

Overview of College Admission Requirements

College admission requirements typically include a high school transcript with strong grades in challenging courses, standardized test scores (SAT or ACT), letters of recommendation from teachers and counselors, a personal essay, and sometimes an application fee, with each element contributing to a holistic evaluation of the applicant's academic ability, potential fit with the college, and personal qualities beyond just grades and test scores; specific requirements may vary depending on the institution and program you're applying to.

Key components of a college application:

- **Academic Record:**
 - ✓ High school transcript with detailed course information and grades
 - ✓ Strength of curriculum (taking advanced placement or honors classes)
 - ✓ GPA (Grade Point Average)
- **Standardized Test Scores:**
 - ✓ SAT or ACT scores (may be optional at some colleges)
- **Letters of Recommendation:**
 - ✓ Usually from high school teachers and counselor, providing insights into your academic abilities and character
- **Personal Statement/Essay:**
 - ✓ A written essay where you can showcase your personality, interests, and motivations for attending the college
- **Extracurricular Activities:**
 - ✓ Participation in clubs, sports, volunteer work, leadership roles, and other meaningful experiences
- **Application Form:**
 - ✓ Basic personal information, contact details, and sometimes additional questions specific to the college

Factors considered by colleges when evaluating applications:

- **Academic Performance:** Overall GPA, performance in core subjects, rigor of high school courses taken
- **Test Scores:** SAT/ACT scores, depending on the college's policy
- **Demonstrated Interest:** College visits, contacting admissions officers, showing genuine enthusiasm for the school
- **Personal Qualities:** Leadership potential, creativity, resilience, community involvement
- **Fit with the College:** Alignment between your interests and the college's academic programs and student culture

Important points to remember:

- **Research individual colleges:**

- Each college has its own specific requirements and priorities, so carefully review their website for details
- **Start early:**
- Begin planning your college applications well in advance to ensure you meet deadlines and have time to prepare strong materials
- **Seek guidance:**
- Consult with your school counselor for advice on course selection, test preparation, and application strategies

Most Competitive

Even superior students will encounter a great deal of competition for admission to these colleges. In general, these colleges require a grade point average of 4.0 and above. The strongest curriculum possible in high school is required. Average test scores of admitted students are 700 to 800 on each section of the Critical Reasoning SAT and 30 or above on the ACT. These colleges admit only a small percentage of those who apply.

Highly Competitive

This group of colleges is looking for students with minimum grade point averages of 3.8. A very strong high school curriculum is required. Average test scores of admitted students are 650 to 800 on each section the Critical Reasoning SAT and 28 and above on the ACT.

Very Competitive

The colleges in this category admit students whose grade point averages are no less than 3.6 and above and who have taken a solid college preparatory and honors program in high school. Average test scores are in the 600 to 700 range on each section of the Critical Reasoning SAT and from 28 and above on the ACT.

Competitive

These schools enroll students with average test scores from 500 to 650 on each section of the Critical Reasoning SAT and from 23 to 28 on the ACT. Many colleges require a grade point average of 3.0-3.3 or higher in a solid college preparatory curriculum.

Less Competitive

The colleges in this category look for students in the upper half of their graduating class who have taken a college preparatory program and have scored around 500 on each section of the Critical Reasoning SAT and 20-26 on the ACT. They admit students with a GPA range starting at 2.5.

Noncompetitive

Colleges in this category require only evidence of graduation from an accredited high school program or equivalent. Some require entrance examinations for course placement purposes.

Special Colleges. These colleges feature specialized programs of study. They include professional schools of art, music, or theater arts, or seminaries preparing students for the clergy. In general, admission requirements are not based on academic criteria but on evidence of talent or special interest in the area of study and often require an audition or portfolio of the student's work in order to be admitted.

Post High School Education

Some students benefit from a post graduate year of study. Students who do not feel academically, socially, or emotionally ready to attend college have often found success with this option after graduation. There are a variety of schools that offer this year of study that helps students solidify their academic foundation, enabling them to move on to a collegiate experience of their choice.

Post-High School Employment

Students who are interested in going on to a career immediately after high school may take advantage of career opportunities offered throughout their high school experience in order to enhance their opportunities.

Employers will base their decision to employ a student on a variety of factors. These factors include high school diploma, grades, attendance record, recommendations from teachers and counselors, extracurricular activities, and personal characteristics.

Gap Year Programs

Students who would like to pursue a year of community service or volunteer opportunities prior to enrolling in college can pursue various Gap Year programs. Please see the School Counseling office for more information.