

Essential Steps to Your Successful College Application



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The Basics

Applying to colleges in America is a dream for many students; however, the process of getting there being accepted into your dream University can be quite confusing and sometimes overwhelming.

In the past years, the process has become incredibly competitive and there is now an incredible amount of information on the internet which can be great but which also can be a bit overwhelming.

This guide outlines **the four main components** to your application process.



What Colleges are Looking For

The four components create a holistic whole based on which the admissions officers draw their conclusion about your academic potential, your personality, and how good of a fit you will be for their University.

- ★ Standardized Tests (SAT, SAT II, ACT), GPA
- ★ Extracurricular Activities, Focus
- ★ Teacher Recommendations
- ★ The Personal Statement and Supplemental Essays

Your Total Score

1600 | 400 to 1600

99th

Nationally Representative
Sample Percentile

99th

SAT User Percentile —
National



Showcasing Your Academic ability:
standardized tests, GPA

SAT Prep

TOEFL, ACT Prep

We Will:

- Study the Best and most reliable **Strategies** of the exam
- Understand the Mindset behind the Exam
- Maximize your time: Create a customized **Study Plan** just for you and track progress on a weekly Basis
- Identify your **biggest challenges**
- Find targeted exercises that will allow you to overcome your challenges in the most efficient way
- Do **Mock Exams** on a regular basis to track Your Progress
- **Raise** your scores in a short time!
- **Plan Test Dates**
- Plan SAT Subject Tests Dates and Study Schedule



Your the Test Scores are among the most important parts of your College Application.

Your Test Scores, as well as your GPA, give the Admissions Officers an insight into your academic history. They are an indication of how well you have performed academically over the past year, how you handle the pressures of exams, as well as an indication of how well you will perform academically in college.

However, **excellent test scores are not sufficient to enter the best US Universities.** For example, **Stanford** is famous for turning down many perfect scorers for candidates who didn't score perfectly but who demonstrated consistent FOCUS and PASSION and wrote persuasive and memorable admissions ESSAYS.



Showcasing Your FOCUS and PASSION

It used to be the case that a well-rounded application was all that was needed to capture the attention of Admissions Readers.

Not anymore.

Having a long list of diverse achievement is great but nowadays it is sometimes seen as a lack of focus.

The Admissions Reader want to see an individual with a concrete passion, someone who has honed their skills in a particular area and has spent many days and nights perfecting them and working on their passion.

Thus, your Extracurricular Projects are of utmost importance and demonstrated Passion.

Examples: Internships, Creative Projects such as Computer Science Projects, Publishing Short Stories or Building a YouTube Page, Leadership in Community Service Projects, and many others.

The Personal Statement and Supplemental Essays

Definitely a crucial part of your application. They give you the opportunity to stand out and show your uniqueness by telling YOUR deeply personal story.

The essays are your opportunity to connect emotionally with the Admissions Reader; tell them what you consider most important about you and why you are the perfect candidate for their school.

The essays make your application memorable. Without them, you are just another pile of numbers, grades, and lists of activity without a face and a voice.





Admissions Essays Services

The Personal Statement

How To Write your Personal Statement Step-By-Step, including:

- ❑ The Two Best Brainstorming Exercises I've Ever Used
- ❑ How to Choose a Unique Topic
- ❑ How to Structure your Essay
- ❑ 4 Sample Essays I LOVED (With Analysis)
- ❑ 4 Features I Think Every College Essay Should Demonstrate
- ❑ How to create emotional depth and connect to your Admissions Readers

Supplemental Essays

- ❑ What are colleges looking for?
- ❑ How to write the Supplemental Essays for each college so that they perfectly complement your Personal Statement

UC Essays

College Specific Essays

Ultimate Guide to writing essays for colleges, such as MIT, that request their own unique essays.

Additional Counseling Services

- Developing a balanced list of Universities:
8-12

It is extremely important to apply to Universities that would be a great fit for you and would provide you with the best academic and job opportunities.

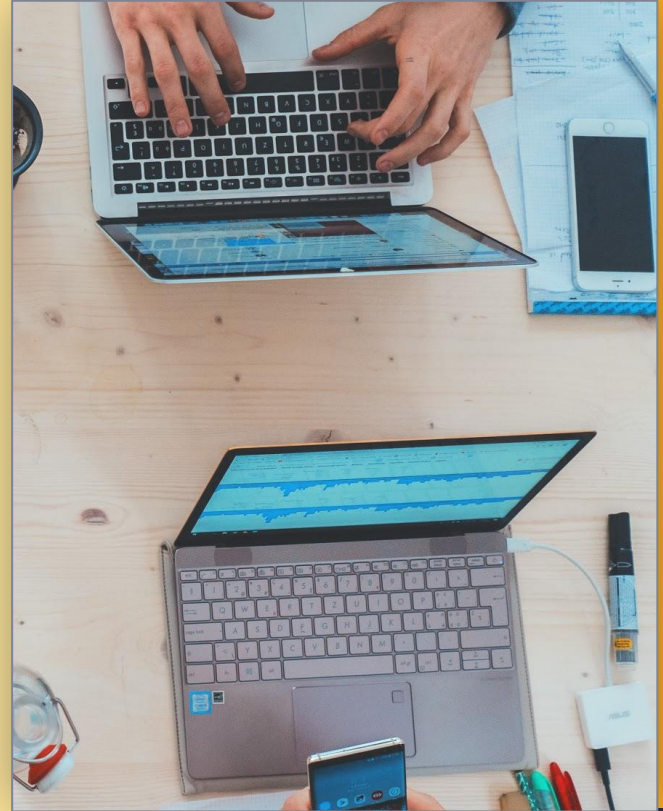
- How to Choose the BEST college for you?
- Providing Comprehensive guides + Examples for all parts of the college application, including
Activities list, Resume, Interviews
- Applying to Summer Schools
- AP Classes

Guidance with both the
CommonApp and the Coalition
App!

