

Standing Out in the College Application Pool

What Colleges Look for?

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Please contact HigherEdUSA for the entire PPT

What Colleges Look for?

College application is a two-way journey.

Both you and the colleges are looking for the best fit for each other.

While reviewing their applicants' credentials, the most selective colleges are looking for students who

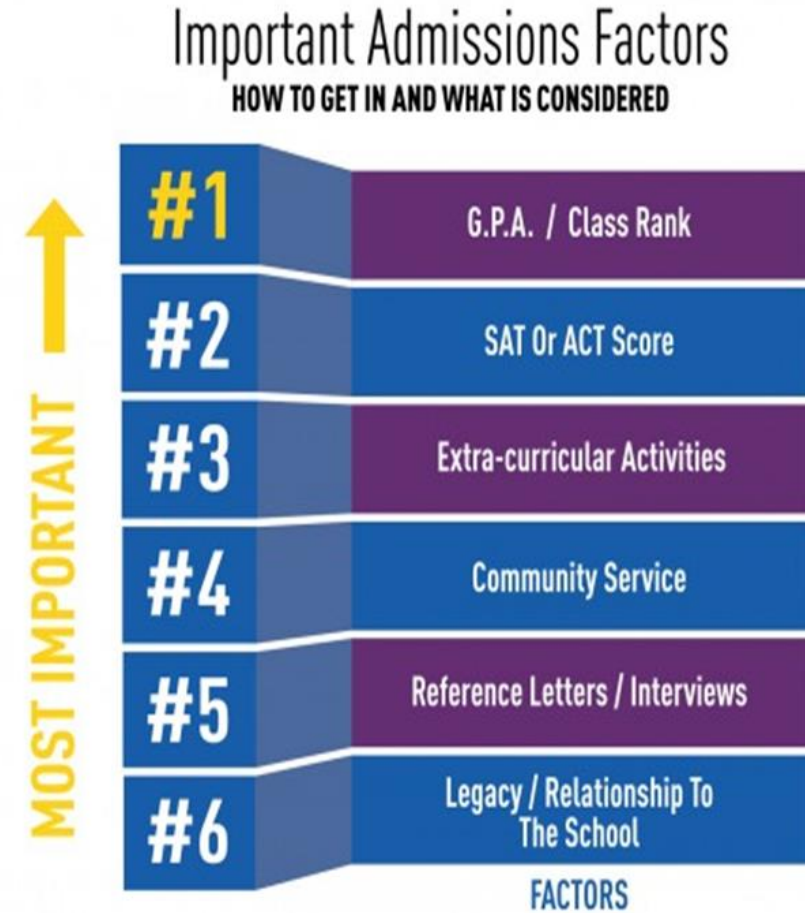
- have not only done well academically,
- but also challenged themselves in-and-out of classrooms,

as these students are more likely to succeed in college.



Admissions Factors

College admissions are determined based upon multiple factors. Some factors are largely out of applicants'/your control, while others are within your control.



Admissions Factors (continued)

Factors out of Your Control

- Geographic location
- Racial or ethnic background
- Extenuating or unusual life circumstances
- Schools attending
- Language and culture
- Living or studying overseas

Factors within Your Control

- . Courses taken
- . Grades received
- . Class rank
- . Standardized test scores
- . Personal statement/essays
- . Letters of Recommendation
- . Extracurricular activities/Leadership
- . Interviews

Standardized Test Scores



Academic Performance Summary

Working hard in high school is the most important step you can take to make yourself a competitive college candidate. Your GPA is the single most influential factor considered by all colleges. It reflects your performance as a student over almost four years of your life, and also predicts if you could succeed in college.

Standardized test scores typically rank second in importance for colleges that consider them. Even test-optional schools often use standardized test scores to distinguish between you and the applicant next to you with similar qualifications.

Finally, enrolling in several college-prep, **advanced/honor**, or **college-level courses** and performing well will not only place you ahead of many other applicants, but will also earn you some college credits when you are still in high school!