



COLLEGE PREVIEW

LEADERS WANTED

How to become the leader
employers will want



Recent grad, **Jordan Miller**,
chooses Stanford over
12 other prestigious offers

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Careers in IT and Security

JORDON MILLER

Accepted to some of the nation's top colleges

University of Chicago
 University of Missouri
 The United States Military Academy (West Point)
 California Institute of Technology
 Stanford University
 The University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
 Harvard University
 Yale University
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 Cornell University
 Dartmouth College
 Columbia University
 Truman State University



Jordan Miller was accepted by all 13 of these schools—some of the most prestigious universities in the country! How does one 18-year-old get all of these amazing schools vying for him? For Jordan, the answer is preparation, determination, and doing what you love.

For started, he recently graduated from a top-rated, college-prep high school in Kansas City, Missouri—Rockhurst High School. Next, he achieved a stellar 2220 SAT score. He prepared himself by taking the test multiple times, in 7th, 9th, and 11th grade, and recommends that prospective college students take both the SAT and ACT at the beginning of their junior year at the latest. That way, “you know how much studying you need to do to reach the score you want.” He also used high school itself as a training ground. “I took all of the hardest classes available to me. Some people are more effective at focusing on just one or two subjects.

For me, though, the more I pushed myself, the better overall results I achieved.” It paid off, and he graduated with a 4.35 GPA.

Beyond academics, Jordan found things that he was passionate about and became involved. A summer spent in Belize building a library gave him a great opportunity to learn about the culture, and he was able to use it as an example when talking about his desire to study abroad. His love of math led him to not only join his high school's math club, but actually create a math club for 4th and 5th graders at his former elementary school—a great way

to demonstrate interest in his community. And even playing basketball helped him, according to Jordan, because it showed he was well-rounded. Even better, it became the topic of one of his college essays.

There was certainly more than one essay. Jordan wrote several—about math, basketball, and even his older brother. He thinks the most important part about your essay is “focusing on things that you are passionate about, because without conviction you will not stand out from the crowd.” He says it's important that your essay and application follow a theme and that all parts fit together. “Basically, you're trying to paint a picture of yourself and you want it—i.e. you—to be clear and cohesive.”

Regarding college entrance interviews, Jordan says that no two are alike. “Some were more laid back and conversational, while others were very formal and deliberate.” But even though you can't necessarily prepare for the style of your interview, Jordan did have some general tips. “Go into every interview with confidence,” he says, and practice answers that give interviewers a window into all parts of your life, not just academics. “It is important that they understand your challenges and obstacles as well as your achievements.”

Ultimately, Jordan chose to attend Stanford University, for reasons that seem surprisingly similar to those you might hear from any other college student. Yes, he mentions their “across the board excellence” and talks about being interested in their math, science, and the liberal arts programs, but when it came down to it, he says “When I considered weather, school size, athletics, and social life, it became apparent that Stanford was the right place for me.” Now he just has to decide on a major.

