

第六届巡展“申请讲座”实录——杭州站 2014 Application Q&A Workshop – Hangzhou

Host: Claire Du, Director and Founder of China Liberal Arts College Tour
Colleges: Bowdoin, Davidson, Pomona

General Q&A 统一问答

1. Q: What is the requirement of scores? What is the difference between 105 and 110 for TOEFL?

Bowdoin: It depends. Some schools are test optional but some require SAT. A strong test will support your application, but for test optional schools don't send low scores.

Davidson: School webs have data for the middle 50 scores of admitted students. Schools also look at the breakdown of individual scores. Also, remember of all the students, 25% are lower and 25 % are higher than the score given. SAT is not an extracurricular activity; spend time on things you like instead of it. Letters of recommendation, day-to-day performance, and activities will also be taken into consideration.

Q: 学校对标化考试的要求是什么？比如，105 分的托福与 110 分的托福有什么样的区别？

Bowdoin: 每个学校要求不同，有些学校不要求 SAT 成绩，有些对标化成绩有要求。根据不同的要求，学生也应该有不同的策略。如果你的标化成绩高，那当然会对申请有帮助，但是如果你的 SAT 成绩不高，那么就不要把成绩发给本来不需要学生提供 SAT 成绩的学校了。

Davidson: 学校官网上会有中间 50%学生的标化成绩数据可供参考，但也要记住还有各 25%的学生成绩比这些数据高和比这个成绩低。学校不仅会看总分，也会关注单项成绩因为学校希望学生的各项能力，比如口头表达，写作等比较均衡。

2. Q: Are the 5 points improved from 95 to 100, and from 100 to 105 equally important?

Pomona: It depends. 100 is a minimum, but sub-scores have to be strong across the board. You have to get 100 to handle the rigor of the writing in college. If you can reach the requirement, reconsider if the school is going to fit you.

Q: 有些学生会为了达到学校的要求，努力三个月把托福成绩从 95、97 分提高到 100 分。也有学生已经有了 105 的托福，也花了三个月只为提高 5 分达到 110。这样的两个不同情况下，进步的 5 分是不是对申请的帮助不同？

Pomona: 每个学校要求不同，但大多数学校要求最低 100 分。我们其实更关注单项成绩，并要求申请学生每一个单项成绩也达标。还有，如果你觉得想要申请的学校要求实在太高，很难达到，也许应该考虑换个学校申请。学校的要求与学校的学术难度挂钩，只有能达到学校的要求才能保证学生有能力完成学业，因此如果你觉得无法达到学校的要求也许是自身水平不适合这个学校。

3. Q: How to find a college that fits me, and show the college that I am a good fit?

Bowdoin: The application process is a holistic process, and tests are only one element just to make sure you can hit the ground running academically and socially. Essays are important in that they show personality, and how you will make a difference in college? This is key in expressing why you fit the school.

Davidson: Look at the mission, location, major, and interests of a college. Some applicants are quite leaders, some louder leaders, some like theater performance, and a well-rounded community needs every part. Senior students, who are thinking about colleges, should talk to students, visit the campus, watch pod casts and videos to get more information.

Pomona: Also, department web, email professor, skype and question, is there anything you do not like about.

Q: 在中国，学生习惯了考试，却不知道如何选择适合自己的大学，也不知道如何在申请时展现出自己和所申请的学校有所谓相符的气质。要怎样选择适合自己的大学，并向招生官展示？

Bowdoin: 虽然考试成绩达标是有效的大学成绩生活的基础，招生工作不只包括对考试成绩的评价，招生官们还会看申请学生的文书等等。我们更看重你的人格，个性，还有你对周围环境的影响。我们希望从你对周围带来的改变看到你是否适合我们的学校。

Davidson: 学校的宗旨，地理位置，提供的专业，还有兴趣都构成了这个学校的个性。有些学校喜欢稳重的有领导力的学生，有些喜欢有激情的学生，有些学

校注重剧院文化，有些学校注重体育活动，但每一所学校都会有适合不同学生的特色。

Pomona: 看看学校的官网中你喜爱的专业的信息，给你感兴趣的教授发邮件，视频聊天，问问学校的哪些你可能会喜欢那些会不喜欢。这些都非常有用。

4. Q: Many students have no time for activities. They fear they are not well-rounded because they are not and can't be good at everything. Are there some advantages of having a particular interest?

Bowdoin: All types students are needed to make a well-rounded institution. Participate in one or two activities, be really dedicated and make a difference. Don't do activities just to fill in blanks.

Pomona: Students are evaluated by context. The resources, and an understanding of your high school will also be taken into account.

Davidson: It is more important to show you will take advantage of the opportunities when you graduated from high school. The schools want to see you take on a variety of courses and try new things.

