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## Understanding Ivy Admissions

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If you're wondering just how difficult it is to achieve admission to an Ivy League school, we've pulled together some statistics to help put it into perspective. There are **12,000 Ivy freshman** spots open each year (so just over 1500 for each of the 8 schools - Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Columbia, Brown, Dartmouth, UPenn and Cornell). Here is a general guide as to how Ivy League admissions can break down and the factors behind it. This is also true for other highly selective colleges, such as Stanford or Duke.

1. **Athletes** take about 15% of the spots each year. Rounding up, that's about **2000** spots total. Colleges can have about 30 men's and women's sports, and 3-4 spots per sport that are "preferred admits" granted to each coach.
2. **Legacies** are valued at the Ivies and are at least 2 times more likely to gain admission, so let's say about **1800** legacies make it in annually.
3. Next, roughly 10%, or **1,200** spots, go to **international students**.
4. Colleges are looking to add more **diversity** to their campus as well as **students who have overcome significant obstacles**. These students make up 5% or more of the acceptance pool and can include a) first-generation students, b) African-American/American Indian students, c) non-English speaking students, and d) students who have overcome challenges, such as a medical condition or poverty. Let's say **600** of these students get in, and for great reason.
5. Don't forget **the arts and music and dance teams**. Harvard wants the most accomplished kids, so many of these top talents do get special admission. Figure another **500** kids get in here.
6. **Professors' kids** and staff may get special consideration, so figure **100** kids get in through this important route, as they should.
7. **1,000** kids are admitted from the top **high schools** in the country.
8. In the US, we have about **33,000 total high schools**, so roughly **1 in 6** gets a student into an Ivy every year. Keep in mind this also means there are 33,000 football captains, student council presidents, editors of the school newspaper, debate captains, etc.

Now think about the **most amazing kid at your high school**, who may have accomplishments such as: valedictorian, student body president, raising \$200,000 for the American Red Cross, USA Junior National Lacrosse, national chess champion, national speech and debate finalist, national science and research awards, etc. These students still have a chance at a spot (depending on how outstanding their applications and essays are).

Our goal at College Expert is to help our students stand out and be the best possible applicants, but we also understand how competitive highly selective colleges are. That's why we make sure all our students have a balanced list that includes not just reach schools, but colleges they will be admitted to and are great fits for them.