



EXPLORE COLLEGES PREPARE & PAY YOUR COLLEGE (HTTPS://WWW.COLLEGEDATAAGODA/CS/MAII\/MAIN_XVAYOOSE_TI4PL.JHBMZ)Z

(HTTPS://WWW.COLLE(GEIDPS://WOM/CS/DYAETPERA/P/CORDING/OS/IPICEDE/PORE)COM/CS/WHALDI/ATIMID)_MAG_TMPL

;/login/login_login_tmpl.jhtml)

Sign Up (https://www.collegedata.com/cs/login/login_register_tmpl.jhtml?articleId=10045)

v.collegedatacom/cs/main/main_getin_tmpl.jhtml)

Article

Enter college name or click the ▼

What Matters Most to Colleges

It may seem top secret, but colleges are perfectly willing to reveal their most important admission factors.



Colleges typically consider grades in tough courses most important in admissions. Bear in mind, however, that individual colleges vary in the weight they give other factors.

Top Admission Factors Considered by Colleges

Colleges list the following admission factors as most important, according to The National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC). The order of the factors below reflects how many colleges rated the factor "Considerably Important" or "Moderately Important."

Top Factors of Considerable Importance

Grades in college prep courses. Most colleges will consider your performance in college preparatory courses the strongest sign of your ability to do well in college. Even if you struggled early in high school, colleges will look favorably upon strong improvement in subsequent years.

Strength of curriculum. Colleges look for students who took the most challenging courses available to them. If your high school offers only a few college prep courses, admissions officers will take this into account.

Admission test scores. Your SAT and/or ACT scores usually count highly if the college requires them. Scores from SAT Subject Tests, AP tests, and the International Baccalaureate (IB) exams may also be important, especially to more selective colleges.

Grades in all courses. Your overall GPA also serves as an indicator of your academic success in high school. The college may also look over your transcript, which lists every class that you have taken in high school and the grade you received in each class.

Top Factors of Moderate Importance

Extracurricular commitment. What counts most to colleges is how long and how deeply you have been committed to one or two interests, how much time you allot to them, what leadership roles you have undertaken, and what you have accomplished.

Letters of recommendation. Many colleges require recommendations from your teachers, high school counselor, and possibly your principal. Colleges are looking for an honest professional opinion of your abilities and personality.

Essay or writing sample. Many colleges will ask you to submit an essay or personal statement. Here is your opportunity to put your personality into your application. A well-written essay can tip a decision in your favor. A poorly written one can do the opposite.

Demonstrated interest. Going on a college visit, talking with admission officers, or doing an enthusiastic interview can call attention to how much you really want to attend. Applying for an early decision may also make a good impression.

Class rank. Colleges that use this factor want to see how much competition you had to face to achieve your rank. However, fewer and fewer colleges are giving class rank much importance. In fact, fewer than half of high schools now track class rank.

Strengthen Your Chances

Academics Matter

PSAT, SAT, ACT, Oh My!

Out of the Classroom

How Colleges Admit Students

What Matters Most to Colleges

How Colleges Make Admission Decisions

How to Find Out What a College Wants

Your Plan to Get Into College

Apply Yourself

Be a College Application Know-It-All

The Ins and Outs of Applying Early

Create Outstanding Applications

Be an Outstanding Applicant

Until College Admissions
Decisions Arrive

Your Final Answer

Admission Priorities Var/Voluntenes (26 On Varie)/create/button/?

EGEdata_social.jpg&description=COLLEGEdata%20is%20a%20free%20college%20planning%20website%20with%

- Liberal arts colleges, which encourage students to study broadly, may give factors such as essays and demonstrated interest considerable weight.
- Highly selective colleges attract thousands of outstanding students. These colleges typically look to the "moderately important" factors to make their decisions.
- At very large universities, some admission decisions may be made solely based on GPA and test scores.

What's Next?

- Use College Match to look up the admission criteria for the colleges that interest you.
 Select the Admission tab to see which factors the college rates as Very Important,
 Important, Considered, or Not Considered.
- To see the credentials of students applying and admitted to your target colleges, visit the Admissions Tracker.
- See How Colleges Make Admission Decisions for a quick tour of the college admission process.

