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### College Choices

During my research I've looked into three specific ideas for each college. I'm very interested in medicine and medical programs offered because I would like to become a family doctor. I also looked at the school's SAT scores and the costs/scholarships- which will help me keep a more realistic idea on which college I will be able to attend and register for. The last thing I was looking into was their cheerleading programs. The colleges do not have many programs, but the majority of them have basketball and football cheer teams.

#### **Penn State College**

Penn State is a well known college. Their acceptance rate is between 50-56% and their graduating rate is between 85-86% (Admissions Statistics). Penn State is very well-known for many of their courses and sports. Although Penn State is a very big campus, and most people may find it intimidating, Penn State has almost a hundred thousand students attending their school. And while they may have many students, each school has their own way to bring students together. Penn State has a lot of sports teams, but their football team is a well known part of the school. It is a very big tradition for the students and also their fans. Their student section is what helps the football team be motivated (sophomore).

While researching Penn State's medical programs there are plenty to look into. To get into the medical field you must complete different goals and degrees. To achieve a bachelor's degree you must complete a few courses in science, human development, nursing, psychology, etc. To be in the physician assistant program you need similar course but more in

depth courses, such as Gerontology, Neuroscience, Nutrition, Biochemistry, Pharmacology, etc. The physician assistant has a seven year time span when it comes to the degrees; three years undergraduate at Penn State and four years graduate at Sidney Kimmel Medical at Thomas Jefferson University (Nursing sim lab on campus). You earn your bachelors of science after the first year at medical school. The physician's assistant program is 24 months and you need to accumulate 101 credits. It's a full time graduate only takes 30 students. The requirements are good grades, a professional standing, satisfied with the financial obligation, 3.00 course average, minimum of a C, and needs all dedication to the program ("Physicians assistant).

The acceptance rate for Penn State is fairly low and it has a high SAT requirement which is challenging. The SAT scores are different for the programs and for the school itself. The SAT scores for the Hershey Medical Program is 1470, that is fairly high. The SAT scores for the college itself is 1,090 -1,300(Penn state SAT Scores and GPA). There are two different types of tuitions for Penn State: summer is cheaper then fall and spring. So if you would want to get more for less money you could take 9+ classes during the summer for the same price as 5-9 credits in the fall and spring. This would give you more credits for less time. If you would want to be reasonable you should pick the 5-9 credits in the fall and spring for \$189 (Penn State SAT scores and GPA). Penn State has a very good Coed cheerleading team, but they do not have a competitive cheer team. That isn't the most important aspect of going to Penn State, because I would focus more on my education in the medical field and my career. While cheerleading is very important to me, I am okay with being on the sidelines and cheering for basketball and football. Being on the sideline cheer teams will be very important to me seeing it's a very important role. Each new cheerleader trying out will need to learn and perform one cheer, one dance, new jumps, stunts, and even motions (Penn State Spirit).

## **York College**

York College is located in the city outskirts of York, PA. It is a very good school they have over 100 clubs and you can attend a maximum of 100 clubs. They have plenty of different medical classes and their physician's assistant program has similar qualities as Penn State. Admission requires enough courses to keep you busy and ready to start working for your physician assistant career. You can start between your freshman year up to your lower junior level (School of Nursing and Health professions program).

The college has a very understandable SAT scores are 810-960. They have a high acceptance rate with a 61% and a 61% graduation rate. They have a lot of scholarships and many financial aid offers for everyone. Scholarships can range from \$1,000 to \$10,000 and are made available for everyone. They all have different resources and it helps people with all types of struggles they may have in their life (York College SAT Scores and Gpa). York College does not have a cheer team (according to their website under sports or clubs). That is okay though because if I really wanted to cheer I would be able to stay at my gym in York, Pa, nothing comes up for sideline cheer for football or basketball (Athletics and Recreation).

## **Towson University**

Towson is a very good college, they have a lot of good programs and professors. They don't have a specific Physicians Assistant program but they have different types of degrees you can get and different programs that may be able to help you get into the correct medical job that you always wanted. They have a pre-physicians assistant advising which is a pretty big course along with what they have to get a nursing degree. A lot of their medical advisories have a minimum of 2.50 GPA throughout their course (Maryland's university of opportunities).

Towson's SAT scores are between 1,060-1,200 they are reasonable (Towson University SAT Scores and GPA).

Towson is known for their athletic clubs and sports, and how they are in NCAA division. Towson's cheerleading team out of all of the colleges has the biggest cheerleading team. They have an all-star cheerleading team but nothing has been said about it since 2017. They have a pom squad which is a performing group that performs at all the home basketball games. The pom squad is the closest thing to sideline cheer I found. (2018-2019 Cheerleading team announced). Towson is a very good college, they have a very good health programs and health professions that will help me with conquering my dream job.

### **Conclusion**

After looking at a great variety of colleges I have found myself to be a little picky but also open to what kinds of programs they have. They all have very good medical programs and courses to take within my college career and I enjoy all of their courses that they have. I also enjoy how many different varieties they have when it comes to their medical programs. They all have a very reasonable SAT scores that I can achieve with a little extra studying. Some of the colleges have a lot of scholarships more than others but it is very helpful to know that they are willing to help all their students no matter how much they are struggling. Most of the colleges don't have a lot of cheerleading groups but there are other opportunities that will keep me busy within my college career.

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