

English Transcript for *Santa Clara University: Part 1: Getting to Know You*

[BLANK_AUDIO] We're here with Becky Konowicz, Director of International Admission for Santa Clara University in Santa Clara, California. And she's going to be talking to us today about Santa Clara and their admission and evaluation process. Becky, thanks for being with us today. >> Thank you for having me. >> Let's start out just by getting to know you a little bit. So, tell us a little bit about what you do in your role as an admission officer. >> Sure. I'd be happy to. As an admission counselor my primary role is to go out and promote Santa Clara. So, we do travel around the world to talk to students. >> Mm-hm. >> Primarily high school students. And we love their parents as well. >> [LAUGH] >> because, we know it's a family decision. >> Mm-hm. >> And so I share with them information about our programs our admission requirements. I also try and connect them to current students on campus. So they can get that perspective. I do evaluate the applications as well. So, if an international student applies I am the one who would be reviewing their application and bringing it to our admission committee. Lastly and a big piece that I think international students forget is I'm there to be a resource. It is a complicated process to apply to U.S. universities, >> Mh-hm. >> Especially those who don't have a college counselor per say. And so, if they have questions or whether they find our admission process complicated, I welcome to hear from them. So, I can correct any information or misinformation that they have. >> So what is it that you like about your, your role in admission? >> Great question. For me, it's definitely the students. I really enjoy hearing about their culture [SOUND] or seeing them in their homes and in their high schools. But I also love the institution that I'm working for and really believe in its mission. So finding the perfect students for our campus is a passion that drives me to come to work every day. >> That's fantastic. You mentioned the, the passion about, you know, matching students up with Santa Clara University. So, can you help us get to know Santa Clara a little bit more? >> Oh, I'd love to. I think the piece that makes Santa Clara the most interesting as a university is our location. We are in the heart of Silicon Valley. So what does that mean for a student on our campus? It really means, accessible to start-up companies, as well as Fortune 500 companies. It's a place where you can go to the beach or go skiing in the mountains. So there is this healthy balance between hard work and being a committed student, but then enjoying the surroundings. We are about 45 minutes from San Francisco and San Francisco has many festivals going on. It has great, it's a foodie >> [LAUGH] >> City. >> Mm-hm. >> So, if you're into food, you can find great restaurants. >> Mm-hm. >> We are also play with our location, in the sense of, you will hear from great speakers who will >> Mm-hm. >> Talk about their successes, but also their failures >> Mm-hm. >> And how they kind of picked themselves backup beyond that. >> Mm-hm. >> We also have wonderful weather with our location. >> [LAUGH]. >> And so if you are somebody who would like to experience snow, but keep it three hours away, we can offer that. But if you really want a sunny, mild climate, that would be the Silicon Valley area. Santa Clara also offers a variety of academic programs. So, if your a student who is unsure what you would like to study, we can appeal to those students who are undecided. But many of our students choose Santa Clara for one of three colleges. So we have the College of Arts and Sciences, >> Okay. >> The College of Engineering and the College of School of Business. So >> Okay. >> Those tend to be popular areas of interest for our international students. >> Mm hm. >> That are attracted. We're also a medium size university so the average class size is 23. >> Hm. >> So, for the students who are looking for a place where they would be a name. >> Mm-hm. >> And a face. >> Mm-hm. >> Santa Clara's a great option, because academically you would sit in a