- How to write Scholarship Essays
- Deferrals + Waitlists
- Recommendations Letters
- Arts Applications
- Athletic Applications
- Early Decision vs Regular Decision

Free Resources

- ❖ Khan Academy, <https://www.khanacademy.org/>
A wonderful, FREE resource for self-study.
Provides numerous videos and exercises as well as a structured approach to the SAT.
All material is neatly divided into sections to provide a hassle-free, easily paced systematic study that perfectly complements your work with a tutor.
- ❖ The College Board Official Website, <https://www.collegeboard.org/>
A range of information about the SAT and PSAT as well as College Search, Scholarship Search and Online Classes for AP Students.



About me



I am a passionate and dedicated Test Prep tutor and Educational consultant and essay editor. I care deeply for each of my students and I have guided many undergrad and grad applicants to successful admission into diverse programs in leading US, UK, and European universities.

My students have been admitted to **Columbia University, University of Pennsylvania, Brown, Duke, NYU, UCLA, UC Berkeley, Cambridge University**, University of Michigan, Boston University, UC San Diego, Amherst, Purdue, American University, and many others.

Many students **keep in touch** with me even after admission. They reach out to me for advice throughout their college career and I am always very happy to see them grow and succeed.

As an international student, I received a full scholarship from **Stanford University** and completed my **B.A.** in 2005. I applied to colleges without any extra help; I didn't even have my own practice books. I created my own practice system as I had no teachers and there was zero information on the Internet at that time. My parents even didn't know I was applying! I did my **M.A.** and **Ph.D.** at **Columbia University** and taught for 4 years at Columbia University.

I look forward to meeting you!

Student Reviews

Kate Vinnik, UPenn, class of 2024

Sonya has helped me realize my dream of getting into my Ivy League dream school! Her pure heart, interesting unique personality and thoughtful perfectionist approach is what makes her so successful in helping other students all around the world to reach their goals and use their potential to the fullest. She has taught me how putting my thoughts on paper in a structured and creative manner can have a mind blowing effect on the reader. She has also shown me ways of how to use my language more precisely and sharply by telling my own story and using my own voice and style. I am beyond grateful for all the advice she had given me and I would recommend her to anyone who ever wants to improve their writing skills, master their standardized testing scores, write outstanding college essays or simply get a priceless advice from a real specialist. Sonya doesn't only teach and show the way but she inspires in the ways I didn't know existed.

Varvara Kirisenko, Purdue, class of 2023

Sonya is an amazing teacher! She has helped me tremendously with my college essays and I am confident I have been accepted to my dream school largely because of her. Moreover, Sonya is a unique individual. Hearing her story was incredibly inspirational! Nevertheless, she took my story and my goals very closely and did her best to help me reach them. I'm forever grateful that I got a chance to work with her!

Martin Ivanov, MA Cambridge University, class of 2018

Sonya helped me improve my TOEFL score with more than 10 points in only 5-6 lessons. She is familiar with the format of many language exams and is able to give professional advice during exam preparation. I strongly support her work"

Student Reviews

Carmen Sorrenti, MA Oxford University, class of 2019

I would highly recommend Sonya to anyone who wants help in achieving a high quality university application! Sonya was extremely knowledgeable and provided very detailed and constructive feedback on my motivation letter and research proposal (for my PhD application). This included thorough grammatical and spelling edits. Sonya was able to help boost the overall quality and content of my application by providing very clear, concise and detailed suggestions. Not only was Sonya's work of such a high standard but she was a pleasure to communicate with. I was informed about her editing work every step of the way and she was reliable and easy to get a hold of during the final steps of my application. Sonya was also very consistently supportive and encouraging. I give Sonya a 10 out of 10 for such a great service and positive experience! Thank you so much for your support Sonya!

Galina Nikolowa, LLM Boston University, Columbia U, class of 2014

To apply for Fulbright scholarship and, subsequently, as a Fulbright student, to a prestigious American university, I needed a TOEFL iBT score of at least 105. However, when I first sat TOEFL my score was 99. This score was probably enough for some American LL.M programs but certainly not enough for the universities I was targeting (top 10 best law schools in the U.S.). After several lessons with Sonya, I was able to improve my TOEFL iBT score to 107, which made me eligible for the programs I was interested in. I believe that the improvement I had on TOEFL was largely because of Sonya's teaching's abilities and motivation. She explained to me not only the specifics of the TOEFL test and each of its components, but she was also very inspiring as a teacher, and a person from Bulgaria, who received her education from Ivy league universities. Overall, I am very grateful that I had a chance to work with Sonya and I would recommend her to any student who wants to improve his or her general English and, of course – to students, who would like to be admitted in top US or UK universities. Shortly - I give her 10 out of 10 for value for money.



Thanks and Good Luck on Your College Application Journey!

Any questions?

I would love to respond to any questions you might have. You can find me at:

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