

CRITERIA SCHOOLS USE FOR ADMISSION

It will be to your advantage to familiarize yourself with college admissions criteria early in high school so you can make yourself a desirable candidate. Keep in mind that admission standards are not barriers but guidelines to show how you compare with others. When you have a clear understanding of the minimum requirement to apply, you can improve your chances for admission by exceeding those requirements. Although colleges and universities consider many factors, your high school record is the most important. That includes not only the courses you take but also the grades you make. Competitive schools will look to see if you have taken the most rigorous program possible at your school. Some schools place more importance on standardized test scores than others. Since most schools now publish general information about their freshman classes, you can look up average test scores for schools that interest you and see how your scores compare.

Admission committees like to see that you not only have done well academically but also that you have been involved in outside activities such as sports, student government, academic clubs, school paper, band, chorus, etc. They pay special attention to any specific talents or accomplishment you may have.

The most common factors considered for admission to college are outlined below.

Admission Factors

1. *Courses taken (strength of program)*
2. *Grades*
3. *Rank in class*
4. *Standardize test results*
5. *Counselor/teacher recommendations*
6. *Activities outside the classroom*
7. *Application questions and essays*
8. *Geographic location*
9. *Personal interview (if required)*
10. *Ethnicity*
11. *Alumni relationship*
12. *Special talents and skills*
13. *Family's ability to pay*



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