classroom getting to know your faculty. They might ask you to do research, they might place you with an internship with a former student of theirs. If there's a guest speaker that comes, you actually might be the student who joins them for dinner or lunch. So you really develop these relationships. And if anybody is familiar with Silicon Valley, you will know that relationships go a long way. It's not necessary where you went to college, but who you know and do they believe in your work ethic. And that really starts on our campus. Last but not least, I think our environment, we're in a very safe neighborhood. So, though we have San Francisco and we have wonderful beach access. >> Mm-hm. >> Our students really feel like they can walk around campus. >> Mm-hm. >> Bike around campus, skateboard around campus, freely and comfortably and safely. >> Great, well you've, you've touched on this a little bit already, but I'm always telling students that universities have their own personality. So, you know, how would you describe the personality of Santa Clara? >> I think the personality of Santa Clara is reflective of our Jesuit mission, as well the Silicon Valley, our location. So a couple of things that come to mind is friendliness and respect for others. >> Mm-hm. >> there's, there's a, a sense of, wanting to get to know other people. >> Mm-hm. >> And curious about their backgrounds, and interested in other cultures. I think, the Silicon Valley and the Jesuit Mission is to be engaged and care about those that are less fortunate. Care about the environment. >> Mm-hm. >> Caring about making the world a more humane and just place. And, and, so our you'll find that our student I guess environment. >> Mm-hm. Mm. >> Really caters to that. So whether it's a Sunday morning cleaning up a neighborhood, or it's in a class discussion where you might be in accounting. But you're going to focus on the financial benefits of going to solar power as a company. >> Mm-hm. >> You're always connected to this idea of, can we make the world a better place? And, and that's reflective in Silicon Valley. >> Mm. Mm-hm. >> So it's, it's this combination of who we are as a Jesuit Catholic university and our location. >> So moving that to the student side of things, what kind of a student is a good fit for Santa Clara? >> Great question and I think this is really important for students to think about. There are 4,000 universities out there. There are some top ranked and there's some that you've never heard of, so finding the one that's a good fit for you is really important. And what Santa Clara a, a good fit for Santa Clara is a student who can achieve at a high academic level. >> Mm-hm. >> because the classroom is rigorous. With 23 students you do have to show up to the class. >> [LAUGH] >> You'll, you'll be noticed if you're missing. But you're held accountable for your learning. >> Mm-hm. >> They will give you exams, essays, presentations it's not just a large lecture hall. And the test at the end. And so we're looking for students who want to thrive in that kind of environment. But also again, a student who can appreciate the values that we have as a campus. A student who isn't afraid to be sustainable and friendly to the environment is going to take advantage of the programs that we have on campus. Or a student who, who wants to question question the world around them because they want to make it a better place. Last but not least, a student who fits well is at Santa Clara is somebody who is passionate about something. We have students who have started their own app on campus to find volunteer opportunities. We've had students who are very passionate about clean water in rural countries and they've connected that to their engineering work. So passion really drives our students to work hard and, and give back. >> So you mentioned a little bit about the size of Santa Clara. Santa Clara has right around 5,000 students, so officially it's classified as a medium size school. What's it like to attend a mid-sized school? What are some of the pros and maybe some of the cons, as well? >> Great question. A medium-sized school, so Santa Clara is 5,300 students. The positives are the small class size. So, for every 12 students, there's one faculty. That's that faculty student ratio.

The majority of our classes are going to be small. Which is what we mean by 23 as our average class size. So another way to think about this is you walk across our campus, you will probably see a familiar face. Whether it's a faculty member one of our Jesuits or some classmates of yours that you either lived with previously or taken a class with. So it's not a place where you can hide per se or, or never meet people. In that sense it's a nice size. >> Mm-hm. >> But it's also large enough where you will continuously be meeting new people >> Mm-hm. >> throughout your four years on our campus. The other piece with our size is it's its space on campus. You can skateboard to class, bike to class, or walk. Nothing is more than 10 minutes away. >> Nice. >> So, you don't have to take a bus to your classes or you don't have to drive to your classes. Everything is conveniently located and our students really thrive on that because of the weather. So in between classes, they might have an hour break and you will see them reading their textbook underneath a palm tree in between classes. Because it is a very green campus where we're located. And so they take advantage short five minute walk to class with some down time outside. The cons? You know, that's a tough one. I think the biggest con you'll tell our students is their faculty notice when they're not in class. Or they miss a 101 meeting. So this accountability to respect time and the meetings. I think another con that many of our students speak to is, they have so many opportunities that they sometimes can't do them all. So they might have choose, I want to do an internship, but the same semester I had an opportunity to study abroad. I have to pick. And so, the, it's a problem because I think our students become more aware of all their opportunities because it is a smaller campus. And somebody knows them and might share an internship opportunity or research project. But then the student ultimately has to make a choice and you can't do it all. Luckily, it is a place where you can talk to advisers, ask for help in making those tough decisions. So it's, it's not uncommon even for myself as an international admission counselor to still meet with current students as they're trying to navigate their opportunities. To figure out, which one might have the greatest impact in the future for their future career goals, life goals, where they're heading. And so you're not alone when you have too many opportunities. I think sometimes students think oh, smaller school, less opportunity. It's actually the opposite. I would argue, because you're more aware. It's not, one building that only does this. You're in that building taking a class so you hear about it. >> Santa Clara is officially a private university. Can you explain what it means, just in general, to be a private university and how that affects your students? >> So, Santa Clara is private and we often receive this question. I think it's a wonderful question for international students to ask. Because we are in California and there are many large public institutions. A private institution, the immediate place, you will see this is the price. So Santa Clara is one price for all students. We don't have an out of state separate price, we do not have a separate price for international students. So for tuition, room, board, fees it is all the same for all students. So that is kind of a a set difference between a public and a private. You also see as a private institution, the lower student to faculty ratio. It's much more expensive to keep that ratio low. >> Mm-hm. >> And so a school our size to have 12 students to 1 faculty. >> Mm-hm. >> Is expensive. So, you also see, our costs may be more. >> Mm-hm. >> But with that, comes that one on one attention. >> Mm-hm. >> Many, pretty much all faculty will have office hours that goes beyond the traditional time. So, if you wanted to go have a cup of coffee with them. >> Mm-hm. >> They would be delighted to do that. >> Mm-hm. >> They will, connect you to opportunities that you're not aware of because they want to get to know you as a student. >> Mm-hm. >> But all that costs money. >> Mm-hm, hm >> Same thing I would say is are our infrastructure. As a private institution we fund raise a lot to build any of our new facilities. >> Mm-hm. >>

