

第六届巡展“申请讲座”实录——成都站 2014 Application Q&A Workshop – Chengdu

Host: Claire Du, Director and Founder of China Liberal Arts College Tour

Colleges: Barnard, Claremont McKenna, Grinnell

General Q&A 统一问答

1. Q: How important are standardized tests? Is it worthy to spend 2 months to improve 20 points?

Barnard: Schools have different policies. Scores are important but not the only piece of information. As a one-day test, it can only partially show your level of competency, and schools don't expect perfect scores. For application information, present what you want to present.

Q: 学校对于标化考试究竟有怎样的要求? 为了进步 20 分花两个月的时间复习 SAT 是否值得?

Barnard: 每个学校都有不同的要求, 但对于任何一所学校, 标化成绩只是申请学生递交的材料中的一部分。我们还会看到平时成绩, 课外活动, 面试结果, 等等。相对于这些其他材料, SAT 这样的标化成绩重要但不是唯一。标化成绩展示的是学生在大学中的学习能力。高分证明学生有能力完成大学的学习任务, 但是没有学校会要求每一位学生都有完美的分数。最重要的是, 申请材料中的其他材料要能表现出你想展现的自己。

2. Q: Individual colleges have different standards, but is it worth to spend 3 months to improve from 105 to 110?

Barnard: Schools not only require a relative minimum level, but also look at individual score components. Wait for improvement before taking another test.

CMC: Put yourselves in the shoes in the AOs. Improvements in SAT and TOEFL have diminishing returns, and difference between 101 and 109 is minimal, as long as your ability is shown.

Q: 我们知道每个学校对标化成绩的标准不同。如果我花本来可以用于修改文书的时间, 用 3 个月努力把 105 的托福成绩提高到 110 会对我的申请有何帮助?

Barnard: 英语能力是大学学习的基础, 因此我们对托福成绩和托福中的每个单项成绩有要求, 因为有些学生可能写作很好口语却有所欠缺。但是就分数而言,

只要达到了基本要求几分的差距不会对申请造成多大影响。过一段时间，等能力提高了再考试也会有帮助。

CMC: 想象你们自己是在看申请学生的托福成绩的 AO。只要达到了基本要求，其实 101 分和 109 分对我们来说并没有区别。因此标化分数越高，提高分数对申请的帮助会越小。你的背景环境，你的高中课程设置，拥有的活动机会等等都对申请也很重要。

3. Q: What is the secret of the admission office and the admission committee?

Grinnell: 2 counselors who are very familiar with the school and China review one applicant's package and write a brief summary as point of reference. They pass on their opinions to the admission committee, and make tough decisions by voting.

Q: 中国学生对考试很熟悉，但是对选择性录取的过程并不了解。招生办公室是如何完成录取工作的？

Grinnell: 每一位学生的申请材料都会有 2 位招生官会仔细阅读。这 2 位招生官都对这位学生所在的学校和地区很熟悉，并会在阅读完申请材料后写一份总结作为招生办公室最后决定时的重要参考。

4. Q: If one of the 2 AOs like you and the other doesn't, what do you do?

CMC: fight!

Grinnell: The committee makes a democratic decision by majority vote.

CMC: Usually there will be a consensus, if not then the committee votes.

Q: 如果 2 位 AO 中，一位很喜欢你，另外一位不喜欢你，招生办会怎样做决定？

CMC: 干一架！

Grinnell: 招生并不是只由这两位 AO 完成的，对学生的录取是一个民主的投票决定。招生办公室会组织会议讨论对每位学生的申请决定，所以一般不会有很大问题。

CMC: 一般不会出现这样的问题，因为 AO 们会渐渐达成对一位学生的共识。如果还是有分歧，那就会投票决定。

5. Q: How are essays evaluated? Are there any suggestions on ways I should express how I fit the school?

CMC: In the US, there is a diversity of schools: research universities, LAC, vocational schools, private schools, and community colleges... Remember to write about who you are authentically. Write own essays.

Grinnell: Don't go over achievements in academia and activities. Be authentic. No big long fancy words when revising if you will make the AOs looking up the dictionary while reading your essay.

Barnard: Look at essay questions in the Common Application. To choose that, try free writing by timing 30 minutes for each essay, and choose one that you feel best about.

Q: 刚刚我们讲到了学生应该申请适合自己的学校。要怎样在文书中表现我很适合这所学校呢?

