13 Predictors of College Success

". . . Dr. Angel Pérez, a first-generation college student who grew up in a low-income family, recently revamped Trinity [College's] process to better identify promising students, particularly the disadvantaged. While reading applications, its admissions officers now look for evidence of 13 characteristics:

● Comfort in minority of 1

● Creativity

● Critical thinking

● Curiosity

● Delayed gratification

● Empathy

● Grit

● Innovation

● Openness to change

● Optimism

● Overcoming adversity

● Persistence

● Risk taking

Trinity's officers can check as many qualities as apply . . . They must note where they saw evidence of each quality in the application. "It can't be just a hint," Dr. Pérez said. He recalls a teacher recommendation describing how an applicant had taken a stand on a controversial social issue in class, even though other students vocally disagreed with him. Impressed, Dr. Pérez checked the box for "Comfort in Minority of 1," a sign, perhaps, that the student would contribute to campus dialogues."

> NOTE: These are actually qualities most colleges look for in applicants. Students are wise to write essays that give them an opportunity to show these attributes in themselves.
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> Carol Lemei