

# INSIDE THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS

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# Types of Admission

## Open Admissions

- High school diploma or GED for admission.
- Examples: Community College

## Selective Admissions

- Certain GPAs, ACT/SAT scores are required. Also, an essay and/or interview are often required.
- Examples: Some State Universities, Smaller Private Colleges

## Competitive Admissions

- Space is very limited. High school course selection, test scores, and Extracurricular involvement are evaluated very carefully.
- Examples: Some State Universities, Ivy League Institutions

# Admission Policy Terminology

- ◎ Rolling
- ◎ Early Action (EA)
- ◎ Restrictive Early Action (REA)
- ◎ Early Decision (ED)
- ◎ Regular Decision (RG)

# Parts of the application

- ◎ Transcript
- ◎ Standardized Test Scores
- ◎ List of Activities
- ◎ Letters of Recommendation
- ◎ Essays/Personal Statements

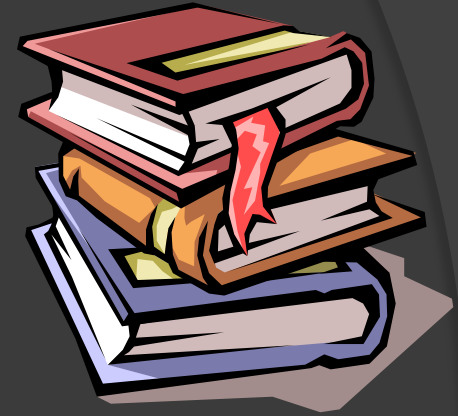
# What is the admission committee considering?

## ACADEMIC RECORD

- Course Selection
- Grades
- SAT / ACT

## PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

- Extracurriculars
- Leadership
- Recommendations
- Essays



# Academic Preparation

- ◎ Admissions Offices evaluate student transcripts by considering the following factors:
  - Enrollment in Advanced Placement and/or the IB Program
  - Choosing high school courses which prepare students for their college major.
    - Example: more science and math for prospective engineering or pre-med students.
  - 12th grade course selection and grades are very important in college admission decisions
  - Your high school
    - The percentage of graduates who go on to four-year colleges and universities
    - Which advanced courses are offered at the high school

# The Transcript



- ◎ Your GPA and class rank
- ◎ Curriculum strength
- ◎ Grade trend
- ◎ What does junior year tell us?
- ◎ Any blemishes to explain?
- ◎ Senior schedule

# Standardized Tests

- ◎ Which test should I take?
- ◎ How many times should I take it?
- ◎ What do schools do with my score?
- ◎ What about the writing portion?
- ◎ Is the ACT or SAT the only number that really matters?



# College Readiness Benchmarks

The ACT scores represent the level of achievement required for students to have a 50% chance of obtaining a B or higher, or a 75% chance of obtaining a C or higher in corresponding credit-bearing courses. The SAT scores indicate a 75% chance of earning at least a C.

## ACT benchmarks:

English	18
Math	22
Reading	22
Science	23

## SAT Benchmarks:

Evidence-Based	
Reading and Writing	480
Math	530

# Letters of Recommendation

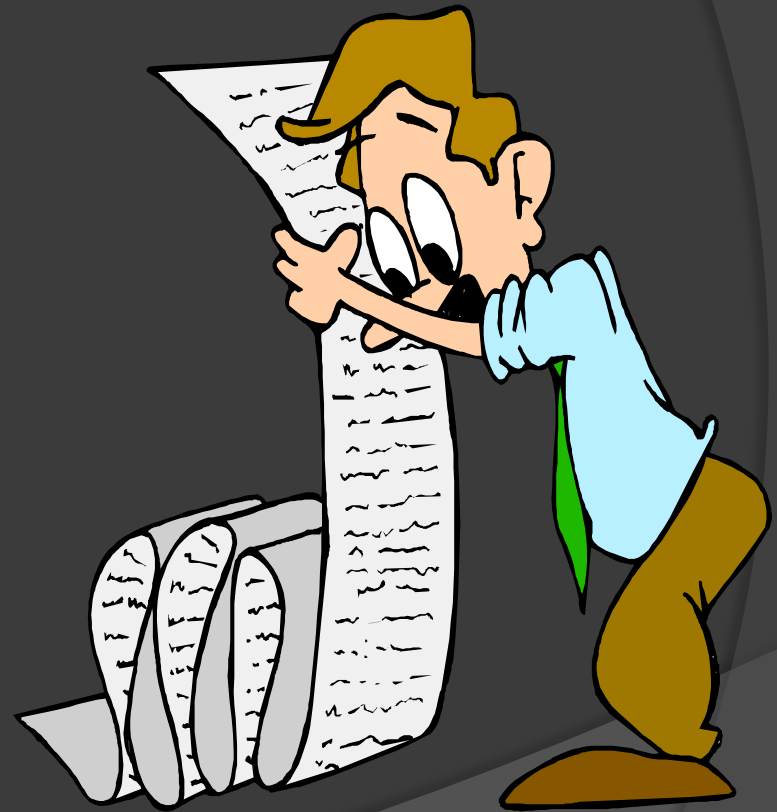
- Clear and comprehensive recommendations can make a difference in admissions decisions.
- Recommendations can come from teachers, counselors, coaches, advisers, employers, etc.
- Provide 3-4 weeks notice for a recommendation to be written.
- Provide a “brag sheet” to the person writing the recommendation.
- Recommendations are reviewed looking for the following information:
  - Comparisons to other students in the class.
  - Information about the school grading system and/or competition for grades.
  - Illustrative examples or anecdotes.
  - Personal information (example personal problems or health issues which had an impact on performance.)
  - Other personal traits or study habit information.

# Extracurricular activities

- ⦿ Commitment, level of accomplishment, initiative, and leadership are most important.
- ⦿ Admissions offices will ask the following questions when reviewing student resumes/activity lists in an application:
  - How much time does the student devote to this activity?
  - Is there evidence of leadership—is the student an officer or leader in the organization/sport?
  - Balance is best—do not limit involvement to one type of activity.
  - Volunteerism is very important.

# List of Activities

- ◉ Don't join every club senior year just to make it "look good"
- ◉ We like to see commitment and passion
- ◉ Don't forget work and outside activities
- ◉ This is a good time to brag
- ◉ There are no activities that "count more" than others



# Personal Statements and Essays

- ◎ If the application asks a question, answer it. If it imposes a word limit, stick to it.
- ◎ The “tell us about yourself” essay
  - If it’s the first time you’ve thought about it, don’t write your essay about it.
  - Be passionate!
  - Let us get to know you.
- ◎ Make sure **your** voice comes through in all of the written portions of the application.

# Hints for Writing the College Essay

- ◎ Start early
- ◎ Be yourself
- ◎ Be honest
- ◎ Stay focused on your topic
- ◎ Write and re-write
- ◎ Get a second opinion
- ◎ Proofread
- ◎ Know which school you are applying to
- ◎ Don't confuse applying on-line with sending an e-mail

# What admissions counselors think:

100 admission counselors were asked to name the top 4 hints for high school seniors to make their admission application more competitive.

- ⦿ Ask for recommendations early
- ⦿ Thoroughly complete entire application
- ⦿ Don't be modest on activities
- ⦿ Apply before the application deadline



# Applying for Admission

- ◎ Narrow your choices
- ◎ Review college admission test requirements
- ◎ Know application fees and deadlines
- ◎ Know scholarship requirements
- ◎ Submit application materials



# Questions?

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