CMC: 美国有很多学校：研究性大学，文理学院，职业学校，私校，公校，等等。每所学校都有自己的特性。想好你要什么，为什么你申请的大学适合你，写下真实的自己，不要请他人代笔。

Grinnell: 不要过多炫耀学术成绩或是你的活动。只要在文书中表现自己就好了。如果你是一个幽默的人，那就在文书中展示自己的幽默感；如果你是一个严肃的人，那就不用麻烦装幽默了。

也没有必要在文书中用一些太难的词汇，因为如果招生官都需要查词典才能看懂的文书未必能到想象中的效果。

Barnard: 个人陈述的题目是可以选择的，只要从 Common Application 里选择一个题目即可。有时确实很难从中选择。这时候大家可以尝试自由写作半小时，再选择你感觉最好写的一篇。

6. Q: In some essays on who or what influenced you the most, the events and persons became more important than the applicant. Is that a problem?

Barnard: The essay should be about story and reflection. Do not spend 500 out of 650 words on the story. The larger percentage should be on your reflection.

Q: 有些学校的文书题目很有趣，比如说对你影响最深的人或是事件。很多学生的文书着重描写了影响他们的人，比如全篇在写他的祖母或是那个事件，忽略了自己。这会是个问题吗？

Barnard: 虽然只有描写了影响你的事件或是人，你才能在这之上表达你的感想，但是我们更想在文书中看到你自己在这之中所受的影响，得到的改变。因此我们不希望在一篇 650 词的文书中，500 词都在描写事件。不如把比例倒过来，少写背景故事，多写自己的感想。

7. Q: Some applicants have thousands of activities; some applicants have 2-3. What are the advantages or disadvantages of attending a few activities?

Grinnell: Evaluation is based on context and schools. It is better for students to have even portions of activities, but doing some activities with a depth. There is no magic number. Do what you're passionate about and stick with it.

CMC: Be authentic. Do activities that can also show who you are. Other parts of the application can also support that image of you.

Barnard: Explain activities. Do not expect AOs to understand acronyms.

Q: 有些学生的活动非常多，一抓一大把，有些学生可能只参加了 2、3 个活动。这样会对申请造成怎样的影响？

Grinnell: 我们会根据学生所在的环境和所有的活动机会来评价学生。你不需要参与那么多的活动，重在活动的质量。其实并没有学生应该参加活动的最佳数量，只要你用心参与你喜欢的活动，坚持并努力为这项活动努力就可以了。

CMC: 你做的活动应该是真心喜爱，能展现出你的个性的。比如你是学生会主席，招生官就能知道你是一位有领导力的人。也不光是活动，老师为你写的推荐信也可以让招生官了解到你的个性特质。

Barnard: 还有需要注意的一点是，一定要在 common application 中解释清出你所参与的活动，不要只给出活动的缩写，因为这样招生官是不可能了解活动的具体内容的。

Questions from Audience 观众问答

1. Q: How to decide a major for undergraduate study? Is it important to know what you want to study when choosing schools?

Barnard: Students who apply to college can choose undecided, or be interested in 2-3 areas. Understand what parts of the college interest you by picking out several interests. You're interests can also be shown in other ways in the Common Application.

Claire: I declared my second major three weeks before graduated. There is a high flexibility in dropping a major or changing a major as long as requirements are met.

Q:如果不知道大学想要修什么专业该怎么办呢?

Barnard: 首先，你在讨论专业时用的词是“想要”而不是“决定要”，其实学校本来就没有要求学生在入学时就决定专业。在申请学校的时候，你甚至可以在专业哪一栏选择“未决定”，或是选两三个感兴趣的领域。关键是要找得到你的兴趣所在，还有学校能为你提供机会。除了专业那一栏，你的学术兴趣也可以从你参加的活动等等体现出来。

Claire: 我是双专业毕业的，当第二个专业因为种种原因在毕业前三周才决定，所以其实专业选择是非常自由的。只要你能满足专业所要求的课程都没有问题。我也建议要多多探索再找到心仪的专业。在上大学前，我一直以为我会读数学和经济，但是我发现这两个专业实在是不适合我，而且发现了我对历史的热情，最后我的专业是历史和国际关系。一定要追随自己的兴趣和理想。

2. Q: In LACs, will the first 2 years of exploration be a waste of energy? How are credits counted?

Barnard: In Barnard, 1/3 of the credits are for major courses and 1/3 left for exploration. The first two years still count into college education.

Claire: Carleton requires 42 courses, 11 towards major, 22 of your interest, and the rest required classes in arts and sciences.

Grinnell: Schools provide mentorship, and advisors will help decide what courses you should take are in your interest and what courses required by your major you should take each semester.

Claire: While offering a free education environment, your advisor forces you to think and gives guidance. If you want to design a major, you are also required to meet school officials and get approval. Guidance puts you on the right track.

