stanford, the Ivy Leagues, Harvey Mudd, CalTech, MIT, UC Berkeley, Duke, Vanderbilt, UCLA are the **only** good colleges? *Yes*, your competition for spots in these schools will have numbers in these ranges. ***But there are so many other fabulous schools!***

+Truth: Many of them are competing for students like YOU

+Truth: You are so much more than a test score!

Hype: I didn't start a charitable non-profit, or build houses in a third world country, or invent an iPhone app, or intern for a fortune 500 company or a US Congressperson ---

Truth: YES – many high school students do amazing things, *most often with lots of adult help, and admissions people realize this.*

Just be who you are – a student focused on doing your best in high school and activities you love. And for contributions / service, how about starting in your own community?

Ask me if you need ideas.

Hype: I am not an A student so I can't get into a really good college

Truth: Are you kidding? SEE ABOVE. And . . .

You will graduate from a premiere California high school with a rigorous college prep curriculum, and you have succeeded. This places you among the most highly educated, highly qualified students in the US. Many, many, many colleges want students just like you!

AND, they are competing for you. SEE NEXT PAGE

Hype: It is getting harder and harder to get into college.

Truth: After 15 years of steady growth, the number of U.S. high school graduates PEAKED at 3.46 million; it's expected to slightly decline until 2021-2, before starting to rise again, according to the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE).

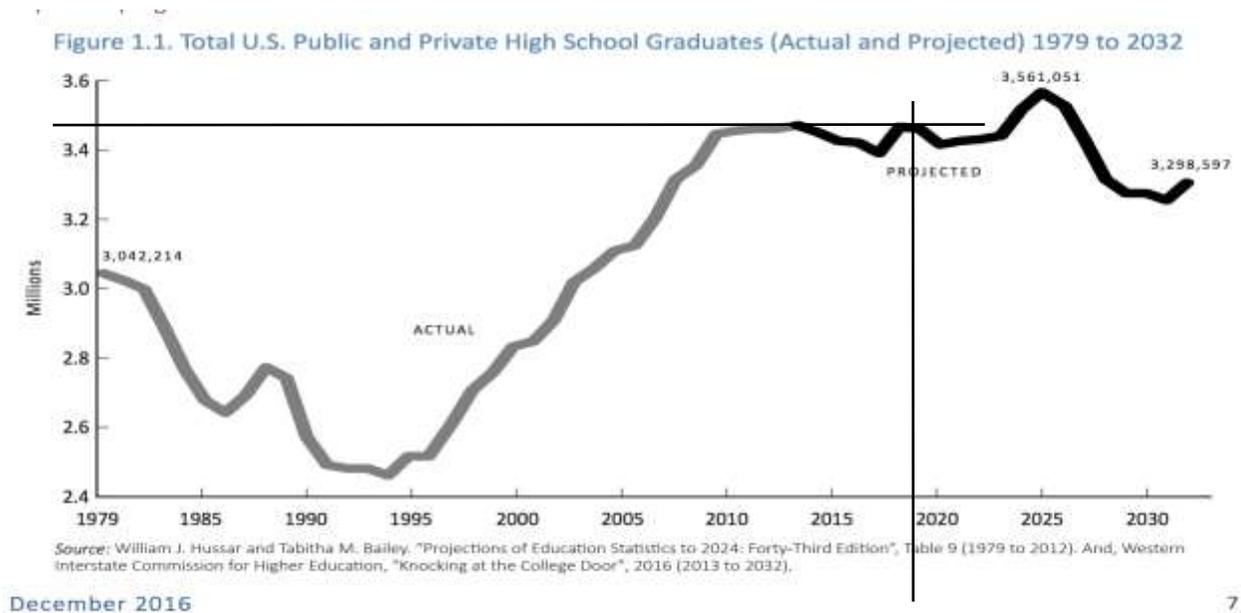
That means many colleges will be competing for fewer students. See next page:

Projections of High School Graduates

Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)

<http://knocking.wiche.edu/>

For 40 years, the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) has produced *Knocking at the College Door*, projections of high school graduates. Widely used by policymakers, enrollment managers, college counselors, K-12 educators, researchers, and the media, this 10th edition of *Knocking* projects by state, gender, race/ethnicity through the class of 2032.



There have been steady increases in the overall number of high school graduates over the last 15 years—and, at last count, the high school graduation rate **increased 1 percentage point to 83.2 percent** from the 2013-14 school year to 2014-15. That bump marked the fourth year in a row high school graduation rates have increased.

But according to WICHE's projections, the country actually will produce 81,000 fewer graduates—2.3 percent less—in 2017 and the decline may be largely due to changing demographics. The United States is projected to produce fewer high school graduates each year from 2014 to 2023, compared to the highest recorded number of graduates in 2013. There will be a short period of growth between 2024 to 2026, but between 2027 and 2032, the average size of graduating classes is expected to be smaller than it was in 2013.