Which, therefore, are going to be the best for our current students, for our undergraduate students. So for those of you earning your first degree, you are going to be using the same facilities and have access to that maybe a graduate engineering student might have. But it was built and the intention is for the undergraduates. So that is a big part, you'll see the facilities. I think the last piece that makes private unique is we have the ability and the flexibility to purposely combine the theory that your studying in the classroom with the practical in our backyard. So, if your studying accounting, why not try and work with a Fortune 500 accounting company at the same time. If you're studying mechanical engineering why not apply that? >> Mm-hm, Mm-hm. >> And so it's a nice balance between practical and theory. >> One thing that you mentioned previously was that you were a Jesuit institution. And an important aspect of Santa Clara is that, there is this connection with the Catholic church. So can you explain a little bit about what it means to be religiously affiliated? Which is a, a term that students will come across a lot. So what does it mean to be religiously affiliated, in general? And how does it effect a student's day to day life on campus? >> Great. Here's a chance to kind of think back historically to higher education in the United States. >> Mm-hm. >> It many universities in the United States were founded by educa, or religious organizations. >> Mm-hm. >> They were highly committed to educating. >> Mm-hm. >> And Santa Clara is one of the schools. We are the oldest university in California. And, we were founded by the Jesuits which is a sect of the Catholic Church. The Jesuit teachings have been going on for 450 years, so eduction is not something new for them. They're very passionate about educating the whole person, so both spiritually, academically and physically. They believe in. And so those teachings, it's not about memorizing the Bible. It is about making sure that the values come across in everything do, we do. So, ethical values, values of taking care of others as much as you take care of yourself. >> Mm-hm. >> we, the Jesuits like to question. So, one of the things that a Santa Clara will graduate from, from any background, well, they will learn how to question and critically think. Because they, to, to move the world forward and to care about others, you need to take notice of when things are not being just inhumane. >> Mm-hm. >> And to ask those questions. The every day experience of Santa Clara, you might not even feel the Catholic tradition. >> Mm-hm. >> More than 50% of our students are not Catholic. >> Hm. >> So you will find student activities that rep, represent all religions of the world. You'll experience courses that you can take to study other religions and, and the courses are often thriving. Because they represent a classroom full of all different backgrounds. And you're talking about religious topics, and our, our faculty are very energized when that diversity is in the classroom, to bring out those different perspectives. You will find it in guest speakers, >> Mm-hm. >> We bring very controversial speakers related to religious topics, but we also bring in. >> Mm-hm. >> Speakers that maybe believe the same values that we have. So you'll find it very enriching. In today's world, I don't think you can ignore religion in any sector, whether it's political, economical, scientific, religion comes up. And so, our graduates really feel, no matter what their background is when they came as a freshman at 18, that they can appreciate it. They look back, especially the longer they are in their career fields, they will say I'm so glad, I learned how to ask the bigger questions. Learn to reflect and challenge myself to be a better person and that happened during their time at Santa Clara. So religiously affiliated universities you could ask some good questions as you're looking at those for an international student. Do they ask you to sign a faith statement when you apply? That's a very different question, then tell us about your values. So Santa Clara does not have a faith statement as an administrator of the university, a faculty, they can represent any religion. >> Mm-hm. >> They don't ask us that. In the admission process we don't make

