

Gann Faulkner: Expanded College List and Fall 2027 Deadlines

Gann's current academic profile—3.9 unweighted GPA, 4.3 weighted GPA, and 34 ACT—makes him a strong applicant, but his transcript rigor, final senior schedule, activity impact, essays, recommendations, and financial needs still have to be considered. (Don't worry about that though. That's my job. Right now we are just focusing on expanding his college list.)

His original list is heavily concentrated among exceptionally selective colleges, so the expanded list needs realistic matches and schools with stronger merit or in-state value potential.

These are **A2 Achieve planning categories**, not guarantees:

- **High Reach:** Admission is unpredictable for nearly every applicant.
- **Reach:** Gann is academically competitive, but admission remains difficult.
- **Match/Possible:** His academic profile appears competitive, but admission is not assured.
- **Likely/Value Candidate:** Admission appears more likely based on his current profile, with potential merit or cost advantages.
- A "likely" school is not automatically a **financial safety**. That can only be confirmed after reviewing actual costs, scholarships, need-based aid, and the family budget.

In the following pages, we'll discuss some additional schools Gann may want to consider along with his original list of preferred schools to expand his list categories.

Important Note:

Just because I call something a High-Reach or a Reach school for Gann, doesn't mean it actually is. As Gann implements our strategy, coupled with his

High-Reach Schools

College	Early Application	Regular Decision	A2 Achieve Note
Harvard University	Restrictive Early Action: November 1, 2026	January 1, 2027	High reach for everyone. Restrictive Early Action is nonbinding but limits other private early applications.
Yale University	Single-Choice Early Action: November 1, 2026	January 2, 2027	High reach for everyone. Gann would need a very specific Yale fit argument beyond general prestige.
Brown University	Early Decision: November 1, 2026	January 5, 2027	Brown's academic flexibility could fit Gann well, but Early Decision is binding.
Columbia University	Early Decision: November 1, 2026	January 1, 2027	Strong New York, hospital, research, and urban fit; still an exceptionally unpredictable admission.
Johns Hopkins University	ED I: November 1, 2026 ED II: January 2, 2027	January 2, 2027	Strong science, neuroscience, medicine, and research alignment. Hopkins currently publishes the recurring Nov. 1/Jan. 2 schedule, but its detailed dated chart is still being refreshed for the new cycle, so this should be checked again before submission.

Reach Schools

College	Early Application	Regular Decision	A2 Achieve Note
Boston University	ED I: November 1, 2026 ED II: January 5, 2027	January 5, 2027	Academic and geographic fit, but admission remains highly selective. ED is binding.
Boston College	ED I: November 1, 2026 ED II: January 4, 2027	January 4, 2027	Gann needs to research the Jesuit identity and core curriculum carefully. Applying by Nov. 1 is also important for the Gabelli Presidential Scholars Program.
Colgate University	ED I: November 1, 2026 ED II: January 15, 2027	January 15, 2027	Strong liberal-arts option, although its smaller and less urban setting may conflict with Gann's current preferences.
University of Rochester	ED I: November 1, 2026 ED II: January 5, 2027 Nonbinding scholarship-priority date: December 1, 2026	January 5, 2027	One of Gann's best intellectual fits because of its flexible curriculum. Submit by Dec. 1 even if he does not apply ED.
Case Western Reserve University	EA: November 1, 2026 ED I: November 1, 2026 ED II: January 15, 2027	January 15, 2027	Excellent medical, hospital, neuroscience, and research environment. The Pre-Professional Scholars Program has an earlier December 1 deadline and is substantially more selective than general admission.

Match/Possible Schools

Match schools should never be treated as an automatic admission.

College	Early or Priority Application	Regular Decision	A2 Achieve Note
University of Pittsburgh	No formal EA Apply by December 1, 2026 for strongest merit and Honors consideration	Rolling admission; no fixed domestic deadline	This is one of the cleanest matches on the list. Because Pitt is rolling, waiting until winter can reduce available options even though it has no fixed regular deadline.
University of Connecticut	ED: November 1, 2026 Merit and Honors priority: December 1, 2026	Storrs campus: January 15, 2027	Gann is competitive academically, but UConn should not be treated as a safety, particularly for its main campus and Honors opportunities.
University of Delaware	EA: November 1, 2026	Priority Regular Decision: January 15, 2027	Strong traditional campus and Northeast access. Apply early so scholarship consideration is not left to the final deadline.
Drexel University	EA or ED: November 15, 2026	January 15, 2027	Philadelphia, neuroscience, hospitals, research, and co-op opportunities make Drexel useful for career exploration. The full net cost must be reviewed despite potential merit.
Stony Brook University	EA: November 1, 2026	January 15, 2027	Strong science and research option with New York access. Admission is realistic but not guaranteed, particularly for an out-of-state applicant pursuing popular science pathways.