MY DATA LOCKER

Saved Colleges

(https://www.collegedata.com/cs/locker/locker_college_tmpl.jhtml)

Saved Scholarships

(https://www.collegedata.com/cs/locker/locker_scholar_tmpl.jhtml)

Saved Searches

(https://www.collegedata.com/cs/locker/saved_search.jhtml)

Saved Tracker Profiles

(https://www.collegedata.com/cs/locker/locker_admissions_tmpl.jhtml)

Saved Articles

 $(https://www.collegedata.com/cs/locker/locker_article_tmpl.jhtml)\\$

EXPLORE COLLEGES

Explore Colleges Home

 $(https://www.collegedata.com/cs/main/main_choose_tmpl.jhtml)\\$

College Match Search

 $(https://www.collegedata.com/cs/search/college/college_search_tmpl.jhtml)\\$

College Profile

 $(https://www.collegedata.com/cs/search/college/college_search_tmpl.jhtml)\\$

Overview

 $(https://www.collegedata.com/cs/search/college/college_search_tmpl.jhtml)\\$

Admission

(https://www.collegedata.com/cs/search/college/college_search_tmpl.jhtml)

Money Matters

 $(https://www.collegedata.com/cs/search/college/college_search_tmpl.jhtml)\\$

Academics

(https://www.collegedata.com/cs/search/college/college_search_tmpl.jhtml)

Campus Life

 $(https://www.collegedata.com/cs/search/college/college_search_tmpl.jhtml)\\$

Students

 $(https://www.collegedata.com/cs/search/college/college_search_tmpl.jhtml)\\$

PREPARE & APPLY

Prepare & Apply Home

 $(https://www.collegedata.com/cs/main/main_getin_tmpl.jhtml)\\$

College Chances Calculator

 $(https://www.collegedata.com/cs/odds/odds_home_tmpl.jhtml)$

Admissions Tracker

 $(https://www.collegedata.com/cs/admissions/admissions_tracker.jhtml)\\$

At-A-Glance Guides

 $(https://www.collegedata.com/cs/content/common_app_colleges.jhtml)\\$

Common Application

(https://www.collegedata.com/cs/content/common_app_colleges.jhtml)

Universal College Application

 $(https://www.collegedata.com/cs/content/universal_college_application_colleges.jhtml)\\$

PAY YOUR WAY

Pay Your Way Home

(https://www.collegedata.com/cs/main/main_pay_tmpl.jhtml)

Financial Aid Tracker

(https://www.collegedata.com/cs/financial-

aid-tracker.jhtml)

Scholarship Finder

 $(https://www.collegedata.com/cs/search/scholar/scholar_search_tmpl.jhtml)\\$

EFC Calculato

(https://www.collegedata.com/cs/efc/efc_step1_tmpl.jhtml)

College Net Price Calculator

(https://www.collegedata.com/cs/netcost/netcost_home_tmpl.jhtml)

Compare Financial Aid Awards

(https://www.collegedata.com/cs/compare-

financial-aid-awards.jhtml)

COLLEGE BUZZ

College Buzz Home

(https://www.collegedata.com/cs/main/main_mag_tmpl.jhtml)

True Student Stories

(https://www.collegedata.com/cs/content/content_magarticle_tmpl.jhtml?

articleId=30143)

Managing Your Money

(https://www.collegedata.com/cs/content/content_magarticle_tmpl.jhtml?

articleId=10112)

College Life

 $(https://www.collegedata.com/cs/content/content_magarticle_tmpl.jhtml?$

articleId=10103)

Resources for Counselors

(https://www.collegedata.com/cs/main/counselor_portal.jhtml)

HOME (HTTPS://WWW.COLLEGEDATA.COM/)
CONTACT US (HTTPS://WWW.COLLEGEDATA.COM/CS/CONTACT_US_TMPL.JHTML)
SITE MAP (HTTPS://WWW.COLLEGEDATA.COM/CS/SITE_MAP_TMPL.JHTML)
TERMS AND CONDITIONS (/CS/CONTENT/CONTENT_TERMS_TMPL.JHTML?TYPE=INFO)
PRIVACY (/CS/CONTENT/CONTENT_PRIVACY_TMPL.JHTML?TYPE=INFO)

 ${\sf HELP}~({\sf HTTPS://WWW.COLLEGEDATA.COM/CS/HELP_TMPL.JHTML})$

SECURITY (/CS/CONTENT/CONTENT_SECURITY_TMPL.JHTML?TYPE=INFO)

© 2018 1st Financial Bank USA



(https://www.nacacnet.org)