

Talent Sikat

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To: talent@thesikatagency.com
Subject: FAQ's and Potential Social Media Posts 1 of 3

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS and Potential Social Media Posts

1. What are the 5 criteria for admission to a competitive 4 year college or university?

- 1. Rigorous Curriculum
- 2. Personal Brand/ Extracurricular Activities
- 3. Class Rank (Unweighted)
- 4. Grade Point Average (Unweighted)
- 5. Recommendations (Teacher's and Counselor)

2. Why is Rigorous Curriculum Number 1?

-- The reason Rigorous Curriculum is the first and most important criteria is most competitive colleges and university's want to see if a student applying for admission can compete in the classroom. Additionally the Rigor can be defined as both College Prep classes but Honors, AP and or IB courses. Furthermore, taking 4 years or more of the 5 disciplines - English, History, Math, Science and Foreign Language shows the admission folks that you, the student are willing to challenge themselves in the classroom.

3. Why is your Personal Brand/ Extracurricular Activities Number 2 in most importance?

-- The Personal brand/ Extracurricular Activities start the process of colleges and university's getting to know you as a person since they will have not met you in person or been able to interview you. The types of activities you are involved in -- Student Government, Community Service, Leadership, Athletics, Performing Arts, Religious Activities, etc... start to build a narrative as to who you are as a person and how do you fit into the Class the colleges are looking to fill for the year you are applying.

4. Are the roles the student plays in building the Personal Brand/ Extracurricular Activities make a difference in the eyes of the admissions staff?

-- Yes, the roles the student plays in his or her extracurricular activities is important as each college and university are looking for Leaders. Consequently, playing a role of Founder, President, Coordinator, Director etc... shows that you had a leadership role. Moreover, if you played one of those types of roles it is [paramount that you describe your role and the activity very well outlining what you actually did in that activity.

5. Is it important that I do as many extra curricular/personal brand activities as I can?

-- No the goal is to those activities you are Passionate about, while taking on a significant role and doing each for multiple years.

6. Why is Class Rank the Number 3 most important factor when being admitted into a competitive college?

-- First the colleges use your Unweighted Class Rank (not including the extra bump by Honors, AP and IB classes) instead of the Weighted Class Rank for admissions. The reason class rank is so important it provides the admissions staff and accurate Idea of how competitive of a student you are versus the other students in your class. It allows the colleges and university's an opportunity to rank each student from your school so when admitting students the college has a reason or not to admit one student over another based on class rank.

-- For example if Student X has a class rank of 10th in the class and 20 other students from the same school applied for admission and the others class rank is higher 23, 27, 39 etc... and all other factors are equal it makes it difficult to admit number 39 in the class over number 20 unless there are other factors that show the student is

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a stronger student and fit.

7. When does Class Rank start a high school student?

-- Class Rank both unweighted and weighted starts the moment 9th grade begins. Consequently, getting off to a great start academically is critical. You MUST start strong.

8. Why is Unweighted Grade Point Average the 4th most important factor for admission into competitive colleges?

-- As stated earlier GPA and Class rank starts the moment you, the student start classes in 9th grade. Each college will recalculate your GPA based on the 5 disciplines - English, History, Math, Science and Foreign Language and some will count your Fine Arts and or Performing Arts classes that are considered College Prep by your school. Classes that are not designated College Prep like Physical Education, Health, Vocational courses, remediation course less than college prep will not count into your GPA.

-- Your GPA is very important so the colleges standardize the GPA as some high schools use a 90-100, 80-89 etc... grading policy and some use A is 4 points, B is 3 points etc... consequently by recalculating the GPA to make fair for All the colleges DO NOT count Pluses and Minus (B+ and B-) as anything other than 3 points even if your school gives less than 3 points to a B- and more than 3 points for a B+. The goal for each college is to have a standardized approach to admissions so that no one can say their school has an advantage or disadvantage for admissions.

9. Does the Weighted GPA and or Weighted Class Rank matter to colleges?

-- Yes Weighted classes mean a lot to a college or university because it shows you, the student enrolling and challenging yourself in harder courses than College Prep and it provides a view into the competitiveness of your student body and classmates.

-- If you are capable of taking weighted courses - Honors, AP and or IB courses, please take them as it shows the colleges you want a challenge and it informs you, the student, you can achieve in more difficult courses. Additionally, when taking weighted courses the students normally in those courses are more focused and ready to learn plus normally the teacher's teaching such courses are stronger than the college prep courses teachers.

10. What are the SAT and ACT tests?

-- The SAT is owned and operated by College Board and the ACT is owned and operated by Educational Testing Services. Each of the test were created to test the Reasoning ability of students worldwide in Math, English, Reading Comprehension and Writing. For years both standardized tests were mandated by the more competitive colleges in the US. Now those tests are Not an essential element in being admitted to all colleges; consequently, you should check to make sure if either test Must be taken or is it Optional.

