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Why Students Chose to Attend Parkland College

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Why Athletes Choose Parkland

Excellence in athletics

Almost all of the athletic teams at Parkland have success on the national level.

Excellence in academics

They preferred the small class sizes and one-on-one help from professors.

Cost of attendance

The cost of tuition coupled with athletic scholarships made Parkland the best choice financially.
Continued

Many athletes come to Parkland to improve in their sport.

They hope to transfer and play at a school better than they could have out of high school.

Many athletes grew up knowing about Parkland.

Others were contacted by coaches to find out about it.

International athletes either found it through recruiting services, or

They already knew people attending Parkland.
Their Expectations of Parkland

A few of the athletes believed that classes would be easy, as Parkland is a junior college.

They found that they were not correct very quickly.

Many believed it would be mostly commuter students enrolled at Parkland.

They were surprised by the amount of international students.

Also, the amount of Pathways students from out of the area was surprising to them.
Expectations Continued

One international student said that the amount of time spent in class was greater in his home country.

They have around 30 hours every week compared to our 15 hours.

The extra time allows for less homework which created a dramatic transition for him.
Feedback from Parkland Student

Another Parkland student that is a student athlete said her experience coming to Parkland was easy with a smooth transition.

She is a in-district resident who said coming to Parkland was convenient for her because it was close to her house.

Parkland has good reputation in sports and that was major factor for her decision to come to Parkland and play basketball.
So What About International Students?

“Parkland is a gateway to the U of I”

ESL student from Guangdong, China

Gives opportunity to start smaller = Better off

Transfer to U of I, Parkland gives experience in academics
How does an out of continent student hear about parkland of all places?

“Parkland would be your safest option”
Conclusions

Parkland College is a 2 year community college that offers many opportunities

Many people come from different backgrounds (International, Local)

Students attend planning to achieve the same goals: either to graduate with an Associates from Parkland or transfer immediately after their 1st or 2nd year of attending Parkland to go to a 4 year institution

Student Athletes in addition have a mindset hoping that after 2 years of playing on the Parkland sports team they will continue being a student athlete at the next level