Likely and Potential Financial-Fit Schools

These schools help balance the list. They should receive the same thoughtful research and application effort as the more selective colleges.

College	Early or Priority Application	Regular Decision	A2 Achieve Note
University of Cincinnati	EA: November 1, 2026	Rolling consideration through final deadline: March 1, 2027	Strong interdisciplinary neuroscience and pre-health options. The Nov. 1 deadline is important for Honors and scholarship consideration.
University at Buffalo SUNY	EA: November 1, 2026	February 1, 2027 ; applications may continue afterward if space remains	Strong science and medical-school connections with a potentially more manageable public-university cost structure.
UMBC	EA: November 1, 2026	February 1, 2027	Strong undergraduate research, STEM culture, pre-medical advising, and Baltimore–Washington access. Early Action is the best route for merit consideration.
Miami University—Ohio	ED: November 1, 2026 EA I: November 1, 2026 EA II: December 1, 2026	February 1, 2027	One of the strongest potential merit options. Gann could combine neuroscience or premedical study with a traditional residential campus experience.
The University of Alabama	No EA or ED Admission and scholarship priority: December 4, 2026	Rolling, space-available consideration after December 4, 2026	Likely admission and one of the most important financial-fit possibilities because Gann is an Alabama resident. He should not wait until Dec. 4 to apply. Alabama's Fall 2027 application opens Aug. 3, 2026.
University of Mississippi—Ole Miss	General admission is rolling Honors College Early Action: November 1, 2026	General admission remains rolling; scholarship and Honors final deadline: January 10, 2027 ; suggested admission priority: February 1, 2027	Likely admission and a potential merit option. Gann should apply to the university early enough to access the separate scholarship and Honors applications—not wait until the general rolling-admission window is nearly over.

Full List by Category

High Reach

Harvard
Yale
Brown
Columbia
Johns Hopkins

Reach

Boston University
Boston College
Colgate
University of Rochester
Case Western Reserve

Match/Possible

University of Pittsburgh
University of Connecticut
University of Delaware
Drexel
Stony Brook

Likely/Value Candidates

University of Cincinnati
University at Buffalo
UMBC
Miami University—Ohio
University of Alabama
Ole Miss

A2 Achieve Deadline Strategy

By November 1, 2026

Gann should ideally have completed:

- Any one binding or restrictive early application he chooses
- Case Western EA
- Delaware EA
- UConn ED, only if it becomes his definite first choice
- Stony Brook EA
- Cincinnati EA
- Buffalo EA
- UMBC EA
- Miami Ohio EA
- Ole Miss Honors Early Action
- Boston College by Nov. 1 if he wants Presidential Scholars consideration

By November 15, 2026

- Drexel EA or ED

By December 1–4, 2026

- Pittsburgh for Honors and merit consideration
- Rochester for nonbinding scholarship priority
- UConn for merit and Honors consideration
- Miami Ohio EA II, if not submitted earlier
- University of Alabama no later than Dec. 4
- Ole Miss general admission early enough to open scholarship and Honors applications

January 2027

January should be reserved for final reach-school Regular Decision applications—not for beginning the entire process. Ole Miss scholarship materials are due Jan. 10, and many private-school applications close between Jan. 1 and Jan. 15.

My Recommended Final Balance

Twenty-one applications would be excessive unless there is a very deliberate reason for each one. Look through this list. Then I would aim for approximately:

- **Four or five high reaches**
- **Three or four reaches**
- **Four or five matches**
- **Three or four likely/value schools**
- **At least one confirmed financial safety**

Gann's assessment already identifies the missing piece: the family's cost parameters have not been established. Until Alabama, Ole Miss, Miami Ohio, Cincinnati, Buffalo, and the private merit options are run through official net price calculators, they should be called **potential financial fits**, not confirmed financial safeties.