Q: 没有时间参加很多活动，也不可能样样精通怎么办？如果我在某一方面特别好，会有优势吗？

Bowdoin: 我们需要在不同的领域有特长的学生才能组成一个面面俱到的群体。不要为了填满活动表格而去参加活动，有一两个真正喜爱的活动，为这个活动真心付出，显示出你能在大学生活中为群体做出贡献就可以了。

Pomona: 学校会根据你在的学校，拥有的资源评价你，所以不用因为学校没有提供参加活动的机会而担心。

Davidson: 我们只想知道申请学生是否会在有机会的情况下抓住机会，尝试新的课程，组织活动，因此重要的是潜力。

5. Q: What is the decision making process?

Pomona: LACs have less applicants, thus more attention is given to each applicant. AOs spend 30-45min reading through each application package. There is a chance for you to explain additional information, such as transferred schools, test scores that stand out. Catch this opportunity. It will not be understood as making an excuse. You have to be your best advocates.

Bowdoin: AOs will take notes and write a summary paragraph after reading a package, which includes essays, recommendations, and pass to someone else who takes notes and writes his own paragraph. The admission Committee listens to all the voices and voted for a decision.

Davidson: Counselors who read your package present you to 20 colleagues. You have to be your best advocate to decide what can be taken to the committee. The admission process is a human process with AOs usually coming to a consensus.

Q: 招生办公会的民主投票大家都略有了解，那么招生办公室具体是怎样工作的呢？

Pomona: 文理学院申请人数少，所以每位学生得到的关注更多，招生官平均会花 30-45 分钟阅读材料。在申请材料中，还有一栏专门给学生机会解释一些他们想要解释的事，比如转学，或是有些成绩为什么突出，或是解释一些事情。不论如何，你要为自己解释清楚，因为一些特殊状况的理由只有你知道。

Bowdoin: 在 Bowdoin，招生官阅读完一位学生的材料后会记下一片总结，然后给另一位招生官看，让另一位招生官也记下一篇总结。在招生办开会时，每一位招生官会听取之前两位招生官的意见并投票决定学生的录取情况。

Davidson: 在 Davidson，专门负责阅读你的材料的招生官会把你的资料带有 20 个招生官的招生会议，其他招生官会向阅读了你的资料的招生官提出问题。想要以怎样的姿态被呈现到全体招生官面前都需要你自己把握呈现申请资料的方式。招生本来就是一个以人为本的过程，我们看的不仅是你的分数，还有你的人格魅力等等。招生官们一般讨论后会达成共识，投票决定。

6. Q: Any common mistakes of Chinese students on their essays?

Pomona: Schools want to know who is the student going to be on the first day they are on campus. So remember to write about things that reveal who you are e.g. a memorable place, transition from child to adulthood.

Davidson: For essays that require background stories, focus on your reflections. Share stories you feel strongly about, and keep on track with key topics. Keep it concise, understandable.

Bowdoin: Do it yourself, no agencies.

Q: 在写文书方面，有什么中国学生需要注意的问题？

Pomona: 我们想要从文书中看到，踏进校园的那一刻，你将成为这个群体中怎样的人。有些文书中可能很难告诉招生官这些问题的答案，因此写文书的时候要注意突出自己。

Davidson: 在很多时候，学生写的文书重点变成了其他的人。有时作文的题目会是描述你崇拜的人，或是喜欢的地方。这是应该注意把重心放在自己身上，而不是描述事件或是人。文书中应该写一些可以展现出自己个性的事物，并且有明确的主题，不要贪心想要展现太多因为读者很难抓住你所有的思想。最后就是要精简语言。

Bowdoin: 自己写文章，不要请中介代笔。真实性很重要。

7. Q: A question on liberal arts education in general: if I want to become an engineer, why should I go to a liberal arts college?

Bowdoin: Nothing is an isolated entity. Most LAC students major in physics and master in engineering, some do the 3+2 program. The world is bigger than the one subject, and LACs train a new creative way of thinking of engineering, which is crucial for the development of one's career.

Davidson: If you are a manager in an engineering company, you will need psychology to understand people. To convince clients, you need communication skills. Liberal arts education offers the foundation of many of those important skills to make a better person, with communication skills as a critical thinker who is able to work with others strategically.

Pomona: Research shows that studying various subjects trains your brain. If you are sent abroad by your company, you would want to understand culture and that is when general education comes to use.

Q: 如果我想当工程师，我为什么应该接受文理学院的教育呢？

Bowdoin: 没有一个学科与其他学科没有任何联系，文理学院就为学习其他创造了一个很好的机会。在文理学院，很多学生会先修物理，再在研究生修工程，也可以选择文理学院的 3+2 项目，总之有很多机会。文理学院的教育重在培养学生的创造性思维，因此也为学生打下了基础。工程师本身就是解决问题的人，文理学院教育让他们懂得如何有创造性地解决问题。

Davidson: 想要做管理层，要对心理学有研究，想要说服客户，还要有沟通技巧，这些都是做工程师所必备的。在文理学院中，你有机会打好学科基础，更有机会研究其他学科，成为更好的人。

Pomona: 科学证明，学习不同的领域可以锻炼大脑，使人更聪明，因此学过历史的工程师会更成功。如果未来的公司送你去国外出差，你就有很好的文化基础，可以适应当地文化。工程师并不只是在办公室中想问题，有很多其他的技能需要培养。

Questions from Audience 观众问答

1. Q: Some applicants send additional files. Some call the admission office to sing songs, and some send research reports. They want to express how much they love the school and want some love back. How is this effective?