11. How is the SAT test administered and scored?

-- The SAT is given periodically throughout the year and normally 11th and 12th graders would take those tests. The tests are administered at a National Test Center in a paper copy with a scantron score sheet. Each section of the test is scored out of 800 points with 1600 points being the most a student can achieve. The two sections are broken down into Verbal and Math sections and scored as such. Example 650 SAT Verbal Score and 550 SAT Math Score total is 1200 out of 1600.

12. Can a student take the SAT more than once and Super Score?

-- Yes a student can take the SAT multiple times. Some schools allow for a Super Score, which means the best 2 sections scores from multiple tests. Example in March 2024 a student took the SAT and received a 600 Verbal and 650 Math score which is a total of 1250 out of 1600. Another time the student took the SAT and achieved a 700 on the Verbal section and 550 on the Math section. To Super Score the student would take his or her 700 Verbal Score and the 650 Math score from march and show that the student achieved a 1350 as his or her Super Score, which is much better.

-- Yes a student can take the SAT more than once. Either the student Super scores if the schools the student is applying to allows or the student can take and use the best One Sitting after taking the SAT multiple times. <most

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students take the March SAT of the spring of their Junior year for the first time. However, those students who are very strong and excel in test taking may take the December (fall junior year) test to get a head start.

13. When is the PSAT administered?

-- The PSAT (Preliminary SAT) is given nationally in October of a student's junior year with the opportunity if the score is high enough to be a candidate for becoming a National Merit Scholar. 9th and 10th graders are allowed to take the PSAT and from our perch if a student is a high achiever it does not hurt to take the test when the 11th graders do because it is offered at the home school site during the week and the score does not count against a student - so why not take the test? There is a cost for taking the test but it is nominal and a student can receive a waiver for financial reasons.

14. How is the ACT administered and scored?

-- The ACT is given in months in between the SAT administrations on a Saturday at a national test site. The test like the SAT last for about 4 hours. The ACT should be taken by 11th and 12th graders and can be used in lieu of the SAT if the test fits the student better. The ACT strengths are their sections are curriculum based, English, math, Reading and Science. The Last 2 are predominately reading comprehension; consequently, a student needs to be a fast strong reader rather than having an incredible background in Science and History. The scoring is out of 36 total points per section and added to together and divided by 4 to get a Composite score.

-- An example would be a 30 in English, 29 in Math, 32 in Reading, 33 in Science all out of 36 to gain a score of 31 as the Composite, which is quite strong. Additionally the ACT does not count a question wrong for guess so Guess and answer Every question.

15. Can a student take the ACT multiple times and can you Super Score?

-- Yes the ACT can be taken multiple times and super scored depending the school the student is applying. Most schools do not super score the ACT but some do. The best time to take the ACT is February of the junior year and then again in April. However if the student is strong taking the ACT as early as November or December is ok too. Bottom line is if a student is going to take the ACT or SAT early the student should practice the test under timed conditions and be familiar with the test.

16. When is the PLAN test (Practice ACT) offered?

-- Like the PSAT the PLAN is given in the junior year by many schools but not all schools. You may have to ask your school for more information. It is recommended that a student takes the PLAN in 9th and or 10th as well just to familiarize he or she to the type of test and the time requirements.

17. What happens if I decide Not to take the SAT or ACT?

-- Depending on the schools the student is applying to it may make No matter or be a mistake. Each student should check the schools he or she is applying to to decide if they need to take a standardized test or not.

-- If the student decides not to take the test and the school does not care one way or another then it is Imperative that the Personal Statement, the application rings with a Personal Brand, is well written and the major is selected to fit the needs of the student so when admissions goes through the application the subjective portion of the review stands on its own merits since either is No test score to differentiate the student.

18. How do I decide on what classes I should take to be most competitive to get into the schools of my choice/

-- Remember taking 4 years of every discipline can only help, taking weighted courses Honors, AP or IB courses will uplift the rigor portion of the application, which is critical. If the student has to make a decision between getting an A in a College Prep class and possibly getting a B+ or A- in an Honors or AP class go for the greater rigor. Just Make sure you work harder to get the A- since +pluses and - Minuses do not count so an A- is the same as an A.

19. How do I use my Special Talent?

-- Let's define Special Talent as something the student does better than most at their school or area. It could be

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athletics, Performing Arts, Fine Arts, Engineering, Math, Oratory skills and many more. First and foremost is to get an expert in the field either from a college or university or professional to evaluate the student's talent against the best in the country and provide a realistic evaluation of where the student is RIGHT NOW not where there potential may take them. Remember that Potential does not count- Skills and Ability right now is what sells.

-- By having an evaluation done by someone who does it at a college or university the student gets a true indication of the level he or she is at versus the students the evaluator is scoring at his or her school. being Realistic is paramount. Once the evaluation is complete then it is critical to figure out what level school based on the Special Talent can the student be recruited to. Once that is accomplished put together tapes or photos or go to those schools to speak to the decision makers on next steps.