admission decisions based on your religious background. What we're looking for is student's who would want to be a part of an environment that shares our values. So let's take things in a slightly different direction. Santa Clara is located in a suburb in the smaller city of Santa Clara, California. So using Santa Clara University as an example, can you describe what is life like in a suburban setting? First of all, imagine accessible bike lanes, easy sidewalks to skateboard on, no traffic. >> Mm-hm. >> But more importantly, I think a suburban campus is really a tightly knit community. >> Mm-hm. >> And so you don't have to worry about crossing the street with cars, because there are none allowed in the center of campus. So, as you're running between classes, hopefully on time, that you are not concerned >> Mm-hm. >> About the cross-walk or >> Mm-hm. >> A light. >> The other benefits of living in the suburb is that a city is closeby. >> Mm-hm. >> The city of San Jose is five minutes away, whereas >> Mm-hm. >> The city of San Francisco is 45 minutes away. So, our students like that the city isn't a part of their everyday life but it is accessible. If they want to see a major concert, if they want to see a professional sporting event. We have the Major league soccer team, we have NHL, we have NBA, all in our backyard but they're not right on top of us. Except for the new 49er stadium which will be two minutes away for our students. But again, it wouldn't impact traffic flows. We're not a place that students, they can stay on campus, safely and securely have everything five minutes away. As far as wonderful restaurants, public transportation to catch the train to San Francisco or San Jose, an international airport. So it's kind of the best of both worlds. You're not immersed in the hectic life of a city. >> Mm-hm. >> But you're not in a rural community where you can't access public transportation and wonderful restaurants. So we see it as a marriage of a little bit of both. >> I always tell my students that if they're going to come to a U.S university, that they, they need to become familiar with American football. So, any of you interested in Santa Clara, start looking up the 49ers. >> [LAUGH] >> okay. So geographically, the city of Santa Clara and the university are located in Northern California. So, tell us a little bit about what life is like on the west coast. >> Yeah. Life is varied, California is massive as a state. It's one of the largest states in the United States. So there is even a difference between Northern California and Southern California. So as an international student, I highly encourage you to understand that geographic difference, as best as possible. Same thing if you're looking East Coast versus West Coast. That is common mistake students make in their application is I want to be close to L.A.. And then they apply to a school in San Francisco and it's a big red flag for us. So, do pay attention to location as you're applying. And for us, Northern California I mentioned earlier the weather. So, weather is a big part of why people decide to move to Northern California or establish their headquarters for a company. It's a pretty moderate temperature consistent. Gets a little bit cool and a little bit hot in the summer. But it's pleasant and so a lot of people really enjoy that consistent weather for outdoor activity natural beauty. We have some mountain ranges. We have the ocean. We have lakes. So a lot of our attraction to Northern California is because of the, the region's beau, natural beauty. >> Mm-hm. >> We also have, the benefit of, kind of, the Silicon Valley. Which to us is a place that promotes innovation, high energy, people who want to take risks and start new companies. But at the same time there's this social entrepreneur, environment where you are trying to make the world a better place. >> Mm-hm >> And maybe through technology, but you really have a passion >> Mm. >> That is driving you, >> Mm-hm. >> To make it a better place and so that energy is really contagious in Silicon Valley. So students and people who work there and people who have moved there, start their companies, they come because the valley is known for hard work. People work very hard in Northern California. They also come because there's a sense of ethical merit based

promotion. So it, it doesn't matter where you went to college, it's more important about the work you've produced. Are you reliable? >> Mm-hm. >> Have you earned that. >> Mm-hm. >> In a, in a responsible. >> Mm-hm. >> Ethical way and that's what will move you forward. >> Mm-hm. >> A lot of investors. >> Mm-hm. >> Want to know. >> Mm-hm. >> They don't want to look for a CV that has a lot of holes or padded. >> Mm-hm. >> They really want to look at you as a person And your work ethic. >> Mm-hm. >> Before they'll care about your, kind of reputation that you went to a university. And so that hard work and ethical practices you'll find throughout the valley. So the other piece of that is, if you work really hard, you want to know how to relax. And so Silicon Valley has the wonderful Napa Valley area for excellent wine. So there's an appreciation for wine tasting. You have the beaches, so surfing is very popular. Worldwide surf, surf competitions will happen in Northern California. You have Lake Tahoe, which was home to the Olympics in the United States at one point. That's three hours away. So you'll find Santa Clara students relax on the weekends by taking a quick trip to go skiing. So I think so the Northern California region has the. >> Mm-hm. >> The benefit of Fortune 500 companies >> Mm-hm. >> And start-ups, but it also has the benefit of people who love the outdoors, want to enjoy their hard work by >> Mm-hm. >> Also playing and enjoying their environment. >> And we'll be right back to hear more from Becky in just a minute. [BLANK_AUDIO]