Pomona: Send files that AOs are able to read and appreciate. Read the school website to check what additional files schools will accept.

Bowdoin: I don't understand you physics paper, and the application package is more understandable to me. Every AO has to go through thousands of application, and most don't want to read more than that unless they enjoy what they are reading. Additional files can be painful to an AO.

Davidson: How much is too much? Compared to calling the office and sing, it's better to email and say "Hi, I'm excited to be applying". That's sufficient.

Pomona: Some believe demonstrated interest will help. Just send a thoughtful and purposeful email and ask questions, not just for the sake of sending an email to say hi.

Q: 有些人会提供补充材料，比如打电话给招生办公室唱一首歌，或是交上实验研究报告，或是写邮件表达自己对学校的爱。这些方法效果如何？

Pomona: 好像有些人说这样很有效，我们也知道申请学生很想让大学也认可他们，可是一定要给一些我们愿意收的，可以接受的信息。不然给了也会被扔。

Bowdoin: 如果给我一份物理实验报告，我会扔掉，因为我既看不懂，也不想再给自己增加负担。要确保招生官看得懂，而且乐意看，不然你也不会想让招生官把你和那些令他头痛的资料联系在一起吧。

Davidson: 我会说有一条界线，打电话唱歌还是有些过了。可以写封邮件打个招呼，这就够了。

Pomona: 有些人觉得展现出对学校的兴趣对录取有帮助。只要好好写一封诚恳又有思想的邮件给招生官，这就足够了。不要为了打招呼而打招呼。

2. Q: Any suggestions for students who have applied then gapped a year, and are applying again?

Pomona: Explain why you took a gap year? What were you doing significant?

Davidson: Be clear about what is learnt and done? We surely won't welcome students who took a gap year just to study SAT or go the beach.

Q: 我间隔了一年，这对我的申请有什么影响？

Pomona: 要说明为什么间隔了一年，在这一年中你做了什么有意义的事情，不然招生官只会认为是你荒废了一年。

Davidson: 要写清楚你在这一年中学到了什么，你是去学 SAT 呢，还是去沙滩玩了呢？很明显招生官不会想要浪费了时间的人。

3. Q: Is the structure of essays more important, or characteristics and personalities shown? 文书是格式与法更重要还是个人特征更重要？

Davidson: People should be able to read your essay without having a pause and wondering what is told. Let others check for you. Essays have to be grammatically sound to indicate applicants are at the level to be successful.

Davidson: 首先，你的文章要让招生官看的不费力，至少不能有语法错误。让别人帮你检查，因为大学需要确认在大学学习时你不会遇到英语。

Q: How about using better vocabulary? 用词的选择上呢？

Davidson: Your essay should use the same level of English you're able to speak. If the words you use are too complicated, it may suggest that you looked for synonyms and rather than words that come naturally to you.

Davidson: 要用你在日常表达中用的词汇，不然我们会觉得你是在网上抄下来的词。

Q: Complicated structures will not bring credits? 所以复杂的词句结构并不会为我带来优势吗?

Davidson: Complicated structures will usually take away meanings of the essay and make it less effective.

Davidson: 我不推荐用日常不会用的词，因为这样会让文章更加复杂难懂。

4. Q: Do schools except from Swarthmore have fail and pass courses?

Davidson: Each school has a different academic profile. No such courses for Davidson.

Pomona: Pass-fail courses can be chosen, but the default is to have grades.

Bowdoin: Though we don't have these courses, we have other things to introduce freshmen to the expectations of colleges including, writing classes, first year seminars, and many other activities.

Q: 除了 Swarthmore，还有学校提供无成绩，只有通过-不通过两个等级的课程吗?

Davidson: 下午我们会具体介绍每个学校的课程设置，但是我们学校没有这样的课。

Pomona: 这样的课可以供学生选择，但学校系统默认是都有分数的。

Bowdoin: 我们虽然没有这样的课程设置帮助新生适应大学生活，但是 Bowdoin 也有写作课，新生讨论组等等帮助新生。

Advice / Tips 来自 AO 的建议

Bowdoin: In your essays, remember not only to be yourself, but have many people such as counselors, English teachers to check if the essay is your authentic voice.

Davidson: Utilize the counselors because they are educated to be helping you. Get to know counselors and get as much help as possible from them.
Enjoy the application process as you are choosing your home for the next 4 years.
Search for the faculty; connect with ambassadors to get to know about schools.

Pomona: Contact people other than someone who lives in the admission process, to see if they are the kind of people do you want to be around them for the next 4 years.

Bowdoin: 让你身边的人检验你的资料中是否表达了你真实的声音，所以请他人检查你的文章吧。

Davidson: 用好身边的资源，如果你的学校有升学指导，一定要好好和他交流。要享受申请，因为在这个过程中你要选择未来四年你的家。可以通过查校网，联系教职员工，在校学生和校友等等来了解学校。

Pomona: 找一些不是在招生办工作的人问一些关于学校的问题，因为他们的经历会更真实地反映出学校的氛围。问一问自己，你想和这样的人度过未来的四年吗？要好好思考这个问题。