Q: 如果大学的前两年学习的不一定与后面的专业相关，不是会浪费学分？要怎样利用这样的探索机会？

Barnard: 一般来说，在所有的课程中 1/3 的课程需要满足专业要求。还有 1/3 的课程任你探索感兴趣的学科，但得到的学分还是会算在毕业所需的学分之内。即使上的课与专业无关，你的得到知识还是大学教育中宝贵的财富。

Claire: 如果学校要求修 42 门课，每个专业要求修 11 门课，即使会有 22 门课供学生在要求的范围内自由选择，剩余的是学校要求的课。

Grinnell: 关于课程选择，学校会有导师帮助你根据你的专业兴趣选择课程，所以也不是不负责任的放任自由，让你自己选择要上的课程。

Claire: 文理学院提供了自由的学术环境，但即使是想要自己设计专业，也需要申请并得到学校的批准。这也保证了学生会受到最好的教育。

3. Q: Do LACs have less social opportunities to offer, e.g. internships?

CMC: All schools offer more than the academics. Generally all schools have student activities. Educating a whole person, LACs train students to think critically and write persuasively, and there are opportunities on campus to provide you with that. There is a built-in support system with Dean of students' office, residential colleges to help students transit from one culture to another.

Q: 文理学院的社会资源，比如实习机会，会不会更少？

CMC: 每一所学校为学生提供的资源都不会仅限于学术资源，所有学校都会有学生活动，因为学校想要培养的是一个有独立思考能力和有效的交流能力的人，因此从住宿到课外生活，学校会有完善的系统支持学生的成长。

4. Q: In your career, has one student stood out? Any examples of special qualities?

Grinnell: I've been in my career too long to have a student stand out. There are certain qualities, for a Grinnellian. You have to be adventurous to be in the middle of

Iowa. You have to be passionate about academics, and activities outside the classroom. We want a community of people, bright, creative, pushes boundaries.

CMC: First, demonstrate who you are not who you want to be. Leadership is crucial, but leadership is more than titles. There are soft leadership skills and also hard ones. Whether you promote collaboration or steer the course, make sure to reveal your contribution that may not be immediately evident.

Barnard: There are a lot of types of leaders, outside or behind the scene or on stage. We don't expect well-rounded students, but create well-rounded communities. Tell AOs what makes you who you are, and the rest is left for AOs to decide if you're fitting in to our box. As a piece of the community, you would naturally integrate.

Q: 有没有印象最深刻的申请学生? 有什么我们应该去追求的特别的品质吗?

Grinnell:我在招生办呆久了, 什么样的学生都见过, 就没有所谓印象最深的了。但是有些学生的个性还是会让我眼前一亮, 比如冒险精神。要想做 Grinnell 的学生, 在爱荷华州中部呆这么久也需要一定的勇气, 因此我们喜欢对课内外都有激情的学生。这样我们才能有一个欢乐而热情, 有创造性的群体。

CMC:很重要的一点是, 你想成为的人和你现在的样子是不一样的, 你想要去做的事和做到的事也是不一样的。评价一名学生, 我们更加看重学生已经达到的水平, 而不是你在申请资料中展示的, 你想要成为的那个, 与众不同的人。比如领导力并不是从几个名号中体现出来的, 而是你在这个群体中做出的贡献, 而这些贡献不一定是可以被量化的体现出来的, 所以要懂得表现自己。

Barnard:世界上有很多不同风格的领袖, 有些在台前闪光, 有些在幕后耕耘, 但是你只要做好自己就可以了。学校所谓的全面发展是指为学生提供全面的群体, 群体中有拥有不同特质的人, 而不是全能的学生。因此, 学校会更看重你作为自己, 而不是学校想要你成为的人, 能为学校带来些什么、

Advice/Tips 来自 AO 的建议

Barnard: Whether your application is far off or tomorrow, keep in track of things. Have a list of colleges, deadlines; familiarize yourself with the application system, and interviews. Common Application also has a chart of to-do-list, stick to deadlines.

CMC: Pre application think about how you can fit in to colleges you have interest in. Not all good things apply to all people, but schools are great for the right type of people.

Grinnell: Relax, you will find a place you will be happy about the relationships built for the entire life.

Barnard: 也许你会觉得申请离你还很遥远，有些人觉得申请季就在眼前，但是最重要的是安排好计划，跟上申请季各个截止时间的步伐。要选好校，记住每个学校的截止日期，填好申请表格，计划好面试等等。Common Application 中也会有相关信息，一定不要迷糊。

CMC: 找到适合自己的学校。并不是学校的所有方面都适合所有人，但对于合适的人，学校的一切都会是最美好的经历。

Grinnell: 放轻松，选一个你会愿意住四年的地方，一个你会遇见毕生的好友的地方。